

The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley

Concrete Herald

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50 cents

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Concrete Herald

The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley



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

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Opinion

Letters to the editor

Thanks to the unsung heroes of Concrete

People in East County very much appreciate the paramedics and volunteer firefighters and all they do. There is another group of folks here who rank right up there with them in importance.

I'm speaking of the women who work for Community Action in the East County Resource Center and Concrete Community Center. Claudia, Cheryl, Cindy Lou, and Debbie in the Resource Center provide a long list of products and services to their clients every day, with unfailing courtesy and respect. They are highly skilled in providing help, guidance and support—sometimes lifesaving support—to anyone who comes through their doors. They are currently babysitting a dog for a client who is undergoing medical treatment and can't care for their pet for a while. How many agencies do you know of who would extend that level of personal service?!

In the Community Center, Terra serves up a healthful, nutritious lunch every day of the week to a very spoiled group of patrons. She creates terrific meals from scratch with imagination, creativity, and love to folks, for many of whom this is the only healthful meal of the day. Amazingly, Terra prepared and served an astounding 10,000 meals in 2017.

Jessica was recently hired to help Terra prepare and serve meals, and is already proving to be a valuable member of the team. These women would be the first to tell you they rely on volunteers to help them in their work, but trust me, they are the ones on the front lines every day who are planning and executing the critical services everyone tends to take for granted. So thank you from the bottom of

our collective hearts, ladies. East County deeply appreciates all you do!

Bill Pfeifer
 Concrete

Letters policy

Letters of 200 words or fewer may be e-mailed to 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.



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Message from the mayor

By Jason Miller

I try to do what I can to keep our town's limited resources balanced between pursuing new projects and amenities, and maintaining what we already have.

To that end, I've been pleased lately with the efforts of staff and key volunteers.

In the "new" column this year, you'll find a water spray park and new trees at Silo Park. We hope to rebuild a larger version of Jacob Scherer's picnic pavilion near the spray park, repurposing as much of the original lumber as possible, and upgrading to a metal roof.

On the other side of town, we're making progress on securing the land for a pocket park on the pie-shaped lot where E. Main and Washington St. converge with N. Everett Ave. We have an agreement with CalPortland to use the land, and we're working with BNSF to possibly purchase the old railroad right-of-way so there's enough room to install a high-school-regulation basketball court, along with parking and some small pieces of playground equipment.

In the "maintain" column, we're eyeing the fence that lines Main St. on the hill into our Town Center. It looks like a dog's omelette and obscures the view from SR 20 into our Town Center. It's time to replace it.

We've gathered quotes from a couple fencing companies to repair and replace some of our other older fencing and fencing material in town, including the tennis court in Veterans Memorial Park. I'm really hoping to plant more cherry trees in that park this fall, too.

On the economic development front, the Economic Development Commission continues to work on the Economic Development Plan, and a recent visit from EDASC reps gives us every reason to hope for a bright future!

Concrete Mayor Jason Miller can be reached at goodwords@frontier.com or 360.853.8213, or by sending correspondence to P.O. Box 39, Concrete, WA 98237.



Legislature passes bill to settle water-use dispute

Bill excludes Skagit County

By Alex Visser

WNPA Olympia News Bureau

One of the year's most important legislative battles in Washington state came to a surprisingly quick conclusion the evening of Jan. 18, when a water-use bill passed both chambers and was sent to the desk of Gov. Jay Inslee.

In 2016 the state Supreme Court's Hirst decision essentially halted development across the state when it determined that counties were not adequately examining impacts on stream and river flow levels.

The decision weighed heavily on last year's legislative session when Republicans refused to reach an agreement on a state capital budget until Democrats could devise an appropriate Hirst fix. The capital budget pays for state-funded development, and the stalemate put a delay to a number of projects across Washington, including efforts to improve schools.

Inslee and party leaders were vocal heading into this year's session that solving the Hirst/capital budget issue was a major priority, and House Minority Leader Dan Kristiansen, R-Snohomish, said on TVW's "Inside Olympia" program that a fix was agreed upon Wednesday night when leaders from each chamber met with the governor.

"I appreciate that the complexity of this issue required several months of negotiations by many legislators," Inslee said in Jan. 18 a press release. "While far from perfect, this bill helps protect water resources while providing water for families in rural Washington."

Excluded from the legislation is Skagit County, at the request of tribes that are already working on new water rules in the area, according to Sen. Kevin Van De Wege, D-Sequim. The Yakima and Dungeness watersheds also have other requirements not addressed in the bill.

Van De Wege, the author of the bill, said

See **Water**, p. 11

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Concrete increases sewer utility rate

By Chazlyn Lovely
Edited by Katy Tomasulo

The new year brings with it new water and sewer rates for customers inside and outside of town limits. Those outside of town limits will see a monthly increase in water fees to \$49.98 per month (after a utility tax of 6 percent) beginning in January. There will be no increase to the water utility rate for residents who live inside town limits.

The sewer utility rate, however, is a different story. In January the sewer utility base rate rose by \$5, and the town plans to increase the sewer base rate by \$1 per month throughout 2018.

Why the sewer rate increase

In May 2017, Town of Concrete formed an advisory committee to study the sewer utility rate, which included Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC) Rural Development Specialist

Dan Bannier. The RCAC is a nonprofit agency based on the West Coast that, among other tasks, specializes in water and wastewater trainings and technical support. For its work with Concrete, the organization is primarily funded by the Department of Ecology. This contract allows the cooperation with the RCAC to come at no cost to the town other than what they spend in time to do the work.

Bannier said the advisory committee was tasked with ensuring that the town's sewer utility system is financially viable and sustainable based on current rates. As of January, this process is still in progress. Originally the study was planned to be completed in November of last year, but the RCAC is still waiting for additional information from the governing body of Concrete. Once received, the process should be able to wrap up in a month.

Because of the incomplete status of the study, Bannier was unable to confirm what Town of Concrete Clerk Andrea Fichter, mentioned was the predicted suggested

rate. Because of the town's current expenses for the sewer facility, as well as the debt figures, future capital needs, and USDA reserve requirements (USDA holds the notes on most of the town's loans), a sewer utility rate of \$118 per month seems optimal, according to Fichter.

When the Concrete Town Council heard the suggested rate during budget workshops last fall, its members recoiled and resisted. With the sewer rate at \$95 per month last year, they didn't want to add a sudden increase of \$23 per month to the rate payers' bill. Instead, they opted for the incremental increases throughout 2018. At the end of 2018, the rate still will be \$7 shy of the recommended rate; the council will have to decide if it wants to continue with the incremental increases in 2019.

A major driver behind the recommended sewer rate increase is the town's debt load from construction of its wastewater treatment plant. In the mid 2000s, the town agreed to spend \$7,734,093.23 on the design and construction of the plant. Grants covered \$3.9 million of the bill, while the other \$3.8 million came in the form of low-interest loans. The town still owes \$3.1 million in loans for the project.

A sustainable choice

When asked what could happen to a town like Concrete if it chooses not to charge a rate suggested by an advisory committee, Bannier responded with an anecdote from a situation he experienced while working with a similar community in Idaho.

"We recommended a \$12 increase for each of the residential units, and they said that would be politically suicidal in their community. Their stores were going dark

and people were moving out because they couldn't afford to live there any longer. Our recommendation at the time was for a \$12 increase, and they said, well, we can handle \$8. I said that'll put you a step closer than where you're at now because right now you're in a spiral going down really quick. You can either increase your rates or you can pare down some of your expenses. Those are the options they had. We look at it from the aspect of being sustainable."

Councilman Rob Thomas said he was concerned about the impact of higher prices on the community. When the option came up for the councilmembers to increase pay for town staff and council, Thomas strongly advocated against that course of action, particularly because it coincided with the sewer utility rate increase. "My position is that raising the pay for the staff and council while raising utility rates sends a mixed message to our wonderful community," Thomas said. "I believe that the Town Council must lead by example. We are choosing to serve, not for financial benefit, but because we care deeply for this town. As such, whatever sacrifices we can make at this time further demonstrate our desire to continue to invest in the community of Concrete. When crunching the numbers, not raising the utility rates was simply not an option. But, raising the pay for the town staff and council? Simply not a necessity. The unanimous vote by councilmembers reaffirms their commitment to make the difficult and wise decisions."

Chazlyn Lovely is a freelance writer from Corkindale.

Katy Tomasulo is a freelance editor from Bainbridge Island.

Cement City Trail Run returns April 21

Concrete Lions Booster Club will again host the Cement City Trail Run on April 21, the proceeds of which will help programs and kids involved in extracurricular activities, including sports and music. Parents and coaches in the Concrete School District work to provide opportunities for kids to experience teamwork and commitment outside the classroom, and often contribute not only their time but funds to support the kids.

The fundraiser is posted online, on the events calendar of Skagit Runners and on Facebook Events, with a link to

online registration. Soon, those wishing to participate and pre-register also will be able to pick up registration forms at select local businesses for mail-in with your fee, providing for a hassle-free run day. Performance T-shirts (ladies and men's styles) also can be ordered online and with mail-in registration.

Ribbons will be awarded to all participants who complete the run and medals presented to both male and female overall and categorical winners in several age categories, for both the 5k walk-run and the more challenging 10k run. This is a kid-friendly event with a half-mile walk/run around the track (grades K-6). Prizes will also be awarded in several categories.

—Janis Schweitzer

Water testing offered to Upper Valley residents

Town of Concrete has a contract with Edge Analytical to test its water on a regular basis.

Now, individuals who live anywhere in the Upper Valley may pick up a water sampling bottle at the East County Resource Center in Concrete anytime during open hours and have Edge Analytical test their water for them too. There is a charge of \$24 for each test, and the water can be tap water or "raw" water (drawn from a well or stream).

In the past, private parties have had to take the sample to Burlington or

Bellingham to have the water tested. You may now take the sample bottle to the Resource Center, promptly at 9 a.m.

Thursday mornings for pickup by Edge Analytical at 9:05. It's best to draw the sample just before taking it to the Resource Center, as delaying the testing may allow the sample to degrade or change its properties.

Full instructions on the procedure are included with the sampling bottle. Edge Analytical will send test results and an invoice including the \$24 charge to the submitter by surface mail or e-mail.

For more information, stop by the Resource Center or call Edge Analytical at 800.755.9295.

—Bill Pfeifer

Utility scam returns

Puget Sound Energy is warning customers about a fake call circulating with threats to shut off their power if they don't pay up.

Utility company imposters will typically reach out by telephone or knock on your door claiming to be a representative from the local water, electric, or gas company. In the most common scenario, the scammer informs you that payment is overdue and the utility will be shut off if you don't pay immediately.

How to spot this scam

- **Restrictive payment methods.** If a caller specifically asks you to pay by prepaid debit card or wire transfer,

this is a huge warning sign. Your utility company will accept a check or credit card—payment methods that are easier to track and later dispute if necessary.

- **Pressure to pay immediately.** If you feel pressured for immediate payment or personal information, hang up the phone and call the customer service number on your utility bill. This will ensure you are speaking to a real representative.

Anyone who believes they may have been a victim of a scam should contact their local law enforcement and report it to BBB Scam Tracker at bbb.org/scamtracker.

—Submitted by Better Business Bureau



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THIS AND THAT

By J. K. M.

Cascade Days planning is moving forward, full steam ahead. Planning has begun with a newly selected board of directors. The group has chosen a theme, courtesy of John Boggs: "Where the pavement ends ... adventure begins."

The board is reaching out to local photographers, artists, or anyone interested in helping with the artwork for the marketing materials, such as posters and brochures. "We're looking for a photo or sketch of your favorite trailhead, or whatever the theme suggests to you," said board member Ember LaBounty.

Please respond via e-mail to ember@cascadedays.com ASAP, because the deadline is Feb. 15 for entries and the board intends to announce the winner by the end of February.

Property tax information for 2018 is now available online.

Property taxes for 2018 have been levied. More information is available online at <https://www.skagitcounty.net/departments/assessor/reportsmain.htm>.

Property owners can expect to receive tax statements by mid-February. For additional information about property tax assessments, including answers to frequently asked questions, go to the county assessor's Web site: www.skagitcounty.net/assessor.

Nominations are being accepted for the **Skagit Change-maker Award**.

Inspired by the life of Terry Belcoe, the award recognizes Belcoe's action-oriented, boundary-crossing and solution-focused community work. Belcoe joyfully served the Skagit County community and many local organizations. His "do it now" approach left many benefits for the people of Skagit County.

In Terry's memory, United Way, Leadership Skagit, Skagit County Public Health, Community Action, North Coast Credit Union, and the Population Health Trust have established this annual award for a worthy community member exemplifying "Change-Maker" traits.

Nominations are being sought for a

person who demonstrates the following characteristics:

- Excels in her or his professional work or area of service.
- Makes significant contributions to the Skagit community, above and beyond her or his work.
- Mentors current and future community leaders.
- Proactively tackles important work on behalf of the Skagit Community.
- Inspires others to action.
- Promotes Collective Impact, working across organizational and other boundaries.
- Puts service above self.

To nominate someone, please go to Community Action's Web page at <https://www.communityactionskagit.org>.

Nominations will be accepted until 5 p.m. on Fri., Feb. 16. The honoree will be recognized at the unveiling of the Skagit Prosperity Report, an assessment of the needs of Skagit's low-income population, on Tue., March 27, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Northwest Career & Technical Academy.

"Love that Train" is the Valentine theme

for the annual **Model Railroad Open House** at the Sedro-Woolley Museum, 725 Murdock St. in Sedro-Woolley, on Sun., Feb. 11, from 1 to 3 p.m.

For railroad enthusiasts of all ages, trains will run non-stop on the Museum's extensive model railroad layout, which includes both passenger and logging railroads.

"Rails and romance" refreshments will be served, and reproductions of vintage valentines will be given to those attending.

The event will feature raffle prize drawings for children, adults, and all railroad enthusiasts. One special drawing is a large wooden train, made and donated by John Braun and Northwest Corner Woodworkers Association.

Tickets are \$5 each, and are on sale now at the museum. The drawing will be held at 2 p.m. on Feb. 11, the day of the open house. Raffle entrants must be present to win.

All proceeds benefit museum operations.

For information on the event or raffle tickets, call the museum at 360.855.2390.

Council summary

Concrete Town Council met for regular meetings on Jan. 8 and 22. Following are summaries of those meetings. Complete and council-approved minutes for every council meeting are posted on the town's Web site at www.townofconcrete.com/cminutes.php.

Jan. 8 regular meeting

- George Theodoratus attended to discuss building permits and being able to get a building permit for a parcel of land he was considering buying, without having to meet the town's minimum standards for roads, which would require him to pave the road that serves these lots.

Mayor Jason Miller discussed the rules and regulations regarding the paving of roads for existing lots when they are built on.

Theodoratus stated that in the future he would like to subdivide the property and develop those lots and that the area will need to be rezoned for him to do this.

Town Planner Marianne Manville-Ailles discussed the town's road standards and what the minimum standards are that Theodoratus is being asked to meet. Councilmember Rob Thomas asked if the minimum standards included paving. Marianne stated that yes it requires paving and there are no standards for gravel roads.

After discussion, council decided to postpone a decision to its Jan. 22 meeting.

- **Public Safety:** Council reviewed the December Incident Report. Sergeant Greg Adams stated there were only 30 calls during December. He also reported on two mail theft incidents and one vehicle prowling.
- Council approved a contract with North Cascades Legal, making Tom Seguire the new town attorney after David Day retired at the end of 2017. Day will serve as an employee of North Cascades Legal for one year, easing the town's transition to new legal counsel.
- Concrete Food Bank requested utility rate relief as a nonprofit. After discussion, council voted to direct Clerk Andrea Fichter to develop a resolution adding a line item for \$1,000 for the food bank each year, beginning in 2018.

Jan. 22 regular meeting

- Town Engineer Cody Hart stated the First Street Waterline project has reached substantial completion. He stated they will do a walk-through and develop a punch list as soon as they wrap up a final few items.
- **George Theodoratus Road Standard Exemption Request:** Former town attorney David Day stated that at the Jan. 8 meeting, there was a lot more background information that was needed on the request being made by Theodoratus. Day stated as it stands right now, there is nothing before the council to actually make a decision on. He stated the council is being asked to make a decision on hypotheticals. He stated an application has not been made and there are no staff recommendations to review.

Town attorney Tom Seguire stated that his thoughts on this complement what Day had stated. He said that if someone else comes to town with a hypothetical project and wants an exemption of some kind and the town has allowed it in the past, then a precedent would have been set. He stated the council should not be making any assurances or promises based on a hypothetical project.

Mayor Miller stated that it is his understanding that the attorneys are recommending that the council take no further action on this without an actual application. Day stated that is correct. He stated it is not a good idea to go down this path this way.

It was the consensus of the council to take no further action on this item at this time.

- Council approved Resolution No. 2018-025, a budget line item for Concrete Food Bank, providing utility relief for the nonprofit food bank.
- Council approved Resolution No. 2018-03, utility billing procedures for the Concrete Heritage Museum, designed to provide utility relief for the nonprofit museum.

—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 or call 360.853.8401. Concrete Town Council meets the second and fourth Mondays of each month, at 6 p.m. at Town Hall.

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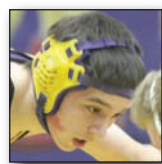
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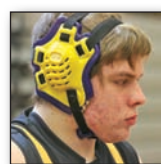
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Sports



Men's basketball ends season with a loss

By Jason Miller

The Concrete Lions men's basketball team ended their season with a 3-7 league record and 7-11 overall.

January play included wins over Friday Harbor, Mount Vernon Christian, and La Conner. The team's Jan. 5 win over Friday Harbor was a nail-biter, with the Lions barely squeaking past the Wolverines 53-52.

Unfortunately, the Lions' other matches ended in defeat, including their last game of the regular season against Friday Harbor, with the Wolverines turning the tables with a vengeance, handing the Lions a 55-37 loss.

