

Concrete Herald

The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley

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50 cents

Clear Lake • Sedro-Woolley • Lyman • Day Creek • Punkin Center • Hamilton • Birdsvew •

• Darrington • Corkindale • Marblemount • Bullerville • Newhalem • Diablo

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Other voices

Hometown newspapers keep a close eye on legislators

By Patrick Grubb

In 1869, the Daily Cleveland Herald quoted lawyer John Godfrey Saxe as saying, “Laws, like sausages, cease to inspire respect in proportion as we know how they are made.” That saying, or variants of it, have been repeated so often that it has become accepted knowledge. The fact is, though, the more we know about the origin and development of laws, the better off we are. Bad laws get created in back rooms, through undisclosed emails, riding on golf carts and over drinks at the country club bar. Good laws are created in the open and under the gaze of the public.

We all know how money influences elections and politicians, how a scratch on the back here eases an itch on a back there. Human nature being what it is, this is the world we live in.

And that being the case, it is good news indeed that the Washington Supreme Court upheld in a 7-2 vote on December 19 that individual state legislators are subject to the Public Records Act and must disclose records such as calendars, staff complaints, and emails from lobbyists etc. upon request from members of the public.

The decision came as a result of a lawsuit filed by a coalition of media organizations in 2017. The coalition, led by the Associated Press and the Seattle Times, included the Washington Newspaper Publishers Association (WNPA). The judge in that case, Thurston County Superior Court Judge Chris Lanese, ruled in January 2018 that the records of individual Washington state lawmakers are subject to public records law. Not only did the legislature appeal that decision, it also rammed through a bill in 48 hours that would have exempted its members from the Public Records Act.

The bill was vetoed by Governor Jay Inslee after he received close to 20,000 emails, calls and letters from the public after the media raised a ruckus. Another bill proposed by Democratic lawmakers was withdrawn in 2019 after being subjected to withering criticism.

The continuing efforts of lawmakers to escape public scrutiny obligates the media to keep a close eye on Olympia to make certain they don’t once again try to pass one over us. The WNPA has two legislative reporter interns, Cameron Sheppard from Washington State University and Leona Vaughn from University of Washington, beginning next week who will be our watchdogs during the session.

Although the Public Records Act could stand some improvement, it still allows the public a window into the machinery of lawmaking and that is a good thing. Just like we want to know what’s in the sausages we’re eating, we should know what’s behind the laws that are being passed in our names.

Patrick Grubb is president for Washington Newspaper Publishers Association.

Opinion

Letters to the editor

County should improve plowing

Every year it’s the same puzzle: How does Skagit County have plenty of money to spray carcinogenic Roundup on all of us people and animals throughout the county multiple times a year, and yet has apparently no ability to clear the East County roads of snow?

Living in one of the least populated sections upriver, we expect to be last when it comes to priority. But every major snowfall a full week comes and goes and there is no relief. The situation creates hassle and life-threatening hazard at the same time it encourages the criminals among us.

It makes me wonder if life would have been different if our residents had approved the restructuring of county government through the charter effort. Maybe the county would not have continued to be operated like a petty fiefdom.

Lynn McMillan
Concrete

Watch the trial: It’s our duty

The Founding Fathers risked execution for treason to establish a new country led not by a king but by a president elected by U.S. citizens in free and fair elections. Since that time, members of our military have been killed and wounded in wars across the world to protect that right. We owe them for those sacrifices. I think it is the civic duty of every U.S. citizen to exercise our right to vote.

To protect our republic, included in the U.S. Constitution is a process by which to impeach a president if it ever becomes necessary. Now President Trump has been impeached by the U.S. House of Representatives for abuse of power for withholding military assistance from an

ally for his own personal gain in the 2020 election, and for abuse of Congress by withholding from the House witnesses and documents, even though it is an equal branch of government. Now these accusations are being tried in the U.S. Senate, where senators will act as both judges and jurors.

The full proceedings of the House impeachment, akin to a legal grand jury investigation, have already been televised and broadcast. Now the Senate trial has begun. It is still being determined how much of those proceedings will be made public. In my opinion, in order to cast an informed vote in November, all citizens should feel obliged to watch and learn, with an open mind, from these proceedings as much as possible. We should hope that senators of both parties are able to set aside partisanship to do the same. That’s the only way that President Trump’s innocence or guilt can be truly evaluated. We owe that to those who have risked life and limb to give us our free and fair elections.

Gail Nicolls
Guemes Island

Critical environmental protections are on the chopping block

As I wrote the river cleanup story for

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 first and last names and town or community for publication, plus a daytime telephone number for confirmation purposes. *Concrete Herald* reserves the right to edit letters for length, clarity, accuracy, spelling, grammar, and potentially libelous statements.

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this issue of *Concrete Herald*, the Trump administration officially finalized a rule to strip clean water safeguards from streams and wetlands all over the country. This means property developers can dump pollutants into waterways and fill in critical wetlands for construction projects.

These protections have been in place for decades, and this rule puts our drinking water at huge risk of contamination. This change will be implemented in 60 days.

Trump also just gutted the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)—the laws that require federal agencies to allow the public to have a say in major federal projects. And even more critically important environmental protections are lined up by the chopping block!

Please, if you care about where you live, and where others live, and yes, even where none of us live, stand up and make some noise. Call your representatives, write letters, and be a voice for our future generations.

There is no Planet B.

In solidarity ...

Christie Fairchild
Rockport

Corporations can contribute

I’m heartened that numerous companies are leading the way in mitigating climate change. Thousands are becoming certified

B-Corporations, raising the standards for treatment of workers and the environment. Thanks to these business leaders who are using their profit to help heal our planet. Notably, the outdoor company Patagonia manufactures many of its clothes from recycled or organic materials, and has donated millions of dollars to environmental organizations.

Some companies still have a ways to go. Cargill, in particular, has caused alarming deforestation to meet its palm oil supply needs. I call on Cargill, Pepsico, and other major corporations to commit to sourcing their palm oil from certified sustainable suppliers. I encourage them to mitigate their ecological impacts by investing in regenerative agriculture and providing grants to farmers to adopt more “carbon-farming” techniques like cover-cropping, no-till, and rotational grazing.

Finally, Cargill and others, please begin composting and recycling in all company buildings, and purchase carbon offsets or renewable energy credits to cover your remaining energy footprint. With some effort, global business practices can help regenerate ecosystems.

For the sake of a viable future economy (and a livable planet), it’s time that companies take responsibility for their impact. Customers like myself expect nothing less.

Rebecca Canright
Rockport

East Detachment Sheriff’s office announces regular hours

The East Detachment office for the Skagit County Sheriff (SCSO) will be open for set, regular hours to accommodate a variety of needs for Upper Valley citizens.

SCSO Records staff will be at the office located at 45672 Main St., Concrete, for fingerprint services and basic civil process paperwork. They also will help with cedar permits and other clerical issues for which Upper Valley residents otherwise would have to drive to Mount Vernon.

The “Neighborhood Mobile Office” began on Jan. 21, and will be open on the third Tuesday of each month from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Services include:

- Apply for or renew/replace your concealed pistol license.
- Get fingerprints for employment.
- Get civil questions answered.
- Offender change of address paperwork.
- Apply for cedar permits.
- Make public records requests.
- Pick up forms for civil process.
- File a nonemergency report.

