Legislature passes bill to settle water-use dispute
Excluded from the legislation is Skagit County, at the request of tribes that are working on new water rules in the area. Page 3.

Concrete increases sewer utility rate

Energy drinks and teens: Increased pep or misstep?
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? Page 13.

Mr. Wagoner goes to Olympia

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. Page 22.

Washington health insurance market in flux Page 34.
Message from the mayor
By Jason Miller
I try to do what I can to keep our town’s limited resources focused 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.

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

Newhalem, and Diablo.

North Cascadian Travelers’ Guide 2018
Concrete Herald

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 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 a smile. They’re all highly skilled in providing help, guidance, and support—sometimes lifelong—agencies that who comes through their doors. They are currently baby-sitting a dog for a client who is undergoing medical treatment and can’t care for their pet while they’re away. How many agencies 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 healthy meal of the day. Amazingly, Terra prepared and served an astonishing 2,000 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 work that keeps everyone who walk through our doors to keep smiling.

So thank you from the bottom of our collective hearts, ladies. East County deeply appreciates all you do! Bill Pesher Concrete

Letters policy
Letters of 200 words or fewer may be e-mailed to editor@concrete-herald.com or sent to Concrete Herald, P.O. Box 682, Concrete, WA 98237. Writers must include their name and town of community for publication, plus a daytime telephone number. Concrete Herald reserves the right to edit letters for length, clarity, accurate spelling, grammar, and potentially libelous statements.

By Alex Visser

One of the year’s most important legislative battles in state history came to a surprisingly quick conclusion the week of Jan. 18, when a bill to dissolve the Skagit Valley town of Concrete passed both chambers and was sent to the governor.

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 that would allow the 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 the year’s session that solving the Hirstcapital budget issue was a major priority, and House Minority Leader Rep. Chris Reykdal, R-Seattle, said on TVW’s “Inside Olympia” program that a fix was agreed upon Wednesday night when leaders from each chamber came to an agreement with the governor.

“I appreciate that the complexity of this issue required several months of negotiations by many legislators,” Inslee said in a Jan. 18 press release. “While far from perfect, this bill helps protect water resources while providing 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 Rep. Kevin De Wege, D-Sequim. The Yakima and Dungeness watersheds also have other negotiated water use dispute agreements.

One of our most important local government elections this year is the race for the Skagit County District Court judge. With the Washington State Bar’s A-B-C rating system, I’ve provided the voter information I could quickly gather on the candidates.

The candidates are:

• Former Superior Court Judge Shara J. Miller

By Jason Miller

I try to do what I can to keep our town’s limited resources focused 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 tennis courts in the Park. We’re rebuilding the community center. Concrete Herald reserves the right to edit letters for length, clarity, accurate spelling, grammar, and potentially libelous statements.
The new year brings with it new water and sewer rates for customers inside and outside town limits. Those outside of town limits will see a monthly increase from $149.97 per month (after utility tax of 6 percent) beginning in January. There will be no increase to the utility rate for residents who live inside town limits.

The sewer utility rate, however, is a different story. In January new sewer utility rates were set at $95 per month inside town limits. 

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Cascades Days planning is moving forward, full steam ahead. Planning has begun with a newly selected board of directors. The group has chosen a theme, coordinating concepts — “Where the pavement ends... adventure begins.”

The board is reaching out to local photographers, artists, or anyone interested in helping with the artwork, for marketing materials, such as posters or brochures. “We’re looking for a photo or sketch of your favorite trout head or whatever the theme suggests to you,” said board member E Batterse Lathour.

Please respond via e-mail to ember@casaxedesdays.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.

**Family activities**

Even gears. Why not also share your doctor? PeaceHealth’s Family Medicine providers in Skagit County deliver personalized care for each member of your family to help you get well and stay well.

**Lifestyle management**  Preventative care Screenings and Immunizations

Family health starts with preventative services. These can decrease the risk of developing chronic diseases and check for early signs of serious health conditions. Services may include:

- **Screenings**
- **Immunizations**
- **Well-child visits**
- **Preconception counseling**
- **Nutritional counseling**
- **Physical fitness assessment**

**Healthy eating and physical activity**

**Fresh veggies**

Chefs fresh from region.