Women wrap hoops season

By Kevik Rensink, head coach

The Concrete girls basketball team completed their 2017-18 season on Feb. 2 on San Juan Island, losing to league opponent Friday Harbor. The Wolverines have a very good team, and hold the No. 2 seed heading into the District Tournament. Unfortunately, we will not make an appearance in the post-season this year. After a couple of wins in December, we failed to win a game in January. Most of this had to do with the fact we play in a very competitive league, and January is dedicated to playing all of our league opponents. Coupled with a multitude of new players, some season-ending injuries, and the flu wiping out the majority of our team in the closing weeks of the season, I felt as if we limped to the finish line.

Setting all excuses aside, I thought the girls showed a lot of character this season. They persevered though a lot, always giving everything they had to the bitter end. I told them multiple times throughout the season that if we received points for effort alone, we would have won more games than we lost. However, the state hasn't started keeping points for hustle, toughness, or great effort. Sometimes I felt that and each other were all we were armed with as we headed into each game.

The girls did a great job of sticking together this year, and it started with our three captains: Madisyn Renzelman, Jenna Whorten, and Jalayne Hastings. These three seniors led us every day. Whether it was practice or a game, they set the standard for hard work, playing through the best and worst moments, and their love of the game. I appreciate everything they have given to the program over the last four years. They will be missed, but the memories that come from a four-year career will carry on into the rest of their lives. We had two late additions to our senior group with Asusena Fregoso and Kaitlin Earheart, giving us five seniors total. Earheart was a pleasant surprise this year, and really gave us some big minutes for her one year of playing basketball. It has been so much fun to see how far she has come in such a short amount of

time. The same can be said for Fregoso. I was not sure if she was going to play ... or make varsity ... or get playing time. She did all three, and came on strong at the end of the season when we needed her for big minutes with so many players out for health reasons. She and Earheart were coachable and eager to learn. It was fun to watch them jump right in with the experienced seniors and play a game they had learned to love. Our group of seniors were like sisters: They always had each other's back when push came to shove, and push did come to shove at times, literally.

Izzy Ramos, a sophomore, was able to play a full season and gained valuable experience on the varsity court. Maddy Pritchard, a junior, really improved this year and showed bursts of greatness at times. Kylie Clark, a freshman, earned a spot on varsity and took advantage of it in her first year of high school ball. I know she will continue to get better. Jaidyn Swanson and Ebby Buchta were lost to season-ending injuries, but stayed with the teams, encouraging their teammates, and were a tremendous positive in many ways. Sierra Rensink, Andrea Rogers, and Tiana Brookshire saw time on the varsity court this season, and will look to take the necessary steps to get more time there next year.

Our JV team was playing its best basketball at the end of the season, and that is something you like to see as a coach, especially when your JV team consists of freshmen. In a season where you finish 2-18, you search for positives, look for areas of improvement, and plan for the future. Our team has great effort, and one of those places it showed up this year was on the glass. Concrete out-rebounded their opponents on the season 636 to 634. We won the rebounding game, and I am proud of them for that. We will continue to improve in pass and catch, ball handling, and free-throw shooting. The girls will need to spend time in the gym between now and next season honing their craft.

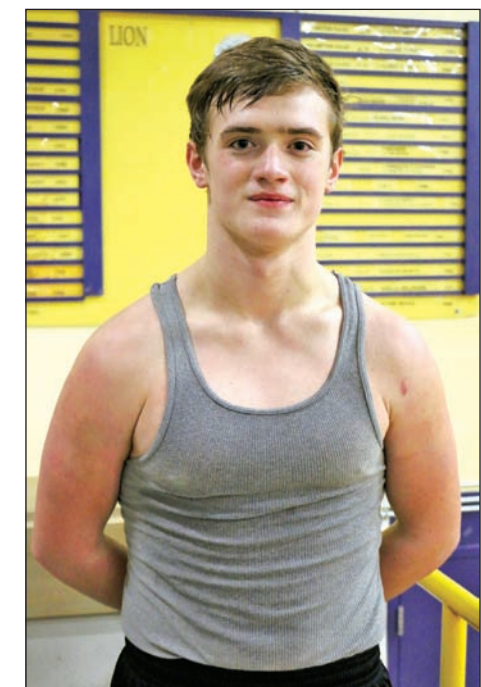


Clockwise from upper left: Madisyn Renzelman, Izzy Ramos, Maddy Pritchard, and Jalayne Hastings had the right stuff during January play against Orcas Island and Friday Harbor.



Concrete Lion Kaleb Engler bulls his way past an Orcas Island defender during home court play on Jan. 16.

Athletes of the Month



Athletes of the Month: Jenna Whorten, James Schoolland, and Hunter Olmstead

Jenna Whorten is a 5' 7" senior forward and co-captain of the Concrete girls' basketball team. Basketball is the only sport Jenna participates in and she loves every part of it. She loves the game, her teammates, and the competitive nature of the sport. Jenna is second on the team in scoring and rebounding, plus she leads the team in assists. She has developed into a great passer this year, according to Coach Kevik Rensink, and it is a testament to her unselfishness on and off the court. "I have never had a nonguard position player lead a team in assists for the season, but Jenna may be the first," said Rensink. Despite continued pain in her feet and ankles, (one surgery down and one to

go after the season) she continues to play hard and never complains.

Senior James Schoolland has been all a coach can ask for this season. He is one of the team captains and leads, not just vocally, but by example and effort. He always stays positive and gives 100 percent, whether it's in practice or a game. He also leads the team in scoring, averaging 15 points per game, scoring over 20 points in four games, with one of those being a 33-point effort. At 5' 11" he is second in rebounding, with eight boards per game. Coach Daniel Schoolland is looking forward to what he'll accomplish for the team in the remainder of the season.

Hunter Olmstead is a freshman wrestling in the 220-lb. class. He has placed in every tournament to date, with third place finishes at the Sky Valley Invitational and Paul Reiman Classic. Coach David Dellinger said he shows great leadership and is credited by his coaches and teammates for being a team player and motivator. He has dedicated himself to improve his wrestling skills and fitness as the season progresses.

Whorten, Schoolland, and Olmstead were selected by Concrete Lions Booster Club members based on their academic performance, athleticism, leadership, positive attitude, and demonstrating sportsmanship and character.

—Kathy Hurn

Winter basketball clinics under way

All Concrete boys in grades 3-7 are invited to attend winter basketball clinics in the Concrete Elementary School gym.

Taught by Dallas Newby and Paul Bianchini, the clinics focus on

fundamentals, including shooting form, ball handling and dribbling, passing and receiving, setting screens, game play, and more.

Everyone who attends will develop their basketball skills and have an opportunity to play against their peers in our local youth league.

The clinics are free. Participants will receive a t-shirt or prizes. Please wear

shorts and clean gym shoes.

The remaining clinic dates are Feb. 10, 17, and 24, and March 3 from 9 to 11 a.m.; and Feb. 8, 15, and March 1 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. (after-school snacks provided).

For more information, call 360.853.3249.

—Paul Bianchini

Sports
schedules:

nw1a2bathletics.com

Wrestlers strong in January matches

By Jason Miller

Concrete grapplers made their hometown fans proud last month, with multiple personal and team wins.

At the Sky Valley Invitational in Sultan on Jan. 6, Riley Fichter took second, Hunter Olmstead got third, and Peyton Sanchez captured sixth.

During the Jan. 10 away match at Friday Harbor with Darrington, the Lion team beat Darrington 42–33, and handed Friday Harbor a crushing 55–9 defeat. Fichter was a double winner that day, and Jaydon Craig beat his Friday Harbor opponent for the first time this season, 16–8.

At the King of the Mountain Tournament in Darrington on Jan. 13, Fichter wrestled his way to first place. Teammates Killian McCormack, Anna Spangler, and Sanchez took fourth; Robert Thompson got second; and Olmstead captured first place.

Concrete and Friday Harbor traveled to Darrington for a Jan. 22 match that found the Lions on top again, beating the Loggers 51–31 and again crushing Friday Harbor 66–12. Marshall Fichter beat Lucas Reuwsaat from Darrington.

The Cascade Conference Tournament

found the Concrete team in Granite Falls, where Riley Fichter earned another first place medal, Sean French got fourth place, Sanchez took third, Olmstead got second, and Thompson captured second place.

The men and women split up for the Feb. 2–3 subregionals, with the women—short an injured Becky Azure—heading to Squalicum High School in Bellingham and the men traveling to Darrington.

The men took the tournament as a team, with 153 points. Spangler made it through the first day, but lost out in her second day. Ayna Carpenter will travel to Regionals as an alternate.

Regionals is Feb. 10, with the men in Kalama and the woman—Carpenter—in Sedro-Woolley.

Above right: Concrete's Hunter Olmstead wrestles Jared Barth from Granite Falls during the Cascade Conference Tournament at Granite Falls High School on Jan. 27. Olmstead pinned Barth for the win.

Right: Concrete senior Riley Fichter closes in on a pin of Daniel Carlson from Granite Falls on Jan. 27, and ended up with at 15-pt. technical win.



Mardi Gras returns to Concrete

Peace Wizard named king of annual event

It's party time in Concrete on Sat., Feb. 10, when the town rolls out the annual Mardi Gras celebration starting with a parade at 3:00 p.m.

"This year's theme is 'peace,' and we've chosen the appropriate King of Mardi Gras to reign: The Peace Wizard (aka John Bromet) from Rockport," said Valerie Stafford, president of the Concrete Chamber. "While there won't be a lot of peace and quiet during this event, we will celebrate the peacefulness of living in a small town."

Activities in Town Center include:

- Authentic Cajun food, including Louisiana-Style jambalaya, deep-fried

turkey legs and beignets available for purchase at the Lone Star Restaurant and Waterin' Hole.

- King Cupcakes for sale by Concrete Heritage Museum Association.
- 50/50 raffle sponsored by American Legion Post 132.
- Live music by Wishbone Alley at the historic Concrete Theatre, which is also celebrating its 8th year in business. Free admission, with popcorn, coffee, and treats available for purchase.

There is no cost to enter the parade. Each entrant is encouraged to include the official Mardi Gras colors of purple,

green and gold. Prizes will be awarded in several categories.

Parade entry forms are available on the Chamber Web site (www.concrete-wa.com), at the Chamber office in the Skagit County Resource Center, and at line-up near the Concrete Post Office beginning at 2:00 p.m. on Feb. 10.

For more information, please contact the Concrete Chamber of Commerce at 360.853.8784, text Valerie Stafford at 360.466.8754, or send an e-mail to chamber@concrete-wa.com.

—Valerie Stafford

Right: John Bromet, a.k.a. Peace Wizard, is this year's king for the annual Mardi Gras parade and festivities in Concrete Town Center, scheduled for Sat., Feb. 10. The parade will begin at 3 p.m., followed by food, music, dancing, and more food.



Middle School girls hoops update

By Rob Thomas, coach

January 8 started the 2018 middle-school girls' basketball season. The team is made up of four sixth graders (Bella, Hayley, Jayden, Winter); one seventh grader (Aja); and seven eighth graders (Ashley, Carolyn, Devon, Kayla, Kendra, Payton, Searrah). Since we will lose one player (Kendra) after the first game, that leaves eleven players for the duration of the season. As such, the tentative plan is to play one full game and between one and two additional quarters against each of the schools on our schedule.

After 12 days of practices, the girls scrimmaged against the Concrete High School JV team at the Concrete Elementary School gym. This provided an excellent opportunity for the girls to

get a feel for the game. Running drills in practice is one thing. Playing against experienced competition is quite another. Although the JV jumped out to a quick lead, the CMS team fought back and got within four points with two minutes left in the game. The final score ended with the JV winning 29–23. All 12 CMS girls played in all four quarters and for some it was their first game experience ever on a basketball court.

The theme for this season is for the team to focus on being "together." In practices and in games, the players are constantly reminded that everything they do affects their teammates. That includes remaining eligible for games. It's a life lesson that hopefully will be learned and embraced as the teams move forward throughout this season. It is our desire to show improvement with each passing game.

The season will consist of 10 games: five home and five away. Our league includes competition against La Conner, Conway, Orcas, Darrington, and Mount

Vernon Christian. Some of the schools will be able to field two complete teams, while others, like ourselves, will be limited to one team. As such, we won't always know ahead of time how much basketball we'll actually get to play on a given game day. This could be frustrating to most teams, but the CMS girls have already shown such great maturity and resilience that they simply want to play the game, regardless of the competition.

They have worked very hard in practice and have continued to focus on the two things they have complete control over: their attitude and their effort. From a coaching standpoint, I could not be happier with either. This is a great group of girls that anyone would be privileged to coach.

Eighth-grader Searrah Martin looks to pass against a Conway opponent during a home game on Jan. 30.



Water, cont. from p. 3

a December work session provided much of its framework. With other proposed Hirst fixes floating up from both parties in the House and Senate, Van De Wege said he never imagined his bill would be the one to bring the Hirst issue to a close.

The Hirst bill allows for limited drilling of new wells, each of which would require a \$500 fee from landowners. Local work groups will work with the Department of Ecology to establish water-use guidelines for the next 20 years.

The bill also limits water withdrawals in new wells to 3,000 gallons per day in less crowded areas compared, to 950 gallons per day in watersheds that are densely populated.

The bill passed in the Senate with a 35–14 vote, before immediately making its way to the House, which passed it 66–30. A capital budget bill also passed both houses, and the governor said he would soon sign both bills into law.

Opposition came from senators Barbara Bailey, R-Oak Harbor, and Keith

Wagoner, R-Sedro Woolley, who urged no votes from the Senate because of the bill's exclusion of Skagit County, which they both represent.

"We're on a slippery slope," Wagoner said. "I believe that supporters of property rights and property owners will regret this bill."

"I wish there had been something done for Skagit so I could vote yes, because the rest of the work of this bill is good," Bailey said. "But remember, you've got friends and neighbors that this bill does not help."

Also in opposition were Sen. John McCoy, D-Tulalip, and Rep. Gerry Pollet, D-Seattle, who argued that the Hirst fix does nothing for many of Washington state's tribes, who hold treaty-established senior water rights.

The tribes, McCoy said, "have tried to work with others to come to a reasonable solution ... In my opinion they were ignored."

"The right to take fish at usual and

accustomed places is guaranteed to the tribes of Washington under the treaties of 1855," Pollet said. "Unfortunately, the state will continue a long line of ignoring sovereign rights."

Rep. David Taylor, R-Moxee, said that while he is not happy with every aspect of the bill, the cooperation that went into its passage is more important.

"We're here to lead, so I'm asking for a yes vote," he said. "Let's get Washington working again."

Inslee similarly acknowledged that to him the Hirst fix is not perfect, and he expressed concerns about future environmental factors.

"Despite this positive step, pressures on stream flows and salmon will continue to mount in the face of climate change and growing demand for water," the governor said. "We must build upon this effort to meet those challenges far into the future and continue to work collaboratively to protect this valuable resource."



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Academics



Scholarship opportunity

AWC Center for Quality Communities

Town of Concrete is accepting applications for the AWC Center for Quality Communities Scholarship fund. The scholarship is available through a statewide competitive process for students who are actively engaged in their city government and/or community and plan to attend post-secondary school in fall 2018.

To be eligible, a student must be graduating from high school or home school or receiving a GED in spring/summer 2018, live within the Concrete School District boundaries, plan to continue their education at an accredited post-secondary institution in the 2018–19 academic year on a half-time or more basis, and been involved with a city government or with a community/school leadership activity.

Information and application materials can be obtained at www.townofconcrete.com or cfqc.org. Completed applications are due no later than 4:30 p.m. on Fri., Feb. 16, 2018. Submit completed materials to:

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

E-mail to andrea@concretewa.gov or hand-deliver to 45672 Main St., Concrete, WA 98237.



Above: Concrete Elementary School students gathered for a Feb. 2 ceremony to honor their academic achievements. Front row, from left: Gianna Aamot, Keira Hertel, Akira Thorton, James Elder, Ryder Richtor, TJ Richmond-Pierce, Bella Sanchez. Back row, from left: Nevin Benthimer, Lindsay Carnahan, Josie Sherman, Winter Lewis, Logan Watts, Lily Dinkins, Amelia Fierbaugh.

Dozens of Concrete Elementary School students were honored for their excellent attendance records during the Feb. 2 ceremony.

Perfect attendance awards went to Blake Lewis, Andrew Lewis, Winter Lewis, Kielonn Dowell, Samantha Mitchell, Conner Evans, Rylee Baker, Mason Baird, and Harley Herz.

Awards for 94 to 99 percent attendance during the first semester went to Jordan Acevedo-Lara, Logan Alberts, Izabelle Allard, Izaiah Allard, Jakob Allard, Ashlynn Anderson, Destani Anderson, Kay-Lyn Andrews, Trenton Andrews, Michael Bartel, Aeros Betten, Serenity Betten, Brendon Boozer, Karlee Bosa, Tait Bosa, Vashti Buller, Kiera Bushong, Elliott Cancio-Bello, Logan Cate, Breanna Coggins, Adam Culver, Amelia Culver, Sophia Cupples, Alexa Dalton, Gabriella Dalton, Hayley Daniels, Jackie Daniels, Brayden Dawson, Emily Del Bosque, Malina Del Bosque, Mitchell Depue, James DeVries, Halee Dickerman, Tayler Dickerman, Tyler Dickinson, James Elder, Miles Elliott, Jacy Evans, Amelia Fierbaugh, Masyn Fugate, Indie Goddard, Wyatt Grimby, Jayden Hall, Alex Hammond, Addisynn Harris, Graycelynn Harris, Kimberly Hernandez Gomez, Keira Hertel, Killian Hicks, Emma Hinds, Mya Hinds, Timothy Howard, Trevor Howard, Thomas Hunt-Hotchiss, Camrin Hurley, Ryan Irish, James Janda, Matthew Koss, J'din Lafayette, Rhiannon Lair, Chloe Landweer, Jonathan Landweer, Jordyn Law, Tyler Law, Zachary Law, Jocelyn Lindborg, Zachariah Link, Lane Lloyd, James Lockrem, Jonathon Markley, Ashton Martin, Kelsy Martin, Benjamin Martinez, Isabella Martinez, David McAdam, Jade McAdam, Dustin Meiers, Ian Mercer, Joseph Mercer, Matilda Meyer, Caleb Moore, Riley Moore, Ashlyn Morgareidge, Kaylee Nieshe, Madelynn Norris, Alyveayr Nunley, Holly Orr, Isabel Parent, Grace Petosa, Laura Powell, Maxwell Preis, Teagan Rants, Kolbie Richter, Zackary Richter, Elijah Rider, Josiah Rider, Elijah Rivas-Ruffin, and Jayden Roberts. Phew!