Here’s the schedule for the next few months:

• Feb. 18	11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
• March 1	11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
• April 21	11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

—Chad Clark, Undersheriff
Skagit County Sheriff’s Office

Update:

Upper Skagit Library Foundation/ Friends

January 14 was an auspicious occasion for the organization. After many years of faithful service holding the organization together, numerous board members decided it was time to end their tenure and submitted their resignations effective at the close of that Board of Directors meeting. Those retiring members include Val Stafford, acting president; Becky Schmidt, secretary; and members-at-large Rob Thomas, Kevik Rensink, and Sharon Dillon. Prior to their terms ending, the outgoing Board of Directors accepted three new members to the board, which will allow the organization to continue and move forward into the new decade. By a unanimous vote of the directors present, John Boggs was elected president, Cindy Myatt vice-president, and Bill Pfeifer as secretary/treasurer.

The outgoing officers deserve considerable credit for updating

and handing off all the records and documentation. That paperwork, which is sometimes a chore to maintain, will permit the new officers a guide to aid them during this transition in leadership.

Expect some increased visibility from the organization as we reach out to all our current and past members. After a hiatus from book sales, the foundation/ friends have brought in the new year with several sales. Two mini-sales were at 5b’s Bakery and a larger one was at the Concrete Community Center. As the new president of the foundation (the umbrella organization over the Friends of the Upper Skagit Library—FOUSL), I wish to recognize the efforts of the dozens of Friends and volunteers who have once again banded together to organize these sales. While the stated mission of the sales is fundraising, promoting reading and literacy in our community is an added goal from which we all reap the benefits.

As the new Board of Directors reassesses our organizational goals and priorities, we’d like to hear from you. E-mail works best: jboggs@washington.edu. Planning will start soon for the annual meeting of the general membership in March—stay tuned.

—John Boggs

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Infrastructure projects update

By Chazlyn Lovely
Edited by Katy Tomasulo

Town engineer CRH Engineering in January provided Concrete Town Council with a quarterly update of current infrastructure projects. Following is a look at those ongoing projects.

Sewer infiltration and inflow (I&I)

Stormwater leaks into the town's aging sewer lines. Michel's Corp. completed phase one of the repair project, which addressed locations that could be repaired using the trenchless cure-in-place-pipe (CIPP) lining technique, last summer.

The town anticipates phase two—the “dig-out” phase—to be complete by the end of this summer. Phase two will tackle up to seven locations that cannot use CIPP lining as a repair method. Whole sections of pipe must be dug up and replaced because at some locations, the current pipe has split in half and become misaligned; if it were to be repaired similarly to phase one, the pipe wouldn't harden in a straight line and would end up blocking the flow of wastewater.

Lead engineer Cody Hart updated the Town Council on the project on Jan. 20, highlighting an area running from the parking lot of the Concrete Community Center to nearly underneath that building as the riskiest section in the project, as it contains the most unknown variables. Hart noted that this section would be placed under an alternative bid, meaning that its completion will depend on how much funding is left after the rest of the phase is completed. In the end, he believes that this second phase will solve “a majority of the remaining inflow and infiltration issues.”

Mayor Jason Miller reminded the council that they “aren't out of the woods yet. There's still too much wastewater

coming into the plant,” he said. “It's absolutely crucial that we get this project done before October 2020 and the start of the next rainy season.”

The project also is critical because it is a piece of the larger challenge faced by the town's beleaguered wastewater treatment plant and the sewer lagoon, which has begun the decommissioning process.

Sewage lagoon decommissioning

The decommissioning process for the town's sewer lagoon is currently in the planning stages. The town hopes that advertisements for bidding will take place early this year so that construction can be completed by end of summer.

According to the Dept. of Ecology's instructions, liquids and biosolids will be pumped from the lagoon and transferred to a land application site (a process in which biosolids are used to provide nutrients to replenish soil and other organic matter) on pasture land. The lagoon's liner will be removed and disposed of, and the area filled in with quarry spalls, dirt, and gravel.

The lagoon has been a sore spot for the town because of its inclusion (among other violations) in a Department of Ecology Notice of Penalty issued in June 2018. While the town appealed the penalty and was granted permission to pay only half of the fine so long as there were no further violations, a lagoon diversion in July 2019 drove the Dept. of Ecology to enforce payment of the full fine. The town maintains that the penalty was unfair, as the diversion could not be avoided.

Water storage/system improvements

This project comprises waterline

improvements, replacement of the existing Fir Tank reservoir with a 200,000-gallon concrete tank, and water source metering improvements. The project began in 2017 but has been suspended multiple times due to budgetary restrictions. The town received additional funding from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program in September 2019, and the current status of the project leaves the town in the re-permitting process with the hope of advertising for bid in February 2020 and construction in summer 2020.

The Department of Health is requiring these improvements, and they will enable the town to keep a record of water that leaves the system but is not consumed by residents in order to boost water efficiency.

Townwide metering improvement

Mandated by the Department of Health, this project will provide metered water service to all water system users currently under a fixed monthly fee. Two attempts were made in spring 2019 to acquire a contractor, but the town found prices too prohibitive. If approval from permitting agencies comes through, advertisement for bids can occur this February so that construction can be complete before the year's end. Once begun, the work will take approximately six months.

Main Street waterline improvements, North Superior to A Avenue

This project was originally going to be grouped with the worldwide metering improvements project to assist in administrative costs. When progress on that project stalled, the town separated the two to make this one a more competitive

bidding prospect and decided to postpone work until after the metering project bid is received. Additional funding has been found for this project, and advertising for construction bidding is set to begin this month.

Secondary school access improvements

This project will connect the east end of Airport Way to SR 20, creating an alternate access route to the town airport and Concrete School District in addition to the current South Superior Avenue access point. This project has been pursued by the town for a number of years because it is unwise to have a single point of entry to critical infrastructure such as the airport and the entire Concrete school district in case of emergencies.

Engineering design is complete, and next steps include right-of-way purchases. Federal Highway Administration grants have been awarded to the tune of \$1.5 million, and town engineer CRH Engineering recommends the town pursue more funding from sources such as County Economic Development, the Transportation Improvement Board, and state appropriations funds, among others, so that construction can begin by 2021.

Park and Pine waterline improvements

This is a town-funded project that will take place from the intersection of Cedar and South Park Avenue, north to Pine Street, and then east, and will cross under Lorenzen Creek and head south to connect to an existing waterline near Robertson Court. The town has requested that the design phase for this project be suspended to accommodate funding limitations until review this year.

*Freelance writer Chazlyn Lovely lives in Corkindale.
Freelance editor Katy Tomasulo lives on Bainbridge Island.*

Birdsview writer teams with CHS grad for two children's books

Another Upper Valley children's book author has burst on the scene, cranking out two books in less than six months.

Birdsview writer Darla Lamb tapped Concrete High School grad Hannah Rensink (CHS 2017) to illustrate *The Grand Adventure of Ringo the Cat* (published August 2019) and *Wacky Jacky Runs the Ranch* (December 2019).

Inspired by Ringo, a “cabin cat” who liked to frequent the guest cabins at Ovenell's Double O Ranch, Lamb gave her feline protagonist an active imagination and had him roam from cabin to cabin, imagining himself as a different character each time, based on the name of the cabin. Cougar Crest Cabin transforms him into a cougar, Woodsman Cabin makes him a lumberjack, and so on.

Lamb writes lyrically, with loose rhymes and a friendly voice. She said the books are a natural outgrowth of previous work she'd done.

“I'd written a lot of stories in the past—silly stories,” said Lamb. “Writing was always a love of mine. Now that I have an empty nest, there's more time to write.”