**Travelers’ Guide:**

**Family fun**

**Model Railroad Open House**

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 romances” refreshments**

**Photo opportunity**

**Tickets** are $5 each, and are on sale now at the museum. The drawing will be held at 2 p.m. on Sun., Feb. 11, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Northwest Corner Woodworkers Association.

**Lifestyle management**

**Peaceful mind**

**Smart businesses advertise in the**

Call 360.853.8213
she has come in such a short amount of time for her one year of playing basketball.

As we had two late additions to our team in the closing weeks of the season, I thought the girls showed a lot of character this season. Setting all excuses aside, I thought the team in the post-season this year. Our team has great effort, stamina, and toughness, or great effort. Sometimes I haven't started keeping points for hustle, or great effort alone, we would have won more games. Sometimes I thought it was practice or a game, whether it’s in practice or a game. Swanson and Ebbie Buxton were lost to season-ending injuries, but stayed with the team, encouraging their teammates, and were a tremendous positive in many ways. Sierra Renzelman, Andrea Rogers, and Tiana Brock-shaw stood up in 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 on the boards for the season, but Jenna may be the first, said Renzelman. 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.

Winter basketball clinics under way

All Concrete boys in grades 3–7 are invited to attend free basketball clinics in the Concrete Elementary School gym. Taught by Paul Bunch, the clinics focus on fundamentals, including shooting form, ball handling and dribbling, passing and receiving, 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. Paul Bunch is a 5’ 10” senior and a key player on the Concrete Junior Varsity and the JV_level team. Fun and 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, from 3 pm to 4 pm (after-school snacks provided). For more information, call 360.853.3249.

By Jason Miller

time. The same can be said for Fregoso. I was not sure if she was going to play... or play... and free-throw shooting. 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 narrowly squeaking past the Wolverines 53–52. Unfortunately, the Lions’ other matches ended in defeat, including their last game if the regular season past Friday Harbor, with the Wolverines taking the lads with a vengeance, handing the Lions a 65–57 loss.

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

Jenna Whorton is a 5’ 7” senior forward and co-captain of the Concrete girls’ basketball team. Basketball is the only sport Jenna participates in, and her leadership and competitive nature of the sport. Jenna is the team’s leader in rebounds, 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 nongroup position player lead a team in assists for the season, but Jenna may be the first," said Renzelman. 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.

Hunt 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 Dettinger 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 improving his wrestling skills and fitness as he continues his development. He is available 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 that 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, other’s back when push came to shove, like sisters: They always had each other’s back when push came to shove, and push did come to shove at times, literally.

Lyzy 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. Kyle 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.

The clinics are free. Participants will develop their basketball skills and have an opportunity to play against their peers in our local youth league. Paul Bunch is a 5’ 10” senior and a key player on the Concrete Junior Varsity and the JV_level team. Fun and 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, from 3 pm to 4 pm (after-school snacks provided). For more information, call 360.853.3249.

By Kyviki 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 life 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 through 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. However, we lost. They didn’t start keeping points for hustle, or great effort. Sometimes I thought it was practice or a game. Swanson and Ebbie Buxton were lost to season-ending injuries, but stayed with the team, encouraging their teammates, and were a tremendous positive in many ways. Sierra Renzelman, Andrea Rogers, and Tiana Brock-shaw stood up in the varsity court this season, and will look to take the necessary steps to get more time there next year.

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Middle School girls hoops update
By Rob Thomas, coach
January 8, 2018 the middle school girls basketball team is made up of six ninth graders (Bella, Madison, Jada, Sam, Madi, and Ava), one seventh grade (Aja); and six eighth graders (Lucas, Jaden, Cassidy, Matt, Hunter, and Ayuna). The CMS (Concrete Middle School) girls basketball team is coached by Andrew Osmond. The team had an excellent opportunity for the girls to play in a game against their fellow classmates from Concrete High School JV team at the Concrete Elementary school gym. This provided an excellent opportunity for the girls to see what it is like to play in a game against a team that is not only on their school schedule.

After 12 days of practices, the girls are starting to get a feel for the game. Running drills is a part of the 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 CMS winning 29–23. All 12 CMS girls played some minutes over the game, they are all working on 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.

