

The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley

Concrete Herald

Vol. 102, No. 2

February 2019

concrete-herald.com

50 cents

Clear Lake • Sedro-Woolley • Lyman • Day Creek • Punkin Center • Hamilton • Birdview • Grasmere • Concrete • Cape Horn • Sauk City • Sauk Valley • Rockport • Van Horn • Darrington • Corkindale • Marblemount • Bullerville • Newhalem • Diablo

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For Concrete School District, a lot is riding on its two-year replacement Educational Programs and Operations Levy vote on Feb. 12. *Page 12.*

Adkerson wins spelling bee

After 20 grueling rounds, Karstyn Adkerson, a 4th grader at Lyman Elementary School, came out on top during the school's annual spelling bee on Jan. 23. *Page 18.*

Meeting planned regarding Hamilton development

A community meeting is planned for Thur., Feb. 7, to discuss Town of Hamilton's proposed development north of SR 20. *Page 22.*

Fortson Mill eyed for rec. and ed. options

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Steelhead fishery opens on Skagit, Sauk. *Page 26.*

Give ...



... and take

The state legislature is in session, grappling again with gun bills that would further restrict—and in one case relax—citizens' right to bear arms. *Page 11.*

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The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley



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

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Concrete Herald is published the first Wednesday of each month and distributed via newspaper racks and retail businesses from Clear Lake to Newhalem and Darrington, Wash. A complete list of distribution points is posted online at www.concrete-herald.com/about-the-herald/distribution-points. Mail subscriptions are \$27 annually for U.S. addresses, \$39 for Canadian addresses. Other subscription options are listed on the "Subscribe" page at www.concrete-herald.com. Physical address: 7674 Cedar Park, Concrete, WA 98237. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Concrete Herald, P.O. Box 682, Concrete, WA 98237. Printed by Skagit Publishing, Mount Vernon, Wash. Contents © 2019 Concrete Herald LLC.

Guest editorial

Support our schools and children

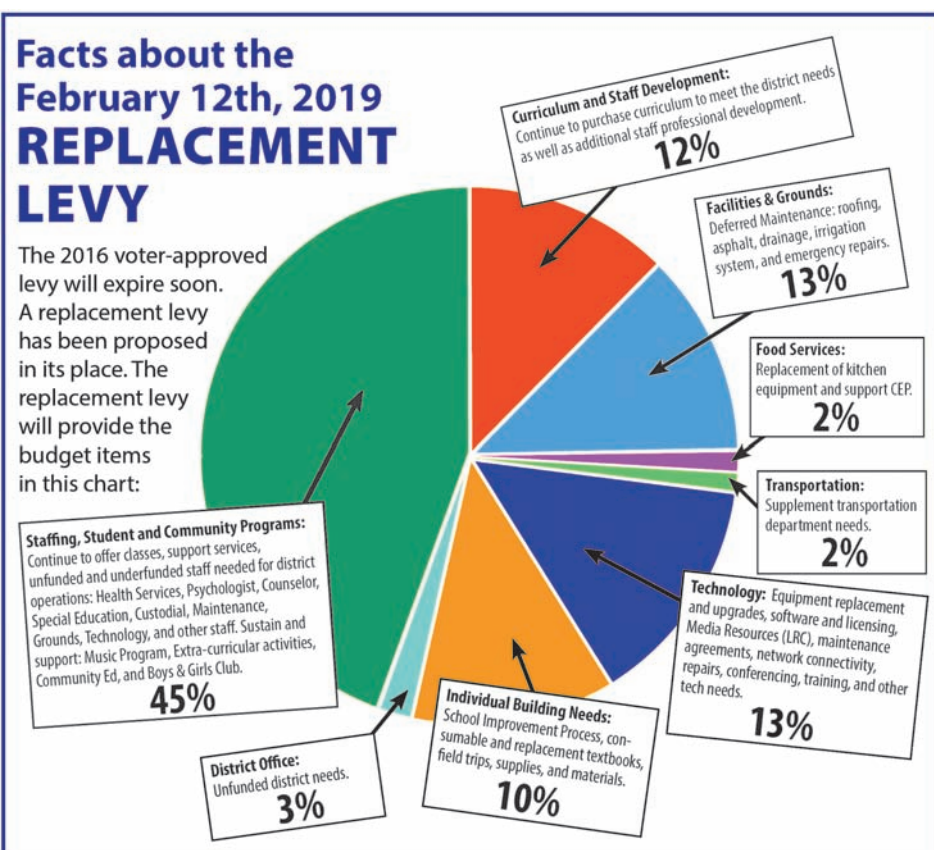
By Wayne Barrett

Concrete School District is asking voters to renew a 2-year replacement Educational Programs and Operations Levy on Feb. 12. This is not a new tax; we are asking voters to renew an expiring tax.

The district provides education for approximately 500 students and their families. Having enhanced services is important, whether it's access to technology, before-school or after-school programs, summer-school programs, sporting activities, clubs, or additional services that are not funded through basic education. Levy funding provides essential funding for maintenance and operations of school district facilities, including energy costs.

This replacement levy represents a reduction of local Concrete taxpayer contributions by \$1.28 per thousand dollars of assessed value. Please vote YES by Feb. 12.

Wayne Barrett is superintendent for Concrete School District.



Opinion

Letters to the editor

School district funding should be a priority

Concrete School District funding should always be a priority for our community, and I hope you will join me in voting on February 12th for the upcoming levy request. If approved, levy funds will continue to provide necessary school programs, and allow students to participate in activities beyond the "basic education" mandate for the next two years. Our kids are preparing to enter a complex and competitive world when they graduate. We need to do all we can to give them a solid educational foundation. As the world and the workplace become more complex, our schools must provide the technology and skills they will need for future success.

At some time in the future Washington State may agree on how to improve the overall quality of education in this state. The McCleary Decision has made changes in school funding structure, but there are still a lot of problems as the legislature tries to decide how to equitably fund individual districts. Current distribution is based on local property values, which hurts rural districts like Concrete. Don't let our local school district be caught in a budget shortfall. Voting to continue the school levy will help ensure that our kids will have equitable opportunities to pursue their education.

Cheri Cook-Blodgett
Concrete

Beyond basic education

As a fitness professional and instructor of college wellness courses for the last 30 years, I've seen the importance of physical and mental health on one's ability to succeed in life. For adults, that

means developing a healthy lifestyle and the discipline to maintain it. For children, those skills need to be developed at an early age through both their family and school environments.

Our schools are responsible for teaching so much more than the minimal requirements the state defines as basic education. That's why fully funding the complete spectrum of public education—including athletics, food service enhancements and counseling—is so critically important.

The new Washington State effort to fully fund K-12 public education has left the smaller school districts in worse financial shape than they were before. Pressure needs to remain on the legislature to remedy this inequity, but until then, we need to pass the requested two-year enrichment levy requested by the Concrete School District. This requested levy amount is considerably less than the previously approved levy, but is the

See Letters, p. 3

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.

Corrections

In the January 2019 issue of Concrete Herald, the Clear Lake page included the wrong image; that error is corrected in this issue.

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maximum now allowable by state law. Let's get our kids off to a strong, healthy start. Vote "Yes" for the levy.

Valerie Stafford, M.S.
Concrete

Questions

I am not looking for an argument; I am just curious about some things. Like why do people establish a cattle or sheep ranch in an area known for the wolf packs living there, and then get upset when the wolves raid the herd? Then they want to kill all the wolves. And why do people buy or build a house near an airport or military air base, and then complain about the noise during take off and landing? If we have billions of dollars to build a wall down south, why are some of our active military families on food stamps and we have veterans homeless and sleeping in the streets? Lastly, how can one man shut down the whole government, depriving many of paychecks that are depended upon to support families of people who have done nothing wrong?

Life just gets curiouser and curiouser.
Elaine Kohler
Lyman

School districts can't spend what they don't have

I support the continued judicious use of levy funds to support programs not otherwise financed by state or federal dollars. The Washington State Supreme Court's mandate to fully fund K-12 public education left small school districts with projected deficit budgets. We routinely hear about deficit spending at the federal level and have grown somewhat immune to that news because it seems to have little immediate impact on us personally. Not true for school districts. They simply can't spend what they don't have. The real long-term path to balancing the budgets for small school districts is to keep the pressure on the State Legislature to stop penalizing the state's smaller districts, and that will not happen overnight. Until then, this levy request will allow the Concrete School District to continue improving our children's future through education. Supporting the levy is a wise step.

Em Beals
Concrete

Be a volunteer driver for cancer patients

In 2019, more than 39,000 Washingtonians will be diagnosed with

cancer, and for many, getting to treatments can be their biggest obstacle. A successful transportation assistance program can be a tremendous, potentially life-saving asset to the community. That's why volunteering for the American Cancer Society's Road To Recovery program is so important.

Volunteer drivers donate their time providing as many rides as they want. All drivers must have a valid driver's license; a good driving record; access to a safe and reliable car; regular desktop, laptop, or tablet computer access; and proof of car insurance.

The American Cancer Society understands that when cancer hits, it hits from all sides, and lacking transportation to treatments shouldn't be one of them. That's why they are seeking volunteer drivers for the Road To Recovery program throughout Washington.

Volunteers like me experience great feelings, knowing they are literally giving someone a ride that is helping to save their life. I encourage everyone in our community to consider volunteering.

To learn more or to sign up as a volunteer, visit cancer.org/volunteer.

Monique Brigham
Sedro-Woolley

Thanks to DelBene

The Building Our Largest Dementia (BOLD) Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act has just been signed into law, and I want to thank Congresswoman Suzan DelBene for having been a cosponsor of this meaningful legislation. The BOLD Act will allow effective Alzheimer's public health interventions to be implemented across the country.

This is important to me because I lost my father to Alzheimer's disease. My mother is also currently suffering the effects of dementia.

Every 65 seconds someone develops Alzheimer's disease – which is why Congress must remain committed to action on this devastating disease.

By applying a public health approach to reduce risk, detect early symptoms, and advance care, Congresswoman DelBene is helping to change the trajectory of this devastating disease.

Pete Minden
Kirkland

Minutes short

Residents in Hamilton are kept in the dark about what is going on, not like

See Letters, p. 14

one

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DOE wastewater fine cut in half

By Chazlyn Lovely
Edited by Katy Tomasulo

Town of Concrete and the state Department of Ecology (DOE) have agreed to a settlement of \$6,400, half the amount of a fine the town was charged in June 2018 for violations at the town's wastewater treatment plant.

Last year's Notice of Penalty came after investigations made at the plant revealed, among other things, what the DOE considered neglected or improperly installed equipment, influent flows being bypassed into a nearby lagoon, excessive infiltration and inflow, and unsatisfactory record-keeping (*Concrete Herald*, June 2018).

The remaining half of the original fine is in a suspended state, pending the completion of a series of tasks, most of which Mayor Jason Miller says were already in the town's current wastewater permit and on the town's radar. The to-do list contains 12 items (and one general rule) that must be complete by dates ranging from January 31, 2019, to April 30, 2022; two of the tasks are already complete, and several others are in progress. These include submitting documents that explain how the town will report permit noncompliance, completing wastewater treatment plant screen upgrades, and decommissioning the nearby lagoon.

"I'm both encouraged and disappointed," Miller said in reaction to the agreement. "I'm encouraged that the town is getting 'dinged' for a lesser amount, and I'm disappointed that the Department of Ecology is fining the town any amount at all, because in my opinion, fines are the least productive approach to enforcement, especially when they are levied against low-income communities."

Miller and the rest of the town's staff found themselves in a tough spot when the Notice of Penalty was issued last year. "I had to really think about how to best spend taxpayer money. Do I defend the town and spend possibly thousands of dollars more than the actual fine amount, or do I just let the DOE know how I feel about the decision, but accept it in the interest of the taxpayers?"

Miller noted that it's hard not to feel

like the DOE is making an example out of Concrete and expressed frustration with the current system. "I hate the way it's set up. If you want to go to court for reasons of principle, you have to shell out thousands of dollars," he said.

After investigating, Miller came to the conclusion that blame for the situation could be split three ways, resting with the town, the original problems with the wastewater treatment plant's design and construction, and the Department of Ecology itself. "For the past decade, the town has been attentive to the DOE's guidance and concerns, when it was made aware of them, and has earnestly sought to be transparent as we manage our infrastructure. Whenever they told us to jump, we asked, 'how high?'" he said.

The town's wastewater financial situation has been at the forefront of minds for months, with the DOE fine, the increase in sewer rates, and last month's announcement of a water utility rate option for low-income payers (*Concrete Herald*, January 2019). As part of an enterprise fund, the plant and sewer rates are tied into a system that must be self-supporting—money cannot be borrowed or taken from any other town funds to pay fines, pay off debts, or complete projects.

"The money to pay for the DOE fine has to come out of the sewer fund, but that's the fund that's really hurting right now," Miller said. "It's the one we're trying to use to dig ourselves out of the hole that DOE's unfunded wastewater treatment plant mandate put us in in the first place. That's what's so frustrating for low-income communities like ours, or frankly, for all municipalities. It just hurts more as a low-income community because we don't have the depth of finances that, say, a Burlington does. They're taking money out of the [same] fund we use to attempt to comply with the rules, and that to me is the most pointless, useless approach I can imagine."

In other words, the town has to pay a fine for problems they didn't have the money to fix in the first place.

One of the items on the to-do list—the decommissioning of the lagoon—is estimated to cost in excess of \$200,000, a price tag that the town knew it couldn't afford before the fine and is the sole

reason the lagoon continues to exist. Miller said his No. 1 concern is the lagoon. What happens if the town can't decommission it in time? "Screw up on any one item, and the second half of the fine applies again," Miller said. "We'd be right back to where we started."

When asked about the likelihood of getting that funding now as opposed to an earlier point, Miller said, "Honestly, I don't know."

Aside from financial concerns, the DOE's tasks pose practical concerns for the town as well. "If we have an overflow issue between now and the decommission, it's my understanding that the permit language prohibits any diversion into the lagoon for anything other than scheduled maintenance," said Miller. "So it appears they'd rather the plant overflow with raw sewage, which would then flow directly into the Baker River, than a diversion into the lagoon."

The next steps for the town include inquiring into state appropriations for the lagoon decommissioning. The town has gone through this process before with other projects and some success, having gotten at least partial funding more than half the time, according to Miller, who expects the worst case scenario to be that the town receives partial funding for the lagoon's decommissioning and the best case scenario full funding for the decommissioning along with funds to help repay the debt load (around \$3 million) from the plant's construction—a debt that continues to affect the town's sewage utility rate.

"Even lessening our time in hell is preferable to nothing," Miller said.

Still, it isn't all bad news. Repairs and upgrades at the wastewater treatment plant are progressing relatively quickly, with screen replacements expected to be complete by the end of the year, along with the town's long-planned infiltration and inflow project. Said Miller: "We have a way forward, and I'm looking forward to fulfilling all of the things we were going to fulfill anyway."

Freelance writer Chazlyn Lovely lives in the Corkindale area.

Editor Katy Tomasulo lives on Bainbridge Island.

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Concrete's to-do list

Half of the penalty fine levied by DOE against Town of Concrete (\$6,400) has been suspended, pending completion of several items by April 30, 2022:

- 1.31.19: Submit reporting document explaining how Concrete will report all permit noncompliance (done).
- 5.1.19: Submit Operations and Maintenance Manual Annual Maintenance Report.
- 6.30.19: Submit Outfall Evaluation report.
- 12.31.19: Submit Mixing Zone Data Collection report.
- 12.31.19: Complete influent screen upgrade.
- 5.1.20: Submit list of industrial users (done).
- 12.31.20: Decommission lagoon.
- 12.31.20: Submit flow management report.
- 4.30.21: Consult with a Public Works director from another city.
- 5.1.21: Complete high priority I&I (inflow and infiltration) projects.
- 5.1.21: Fulfill Group III Operator Certification Requirement.
- 4.30.22: Update to a computer-based maintenance tracking system.
- No unauthorized diversions/bypasses to lagoon for the term of the current permit.



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Mardi Gras 2019 Royal Family:
left to right, The Sahlins: Kai,
Corina, Steve, Eva and Lukas



Saturday, March 2nd ~ 3:00pm in Town Center

- Parade at 3:00 p.m., everyone welcome!
- Authentic Cajun food, including Louisiana-Style jambalaya, deep-fried turkey legs and beignets available for purchase at the Lone Star Restaurant and Waterin' Hole.
- Treats for sale by Concrete Heritage Museum Association
- Live music by Jumbled Pie.
- Popcorn, coffee and treats available at the historic Concrete Theatre.

For more details and parade entry forms contact the Concrete Chamber of Commerce

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Party time in Concrete

Mardi Gras celebration slated for March 2

It's party time in Concrete on Sat., March 2, when the town rolls out its annual Mardi Gras celebration, starting with a parade at 3 p.m. in Town Center. "We're excited to announce this year's Royal Family," said Chamber President, Valerie Stafford. "We've chosen Marblemount's own Corina and Steve Sahlin and their children, Kai, Eva, and Lukas, to lead the parade and set the tone for this year's event. They've been active participants in the community and in every Mardi Gras for many years."

Event highlights include:

- Authentic Cajun food, including Louisiana-Style jambalaya, deep-fried turkey legs, and beignets available for purchase at the Lonestar Restaurant and Waterin' Hole.
- Treats for sale by Concrete Heritage Museum Association.

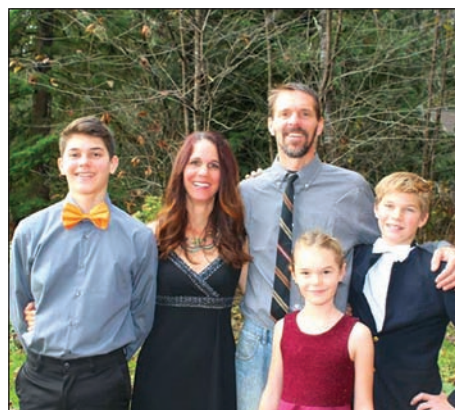
- Live music by Jumbled Pie.
- Historic Concrete Theatre will be open for purchase of popcorn, coffee, and treats.