Lamb said she approached Rensink to illustrate her books because “I knew she was a great artist. I saw her grow up, doing her art. And she drew exactly what I was picturing. She's just so good.”

Rensink said she jumped at the chance to illustrate the books. She's a 2019 graduate of Academy of Interactive Entertainment in Seattle, with a degree in 3-D animation and visual effects for film.

“I've always been an artist; I get it from my mom and dad. I've been drawing my whole life,” she said.

Success with *Ringo* led to the second book, *Wacky Jacky Runs the Ranch*, based on Helen Ovenell's social dog, Jacky.

The real-life Jacky “runs all over” and led to Lamb's envisioning Jacky's own adventure, which finds her riding a bull, butting heads with goats, telling the ranch hands how to do their jobs, and getting picked up by a Sheriff's deputy.

“It's a really silly book,” said Lamb with a laugh. It makes for a lighthearted life.” The two books can be found on Amazon and at Albert's Red Apple.

—J. K. M.

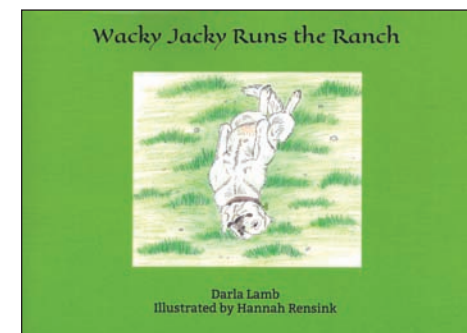
—J. K. M.



Lamb



Rensink



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DOC scoops up East County offenders

On Jan. 24, detectives from the Skagit County Special Operations Division assisted Washington State Department of Corrections Officers in eastern Skagit County by apprehending several of Skagit County's most harmful offenders.

SOD detectives and DOC officers arrested 18 subjects wanted on various charges, including felony assault, possession of a controlled substance, burglary, theft, and failure to report to Department of Corrections.

Five subjects were booked into the Skagit County Jail, while 13 subjects were transported to a Washington Department of Corrections facility.

SOD detectives also recovered a motorcycle that had been reported stolen from the Bellingham Police Department.

Skagit County Code Enforcement also assisted detectives by gathering information on chronic nuisance properties.

Inside Concrete town limits, three offenders from the residence at 45709 Limestone St. were taken for DOC violations; they were previous drug offenders who were violating provisions of their DOC supervision, according to an SCSO spokesperson who spoke with *Concrete Herald* on condition of anonymity.

“They were out on probation; they were all felons,” said the spokesperson. “SCSO assisted DOC by accompanying them to the locations and letting DOC knock on the door. DOC put the handcuffs on, and SCSO made sure nobody ran out the back door.”

Skagit County SOD is a multi-jurisdictional unit that includes detectives from Skagit County Sheriff's Office and the Mount Vernon Police Department.

Mardi Gras in Concrete is Sat., Feb. 22

It's party time in Concrete on Sat., Feb. 22 when the town rolls out its 14th Annual Mardi Gras celebration starting with a parade at 3 p.m. in Town Center.

The event is family-friendly and terrifically informal. Highlights include:

- Prizes for the best parade entries.
- Authentic Cajun food at the Lone Star Restaurant.
- Bake sale by the Concrete Heritage Museum Association.
- Live music and dancing in the street.
- Popcorn and coffee at the Concrete Theatre.
- Kids' easy-peasy craft activities.

Selected as this year's Mardi Gras King and Queen are well-known volunteers Dalton Blodgett and Cheri Cook-Blodgett. Dalton has lived in the Concrete area since 1988; Cheri moved here from Spokane in 1973. They follow in a long line of distinguished royalty: Sharon Feller and Tim Cooley (2016), Chuck and Annie Bussiere (2017), John "Peace Wizard" Bromet (2018), and the Steve and Corina Sahlin Family (2019).

King Dalton and Queen Cheri will lead the parade in a mule-drawn carriage, and set the tone for this year's event. The Royal Couple has the privilege of handing down a decree that must be followed by all townspeople during the celebration: "No possums or other critters will be harmed on Mardi Gras," proclaims the 2020 Royalty.

Everyone is invited to be in the parade; there is no entry fee. Participants are 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. Parade entrants should check in at 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

New Crosson book hits bookstores Feb. 8

Concrete writer Monica Crosson's next book will hit bookshelves on Feb. 8.

Wild Magical Soul: Untame Your Spirit & Connect to Nature's Wisdom aims to help readers "discover how to connect to the energy where you live and develop your skills as a healer, storyteller, and an advocate for the earth," to paraphrase the back cover blurb.

Publisher Llewellyn Worldwide says the book is "written for those who want to live in balance with the land once again ... this book guides you on a deep dive into the elemental magic of the wild places as you set your soul free and find your inner wild."

Making a name for herself

Crosson has come a long way since publishing her first book, *Summer Sage*, in February 2013. She followed her freshman effort with *The Magickal Family: Pagan Living in Harmony with Nature*, which spent four months in Amazon's Top 20 books on spirituality.

The prolific writer has several irons in the fire and is gathering quite the following in her field:

- She's a contributing writer for many Llewellyn Worldwide almanacs, date books, calendars and companion books. She's a contributing writer for *Enchanted Living Magazine* and *Witchology Magazine*.
- She's been called one of the new voices in the Body, Mind and Spirit genre by *Publisher's Weekly*.

Wild Magical Soul already has been acknowledged as one of the 25 most anticipated books for early 2020 in the "Witch" genre by *Patheos.com*. It already has spent one week at No. 3 in new releases in spirituality on Amazon, and was in the top 100 internationally on Amazon.

Crosson will launch *Wild Magical Soul* at PantheaCon in San Jose, Calif., on Feb. 15, where she also will teach a class on creating incense blends.

She plans to launch the book in Concrete sometime in March.



Crosson



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Concrete Chamber of Commerce News

At the January Chamber meeting, we held a discussion about the status of small businesses in Eastern Skagit County. Are there more now than there were five years ago? Are they profitable or struggling? What can we do to help?

Small businesses are the backbone of the community, adding to the quality of life for residents, making it more fun and convenient to live here, and increasing the resources available for public amenities like parks and trails.

We asked, what does it take to keep a small business thriving? "A second income," deadpanned one veteran business owner. "The ability to survive the winter without tourists," said another.

It's clear that businesses surrounded by a population of fewer than 3,000 residents have unique challenges. We know that when the North Cascades Pass closes every winter, traffic becomes a trickle, and some of our businesses have to rely more heavily on friends and neighbors.

Meeting participants talked about the importance of frequenting our existing businesses, and everyone agreed with that old theory, "buy local or bye-bye local." But it takes more than a campaign slogan to keep businesses in the black every month. We think it takes better marketing and stronger networking. That's where the Chamber of Commerce can help.

Starting in February, we're doubling our efforts to reach out to local businesses who have not been part of the Chamber before. One of our experienced staff members, Cheryl Weston, will lead that charge, with assistance from a Membership Committee, including Elizabeth Fernando of Java Zone and Sharon Riels of Seahorse Ranch.

The more business owners get involved, the more we can help one another grow and thrive. We'll have the ability to pool our resources and the power to problem-solve. Our goal is to create new ways to make businesses more visible and vibrant.

If you own a business anywhere in Eastern Skagit County, you are invited to join this initiative. Get in touch with the Concrete Chamber at chamber@concrete-wa.com, or call Valerie Stafford, president of the Concrete Chamber, at 360.466.8754.