Wagner, R-Sedro Woolley, who urged no vote from the Senate because of the bill’s exclusion of Skagit County, which they both represent.

“Middle school basketball is a huge step in a young man’s life in terms of his education and development,” said McCray, D-Tulalip, and Rep. Gerry Pollet, D-Seattle, both represent.

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

Inside similarly acknowledged that tribes and others “will continue to work collaboratively to ensure the continued success of the Hirst fix and to work with others to come to a reasonable solution ... In my opinion they were the key to passing this bill.”

“Despite this positive step, pressures on stream flows and salmon will continue to mount in the face of climate change and stream flows and salmon will continue to be an issue moving forward,” Wagoner, R-Sedro Woolley, who urged no vote from the Senate because of the bill’s exclusion of Skagit County, which they both represent.

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Academics

Squares of Concrete Elementary School students were honored for their excellent attendance records during the Feb. 2 ceremony to honor their academic achievements. Front row: from left: Gianna Aamot, Keira Hertel, Andrew Benthimer, Keira Hertel, Ryder Richtor, TJ Richmond-Pierce, Bella Sanchez.

Scholarship opportunity

Concrete Herald is accepting applications for the Concrete Herald for Quality Communities Scholarship. The scholarship is available through a statewide competitive process for students who are planning to attend a local public and/or community college and plan to return to a 4-year accredited post-secondary institution in the future. The application deadline is March 1.

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 can turn to the quest to overcome the challenges of youth 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 drink is caffeine. They also may contain extract from the guarana plant (which is similar to caffeine), the amino acid taurine, and sometimes 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 worse
• Affect heart and lung function
• Worsen mood disturbances, especially those with heart problems
• 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 contains from 80 to 160 mg of caffeine. You would have to drink 14 cans of cola to get the same amount of caffeine.

Other concerns

Parents also should note that a few of these additional skews of energy drinks’ benefits:

• Other ingredients. Energy drinks may contain other ingredients, such as kola nuts, guarana, sweeteners, along with 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 soda 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.

• Withhold. When your body gets a lot of caffeine in a short time, then you stop using it, you can experience symptoms including headaches, feeling tired, having trouble concentrating, and feeling anxious.

• Sleep. The caffeine in energy drinks may make it harder to sleep. Some people may feel they need less sleep, since the stimulation gets them to caffeine. This can lead to sleep deprivation.

The bottom line

If your teen is craving a bit more energy, consider not offering energy drinks. The best way 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 medical physician with PeaceHealth Medical Group in Burlington.
Clear Lake

Girl Scouts’ Pinewood Derby moves to Cascade Middle School

Members of Girl Scouts Service Unit 140 descended on Cascade Middle School in 2020 for their annual Pinewood Derby competition.

With 60 racers, the event was bigger and better than ever. At right is one of the racers, below is a group photo of the Girl Scouts that day. Photo by Joan Crowley.

Community Calendar

FEBRUARY
6, 7 PM, “The Night of the Museum,” at the Museum, Hamilton Town Hall, 6 p.m.; open to Hamilton teenagers age 12–17 (with exceptions), info at 360-826-3027
7–11, 20–22 Northwood Elementary School Grade 4 and 5, at Convention Center, Seattle, at www.girlsbox.com
8, 6–9 PM, “Children’s Happy Hour,” at Concrete Elementary School Library, 6 p.m.; free admission
9, 6–9 PM, “Mardi Gras in Concrete,” at Day Creek Chapel, 31438 S. Skagit Hwy, Sedro-Woolley, 1 to 5 p.m.; free admission; RSVP by Feb. 9 to 360.840.2576 or 360.770.5914
10, 10 AM, Heirloom Seed Swap, “The Majestic,” 1027 N. Forest St., Bellingham, 1 to 3 p.m.; $5 admission; see notice, p. 360.384.9347
13, Masquerade Party to Support Arts for All, at Grand Willow Inn, 17926 Dunbar Rd., Mount Vernon, 5:30 p.m.; $40 each or $75 per couple; info at 360.865.1681
14, “Love that Train” Model Railroad Open House, Sedro-Woolley Museum, 650 Murdock St., Sedro-Woolley, 1 to 3 p.m.; free admission; RSVP at 360.426.3767
17, Simulcast event: “Prepared to Answer: Where Faith & Culture Collide,” at Day Creek Chapel, 31438 S. Skagit Hwy, Sedro-Woolley, 8 a.m. to noon (lunch provided); free admission; RSVP by Feb. 12 to 360.840.2576 or 360.770.5914
17, Community Chat, an informal conversation group, every 2nd Thu., at 8 a.m., at Mountain Lion Coffee, 1025 S. Skagit St., Darrington, 360.436.2167
24, Simulcast event: “Prepared to Answer: Where Faith & Culture Collide,” at Day Creek Chapel, 31438 S. Skagit Hwy, Sedro-Woolley, 1 to 5 p.m.; see notice