Soroptimist International of Sedro-Woolley

The Sedro-Woolley chapter of Soroptimist International is again offering scholarships to graduating seniors of Sedro-Woolley, State Street, and Concrete high schools.

There is a separate form this year; contact your high school guidance office for a copy of the form specific to Soroptimist scholarships.

Deadline is February 20.

ASSE International Student Exchange Programs (ASSE)

offers the Walter Danielson Scholarship, a need-based scholarship worth approximately \$11,000 each year to qualifying American high school students interested in studying abroad for one academic year.

Interested students should call 800.733.2773 or apply online at www.asse.com/become_an_exchange_student. Application deadline is March 1.

Concrete Resource Coalition



On Jan. 8 the coalition hosted a Dinner Talk, in partnership with the East County Resource Center, about the science and risks of opioid and marijuana use. More than 20 people attended. A big thank you to Sunrise Services and Compass Health for attending the dinner talk and connecting families to local resources for addiction treatment.

At our Jan. 18 coalition meeting, we worked on choosing a new substance use prevention media campaign. After looking at local data and three potential state campaigns, the coalition choose the "Looks Can Deceive" campaign that encourages parents to talk with their child about not drinking. Resources are available at StartTalkingNow.org.

In February, middle school and high school students will start a 10-week Life Skills prevention program focusing on peer pressure, healthy relationships, goal-setting, and media literacy.

On Feb. 20, the coalition will start a free Strengthening Families program. Families with at least one child between ages 10 and 14 are encouraged to attend. Childcare and dinner are provided each week. If you have any questions or would like to sign up, please use the contact information below.

Join us for our next coalition meeting on Feb. 15 (always the third Thursday of each month) from 2 to 3:30 p.m. in the Concrete High School Library.

If you have questions, please feel free to reach out. For more information, contact me at stephanie.morgareidge@unitedgeneral.org or 360.854.7179.

—Stephanie Morgareidge, coordinator
Concrete Resource Coalition
United General District 304

PTO calendar

The Concrete Elementary School PTO plans a full February.

The Burke Museum comes to the elementary library on Feb. 8 from 6 to 8 p.m. Feel free to explore!

PTO meeting is Feb. 13 at 5:30 p.m.

On Feb. 20, the Father-Daughter Dance will be held in the elementary school gym from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$5 per person.

Energy drinks and teens: Increased pep or misstep?

By Tabitha Nenninger, MD

Energy drinks, such as Monster, Red Bull, and Rockstar, are marketed as powerful elixirs that do it all: More energy. Improved performance. Better concentration. Increased endurance. Teens on the quest to overcome the challenges of young adulthood may be tempted by these sweet pick-me-ups. But are they safe? And what effects can they have on young bodies?

Energy drink basics

It's important to note that the main ingredient in energy drinks is caffeine. They also may contain extract from the guarana plant (which is similar to caffeine), the amino acid taurine, and carbohydrates in the form of sugar and vitamins.

Concerns with caffeine

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that children and teens not use energy drinks because of the high amounts of caffeine. Caffeine can cause problems in children and teens, including:

- Higher blood pressure
- Sleep problems
- Worsening of pre-existing conditions

For example, the caffeine in energy drinks:

- Can make high blood pressure and abnormal heartbeats more likely in those with heart problems.
- Can increase blood sugar in those with diabetes.

In addition, a label may not say how much caffeine is in the other ingredients, so it can be hard to know how much caffeine is in the drink. A single energy drink can contain as much as 500 mg of caffeine. You would have to drink 14 cans of cola to get the same amount of caffeine.

Other concerns

Parents also should take note of these additional drawbacks of energy drinks.

- Other ingredients. Energy drinks may contain other ingredients, such as kola nut or guarana. There has been little research on how these ingredients may affect the body.
- Limited regulation. Energy drinks may be classified as dietary supplements, which are not as strictly regulated as foods. For example, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulates the amount of caffeine in sodas, but not in energy drinks.
- Sugar. Energy drinks usually contain sugars, which add to the calories. This could lead to weight gain. The sugars can also lead to dental problems.
- Withdrawal. When your body gets used to a lot of caffeine and then you stop using it, you can experience symptoms including headaches, feeling tired, having trouble concentrating, and feeling grumpy.
- Sleep. The caffeine in energy drinks may make it harder to sleep. Some people may feel they need less sleep, due to the stimulation they get from the caffeine. This can lead to sleep deprivation.

The bottom line

If your teen is craving a bit more oomph, energy drinks are not the answer. The best way for children and teens to improve energy is through eating a balanced diet and getting enough sleep. These steps will help them feel at their best.

Tabitha Nenninger, MD, is a family medicine physician with PeaceHealth Medical Group in Burlington.

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Clear Lake



HISTORY CORNER

This month we take a look at the history of fashion. Well before the Great Depression and for several years after, animal feed and food staples such as flour were sold in sacks made of cotton fabric. Resourceful women started using this fabric to make clothing and household items. One 1942 estimate said that 3 million women and children of all income levels were wearing garments made from printed feed sacks.

The women and children of Clear Lake and Day Creek were no exception. Some articles that were made included dresses, aprons, laundry bags, pot holders, quilts, doll clothes, and even table cloths, pillow cases, and curtains. Examples of feed sack fashion can be found at the Clear Lake Historical Association. *Photo courtesy of Clear Lake Historical Association.*

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

Like the Clear Lake Historical Association on Facebook at www.facebook.com/clearlakehistory.

—Deanna Ammons, historian



Girl Scouts' Pinewood Derby moves to Cascade Middle School

Members of Girl Scouts Service Unit 140 descended on Cascade Middle School in Sedro-Woolley on Jan. 20 for their annual Pinewood Derby competition.

With 60 racers, the event was bigger and better than ever. At right are some of the entries; below is a group photo of the Girl Scouts that day. *Photos by Joan Cromley.*



Community Calendar



FEBRUARY

- 6, 20, 27 Teen Night at the Museum, Hamilton Town Hall, 6 p.m.; open to Hamilton teens ages 12–17 (with exceptions); info at 360.826.3027
- 7–11 2018 Northwest Flower & Garden Festival, Washington State Convention Center, Seattle; info at www.gardenshow.com
- 8 Burke Museum display at Concrete Elementary School library, 6 to 8 p.m.; free admission
- 10 Mardi Gras in Concrete, parade at 3 p.m.; see article, p. 11
- 10 Magazine Cut-Out Poetry at Upper Skagit Library, Concrete, 3:30 p.m.
- 10 Winter Fundraiser to benefit Sedro-Woolley Boys & Girls Club, Sedro-Woolley Community Center, 703 Pacific St., Sedro-Woolley, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.; admission is \$20, \$10 for youth, and \$200 to sponsor a table for eight; info at www.skagitclub.org, 360.419.3723, ext. 43, or shanec@skagitclubs.org
- 11 “Love that Train” Model Railroad Open House, Sedro-Woolley Museum, 725 Murdock St., Sedro-Woolley, 1 to 3 p.m.; \$5 admission; see notice, p. 6; info at 360.855.2390
- 11 Heirloom Seed Swap, The Majestic, 1027 N. Forest St., Bellingham, 3 to 5 p.m. (setup begins at 1:30 p.m.); info at seedswapvolunteer@gmail.com
- 13 PTO meeting, Concrete Elementary School library
- 14, 28 OHANA support group meets, Concrete Community Center, 45821 Railroad Ave., Concrete, 6 p.m.; info at 360.296.3233
- 15 Illabot Creek Alluvial Fan Restoration Public Meeting, Howard Miller Steelhead Park Clubhouse, 6 to 7 p.m.; info at 360.416.1400, skagitcounty.net/illabotcreek, or jennifers@co.skagit.wa.us
- 17 Concrete Saturday Market Board of Directors meeting, Annie’s Pizza Station, Grasmere, 11 a.m.; info at concretesaturdaymarket1@gmail.com or 360.770.5914
- 17 Simulcast event: “Prepared to Answer: Where Faith & Culture Collide,” Day Creek Chapel, 31438 S. Skagit Hwy, Sedro-Woolley, 8 a.m. to noon (lunch provided); free admission; RSVP by Feb. 9 to 360.840.2576 or jandkv@gmail.com
- 18 Masquerade Party to Support Arts for All, Grand Willow Inn, 17926 Dunbar Rd., Mount Vernon, 5:30 p.m.; \$40 each or \$75 per couple; reserve by Feb. 12; send check to PCMA, P.O. Box 1702, Mt. Vernon, 98273; info at www.pcmusical.org
- 20 Father-Daughter Dance, Concrete Elementary School gym, 6 to 7:30 p.m.; \$5 per person
- 24 Book launch party for Yolanda Allard’s *Song of Fire* at Upper Skagit Library, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.
- 24 Grub-and-Groove (open mic talent night), Marblemount Community Hall, 6 to 9 p.m.; see article, p. 26; info at 360.853.7346
- 27 Barnaby Reach Project Stakeholder Advisory Committee meeting, Concrete High School, 6 to 8 p.m.; info at 206.661.2110 or cynthia@carlstadconsulting.com

MARCH

- 24 Simulcast event: “Prepared to Answer: Where Faith & Culture Collide,” Day Creek Chapel, 31438 S. Skagit Hwy, Sedro-Woolley, 1 to 5 p.m. (lunch provided); free admission; RSVP by March 16 to 360.840.2576 or jandkv@gmail.com

APRIL

- 21 Cement City Trail Run, Concrete; see notice, p. 5

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

Community meetings

Cascade Days planning meetings will be held the third Mon. of each month, at 7460 S. Dillard, Ste. A (corner of SR 20 and Dillard), at 5:30 p.m. Meetings are not mandatory for volunteers. Info at ember@cascaadedays.com.

Christian Motorcyclists Assn Morning Star Chapter 39 meets the first Mon. of each month at Royal Star Buffet in Mount Vernon. Optional dinner at 6 p.m.; meeting at 7 p.m. 425.770.6154 or cmchapter39@gmail.com.

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 meets the second Tue. of each month, Sept. through May, at 1 p.m., in the conference room of the East County Resource Center. 360.853.8347.

Concrete Economic Development Commission meets quarterly at 6 p.m. at Concrete Town Hall. Call 503.333.2406 for the date of the next meeting.

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.

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.

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 2 p.m., in the Concrete High School library.

Concrete School District Board: The board will hold a work session on Feb. 20 at 6 p.m. in the high school commons room. The board will hold its regular monthly meeting on Feb. 22 at 6 p.m., 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.

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.

Forest Park Cemetery District No. 5 meets the first Tue. of each month at the cemetery office on Compton Lane in Concrete, at 6 p.m. 360.708.3656.

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

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

KSVU staff and volunteer meeting, second Tue. of each month at Portable B behind Concrete Elementary School, 4 p.m., open to public. 360.853.8588.

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.

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.

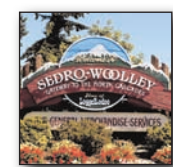
Sedro-Woolley School District Board: A special session was held on Feb. 5. A regular meeting is planned for Feb. 12 at 7 p.m. at Sedro-Woolley High School. A regular meeting is planned for Feb. 26 at 7 p.m. at Central Elementary. 360.855.3500 or kcargile@swsd.k12.wa.us.

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 or www.skagiteagle.org.

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

Upper Skagit Writers Group meets the third Mon. of each month at 6 p.m., at 5b’s Bakery, Concrete. Open to the public and all skill levels. em@5bsbakery.com.

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



Bond and levy measure on ballot

By Ruth Richardson

Mr. Wagoner goes to Olympia

Newly appointed state senator dives into new role.

Former Sedro-Woolley Mayor Keith Wagoner was sworn in Jan. 5 as the 39th Legislative District's new state senator.

Plunging into the deep end of the pool with the start of the 2018 legislative session on Jan. 8, the new senator immediately began serving on the Senate's Economic Development and International Trade Committee, and its budget-writing Ways and Means Committee.

Wagoner has been active during the current legislative session, sponsoring two bills and casting votes in support of his district. Here's a brief rundown of some of his actions thus far.

He sponsored SB 6476.

This new bill would make a change to the state law regulating firearm transfers and sales, to cover situations when those involved have already passed the required background check.

"Senate Bill 6476 would allow individuals who have already undergone the rigorous background check necessary to obtain a concealed-weapons permit to sell or transfer a firearm without undergoing a redundant and unnecessary secondary screening," said Wagoner.

"I believe this bill upholds our Second Amendment rights while still maintaining public safety."

The background-check law created by Initiative 594 in 2014 requires that all firearms sales or transfers in Washington, including by dealers, online, at gun shows, and between private persons, are subject to background checks unless specifically exempted.

Wagoner's bill would add a sentence to the law to acknowledge that the background check associated with a concealed pistol license will also suffice for firearm transfers or sales.

"Having multiple background checks for a single transaction is a needless requirement on gun owners who have already undergone the process," said Wagoner.

The bill has been referred to the Senate Law and Justice Committee.

He voted to support public safety and local projects included in the capital budget.

Wagoner voted for the nearly \$3 million dollars in local funding for nonprofits and critical public safety improvements in the 39th District that are included in the capital budget.

"I'm happy to vote 'yes' on behalf of my predecessor, Senator Kirk Pearson, who worked so hard on such worthwhile things like the YMCA, the Skagit County Veterans Community Park, and the Helping Hands Food Bank," said Wagoner.

The two-year capital budget, passed by both the Senate and the House and signed by the governor, includes appropriations for construction and repair projects throughout Washington State. It contains funding for such 39th District projects as \$99,000 for the expansion of the Arlington Boys & Girls Club, \$350,000 toward a new building for the Helping Hands Food Bank in Sedro-Woolley, \$286,000 for the Flood Protection Wall and Storage Building in Sultan, \$500,000 for the Skagit County Veterans Community Park, and \$525,000 for the



Wagoner

Skagit County Public Safety Emergency Communications Center.

He voted against the Hirst bill.

Saying it doesn't do anything to help Skagit County landowners, Wagoner voted against the Democrat-sponsored Hirst bill (ESSB 6091; see p. 3), dealing with water rights and wells in rural areas like the 39th District.

"We're on a slippery slope," said Wagoner. "I believe that supporters of property rights and property owners will regret this bill. Well users are adding to the rivers. I'm a physical oceanography major; I know this is not based in science. This bill is based in bureaucratic arguments."

Republicans and Democrats passed a measure in the state House and Senate creating new rules for household wells, which are crucial for new development in areas where city or town water is not available. A 2016 Supreme Court ruling in a Whatcom County case imposed requirements on rural property owners and county planning departments. The Hirst legislation specifically exempts Skagit County, which is part of the 39th District, at the request of the tribes that want to work on other water measures, including two pilot metering projects.

As promised, Wagoner did not vote

See Wagoner, p. 17

The countdown has started toward the Feb. 13 special election, and Sedro-Woolley School District is asking voters for help with two measures.

The replacement Educational and Program Levy helps the school district cover the funding shortfall from the state. Local levy dollars help pay for mandated reduced class sizes, nurses, counseling services, custodians, art and music classes at the elementary schools, special education, classroom supplies and materials, extracurricular activities, and transportation costs.

Wagoner, cont. from p. 16

for this bill. "As the mayor of Sedro-Woolley and now as the senator for the 39th District, I've seen the enormous impact the Hirst decision has had on my neighbors in Skagit County. I've talked with many constituents whose property has been left in limbo and considered worthless because they are unable to develop it," said Wagoner. "I hope this isn't over. I will continue to fight for water rights in the 39th District and legislation that respects my neighbors."

He introduced SB-6347.

Wagoner's bill would let developers in cities and towns across Washington take advantage of a tax credit now available only in cities with at least 15,000 people.

"It's a tax incentive to allow multi-family housing to be built, and save some money on their taxes while they invest in the community," said Wagoner. Senate Bill 6347 would end the population-based restriction on a property-tax exemption for new and rehabilitated multiple-unit dwellings. It has attracted bipartisan sponsorship and has been referred to the Senate Economic Development and International Trade Committee, of which Wagoner is a member.

As the economy booms in areas like the 39th District, which Wagoner serves, employers are looking for attractive places where employees can live.

"There is a housing crunch all up the Interstate 5 corridor," said Wagoner. "I think it makes sense that we allow this tax relief for developers in all of our municipalities."

The first-year senator also sees his bill

"The funding formula is a bit more complicated this year," Superintendent Phil Brockman said. "The state legislature is still working to fully fund education under the McCleary decision."

In 2012, the state Supreme Court ruled the state was not fully funding basic education.

"There is still uncertainty about what the state legislature may do," Brockman said. Because of this, the school district has requested the full replacement levy amount just in case the state doesn't come through on its promises.

"If the state comes through," Brockman said, "we will reduce the collection

as a way to add housing to buildings in smaller downtown areas throughout the state.

"These buildings are historic, they're beautiful, but they're also very expensive to bring up to current codes—safety and fire and things like that. This would allow developers a little bit of financial relief so they can make those investments and keep our downtowns alive."

A record of service

Wagoner served as mayor of Sedro-Woolley from 2015 through 2017, after five years on the city council. The retired U.S. Navy commander succeeds Kirk Pearson, who stepped down last November to work for the U.S. Department of Agriculture as its Washington state director for rural development.