There is no cost to enter the parade. Each entrant is encouraged but not required 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, and at the Chamber office in the Skagit County Resource Center. Entrants should check in near the Concrete Post Office on Main Street beginning at 2 p.m.

For more information, 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



The Sahlin family from Marblemount is this year's Mardi Gras royalty. Family members are Steve, Corina, Kai, Lukas, and Eva. The family will lead the parade on March 2, which kicks off at 3 p.m. in Concrete Town Center. Submitted photo.

THIS AND THAT

By J. K. M.

A GoFundMe campaign has begun to help a Skagit County agricultural worker family that has run into hard times. The father was deported in 2012, leaving the mother, also an agricultural worker, head of a five-person family, including two kids born in the U.S. and two who came to the U.S. as small children.

After an injury, the mother cannot perform heavy physical labor until she recovers and is making and selling tamales to support the kids. Anyone who wishes to contribute to this cause is encouraged to go to the GoFundMe page at <https://www.gofundme.com/skagit-kids-osmar>.

For more information, call 360.766.6239.

Council summary

Concrete Town Council met for regular meetings on Jan. 14 and 28. The 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. 14 regular meeting

- **Public Safety:** Sergeant Greg Adams distributed copies of the December incident report, as well as annual call reports for 2017 and 2018. He stated there was about a 17.5 percent reduction in calls between 2017 and 2018, but that the response times had increased. He stated he believes the response time increase was because the SCSO was short deputies during 2018.

Sgt. Adams also reported they are working on the graffiti issue and have a couple suspects they are following up on. He also reported that Deputy Wiggins had three cars towed from the S. Dillard area and two others were cited for parking on the sidewalk and other violations. He stated they will continue to monitor this area for issues.

- Town engineer Cody Hart reported the Dept. of Health (water) projects are moving forward, and that the bid packages have been approved and the town is now waiting on getting the environmental and cultural resources side wrapped up. Hart stated that he believes that USDA is part of the government shutdown, so the inflow and infiltration (I&I, sewer) project may be on hold until he hears back from them. He said they are proceeding with Cedar Street and have made contact with PSE to have the utilities in this area relocated. He said that he also has submitted exhibits to the town and is working to get a public meeting scheduled for the Cedar Street project. Finally, Hart reported the RCO grant application for the Baker River Boat Launch is on hold. He stated there are a number of items that need to be worked out and discussed further with landowners and other stakeholders.

- Council approved Ordinance No. 796, a 2019 salary amendment. Mayor Jason Miller said the amendment was brought to council because of the resignation of James Luttrell, which opened up two new Public

Works positions instead of just the one left open when Rich Philips retired. He stated that with what had been approved for the Public Works Assistant position, they were able to bump up some of the other positions, as well as the two new positions, in an effort to retain good employees. He said the new proposed amount is still slightly less than what was originally approved by the council.

Jan. 28 regular meeting

- This meeting was presided over by Mayor Pro Tem Beth Easterday in Mayor Miller's absence.
- Council approved an agreement with contractor Stantec to deliver a Mixing Zone Data Collection and Outfall Evaluation per the town's wastewater permit requirement. Clerk Andrea Fichter explained these are the studies that were discussed last year that the town was unable to complete at that time. She stated the town needs to move forward with completing these. She stated that Dept. of Ecology would like both reports completed by June 30 of this year, but has agreed to allow till Dec. 31 of this year on one of them.
- Council heard a presentation from Economic Development Commission Chair Eric Archuletta regarding a proposal to use the town's old police station as a business incubator space for a La Conner-based healthcare professional who wants to expand into eastern Skagit County.

Archuletta explained how the idea dovetails with the town's economic development plan and its desire to attract new businesses while adaptively reusing town-owned buildings. He introduced the healthcare provider, Dr. Brianna Wilson, who explained her business model, which is known as "hybrid direct primary care."

Council agreed to allow Fichter and town counsel to move forward with a resolution and a lease agreement, which would stipulate \$1 per month plus utilities for one year.

—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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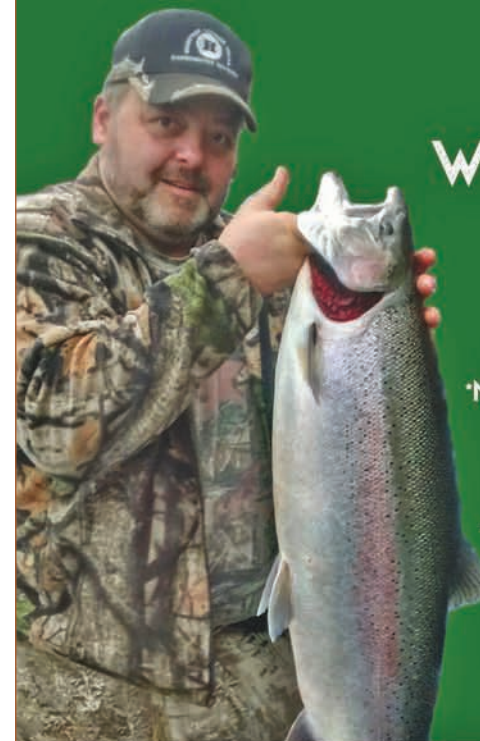


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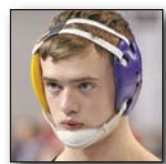


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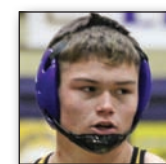
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Sports



Tough as nails

By Levi Stewart, Head Coach

As the boys basketball season starts to wind down, our program has been reflecting on past games and scenarios that we have encountered on the court. The boys have used those learning experiences, applied them, and it has led to some intense battles with league opponents.

January was filled with some great basketball. Though not all translated to wins, there was plenty to be proud of.

In our first matchup with La Conner, the Braves dominated in every sense of the word, which resulted in a 69-28 loss. Frustrated but motivated to avenge that loss, the boys kept pushing forward. A league loss to Friday Harbor the following week showed us that we could not afford to be outworked by the opposition. On Jan. 8 we squared off with Darrington at home. Big games by Devin Blankenship and Levi Lowry proved enormous as we found ourselves trailing by one with eight seconds left. Unfortunately, we could not get our last shot to fall, and lost 49-48.

On Jan. 15 against Orcas Island, we found ourselves in the same spot: Down by one with 15 seconds to go, we fell 57-56 in similar fashion.

A common theme is mentioned after every game as I talk with the opposing head coach. "Your boys are tough as nails." As a program, we pride ourselves on that. I truly believe that was showcased in our rematch with La Conner. It would have been very easy for a team to recall the lopsided loss that we were handed a month prior. Not with this group. As the third quarter concluded, we found ourselves up six points. Though we would lose the game by eight, the game represented much more. It was a testament to their character and their "outwork" attitude.

With the season coming to an end, I thank the seniors for their commitment to the program and for setting the standard for what it means to be a Concrete Lion.

There is a sense of urgency that comes with being a senior in any program. They often set the tone in practices, demand the very best from teammates, and do everything in their power to leave it all on the court. Our program philosophy is to outwork anybody we come toe to toe with. When you couple that philosophy with the work ethic and drive that the Concrete boys have, it creates something special.

Athletes of the Month



Athletes of the Month: Kylie Clark, Devin Blankenship, Peyton Sanchez

Kylie Clark is a sophomore forward on the Concrete girls basketball team. She leads the team in points and rebounds, averaging 10.3 points per game, and 6.2 rebounds per game. Kylie tied a career high with 16 points vs. Shoreline Christian in December, and is a great leader for the team, both on and off the court. Her teammates look to her on the court, and they respect her game, her attitude, and her relentless effort. Kylie is a competitor, and her love of the game and her teammates shows every day. Coach Rensink said, "Well done, Kylie, you are very deserving of the award."

Devin Blankenship was selected as boys basketball Athlete of the Month based on the following attributes:

He was asked to take the biggest jump of all this season in multiple aspects and has blown away all expectations. Not only is he a former guard who made the transition to post, but he has done so with tremendous

efficiency. He, like his teammates, has been very coachable and is very eager to learn. He gets to the gym early and works on his footwork and post moves with great attention to detail, and it has shown in our game film. Devin has been improving with each and every game, not only in his scoring, but rebounding as well. Devin is a 6'1 post, which means he often times is outsized both in height and weight. Time and time again, Devin outplays his opponents.

Devin leads the team in scoring at 9.3 points a game, which ranks 14th in Skagit County. He also is a close second on the team in rebounding, at 7.1 boards a game. Devin plays great defense as well; he registered 11 steals in our game against Granite Falls. Coach Levi Stewart said, "Devin has gone above and beyond what has been expected of him and just flat outworks people when it's game time." Finally, Devin is shooting 46 percent on the season, which ranks 12 percent higher than the next closest

teammate. He has done all of this with very little experience and reps in the post.

Peyton Sanchez was selected as Athlete of the Month for wrestling. He has had a solid season for the Lions through the first month and a half. He has placed at every tournament and has been in the finals of a couple. Peyton is a natural athlete and excels at wrestling because of his involvement in the sport as a young kid. He is the most knowledgeable athlete in the room when it comes to wrestling moves. Coach Jesse Dellinger said, "I'm excited that he is only a junior and has another year to compete in the great sport of wrestling. I see him standing on the podium at the state tournament in the future."

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

Girls Basketball draws down on Feb. 5

By Kevik Rensink, Head Coach

Our last home game is Feb. 5, reminding me that our season always ends too soon.

The wins haven't come the way we would want them to this year, and sometimes that can lead to frustration and disappointment.

If you look at our win/loss record, most people would point at the lopsidedness and agree it has been a tough year. But as much as I love analytics, the most important thing to me now are those young ladies who represent our school and community. This has been one of my favorite teams for two reasons: their attitude and effort. If you were to walk into any of our practices the day after a game, you wouldn't know whether we won or lost. The girls have shown great resiliency and character as they have bounced back after losses. They want to get better every day and they continue to do so. They've never stopped improving and giving absolute effort all of the time.

I am proud of this group and everything they have overcome this year. It's showing in our recent games.

A couple of weeks ago, Mount Vernon Christian came into our gym 16-0 and we gave them all they could handle, trailing by single digits most of the first half. Although we lost the game, I was proud of the fight in our team and how they don't back down. "Toughness" is something this program has long stood for, and it's something this team is working really hard to be recognized for. I think they have shown that as the season has progressed.

On Jan. 25 we went into Darrington to avenge a 31-point loss at our place earlier in the season. After another great first half we trailed 29-27 at halftime, and again had an "upset" on our minds. Unfortunately, in the third quarter the game got away from us, but we stormed back with a 22-point fourth quarter to make the game close at the end. Kylie Clark and Ebby Buchta both had career nights. Clark was 6-12 from 3-point range, 5-5 from the free-throw line, and finished with a career-high 30 points. Her six 3-pointers ties her with Beka Thomas for the most 3s made in a single game in Concrete Girls Basketball history.

Buchta was 2-4 from 3-point range, giving us eight total 3-pointers made in the game. This tied us with 11 other previous games in the history of Girls Basketball at Concrete High School for most three-pointers made in a game. Buchta also had a career high in points with 15, while dishing out seven assists and snatching three steals. This made for a fun night, and a huge step forward for the program.

I have been very happy with my players' effort, attitudes, and willingness to better themselves. This speaks volumes about the ladies I have the privilege to coach.

Our last home game on Tue., Feb. 5 is vs. the Orcas Island Vikings. It will be Senior Night, so we encourage you to come out and support our senior basketball players for both our girls and boys teams, and give the kids a big hand for all of their hard work this season. The boys play at 3:30 p.m.; the girls play at 5:15 p.m.



Clockwise from above: The lady Lions clashed with La Conner on Jan. 2. Ebby Buchta looks to pass, Kassidy Smith takes advantage of a Jaidyn Swanson screen, Raylee Ward puts one up, Payton Dickinson drives for the bucket.



Saturday, March 2nd
3:00pm in Town Center

(360) 853-8784
www.Concrete-WA.com

Michael Booker is the first to offer words of encouragement. He is incredibly positive, even when situations seem bleak. Programs need that type of player to remind everyone why we play the game. He stays after practice to work on his

game and likes to compete every chance he gets.

Jonas Rensink is the hardest working player in the program. Rarely does he finish second in our conditioning drills, and the moment he finishes the drill, he

is there to encourage and cheer on his teammates. He has a perfect blend of intensity and lightheartedness. We will miss his drive and wit, and I cannot wait

See Tough as Nail, p. 38

Several wrestlers one step away from State

Concrete Wrestling Head Coach Jesse Dellinger said “he doesn’t want to jinx it,” but “I’m thinking four to five kids might make it” to the Mat Classic state wrestling tournament at the Tacoma Dome from Feb. 15–16.

First things first. One more step lies ahead for the Concrete grapplers: Regionals. On Feb. 9, eight boys will compete at Adna High School. The team’s last-standing female wrestler—Devon Howard, who made it to Regionals as an alternate—will stay closer to home, for the Regional Tournament at Sedro-Woolley High School.

January tournaments

Last month kicked off with the Sky Valley Invitational at Sultan, where Concrete delivered a modest showing. Team losses to Granite Falls and Sultan paved the way to the King of the Mountain Tournament on Jan. 12, where an interesting scenario played out.

Faced with a 106-lb. male Sultan wrestler poised to take his weight-class championship by forfeit, Concrete Coach Jesse Dellinger asked officials if his 100-lb. girl, Anna Spangler, could wrestle him.

“I figured, let’s make him earn it,” said Dellinger.

Spangler beat the boy, impressing someone enough to nominate her for a WIAA Wrestler of the Week award, which she won.

Dellinger booked an off-schedule road trip to the Rubber Chicken Tournament in Kalama, Wash., on Jan. 19, taking six wrestlers and assistant coach Don Olmstead. The huge tournament drew wrestlers from out of state, and showed the Concrete boys what they might face at the state tournament.

Sophomore Hunter Olmstead had a painful, teachable moment during his march to apparent Rubber Chicken victory, leading his opponent 15–3 when he miscalculated for a split second and got pinned.

“He dominated that match,” said Dellinger. “It was a tough call, and I was a very upset coach. But I think he shocked a lot of people down there, dominating the way he did.”

Olmstead is one of the half dozen or so that Coach Dellinger hopes to take to Tacoma.

—J. K. M.

Concrete High School sophomore wrestler Anna Spangler was named a Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA) Athlete of the Week for Week 19 (Jan. 13 to 19) on Jan. 23.

The honor came after Spangler, wrestling at 100 lbs., defeated her male opponent in the 106-lb. championship match during the multiple-team King of the Mountain Tournament in Darrington on Jan. 12.

“I was very proud of her,” said Concrete Wrestling Coach Jesse Dellinger. “I haven’t seen a kid from Concrete get that WIAA award in any sport.”

Each week throughout the school year, the WIAA recognizes varsity athletes who exhibited an outstanding performance for the previous week (based off of nominations). All varsity-level students in good academic standing at their schools are eligible to receive the WIAA Athlete of the Week Award. Students may win the award only once during any given academic year.



Give and take

The state legislature is in session, grappling again with gun bills that would further restrict—and in one case relax—citizens’ right to bear arms.

Thousands show up at hearing on proposed state gun laws

By Sean Harding
WNPA Olympia News Bureau

More than 2,000 people signed into the Senate Law and Justice Committee in Olympia on Jan. 21 for hearings on 3-D printed guns, high-capacity magazines, and domestic violence, as well as proposed training requirements for legally obtaining a pistol.

Outside of the Legislative Building, a silver Toyota blaring music and displaying a sign bearing words from the Second Amendment circled the World War I memorial for most of the day.

Most of the people who testified, including state Attorney General Bob Ferguson, spoke for or against Senate Bill 5062, which prohibits possessing, manufacturing, or distributing ammunition magazines capable of holding more than 10 rounds. Similar legislation was unsuccessfully introduced into the legislature last year.

“Societies around the world have been seeking ways to eliminate violence,” said Daniel Mitchell, a licensed firearms dealer from Vancouver, Wash. “If we’ve learned one thing during that time, it’s that it’s impossible to legislate evil intent.”

“People served best by high-capacity magazines are mass shooters,” said Emily Cantrell, who was at the Route 91 Harvest Music Festival in Las Vegas when a gunman opened fire, killing 58 and leaving more than 850 injured. “The only reason I’m able to sit here today is the mass shooter who tried to kill me and 22,000 other concertgoers had to stop to reload.”

There was also an attempt to define what exactly qualifies a magazine as “high capacity.”

“It’s important, I think, to clarify that these are standard-capacity magazines that come with typical semi-automatic handguns that people use to defend themselves on a day-to-day basis,” said Tom Kwiesciak on behalf of the National Rifle Association. “They make up more than half the magazines owned in the United States.”

“If indeed that is true, it’s time that we change our standards to protect Washingtonians,” Snohomish County Prosecuting Attorney Adam Cornell said in response.

Senate Bill 5061, covering 3-D printed and other “ghost guns” used by criminals, was introduced by seven Democratic Senators at the request of Ferguson. A companion bill was introduced in the House by 17 representatives.

The legislation would make it a Class C felony to knowingly manufacture, assemble, or facilitate any so-called “ghost gun.” Discharging or using a ghost gun in the commission of a felony would be a Class A felony.

3-D printers create physical objects from “blueprints” stored in computer files. Those files can be e-mailed to anyone, including children and convicted criminals who have forfeited their right to a firearm, enabling them to create lethal devices without a background check ever taking place.