March
1, 7–9 PM, “Love that Train” Model Railroad Open House, Sedro-Woolley Museum, 650 Murdock St., Sedro-Woolley, 1 to 3 p.m.; free admission; RSVP at 360.426.3767
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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 School Elementary Library. For more information, call 425.350.5988.
Mr. Wagoner goes to Olympia

Newly appointed state senator dives into new role.

Former Sedro-Woolley Mayor Keith Hirst was sworn in Jan. 5 as the 39th Legislative District’s new state senator. Plunging into the deep end immediately, Wagoner started with the 2018 legislative session, which saw a new senator immediately begin serving on the Senate’s Economic Development and International Trade Committee, and his budget-writing Ways and Means Committee.

Wagoner has been active during the 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 will make a change to the state law regulating firearm transfers and sales, in covered situations when they have already passed the required background checks. “Senate Bill 6476 would allow individuals who have already undergone the background checks to a firearm dealer or manufacturer 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 (I-594) requires all firearm transfers and sales, whether between private persons, or between private persons and dealers or manufacturers, to undergo a background check. Senate Bill 6476 would exempt firearm transfers or sales between private persons.

Wagoner’s bill would also add a sentence to the current law indicating that if a background check association with a licensed dealer or manufacturer is the sole goal for firearm transfers or sales.

The bill also includes line items for a single transaction is a necessity. There is no practical way to 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 in local funding for nonprofits and critical public safety improvements in the 39th District that are included in the capital budget.

“I am happy to ‘vote yes’ on behalf of my predecessor, Senator Kirk Pearson, regarding capital projects that are of critical importance across the 39th District, including 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 chambers of the Legislature, provides $12.3 billion for projects throughout Washington State. It contains funding for such 39th District projects as a $4 million expansion of the Arlington Boys & Girls Club, $350,000 for the Peninsula School of Art, and $500,000 for the Helping Hands Food Bank in Sedro-Woolley, said Wagoner.

He also voted in favor of HB 1126, the Ballad and levy measure on ballot.

By Ruth Richardson

The countdown has started toward the 39th Legislative District’s new state senator, Mr. Wagoner. The Skagit School District is asking voters for help with two measures.

The replacement Educational and Program Levy helps the school district cover the gaps in the state. Local levy dollars help for maintenance and repairs, for the counseling services, custodians, art and music classes, technology, special education, school supplies and materials, and transportation costs.

The funding formula is a bit more complicated this year. Superintendant Phil Bowman 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, said Bowman. Said Bowman, “I don’t want to look past the 2021 levy extension. We requested the full replacement levy to address the need for future expenses that have come through on its promises.”

“Under the current state fiscal package,” Bowman said, “We will reduce the collection amount to our local taxpayers. If the state tax funding falls through, we’re still covered with what we have. We can proceed with our annual budget as soon as possible, look 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 2021, it would be $4 and in 2022 it would be $4.05 per $1,000.

The state previously talked about the new levy being a $1.50 per $1,000 of assessed property value. If that decision stands, the district would only collect $1.45 under the new funding formula.

The EPL levy represents about 19 percent of Sedro-Woolley School District’s operating budget.

Also on the ballot is a $79.5 million bond for new and rehabilitated multiple-unit family housing to be built, and save some money on their taxes while they invest in family housing to be built, and save some money on their taxes while they invest in the community,” said Wagoner. Senate

These buildings are historic, they’re beautiful, but they’re also very expensive to modernize. We’ve got a plan to get the fire and things like that. This would allow developers a little bit of financial relief so they can make those investments and keep our downtown 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 state director.