The next Chamber meeting Thur., Feb. 13, at 11:30 a.m. at Annie's Pizza Station. Our March meeting will be held Thur., March 5, at 11:30 a.m. at Concrete Theatre, where we'll offer a special presentation on marketing and event planning.

—Valerie Stafford

Council summary

Concrete Town Council met for regular meetings on Jan. 13 and 27. The following is a summary 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. 13 regular meeting

- Department of Veteran Affairs representative Bob Garrison presented the town with a \$2,000 grant for the memorial markers at Veterans Memorial Park. These are to be placed at the bases of the cherry trees along the west edge of the park.
- **Public Safety:** Sgt. Greg Adams reported there were only 48 calls and no major incidents during December. He said he is working with staff in the GIS department on the report that will show when deputies are within the 10-minute response area. He stated he believes this is going to be a helpful report.

He also reported on the new online crime map. He asked that everyone take a look at that and let him know if there are any questions or suggested changes. He stated this map will show case numbers as well, so if there is a particular question on a call, they can look that up by case number.

Council considered a request from Gray & Osborne for additional funds for their work with the wastewater treatment plan screen and lift station improvements project. Discussion ensued regarding the overall project, which originally included the screen installation and lift station upgrades.

Clerk-Treasurer Andrea Fichter stated that because of limited funding, the town had to eliminate the lift station portion. She also reported the bid came in lower than anticipated for the screen, so there may be a small amount of funding left to complete a portion of the lift station work, but we will have to wait until the screen portion is completed. Fichter stated that she believes the request is justified and this firm has been great to work with. Council approved the additional funds.

Councilmember and airport liaison Mike Bartel reported that an airport lessee wanted to revisit the idea of an Airport Committee. Mayor Jason Miller stated that he believed this has been discussed and the council

did not want to pursue it at that time. He asked if that had changed and received a unanimous no from the council.

Jan. 27 regular meeting

- KSVU representatives Erma Baude and Bill Pfeifer proposed a resolution in support of the KSVU radio station, as well as a \$5,000 contribution from the town. Town Attorney David Day stated this would not be an allowed expense and would be considered a gift of public funds. He stated municipalities are under strict rules. Mayor Miller and Fichter discussed a possible option of using the radio station for advertising or announcements for council meetings, hearings, and the like, and then the town could pay the radio station for providing that service. This topic will be researched further.
- **Public Safety:** Deputy Esskew reported that he had attended the public meeting for the proposed shelter, and believes that meeting went well. He also reported on the first in office day for the East Detachment. He stated they only had three or four people come in, but believes the number will increase once the word gets out and people are more aware of the days and hours.

- **Historic Preservation and Landmarks Commission:** Town planner Marianne Manville-Ailles reported on a library proposal for some facade work to the building, and that it will need to go to the HPLC for historical review prior to completion. She also reported they may be wanting to install an awning of some kind, which will also need to be reviewed.

- Councilmember Thomas asked if an opening date has been stated by the library. Manville-Ailles stated that she did not have that information.
- Councilmember Bartel stated that 9,693 meals were served at the Concrete Community Center last year.
- The next Economic Development Commission meeting will be March 11 at 6 p.m., at Town Hall.

—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.

Community Savi

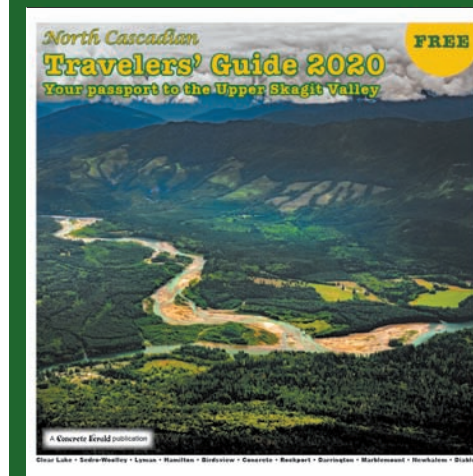
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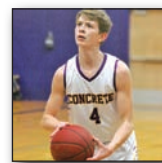
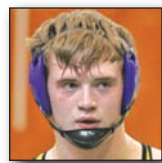
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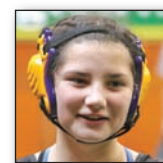
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Sports



Girls hoops update

Wrestlers begin march to state tourney

The Concrete High School wrestling team had a full January and now begins the journey toward the Mat Classic state tournament at the Tacoma Dome. District play is Sat., Feb. 8. The boys will wrestle on the home mats; the girls will travel to Squalicum High School in Bellingham. The top two wrestlers in each weight bracket move on to regionals. The regionals will find the boys in Kalama on Feb. 15, with the girls in Sedro-Woolley. The top five go to the state tournament in Tacoma, Feb. 21–22.

January matches

The team split three ways on Jan. 4, with heavyweight Hunter Olmstead traveling to Kent for the huge Gut Check tournament (Jan. 3–4), the rest of the boys at the Mount Baker Invitational, and the girls at the Woolley Women's Tournament in Sedro-Woolley. Olmstead dove into a 64-man bracket at Gut Check, made it into the quarter-finals (top 8), took a loss, scrambled up the consolation bracket, and ended the day in 6th place—an amazing performance at an extremely tough tournament.

January 9 found the team at Granite Falls, where they beat S. Whidbey 34–18 after giving up four forfeits.

The King of the Mountain tournament in Darrington had three Lions on the podium: Hunter Olmstead (285) at first, Robert Reed (138) at first, and Peyton Sanchez (182) at third.

Rainier High School hosted the Jan. 18 tournament. “A pretty rough day for most of the kids, but Hunter won heavyweight,” said Coach Jesse Dellinger.

On Jan. 25 in Kalama, Olmstead, Sanchez, and Reed again finished in the top 5, with Olmstead facing Sutton Moon from Kalama—yes, that Sutton Moon, the one who handed Olmstead 2nd place at State last year—who pinned him.

“Sometimes defeat gives you a little extra motivation,” said Dellinger. “We’ll



Robert Reed wrestles Eatonville's Giavani Uhls at the King of the Mountain tournament in Darrington on Jan. 11. Reed pinned his man and walked away with first place in his bracket for the tournament.



Hunter Olmstead wrestles Kaden Miller of Eatonville in the heavyweight class during the King of the Mountain tournament in Darrington on Jan. 11. Olmstead got the pin and the win on the day, taking first in his bracket.

see if that loss gives Hunter what he needs, because he'll have to wrestle [Moon] again at regionals, and then again

at State if he's going to win it.” The boys finished the month with two home matches, losing to Granite Falls



New wrestling coach

Former Darrington wrestler Elesha (Forrest) Holm is wearing purple and gold these days, serving as assistant coach to Jesse Dellinger, focusing on the Concrete women wrestlers.

The Darrington grad (DHS 2014) is no stranger to the limelight, with two trips to the state tournament under her proverbial belt. In 2013 she was Darrington's sole woman wrestler at State, making her presence known in the 112-lb. class and taking home an 8th-place medal. She was the first Darrington woman wrestler to medal at Mat Classic, and the only class 2B woman to medal. In 2014 she followed up with a 5th place medal.

“I'm very happy with her,” said Dellinger. “It's been a good fit.”

Her efforts are paying off: At the Lady Knights tournament on Jan. 25, JV wrestler Cadance Landsiedel (100) nabbed a 1st place, and took 2nd at the Jan. 4 Woolley Women's tourney.

42–22 on Jan. 28, and beating Friday Harbor 43–24 on Jan. 30.