“One can’t wait for a tragedy to happen,” Ferguson said.

“If that’s allowed to happen, it circumvents every piece of legislation we have drafted to address gun violence in Washington state,” said Rep. Laurie Jenkins, D-Tacoma, chairwoman of the Civil Rights & Judiciary Committee in a telephone interview.

Many of those laws were “overwhelmingly” passed by voters, she said. Ferguson expressed a similar sentiment, noting that it is part of his job to make communities as safe as possible. While

existing firearm laws cover current firearm technology, they don’t address 3-D printed guns, which were not of concern when the laws were made.

Firearm owners and those seeking legislation at reducing gun-related violence will have a number of other bills to track during this legislative session.

One Republican lawmaker introduced legislation aimed at making things better for not only law-abiding gun owners, but privacy advocates as well.

Rep. Jim Walsh, R-Aberdeen, introduced two bills addressing what he views as the two most problematic issues in Initiative 1639, the firearms initiative

passed by voters last November that also requires background checks and raises the minimum age to 21 for purchasing semi-automatic rifles. Walsh is concerned with the new law’s disclosure of private healthcare information to courts and state agencies, and penalties for firearm owners if a gun is stolen and used for a crime.

While Walsh doesn’t seek a full repeal of the initiative, he hopes that he can improve parts of it.

There’s “bad language, bad sections in that law,” Walsh said.

On Jan. 21, the Law and Justice Committee held a hearing on Senate Bills 5027 and 5072, which modify provisions in extreme risk protection order legislation. Extreme risk protection orders allow authorities to temporarily confiscate firearms after an individual is determined to be in “significant danger of causing personal injury to self or others” by having firearms. Petitioners can be either family or household members, including dating partners.

“In 2015 ... I introduced the extreme risk protection order legislation, which I believe is common sense legislation, to address the intersection of mental health and access to guns,” said Sen. David

See Push and Pull, p. 38

Middle School girls basketball bounces into season

By Rob Thomas, Coach

January 7 was the start of the 2019 middle school girls basketball season.

The team is made up of seven 6th graders (Amelia, Emily, Halie, Indie, Isabel, Kelsy, Laura); four 7th graders (Avalon, Bella, Hayley, Jayden); and one eighth grader (Aja). For many of the girls, this is the first time they have played competitive basketball. In light of our youth and limited experience, the tentative plan is to play one full game and between one and two additional quarters against each of the schools on our schedule.

Our first game was at La Conner. The height, athleticism, and experience of their starting five were a bit overwhelming at first. But as the game continued, Concrete

matched up very well. Although our shots were not dropping, the effort was there the entire game. While some might have viewed the game as a “baptism by fire,” it was a great opportunity for us to play against excellent competition.

The second game of the season was a home game against Darrington. It proved to be a very physical game. The best aspect of the game was that four different girls scored for Concrete. Although we ended up on the short end of the score, the girls seemed to gain more confidence with each quarter of playing time.

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 eight

games: four home and four away. Our league competition includes La Conner, Darrington, Mount Vernon Christian, and Orcas Island. 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 already have shown maturity and resilience in 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. Although they are young and inexperienced, each practice and game provides another opportunity for them to grow as basketball players. As such, our evaluation of this season’s success will be measured by progress and growth more than wins and losses. We look forward to the support of family and friends.



Sixth grader Halie Fitzpatrick looks for the shot during an away game against La Conner on Jan. 22.

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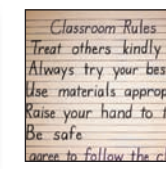
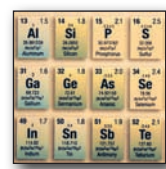
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Academics



School district pins hopes on Feb. 12 replacement levy vote

For Concrete School District, a lot is riding on its two-year replacement Educational Programs and Operations Levy vote on Feb. 12.

The vote comes after the McCleary Decision of the Washington State Supreme Court mandated that Washington State fully fund public K-12 education and end the practice of local school districts using levies to meet operating costs. The State Legislative process attempted to meet that mandate, but failed in ways that affect mostly smaller, rural school district like Concrete.

Some of the problems stem from mismatches in the process, such as differences between the words and definitions used by the State Supreme Court, the State Legislature, and local school districts as directed by the Office of State Public Instruction. Thus, the legislature did not pass a funding plan to fully fund local school districts, only what they narrowly defined as “basic education.”

The legislature recognized this shortcoming and its future impacts, and compromised by allowing school districts to continue raising some funds using local levies. That compromise is far from perfect, because it placed a significant cap of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of property valuation on any levies, including those already passed at a higher amount. By the time the

final state budget was finally approved, far less funding for our schools materialized than had been envisioned, but that levy cap remained in place.

If it passes, the Concrete School District levy request will not end the district’s anticipated budget crunch, but it will lessen it and give the legislature time to re-address school funding.

In the near term, a renewed replacement levy will allow the school district to fund staffing, student, and community programs; curriculum and staff development; facilities and grounds; technology; individual building needs; food services; transportation; and its district office.

Ballot error

Concrete School District voters should have received a postcard in the mail from the Skagit County Elections Office, alerting them to a printing error on their ballots. In the column “Levy Amount” on the ballot, the dollar amount shown is \$1,500,00 (missing a zero). The correct wording should be \$1,500,000 (one million, five hundred thousand dollars). The value given in the “Approximate Levy Rate Per \$1,000 Assessed Value” column, \$1.50, is correct.

—John Boggs
J. K. M.

College & Career Fair planned

Concrete Boys & Girls Club and Concrete High School will host a College & Career Fair on Tue., Feb. 19, from noon to 4 p.m. at the high school.

The free event is targeted to students and the community; organizers plan to include local colleges and employers recruiting from healthcare, hospitality, paralegal, engineering, marketing, administration, retail, child care, information technology, manufacturing,

recreation, armed services, and more.

Current students, alumni, parents, and community members seeking college information and jobs are invited.

Anyone interested in reserving a table at the Career Fair is encouraged to contact Cheryl Weston at cheryl.weston@skagitclubs.org.

Concrete High School is located at 7830 S. Superior Ave. in Concrete.

—J. K. M.

Concrete Resource Coalition



2019 is off to a great start! We welcomed a new Student Assistance Professional, Mitch Metcalf, to our team. Mitch was an intern with the Farm to School program and coordinated Concrete Summer Learning Adventure in 2016. Many of the students remembered Mitch from their elementary years, which has helped build a strong rapport with the students in a short time. We’re excited to have Mitch and to see what great prevention strategies the students come up with.

Our other youth group, Varsity in Volunteerism (ViV), will start a book drive this month. All books collected will be given out at World Book Night on April 23. For more details, use the contact info below or talk to ViV Coach Sheena Daniels.

In January the coalition received a presentation from Skagit County Public Health on current trend data around opioids. We learned that East Skagit had 12 overdoses between 2016 and 2017 and that 74 naloxone (Narcan) kits were given to community members to reverse overdoses. If you want to learn more, go to www.stopoverdose.org.

Our February coalition meeting is Thur., Feb. 21, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. in the High School library. These meetings are always open to the public.

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 Father Daughter Masquerade Dance

Fri., Feb. 15, 6 to 8 p.m.
Concrete Elementary gym
Tickets: \$5 each

YD update

Concrete Youth Dynamics sent 17 high school students and four volunteer staff to Leavenworth for a 4-day snow retreat called “Hotdoggin’” during Martin Luther King Jr. weekend. They came back with many stories to tell and memories they will have forever. I love it when our kids can get away and experience our retreats. This fun, little nonprofit youth ministry we have in this town has really made a huge difference in so many people’s lives. Speaking of which, here’s a short story about a former student:

I ran into the former YD student at Loggers Landing. I had not seen him in years. We had a brief chat. We talked about what he was doing in his life, where he had been, and where he was going. I received this text from him the next day:

“Hey Kevik, I’ve got to say thank you for being a great role model for all these years, for the youth, and the kids like me who may not seem like they had many problems, but sometimes have more than could be imagined. It’s good to have a safe place to go to be surrounded by good people because that is ultimately rare I have come to find out.”

“Shortly after graduating ... That was kind of the beginning of when I started going downhill ... the point I want to make is keep doing what you’re doing cause you are making a difference in people’s lives. If there is ever anything I can volunteer for to help you or anybody that you know of, please let me know if there is something I can do. I want to help give back to the community somehow ... Probably a month or so before I ran into you at Loggers, I attended a church, and began actively seeking out some signs I thought the Lord was giving to me. Since then I have been shown some very interesting things about myself, along with how powerful the Lord really is when you are willing to let him back into your life.”

I just wanted to share that with my community, and let you know you are all part of the difference we make together in each of our young people’s lives. They are all worth the time and investment.

—Kevik and Marta Rensink
Area Directors



Concrete Boys & Girls Club youth find art in nature

Rocks—we see them every day. We walk on them. We pass by them. We build with them. We say, “that rocks!” when we hear a good band play or eat a delicious dinner. But how can we incorporate them into a learning experience or use them to expand our creative minds?

The youth at Concrete Elementary Boys & Girls Club can show you. On Jan. 7 a group of youth learned about how rocks from the Skagit River are formed, while expressing their individuality by painting them in unique designs.

Club member Bristol R. said, “I really like mixing colors together and making new colors.” Her rock will be used as a present to her uncle, “who I don’t get to see very often.”

When starting the lesson, Youth Development Professional Bryer Button, who spends most of his free time thinking of ideas to incorporate nature into art projects with his family, welcomed all youth into the activity and expressed his love for painting rocks. “My family and I use wooden planks, canvas, or anything we can get our hands on to paint. It sometimes takes me a while to think what the painting should be, but with rocks—

families that also practiced painting rocks. He painted grass, trees, and a heart on his rock. “My whole family used to paint on rocks, my grandmother, my aunt, my mom. I’m going to give my rock to my mom as a present!” Elijah exclaimed.

Sam, a fifth grader, expressed how much she enjoys doing art at the Boys & Girls Club. While in school, art is offered weekly, “where we can do painting and drawing.” Boys & Girls Club offers art daily, including painting, drawing, creating bird feeders, making dream catchers, and of course, painting rocks.

Art is one of the busiest and most popular activities offered at the Concrete Elementary Boys & Girls Club. Each youth is encouraged to participate at least once a week. While free art is sometimes offered, most art lessons are created to incorporate learning into the creative sphere. As the painting flooded the art room, Bryer gave a short lesson on how river rocks are formed. Bristol R., a first grader, explained that “big rocks break into pieces by smashing together and create littler rocks.”

River rocks are formed by the rapid movement of water in a river, and with that water, smaller debris, sediment, and silt erode the bigger rocks at the bottom of the river. Each rock is unique and personalized by hundreds of thousands of years in the water, eroding with time and persistence. Now some river rocks in Concrete have been personalized by local youth as well.

—Tammy Findlay

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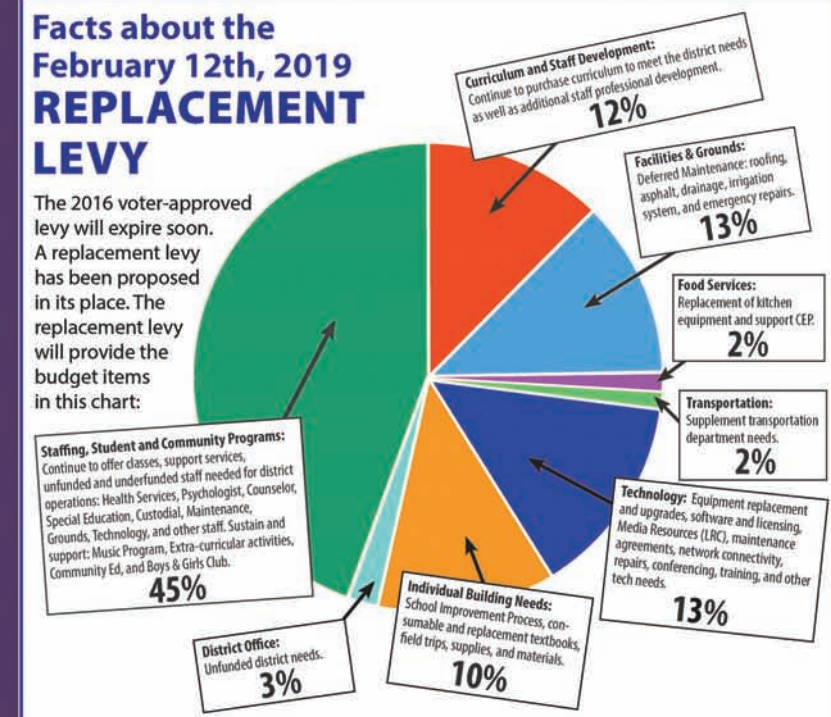
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Facts about the February 12th, 2019 REPLACEMENT LEVY

The 2016 voter-approved levy will expire soon. A replacement levy has been proposed in its place. The replacement levy will provide the budget items in this chart:



FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO WWW.CONCRETE.K12.WA.US.



Clear Lake



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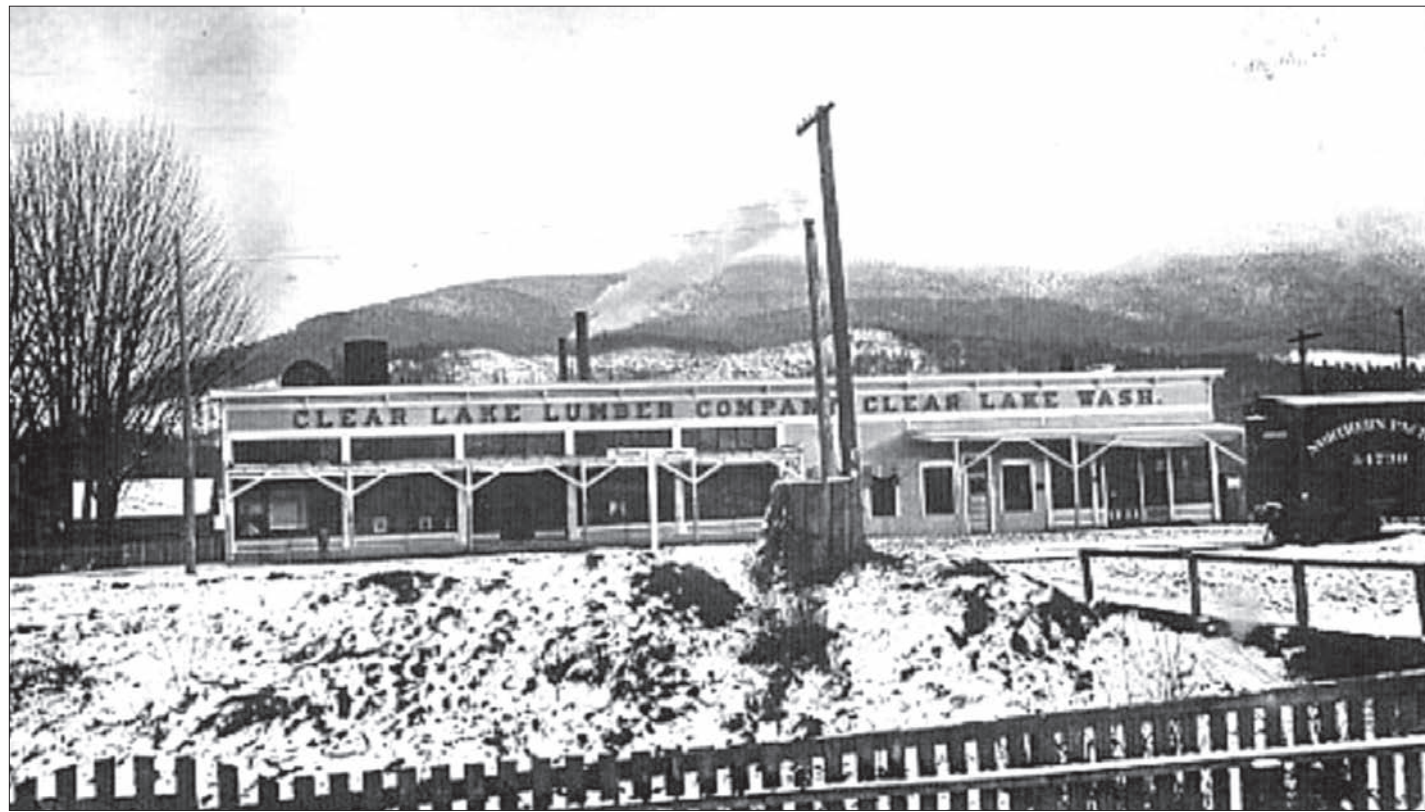
Our photo this month shows the Clear Lake Mercantile, circa 1912. The store was owned by Clear Lake Lumber Company.

The Clear Lake Mercantile was the second largest mercantile store north of Seattle. Most anything a family would need or want could be purchased here. It opened in 1912 and closed in early 1926 after Clear Lake Lumber Company filed for bankruptcy.. *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



Letters, cont. from p. 3

Lyman complete minutes are posted in the paper and residents are kept informed. Hamilton tells little as possible, like codes not being changed with just abbreviations or attorney fees and no explanations for what purpose. Tax payers are told as little as possible about how their money is spent. Its town's responsibility to cut all trees back that is on town's property not the

home owners.

Public commit is a joke it's just a time to blow off steam and no one cares, and nothing will be done about anything. The biggest cop out is well it's not on the agenda and I don't haft to answer that question at this time. But "if you want to make an appointment" I'll open the great book of excuses and let you know when

you come and see me in my mind is what Mayor is saying.

Town of Hamilton is run like a state DSHS Office, all this water forgiveness is where the money is going right down the drain. And the home owners are paying for every bit of it with higher taxes and not a say in where the money is being spent on anything. The Fire Department

and Band-Aid Wagon is sucking this town dry. Every other town has fund raisers to raise money for their needs. Heaven forbid don't enforce the codes let the tax payers pay for everything.