"While I'm proud to be the first state senator from Sedro-Woolley, I'm most looking forward to representing the interests of the entire 39th District. I want to learn the job and do my best to support the 39th District and the state as a whole," Wagoner said.

Because the 39th District spans parts of Skagit, Snohomish, and King counties, each commissioner or councilor in those counties had a say in naming a new senator. The vote on Jan. 5 was unanimous for Wagoner.

Constituents may contact Wagoner at his Olympia office: 109B Irv Newhouse Building, Olympia, WA 98504. He can be reached by phone at 360.786.7676 and by e-mail at keith.wagoner@leg.wa.gov.

—J. K. M.

amount to our local taxpayers. If the state funding falls through, we're still covered and can proceed with our annual budget as usual. This way we don't need to go back to our taxpayers again after the state makes the decision. We can adjust the amount as needed."

The levy is a four-year measure and funds would be collected starting in 2019 at \$3.90 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. In 2020, it would be \$3.95. In 2021, it would be \$4, and in 2022 it would be \$4.05 per \$1,000.

The state previously talked about limiting local levy fund collections to \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. If that decision stands, the district would only collect the amount allowed under the new funding formula.

The EPO Levy represents about 19 percent of Sedro-Woolley School District's operating budget.

Also on the ballot is a \$79.5 million bond that would pay for a new Evergreen Elementary School to be built, as well as fixing numerous issues at every school in the district. The district has posted a full list on its Web site (www.swsd.k12.wa.us/) for those wanting a more detailed

project breakdown.

"We had a facilities task force committee, consisting of a diverse group of community members, that dedicated a year evaluating every building in the district," Brockman said. "They presented the list and Evergreen was their number one priority. This also aligned with a district-wide survey in which the overwhelming priority was replacing Evergreen. Five of our elementary schools will also receive new full-court gymnasiums."

New classrooms will be added to accommodate growth across the district. The facilities committee also had a preservation list that included such things as new roofs, windows, boilers, HVAC systems, and ADA upgrades. Janicki Fields will receive a new bathroom and extended play space. There also is money set aside to purchase a future building site.

"These are all needs that aren't going away," Brockman said. "The committee helped us focus on the community's priorities and that's what we're presenting to voters. There were more issues that need attention, but they wanted to respect the taxpayers and keep the bond as low as possible."

Ruth Richardson is public information officer for Sedro-Woolley School District.

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Lyman



Program before lawmakers could strengthen mental health crisis response

By Taylor McAvoy
WNPA Olympia News Bureau

A proposed pilot project would partner mental health professionals and local law enforcement officers on calls that involve a mental health crisis.

HB 2892 creates a grant from the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs to fund services from mental health professionals who would either go with police officers on calls or respond to scenes when requested. The bill was voted out of the House Public Safety Committee

and advanced to the rules committee on Feb. 1.

"Our current system works, but I think it is a system that can be expensive and at times ineffective," said Representative John Lovick, D-Snohomish, the bill's prime sponsor. "Jails are not designed to be mental health treatment centers." Lovick said he brought the bill before lawmakers when he saw a similar program in action in Edmonds while he was volunteering at the Edmonds Gospel Mission. He said having a mental health professional on the scene can better serve

someone in a crisis.

The legislation's aim, he said, is to improve the initial law enforcement interaction with people in a crisis, increase bystander and officer safety, and connect those who need it with mental health services instead of jail.

"Somebody in a mental health crisis is not by virtue of their crisis committing a crime, but our system continues to send law enforcement officers as its only response," said James McMahan, policy director of the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs.

He said that the bill would require the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs to provide a study of the grant program's effectiveness to make sure it works. He said that could establish a foundation on which to build future response teams.

"We see cities as policy innovation mechanisms, as agents," said Logan Bahr, government relations advocate for the Association of Washington Cities. "This is a great marriage between the state and locals in responding to the needs of our communities."

Partnerships with mental health professionals have already proven effective. McMahan explained two working models: the Seattle model, in which a professional is in the passenger seat of a patrol vehicle, and the navigator model, in which a mental health professional goes to a scene on their own upon request of an officer who is already there.

"The most critical point in this program is to have the mental health professional there on scene in that moment of crisis," McMahan said.

Karl Hatton, regional emergency communications director for Jefferson and Clallam counties, said 911 operators should be included in the program because they have the best sense of who needs to respond to a scene. He also said that ongoing training for 911 operators should be included in the bill's language so they know how to best respond as the first point of contact.

Lovick said he is seeking at least a couple million dollars for the grant and hopes to implement at least one project on each side of the state. The funding could come from a small surcharge on traffic citations. However, the funding won't be determined until the bill reaches the appropriations committee.

The bill was introduced late in the session, but Lovick is optimistic that it will pass this year.

"If we do it, it's going to be done this year," he said. "This is really a time to bring the community together to see what we can do to work with the vulnerable population."

Chair of the House Public Safety Committee Roger Goodman, D-Kirkland sponsored a similar bill, HB 2234, which has a companion bill in the Senate, SB 5970 sponsored by Senator David Frockt, D-Kenmore.

State Senate advances bill that would require health plans to cover contraception and abortion

By Taylor McAvoy
WNPA Olympia News Bureau

The state Senate approved a measure that would provide greater access to birth control and other reproductive health services, including abortions.

Passed by a slim margin, 26-22, on Jan. 31, the vote marks the farthest the Senate Bill 6219, the Reproductive Parity Act, has advanced since it was introduced in 2012. The vote was largely along party lines. This session also marks a new Democratic majority in the House and the Senate.

If passed into law, the act would allow state funding for abortion and contraception coverage and require health plans that offer maternity coverage to also offer abortion coverage. The measures would also mandate plans that cover prescription drugs to cover contraceptive drugs and devices like IUDs as well. Its aim is to make abortion and contraceptives affordable for women in every income bracket.

"The decision to have an abortion is a difficult, painful decision that is personal and one that only she should make," Senator Steve Hobbs, D-Lake Stevens, said.

Senator Annette Cleveland, D-Vancouver, chair of the Senate Health and Long Term Care Committee said the bill comes at a time when Washingtonians are unsure of healthcare rollbacks at the federal level and it seeks to combat that. Senator Ann Rivers, R-Battle Ground, raised concerns about the financial implications of the bill. She said that lawmakers should focus more on making sure everyone in the state has access to healthcare rather than providing new services for contraception and abortion.

But Cleveland said that the bill does more to ensure equal access across the state and will be more cost effective in the long run.

"The Reproductive Parity Act is a dramatic example, in my mind, of how we put people first and how we can improve women's access to services that are critical to their health," she said.

Five amendments were brought forward addressing the conscious rights of religious organizations, abortions regarding those susceptible to Down syndrome, and abortions based on gender. None of the amendments passed with the bill.

Michael Baumgartner, R-Spokane, who raised an amendment to recognize religious organizations' conscious rights, claimed the bill forces religious employers to offer abortion and contraception coverage even though it goes against their beliefs.

"What are we coming to that we can't value human life," said Senator Jan Angel, R-Kitsap, calling out that there are no Republican co-sponsors on the bill.

However, Cleveland said that the bill has been well vetted on both sides of the aisle. She said it protects the conscious rights of religious organizations, and already addresses the issues of abortions based on a possible birth defect or gender discrimination.

All the amendments were brought forward by men, although they were supported by Republican women. "It tells me that even today in 2018, there are those who feel they know better than we women how to best make decisions about our health," Cleveland said.

The next step for the bill is the House of Representatives, where it has been referred to the House Healthcare and Wellness Committee.

Hundreds attend March for Life

By Taylor McAvoy
WNPA Olympia News Bureau

Under a sea of umbrellas, hundreds of pro-life activists held roses and signs on the steps of the Capitol Legislative Building in Olympia on Jan. 22, the anniversary of Roe v Wade.

Republican lawmakers spoke to the crowd at the 40th annual March for Life, calling for a halt to several abortion and contraception bills.

"We have to be louder and stronger than them because we are on the right side of life and of this issue," Representative Liz Pike, R-Battle Ground said to the crowd, asking them to speak to their representatives.

One of the bills the pro-life activists oppose is SB 6219, or The Reproductive Parity Act, sponsored by Senator Steve Hobbs, D-Snohomish. The bill has passed out of the Senate Health and Long Term Care Committee. The act would allow state funding for contraception and abortion for those who cannot afford it.

"I think it's fitting that we move this bill

out of committee on the anniversary of Roe v Wade," Committee Chair Senator Annette Cleveland, D-Vancouver, said. At the rally, Senator Jan Angel, R-Kitsap raised objections.

"Paying for abortions on our insurance, with our premiums, and our money is not acceptable," she said.

Among other bills the group opposed were two sponsored by Sen. Kevin Ranker, D-Orcas Island.

Ranker's proposed SB 6102 would require employers who offer health coverage to also cover abortion and contraception with no copay. Ranker sponsored the Employee Reproductive Choice Act in response to the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in Burwell v Hobby Lobby and President Donald Trump's rollbacks on healthcare coverage. His SB 6105 would make state-funded reproductive programs like abortion, birth control, hormone therapy, and counseling available to undocumented immigrants and transgender patients.

"If we are going to treat everyone with equality, if we are going to be driven by kindness and by love in the decisions that we make, we must not exclude this critical population within our communities from the services we provide," Ranker said in an impassioned statement to lawmakers.

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January in pictures



Left: CHS junior Tyler Coffell logged a few volunteer hours on Jan. 28, helping Concrete Mayor Jason Miller prune trees in Concrete Town Center.



Above: Runners embark on the 5k Salmon Run during the first weekend of the Skagit Eagle Festival, Jan. 6. The event was again held on the Ovenell family's property south of the Skagit River, near Concrete, and again drew dozens of runners and walkers.



Above: Banjo, a mule belonging to Christie Fairchild and Art Olson of Rockport, mugs for the camera. Banjo was born and raised at the couple's place; "he is indeed a local yokel," said Fairchild. *Photo by Christie Fairchild.*



Above: CalPortland officials and their hired cutters were in town to take down 15 cottonwood trees that lined Main Street in Concrete, east of the Superior Building. CalPortland also is dropping more cottonwoods along Limestone, removing the threat that the trees pose to adjoining properties.



Left: An open house event at the new Upper Skagit Library building in Concrete Town Center, drew dozens to admire the new space and learn how it was transformed from the old American Legion Hall. (Don't let the handful of people in this photo fool you; this photo was snapped toward the end of the open house period.)



Left: Greta Movassaghi, a Rockport resident and loyal Rockport State Park hiker, peeks from behind a painted mural at the park and instantly becomes a bald eagle. *Photo by Christie Fairchild.*



Hamilton



Rockport



Tragedy visits Bates family

Former Hamilton mayor Tim Bates' son, Craig Bates, is attempting to recover emotionally and financially after a fire consumed his home and took the lives of several family members in Pratt, Kansas, on Jan. 25.

A former Hamilton resident, Bates, 48, moved to Kansas several years ago. His home was a two-story duplex design, with a stepdaughter, and her husband and four children living on the main floor, and Bates, his wife, and another stepdaughter on the second floor.

The main-floor stepdaughter was resuscitated after the fire, but her condition remained critical at press time. Of her four children, three perished in the fire and one is on life support. Her husband was not injured.

The upper-floor stepdaughter was badly burned on one arm, but is alive. Bates and his wife were uninjured.

Donations to support the family can be made to Craig Bates' account at Skagit Bank in Sedro-Woolley.

For more information, call Carol Bates at 360.826.6709, or Craig's mother, Cheryl Bates, at 360.826.3309.

From the Mayor

Teen Night at the Museum will start Feb. 6 at Town Hall. Every Tuesday night, except the second Tuesday of each month (which is the Town Council meeting), starting at 6 p.m., kids ages 12 to 17 can come enjoy board games at the Slipper House. This is a volunteer effort; donations of snacks and games are welcome.



The river has been politely staying in its banks. Hopefully it will continue to do so for the rest of the year.

—Mayor Joan Cromley

Council summary

The Hamilton Town Council held a regular meeting Dec. 12. Following is a summary of that meeting.

- A public hearing was called to order at 7:03 p.m. to discuss the budget. The public hearing ended at 7:04 p.m. The regular meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.
- Council voted to pass Ordinance No. 327, adopting the 2018 budget.
- Council voted to pass Ordinance No. 328, amending the 2017 budget.
- Council voted to pass Ordinance No. 329, amending the Employee Handbook with regard to sick pay.
- Council voted to approve Tony Niskanen as town planner.
- Council voted to sign an interlocal agreement with the county re: Dept. of Emergency Management.
- Council voted to sign a Memorandum of Understanding, reassigning building usage with the following conditions:
 - Time frame
 - Fire inspection
 - Zero liability to town
- The residents at 700A Baker St. asked for forgiveness on some of their water bill. They believe there was water theft. Council voted to forgive based on an average of previous bills.
- Water Dept.:** Cas Hancock was not present; she will report at the January 2018 meeting.
- Fire Dept.:** The kids' Christmas Party was discussed; it is this Saturday. The Fire Department needs pagers. Scott Bates had his certifications corrected at the state level.
- Street Dept.:** There was a 42-inch undercut on Maple that has been fixed, at a cost of \$700.
- Flood review:** Mayor Joan Cromley stated that the flood damages/cleanup will cost an estimated \$1,000 per Dumpster. Mayor Cromley asked council to approve money to fix the levy on the slough. Council approved \$10,000 to fix the levy. Skagit County will fix the 30-foot hole on the Cascade Trail.

—Compiled from staff notes

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360.873.2504

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Sedro-Woolley

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Barnaby Reach Habitat Project update

Many attended the Dec. 12 community meeting in Rockport that focused on culvert and drainage improvements that could help the community with access and localized flooding. Devin Smith, the Barnaby project manager has continued to follow up individually with the most affected landowners to make sure the project team clearly understands what would be of most benefit and interest to the community, and assess whether some of these actions could be included in the Barnaby Reach Project as early actions.

For copies of the presentations, go to <https://barnabystudy.wordpress.com>.

A Barnaby Reach Project Stakeholder Advisory Committee meeting for is slated for Tue., Feb. 27, from 6–8 p.m. at Concrete High School. In addition to a general project update, there will

be presentations from the technical consultants on groundwater monitoring findings and on the hydraulic modeling for the river. Both are focused on existing conditions, making sure that the tools and underlying data being used are good representations of on-the-ground conditions.

No decisions have been made yet on what alternative configurations will be considered for the Barnaby Reach Project. The current project schedule calls for that discussion to begin during summer 2018. The project sponsors will alert the community when that time approaches and have committed to discussing alternative configuration with the Stakeholder Advisory Committee and Community prior to beginning the work.

For more information, contact Cynthia Carlstad at 206.661.2110 or cynthia@carlstadconsulting.com, or Devin Smith, project manager, at 360.391.1984 or dsmith@skagitcoop.org.

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Rockport State Park hosts guided hikes, Junior Ranger activities through the winter

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission invites the public to experience an ancient forest this winter at Rockport State Park, through guided hikes, educational programming, and interpretive activities for all ages.

Deep Forest Experience will take place between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays through Feb. 18 at Rockport State Park, 51905 SR 20, Rockport.

Guided hikes depart from the Discovery Center at 11 a.m., noon, 1 p.m., and 2 p.m. Rockport State Park staff and volunteers will lead half-mile, 45-minute walks under a canopy of maple trees and old growth fir, cedar, and hemlock. Many of the Rockport trees are more than 400 years old and top out at 250 feet. They include the 500-year old Grandmother Cedar.

During the walks, interpretive staff and guest speakers will discuss the ecosystems that keep forests healthy, including salmon-bearing streams, bird and animal scat, and mycorrhizal fungi.

Participants are encouraged to dress for cold, wet winter weather, including suitable footwear. Visitors can also duck into the Discovery Center, enjoy free refreshments and hot cocoa by the woodstove, explore interactive displays, watch nature videos, read books, and make crafts.

Rockport also will offer Junior Ranger

programs this winter, which combine age-appropriate opportunities for children to learn, play, and protect natural spaces. Junior Rangers are encouraged to complete the Junior Ranger activity booklet, as well as attend a guided hike. Booklets are available at the Discovery Center, and activities are suitable for children age five and older.

Two guest speakers remain in the schedule as part of the 2017–18 Deep Forest Experience:

- “Lichens and Why They’re Important to the Forest,” with Dr. Katherine Glew, associate curator, Univ. of Wash. Herbarium, Burke Museum of Natural History: Feb. 10, 11 a.m.
- “Tree Ecology—Discussion and Walkabout” with Kevin Zobrist, author and forestry professor, Washington State University: Feb. 17, 11 a.m.

More speakers may be added to the Deep Forest Experience programming; their presentations will be listed on the State Parks online calendar at <http://parks.state.wa.us/Calendar.aspx>. For more information, contact Rockport State Park, 360.854.8846 or 360.853.8461.

The Deep Forest Experience programs are free. A \$10 day-use pass or \$30 annual Discover Pass is required for parking at Rockport State Park; passes can be purchased at the office or Discovery Center.

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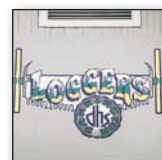
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Darrington



Darrington Strong holds first meeting of year

By Marla Skaglund

Darrington Strong members and guests met last month for the first meeting of 2018 and were entertained and informed with a slide show presentation featuring Friends For Public Use, showing what they have accomplished through 2017.

Martha Rasmussen, president of Darrington Strong and coordinator for FFPU, added extra dialog during the video, explaining how the volunteer efforts have saved several local back roads and trails from irreversible damage through hard work and determination.

FFPU has worked with a youth group from the Sauk River Christian Camp, who put in 186 volunteer hours cleaning along the Mountain Loop Highway. FFPU also works in collaboration with Darrington Area Resource Advocates (DARA; another DStrong division), and the River Resource Trust to reopen the Circle Creek Forest Road and access to the Crystal Lake and Circle Peak Trails.