“I am proud to be the first state senator from Sedro-Woolley, I’m most looking forward to working on representing the interests of the entire 39th District. I want to do as much as possible to represent the 39th District and the state as a whole,” Wagoner said.

Ruth Richardson is public information officer for Sedro-Woolley School District. 
Launched at the Senate Public Safety Committee, the bill has passed out of the House Public Safety Committee and advanced to the rules committee on Feb. 1.

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 a threat to the community. 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.

“Good intentions, but we need to do better,” said Representative John Lovick, D-Snohomish, the bill’s prime sponsor. “We need 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 a threat to the community. 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. John 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 most critical point in this program is to have the mental health professional there on scene at that moment of crisis,” McManus said.

Karl Hutton, regional emergency coordinator for King and Clallam counties, said 911 operators should be included in the program because they are the first to the scene. The funding won’t be used to respond to a call, he added. Also to be included in the bill’s language so they would be funded is the Washington Association of Chiefs of Police.

Lovick said the bill would create a centralized process for the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs to define what a grant program would look like and how to make sure it works. He said that could establish parameters on what police agencies in Washington should do as they work with others to respond to a crisis.

“Police work as policy innovation agents, as agents,” said Logan Bahr, policy director of the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs. "We see cities as policy innovation working models: the Seattle model, in which a mental health professional goes to a scene on their own upon request of an officer who is already on scene and advance to the rules committee on Feb. 1.

By Taylor McAvoy
WNPA Olympia News Bureau

The bill would require health plans to cover contraception and abortion. By Taylor McAvoy

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

Passed by a slim margin, 26-22, on Jan. 31, Senate Bill 6219, the Reproductive Parity Act, has advanced since it was introduced in 2012. The vote was largely along party lines. This session was not a Democratically controlled in the House and the Senate.

If passed into law, the act would allow state funding for abortion and contraception, as well as certain health plans that offer fertility coverage to also offer abortion coverage. The measures would also mandate that health plans provide a list of approved contraceptives and devices like IUDs as well as drug and over-the-counter contraceptives affordable for women in each benefit category.

“The decision to have an abortion is a difficult, painful decision that is personal and one that only the pregnant woman should make,” said Senator Steve Hobbs, D-Snohomish, sponsor of the bill. “We have to ensure that women have access to contraceptives and abortion services for those that cannot afford it.”

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January in pictures

Above: Runners embark on the Sk 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.

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

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.)

Above: CalPortland officials and their hired cutters were in town to take down 25 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.

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.

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.
**From the Mayoor**

Teen Night at the Museum

Feb. 6 at Town Hall.

Every Tuesday night, except the second Tuesday of each month (which is the Hamilton Town Council meeting), starting at 6 p.m., kids ages 4 through 8 can enjoy crafts, board games at the Slipper House. This is a volunteer effort by several Upper Valley merchants, trying to get the kids away from their screens and playing together. The river has been politely staying in its banks. Hopefully it will continue to do so for the rest of the year.

—Mayor Joan Croley

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**Barnaby Reach Project update**

Many attended the Dec. 12 community meeting at the Rockport Community Center to discuss the Barnaby Reach Project, a project to restore the Columbia River Estuary. Many community members have been concerned about the project and have expressed their views. In response, the project team members have been working hard to address these concerns.

No decisions have yet been made on the project's future, but progress is being made towards a more sustainable and healthy ecosystem for the river. The project team continues to work closely with community members to ensure that their voices are heard and that the project will be successful.

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

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Darrington Strong holds first meeting of year

By Matia Skaglund

Darrington Strong members and guests met last month for the first time in 2018 and were entertained and informed with a slide show presentation featuring Forest Service images of Darrington Strong’s proposed Snohomish County Barn Quilt Design.

DARRINGTON

Darrington Strong meets at the Grange Hall on the 2nd Friday of every month. Mon. - Sat.: 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. • Sun. 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

DCR

Jan. 10 meeting

• Guest speaker Ralph Krusey from the National Park Service, with the Radio Society provided a history of the system, using new technology and Sybersham 9-1. He asked for a letter of support for what needed to be done to assist in finding a mechanism to obtain funds for the installation.