Renee Barley
Hamilton

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Community Calendar



FEBRUARY

- 5 Town of Hamilton Council workshop, Hamilton Town Hall, 584 Maple St., Hamilton, 7 p.m.; public is welcome; info at 360.826.3027 and townofhamilton.2010@gmail.com
- 7 Free Income Tax Prep sessions begin at East Valley Resource Center, Concrete, and run Thursdays through April 11 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; by appointment only; see ad, p. 39; call 360.853.7667 for appt.
- 7 Hamilton Community Meeting, Hamilton First Baptist Church, 797 Hamilton Cemetery Rd., Hamilton, 6 to 7 p.m.; see article, p. 22; info at 206.905.6916 or bnicoello@forterra.org
- 8 "Halfway There" Pow-Wow for Winter Reading Fitness Bingo, Upper Skagit Library, Concrete, 5 p.m.
- 9 Wilderness Skills Sampler class, Rockport State Park; 11 a.m., 1 p.m., or 2 p.m.; see article, p. 23; info at 360.853.8461
- 9 Storytime at Upper Skagit Library, 11 a.m.
- 9 Daddy/Daughter Sweetheart Dinner & Dance fundraiser for Heart to Heart Charity, Nate Beasley Bldg., W. 3rd St., Lyman, 5 to 7 p.m.; tickets \$25 per couple, \$5 per additional daughters; tickets and info at hearttoheartcharity@gmail.com and 360.826.3818
- 9 Sedro-Woolley Boys & Girls Club Annual Winter Fundraiser, Sedro-Woolley Community Center, 703 Pacific St., Sedro-Woolley, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.; see notice, p. 16; info at 360.419.3723, ext. 43
- 10 "Love That Train" open house at Sedro-Woolley Museum, 1 to 3 p.m.; see notice, p. 17
- 12 Ballots due: Concrete School District Replacement Levy
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 14 Upper Skagit Library monthly board meeting, 5 p.m.
- 15 Concrete K-6 PTO Father Daughter Masquerade Dance, Concrete Elementary School gym, 6 to 8 p.m.; tickets \$5 each
- 16 "Lichens: The Overlooked Fungi of the Forest" presentation and guided walk, Rockport State Park; 11 a.m., 1 p.m., or 2 p.m.; see article, p. 23; info at 360.853.8461
- 18 Presidents Day
- 19 Drop-In Computer Tutoring at Upper Skagit Library, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- 19 College & Career Fair, Concrete High School, 7830 S. Superior Ave., Concrete; noon to 4 p.m.; free admission; see notice, p. 12
- 23 Ann Wolford River Edge Park Planting with Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; see ad, p. 18
- 23 Storytime at Upper Skagit Library, 11 a.m.
- 28 Winter Reading Fitness Bingo ends at Upper Skagit Library

MARCH

- 1 Prize drawings for Winter Reading Fitness Bingo at Upper Skagit Library, 5 p.m.
- 2 Mardi Gras in Concrete; parade at 3 p.m.; see ad, p. 5, and article, p. 6
- 2 Washington Woodland Co-op community pig roast and potluck, Skagit Wood Bank, 7628 Russell Rd., Birdview (across SR 20 from Grandy Creek Grocery); appetizers and tours at noon, lunch at music at 1 p.m.; see ad, p. 39
- 5 Town of Hamilton Council workshop, Hamilton Town Hall, 584 Maple St., Hamilton, 7 p.m.; public is welcome; info at 360.826.3027 and townofhamilton.2010@gmail.com
- 10 "All About Beavers" presentation, Rockport State Park, 1 to 4 p.m.; see notice, p. 23; info at 360.853.8461
- 16 Marblemount Boat Launch Planting with Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; see ad, p. 26

*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 cmachapter39@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 Community Center Committee meets the third Friday of each month at 10:30 a.m., at the East County Resource Center in Concrete. Meetings are open to the public. 360.416.1733 or claudiam3@communityactionsagit.org.

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 workshop on Feb. 25 at 6 p.m., in the high school Commons room. The board will hold its regular monthly meeting on Feb. 28 at 6 p.m., in the high school Commons room. 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 third 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.

Ohana Support Group meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month at Concrete Community Center, 45821 Railroad Ave., Concrete, at 6 p.m. 360.416.1733.

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.

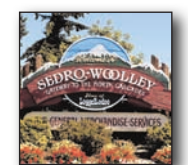
Sedro-Woolley School District Board: Meets Feb. 11 at 7 p.m. at Central Elementary School for a regular meeting. A second regular meeting is scheduled for Feb. 25 at 7 p.m. at Sedro-Woolley High School. 360.855.3500 or kcargile@swsd.k12.wa.us.

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. sauksister@frontier.com or www.skagiteagle.org.

Upper Skagit Library District (USLD) Board meets the second Thursday of each month, 6 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.

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



Sedro-Woolley



Council summary

The Sedro-Woolley City Council held a regular meeting on Jan. 9. Following is a summary of that meeting. Complete minutes for every council meeting are posted online at https://www.ci.sedro-woolley.wa.us/governing_bodies/city_council/meetings.php.

Jan. 9 regular meeting

- Mayor Julia Johnson announced the swearing in of new firefighters and paramedics. She said the transition from Medic 1 to Medic 55 was successful. She called up the firefighters/paramedics: Christina Goodin, Kegan Jenkins, Skyler Anderson, Matthew Sias, Isaac Spiel, Jennifer Hahn, Megan Guard-Lilley and Brad Scharnickel. Mayor Johnson stated she was honored to swear in the new firefighters/paramedics and administered the Oath of Office. They were then pinned by members of their family and signed the Oath of Office.
- Patsy Martin, Executive Director for the Port of Skagit County, spoke on the repurposing of the SWIFT Center and the draft analysis of Brownfield Cleanup Alternative and EPA Clean up Grant Applications. She introduced Michael Stringer and Carolyn Wise of Maul Foster and Alongi to present their findings. Stringer gave an update on the redevelopment of the SWIFT Center and noted it is on the National Register of Historic Places. He spoke

of some of the site improvements that have taken place on Fruitdale Rd. for safety and circulation. Ten acres of the site was donated to the city for park purposes. He also spoke on the environmental impacts of the site previously being run as a self-contained city. He noted the State Department of Ecology has been very supportive of the process and has given funding for a kick start. Carolyn Wise reviewed the areas of concern and the plan for addressing the issues. The areas of concern include the former laundry building; the power house building; lead, arsenic and metals above ecological levels in the soil; the maintenance building; underground storage tanks; and lead and arsenic in groundwater. Stringer reported that grant applications from different sources are being applied for. Council questions were entertained regarding the maintenance building.

- Police Chief Tucker reported on a recent shooting at an apartment complex in town that was not reported. They are trying to follow up on it. He also spoke of a code enforcement issue on a residence on 11th St., noting they are working with the property owner.
- Chief Tucker also reported on the upcoming graduation of Officer Hoyson from the Academy on Jan. 29.

—Compiled from staff minutes

Salish Sea Stewards volunteer training program offered

The Skagit County Marine Resources Committee (MRC) is offering free training for citizens interested in learning about issues affecting our marine waters and shorelines, and getting involved in conservation, restoration, and education efforts.

The Skagit MRC's Salish Sea Stewards volunteer training program provides 40 hours of dynamic classroom and field-based training to offer an entry point for citizens to learn and become involved in the restoration and conservation of Skagit County's marine resources.

Participants will be trained by local and regional experts, and expected to contribute at least 40 volunteer hours toward local marine projects, contributing to the thousands of hours of volunteer service already carried out by program graduates.

Classes will be held every Tuesday starting March 19 through May 21, from 1 to 5 p.m., at the Padilla Bay Reserve, 10441 Bayview-Edison Rd., Mount Vernon. There is currently one session tentatively scheduled for Fri., April 19, which will replace the April 16 training class.

Training begins March 19. Applications are due March 1 and can be downloaded from the Skagit MRC Web site: www.skagitmrc.org. Completed forms may be e-mailed to tracya@co.skagit.wa.us or

mailed hard-copy to:

Skagit County Public Works
Attn: Tracy Alker, Skagit MRC Coord.
1800 Continental Place
Mount Vernon, WA 98273-5625

Direct questions to Joan Drinkwin, Salish Sea Stewards Program coordinator, at salishseastewards@gmail.com or 360.830.3323.

Space is limited, and applications will be approved on a first-come/first-served basis.

Winter Fundraiser to benefit Sedro-Woolley Boys & Girls Club

The Sedro-Woolley Boys & Girls Club will hold its annual Winter Fundraiser on Sat., Feb. 9, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., at the Sedro-Woolley Community Center, 703 Pacific St. in Sedro-Woolley.

The event will include dinner, a silent auction, and a short program. Tickets are \$20 per person, \$10 for youth, and \$200 to sponsor a table of eight, available at www.skagitclub.org.

The event is sponsored by Dwayne Lane's North Cascade Ford. For more information, contact Shane Collins at 360.419.3723, ext. 43.

Thompson named WIAA Athlete of the Week

Sedro-Woolley High School senior basketball player Jake Thompson was named a Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA) Athlete of the Week for Week 18 (Jan. 6 to 12) on Jan. 16.

The honor came after Thompson's powerful play against Lakewood, during which he contributed 36 points and 18 rebounds in an overtime loss. Against Meridian he poured in 21 points and grabbed 12 rebounds in a 73-61 victory.

Each week throughout the school year, the WIAA recognizes varsity athletes who exhibited an outstanding performance for the previous week (based off of nominations). All varsity-level students in good academic standing at their schools are eligible to receive the WIAA Athlete of the Week Award. Students may win the award once during any given academic year.

Nominations are open to athletic administrators, coaches, fans and members of the media.

Anderson earns his AA

In academic news, Cort Anderson of Sedro-Woolley has completed the coursework to graduate from Bismarck State College with an Associate in Applied Science degree in Power Plant Technology in Fall 2018. Fall graduates are eligible to walk in BSC's commencement ceremony on May 10, 2019, at the Bismarck Event Center in Bismarck, North Dakota.

Bismarck State College, a community college in Bismarck, offers education, workforce training, and enrichment programs reaching local and global communities. For more information, go to www.bismarckstate.edu.

Briefly ...

The Sedro-Woolley Museum's annual Love that Train open house will be held on Sun., Feb. 10, from 1 to 3 p.m.

The museum again will run the trains and have old-fashioned valentines on display. Join fellow history buffs for cookies, juice, and coffee. There will be items for auction for all train lovers, and maybe something special for the sweethearts.

Woolley Fiber Quilters is planning its 10th annual quilt show, slated for July 12 to 14 at Cascade Middle School in Sedro-Woolley.

This year's show theme is "United We Stand" and will feature 250-plus quilts, vendors, member boutique demonstrations, bed turning, and local fiber artist Louise Harris. Show registrations begin in May.

For more information or to become involved, go to www.woolleyfiberquilters.blogspot.com or contact the group via e-mail at woolleyfiberquilters@yahoo.com.

—Submitted by readers

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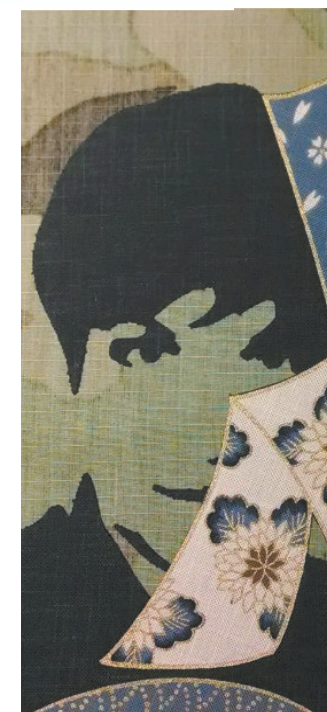
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Lyman



Adkerson wins spelling bee after 20 rounds

Karstyn Adkerson, a 4th grader at Lyman Elementary School, came out on top after 20 grueling rounds during the school's annual spelling bee on Jan. 23. Adkerson clinched the win with two back-to-back correct spellings of "buzzard" and "graduation."

Fifth grader Zigen Kesterson claimed the runner-up position.

The two ace spellers claimed the top positions from a field of 16 spellers who faced round after round of increasingly difficult words to spell, starting with three- and four-letter words, and culminating with several words that would stump many adults, including nascience, bludgeon, academe, and encourage.

—J. K. M.



Karstyn Adkerson reacts after hearing she has won the Lyman Elementary Spelling Bee on Jan. 23.



First Place Winner Karstyn Adkerson and Runner-Up Zigen Kesterson display the fruits of their spelling bee labors: award certificates for both, a student dictionary for Adkerson, and a student thesaurus for Kesterson. The two came out on top from a field of 16 spellers.

Business Spotlight: Rustic Heart Desires

Last November, the world's most interesting shop opened in Concrete Town Center. Owned and operated by Lori Miller-Killian, Rustic Heart Desires is filled with just about the most eclectic range of merchandise you can imagine.

Miller, whose heritage is Illini and Shoshone Nations, offers a large selection of Native American arts, including pottery, artwork, beadwork, books, dolls, and decor. Custom work on leather, antler work, and beadwork also is available.

At a glance: Rustic Heart Desires

Where: 45948 Main St., Concrete

Hours: Wed.-Thur. 12-6, Fri.-Sat. 10-6
Sun. by request

Phone: 425.239.9796

Web: @rusticheartdesires (Facebook)

But there's more. The variety shop also includes the works of 14 local artisans and artists who enjoy sharing their creativity.

"I want to be that outlet for creative people to have a place to bring their items, where they can continue to be creative," says Lori.

She doesn't charge consignment or commission fees; rather, she collects \$1 per month per vendor, then passes the full sale price of anything sold straight through to the artist.

It's a successful strategy, one that adds a plethora of additional products to her shelves. You'll find t-shirts; drinkware; clocks; wire-wrap jewelry; quiltwork and crafts; greeting cards, notecards, and stationery; watercolor paintings; carved eagles, ducks, and horses; lamps; glass artwork; canvas art; windchimes; suncatchers; dreamcatchers ...

Starting to get the picture?

Lori tells a recent story as a testament to her business goals: "Just this morning, a lady came in and said, 'I kept hearing about this shop, and thought it was just another shop. This is not 'just another shop!'"

She even plans to offer classes on sewing, jewelry-making, leather creations,



Lori Miller-Killian sells Native American art pieces, plus a full line of locally crafted items, at Rustic Heart Desires, located at 45948 Main St. in Concrete Town Center.

dreamcatchers, and other items, by request.

"Our desire is to be an asset to the Town of Concrete, an educational resource, a

resource of comfort, growth, and healing," says Lori. "Come in, sit down, I'll make you a cup of coffee. Just stop by."

—J. K. M.

Spring 2019 Planting Parties

Love plants, getting dirty, and free snacks?
Want to pick up some gardening tips while helping salmon?
Need a reason to drag your family outside?
Volunteer with us this Spring!

Feb 23: Ann Woford River Edge Park Planting

Mar 2nd and 9th: SFEG Native Plant Nursery
Potting Parties

Mar 16th: Marblemount Boat Launch Planting

All events are 10am-1pm rain or shine!

connect, ask, learn more: SKAGITFISHERIES.org //360.336.0172



@skagitfisheries//outreach@skagitfisheries.org



Council summary

The Lyman Town Council held a regular meeting on Dec. 18, preceded by a public hearing for the town's 2019 operating budget. Following is a summary of the Dec. 18 meeting. Complete minutes for every council meeting are posted in the hall by the front door of Lyman Town Hall.

Dec. 18 regular meeting

- Dan Berentson from Skagit County was present to give an update on the progress of the Prevedel Rd. slide.
- Mayor Eddie Hills called for executive session for 20 min. regarding Davis Lane and possible litigation. The meeting was closed at 7:20 p.m. Mayor Hills, Town Council, and the attorney returned to the meeting and Mayor Hills called it to order at 7:42 p.m.
- Mayor Hills called a second executive session for 15 min. for employee matters. He closed the regular meeting at 7:45 p.m. The council and mayor returned to the regular meeting and Mayor Hills called the meeting back to order at 8:02 p.m.

- Council considered Ordinance 265, a new wage and benefit package for a Public Works employee. After discussion, council voted to leave the wage as it is. Future raises will be determined yearly based on performance.
- Council considered Ordinance 266, a new wage and benefit package for the clerk/treasurer. Council voted to raise the clerk's wage by 5 percent.
- Council voted to accept the 2019 budget as presented.
- Council approved Resolution 2018-9, updating the mayor and council wage as directed by WSA. The decision raises the mayor wage to \$250 per meeting, and \$50 per meeting for councilmembers. This will affect those elected officials that will be elected into office in 2019 for 2020. This resolution will stay in effect until updated again.
- After receiving a letter of intent from Ron Hodgin, council voted to appoint him as the new councilmember in Position 5.

—Compiled from staff notes

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Above: A slew of Concrete Elementary students put together this THANK YOU to Joel Gardner Orthodontics of Mount Vernon after the firm named Concrete K-6 PTO the winner of its December Giveaway. Gardner Orthodontics sent the PTO a check for \$200. That's Joel Gardner Orthodontics, 1210 E Division St., Mount Vernon, 360.336.5464. *Photo by Sheena Daniels.*

January in pictures



Above: Miniature cheerleaders posed with Concrete High School cheerleaders during a Mini Cheer Camp event at the high school on Jan. 18. The annual fundraiser for the CHS cheerleaders drew more than a dozen aspiring cheerleaders for a week of after-school instruction. For their entry fee of \$25, the young cheerleaders learned cheers, chants, and a dance routine, and received a shirt and a hair bow. They also got to perform at halftime during the Friday night basketball game. *Photo by Sheena Daniels.*

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Sixth grader Savannah Evans carefully spells a word during the Lyman Elementary Spelling Bee on Jan. 23.