In February a slide show featuring Friends of North Mountain Lookout will be presented on the work being done to refurbish the lookout and prepare it for summer rental.

After the video presentation, members gave reports on the various projects under way by DStrong divisions and

committees, including DARA's work on getting the 14-mile section of the Mountain Loop Highway paved and the Steelhead catch-and-release program. "The Street Fair, Christmas Tree Lighting, and many more exciting events are planned throughout the year," said JoAnn Milton, vice president of DStrong and event coordinator. "We are working with the North Counties Family Services to host family-friendly and fun events."

Rasmussen presented a handmade, queen size quilt donated by Jimmy King for a raffle to help fund the plantings at Dot Park, named for Dorothy Larsen. Gordy Beil, president of the Mansford Grange, spoke on the 100-year anniversary of the Mansford Grange and the preparations under way for this year's celebration. Drew Bono, Darrington Fire Department, reported the Darrington FD received more than 600 calls in 2017, and that he would attend DStrong meetings on a regular basis to share information from the department.

Other reports included discussion on the Snohomish County Tourism meetings, a proposed Snohomish County Barn Quilt Tour, and events at the Darrington Library.

Another interest of members of Darrington Strong is the access and preservation of the Monte Cristo area. The 2.2-mile road is a destination for bicyclists and hikers. Access for emergency vehicles is necessary. Management questions include infrastructure, facilities, usage, access, preservation, and capacity.

Darrington Strong meets at the Darrington Library, on the third Wednesday of each month, at 7 p.m.

Council summary

Darrington Town Council met for regular meetings on Dec. 28, 2017, and Jan. 10, 2018. The following is a summary of those meetings. Complete and council-approved minutes for every council meeting are available at Darrington Town Hall.

Dec. 28 regular meeting

- Councilmember Gary Willis took his oath of office for Position No. 1.
- A budget hearing was held; there was no public comment.
- After some discussion, council approved Ordinance No. 733, the 2017 budget for Town of Darrington.
- Discussion ahead of 2018 budget approval included concerns about hiring a new person for a utility position, a water maintenance fund, budgeting for pending staff retirements, and expenditures for professional training and mileage.

- Councilmember Mary Requa moved to hire a third Water Technician by June 1, to be funded by a \$70,000 carry forward from the water fund. Motion carried.
- Council approved Ordinance No. 734, the 2018 budget for Town of Darrington.
- Council approved Mayor Dan Rankin to sign the contract with Reece Construction for the 2017 Givens Ave. Water Line and Montague Ave. Water Line projects.
- Councilmember Kevin Ashe asked about the town entrance sign, wondering if the designer has any pro bono leverage left. Ashe will start that process once the holidays are over. If there is no pro bono leverage left, then he will work to obtain other preliminary mockups. Ashe would like to see the signs up for summertime.

- Council discussed which projects are most pressing; for which should grant funding be sought first? Mayor Rankin named several possibilities, including additional funds for the law enforcement contract and a new roof for the fire hall. On the table is a \$3,000 donation to the town from the Stillaguamish tribe, which needs to be accepted in January.

Jan. 10 regular meeting

- Guest speaker Ralph Krusey from the Snohomish County Emergency Radio System provided a history of the system, upcoming changes, and a potential merger with SnoPac and Snohomish 9-1-1. He asked for a letter of support from Darrington, to assist in finding a mechanism to obtain funding for a new system. They would like to add towers. Discussion ensued, ending with council approving a draft resolution supporting a new Snohomish County radio system.
- Council heard an update on the solar power project at the community center. Much research has been done for the project, which will require some financial arrangements between the town and the community center board. The town will be responsible for the grants and the loan required. However, the energy savings would cover the costs within 15 years. The warranty is for 25 years for the panels and the hardware. The community center would be responsible for any roof repairs that may be needed. Council postponed further discussion till its next meeting.

- The survey for the pocket park and Commercial Ave. will be done by the end of January.
- Council accepted a donation from Tulalip Tribe to the Town of Darrington.
- Council approved Town Hall to advertise for 2018 street projects.
- Councilmember Ashe reported on his meeting with the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency, plus his plans to attend a meeting in Sedro-Woolley regarding steelhead in the Skagit River, a conference call with Walt Dorsch regarding the South Fork Stilly project, and his pending travel to Olympia to testify on a bill for Carolyn Eslick.

—Compiled from staff minutes

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

Snohomish County Sheriff's Report

Jan. 15

On Saturday morning Jan. 13, search efforts continued for Paul Yoshiara, a 75-year-old man reported missing on Jan. 7. The Snohomish County Sheriff's Office Helicopter Rescue Team located his body around 10 a.m. in a grassy field near Lowell-Snohomish River Rd. Immediate family members were notified. There were no signs of trauma or foul play.

Jan. 24

The Snohomish County Jail has launched a pilot program for medication-assisted detox for those inmates with heroin or other opioid addictions.

The medical unit in the jail recently had two Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners (ARNPs) and one physician trained in Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT). This training offered by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) allows for each provider to be eligible for a prescription waiver for medical withdrawal management for up to 30 patients at a time.

Suboxone is an FDA-approved medication for assisted detox of people with heroin or other opioid addiction. Suboxone administration rapidly decreases opioid withdrawal symptoms and will allow inmates to move into general housing while they go through assisted detox. Prior to medication-assisted detox, an inmate withdrawing from heroin or other opioids was housed in the jail's medical unit for a minimum of three days and their only option was a "hard" withdrawal.

The goal of the new medication-assisted detox program is to give inmates a better chance at successfully getting through withdrawal and getting clean, so they have less of a chance of relapsing once they are released.

"Implementing medication-assisted detox means we can start to close the revolving door for inmates who keep landing in jail for committing crimes to feed their addiction," said Sheriff Ty Trenary.

The jail's medical housing unit was designed to hold 24 inmates with moderate to severe medical issues. Since 2013 the unit is regularly at 200 percent capacity (52 inmates on average) with more inmates than beds. More than 90 percent are on heroin- or opioid-withdrawal care. In a recent one-week

period (Jan. 14–20, 2018), more than 40 percent of the inmates booked into the Snohomish County jail were placed on opioid/heroin-withdrawal watch (140 out of 333).

Feb. 1

Around 2:30 p.m. today, a corrections deputy at Snohomish County Jail found a 62-year-old female in her cell in need of medical attention. He immediately called for medical aid and began CPR. Attempts to revive the inmate by jail staff and responding emergency medical personnel were unsuccessful and she was pronounced dead at the scene.

The inmate, a transient, had been booked into the jail on Jan. 19 by Everett Police for a second-degree domestic violence/criminal trespass warrant. The medical staff in booking initially declined to accept the inmate for pre-existing medical conditions and requested a booking medical clearance. She was transported to Providence Regional Medical Center, where she was cleared for booking and transported back to the jail.

Her death is being investigated by detectives with the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office Major Crimes Unit, per policy. A review of the death from a clinical standpoint also will be conducted, independent of the death investigation.

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

—Compiled from SCSO releases

Darrington Community Dance

Sat., Feb. 10
Potluck: 6 p.m.
Dance: 7 to 9:30 p.m.

Live music by \$4 Shoe
Caller: Alex MacLeod

Mansford Grange, 1265 Railroad Ave.
Darrington

Suggested donation: \$7
(proceeds to band and caller)

Dances held through April
Information: 206.402.8646



Darrington wrestler Johnny Franke puts Kobe Babra from S. Whidbey in a world of hurt during the Cascade Conference Tournament at Granite Falls High School on Jan. 27. Franke pinned Babra for the win.

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Circulation: 15,000
Pages: 56

Deadline for ads
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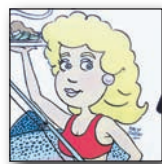
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Marblemount



Newhalem



Community hall cures cabin fever

The “dead of winter” month of February will see some bright nights in Marblemount.

First, every Friday evening of the month from 4 to 7 p.m., Doug Pocock will offer sessions in silent meditation. Using the Theravada technique, each half-hour session will include instruction, discourse, and discussion, and will accommodate anyone interested, from novices to experienced meditators.

Participants will be welcomed on a “drop-in” basis, but for those wishing more information, please e-mail Pocock at douglas pocock@hotmail.com or call the Marblemount Community Hall at 360.873.2323 and leave a message. Please note that chairs are provided, but folks may wish to bring their own cushion or mat. The sessions are offered for free, but donations to the hall are always appreciated.

In addition, Upriver’s soon-to-be-infamous community talent night, known as Grub-and-Groove, will host another evening event on Feb. 24, then again on March 31—the last Saturdays of each month.

After a delightfully successful event on Jan. 27, the potluck supper (Grub) and open mic (Groove) evening proved a welcome distraction from winter’s dark nights and inclement weather. Talents ranging from singing, instrumental music, poetry reading, and joke-telling entertained a hall full of appreciative community members of all ages. With the “stage” decorated in lights and luscious, draped fabrics, the scene lent a festive air to the memorable evening.

Don’t miss the next Grub-and-Groove: Sat. Feb. 24, 6 to 9 p.m. Entrance is free, but donations to the hall are very much appreciated.

For information, call Richard Lewis at 360.853.7346.

—Christie Fairchild

Read Concrete Herald
The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley



Musicians Andris Vezis (left) and Richard Lewis were two of many enjoying the potluck and open mic event known as Grub-and-Groove at the Marblemount Community Hall last month. Photo by Terri Wilde.

Volunteers needed for Fire District 19, Marblemount Fire Department. Stop by the Fire Hall for an application on meeting nights, the second and fourth Mondays of every month at 7 p.m., or call Vanessa at 360.630.3900 for more info. This position is subject to a background check.

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The good news is ...

By Sasa, Starwalker, and Two Hats

Happy World Sound Day (www.worldsoundhealingday.org) and Valentine’s Day. Mission: Possible. Should you choose to accept this mission, you will experience expression of the ability within our hearts to:

- Heal our hearts and souls
- Heal our planet
- Heal our waters
- Raise our consciousness

We are having a gathering on Feb. 14, at the Marblemount boat launch at noon. We will send a Valentine song to Mother Earth and experience our heart’s connection with Mother Earth and each other. We invite you to stop by and join in making a joyful noise ... sending love and gratitude out everywhere to everyone.

“Do you know that our soul is composed of harmony?”

—Leonardo daVinci

“Within the sound of your voice are the keys to innumerable worlds.”

—The Hathors

“I think music in itself is healing. It’s an explosive expression of humanity. It’s something we are all touched by. No matter what culture we’re from, everyone loves music.”

—Billy Joel

Contact Sasa at cascadiacffect@gmail.com. Experiences may be shared at <http://cascadiacffect.weebly.com> and on Facebook: Cascadia Effect.

Master Hunter Permit Program will accept applications through Feb. 15

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) will accept applications for its Master Hunter Permit Program through Feb. 15. The program is designed to promote safe, lawful, and ethical hunting, and to strengthen Washington’s hunting heritage and conservation ethic.

WDFW enlists master hunters for controlled hunts to remove wildlife that damage property. Master hunters also participate in volunteer projects involving access to private lands, habitat enhancement, data collection, hunter education, and landowner relations.

“To qualify for the program, applicants must demonstrate a high level of skill and be committed to lawful and ethical hunting practices,” said David Whipple, WDFW hunter education division manager. Through mid-February, WDFW will

hold meetings to provide new information to current master hunters and to educate prospective applicants about the permit program. The remaining meetings in western Washington are:

- Feb. 10: WDFW Mill Creek office, 16018 Mill Creek Blvd., Mill Creek, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This orientation includes a CORT class.
- Feb. 15: Lower Columbia College, 1600 Maple St., Longview, 6 to 8 p.m.

Hunters enrolling in the program must pay a \$50 application fee, pass a criminal background check and a written test, demonstrate shooting proficiency, provide at least 20 hours of approved volunteer service, and meet other qualifications described on WDFW’s Web site at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/masterhunter>.

Whipple encourages individuals who enroll in the program to prepare thoroughly for the written test, because applicants are allowed only one chance to retake the exam.

There are approximately 1,650 certified master hunters currently enrolled in the program, which is administered by WDFW’s Wildlife Program.

—Submitted by WDFW

Spring black bear special hunt applications due Feb. 28

Hunters must purchase and submit their spring black bear special hunt applications to the WDFW by midnight on Feb. 28. Hunts will occur in specific areas of western and eastern Washington.

Hunters who submit their applications are entered into a drawing in mid-March for 272 permits in western Washington and 509 permits for hunts east of the Cascade Range. The department will notify winners no later than March 31. Applicants can also check the drawing results through the WILD system by

logging into their account at <https://fishhunt.dfw.wa.gov/>

To apply for a permit, hunters must purchase a special permit application and a 2018 hunting license that includes black bear as a species option. Additionally, hunters must identify their hunt area choice by indicating the number associated with the hunt area. Hunting licenses, bear transport tags, and bear permit applications may be purchased online at <https://fishhunt.dfw.wa.gov>, by phone at 866.246.9453, or at any license vendor in Washington.

More information about hunts scheduled on both sides of the state is available on the WDFW Web site at https://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/permits/spring_bear/.

Any legal weapon that can be used for big game seasons can be used for spring black bear hunts. Bait or hounds are not allowed for these hunts.

WDFW seeks public comments on proposed 2018–20 hunting seasons

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is seeking public input on proposed recommendations for the 2018–20 hunting seasons.

Through Feb. 14, WDFW will accept comments from the public to help finalize proposed regulations for hunting seasons that begin this year. To review and comment on the proposals, go to the department’s Web site at <https://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/regulations/seasonsetting>.

Developed after public involvement, the proposed hunting season rules are based on the objectives and strategies contained

in the new 2015–21 Game Management Plan, said Anis Aoude, WDFW game manager. The plan is available on the department’s Web site at <https://wdfw.wa.gov/publications/01676>.

“We appreciate the input we’ve received over the past months and encourage everyone interested in the 2018–20 hunting seasons to review and comment on the proposed rules before final action is taken,” Aoude said.

The Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission, which sets policy for WDFW, will also take public comment on the proposed recommendations at its March 16–17 meeting at the Red Lion Hotel in Wenatchee. Final commission action is scheduled to take place at the April 12–16 meeting.

—Submitted by WDFW

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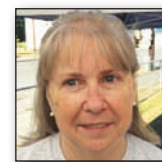
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Seniors



Way Back When

70 years ago

Feb. 19, 1948: Two persons were killed and four injured when a sudden snow slide tore through the construction camp at Ruby Dam Monday night. The dead are Mrs. Charles Royce, 35, and Eli Newcom, 79, whose bodies were found beneath the huge pile of snow and debris. The avalanche came without warning about 10:30 p.m. on Monday from above the camp and tore eight light frame

Verna's Kitchen

By Verna McClure

Punch

This punch is quick, easy, and inexpensive, plus it's good for kids and adults. This is also a good punch to have around any holiday.



- 1 quart cranberry juice
- 1 quart apple juice
- 1 12-ounce can frozen orange juice, undiluted
- 1 2-liter bottle 7-Up

1. Mix the first three ingredients and place in refrigerator to chill.
2. Just before serving, add the 7-Up.
3. Add ice cubes and float thick slices of oranges on top if desired.

cottages to splinters or covered them in debris.

Three persons escaped uninjured from the buried cottages, and five escaped uninjured from the crushed buildings. Those injured were Chas. A. Royce, 43, who was knocked unconscious and buried for more than 20 minutes; Mrs. Kenneth Johnson, 34, and her husband, 46; and Art Serene, 49-year-old paymaster who was injured when a portion of a roof fell on him during rescue work.

The slide covered an area about 150 yards wide. Luckily, it missed the two bunkhouses occupied by about 70 workers, and it was also fortunate that most of the residents of the cottages were away for the weekend. Only two cottages and the bunkhouses were left intact.

60 years ago

Feb. 20, 1958: The Upper Valley is to have a new marketing center. The wild rumors of the past month of practically a new town at Grasmere have boiled down to the fact that there will be a new general store, courtesy of Albert Frank.

The site is now being prepared just east of the Drake shake mill

on the south side of highway 17-A by John Soloman; the 60x100-foot building will be built by his brother, Jimmy, of Seattle. The building has been leased for occupancy by Albert Frank of Van Horn. The new building is scheduled to be ready by July 1.

Albert Frank, who operates the Van Horn Service station and grocery, revealed that he would install a modern food shopping center based on the latest merchandising ideas and operating on a competitive price margin. He hopes to incorporate into the new store the latest styles in fixtures and displays. Almost the entire building will be used as a roomy shopping area. Merchandise will be moved directly from delivery trucks to the counters, rather than use a lot of space for storage.

Frank also stated that no super-service station is planned in the immediate future, although gas pumps will be operated along with the store.

The Van Horn store will be kept open and operated as a branch of the larger establishment.

A 9- to 12-foot-deep fill was required at the site to bring the level up to that of the highway.

This work is being completed this week. As soon as the ground is ready, work will be started on the building.

50 years ago

Feb. 7, 1968: Three teenage Oregon boys were picked up in Concrete on Saturday morning with a car stolen in Mills City, Oregon. The tip-off was given to Marshal Joe Cartwright by Gordon McGovern, service station operator, who was approached by the trio about 8:30 a.m. when they tried to sell him a 7mm gun they had in their possession.

Marshal Cartwright caught up with the boys at Kenny's Service, where they were attempting to again sell the gun. A check of the auto turned up a registration certificate from a woman in Mills City. She was notified by phone and said her car was in her garage. When told to check, she returned to the phone to report that it was indeed missing.

The boys were placed under arrest and turned over to the Skagit County Sheriff, who impounded the car. The boys were 14 and 15 years old and were from Gates, a small town near Salem, Oregon.

As a sidelight to the case, they had also tried Peterson's Texaco on the sale of the gun. A large knife found on the boys was checked after a report from Ed Pressentin at Rockport that someone had cut his gas hoses during the night. The knife blade still had traces of rubber on it and the boys finally admitted the act.