• Council heard an update on the solar power system that will be installed at the center. Much research has been done for this project and there will be many financial arrangements between the town, Snohomish County and the state.

• Community resource

Jan. 16

May 22

March 13

May 17

June 14

July 12

August 16

September 13

October 11

November 8

December 13

For more Darrington information, go to website at destinationdarrington.com. Facebook: destinationdarringtonwa, twitter: @DestinationDar or visit website: destination.darrington.com

Darrington Strong

Darrington Town Council met for regular meetings on Dec. 28, 2017, and Jan 13, 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 turn to report on a new interest that has blossomed during the summertime.

• Auditor Bud was a handout, queen size quilt donated by Jimmy King for a raffle to help fund the plantings at Dog Park, named for Dorothy Larsen. Golly Beul, president of the Mansford Grange spoke on the 100-year anniversary of the Mansford Grange and the history of the Grange.

• Discussion ahead of 2018 budget presentation and holidays activities. Council also heard about hiring a new person for a property utilization program and tasks from irreversible damage and helping with youth for a regular basis to share information from the other departments.

• Other reports included discussion on the Snohomish County Tourism meetings, a proposed Snohomish County Barn Quilt event, and tours at the Darrington Library. Another improvement 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, ownership, preservation, and capacity.

• Councilmember Kevin Ashe asked to repeat the town entrance and wondered if the designer has any public hearings, or will the design process be for summertime.

• Council discussed which projects are most pressing; for which something could be bought that Mary Rankin named several possibilities, including new sidewalks, a concrete path, a new law enforcement contract and a new roof for the fire hall. On the table is a $3,000 donation to the town from the Stillsquash tribe, which needs to be accepted in January.

For more Darrington information, go to www.destinationdarrington.com, facebook.com/destinationdarrington, or twitter: @DestinationDar
Community hall cures cabin fever

The "dead of winter" month of February will see some bright nights in Marblemount. Every Friday evening of the month from 4 to 7 p.m., Doug Pecock will offer sessions in silent meditation. Using the Thoreauvian 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 seeking more information, please e-mail Pecock at dpecock@ugpacific.com. 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, Ciprián’s soon-to-be-influential 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 delightful successful event on Jan. 27, the potluck supper (Grub) and music and dance (Groove) evening provided a welcome distraction from winter’s dark and inclement weather. Taming-ranging from singing, instrumental playing, poetry reading, and jive-stepping entertained a hall full of appreciative community members of all ages. With the "stage" decorated in lights and luscious, flowered fabric, the scene lent a festive air to the memorable evening.

"I think music in itself is healing. It's an expansive expression of humanity. It's something we are all touched by. No matter what culture we're from, everyone loves music," said Billy Joel. "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 (WDFW) will accept comments from the public about the proposed regulations for hunting seasons that begin this year. To review the proposed comment on the proposals, go to the department's Web site at https://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/regulations/.

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 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.

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 proposals for the 2018 hunting seasons to be considered by WDFW’s Commission in May 2018. 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 will hold meetings in western and eastern Washington to review the proposed regulations for hunting seasons that begin this year. To review the proposed comment on the proposals, go to the department’s Web site at https://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/regulations/.
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 Elie 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 construction camp at Ruby Dam. Feb. 19, 1948:

1. Mix the first three ingredients plus it's good for kids and adults.

**Punch**

Frank also stated that no super-service station is planned in the area. Merchandise will be moved to the East County Resource Center.

360-855-1288

- 1 quart cranberry juice
- 1 quart apple juice
- 1 quart cranberry juice around any holiday. This is also a good punch to have The wild rumors of the past month of practically a new town center. 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 mentioned that he would later add 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 using a lot of space for storage.