Zach McCall, a 6th grader at Lyman Elementary School, competes during the annual spelling bee on Jan. 23. See the winners on p. 18.



Above: On Jan. 18, 39 youth from the Concrete Elementary Boys & Girls Club had an opportunity to meet with Concrete Mayor Jason Miller and learn about his role in Concrete. He explained the different branches of the small town's government and how they check and balance each other. The visit included a question-and-answer session with the mayor, during which he was put on the hot seat with questions like "When will you ever finish the splash park," "When did you become mayor," "How do you become mayor," and "What's your real name?"

The program invited the mayor because the Boy Youth of the Month, Konnor T., brainstormed a collaborative mural art project of Concrete. Kindergartners and 1st graders colored and cut out buildings, 2nd and 3rd graders made roads and shrubbery, and 4th, 5th, and 6th graders wrote informative bits about each building. The youth were extremely proud to show it off to the mayor. Many youth pointed out their part in the town mural and explained which buildings of Concrete were represented. Mayor Miller commented enthusiastically, "I like this! It's fantastic!"

Before he left, Mayor Miller had a few moments express his feelings about the Boys & Girls Club in Concrete: "I'm extremely excited to see this program take root." —Bryer Button

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Hamilton



Rockport



Forterra to hold community, individual meetings regarding redevelopment proposal

A community meeting is planned for Thur., Feb. 7, from 6 to 7 p.m. at Hamilton First Baptist Church, 797 Hamilton Cemetery Rd. in Hamilton.

The community meeting will be hosted by land use consulting firm Forterra, and will include an update on its work with Town of Hamilton as the town seeks to develop the Lawson property north of SR 20 into a new town center, including a new residential component. Next steps for the project will be shared, as well as opportunities for Hamilton citizens to get involved in the process.

Next steps

Forterra seeks feedback from Hamilton citizens. The organization is researching ways to assist residents who are interested in moving out of the floodplain. To do this, the team wants to learn more about how the project could best meet residents' needs.

Forterra also plans to visit Hamilton several times in February to hold individual conversations with anyone who is interested in:

- Housing Conversations: Forterra team members want to learn about what it's like to find housing in Skagit County and learn more about experiences

living in Hamilton. Do you have a mortgage? Are you a renter? Does your current home meet your needs? They want to hear from all residents and business owners, even those who do not plan to move.

- Storytelling Project: Forterra is gathering the stories of Hamilton residents and business owners to learn more about the town's history. These stories will be used to inform the identity and design of the future project.

Forterra's priority is to provide housing opportunities for Hamilton residents outside of the floodplain. The team wants to make sure there is a place available for residents to live on higher ground if they choose to do so. It may also include community or commercial space.

Anyone who wants more information or is interested in participating in the Housing Conversations and/or the Storytelling Project is encouraged to contact Bree Nicolello at 206.905.6916 or bnicoello@forterra.org. You can also sign up at the community meeting.

More information about Forterra is available at www.forterra.org.

—Bree Nicolello
J. K. M.

Nick VanJaarsveld
Financial Advisor

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From the Mayor

Hamilton's Water Reputation



Hamilton's water supply comes from a well up Medford Rd. The quality of water is excellent: The only thing that is added is chlorine, and we wouldn't need to add that except the state wants us to maintain that part of the system in case of an emergency. I don't remember Hamilton ever having a problem with bacteria, and the tests that are done on a regular basis come back with levels well below current standards for any chemicals.

We take water quality complaints seriously, trying to correct any problems

quickly. Our quantity of water is also excellent. We have the capacity to supply future development. Hamilton has two large reservoir tanks that supply town by gravity (no pump needed to get the water from there to your house). There is a generator for when the power goes out, so even if we did manage to use all the water in the tanks, we could still pull more from the well. You can still get a drink and flush the toilet when the power goes out here.

The water lines are maintained, with any leaks repaired as soon as they are discovered. We plan for the future with a plan revision every five years, with this year being a revision year. Hamilton has tried very hard to make sure it's water and water system has a good reputation. If you have specific complaints about it, please let us know.

—Mayor Joan Cromley

Council summary

The Hamilton Town Council held a regular meeting Dec. 11. Following is a summary of that meeting.

Dec. 11 regular meeting

- The regular meeting was preceded by a public hearing that opened at 7:03 p.m. and closed at 7:11 p.m. The subject of the public hearing was the 2019 budget. Mayor Cromley said the only change was to add a financial policy. Hamilton will create a written policy so that future budgets will note that the ending balance in the general fund will be the operating expenses costs for one year. The town will begin shifting \$30,000 to code enforcement costs. Resident Billie Fisher asked for the payroll costs for 2018; that information will not be available until the year ends.
- The regular meeting was called to order at 7:12 p.m.
- Public comment was received from Billie Fisher, 429 Cumberland; Frank Boots, 584 Hamilton; and Jessica Boots, 807 Skagit St.
- Council approved Resolution 06-2018: a financial policy to maintain a minimum balance to be equal to the standard operating costs of the same

year.

- Council approved Ordinance 337: adopting the 2019 Budget.
- Rental applications for FEMA lots were discussed. It was decided to bring a town rental form for Council approval at February's meeting.
- Town Clerk Easterday and Councilmember Perkins are working on reviewing ordinances and fees. Both will continue to review current ordinances and will focus on enforcement.
- Water:** According to a monthly water loss report from Northwest Waterworks, the town had a production of 568,800 gallons and sale of 401,686 gallons of water, resulting in a 24 percent water loss. Mayor Cromley thinks the calculation may be wrong.
- Fire Dept.:** The fire engine was recently inspected in Concrete and passed.
- Streets:** Staff is working on fencing at FEMA lots and along South St.
- Clerk Easterday presented the tenant/owner water agreement letter she sent to rental property owners. She is working to get water payments caught up, and also has been training with BIAS software.

—Compiled from staff notes

Winter programs return to Rockport State Park

Experience the forest with guided hikes, Junior Ranger activities

Washington State Parks invites people of all ages to experience an ancient forest this winter at Rockport State Park through guided hikes, educational programming, and interpretive activities.

The Deep Forest Experience programs and guided hikes take place between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays in January and February. The hikes depart at 11 a.m., noon, 1 p.m., and 2 p.m. from the Discovery Center at Rockport State Park, 51905 SR 20, Rockport.

Rockport State Park staff and volunteers will lead half-mile, 45-minute walks under a dense canopy of old growth fir, cedar, hemlock, and maple trees. Many of the Rockport trees are 400 years old or older 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 unseen ecosystems that keep forests healthy, including salmon-bearing streams, animal scat, and mycorrhizal fungi.

Participants should dress for cold, wet, winter weather, including suitable footwear.

Visitors can also duck into the family-friendly Discovery Center, enjoy free refreshments and hot cocoa by the woodstove, explore interactive displays, watch nature videos, read books, and make crafts.

Junior Ranger program returns

Rockport State Park will once again offer Junior Ranger programs for children age five and older. In addition to joining Parks staff on the Deep Forest Experience hikes, junior rangers are invited to the Discovery Center to identify animal tracks and pelts, make crafts with a nature theme, and discover what "salmon trees" are. Junior Rangers can collect a special

wooden badge when they complete the activity book, which is available at the Discovery Center.

Special events may be added to Rockport's winter programming. These will be listed on the State Park's online calendar and the agency's Facebook page.

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

Rockport State Park is a 632-acre day-use park on the Skagit River in the North Cascades foothills. The park stands at the foot of 5,400-foot Sauk Mountain and provides an extraordinary example of old-growth forest. Rockport offers 5 miles of trails, including a 1-mile ADA-accessible trail.

For more information about the park, go to <http://parks.state.wa.us/574/Rockport>.

- What:** Deep Forest Experience
- When:** Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, January through February (Jan. 4 through Feb. 24). 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Where:** Rockport State Park, SR 20, milepost 96, Rockport
- Cost:** Free; Discover Pass required
- More info:** <http://parks.state.wa.us/574/Rockport> or contact Interpretive Specialist Melissa Wender at 360.853.8461 or rockport@parks.wa.gov

Read
Concrete Herald
The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley

Family-friendly programs on tap at Rockport State Park

A fun lineup of programs is planned for learners of all ages at Rockport State Park in February and March.

On Sat., Feb 9, at 11 a.m., 1 p.m., or 2 p.m., join outdoor educator Steve Sahlin for a Wilderness Skills Sampler class. Enjoy demonstrations of skills you might need if you were to live in the forest without modern tools. The show-and-tell format includes bow and arrow making, flint arrowhead knapping, making cordage, and friction fire starting. A forest walk is planned too, so bring appropriate clothing and footwear.

On Sat., Feb. 16, at 11 a.m., 1 p.m., or 2 p.m., Dr. Katherine Glew presents "Lichens: The Overlooked Fungi of the Forest." Dr. Glew will lead a short classroom presentation to introduce the fascinating lichens of the old growth forest, followed by a guided walk through the woods, identifying lichens collected from various forest microhabitats. Attendees should bring a hand lens and a few paper bags for collecting specimens. Wear weather-appropriate clothing and footwear.

"All About Beavers" is planned for Sun., March 10, from 1 to 4 p.m. More details about this event will be published in the March issue of *Concrete Herald*.

Rockport State Park is located at milepost 96 or SR 20 in Rockport. A Discover Pass is required for vehicle access. For more information, call 360.853.8461.

—J. K. M.

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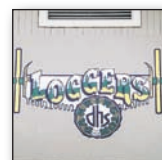
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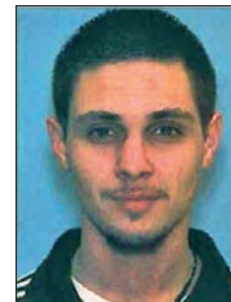
Darrington



Snohomish County Sheriff's Report

Jan. 15

The Snohomish County Auto Theft Task Force (SNOCAT) seeks the public's help to locate 25-year-old Kyle Matthews who is suspected of vehicle theft and eluding police in a stolen vehicle.



Matthews

On Dec. 23, Bellevue Police investigated a vehicle prowling at Cougar Mountain trailhead. One of the items stolen during the vehicle prowling was the victim's garage door opener. When the victims returned home, they found their house had been burglarized and their Audi was stolen. During the burglary, purses, electronics, jewelry and credit cards were also stolen from the victims.

On Jan. 2, Everett Police located Matthews sleeping in the driver's seat of the stolen Audi. While police were outside of the vehicle, Matthews woke up and is suspected of ramming a police SUV out of the way and fleeing the scene in the stolen Audi. Everett Police located the Audi unoccupied a few minutes later and attempted an unsuccessful K9 track.

During a search of the Audi, detectives recovered a stolen firearm, stolen checks, stolen mail from approximately 100 different addresses, stolen credit cards, vehicle keys, methamphetamine, and a stolen license plate.

Detectives have an arrest warrant for Matthews for taking a motor vehicle without permission, unlawful possession of a firearm, possession of controlled substances, malicious mischief, possession of stolen mail, and possession of stolen property.

Matthews has ties to the Everett area. He is 5'9", weighs approximately 180 lbs., with brown hair and hazel eyes. Anyone with information about his whereabouts is asked to call the Sheriff's Office

Anonymous Tip Line 425.388.3845.

Jan. 23

Sheriff's Office detectives are still looking for tips from the public regarding the disappearance of 24-year-old Jacob Hilkin from Everett last year. The Major Crimes Unit has continued the investigation since Hilkin was reported missing by his family on Jan. 23, 2018.



Hilkin

Detectives believe Hilkin was at the Tulalip Casino with friends the night of Jan. 22, 2018. It is believed Hilkin left the casino the next morning to walk to a nearby bus stop to head home. Hilkin was contacted by police in a camp located behind Quil Ceda Village around 10:20 a.m. that morning. When police spoke to Hilkin, there was no reason to believe he was in danger of any kind. Police witnessed Hilkin leaving the camp and walking south on 27th Avenue NE.

Hilkin has brown hair, is 5'11" tall, weighs 160 lbs. and always wears his eyeglasses. Anyone with information about Hilkin or his whereabouts is asked to call 911 or the Sheriff's Office Anonymous Tip Line 425.388.3845.

Feb. 2

The body of a male was recovered from the Skykomish River near milepost 33 on SR 2 near Gold Bar today. Just after 1:40 p.m., a witness called 911 to report that the male was pulled from the water by a kayaker. SCSO and fire personnel responded, and the male was confirmed to be deceased. The recovery and investigation is ongoing. More

Fortson Mill eyed for rec and education options

Members of the Darrington community; Darrington Strong board members; Tom Teigen, Snohomish County Parks and Recreation Department Director; Snohomish County Executive Council member Ken Klein; and Nate Nehring, Snohomish County Council member met Jan. 24 in the Darrington Fire Hall meeting room to discuss plans to develop the area known as the Fortson Mill for recreational and educational opportunities.

Martha Rasmussen, president of Darrington Strong, submitted a proposal to the group outlining several ways to accomplish the expansion of the area. The proposal included a series of trails—each with its own specific attraction—and new signage, directional and interpretive, including historical facts about the area and a sign reading Old Fortson Mill Park. She also proposed a parking area to

include room for horse trailers.

An event site would sit adjacent to the parking area. In the bowl shape of the Fortson Mill site would be a small rustic amphitheater, where special events and workshops could be held. The amphitheater would feature simple log seating and make use of the existing terrain. In the early stages of development, portable restrooms would be necessary until permanent restrooms could be built. The Old Fortson Mill site is home to migrating salmon and could be used to educate visitors about the life cycle of the salmon population. Currently the site attracts fishing, canoeing and kayaking, birding, and wildlife viewing. The Whitehorse Trail is also accessible.

Teigen responded by saying the county welcomes the proposal and encourages volunteers willing to help with the project.

A discussion group, "Friends of Fortson," will post volunteer opportunities on Facebook.

Modern history of the site began on Dec. 1, 1904, when L. Brooks sold 113.05 acres of land to Hugh L. McCaughey, Frederick J. McCaughey, and William H. McCaughey. The name of the mill was McCaughey Lumber Company; operations started on July 27, 1905. The new train from Arlington had reached Darrington in 1901 and the whole area was filled with sawmills developing along the tracks. A settlement sprang up around the McCaughey mill; by 1910 the population had grown to 130 people. By 1913 it had become a major employer for the area; the average wage for a 12-hour day was \$3.50. The McCaugheys sold their sawmill, moving operations up the Stillaguamish River, and leased the L.D.R. Mill.

Georgia-born Seattle attorney George Hayley Fortson purchased the McCaughey Lumber Company. Stocks of \$1,000 were sold and the Fortson Lumber Company incorporated May 19, 1914. Trustees included Lee Erastus Dickinson, Joseph Kohout, and Royal Herbert Lamson.

At the height of Fortson Lumber Company's success, it was severely damaged by a fire around 1917. The company dissolved on Dec. 19, 1918. By 1923, Fortson as a town had phone service through Pacific Telephone, a company store, post office, several fine homes, and several bunk houses for the men. There were three saloons in the area, but later one of these saloons was converted into a Union Sunday School. The sawmill at Fortson was a modern mill for the day and maintained logging railroads with two locomotives and one skidder, four flat cars and two long logging sides, a large machine shop, and an electric light plant. By 1926, Fortson had grown to a population of 320 people. The Mill at Fortson was powered by steam. Throughout the massive concrete ruins, round holes can be seen where pipes once ran. There was a waterwheel north of the small pond where the fish ladder is now near the railroad bridge. This supplied electricity for lighting until the town was able to connect with Seattle Power and Light.

—Marla Skaglund

Catch-and-release steelhead fishery opens on Skagit, Sauk rivers

that night closures are in effect and the use of bait is prohibited.

Each day, anglers can keep up to two hatchery steelhead, which are marked by a clipped adipose fin, but must release all wild steelhead. More details on the fishery rules are available online at <https://fortress.wa.gov/dfw/erules/efishrules>.

The fishery will be closely monitored and could close early if anglers reach the number of fish caught and released agreed to in the fishery management plan.

The Skagit Basin was closed to steelhead fishing for several years. Last spring, the state and tribes received federal approval on a five-year steelhead fishery plan. Each year, the co-managers use the shared conservation objectives in the plan to set fisheries.

Puget Sound wild steelhead have been listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) since 2007. Lacking an approved fishery management plan, WDFW closed the Skagit Basin to wild steelhead fishing in 2010.

Ongoing efforts by WDFW and the tribes to protect habitat, remove fish passage barriers, and improve steelhead survival in Puget Sound have resulted in an increased number of wild steelhead returning to the basin in recent years.

—Submitted by WDFW

For a second year, anglers will get the chance to chase wild steelhead during a catch-and-release fishery that began Feb. 1 on the Skagit and Sauk rivers.

State and tribal co-managers recently agreed to move forward with this year's fishery, which is based largely on the number of wild steelhead projected to return to the Skagit basin.

The recreational fishery opened to daily fishing on Feb. 1 and includes the following areas:

Skagit River, from the Dalles Bridge in Concrete to the Cascade River Road Bridge in Marblemount. Fishing from a boat that is under power is prohibited.

Sauk River, from the mouth to the Sauk Prairie Road Bridge in Darrington. Fishing from a boat equipped with an internal combustion motor is prohibited.

WDFW is taking a conservative approach to the fishery by requiring anglers to use single-point barbless hooks to reduce injury to wild steelhead as the fish are released. Anglers should be aware

Operator services, and for the mayor to sign. The revised contract omits a reference to "good faith services" and a section where the town would have been held accountable for paying for the water operator's Certification Test.

- Council approve Mayor Rankin to represent the Town of Darrington on the 2019 Snohomish County Board of Health.
- Mayor Rankin reported that the Snohomish County Sheriff will in town on Jan. 4 to discuss the new contract with Town of Darrington.