See **Way Back**, p. 29

Concrete Community Center

February 2018 Activities

Mon. - Fri., 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Lunch served at noon

Monday through Friday

Jigsaw puzzles, walking group, games, more

AARP Tax-Aide income tax help has moved to the East County Resource Center (see ad, below).

All subject to change. For latest information:
www.facebook.com/concretecommunity or call 360.416.1377.

Wednesday

2/7 6 p.m. Plant-Based Diet Workshop
2/14 6 p.m. Ohana Support Group
2/28 6 p.m. Ohana Support Group

Thursday

2/15 12:30 p.m. Pinochle

Friday

2/9 12:30 p.m. Commissioner Janicki

Saturday

All 7 p.m. AA meeting

FREE income tax prep

Feb. 8 through April 12
Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
East Valley Resource Center, Concrete

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY!
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Sponsored by AARP and IRS

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Please recycle this newspaper



Way Back, cont. from p. 28

40 years ago

Feb. 2, 1978: Old No. 6 may have been down for the count of eight, but the 1928 Baldwin steam engine soon will be back on its feet, and chances of the Skagit River Railway being operational by Memorial Day now appear "excellent," according to railway president Art Stone.

"We've overcome most of the hurdles that have frustrated the railway for the past several years," Stone said. "The engine should be repaired within the next month, our financial problems have been solved, and Burlington Northern officials are being very cooperative in negotiations for use of their tracks between Concrete and Sedro-Woolley."

Sunday a group of local volunteers began repair work on the engine, which has sat idle in the Concrete engine house since its ill-fated 1974 run, when it developed a "hot box," or burned-out wheel bearing while carrying a full load of passengers and dignitaries from Concrete to Sedro-Woolley.

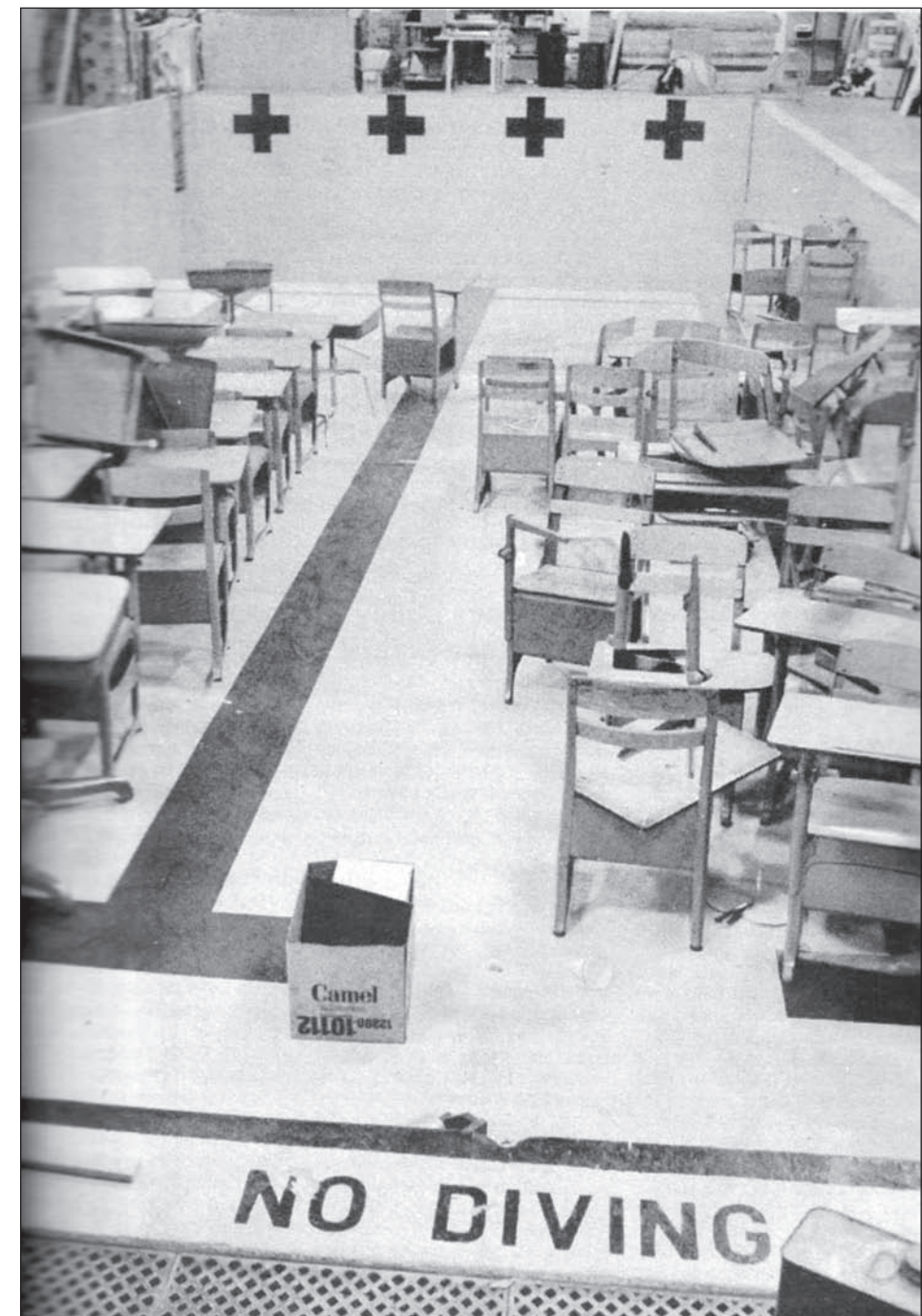
The workers, under the direction of SRR Vice President of Operations Fred Moser, dug a pit under the engine, which will enable them to remove the center axle and have it repaired. Work also will begin shortly to refurbish the railway's three Milwaukee Road passenger cars in a 1920s style, Stone said.

"Other than the center wheel bearings, the engine is sound," said Stone.

The engine, which is owned by Seattle City Light, is leased to the Skagit River Railway.

Stone estimates that engine repair work will cost approximately \$3,000. Work on the passenger cars is expected to cost another \$5,000.

—Compiled from archives



30 years ago, Feb. 11, 1988: Concrete School District swimming pool stands empty of water and full of an assortment of stored items. The pool, closed in 1984 when it was found to cost the district more than \$40,000 per year to operate, was an issue the school board would address at a meeting later that month. While many in the community hoped the district would reopen the pool, others felt that it was expensive and the area should be used for other uses such as classrooms. Superintendent Gil Holt hoped that the issue would not be settled at the polls in May, but in open discussion between the board and the public. *Archive photo by Anne Bussiere.*



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Tobi Stidman

360-855-1288

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Sunday School lesson

Choosing what is better

By Bruce Martin

Imagine with me for a moment that Jesus was coming to your house for a visit. Would you change anything? What would you serve Him for lunch? This is the setting of the story we are told in the gospel of Luke 10:38–42. As Jesus and His disciples were traveling, they were invited to be the guests of a humble family in the village of Bethany. Martha, Mary, and their brother Lazarus opened their home to Jesus to refresh and bless Him and His disciples on their journey. While Martha was busy making preparations for her guests, her sister Mary was sitting at Jesus' feet listening to what He had to say. Martha, upset that Mary was not helping her, appealed to Jesus for some support: "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

Sometime our greatest challenge as believers is not in choosing what is good or bad or even what is right or wrong, but in choosing what is better and what is best. Martha chose a good thing. She opened her door to Jesus, she wanted

everything to be just right and to please her guests. There are always many good things to be involved in. There are more choices than there are time, resources, and energy. There are a host of needs to fill and people to serve. Again, the harder choices have to do with choosing between "good things" and "God things." We must be careful that we don't get so caught up in "good things" that we miss "what is better."

There is an end to all "good things"; in fact, we have a saying: "All good things must come to an end." When we shop for food we are always mindful of the expiration date printed on each item. Once that item is past its expiration date, we hesitate to buy it.

The Bible tells us that all "good things," as good as they are, may have an expiration date. The Apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians 4:18 reminds us that because of this fact, "... we fix our eyes not on what is seen but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."

All the physical world around us will one day pass away but the unseen spiritual world is eternal and will last forever. The sum of many "good things" seems cheap by comparison to the humblest of "eternal things." Jesus asked the question: "What would it profit a man to gain the whole world and lose his own soul?"

Instead He encouraged us "... store up for yourselves treasures in heaven" —invest in things of eternal value.

Jesus showed Martha and us what is better by focusing on Mary's choice. "Mary has chosen what is better and it

will not be taken away from her." Mary did the right thing at the right time, while her sister Martha did the right thing at the wrong time. In all the busyness of our lives, may the Holy Spirit help us to choose "what is better," to choose each day to focus our lives on eternal things rather than to be distracted by all the preparations that need to be made.

May we invest our lives in prayer and intimate time with God. May we spend time daily reading and meditating on God's Word, the Bible, then let us invest our lives in serving the Lord and one another by putting what we learn into practice for "what is better" cannot be taken from us and will last forever.

This year has been a time of rediscovering what is most valuable and most precious in this life. The Lord has reminded me in a clear way that communicating and living out His truth and seeing lives transformed is indeed choosing "what is better." Thank you all for your many prayers on my behalf. May God bless you!

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

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

Obituaries

Skagit County Sheriff's Office Blotter

Arnold Massingale, a long-time resident of Concrete, passed away at home on Fri., Feb. 2, 2018, surrounded by his family. A potluck and celebration of life will be held on Sat., Feb. 24, at 2 p.m., at the CCD Center in Concrete.

Concrete's
Community Bible Church
presents
Free Movie Night
featuring
The Resurrection of Gavin Stone
starring: Brett Dalton, Anjelah Johnson-Reyes, Neil Flynn, Shawn Michaels, D.B. Sweeney
Friday, February 9th @ 7:00 p.m.
45672 Limestone Street
Rated PG: Thematic elements including a crucifixion image

Dec. 29

A call of an assault and harassment near Elm St. in Hamilton was reported to the Sheriff's Office. Deputy Wolfe investigated the incident. Two neighbors got into a physical fight over a property line dispute. Deputy Wolfe was able to determine the person who was the primary aggressor and arrested that person for assault.

Dec. 30

Deputy Wolfe stopped a vehicle on Cedar St. in Concrete for no rear license plate. The driver had a suspended driver's license and warrants for her arrest. She was arrested and taken to jail.

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.

Mendez, Zane Xavier

Age: 25
Race: W
Sex: M
Height: 6' 0"
Weight: 210
Hair: Brown
Eyes: Brown
Address: 221xx Francis Rd., Clear Lake



Mendez was convicted of two counts of unlawful communication with a minor in Snohomish County in 2013. His victim was a 14-year-old male acquaintance who Mendez knew from his previous youth group leader position. Mendez was 19 at the time of the incident.

Mendez 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

A citizen reported possible malicious mischief on Baker Dr. in Cedar Grove. The citizen advised that someone had damaged her satellite dish. Deputy Wolfe determined that the satellite dish was probably damaged by the high winds from the storm the previous night.

Dec. 31

Deputy Wolfe stopped a vehicle on Baker Loop Rd. in Cedar Grove for a nonfunctioning license plate light. The driver had several warrants for his arrest and his driving license was suspended. He was arrested and booked into jail.

The Sheriff's Office received a call from a citizen reporting people were stealing his neighbor's boat. Deputy Devero responded and contacted several people, including the homeowner. The homeowner told Deputy Devero that he had sold the boat to the people and there was no crime.

The clerk at Logger's Landing in Concrete reported that a female had come into the store and, using a purple grocery bag, proceeded to steal multiple items. The clerk confronted the female suspect when she left the store. The suspect told the clerk that she had put the items back. When Deputy Wolfe arrived, he was able to review the videotape and determine that the suspect had not returned the items. Using the video, he was able to get the license plate number for the car the suspect was using and a possible name for the suspect. Deputy Wolfe will continue to investigate the crime.

Jan. 1

Deputies Case and Dills responded to Pipeline Rd. in Lyman in reference to a possible assault. When Deputy Case arrived, he walked up to the residence and heard a male and female arguing. He looked in and observed the male hit the female on the side of her face. Deputy Case pounded on the door and got the male to open the door. The male was taken into custody for assault. Later the victim advised Deputy Dills that she had also been hit by a TV tray and choked. The suspect was booked into jail for assault.

Jan. 3

Deputy Wiggins investigated a vehicle prowling on Cedar Grove Ave. in Cedar Grove. The victim said that she had returned home after being gone for a few days to find her ex-boyfriend rummaging through her car. As he was leaving, he told her that her car would no longer run. She discovered that several parts had been stolen off her car. The suspect left prior to Deputy Wiggins arriving.

Jan. 4

The Sheriff's Office received a call of drug use at Lyman Mercantile in Lyman. The reporting party said a male and female were parked nearby and appeared to be using drugs. Deputies responded. Deputy Devero walked up to the driver side of the vehicle and observed a male sitting in the car with drugs, baggies, and syringes on his lap. There was a female sitting on the passenger side. After investigating, the male was arrested for drug possession and the female was arrested for outstanding warrants. Both were booked into Skagit County Jail.

Jan. 4

Deputies responded to a malicious mischief complaint on S. Rietze in Concrete. The victim said that a neighbor had come to her house drunk. He got into an argument with another resident and made threats that they had better keep an eye on the victim's car. The next morning, the victim found all four tires on her car had been slashed. A video showed a male suspect near the car. The investigation continues.

Jan. 5

A homeowner reported that a male suspect was coming onto their property off Prevedal Rd. in Lyman and taking

items. This had occurred several times, so the homeowner installed cameras. Today they reported they had a picture of the suspect who had again come onto the property and taken several items. Deputy Devero was able to identify the suspect. He went to the suspect's home and found the stolen items. The suspect was arrested for second-degree theft and booked into jail.

Jan. 6

Deputy Vanholsbeck stopped a vehicle for no front license plate on SR 20 near Hamilton. The driver was driving with a suspended driver's license and no insurance. He was cited and released.

Jan. 7

Deputy Devero responded to a call of a suspect violating a no-contact order on Baker Dr. in Cedar Grove. The reporting party said that the suspect was seen going around the property, then came to the door with a baseball bat. The suspect argued with one of the residents, then left. Deputy Devero found the suspect nearby and arrested him for violating the no-contact order. The suspect was booked into jail.

Jan. 8

Columbia Bank called and advised that there was a male in the bank who was

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 a.m.
www.citipointchurch.com
E-mail: 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

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

Covenant

Community Covenant Church
12605 Highway 9, Clear Lake
360.856.1023 // covenant@wavecable.com
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
<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
Sun. worship: 9 a.m.

Lutheran

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
46372 Main St., Concrete / 360.853.3714
www.uprivergrace.com
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
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

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 month of February heralded some interesting events over the years. Even though we now hear daily reports on new fatalities caused by this year's flu (influenza), it's nothing compared to the 50 to 100 million who succumbed to it in the years 1918-20.

In 1920 Dr. E. F. Mertz, the Concrete Health Officer, closed all the businesses and schools in Concrete for several weeks in an effort to control the spread of the deadly disease. All wasn't gloom and doom that month because the Forest Service was eyeing Concrete for an airfield for its fledgling fleet of fire-spotting aircraft. As I mentioned last month, 1929 was a bad winter with lots of snow, which continued with another 27 inches, then another 10. Before the storm subsided, there was total of 59½ inches on the ground. A horse and sleigh were used to make deliveries in town and most of the roads were either closed or were subject to weight restrictions.

This month also marks the 110th anniversary of the Mt. Baker Presbyterian Church, which was built in 1908. The minister, Rev. L. C. Michaels, was an optimist—the original congregation numbered only 25 and the building was built for a capacity of 310.

With the progress being made on a new library, it's also interesting to note that Mrs. Fredereka Wolfe, the town librarian, in her 1928 annual report to the Town Council, gave the following statistics: 242 borrowers, 4,103 books loaned, and 1,972

books on the shelves.

Some people headlined during the month of February through the years. In 1929 it was Mrs. Nellie Wheelock, who was featured in The Ladies Home Journal for at the time a very unladylike profession: a telephone line worker for her own company. In *Concrete Herald* that same year, Patsy Frank of Boy Scout Troop 23 was awarded a gold star for rescuing and reviving Earle Vanderhoof from drowning at the old Anna Mill millpond at Moss Hill in July. Margaret Stadlman also made history when she was the only one to step forward and volunteer to assume the mayorship when Mayor Sparg resigned. Not only did she become the first woman mayor in Concrete, she went on to be elected to the office twice. Richard Frank also made the February news in 1966 as one of 73 graduates of WSU to receive their provisional teaching certification and bachelor's degree.

In 1948 William Kelly, a 77-year-old Spanish American War veteran, was arrested for shooting and killing Arthur Wilson, 54, for refusing to have a drink with him.

March 10 will be the Mardi Gras Parade in Concrete, at 3 p.m. We'll be selling the best cupcakes across the street from the theater.

We still open the museum for special tours during the winter. Arrange one by calling 360.853.8347 or e-mail your requests to jboggs@hotm.com or autohistory@hotmail.com.

—John Boggs

February at the Darrington Library

Children and family programs

- Family Storytime, Wednesdays, Feb. 7-28 at 11 a.m.; all ages welcome, caregiver required.
- LEGO Free Play, Wed., Feb. 14; 3 p.m.

Tweens and Teens programs

- Planet Science: hands-on experience, Thur., Feb. 8; 4 p.m.
- Darrington Teen Book Group discusses *The Giver* by Lois Lowry, Mon., Feb. 12, 5:30 p.m.
- Crazy 8s Math Club: Build stuff, run

and jump, make music—and a mess. Tue., Feb. 6-27; 4 p.m. Space limited to 16; please pre-register.

Adults

- Darrington Book Group, *The Book of Strange New things* by Michael Faber, Wed., Feb. 7; 5:30 to 7 p.m.