—J. K. M.

By Kevik Rensink, head coach

With a week and a half remaining in the season, I am looking back, as well as forward. The players are going to finish the season strong—I have no doubt in that. They never quit, they give great effort in every practice and every game, and I am always proud of them. Playing competitive team sports brings out the best in us, and it also can bring out the worst. Our effort and attitude, the two things we have control over in every situation, define our character more than our best moment—when everything is going perfectly—or our worst moment, when it seems like everything is falling apart. It isn't fun losing games, and it is even less fun losing players to injury.

In January we lost Kylie Clark and Kendra Knuth for the season to injuries sustained in back-to-back games. The next night, Izabela Ramos suffered an ankle sprain in La Conner, and was out for a week.

These unfortunate injuries have been a major blow to the team, but the girls have responded in the best way possible. All season we have talked about how we need more players to step up and take on more of a scoring role, have confidence in their abilities, and take more chances. With all of our recent injuries, they have been forced to do that. Multiple players have stepped up and had career highs in the scoring column, and the players have really rallied around each other on the court. Our injured players have been there every day encouraging, teaching, and helping out in whatever way they can.

I love the way these girls keep fighting and competing. It is a testament to who they are, and they will be stronger as a result of our trials this season.

Ashley Parker has taken on more of a leadership role on the team, leading us in scoring multiple nights, including a career high of 11 points vs. Granite Falls.

Sierra Rensink also had a career high of 10 points at Darrington, and has had her best games in the last week.

Payton Dickinson remains a steady force, taking the ball to the basket and getting a lot of free-throw attempts.

Ebby Buchta is playing almost every minute of every game, as it seems she is everywhere all of the time.



Kylie Clark is a junior forward on the Concrete Lions girls basketball team, and received co-athlete of the month honors with teammate Izabela Ramos for December.

“Kylie is a great kid and a lot of fun to coach,” said Coach Kevik Rensink. “She works hard in the classroom and just as hard on the court.”

Kylie leads the team in scoring (14.5 points per game), and rebounding (7.1 rebounds per game). She also leads the team in 3-pointers made (16), free-throws made (40), and free-throw shooting percentage (62 percent).

Kylie is a leader on and off the court, and someone the girls look up to. After being named Athlete of the Month in September for her efforts on the volleyball court, Kylie is the first student-athlete to receive this honor a second time this school year, this time for her efforts on the basketball court.

“Congratulations, Kylie,” said Coach Kevik Rensink.

Andrea “Sweetcorn” Rogers has stepped in as our main rebounder, and had 16 boards the other night vs. Chemicum.

Hayley Daniels had a career high 13 points on the same night, and even Cassidy Smith is starting to shoot the ball more. Kelly Savage, an 8th grader who



Izabela Ramos is a senior forward and co-captain on the Concrete Lions girls basketball team, and received co-athlete of the month honors with teammate Kylie Clark for December.

“It has been a pleasure to coach Izzie these last four years, and see her grow into the responsible, dedicated, and courageous young woman she is,” said Coach Kevik Rensink. “She is quiet most of the time, and leads her teammates by example. She works really hard, makes very few mistakes, and always tries to do the right thing regardless of the situation.”

Izzy leads the team in shooting percentage (31 percent), as she is picky with her shot selections. She also leads the team with the fewest turnovers (16), as she is careful with the ball and her decision making. Izzy is a Running Start student, attending Skagit Valley College, Concrete High

has been on the JV team all season, has taken advantage of some varsity minutes, scoring her first career varsity points (3) at University Prep last Saturday.

As you can see, our players have not wilted under the circumstances, but instead forged ahead, and have embraced



School, and playing basketball. “Well-deserved, ‘lggy!’” said Rensink.

Kai Sahlin “has showcased all of the aspects of a student athlete that a coach and program could hope for,” said CHS basketball coach Levi Stewart. “His positive attitude, high character, and drive in the classroom is contagious in our locker room. He refuses to make excuses and is incredibly coachable. He improves with every game, and I cannot wait to see what leadership he will bring with his senior season next year.”

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

the challenges that lie ahead. The season is not over. There are still games to be played, and down-and-backs to be run in practice. These years, these moments, these players, remind me of why I continue to coach.

Athletes of the Month

Athletes of the Month: Kylie Clark/Izabela Ramos (tie), Kai Sahlin

Bigger than basketball

By Levi Stewart, head coach

With two and half weeks remaining in the basketball season, the Concrete Lions Boys' basketball team has had a range of games and experiences on which to reflect. While the final score of many games have not ended in our favor, there is much more to this journey than what the scoreboard shows.

Basketball is unique sport. Unlike baseball or football, the flow of the game is continuous. When a mistake is made, you are not given time between possessions or plays to collect your thoughts and analyze what went wrong. You are forced to respond and react immediately.

In this way, life is similar. In some of life's toughest moments, you rarely have the opportunity to gather yourself and examine your options. Often you are given two choices: Get back on your feet

and keep moving forward, or cower and hope you can hide from the adversity.

In both basketball and life, there really is only one productive option. This team has been blessed with some student athletes who simply refuse to cower in the corner.

I have learned more from these players than I have in any of my previous years of coaching. There is something incredible about a group of young men who play for the guy next to them. Day in and day out, our athletes have showed up to work ready to face trials and tribulations that may not be expected during a typical basketball season. And day in and day out, they are there for each other, both on and off of the court.

I recently read a great quote from Brad Palmer, the head boys' basketball coach at Atkins High School:

"Behind closed doors, more growth than a scoreboard could ever show is taking

place. I'll never wish away the struggle. It's where men are made."

The Concrete Boys have two home games remaining this season: Feb. 5 against Granite Falls and Feb. 11, our senior night versus Friday Harbor.



Jan. 10 brought the Darrington Loggers to town. Above: Devin Blankenship drives for a bucket. Top right: Levi Lowry does his best to stymie a Logger opponent. Right: Trevor Howard eyes his target. The Lions fell to the Loggers 60-42.



Editor's note: An expanded version of this article that includes the questions and answers discussed during the Jan. 22 community meeting will be posted at www.concrete-herald.com by 5 p.m. on Feb. 7.

At well over 100 years old, Mount Baker Presbyterian Church is the oldest building in Concrete. And if its leadership team and outside partners manage to chart its course successfully, it could become the town's first overnight shelter.

The idea for the overnight shelter grew from the church's membership and leadership, said Pastor Kevin Riley.

"The church decided to do it because it's what churches do," said Riley. "We recognized there was a need ... and we saw this as a way to concentrate on 'the least of these' in our community, and our Matthew 25 vision."

In Matthew 25 of the Christian Bible, known popularly as the "sheep and the goats" passage, Jesus describes people who claim to be righteous, and their actions (or inaction) toward people who are hungry, thirsty, strangers, naked, sick, or imprisoned. Those who minister to the hungry, thirsty, etc., are the "sheep" and "inherit the kingdom." But those who don't are "goats" and are cursed into everlasting fire. "Inasmuch as you did (or didn't) do it to one of the least of these ... you did it to Me," says Jesus.

Struggle to shelter

Efforts to create an overnight shelter in Concrete have met with less than stellar results. A hurry-up shelter in the town's fire hall last winter drew zero users. And Riley's initial conversations with potential partners last year also ended with no plan in place.