—Compiled from staff minutes

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

Council summary

Darrington Town Council met for regular meetings on Dec. 12 and 27, 2018. The following is summaries of those meetings. Complete and council-approved minutes for every council meeting are available at Darrington Town Hall.

Dec. 12 regular meeting

- Guest speaker Maurie Perault from the University of Washington compared the Darrington community with the state average. Tobacco numbers are down; marijuana is up. Depression numbers are still high; depression among the youth is the next focus.
- Council discussed an idea to rename a section of SR 530 as the "Oso Memorial Highway. Another suggested name was "Oso Slide Memorial Highway." Council approved a letter of support for the name, "Oso Memorial Highway."

Dec. 27 regular meeting

- Council again discussed a Department of Commerce Solar Grant for installation of solar panels at the Community Center. One idea: Send energy to the well and convert any monetary gain back to the Community Center. There should be a consideration that the funds generated from the solar panels, once the loan is paid off, be put toward the Community Center. That will be up to future councils to decide. Mayor Dan Rankin suggested a resolution be written that states that once the loans are paid off, the funds generated be given to the Community Center. Council approved the submittal of the Department of Commerce Grant for Solar Energy, and for Mayor Rankin to sign.
- Council approved Ordinance 746, the Draft Budgets for 2019.
- Council approved an amended form of the contract with the Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe for Certified Water



Saturday, March 2nd
3:00pm in Town Center

(360) 853-8784
www.Concrete-WA.com

information will be provided when it becomes available. Positive identification of the decedent, as well as cause and manner of death, will come from the Snohomish County Medical Examiner.
—Submitted by SCSO

Community Dance

- Sat., March 2, potluck at 6 p.m., dancing from 7 to 9:30 p.m.
- Mansford Grange. Music by Peckin' Out Dough.
- Admission by suggested donation of \$7.
- Details: 206.402.8646.

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Marblemount



Newhalem



Community Hall is the cure for cabin fever this month

With Santa, Grub 'n' Groove, bald eagles, and Native American cultural presentations filling the last two months, the Marblemount Community Hall's lineup includes even more public events this winter.

The second Grub 'n' Groove of the season is scheduled for Sat., Feb. 23. Created as an open mic/talent night for the community's benefit, the evening begins with a potluck supper at 6 p.m. Following eating and socializing, anyone who wishes to perform may sign up. At 7 p.m., music, songs, poetry, skits, jokes, puppetry, and readings will begin. And any and all are invited to participate or just listen and appreciate. It's always a lovely evening and the sure cure for cabin fever. For more information, contact Terri Wilde at 510.926.0468 or Richard Lewis

at 360.853.7345.

On Sat., March 2, Skagit Fire District 19 (Rockport and Marblemount) will again host its annual Scholarship Dance at the hall. A potluck supper, live music from the Marlin James Band, contests, a live auction, a raffle, and dancing will raise money for the scholarship that the two fire departments offer to a Concrete High School Class of 2019 student upon graduation.

The evening will kick off with a 7 p.m. potluck dinner, and the band will take over from 8 p.m. to midnight. Tickets are \$15 per person or \$25 per couple in advance, or \$20/\$30 at the door.

For advance tickets and more information, call 360.630.3900 or 360.873.2477.

—Christie Fairchild



Rosie Cayou and her husband, Bill Bailey, share stories from their Native American heritage at Marblemount Community Hall during Eagle Festival events the weekend of Jan. 12–13. A member of the Samish Nation, Cayou sang a song to honor the baby Orca that was born in January. "We don't write songs, we receive them," said Cayou.

Diablo Lake new tour dock project environmental assessment withdrawn

On July 30, 2018, North Cascades National Park Service Complex released for public comment an environmental assessment (EA) examining the potential impacts associated with the proposal for a new tour dock on Diablo Lake in Ross Lake National Recreation Area.

The project proponent has withdrawn the proposal from further consideration;

therefore, there will be no decision issued on the proposal.

This formally concludes the NEPA review process for this project.

—Submitted by
North Cascades National Park
Service Complex

Nick VanJaarsveld
Financial Advisor

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING



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nick.vanjaarsveld@edwardjones.com
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Spring 2019 Planting Parties

Love plants, getting dirty, and free snacks?
Want to pick up some gardening tips while helping salmon?
Need a reason to drag your family outside?
Volunteer with us this Spring!

Feb 23: Ann Woford River Edge Park Planting

Mar 2nd and 9th: SFEG Native Plant Nursery
Potting Parties

Mar 16th: Marblemount Boat Launch Planting

All events are 10am-1pm rain or shine!

connect, ask, learn more: SKAGITFISHERIES.org //360.336.0172



@skagitfisheries//outreach@skagitfisheries.org

Catch-and-release steelhead fishery opens on Skagit, Sauk rivers

For a second year, anglers will get the chance to chase wild steelhead during a catch-and-release fishery that began Feb. 1 on the Skagit and Sauk rivers.

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—Submitted by WDFW

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Seniors

Verna's Kitchen

By Verna McClure

Fruit Cole Slaw

- 1 small head of cabbage, shredded
- 1 8-ounce can pineapple tidbits, drained
- ¼ cup raisins
- ¼ cup flaked coconut
- 1/3 to ½ cup mayonnaise

1. In a large bowl, combine all ingredients except the mayonnaise. Cover and chill.
2. Just before serving, add the mayonnaise.
3. Enjoy each day!

NOTE: You can also use broccoli slaw instead of cabbage and carrots.



Way Back When

100 years ago

Feb. 1, 1919: It was reported around town Monday that the Concrete school had been closed on account of the "flu," but inquiry disclosed that it was on account of the "flue." Sometime Saturday or Sunday night, a bunch of young hoodlums, endowed with more idle time than brains, had climbed to the roof of the school house and stopped the chimney flue with old sacks and paper. As a result, janitor McDonald was unable to start a fire Monday morning, so school was dismissed for half a day until the obstruction was removed and the building heated. No damage was done, except that the youngsters lost half a day's school, which is needed if they are to make their grades this year.

The laws of this state are very strict in regard to damaging school property or interfering with the conduct of a school, and it is very probable that some of the young men who spend their time in

thinking up "smart tricks" will find themselves spending an unpleasant half hour in the court room in Mount Vernon, as the school board has determined that any person caught molesting property in or about the school grounds will be prosecuted.

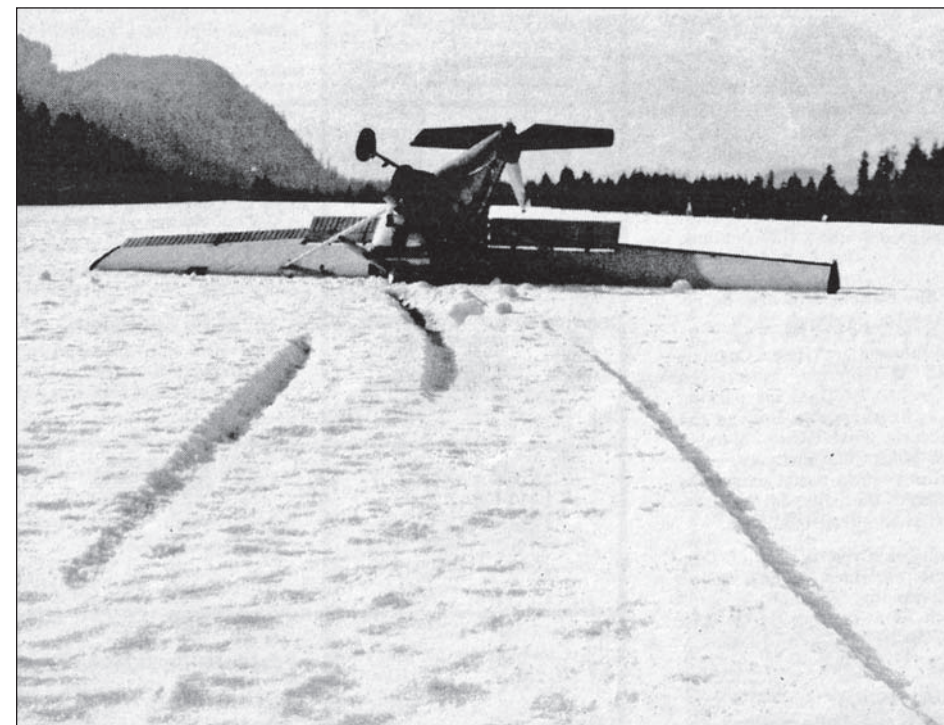
Feb. 15, 1919: Bert, the 8-year-old son of F. E. Eldred, who lives near Clear Lake, lost the greater part of his left hand last Saturday as the result of the explosion of a dynamite cap. The little boy had found the cap while out playing,

and while experimenting with it the cap exploded, badly lacerating his left hand. The doctor who was called found it necessary to amputate the thumb and two fingers, and it is believed that the remaining fingers can be saved. The Eldred family made their home in Concrete some years ago.

90 years ago

Feb. 21, 1929: The members of the Concrete Rebekah lodge

See **Way Back**, p. 29



40 years ago, Feb. 26, 1979: A student pilot learned one big lesson the hard way last week: Don't land a wheel-equipped plane in the snow. The young beginning pilot and a passenger, flying a Boeing Flying Club plane out of Seattle, mistook snowmobile tracks at the Concrete airport for other aircraft landing marks and tried to land—just for fun. According to the tracks in the foot-deep snow, the landing was perfect for about 50 feet. Then the wheels stopped dead and the plane did a forward flip to land upside down. The occupants of the light plane were uninjured and walked away, and the airplane was only slightly damaged, with a bent propeller and a banged-up tail. *Archive photo.*

Way Back, cont. from p. 28

entertained with a splendid dinner in the banquet room of the International Order of Odd Fellows hall yesterday evening in honor of the members of the Odd Fellows and their wives. A fine dinner, hot from the stove,

Concrete Community Center

February 2019 Activities

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

For Energy Assistance appointment, call 360.428.1011, beginning 8:30 a.m., the first Wednesday of every month.

Enjoy jigsaw puzzles, walking group, games, and more every day.

All subject to change. For latest information, call 360.416.1733.

Monday

All 9 a.m. Edge Analytical water sample pickup
All 10 a.m. Community Closet

Tuesday

All 1 p.m. Oasis Teen Shelter Outreach (at Resource Center)

Wednesday

All 10 a.m. Community Closet
2/13 6 p.m. Ohana Support Group

Thursday

All 10 a.m. Income tax assistance
2/7 12:30 p.m. Pinochle
2/21 12:30 p.m. Pinochle
2/21 6:30 p.m. Linden Jordan: Science of Gender

Friday

All 10 a.m. Community Closet
2/15 10 a.m. Community Center Advisory Board
2/15 12:30 p.m. Commissioner Janicki

Saturday

All 7 p.m. AA meeting

was served and greatly enjoyed by those present, and there was a large attendance. After dinner, all went to the hall, where the evening was spent enjoying a social good time, including an impromptu program of music, some card playing, and in social visiting. The Odd Fellows are hoping that the women of the Rebekahs will take the same notion again in the near future.

70 years ago

Feb. 3, 1949: This week the final kiln in Concrete to operate without a dust collector was fitted with one. From now on, when you look toward the Superior Portland Cement plant, that cloud above the six stacks will no longer be filled with dirt to coat your car, your home, your showcases, and your merchandise. The dust that once dropped like rain over the town is now being piped away and returned into the cement-making process.

—Compiled from archives



30 years ago, Feb. 23, 1989: Rona Pressentin of Rockport celebrated her 100th birthday last weekend, surrounded by cards and flowers from loved ones. She was kept busy with phone calls and visitors Saturday and Sunday in her Rockport home. Pressentin was born Feb. 18, 1889 in Pineole, North Carolina. She called herself a Tarheel girl "comin' out of the thickets." Her parents were Hannie and Ab Clark. The family left North Carolina and found its way to Rockport in 1905. The young Miss Clark married William "Skagit Bill" Pressentin in 1912. *Archive photo.*



30 years ago, Feb. 16, 1989: Joyce Harris said, "It was kind of like living through a frigid hurricane." She was referring to the bitter cold and severe winds that swept through Marblemount early last week, leaving residents with various minor to major inconveniences, including power outages, inaccessible driveways, and, in Harris' case, new rooftop decor in the form of a tree. *Archive photo by Mae Falavolito.*

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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.

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: mattd@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.

Lutheran

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
46372 Main St., Concrete / 360.853.3714
www.uprivergrace.com
Sun. worship: 10 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.

Mormon

Concrete Group Meeting
7879 S. Superior Ave., Concrete
(Pilots Lounge at Mears Field)
360.540.7502
2nd and 3rd Sundays each month:
Sacrament mtg., 1 p.m.
Potluck, 2 p.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

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.

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

Sunday School lesson

The least of these

By Cindy Myatt

The sun is shining with little or no breeze. The temperature hovers between 65 and 70 as we climb out of our SUV. Grabbing our day packs, we load them with 2-gallon jugs of water, a half dozen cans of beans, chili and chicken, socks, first aid kits, and rosaries. There isn't cell reception here in the desert; however, there are plenty of security towers strategically dotting the landscape.

With GPS and coordinates in hand, we trek the desert for hours. Dropping our supplies at each drop spot, we stop, pray, and reflect on humanity. The weather is beyond beautiful, and I feel the Holy Spirit walking along keeping step with each of us.

I kept reflecting on the words of Matthew 25:35: "... for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me."

What does humanitarian aid look like if what we are doing on this beautiful day is illegal? There were many people who lived in Germany in the 1930s and '40s who worked to keep the marginalized from being killed, and here we are not even 100 years later doing the same thing.

This part of the desert is famously known for the Saguaro cactus. Their limbs reach toward the stars at night and others point toward the direction you should follow. It was hard not to think about the young people I had seen earlier in the week in Tucson being arraigned—criminally charged for walking on this very trail I was walking. They weren't being tried in immigration court; these young people were criminals, shackled at both their ankles and their wrists for wanting a better life. After walking, hiking, hitchhiking, and jumping on trains, leaving their families thousands of miles away, they are slapped with a criminal record. Great way to get a fresh start.

42 "... for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me. 44 Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' 45 Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.'" Matthew 25:35-36, 42-45.

For more information on how to help the least of these, go to <http://forms.nomoredeaths.org> or <https://ajosamaritans.wordpress.com>.

Cindy Myatt is a final-year student at Wartburg Theological Seminary. She lives in Marblemount.

Skagit County Sheriff's Office Blotter

Dec. 21

Deputy Wiggins was conducting a registered sex offender (RSO) check in the area of Cedar Grove. While checking on the RSO, he discovered that the subject no longer lived at the address and had not been living there for more than a month. A witness advised that the RSO had threatened to harm the witness if she did not tell law enforcement that he was still living there. After further investigation, Deputy Wiggins referred the RSO for charges for failing to register. The RSO has now moved to a different county.

Dec. 24

A domestic disturbance was reported on Pettit St. in Hamilton. Both residents called in claiming that the other person had assaulted them. Deputy Grant

Level 3 Sex Offender NOTIFICATION

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

Medlock, Justin Allen

Age: 23
Race: W
Sex: M
Height: 5' 7"
Weight: 210
Hair: Brown
Eyes: Hazel
Address: 458xx
Division St.,
Concrete



Medlock has been convicted of two counts of 3rd degree rape. His victim was a known female who was 14 and 15 years old at the times of the offenses.

Medlock 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

and Deputy Murdock investigated the incident and determined that the female had assaulted the male over an argument about money and the way he was sitting. She was taken to jail and booked for 4th degree assault, domestic violence.

Dec. 25

Deputy Wolfe was patrolling the area of Cape Horn Dr. when he observed a vehicle make a turn without using its turn signal. He stopped the car and discovered that the driver had several warrants and no driver's license. While dealing with the incident, the driver started having breathing problems. The suspect was transported to the hospital, where Deputy Wolfe contacted him and cited him for driving without a driver's license and no insurance. He was also booked and released on his warrants.

Dec. 26

While patrolling Concrete, Deputy Devero stopped a vehicle for expired registration. The driver admitted he did not have a valid driver's license. Deputy Devero also discovered that the driver had warrants for his arrest. Deputy Devero cited the driver for driving with a suspended license and arrested him on his warrants.

Later that night, Deputy Wolfe stopped a car on Main St. in Concrete for making an illegal turn and failing to use a turn signal. After investigating, Deputy Wolfe determined the driver had a suspended driver's license, no insurance, and was driving without a required interlock device. A judge orders a driver convicted of multiple DUIs to install an interlock device in their car to prevent the person from driving drunk in the future. Deputy Wolfe arrested the driver for all violations, and towed the car.

Dec. 28

Deputies Moore and Slack investigated a burglary in the 53000 block of Concrete Sauk Valley Rd. The victim had video showing two suspects stealing property, then leaving in a Blue Toyota pickup that deputies later discovered was stolen. Deputies located the suspects later and arrested both suspects. While arresting the suspects, more stolen property was located in their possession. The items from the initial burglary was located and returned to the victim.

Dec. 29

A citizen reported that her neighbor had come over to her house on Baker Loop Rd. in Cedar Grove and started beating on her door. The neighbor had been trespassed from the property by Deputy Koback. Deputy Koback contacted the

suspect and cited him for trespassing.

A resident who lives on Cockreham Island near Lyman reported that someone had broken into his shed and had stolen numerous items, including lawn equipment, a quad, and chain saws. While conducting the investigation, Deputy Dills located another burglary at a neighbor's house. There are no suspects at this time.

Dec. 30

Deputies Dills and Moore contacted a female, who said she had been assaulted with a baseball bat near Shoemaker Lane in Marblemount. After investigating the incident, deputies determined that the female had in fact been in a fight, but was the aggressor. The other female, who had warrants for her arrest, had used the bat to defend herself. No arrest was made for the alleged assault, but the second female was arrested on her warrants.