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

—Asheley Bryson, branch manager

At the Upper Skagit Library

Upper Skagit Library thanks all of those who entered their artwork in our Bookmark Design Contest in January. From those entries, Upper Skagit Library staff will select ten finalists. The public will then vote for their favorites from Feb. 1-16, with the winning designs announced Feb. 17. Those three winning designs will then be featured on new bookmarks for the Upper Skagit Library! So, stop by the Upper Skagit Library and cast your vote for your favorite bookmarks.

A reminder that Storytime is back! Families with young children are invited to join us for stories, songs, and a simple craft on the first and third Saturday of each month, October through May, at 11 a.m.

New on our shelves

In adult fiction: *Robicheaux*, by James Lee Burke; *Iron Gold*, by Pierce Brown; and *Parable of the Sower*, by Octavia E. Butler.

In adult nonfiction: *Fire and Fury*, by Michael Wolff; *The Everything Sign Language Book*, by Irene Duke; and *The Bully Pulpit*, by Doris Kearns Goodwin.

In young adult: *The Lost Hero*, by Rick Riordan; *The You I've Never Known*, by

Ellen Hopkins, and *The Final Warning* (a Maximum Ride Novel), by James Patterson.

In juvenile: *Weird But True! Gross*, by National Geographic; HiLo Book 4: *Waking the Monsters*, by Judd Winick; and *My Book of Easy Crafts*, by Kumon.

In children's: *Star Wars: I Am a Hero*, by Golden Books; *The Mitten*, by Jan Brett; and *Chewie and the Porgs*, by Keith Shinick.

Upper Skagit Board of Trustees Meeting will be held on Thur., Feb. 8, at 5 p.m. Public is welcome.

Join Tess on Sat., Feb. 10 at 3:30 p.m. at Upper Skagit Library for an afternoon of Magazine Cut-Out Poetry. We will explore what is on your mind and how to achieve catharsis through the cutting out of words and pictures to create a collage. Free and fun. All supplies provided.

Local author Yolanda Allard will showcase her newest book release, titled *Song of Fire*, at her book launch party here at Upper Skagit Library on Sat., Feb. 24, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. She will answer questions, talk about her other books, and tell us what inspires her writing. Admission is free for all ages.

—Tess Carroll, Library Associate

Lions R-O-A-R



The Concrete Lions Club meetings will be on Feb. 7 at the Lonestar Restaurant and Feb. 21 at Annie's Pizza. The meeting starts at 6:30 p.m.; however, there is always a group that meets starting around 6 p.m. to eat and socialize before the meeting. All existing members, mark your calendars. For those interested in becoming a member, submitting a request, or just want to see what we are about, please feel free to stop in. Thanks to all our members who continue to do projects to help our community.

Our next big event will be the annual **Corned Beef Feed** in March. Watch for further information.

Your Concrete Lions Club will cook this month's free **Community Dinner** at the high school on Feb. 20. Dinner will be served at 5 p.m. We hope to see a

wonderful turnout.

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 2018 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 prayers for the healing of our Lions Club members.

—Connie Smithhart

Sheriff's Blotter, cont. from p. 31

causing problems. The bank requested that he be removed and trespassed from the business. Deputy Vanholsbeck arrived and contacted the suspect down the street from the bank. The suspect lectured Deputy Vanholsbeck on the intricacies of banking institutions and how the banks are defrauding everyone. The suspect was trespassed and told not to return.

While attempting to stop a vehicle for failure to use its turn signal, Deputy Wolfe became involved in an eluding. The suspect vehicle failed to stop for Deputy Wolfe and continued down Arnold Ln., west of Cedar Grove. When Deputy Wolfe pulled up behind the vehicle, the driver had already fled. Deputy Wolfe was able to determine the identity of the driver, who had felony warrants for his arrest. Deputy Wolfe will continue his investigation.

Deputy Wolfe was investigating another crime while at Loggers Landing in Concrete, when he noticed a male in the store who he knew had warrants

for his arrest. He contacted the suspect and arrested him for his warrants. While taking the suspect into custody, Deputy Wolfe found heroin and methamphetamine on the suspect, along with several types of drug paraphernalia. The suspect was taken to jail and booked on warrants and new drug charges.

Jan. 11

Deputy Esskew responded to an address on Hamilton Ave. in Hamilton in reference to a suspect there who had warrants. Deputy Esskew was able to contact the suspect and arrest her on outstanding warrants. She was booked into Skagit County Jail.

The Skagit County Sheriff's Office assisted the Department of Corrections (DOC) in the 35000 block of Shangri La Dr. near Hamilton. While serving a DOC warrant, the DOC officers had located what they believed to be drugs and other illegal items. The items were taken into custody and the suspects taken to jail by DOC.

A large amount of cedar lumber was taken within the last week from a

residence near the 51000 block of SR 20 near Rockport. The value of the lumber taken was nearly \$7,800. There are a couple suspects. The investigation will continue.

Jan. 15

Deputies responded to Baker Lake Rd. to assist a U.S. Forest Service officer who had a suspect in custody for illegal possession of firearms and possible drugs. Deputy Vanholsbeck and Devero contacted Officer Mahoney. While investigating possible theft of wood, he discovered the suspect was a convicted felon. The suspect admitted to having guns in the truck and while being taken into custody, drugs were located. The suspect was taken into custody by deputies and transported to jail.

Jan. 16

A citizen called the sheriff's office and advised that a suspect who had a Department of Corrections warrant for his arrest was on S. Dillard St. in Concrete. Deputy Devero responded and located the suspect. The suspect was also involved in a vehicle prowl a few weeks ago at

the county transportation garage near Concrete. He was taken into custody and booked into jail.

Deputy Devero investigated a theft of a chainsaw from the 34000 block of Hamilton Cemetery Rd. The suspect had pawned the saw at Diamond Pawn in Sedro-Woolley, where the victim located it. The saw was returned to the victim and the suspect will be referred for trafficking in stolen property.

Deputies responded to a possible domestic incident near Petit St. in Hamilton. Deputy Esskew contacted the suspect, who was very intoxicated. She had been contacted earlier in the night and told not to drive. Deputy Esskew was able to develop probable cause to show the suspect had driven from Sedro-Woolley to Hamilton while intoxicated. She was arrested and processed for DUI. Deputy Vanholsbeck determined that the suspect had also committed an assault. She was booked into jail for DUI and assault.

See Sheriff's Blotter, p. 35

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Bookkeeping

UpRiver Bookkeeping Services

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

Brew pubs

Birdsview Brewing Co.

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

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360.853.7838 / 770.0178 / #PAYNE*066BC
dpaynes2001@yahoo.com

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Hair salons

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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

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

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

Septic services

Cinema Septic

Inspection, troubleshooting and pumping
Serving all of Skagit County
Fred West, owner. 360.466.8753
fred@cinemaseptic.com
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

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

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For all your roadside service needs.
Call Dave's towing for fast, courteous response.
10 years' experience can get any job done.
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To add your business to this directory, call 360.853.8213 or e-mail editor@concrete-herald.com



Out & About



Burlington

Beitler elected into National Sprint Car Hall of Fame

Skagit Speedway owner Steve Beitler was elected into the National Sprint Car Hall of Fame on Jan. 9, during the 32nd Annual Chili Bowl Nationals in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

"I am honored beyond words," said Beitler. "To be on the same stage with the many great promoters that I looked up to when I started is very humbling. Getting voted into the hall of fame certainly validates my life work."

Ever since he was a child, all Beitler ever wanted to do was be a race car driver. He attended his first race at 3 months old and has been a fan and participant from that day forward. After 21 years as an owner/driver, including seven years with the World of Outlaws, Beitler opened Beitler Performance Center in Burlington. During the following five years, he and his team built the store into one of the top selling parts stores in the country.

Beitler's real calling came in 2001, when he purchased the famed Skagit Speedway and founded Funtime Promotions. Beitler assembled his team and together they transformed Skagit



Skagit Speedway and Funtime Promotions owner Steve Beitler (right) was elected into the National Sprint Car Hall of Fame on Jan. 9, during the 32nd Annual Chili Bowl Nationals in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Submitted photo.

Speedway into a nationally recognized racing facility. Traditional events are the Dirt Cup, Summer Nationals, ASCS Tour, and the World of Outlaws.

"Steve has been a big supporter of sprint car racing and a great ambassador of the sport," said National Sprint Car Hall of Fame director Bob Baker. "He is widely regarded as one of the hardest-working promoters in the country. All of us here at the hall of fame are happy to see he was

elected in this year."

In addition to being elected into the National Sprint Car Hall of Fame, Beitler also was voted by his fellow promoters as the Region 6 Promoter of the year, which includes the nine western states. He will travel to Daytona for the National Promoters Conference in February, where he is one of the six finalists for the (RPM) National Promoter of the Year award.

unloading taking place.

The Washington State Patrol, Anacortes Police Department, Skagit County Sheriff's Office, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and the Anacortes Fire Department responded to the scene. Divers with U.S. Customs and Border Protection entered the water and were able to confirm the location of the vehicle and that there was an occupant inside. Because of the time frame of getting resources to the scene, the rescue operation became a recovery operation. The water was more than 40 feet deep at the time of the search, with a temperature of approximately 48 degrees.

A large tow truck was brought to the scene and with the assistance of the

dive team and a vessel from the Skagit County Sheriff's Department, the vehicle was successfully lifted from the water and placed on the vessel loading platform. Once the vehicle was lifted, the Washington State Patrol and the Skagit County Coroner began their investigation into the circumstances surrounding the vehicle entering the water.

Tragically, the sole occupant of the vehicle, identified as Nicole Barney of Everett, did not survive the incident. The Washington State Patrol will continue its investigation as to the events leading up to the vehicle entering the waterway. The Skagit County Coroner will work to determine a cause and manner of death related to the incident.

State

Washington health insurance market in flux

Premiums have skyrocketed, prompting a response from lawmakers

By Josh Kelety
WNPA Olympia Bureau

Washington state's health insurance market is increasingly volatile. While the number of people without insurance has decreased every year since 2013, monthly premium rates have spiked and only one insurer is available in some counties, according to state officials.

Prospects for consumers don't look better in the coming months. According to data from the state Office of the Insurance Commissioner, premiums are slated to increase in 2018 by roughly 34 percent, up from a 14 percent hike in 2017 and negligible changes in 2016 and 2015.

Last summer, two health insurance companies pulled out of Washington's individual market entirely. Grays Harbor and Klickitat counties were briefly without any insurers. This year, nine counties have only one provider, according to Insurance Commissioner Mike Kreidler.

That's why, at a Senate Healthcare and Wellness Committee meeting in early January, Kreidler voiced serious concerns about the future of the local insurance market. "It is clear that 2019 has a distinct potential of being worse," he said at the hearing.

In response, state lawmakers have pushed several pieces of legislation that aim to stabilize the local market. Chair of the Senate Health Care and Wellness Committee, Sen. Annette Cleveland, D-Vancouver, has two bills that would create a reinsurance program for local healthcare providers with high-cost customers and institute a mandate that local residents get health insurance.

Kreidler and other local officials have

Sheriff's Blotter, cont. from p. 33

Jan. 20

Deputies responded to a suspicious call of a woman running down SR 20 in Marblemount with handcuffs on and in her pajamas. After investigating the call, deputies determined that the female had been held against her will and assaulted at a residence in Marblemount. Detectives are continuing their investigation. One suspect is in custody at the Skagit County Jail.

Jan. 23

While serving a civil paper near the 14000 block of SR 530 in Rockport, Deputy Devero contacted a suspect who had a felony warrant for his arrest. Deputy Devero arrested the suspect and booked him into jail.

Jan. 24

A citizen reported prowlers near a residence on Ridgway Court. Deputy Wolfe responded and checked the area, but did not locate anyone. The residence was secure and no crime had been committed.

Late at night, Deputy Wolfe observed a white van stopped in the middle of the roadway near Petit St. in Hamilton. He contacted the driver. The driver had a suspended driver's license and no insurance, and had not registered the vehicle. Deputy Wolfe arrested the driver for driving with a suspended driver's license and issued him citations for the two traffic violations.

Jan. 25

Deputy Devero took a complaint of stolen property from 7671 Cedar Park in Concrete. Before he could investigate the theft, the complainant called back and advised that he had found his property and it had not been stolen.

While patrolling Main St. in Concrete, Deputy Wolfe observed an occupied vehicle parked near the Concrete Library after hours. He checked the vehicle and it was registered to a person who had several warrants. He made contact with the occupant, who was also the registered owner. He arrested the suspect for the warrants.

—Compiled by Sgt. Greg Adams

Insurance, cont. from p. 34

largely blamed turbulence and healthcare policy change at the federal level for last year's price increases, insurer withdrawals, as well their grim prediction for next year.

"We were relatively stable before this year," said Pam MacEwan, CEO of the Washington State Health Benefit Exchange at the January hearing. "The uncertainty of this past year has created a lot of volatility."

Last spring, the Republican-controlled legislative branch of the federal government unsuccessfully attempted to repeal former President Barack Obama's signature healthcare reform legislation, the Affordable Care Act.

In December, as part of a Republican-led overhaul of the federal tax system, the individual mandate—a key portion of the Affordable Care Act that requires that people obtain health insurance or be financially penalized—was repealed.

Additionally, in October last year, the Trump administration announced that it was ending payments for cost-sharing reductions—a federal subsidy introduced by the Affordable Care Act that lowered the cost of co-pays, deductibles, and lab tests for people who were eligible.

The individual mandate was a contentious portion of the Affordable Care Act. Proponents argued that it

incentivized healthier people to buy health insurance by fining them if they didn't get covered in order to subsidize the high cost of insuring sicker people. The law, for example, requires that people with preexisting conditions be covered. Critics of the individual mandate, however, argued that it was coercive government overreach.

"This year we have some certainty of the mandate going away, we know the cost-sharing reduction funding is gone," said Stephanie Marquis, a spokesperson for the Office of the Insurance Commissioner.

Marquis added that higher healthcare costs in rural counties have contributed to health insurance companies' calculus to withdraw from some markets.

The first of Sen. Cleveland's bills, SB 6084, would establish a state-level individual mandate to replace the now-repealed the federal version. As written, the legislation would exempt certain demographics, such as members of Native American tribes and undocumented immigrants.

However, the bill lacks an enforcement mechanism—unlike the now-extinct federal version, which levied financial penalties on people who didn't get health insurance—prompting concerns from the Office of the Insurance Commissioner

and some healthcare providers that the mandate won't have any tangible effect. Washington state has no income tax, unlike at the federal level, which the Affordable Care Act relies on to issue financial penalties.

To compensate, legislation also would set up a task force to study potential enforcement mechanisms and provide recommendations to the Insurance Commissioner.

The second bill, SB 6062, which was requested by Commissioner Kreidler, would institute a state reinsurance program for healthcare providers who cover high-cost people. The legislation would take advantage of federal waivers established through the Affordable Care Act to finance the insurer reimbursements. "I'm just trying to make sure that we don't have a market collapse in 2019," said Kreidler at the committee hearing in reference to his requested bill.

The two bills have already passed out of the healthcare committee and currently sit in the Senate Rules Committee, which will determine when—and if—they will get a vote on the Senate floor.

Ironically, at the same time that rates are projected to increase, the number of people without insurance is steadily declining, hitting record lows over the past three years. According to a January 2018 report from the state Office of Financial Management, the current rate of uninsured Washingtonians is just over five percent, down from 14 percent in 2013. The report chalks the decline up to the implementation of the Affordable Care Act's Medicaid expansion, as well as the launch of the Washington Health Benefit Exchange in 2013.

"The main effect is from the expansion of Medicaid," said Wei Yen, a research analyst at the Office of Financial Management and co-author of the report. Medicaid is state and federally funded health insurance for people with low incomes.

Additionally, the number of people who have signed up for healthcare plans on the Washington Health Care Benefit Exchange has increased every year since 2013, with 242,000 people buying in as of January 2018.

But while the majority of Washington residents are covered by either Medicaid, Medicare, or employer-provided coverage, roughly five percent aren't eligible for either of the federal insurance programs and aren't covered by their employers, making them dependent on the individual market—the market that is facing severe premium increases and provider pool contractions.



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Anacortes

Vehicle plunges into water at ferry terminal

On Jan. 25 at approximately 9:45 a.m., Vessel and Terminal Security (VATS) troopers at the Anacortes ferry terminal were notified that a vehicle had traveled at a high rate of speed down the vehicle loading ramp, breaking through a lowered barrier arm. The vehicle continued onto the vessel loading bridge and entered the water. At the time, there was no Washington State Ferry loading or



Smile



Pet Patch
Meet Marco, from Sedro-Woolley.



... from the Concrete Herald archives ...

"I've just been elected," the candidate phoned his wife.
"Honestly!" she cried.
"Let's not go into that."
— § —
Motto for deer season: What some people don't know about shooting fills a hospital.
— § —
George doesn't look so well today. He says his wife told him last night that one of the ducks he'd been out shooting the day before had called and left her phone number.