Enter Welcome Home Skagit, a fledgling nonprofit dedicated in part to serving the homeless community. Welcome Home grew from the Mount Vernon Seventh-day Adventist Church, where a group of likeminded people began meeting, working at the Friendship House shelter, and eventually forming the 501(c)(3) in February 2019. The Concrete overnight shelter would be the first shelter

A warm place to sleep

Concrete church aims to open overnight shelter for homeless people

for which Welcome Home Skagit is sole manager.

"This is our first on our own," said Welcome Home Skagit President Larry Paise. "But given we are using the established patterns from the experiences and lessons learned from [Friendship House in] Mount Vernon, it's not a novel experience for the county."

Funded by the county to the tune of \$100,000 for its first year, Welcome Home Skagit plans to serve as the overnight shelter's management. The county approved the contract with Welcome Home Skagit on Jan. 27.

"We have a lot of requirements for any entity that we contract with; they have to prove they can do what they're saying they can do," said Sarah Hinman, division manager for Housing & Community Services at Skagit County Public Health. "We were familiar with them; we've been working with them for a couple years."

The proposed shelter would open on Feb. 15 for a four-week trial period. Here's how it would operate:

- Hours of operation: 7 p.m. to 8 a.m. daily, with a late start on Mondays and Tuesdays.
- Signup (or "intake") would occur every day on a space-available basis, at Concrete Community Center (see schedule, p. 29).
- Entry is "low-barrier," but mandatory criminal history checks would be run on all applicants.
- No minors (under 18) allowed; hotel vouchers are available through Community Action (the Resource Center) for families with children.

Guests would be given a clean bed, a blanket, and a pillow every night. The shelter would have a minimum of two staff members on duty at all times. Staff would remain awake throughout the night. Random security checks would be made inside and outside the church.

All in favor?

At a Jan. 22 community meeting at the church, the three partnering entities

answered questions from about 50 attendees. Feedback was mostly positive, although one woman described her negative experiences with homeless people who use illegal drugs and said, "Not one of them is nice. They don't deserve" a shelter.

Another woman pushed back. "I think there's a false perception that because you're homeless, you're bad or more dangerous than the community at large. I have stood across the counter from many homeless people, and I don't feel more threatened by someone who is inadequately housed. Homeless does not equal dangerous. I see that fear, and it's false."

"We as a church truly feel that we've been called to do this," said Riley. "We feel we've been called to be a light in the darkness for those who are suffering, and to help create pathways out of their darkness. We take Matthew 25 quite literally, so we want to search out and become a community for the ones who are usually forgotten," said Riley.

For more information about the proposed overnight shelter in Concrete, go to www.welcomehomeskagit.com/concrete-project.

—J. K. M.

Public comment and public hearing

Mount Baker Presbyterian Church has applied to Town of Concrete for a temporary (six-month) conditional use permit, which will allow the church to host the overnight shelter in a residential zone. The application and materials submitted by the church are available at Town Hall.

Written comments regarding the permit application may be submitted no later than 4:30 p.m. on Feb. 7 to town planner Marianne Manville-Ailles at P.O. Box 39, Concrete, WA 98237 or townplanner@concretewa.gov. Comments also may be faxed to 360.853.8002.

A **public hearing** for verbal and written comments will be held during the regular Concrete Town Council meeting on Feb. 10 at 6 p.m., at Concrete Town Hall, located at 45672 Main St. in Concrete.

Anyone may request a copy of the council's decision by calling Town Hall at 360.853.8401.



The ground-floor fellowship hall at Mount Baker Presbyterian Church can sleep up to 12 people comfortably, said Pastor Kevin Riley. It includes restroom facilities and can be sealed off from the rest of the building, making it a suitable location for the proposed overnight shelter.



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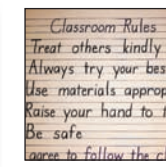
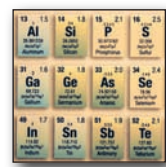
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Community Dinner
Concrete Elementary
School Cafeteria

Feb. 13, 4:30-6:00 p.m. Sponsored by the Skagit County Sheriff's Office
Feb. 27, 4:30-6:00 p.m. Sponsored by the Town of Concrete Staff & Town Council



Academics



YD update

For the first time ever, our four-day winter retreat to Leavenworth (a.k.a. Hotdoggin') was canceled due to "too much snow." Crazy, huh? A retreat that requires snow had to be canceled because of too much of the stuff! Even crazier: We had to make snow a few years ago because there was no snow in Leavenworth in January.

This was a major bummer to all of the students and staff who were planning to attend; we had 17 students signed up and four staff who were ready to take them on the snow adventure of a lifetime.

All of that will need to wait until Hotdoggin' 2021. In the meantime, we are planning other exciting adventure trips and retreats, as well as our weekly Monday night meetings.

The last Monday in January, we had an Ultimate Frisbee Championship game that saw volunteer staffer Emily Bridge snag the game-winning touchdown.

Other coming events in February include sledding on Sauk Mountain on Sat., Feb. 8, followed by an Indoor Game Night and an evening of Capture the Flag.

We are also preparing for the 30-Hour Famine in March, so there will be more to come on that next month.

Keep our high school students in your prayers, and don't hesitate to encourage somebody. Chances are, they could probably use it.

—Kevik and Marta Rensink
area directors

Concrete Resource Coalition



I hope everyone is having a good start to 2020.

This year, our coalition is turning seven! In the past seven years, the coalition has held 11 community trainings, led 15 parenting support programs, brought PAX Good Behavior Game to more than 500 children, organized the annual Concrete Youth Activity Day, collected 40-plus pounds of medications, taught LifeSkills and Second Steps to more than 300 students, sent 33 local middle and high school students to leadership trainings, and engaged more than 25 community partners with our monthly coalition meetings.

We do this work because we believe all children can succeed in life when the community comes together. Our work is driven by and for East Skagit County residents.

Research of effective community coalitions noted that the most effective coalitions had broad representation from their community. When researchers dug deeper, they found 12 essential sectors: medical providers, law enforcement, local government/tribes, schools, business, youth serving organizations, youth, civic groups, fraternal/religious groups, substance abuse/treatment providers, parents, and media.

As a coalition, we recently looked at what sectors are currently participating and noted clear gaps. We need representation from law enforcement, local government, faith-based organizations, local tribes, and parents. If you are interested in helping us grow and strengthen our coalition so we can continue our amazing work, please join us at next meeting on Thur., Feb. 20, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. in the high school library. Remember the words of Margaret Mead, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

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

February calendar

Feb. 7: Father-Daughter Luau, 6 to 8 p.m., open to all. Tickets: \$5 per person. Elementary School gym.

Feb. 13: Mother-Son LEGO Night, 6 to 8 p.m., open to all. Tickets: \$5 per person. Elementary school gym.

Feb. 27: Read Across America, 5:30 to 7 p.m., elementary school gym. Free admission.



Concrete High School students shared a rather unique win last October: They tied for first at the Skagit County Dept. of Emergency Management Sandbagging Contest. On Jan. 13, DEM Interim Director Hans Kahl visited CHS to deliver the team's impressive trophy, and paused for a photo with the winners. Front row, from left: Cody Carlson, Hunter Olmstead. Middle row, from left: Kahl, Anna Spangler, Alex Whitford, Georgia Gregush, Killian McCormack, Cohen Poolos. Back row, from left: Claus Joens (advisor/teacher), Kaitlynn Smith, Roberto Acevedo, Shawn Powell, Seth Martinez, Peyton Sanchez, Silas Cupples.