Dec. 31

Deputy Devero returned to a Baker Loop Rd. address in Cedar Grove regarding another complaint of trespassing by the suspect who was arrested on Dec. 29. This time the resident said that the suspect had come onto her property and threw firecrackers at her dog, then stood in her driveway and stared at her in an intimidating manner. Deputy Devero

contacted the suspect, who admitted to throwing the fireworks but denied the other allegations. After finishing his investigation, Deputy Devero arrested the suspect for trespassing, harassment, and discharging illegal fireworks.

A domestic assault was reported in the 29000 block of Lyman Hamilton Hwy. The reporting party said a person had hit another person while standing in the driveway. Deputy Wolfe and Sgt. Kevin Sigman responded. They contacted the victim, who told them that he had been driving home with his girlfriend when they got into an argument. The suspect took offense when the victim told her to shut up, at which time she punched him in the face. The victim showed the deputies his face, which had signs of bruising. The suspect was located at a different address. She admitted to arguing, but when asked if she hit the victim, she advised she would prefer not to answer that question. She was arrested and taken to jail for assault. While the suspect was being booked into jail, Corrections deputies found what was believed to be methamphetamine and heroin in the suspect.

At approximately 8 p.m., deputies

See Sheriff's Blotter, p. 31



[Chief Darrel Reed]

Concrete Volunteer Fire Dept. needs firefighters!

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

Interested?

Call Town Hall at **360.853.8401**
or drop in to fill out a quick application.



Applicants may live inside or outside town limits.

CONCRETE HERITAGE MUSEUM NEWS

A Tale of Two Cities: Part 4 of 4

About the same time Pressentin was shifting his interests, other events, both local and national, would have grave impacts for Sauk City.

A railroad engineer, M. Q. Barlow, was sent to determine the best route for a railroad spur to service Monte Cristo from Sauk City and Upper Skagit Valley. Instead, he discovered a more direct route to the Monte Cristo mines down the South Fork of the Stillaguamish River. This discovery shifted this supply route southward, especially after the tracks were laid using that route to the Monte Cristo mines in 1893. This greatly diminished Sauk City as a transportation hub to that mining district and the old Sauk City to Monte Cristo road fell into some disuse, but some sections later became the present Sauk Highway (SR 530). That same year the bubble burst on Monte Cristo after John D. Rockefeller withdrew as an investor as a result of a nationwide financial panic and depression caused by a stock market crash. Monte Cristo peaked with a population of more than 1,000, but by 1900 most prospectors turned their sights to the Klondike.

The late 1890s proved even more

tragic for Sauk City. Several disastrous fires followed by raging floods not only reduced the town to charred ruins, but then washed the remnants away. The most observable structure that still exists from that era is the cabin of an early Sauk City settler, Thomas E. Porter, which has been moved and now resides in Howard Miller Steelhead Park in Rockport.

Although platted only a short time after Sauk City, the town of Sauk didn't rise to prominence until the Great Northern Railroad laid tracks up from Hamilton on the north side of the Skagit River to a turnaround spot 2 miles east of Sauk in 1901. There they built the railroad town of Rockport from scratch in 1902. It chose that location, rather than the flood-prone area west of Sauk, because it needed enough flat high ground to construct a turnaround point for the trains. Even with train service beginning, in the early 1900s there were more than 10 to 12 large ferry boats and sternwheelers on the Skagit River. Three boats were dedicated to hauling talc down the river from above Marblemount to Rockport to finish the trip to the coast by train. After

See Museum, p. 38

Civil Air Patrol

Concrete Flight of Civil Air Patrol Skagit Composite Squadron, U.S. Air Force Auxiliary, is fortunate to have what many CAP squadrons do not have: a chaplain. First Lt. Dolores Elliott, known for more than 30 years to the Concrete community as "Peanuts," is chaplain to Skagit Composite Squadron and one of few chaplains in CAP's Washington Wing. Because CAP has a vital interest in the moral and spiritual welfare of our members, CAP chaplains are available to meet spiritual needs, but also to teach character development and wellness to cadets as specified in current Civil Air Patrol curriculum.

The new 2019 moral leadership curriculum taught once a month by Lt. Elliott is "Values for Living," a program that emphasizes the importance of CAP's Core Values: Integrity, Respect, Service, and Excellence, as well as emotional

wellness, spiritual wellness, and healthy relationships with friends and family.

In addition to the once-a-month character development and leadership instruction, Lt. Elliott brings a "Character Tip" to each meeting for discussion and to encourage each cadet to implement in their lives.

If you are in the Concrete or Darrington area and an adult older than 21 or a young person age 12–18 with an interest in serving in CAP, we want you! Visitors, including parents, are welcome to join us for a meeting at Concrete High School on the second through last Tuesday of each month, at 6 p.m.

Inquiries can be directed to Concrete Flight Commander Second Lt. Kelly Siebecke at kelly.siebecke@wawg.cap.gov. Come join us at a meeting soon.

—SM Kelly A. Siebecke

At the Upper Skagit Library

Upper Skagit Library is having a fundraiser. Working with Brooke, Steve Johnson has created **Concrete silo replica keychains** made with his 3-D printer. The keychains are for sale at 5b's Bakery. All donations go to the Upper Skagit Library Foundation.

Storytime is on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month. Families are welcome to join us on Feb. 9 and 23 for stories and a simple craft.

On Feb. 14 at 5 p.m., the Upper Skagit Library Board will have its **monthly board meeting**. As always, the public is welcome to attend.

Winter Reading Fitness Bingo started Jan. 15 and runs through the end of February. Pick up your Bingo card from the library and complete challenges to win fabulous prizes! Get a "bingo" or "blackout" by marking the squares on the bingo card of the challenges you have completed.

On Fri., Feb. 8 at 5 p.m., join us for the Winter Reading Fitness Bingo **"Half-Way There" Pow-Wow**. You are welcome to come and share some of your fitness accomplishments, talk about your goals for the second half of the challenge, and even try and find a "fitness buddy" so that you have a better chance of success. Healthy snacks will be provided, and it's free.

New Building Update. The good news is that we have a new roof on the remodeled building. It was recently installed and we can assure you that you'll be warm and dry when you visit our new

space.

Anderson Buildings from Sedro-Woolley has been contracted to do the structural ceiling reinforcement, which will be completed this winter. Lighting, carpeting, shelving, and furniture will follow. Stay tuned for volunteer opportunities this spring!

Another **Little Free Library** has popped up in Concrete! Check it out at 44435 Dalles Rd. Thank you to the family who created it for helping make sure kids always have access to books.

Meanwhile we had another busy year at the library. Our **overall circulation** of books, audiobooks, and movies is still on the rise; up from last year again! With more than 1,500 active patrons, on an average day at the library, we have 135 patrons visit us, checking out 70 books and 130 DVDs. We also signed up more than 300 new library patrons in 2018 and offered 150 programs with an attendance of more than 1,700 patrons. Thank you all for your continued support!

If you did not catch all the details on any of Upper Skagit Library's events, come by during open hours, check us out online at www.upperskagit.lib.wa.us, or call us at 360.853.7939 and we will be happy to answer any questions. If you sign up for our monthly newsletter, you will get updates on all the events and happenings at the Library, as well as on new arrivals in books and movies. We are also on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

—Tess Carroll, Library Associate

February at the Darrington Library

Children & Families

- Family Storytime, Wednesdays, Feb. 6–27; 11 a.m.; all ages welcome; caregiver required.
- LEGO Club, Wed., Feb. 13 (second Thur. each month), 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Adults

- Lushootseed Language Classes. James Ironheart will provide introductory Lushootseed language classes for native and non-native community members. Lushootseed is a member of the Salish language

family, whose surviving languages are spoken from northern Oregon to central British Columbia. The purpose is to increase awareness of Lushootseed, as well as to help restore the language to everyday use within the community and beyond. Tuesdays, Feb. 5–26, 4 to 5:45 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

Sheriff's Blotter, cont. from p. 31

investigated a reported domestic disturbance on Mountain View Lane near Rockport. The reporting female said she had been assaulted at the residence, and said that there was an active order restricting her from being at the residence. When deputies arrived, they contacted a male, who said the person who had called came over to the residence and asked if they wanted to party. When he told her that she could not be at the residence because there was an active court order restricting her from being at the house, she head-butted him. Deputies found the intoxicated female suspect hiding in the bushes about 100 yards from the house. She was arrested and taken to jail.

Jan. 1

A female called to advise that her husband had assaulted her on Shoemaker Lane in Marblemount. Deputies Esskew and Devero responded and interviewed the victim. She told deputies that she had asked her husband if he wanted to take some acid (drugs) with her. He

became upset and went out to the car. She followed and continued to argue. Her husband then took a flashlight that was on the visor and hit her in the face, giving her a bloody nose. He left prior to the deputies arriving. Deputies searched for the suspect, but could not locate him. He was referred to the prosecutor's office for 4th degree assault, domestic violence.

Jan. 4

On his quest to stop trespassing at the Lake Shannon Quarry, Deputy Wiggins contacted four people from Snohomish County behind the gates. Deputy Wiggins pointed out the multiple no trespassing signs and the fencing indicating that the quarry was private property and was not open to the public. Deputy Wiggins issued trespassing citations to each person.

At approximately 11 p.m., Deputy Slack stopped a car for doing 73 mph in a 50 mph zone on the South Skagit Hwy. The driver told Deputy Slack that his driver's license was suspended and he had warrants. Deputy Slack confirmed that the driver did not have a valid license and had five warrants for different driving

offenses. Deputy Slack arrested the driver and booked him into jail.

Jan. 5

After seeing a car with a defective tail light and a modified license plate, Deputy Wiggins stopped the car to investigate. The driver explained to Deputy Wiggins that he had no right to stop him because he was not operating his vehicle commercially. The driver lectured Deputy Wiggins on his interpretation of traffic laws and the fact that traffic laws only apply to vehicles that operate as commercial vehicles. Deputy Wiggins educated the driver on the correct interpretation of the traffic laws by arresting him for obstructing, making false statements to a public servant, providing a false name, and failure to transfer vehicle title within 45 days. The driver was booked into Skagit County Jail for further education.

Later that night, Deputy Wiggins contacted several people near Devil's Tower in the Lake Shannon Quarry. The five people said that a friend had told them about the property and that it was open to

the public and the friend said the "police never go up there." Deputy Wiggins pointed out the numerous no trespassing signs and the large gate they had to go around. He then issued each of them a citation for trespassing.

While patrolling Cedar Grove, Deputy Beau Montgomery contacted several males standing near a car. One of the subjects identified himself and a check through dispatch showed the subject had several warrants for his arrest. The suspect was taken to jail and booked on his warrants.

Jan. 8

In the early morning hours, Deputy Keith Hill observed a vehicle traveling 55 mph in the 35 mph speed zone on SR 20 near Superior Ave. N. in Concrete. He stopped the vehicle and identified the driver. A check on the driver showed that her license was suspended. Deputy Hill cited the driver and warned her not to drive.

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

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Monday thru Saturday 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.
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Gifts, Rocks, Tobacco, Cigars, and more!

Pawn shops

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Burger available at Albert's Red Apple.

Restaurants

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44586 SR 20, Concrete
360.853.9006

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Heated and nonheated, security surveillance, coded entry, 4x5 to 15x32 units, locks for sale.
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Second Floor Thrift Store

Antiques, Vintage, Collectibles, Thrift
Inside & upstairs at Gold Nugget Pawn Shop
Corner of Hwy 530 & Mt. Loop Hwy, Darrington
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360.436.1029 www.goldnuggetpawnshop.com

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Professional flatbed towing. Winch outs, lock outs, jump starts, and fuel deliveries.
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To add your business to this directory, call 360.853.8213 or e-mail editor@concrete-herald.com

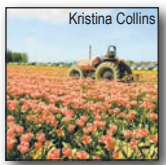


Northwest Garden Bling ■ Gift shop
■ Stained glass & glass supplies
■ Souvenirs

360-708-3279
nwngardenbling@frontier.com
44574 Highway 20 – Concrete, WA 98237



Out & About



Burlington

Port of Skagit welcomes new team member

Port of Skagit recently hired a new professional for its administrative team.

Linda Tyler is the Port's new Community Outreach Administrator. She replaces Andrew Entrikin, who has moved into a new position within the Port.

A lifelong resident of Skagit County, Tyler brings years of experience in community outreach, programming, and marketing to the Port team. With a Bachelor's degree in Communication



Tyler

from the University of Washington, she has spent the last 20 years working in the nonprofit sector, with the Boys & Girls Clubs and most recently as the Development Director for Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland.

In her new job, Tyler's work at the Port will involve public relations, internal communications, marketing materials, and operation of the port's Web site and social media platforms.

State

Lawmakers propose limits for legislature on scope of Public Records Act

- Changes the definitions of agency and legislature in state Public Records Act.
- Creates new permanent exemptions for withholding records.
- Distinguishes legislators from other elected public officials.

By Emma Epperly
WNPA Olympia News Bureau

Legislation proposed on the last day of January would largely exempt state legislators from the Public Records Act, according to the attorney who led the fight against a similar bill last year.

That bill was passed in a last-minute move after a Thurston County Superior Court judge ruled in January 2018 that the legislature was subject to the Public Records Act and had not been in compliance for years. Both sides appealed the decision and litigation is still ongoing in the Washington Supreme Court.

A public outcry over last year's bill led to the intervention of governor Jay Inslee, who negotiated a truce between the legislature and the newspaper industry, which sought to force the lawmakers to adhere to the requirements of the act.

Senate Bill 5784, sponsored by Senator Jamie Pedersen, D-Seattle, explicitly outlines exemptions that would apply to

the legislature.

"The people of our state value both open government and effective government. This bill attempts to strike a balance between those important principles," Pedersen said in introducing the new bill.

The bill is unsatisfactory, according to Michele Earl-Hubbard of Allied Law Group, which represented 10 news organizations, including the Associated Press; the Washington Newspaper Publishers Association, of which *Concrete Herald* is a member; and the *Seattle Times*, in the suit against the legislature.

The new bill introduces the term "legislative branch," which is defined as including the Senate, House of Representatives, the Legislative Ethics Board, joint committees, and "any other agency that is subject to the direct control of the Senate or House of Representatives." The legislative branch term is carried throughout the bill, as an addition to "state agency," previously used in the bill.

In the court ruling, the legislature was not considered an agency; however, individual legislators' offices were considered agencies, making them subject to the Public Records Act.

Earl-Hubbard said she "can't see what's left that the public would get to see" under the proposed bill. The proposal would distinguish legislators from other elected public officials in that they would not be subject to the same laws, she said. It would also continue to restrict information on misconduct allegations, which Earl-Hubbard says was at the heart of the media's lawsuit.

"I was very disappointed when I read the bill," said Earl-Hubbard. "This is being hyped as legislators claiming to have heard the message from the public last year."

In response to criticism, Pedersen emphasized that changes will be made to fine-tune the bill as it moves through the legislative process.

On releasing misconduct records, Pedersen said he and his colleagues worry that a lack of protections could cause a "chilling effect" for those coming forward with misconduct allegations.

"If coming forward in this environment means everything you say can end up on

the front page of the *Seattle Times*, you might choose to suffer in silence," said Pedersen.

Under Pedersen's proposed bill, raw investigative material like witness statements would be withheld from public record, but the investigative report and determination on the allegations would be released after a determination is made.

At least, said Toby Nixon, president of the Washington Coalition for Open Government, "they're putting something on the table so we can start talking about the issues." The bill last year was passed without discussion and on short notice, said Nixon.

Section 111 of the bill outlines specific permanent legislative exemptions that need to be cited in denying a request. These exemptions include:

- Investigative records that are generated before a determination of reasonable cause or dismissal of a complaint before the legislative ethics board or within the legislative branch.
- Memoranda from staff or legislators that contain legal, policy, or fiscal options, analyses, models, or analytical tools.
- Records of internal caucus communications like leadership votes.
- Notes taken by staff or legislators for the use of the person taking the notes.
- Negotiations between legislators or caucuses on bills, records of how a legislator intends to vote either in committee or in a chamber of the legislature.
- Drafts of bills or amendments that were never introduced.

SB 5784 is currently scheduled for a hearing on Feb. 13.

Legislators roll out school safety proposals

By Emma Epperly
WNPA Olympia News Bureau

School resource officers, threat assessments, and statewide school safety

School Safety, cont. from p. 34

best practices are all topics of proposed legislation this year; however, none of the five bills are scheduled for further hearings that could lead to a vote. On Jan. 30, the Senate Early Learning and K-12 Education Committee heard public testimony on five school safety bills.

"I worked with the House very carefully on this and with others, (to) not do an omnibus bill with everything packed in, but to do a number of different bills addressing, you know, different elements," said committee chairwoman, Lisa Wellman, D-Mercer Island.

Senate Bill 5052 would add training requirements for school resource officers to be drafted by the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs and paid for by a grant program.

The resource officers also are the subject of SB 5141, which emphasizes that the state does not require police officers in schools, but that if the district chooses to have one, the district must adhere to the statewide training requirements.

Proposed training topics would include the rights of children in schools, child and adolescent development, recognition and response to youth mental health issues, and the education rights of students with disabilities, among other things.

"I didn't want my daughter to become another statistic in the school to prison pipeline," said Cory Walster, expressing concern over the law enforcement aspects of the bill.

Walster said he is a single parent to a daughter diagnosed with severe anxiety disorder and cannot always control her reactions. He also is a volunteer for the nonprofit Civil Survival, which advocates and organizes people directly affected by the criminal justice system.