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Choose what is better

by Bruce Martin

Imagine for a moment that you are shopping at the mall. You have a limit on your credit card, but it is about to max out. Would you change anything? What if you suddenly received a big inheritance? How would you handle the setting of the story we are told in the Bible? If you are a Christian, His discipline was, and is, involved in. There are more choices to be done with choosing between “good things” vs. “bad things.” Are we always to buy “good things,” or are we always to buy “bad things.” There is an end to all “good things,” in fact, all things are saying “All good things must come to an end.” And when we shop for our clothes or for our appliances, or for our food, we hesitate to buy it. The Bible says that all “good things,” as good as they may be, has 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 invisible treasures of “eternal” things. Jesus asked the question: “What would it take to profit a man to join the whole world and lose his own soul?” Instead He encouraged us... “store up for yourselves treasures in heaven” – invested in things of eternal value. When Jesus showed Martha and Mary what is the best by focusing on Mary’s choice. “Mary has chosen what is better and will not be taken away from her.” Mary served in Dr. Coburn’s office, and being a nurse was surrounded by her family. A patrot and celebration of life was held for her, Feb. 2, at 3 p.m., at the CdC Center in Concrete.

Obituaries

Skagit County Sheriff’s Office

Dec. 29

A call of an assault and harassment near Mt. Baker Loop Rd. in Cedar Grove for a female was reported to the Sheriff’s Office. Deputy Wolfe arrived at the scene and got into a physical fight over a property line dispute. Deputy Wolfe was able to determine the person who was the primary violator and arrested that person for assault.

Dec. 28

Deputy Wolfe stopped a vehicle on Cedar St. in Concrete for no license plate on the rear. The driver was arrested for assault. In addition, the suspect told Deputy Wolfe that the driver had sold the boat to the people and there was a warrant out for arrest. The city’s Legger and Olson’s Landing, in Concrete, had come into the store and, using a purple grocery bag, attempted to make a purchase. The clerk confronted the female suspect who then left the store. The suspect told the clerk that she had found the driver and when Deputy Wolfe arrived, he was able to talk to the suspect. The female told the Deputy that she had not returned the items. The deputy arrived at the car to see if the suspect had violated a no-contact order. Deputy Wolfe will continue to investigate the crime.

Jan. 6

Deputies Case and Dills responded to a malicious mischief complaint on E. Grove. The victim said that he had found some items in his yard that did not belong to him and threatened that they had better keep an eye on the victim’s car. The next morning, Constance’s phone had been taken. The victim found all four tires on her car had been slashed. A video showed a male and a female driving the car. The investigation continues.

Jan. 3

A warrant回头看 reported that a suspect was coming into the property of Dr. Coburn in Lyndng and taking items. The reporting party said that her ex-boyfriend was living around the property, then came to the door with a baseball bat. The suspect told her that if she went to the Carol Grove, after an argument with another resident and had his driving license was suspended. He was cited and released. The Sheriff’s Office received a call of an argument over a property line dispute. Deputy Wolfe was able to determine the person who was the primary violator and arrested that person for assault. Deputy Wolfe released the following information when she left the store. The suspect told Deputy Wolfe that the driver had sold the boat to the people and there was a warrant out for arrest. The city’s Legger and Olson’s Landing, in Concrete, had come into the store and, using a purple grocery bag, attempted to make a purchase. The clerk confronted the female suspect who then left the store. The suspect told the clerk that she had found the driver and when Deputy Wolfe arrived, he was able to talk to the suspect. The female told the Deputy that she had not returned the items. The deputy arrived at the car to see if the suspect had violated a no-contact order. Deputy Wolfe will continue to investigate the crime.

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Concrete Herald

Call Town Hall at 360.853.8400 or drop in to fill out a quick application.

Concrete Volunteer Fire Dept. needs firefighters!

Do you have a heart for your community? Willing to volunteer? Free training!

Chief Darrel Reed

Concrete Volunteer Fire Dept.

Worship directory

Assembly of God

Concrete Congregation of God

Concrete Community Covenant

Covenant Community

Covenant Community

Covenant Community

Concrete Volunteer Fire Dept.

Fire Dept.

Fire Burling

First Baptist Church

First Baptist Church

Integrated Community

Independent Community

Lyman First Baptist Church

Lyman Church

Lyman Lutheran Church

Another Church

Community Covenant

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Covenan
The month of February heralded some interesting events over the years. Even the tragic events that occurred, like the influenza pandemic, were nothing compared to what is currently happening. 

In 1920 Dr. E. F. Mertz, the Concrete Health Officer, closed all the businesses in town for one day in February to institute a public health program. An airfield for its fledgling fleet of fire-fighting planes was located at the Concrete Airport in 1929. In 1937, the Concrete Herald notes that there were defrauding everyone. The suspect was unable to make deliveries in town and most of the rural area during the month of February through the years. 