Congresswoman Suzan DelBene (D-WA) chats with 8th graders Destiny Gilbert and Ashton Martin during a visit to Concrete high/middle schools to learn more about the Concrete Boys & Girls Club. The congresswoman was given a tour of the club facilities by student Lane Lloyd, then sat down to a roundtable discussion with club members, club CEO Ron McHenry, Concrete School District Superintendent Wayne Barrett, Farm to School Program Coordinator Rachel Muia, and Town of Concrete Mayor Jason Miller.

"I feel like I can talk to staff members without them judging," said Gilbert during her remarks to DelBene. She said her message to fellow students is "Try it; don't listen to anyone who badmouths it." Photo by Tammy Findlay.

Town of Concrete accepting applications for AWC scholarship

Town of Concrete is accepting applications for the AWC Center for Quality Communities Scholarship fund. The scholarship is available for students who are actively engaged in their city government and/or community, and plan to attend post-secondary school in fall 2020.

To be eligible, a student must be graduating from high school or home school, or receiving a GED in spring/summer 2020; live within the Concrete School District boundaries; plan to continue their education at an accredited post-secondary institution in the 2020-

2021 academic year on a half-time or more basis; and have been involved with a city/town government or with a community/school leadership activity.

Information and application materials can be obtained at www.townofconcrete.com or cfqc.org. Completed applications are due no later than 4:30 p.m. on Fri., Feb. 28, 2020. Submit completed materials to Town of Concrete Attn: Andrea Fichter, P.O. Box 39, Concrete, WA 98237 (andrea@concretewa.gov) or hand deliver to 45672 Main St., Concrete.

—Andrea Fichter

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For more information, call 425.350.5988.



Community Dinner Concrete Elementary School Cafeteria

Feb. 13, 4:30-6:00 p.m. Sponsored by the Skagit County Sheriff's Office

Feb. 27, 4:30-6:00 p.m. Sponsored by the Town of Concrete Staff & Town Council

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Community Calendar



FEBRUARY

- 4 Photography Club at Upper Skagit Library, Concrete, 5 p.m.
- 5 Harry Potter Day at Upper Skagit Library, Concrete
- 7 Sign Language Club at Upper Skagit Library, Concrete, 4 p.m.
- 7 Father-Daughter Luau, 6 to 8 p.m., Concrete Elementary School gym; \$5 per person; see notice, p. 13
- 8 Deep Forest Experience, Rockport State Park, guided walks at 11 a.m., noon, 1 p.m., and 2 p.m.; see notice, p. 23
- 11 Storytime at Upper Skagit Library, Concrete, 11 a.m.
- 12 LEGO Club at Upper Skagit Library, Concrete, 3:30 p.m.
- 13 Community Dinner, 4:30 to 6 p.m., Concrete Elementary School cafeteria; free admission
- 13 Mother-Son LEGO Night, 6 to 8 p.m., Concrete Elementary School gym; \$5 per person; see notice, p. 13
- 13 Board of Trustees meeting at Upper Skagit Library, Concrete, 6 p.m.
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 14 Sign Language Club at Upper Skagit Library, Concrete, 4 p.m.
- 15 Deep Forest Experience, Rockport State Park, guided walks at 11 a.m., noon, 1 p.m., and 2 p.m.; see notice, p. 23
- 15 Grub and Groove, Marblemount Community Hall, 6 to 10 p.m.; see notice, p. 26
- 18 Sticker Club at Upper Skagit Library, Concrete, 5 p.m.
- 21 International Language Day Special Sign Language Club at Upper Skagit Library, Concrete
- 22 Deep Forest Experience, Rockport State Park, guided walks at 11 a.m., noon, 1 p.m., and 2 p.m.; see notice, p. 23
- 22 Native Plant Walk at Rockport State Park, 2 to 4 p.m.; see p. 23
- 22 Mardi Gras in Concrete, Concrete Town Center, 3 to 5 p.m. (parade at 3 p.m., starts at post office); see article, p. 6
- 22 Daddy/Daughter Sweetheart Dinner & Dance, 5 to 7 p.m., Lyman; see notice, p. 18
- 25 Storytime at Upper Skagit Library, Concrete, 11 a.m.
- 27 Community Dinner, 4:30 to 6 p.m., Concrete Elementary School cafeteria; free admission
- 27 Read Across America, 5:30 to 7 p.m., Concrete Elementary School gym; free admission
- 28 Sign Language Club at Upper Skagit Library, Concrete
- 29 Deep Forest Experience, Rockport State Park, guided walks at 11 a.m., noon, 1 p.m., and 2 p.m.; see notice, p. 23

MARCH

- 6-8 Hamilton Fire Dept. Bake Sale, 951 Petit St., Hamilton; see notice, p. 22
- 19 Free Day at Rockport and Rasar State Parks; no Discover Pass needed

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

Community meetings

Cascade Days planning meetings are held the third Mon. of every month, at Concrete Community Center, 45821 Railroad Ave., Concrete, at 5:30 p.m. Meetings are not mandatory for volunteers. Info at pr@cascadedays.com.

Christian Motorcyclists Assn Morning Star Chapter 39 meets the third Sat. 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 Friday 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 2 p.m., in the conference room of the East County Resource Center. 360.853.8347.

Concrete Chamber of Commerce meets the second Thur. of each month at 11:30 a.m. Meetings are held at Annie's Pizza Station in Grasmere Village. 360.466.8754 or concretechamber@mac.com.

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 Heritage Museum Board meets the third Wed. of each month, at 6 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. 24 at 6 p.m., in the admin. bldg., room 111. The board will hold its regular monthly meeting on Feb. 27 at 6 p.m., in the same location. 360.853.4000.

Concrete Town Council meets the second and fourth Monday of each month at Town

Hall, 45672 Main St., Concrete, at 6 p.m. 360.853.8401 or andrea@concretewa.gov.

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 Thur. of each month in the Pilots' Lounge at Mears Field in Concrete, at 7 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 meets the second Wed. of each month at the hall, at 6:30 p.m. 360.873.2323.

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 for a regular meeting on Feb. 10 at 7 p.m., at Cascade Middle School. A second regular meeting is scheduled for Feb. 24 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@upperskagitlibrary.org.

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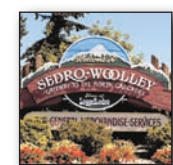
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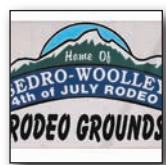
Concrete Elementary PTO meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month, at 5 p.m., in the Concrete Elementary School library.

For more information, call 425.350.5988.

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Sedro-Woolley



Banda captures Youth of the Year award

Paula Banda, who attends the Sedro-Woolley Boys & Girls Club, was named the 2020 Youth of the Year during a dinner ceremony held at Eaglemont Golf Course on Jan. 29.

Banda, 17, is a junior at Sedro-Woolley High School, where she participates on the debate team, orchestra, and band. She plans to attend Harvard University in pursuit of a career in Law.

Banda was awarded \$1,000 in scholarship funds, as well as the Cardinal Award for Club Excellence, which provides her with a two-year scholarship to Skagit Valley College through the Skagit Valley College Foundation. Banda also was named Youth of the Year in 2017.

Banda has been a member of the Sedro-Woolley Boys & Girls Club since 2012. She loves to participate in Keystone and SMART Girls. These programs give her the opportunity to develop her leadership skills while providing service to the club and her community, and modeling what it means to make good life choices.

The Youth of the Year program begins at the club level with preparation each fall that results in one youth being selected and announced at the Clubhouse Dinner with Friends events held in November. From there, the youths continue honing their skills through repetition,

workshopping, and a retreat held jointly with other clubs in Washington. These youth come together in January with hopes of being honored as the Organizational Youth of the Year and continuing on to represent the Boys & Girls Clubs of Skagit County at the state program in March.