Threat assessment processes would be required to be developed by all school districts in the state under proposed SB 5216. The process to identify worrisome behaviors in students would include four

components:

1. It must be based on behaviors.
2. It must be incorporated into the school district's system of student supports.
3. Districts must engage with families whenever possible.
4. It should address the needs of students with special needs.

SB 5317 would establish a Washington school safety center and a network of school safety coordinators stationed around the state.

"This is putting in place the structure that can really support the program," said Wellman, noting that SB 5317 has companion legislation in the House of Representatives—HB 1216.

The bill would establish the School Safety and Student Well-Being Advisory Committee, located in the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Greg Lynch, Superintendent of the Bremerton Educational District, spoke in support of the bill, mentioning that 65 percent of Washington school districts are small districts that "struggle mightily" in these areas. Lynch hopes SB 5317 would build a network foundation that a variety of resources could be added to as they become available.

"This bill systems-wide focuses around building a foundation of supports through a state-wide network, from OSPI (Office of the Superintendent for Public Instruction) through regional school safety centers, and then to school districts and then to our schools," said Lynch. "It remains a critical shortfall in our state."

The fifth bill discussed would change first responder requirements to notify schools in a lockdown or evacuation situation. SB 5514 would require first responders to determine whether other schools in the area, including private schools, should be notified as well.

Sheriff's Blotter, cont. from p. 33

Jan. 12

Because of numerous complaints of drug activity in the Cedar Grove area, Deputy Wolfe was patrolling, looking for suspicious activity. He saw a vehicle westbound on Baker Dr. As the vehicle came up to Deputy Wolfe's location, it stopped in the middle of the road, started to back up, and struck a mailbox. Deputy Wolfe stopped the car. The driver demanded to know why he was being stopped. Deputy Wolfe advised him he had run into a mailbox. A check on the vehicle showed that the registration had expired in 2015 and had not had the title transferred. The driver had neither a valid driver's license, nor insurance. In addition, the driver had several warrants for his arrest. Deputy Wolfe arrested the driver on the warrants, for driving with a suspended license, failure to transfer the vehicle title within 45 days, and also cited the driver for operating a vehicle with an expired registration and no insurance.

Jan. 24

Deputy Wiggins and Deputy Hill responded to a residence on Noble Ave. in Hamilton, regarding a domestic situation. When they arrived, they determined that a female at that location had threatened to run over her boyfriend. Later she had found her boyfriend in a shed on the property and attempted to run her car through the shed, thinking her boyfriend was inside the shed. Luckily, the boyfriend had walked out the back of the shed before the car struck the shed. The suspect was arrested for 2nd degree assault and taken to Skagit County Jail.

Jan. 26

At approximately 11 a.m., Skagit County Sheriff's Office responded to the 29000 block of Lyman Hamilton Rd., near Sedro-Woolley for a report of a 28-year-old male armed with a machete, threatening subjects inside the residence. When deputies arrived, they were able to safely remove two female subjects from the residence, but were unable to get a response from the male suspect. Hostage negotiators consisting of law enforcement officers from Mount Vernon Police, Sedro-Woolley Police, Burlington Police and Skagit County Sheriff's Office responded. After continued lack of response, Skagit County Sheriff's Office High Risk Team responded. By way of successful negotiations, the male subject surrendered at approximately 2:45 p.m. He was arrested for felony harassment and booked into the Skagit County Community Justice Center.

Jan. 14

Deputies responded to a possible overdose on Baker Loop Rd. in Cedar Grove. Upon arriving at the scene, the aid crew advised deputies that they were transporting a subject for a possible overdose of an unknown drug. There was no crime committed.

Jan. 17

Deputy Esskew stopped a vehicle in Cedar Grove near Baker Dr. for failure to stop at a stop sign. The driver had a felony warrant for possession of a controlled substance (drugs). The driver was arrested and taken to jail.

Jan. 23

While investigating a report of dumped garbage, Deputy Bryan Clark found a truck parked at the end of Utopia Rd. Sitting in the truck was a male who appeared to be passed out. Deputy Clark tried several times to wake the subject, but was unable to get a response. He finally opened the door and shook the male. The

male finally regained consciousness, but was disoriented. On the seat next to the subject was a drug pipe. When questioned, the male admitted the pipe was his, then reached into his pocket and took another one out that contained a white powder that was later tested as methamphetamine. The driver was referred for possession of drugs.

—Compiled by Sgt. Greg Adams



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Smile



Driver behind: "Come on! What's the matter with you?"
Exasperated driver ahead: "Oh, I'm well, thanks, but my engine's dead."
— § —
Mama: "Didn't I tell you not to go out with perfect strangers?"
Daughter: "But Mother, he isn't perfect."
— § —
Orator: "We must change status quo!"
Citizen: "What's status quo?"
Orator: "That, son, is Latin for the mess we're in."
— § —
Joe: "Doctor, I don't smoke, drink, or chase around with women. Will I live 100 years?"
Doctor: "No, but it will probably seem like it."
— § —
She: "I like your husband's new suit, dear."
Her: "It isn't a new one."
She: "Well, something is different."
Her: "Yes, but it's a new husband."

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

"The state tells us we 'must' finance a sewer in the next year. It will require tax money, perhaps more than many can afford. The town merchants, planning for greeting spring with remodeling and fresh paint, will be needing the money to do the job. So will those who plan to paint and upgrade the exteriors of their homes in an atmosphere that will make the effort lasting. And, as we stated before, all this in a time when a big gamble has been made with both the future of the town and of the entire Upper Valley."
—January 22, 1969

"We think the reason fat people are so jolly is because they are like Will Rogers. They never saw a calorie they didn't like."
"Shock value seems to be the test of entertainment, with anything morally objectional rated as brilliant and meaningful. The fault in performance is that the groups who take off clothes and scream obscenities have neither talent nor intelligence to be anything but themselves."
"In England the police say they are losing in the war on crime. Same over here, mainly because the lawbreakers are better paid and have more legal fringe benefits."
—January 15, 1969

"Now that both Johnson and Humphrey have gone into teaching, we can assume that politics does prepare a person for something useful."
—Feb. 5, 1969



Crossword: "Roadside Attractions"

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. Drive
 - 5. Zambian monetary unit
 - 11. Cartridge holder
 - 14. Close, as an envelope
 - 15. More icy
 - 16. Helm heading
 - 17. Yellowstone sights
 - 20. Canny
 - 21. Drivel
 - 22. Judge
 - 23. Elastic suspender
 - 26. Absorb, as a cost
 - 27. Kashmir clan
 - 30. Organic compound
 - 32. Word on a gift tag
 - 35. Enter uninvited
 - 38. Cleaning cabinet supplies
 - 40. Penn. is one
 - 41. 1956 Elvis song
 - 44. Possessive pronoun
 - 45. Riding the waves
 - 46. Pacific
 - 47. Minus
 - 49. Twisted one
 - 51. Start of North Carolina's motto
 - 52. Pulitzer Prize-winning play
- Down**
- 1. Fed. agency
 - 2. Authentic
 - 3. Busey
 - 4. Antlered animal
 - 5. Village of huts
 - 6. Nun's wear
 - 7. Band aid
 - 8. Smoke
 - 9. Mother of Ares
 - 10. Appeared
 - 11. Gets through
 - 12. Partner of odds
 - 13. Cape
 - 18. Busy bee in Apr.
 - 19. One of seven branches
- Across**
- 54. Tolls slowly
 - 57. Trifle
 - 60. Not paleo-
 - 61. College frat.
 - 64. Quaint stopover
 - 68. Brouhaha
 - 69. Spiny-finned fish
 - 70. Eastern military rank
 - 71. Scrape
 - 72. Accompany to a party
 - 73. 1992 Robin Williams movie
- Down**
- 23. Wild ox
 - 24. Forget
 - 25. Kind of bean
 - 27. Aught
 - 28. Mountain ridge
 - 29. Divorced woman
 - 31. Albanian currency
 - 33. Pizzeria fixtures
 - 34. Donnybrook
 - 36. Mom-and-pop grp.
 - 37. Recipe abbr.
 - 39. ____-wolf
 - 42. Need a bath badly
 - 43. Smelter input
 - 48. Part of the Hindu trinity
 - 50. Plywood layer
 - 53. Bit of color
 - 55. Smallest
 - 56. Dusty planet in Star Wars
 - 57. Way up the mountain
 - 58. Word processor command
 - 59. Tumults
 - 61. Palm starch
 - 62. Far from ruddy
 - 63. Terminal info
 - 65. "Monty Python" aier
 - 66. Guanabara Bay city
 - 67. Lucrative

Sudoku

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

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

*Solutions to both puzzles are on p. 39.

Funny as Facebook

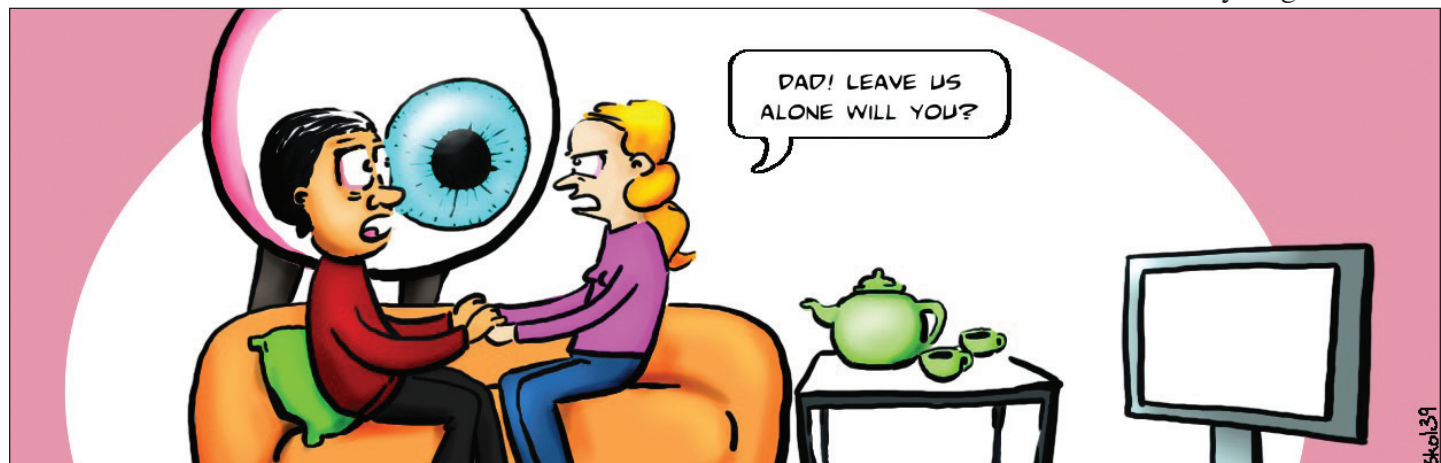
The following funnies were pulled verbatim from Facebook status updates in January:

- "I did not respond in the Facebook comments section today. I feel like I've reached adulthood status. Is there brownies here? Cookies?"
- "There is a special place in hell for people who take off their shoes on a plane."
- "This was a bad day to start a drinking game in which I take a shot every time I hear the words 'Howard Schultz.'"

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Tough as Nails, cont. from p. 9

to see the great things he will offer the world.

Tyler Nevin is the definition of an athlete. He is highly competitive, confident in his abilities, and makes everyone better at practice. Tyler is incredibly coachable and is a guy that opposing coaches spend hours game-planning for. I have valued his willingness to do whatever he can for the team.

Tyler Coffell has been a competitor and team captain that coaches dream about. He leads the team in steals, 3-point percentage, and free throw percentage. He will do whatever is asked of him, fight for loose balls, and will be the first to sprint over to an opponent on the floor and help them up. He is a class act, and his leadership and character will be missed. He is going to be a great man and community member, and I feel very fortunate to have been able to coach him and learn from his selflessness.

Dalton Newby is our other team captain who prides himself on outworking people. Not only does he show up early and stay late, he takes time to help teach and coach techniques that we work on in practice to the younger guys. He is always analyzing the game and constantly checks in with me about things he is seeing on the court. He is third on the team in scoring and first in assists. He is a fearless leader and



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I know he is going to do amazing things. The program will miss his leadership. If he so chooses, he will make a great coach one day.

A special thank you to the athletes for their work and the community for the support.

Push and Pull, cont. from p. 11

Frockt, D-Seattle, who sponsored the bills. In the digest for the legislation, in cases where the source of a weapon could be determined in a school shooting, 85 percent were obtained from a friend, a relative, or at home.

The updated legislation allows extreme risk protection orders to be served against individuals under the age of 18 and requires the parent or guardian to be notified of their legal obligation to secure any firearms on the premise. It will also increase the penalty for violations of the orders to a Class 3 felony on the second violation instead of the third.

In addition to already introduced legislation, Jinkins said voters can look out for bills regulating firearms in childcare settings and local regulation of firearms, which should come through the committee in coming weeks.

Republican proposal would outlaw state database on gun transfers

By Emma Scher
WNPA Olympia News Bureau

During the week of Jan. 21, the public weighed in on a proposed law that would prohibit the state from accumulating pistol transfer applications containing personal information.

House Bill 1024 would prohibit the state Department of Licensing from storing records related to pistol sales and ownership transfers in its online database. Under the bill, firearms dealers would no longer send applications to the state licensing department and law enforcement agencies would no longer have access to that agency's database.

Bill sponsor Rep. Jim Walsh, R-Aberdeen, said the proposed law addresses both privacy rights and Second Amendment protections. He said he thinks both issues are of equal importance. "The problem that we've got is that

state agencies never delete anything and they aggregate it over years—personal information that most people don't want them to have." Walsh said. "It makes them targets for hackers and agencies."

Last year the Department of Licensing faced criticism after *The Seattle Times* reported agency officials provided personal information to immigration officials.

House Civil Rights and Judiciary Committee Chairwoman Laurie Jinkins, D-Tacoma, said that she was not supportive of the bill, and that although Democrats haven't discussed their thoughts on the bill yet, she doesn't anticipate it to generate support.

"There's certainly privacy issues around it, but I think the fundamental issue has to do with public protection, and the state having said not once but twice that they want the background-check system to work as robustly as possible," Jinkins said.

Processing pistol transfer applications is a manual process, and there are currently

Museum, cont. from p. 32

the railroad extended its line to Rockport, the settlement often called Sauk Station, or simply Sauk, began to flourish and included a depot, shingle mill, post office, and a general store, opposite the old Sauk City.

Those early years in the Skagit Valley saw many communities built, only to be destroyed by fires or floods. During the same era when fires wiped out Sauk City numerous times and destroyed much of the Town of Concrete, Sauk's fate was easily foretold. On the afternoon of May 14, 1924, a fire consumed the mill and spread to the adjoining dry kilns, the hotel, store and post office, several homes, three garages, a blacksmith shop, two Great Northern boxcars, and 30,000 bundles of shingles. In two hours the entire community of 100 people was wiped out. The fire of 1924 was followed

a half-million applications backlogged. If passed, the Department of Licensing expects to save \$451,000 in expenditures related to processing the applications, according to the bill's fiscal note.

Currently, individuals buying or selling pistols are required by law to fill out a transfer application and submit it to the state licensing agency.

Initiative 1639, a ballot measure concerning firearms that was approved by voters in November, established similar requirements for the sales or transfers of semiautomatic assault rifle applications.

Stephen Paolini, campaign manager for I-1639, said he thinks that there is a clear interpretation of what voters want from policymakers, and that this bill would be a step backward.

Initiative 1639 "really is a strong indicator that voters want their representatives to continue moving forward on the background check system," Paolini said. "To then say okay, we're gonna remove that or take a step backwards is pretty antithetical."

by repeated stages of high waters. The town of Sauk never recovered.

Later generations placed Sauk at the area a mile north, around the former Ed McGovern Store, which was built a little distance downriver from the old town on higher ground. This area is now considered the center of the area now known as "Sauk." That building was later converted into a private residence that still stands. At some point the post office was moved to the McGovern Store on higher ground, but was later closed in 1943 when the postal function was transferred to Rockport.

The museum is now closed for the winter, but special tours may be arranged by calling/emailing 360.853.8347 (jboggs@washingtonpost.com) or 360.982.0423 (autohistory@hotmail.com).

—John Boggs

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site at www.townofconcrete.com. These forms must be completed each year, once a year, to remain on the Small Works Roster.

Published in *Concrete Herald* February 2019.
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Sudoku solution

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

Crossword solution

1	U	R	3	4	E	5	K	W	7	A	8	C	H	10	A	P	12	13
14	S	E	A	L	15	R	I	M	I	E	R	16	E	N	E			
17	P	A	R	K	18	C	A	M	P	G	R	O	19	U	N	D	S	
20	S	L	Y	21	P	A	P	22	A	S	S	E	S	S				
23	G	A	L	L	24	U	S	25	E	A	T							
27	N	A	G	28	E	N	O	30	F	R	O	31						
32	I	R	U	33	P	34	L	Y	E	S	35	A	V	E				
36	H	E	A	R	T	B	37	R	E	A	K	H	38	O	T	E	L	
39	I	T	S	40	A	S	E	A	41	S	E	R	E	N	E			
42	L	E	S	43	P	E	R	V	44	E	S							
45	W	I	T	46	K	N	E	L	L	S								
47	T	R	I	V	I	A	48	N	E	O	49	S	A	E				
50	B	E	D	A	N	D	51	B	R	E	A	K	52	F	A	S	T	
53	A	D	O	54	G	O	B	I	E	S	55	A	G	H	A			
56	R	O	W	57	E	S	C	O	R	T	58	T	O	Y	S			

Washington Woodland Cooperative invites you to its annual community celebration and Pig roast potluck.

The event is planned for Sat., March 2, from noon to 4 p.m., at the woodbank location, 7628 Russel Rd. in Birdsview, across SR 20 from Grandy Creek Grocery.

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