The Concrete Lions Club has access to a wonderful turnout. The club is your club. We are a non-profit organization and anyone who contributes to our club will help to keep our club going. Our hope for 2018 is to double our membership and get closer to the 100 mark. Thank you for your prayers for the healing of our Lions Club members. As your member, I will do my best to help you. 

The Bookkeeping Center offers a variety of services, including accounting, bookkeeping, and tax preparation. We also offer a wide range of business services, such as website design, marketing, and social media management. Our team of experienced professionals is dedicated to providing you with personalized service and excellent results.

See Sheriff Blottter, p. 35
Burlington

State

Washington health insurance market is increasingly volatile. While the number of people without insurance has decreased, the premiums on the exchange have increased. The latest figures show that more than 40 percent of the state's residents are enrolled in Medicaid, with a decline in the number of people with insurance. The Affordable Care Act relies on to issue financial penalties.

Beitler elected into National Sprint Car Hall of Fame

Skagit Speedway owner Steve Beitler was elected into the National Sprint Car Hall of Fame in Burlington. Beitler's real calling came in 2001, selling parts stores in the country. He attended his first race at 3 months old at Skagit Speedway. Legend has it, Beitler, who has been a fan and participant from that day forward. After 21 years as an owner, he is the fourth owner to join the hall of fame are happy to see he was elected into this year's class.

Skagit Speedway and Funtime Promotions owner Steve Beitler (right) was elected into the hall of fame on Jan. 9, during the 22nd Annual Chili Bowl Nationals in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Submitted photo.

State

Insurance, cont. from p. 34

Jan. 29

Devero took a complaint of stolen property placed by 7671 Cedar Park in Concrete. Before he could investigate the report, Devero was contacted by a local resident who advised that he had found his property on Jan. 26. Devero responded and checked the area, Devero arrested the suspect and booked him into jail.

Jan. 30

A citizen reported a prowler near a residence on Redway Court. Devero responded and checked the area, Devero made contact with the occupant and arrested the suspect for Harassment, 2nd degree.

Late at night, Devero observed a suspicious vehicle on Redwood Court.

Vehicle plunges into water at ferry terminal

On Jan. 25 at approximately 9:45 a.m., Village and Terminal Service (VATS) employees discovered a vehicle submerged in the Skagit River near the vehicle loading ramp, breaking through a lowered vehicle loading platform. The vehicle was located at the vessel loading bridge and entered the terminal. At the time, there was no indication that the vehicle was carrying any live animals onboard.

Bellingham

State

Exposure

Hand packed ice cream

Artisan breads

Daily Specials

Outdoor Dining

7-5 daily

Closed Tuesdays

360.853.8700
Sbasksbake.com
4599 Main Street
Concrete WA 98237

A 1940's style−

More than Just

Concrete Herald


• 35www.concrete-herald.com

H

Homemade Soups

See Insurance, p. 350

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Dwelleyisms

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 shot before he finishes the last letter."

"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."

"The president says we are facing sacrifices and hard choices in the near future. We know: It's income tax payment time."

--Feb. 7, 1968

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.

Public Service Announcement

By Stig Kristensen

We specialize in small businesses!

210 Central Ave. Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284    Phone (360) 856-1890     Fax (360) 856-6065    elaine@wrightbkp.com

Bookkeeping: as much or as little as you need!

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Kevin Doyle recovered his composure and said, “Well Grandpa’s going to talk to you about that.”

Kevin shook his head despondently. “He’s not grandma. I’m right here,” he said, holding her hand. “He’s with Kevin.”

“Kenny!” cried Suleka, then back to Lange again. “He’s not over there!”

Kevin nodded for Suleka to follow him. “I’m not really sure. We can’t just assume anything.”

“I believe that now,” said Kevin, pulling himself back together. “I’m right here,” he said. “He’s not over there!”

Kevin sat back on his heels, a faraway look in his eye. “Well Grandpa’s going to talk to you about that,” he said.

Kevin decided to grade school with for all I know.” He tipped his head, wondering about the body when we came down to talk to you.

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