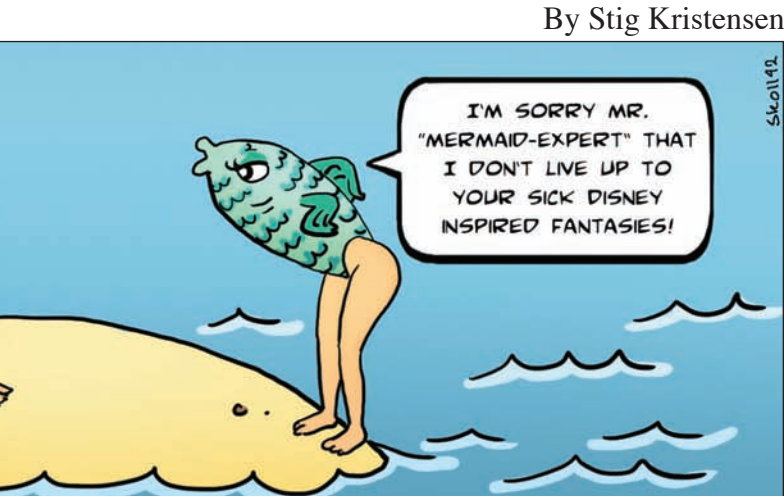
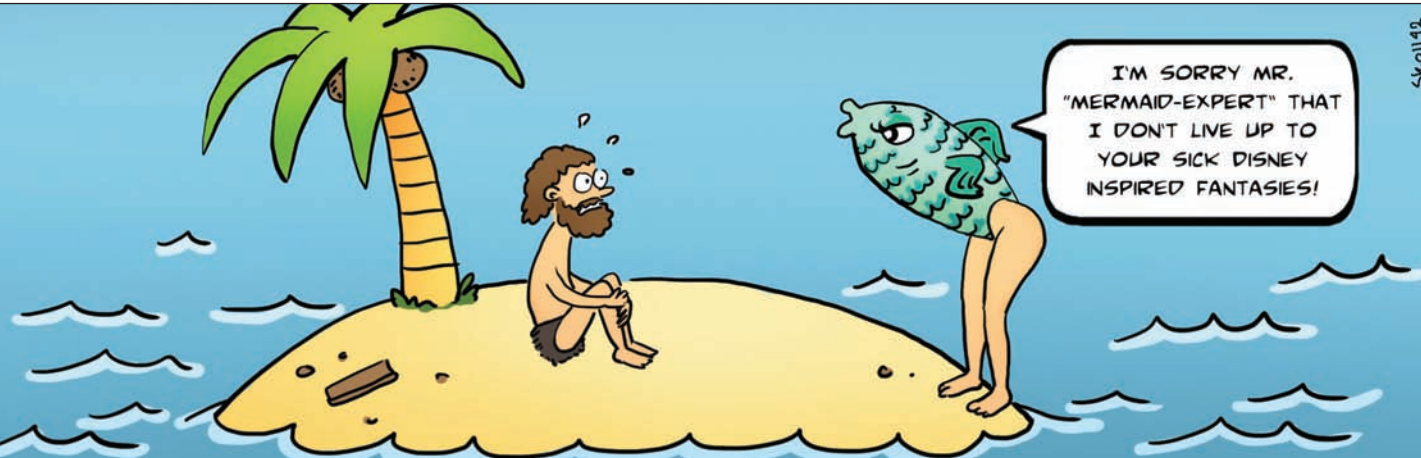
Dwelleysms

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

"The curse of contemplation is that you have to think about it a while."
"Good thing lie detectors are not like Geiger counters. If we used them in a political year, they'd hear the buzzing on Venus."
"Man's urge to leave his name written boldly in some public place is for the most part futile. There, not even neatness counts—he's advertised himself as a prize idiot before he finishes the last letter."
"Parents used to look forward to their youngsters growing up. Now they wait anxiously to see if they are ever going to show signs of it."
"The fight to reduce traffic deaths is difficult because some motorists would rather die than admit they are poor drivers."
—Jan. 24, 1968

"Some calorie jugglers never master the art of balancing a diet on a plate."
"Awareness is also knowing when nothing is going on around you."
"Our government treats war like a festering scab. Just can't let it heal up for picking at it until it bleeds again."
—Jan. 31, 1968
"The president says we are facing sacrifices and hard choices in the near future. We know, we know: It's income tax payment time."
—Feb. 7, 1968

Public Service Announcement



Crossword: "Fighting Words"

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. Auricular
 - 5. Liq. measures
 - 9. Deity to many
 - 14. "Tain't nothin'!"
 - 15. Unit of distance, in astronomy
 - 16. Flat paper?
 - 17. Some are marches
 - 20. Permeate
 - 21. English satirist
 - 22. Cheer starter
 - 23. Ukraine's capital
 - 26. A shot
 - 27. Rough stuff
 - 28. Dreamy-eyed
 - 32. Girl in a gown
 - 34. Rah-rah
 - 35. "Gimme ____!" (start of an Iowa State cheer)
 - 36. Stir up, in a way
 - 40. Follows a 1960's slogan
 - 44. Polished
 - 45. Roth ____
 - 46. Next in line?
 - 47. Meet
 - 49. Entrusts
 - 51. School of thought
 - 54. Veteran
 - 56. Sibyl
 - 57. Mozart's "L' ____ del Cairo"
 - 58. Set apart
 - 60. Port of old Rome
 - 64. Debate strenuously
 - 68. Venusian, e.g.
 - 69. Skinny
 - 70. Biblical heirs (with "the")
 - 71. Bead material
 - 72. Anatomical network
 - 73. Nestling hawk
 - 19. Type of column
 - 24. Card catalog abbr.
 - 25. Trattoria order
 - 28. Butts
 - 29. Like an oxeye window
 - 30. Huckabee
 - 31. Kind of center
 - 33. Annoying
 - 37. Actor Wilson
 - 38. Aforementioned
 - 39. Muffs
 - 41. Snowfield lander
 - 42. "Aeneid" figure
 - 43. Specify
 - 48. Cargo boat type
 - 50. Feline line
 - 51. Resident of the 29th state
 - 52. Cochlea canal
 - 53. Word with kingdom or marker
 - 55. Walking ____
 - 59. Sea flier
 - 61. Low part of a hand
 - 62. Suggestion
 - 63. Solicits
 - 65. Sonnet ending
 - 66. Poetic adverb
 - 67. Other side
- Down**
- 1. Stone of many Libras
 - 2. Stereo knob
 - 3. Letter before kappa
 - 4. Songbirds
 - 5. Govt. property org.
 - 6. Lending letters
 - 7. Reindeer herder
 - 8. Sharpen
 - 9. Sidekick
 - 10. Majors in acting
 - 11. It's catching
 - 12. Out of bed
 - 13. 1946 Literature Nobel
 - 18. Spiny shrub

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.

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

*Solutions to both puzzles are on p. 39.

Funny as Facebook

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

- "Woke up to find a Facebook ad for a clothing company that specializes in 'small batch plaid.' Waking up was a mistake. I'm going back to bed."
- "That moment when you learn that your seven-year-old knows the lyrics to Wham!'s 'Wake Me Up Before You Go Go' and you're trying to figure out how that happened."

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THE BODY IN THE BLACKBERRIES

By Nicola Pearson

Editor's note: This is the fifth installment of a new serialized story by award-winning author and playwright Nicola Pearson of Sauk City. Future installments will appear on this page each month during 2018 until the story is complete. Previous installments are posted at www.concrete-herald.com.

Kevin Doyle recovered his composure and became instantly confrontational. "What's happened?" he demanded, his eyes distrustful as they shifted from Lange to Suleka, then back to Lange again. "Where's my grandpa?"

"I'm sorry to say we found him dead up on Sauk Mountain," the retired detective told him.

"What?" gasped Kevin.

"Who's up on Sauk Mountain?" René asked, curious.

"Bob is," Suleka told her gently, stroking the old woman's hand.

"Bob's not up on Sauk!" argued René.

"He's with Kevin."

"He's not grandma. I'm right here,"

said Kevin, pulling himself back together.

There was compassion in his tone and Lange sensed he was preparing for the

role he knew he must take on, of telling her the worst. The young man sucked in a

deep breath. "What got him in the end?"

"We're not sure," said Lange. "We found him in a ditch on an abandoned

logging road. It looks like someone hit him."

Kevin's mouth gaped open. "So you're saying ... What are you saying?" he stammered, looking from one to the other of them again. Lange got the impression he was genuinely surprised. "You're saying, like, he didn't die of a heart attack or something?"

"Who's dead?" asked René.

"Not by the looks of it, no."

Kevin slumped down onto the arm of the chair opposite René, his eyes shifting left and right, as if he were trying to come to grips with what he'd just heard.

Lange pressed on. "And we need to ask you where you were yesterday."

"What?" said Kevin, as if he hadn't heard. The question registered and he looked up at Lange, his eyes moist. "At my girlfriend's."

"I hope you're not with that Cheryl again," René put in. "Grandpa said he was going to talk to you about that."

"Cheryl who?" asked Lange.

"Grandma ..."

"Was that where you saw Grandpa?" she asked. "At Cheryl's house."

"No, I told you," insisted Kevin to his grandmother. "I haven't seen Grandpa Bob since the day before yesterday."

He put his face in his hands, hiding his frustration and, Lange guessed, his sorrow.

"And where was Robert when you last saw him?" persisted the ex-detective.

"Robert?" asked René. "Robert's outside. I was hungry and he said he was going outside to look for Kevin." She paused then asked her grandson. "Is it lunchtime?"

Kevin shook his head despondently without lifting it out of his hands. "You had your lunch already, grandma."

"Well Grandpa's going to talk to you about those boys you've been hanging out with. They're not good boys."

"Which boys would those be?" asked Lange.

Kevin thrust his head up, shedding sawdust from his hair onto the armchair.

"How should I know?" he argued. "She could be talking about some kids I went to grade school with for all I know." He held his hand out, palm up, toward his grandmother. "You see how she is."

Suleka threw Lange an anguished look; it was true.

"Where's grandpa's body now?" he snapped, bitterness masking the pain in his deep brown eyes.

"Whose body?" asked René.

"He was my grandfather. I have a right to know."

The sound of the soap opera playing on the TV in the background was completely at odds with the pain quickly filling the room, and Suleka lifted the remote from the seat of the chair beside René and muted it.

"I don't know," admitted Lange. "The coroner was on her way up to get the body when we came down to talk to you.

Eventually she'll take him to the morgue at the hospital in Mount Vernon, for an autopsy."

Kevin's face crumpled as he bit back tears.

"Whose body?" insisted René.

Suleka rose and touched Kevin's shoulder in kindness but he shrugged her off. He stood upright again, and blinked hard, looking away from Lange.

"I'm sorry for your loss," said the retired detective. He felt awkward, standing in a room where he knew he was superfluous. Only René could console Kevin now. The old woman tuned into her grandson's misery and edged forward in her chair, her arms stretched toward him. "What's the matter, honey?" she crooned. "Who's dead?"

Kevin knelt in front of her chair and took both her hands in his. "Grandma, I need to tell you something."

Lange nodded for Suleka to follow him. "We'll be back in touch," he said.

"Yeah, right," complained Kevin, as if Lange were some kind of illness, sure to return. But then his tone suddenly changed. "Hey wait," he said as Lange opened the front door. "Where's Max?"

Lange just looked at him. "My grandpa's dog," said Kevin.

"Max is outside with grandpa," answered René. "I thought you guys were working on cutting up that fir log. Isn't that what you told me?"

"Wait a minute, Grandma," Kevin whispered to René.

Suleka was shaking her head. "We didn't see a dog up there."

"Well, he's not here so he musta been with grandpa. Can I go look for him up there?"

His manner was eager, maybe too eager, Lange thought, given his grief. Suspicion began to edge out his compassion for this young man.

"Not until the crime scene investigators have finished," he said.

Kevin sat back on his heels, a faraway look in his eyes. "Crime scene?" he said to himself.

Lange knew he wouldn't be able to clarify further so he exited quickly and hurried over to the Nissan. But once inside the vehicle, the pressure to be on his way seemed to dissipate. "Maybe I'm out of practice," he remonstrated as Suleka climbed in beside him.

"Practice of what?"

"Informing the next of kin." He shook his head, irritated with himself, as he stared out the open passenger window at the tiny cabin with its paint-peeled siding and greened-over roof. "I botched that

whole thing. Starting with not knowing how to tell someone with René Doyle's affliction that her husband is dead." He spun to face Suleka, searching for answers. "How do you do that? Tell someone who doesn't necessarily know who their husband is that he's dead?" A long, pained howl rose from the weathered cabin and shattered the quiet inside the Nissan.

"That's how," murmured Suleka.

Lange felt the howl penetrate every pore on his body and sear into his sense of uselessness. "You were right when you said Kevin's close to his grandparents." Suleka started the Nissan, backed it around, into a well-rutted mud alleyway alongside the house, then pulled forward up the driveway. "You were listening," she conceded.

"Some," Lange admitted. "He seemed genuinely distraught about Bob's death." "I told you he wasn't the kind of kid that would kill his grandfather."

"I believe that now. But I am wondering if he was distraught simply because Robert was dead or because he was somehow involved with the Clarksons? He's got to know that if he was, he sent his grandfather to his doom."

"But he looked dumbfounded when you said the words crime scene in connection to his grandfather's death," argued Suleka. "I agree," said Lange. He turned her answer over in his mind. "But again that could be because he's rationalized that what happened to his grandfather wasn't a crime."

Suleka frowned, unconvinced. "I got the impression that he didn't even know what had happened to his grandfather," she countered.

They were sitting at the end of Doyle's driveway zoning on the vehicles passing them at a crawl on the highway. Lange couldn't help but agree with Suleka; Kevin Doyle had seemed surprised, both by the news and the manner of his grandfather's death, but he still couldn't put Bob Doyle up on Sauk without Kevin being there, too. He blinked away from the highway and up at the top of Sauk, as if the answer might flash at him like a neon sign, but all he saw were patches of snow still holding out against the summer sun like tenacious winter spider webs.

"Which way?" asked Suleka.

"What?"

"Which way are we going from here?"

Lange paused. "I'm not really sure. We could go back up Sauk and see what the coroner determined about the body, but I

The Body, cont. from p. 38

don't want to be just another pair of boots trampling evidence on that brushy road." He thought for a moment. "I'd go talk to one of the Clarkson brothers—or both—but it might be too soon for that." He thought some more. "I guess if we went back up Sauk, you could talk to Pate-Swenson about the Clarksons."

"Why does she want to talk to me about them again?"

"Because didn't you tell me one of them had straightened up his act?"

"Well that's what I heard. Ever since he became a daddy he's been towing the line."

"See, and that's information that would be helpful to Pate-Swenson."

"Except that's about the extent of what I know."

"Hmm. And I don't know if she's ready for us yet. She might be knee deep in forensics."

"Can't you call her?"

Lange sat up, energized. He slapped at his shirt pockets. "I can! Where did I put her business card?"

"On your desk. In your yurt."

"Damn!"

"We could go back up and get it."

Lange said nothing. He sat, staring ahead, seeing the faraway look in Kevin Doyle's eyes.

"Look, if we're not in a hurry to go anywhere, why don't we go to the grocery store?" suggested Suleka. "If we're lucky, Jen will be working one of the cash registers and I can leave you to talk to her while I do your shopping. Your fridge is a pretty sorry state right now."

"I know. I'm very grateful you brought me that quiche." He tipped his head, wondering. "Why would I want to talk to this Jen?"

"Because one of her daughters is who married Kyle Clarkson. They're not married anymore, but they have a daughter together."

"Great idea!" proclaimed Lange. "You think she can talk to me without talking to Kyle?"

"I'm sure she can."

He threw a concessionary hand forward. "Then let's go."

Continue the cycle

Please recycle this newspaper



See **The Body**, p. 39

Classifieds

MOVIES & EVENTS AT THE HISTORIC CONCRETE THEATRE WEEKEND MOVIE SCHEDULE:

Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Sat., 5 and 7:30 p.m.;

Sun., 5 p.m. (Dollar off Sun. @ 5 p.m.)

TIX: \$8 general admission, \$7 for 65

and over/12 and under

24-hour MovieLine: 360.941.0403

www.concrete-theatre.com

CALL TO ARTISTS

Artists join the fun! Northwest Garden Bling and Wolf Designs are hosting their Annual Mosaic Challenge. The contest begins Feb. 12 and culminates with a juried presentation of artwork May 1–13, 2018. First, second, third, and People's Choice awards will be given. For information, please call 360.708.3279, e-mail nwgardenbling@frontier.com, or stop in Northwest Garden Bling at 44574 Highway 20 in Grasmere Village near Concrete. This is a fun competition designed to challenge yourself! Open Wed., Feb. 14 for Valentine's Day; regular hours 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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NOTICES

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION

Monday, Feb. 12, 2018
Cascades Towing
47575 State Route 20
Concrete, WA 98237
360.853.8599

2001 Buick Century
2000 Audi A6
1989 Chevrolet 1500 (GMT 400)
2001 Dodge Ram 1500
2004 Chrysler Sebring

Preview @ 12 p.m.
Auction @ 1 p.m.

TOWN OF CONCRETE SMALL WORKS ROSTER

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Concrete Town Council, in the Town Hall building, 45672 Main Street, will hold a public hearing on February 12, 2018 at 6:00 p.m., or as soon as possible thereafter.

The purpose of the public hearing is to review final project performance for the Town of Concrete's planning efforts for blight removal with the demolition of the Superior Building funded by the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and to receive public comment regarding this project.

Crossword solution

1	O	T	I	C	5	G	A	L	S	9	A	L	L	A	13
14	P	O	O	H	15	S	P	A	T	16	L	E	A	S	E
17	A	N	T	I	18	W	A	R	P	R	O	T	E	S	T
20	L	E	A	C	H	21	P	O	P	E	S	I	S		
23	K	I	E	V	24	P	O	P	E	R	O	R	E		
26	R	O	M	A	N	T	I	31	D	E	B				
34	A	V	I	D	35	A	N	I	36	G	O	S	38	S	E
40	M	A	K	E	S	L	O	V	E	N	O	T	W	A	R
44	S	L	E	E	K	45	I	R	A	46	H	E	I	R	
51	S	I	T	52	C	O	M	M	E	N	D	S			
54	I	S	M	55	P	R	O	S	E	E	R				
57	O	C	A	58	L	O	N	E	59	O	S	T	61	62	63
64	W	A	G	E	65	A	W	A	66	F	W	O	R	D	S
68	A	L	I	E	N	69	I	N	F	O	70	M	E	E	K
71	N	A	C	R	E	72	R	E	T	E	73	E	Y	A	S

Sudoku solution

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

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

Published in the February 2018 issue of *Concrete Herald*.

Andrea R Fichter, Clerk-Treasurer
Town of Concrete
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