Club members ages 14-18 are eligible to participate in the program, which equips youth with important real-world skills including resume preparation, essay composition, and speech development. They learn interview techniques, how to network in a business setting, how to plan appropriately to reach goals, and most of all, how to serve as a model leader to their peers.

The Annual Youth of the Year dinner is anticipated by stakeholders each year. Kids, parents, staff, donors, volunteers, and advocates assemble as they celebrate the ultimate outcome of the many Boys & Girls Club intervention strategies and programs: confident and competent young adults prepared to make the most of their lives and inspiring others to do the same.

To learn more about the Youth of the Year program or how one can give support, go to skagitclubs.org or contact Director of Operations Manny Smith at msmith@skagitclubs.org.

—Tammy Findlay



Sedro-Woolley Boys & Girls Club members paused for a photo with 2020 Youth of the Year winner Paula Banda at the awards ceremony on Jan. 29. From left: Sedro-Woolley School District Superintendent Phil Brockmann, Olivia Elias, Banda, Lauren Anderson, Logan Thompson. Photo by Sarah Arquitt.



2020 Youth of the Year winner Paula Banda and Boys & Girls Clubs of Skagit County CEO Ron McHenry were all smiles at the Jan. 29 awards ceremony. Photo by Sarah Arquitt.

Sedro-Woolley merchants bring you Concrete Herald each month. Please support them!



Emersen Wagner of Sedro-Woolley, a freshman at Sedro-Woolley High School, spent a week working as a page for the Washington State Senate at the Capitol in Olympia. Emerson, 14, was one of 17 students who served as Senate pages for the first week of the 2020 legislative session. She was sponsored by the 39th Legislative District Senator Keith Wagoner (R-Sedro-Woolley), who serves parts of King, Skagit, and Snohomish counties.

"Emersen was a fantastic page," Wagoner said. "She had a great time meeting new people and learning about the legislative process."

The Senate page program provides an opportunity for Washington students to spend a week working at the Legislature. Students transport documents between offices, as well as deliver messages and mail. Pages spend time in the Senate chamber and attend page school to learn about parliamentary procedure and the legislative process. Students also draft their own bills and engage in a mock session.

"Seeing how things work is really cool," Emerson said. "I liked being on the floor and watching what was going on."

Emerson is on her high school speech and debate team and enjoys working with special needs kids. She is the daughter of Rachel and Frank Wagner of Sedro-Woolley.

For more information about the Senate Page Program, go to: <http://leg.wa.gov/Senate/Administration/PageProgram>.

"Love that Train" is the theme for the annual Model Railroad Open House at the Sedro-Woolley Museum, 725 Murdoch St., on Sun., Feb. 9, from noon to 3 p.m. For railroad enthusiasts of all ages, trains will run nonstop on the museum's extensive model railroad layout, which includes passenger, freight, and logging trains. Videos on railroad history will be shown in the museum theater.

"Rails and romance" refreshments will be served. Each attendee may choose a free reproduction vintage Valentine and will receive a free kiss—chocolate, of course.

Raffle prize drawings for railroad enthusiasts and romantics will be featured, including A Basket of Love for Your Valentine, for which tickets are available in advance, as well as at the door. For information or raffle tickets, call the museum at 360.855.2390. All proceeds support the museum.



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Potential candidates should submit a cover letter and resume no later than **February 14, 2020** to:

United General District 304
Attn: Board of Commissioners
2031C Hospital Drive
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284

Interviews with selected candidates will be conducted in open session at the District's board meeting on February 26, 2020.

For more information contact: Ted Brockmann,
Superintendent/CFO, United General District 304.
360-854-7151 | ted.brockmann@unitedgeneral.org

www.UnitedGeneral.org

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Lyman



Flood threat prompts call for Corps of Engineers intervention

Late January rains swelled the Skagit River near Lyman, prompting Town of Lyman to request the Army Corps of Engineers to add buried bank armoring upstream of the 2018 Lyman flood site.

A flood responder was deployed to Lyman on Jan. 31.

The Army Corps of Engineers worked at the site for three days, nonstop, working at the site kitty corner from the cemetery where the houses went into the river a couple years ago.

For more information about the effort, contact Town of Lyman Clerk Debbie Boyd at Town Hall, 360.826.3033.

Red Cross shelter relocated to Lyman

Skagit County Dept. of Emergency Management on Feb. 1 moved the Red Cross Shelter, originally planned for Hamilton Baptist Church, to Lyman Elementary School.

The church location suffered a power outage, which compelled officials to make the change.

The Red Cross Shelter at Lyman Elementary School opened at 4:30 p.m. on Feb. 1.

Town of Hamilton was placed under a Level 1 evacuation as of 3 p.m. on Feb. 1, with 2 inches of water over South St. Residents there were asked to evacuate the area.

—J. K. M.

Charity announces coming events

Heart to Heart Charity Kids Club is collecting items for the charity's **homeless bags and shower kits** during February. Donations can be left at 8334 W. 3rd St. in Lyman on Sundays from noon to 4 p.m., when the library is open. Items include travel-size hygiene products like deodorant, shampoo, soap, conditioner, hand warmers, used towels still in good condition, nonperishable food items, etc.

On Sun., March 2, from 3 to 4 p.m., the charity will host a **homeless bag work party** that is open to the public, held at 8334 W. 3rd St. in Lyman, with the Kids Club kids. The charity needs backpacks, duffle bags, or even reusable grocery bags in which to pack items. These can be used if still in good condition. Also needed are books, puzzle books, small blankets, gloves, socks, and other items to put in the bags for those in need.

The **club meeting** will be held at 8334 W. 3rd St. in Lyman (behind the fire dept.) on Sun., Feb. 16 from 3 to 4 p.m. There will be a pizza party at this meeting to

celebrate hitting the goal of at least 2,500 lbs. of clothing donations for the Kids Club Clothing Drive.

KIDS Club is free for kids age 3 and older. Meetings consist of crafts and a snack, and the kids become involved in "Give Back" projects. We want to nurture a child's natural desire to help others. We are accepting donations of craft items, fabric, and snacks, if anyone wishes to help support this children's activity.

Daddy/Daughter Sweetheart Dinner & Dance fundraiser for Heart to Heart Charity will be Sat. Feb. 22, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Nate Beasley building (old Town Hall) at 8334 W. 3rd St. in Lyman (behind the fire dept.). A live DJ, a light show, a free 4x6 professional photograph, dinner/dessert, and 1 drawing for a raffle item are included in the ticket price. Tickets are \$40 per couple and \$5 each for additional daughters. For tickets and info, contact hearttoheartcharity@gmail.com or go to the charity's event page on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/486527598728699>.

For more information about any of these events, or to donate, contact the charity at hearttoheartcharity@gmail.com.

—Tammie Werner

Heart, cont. from p. 19

Structural heart disease

Structural heart disease involves problems with the structure of the heart, including the valves and arteries. Heart failure, for example, can occur when the valve that sends blood from your heart to the rest of your body no longer works properly. Surgery to replace the heart valve is one treatment option, but it is a major surgery and some patients aren't candidates.

"For patients considered at risk for surgical valve replacement, one option might be a newer, minimally invasive option called transcatheter aortic valve

replacement (TAVR)," said Steel.

Heart disease testing

Testing for heart disease can help identify problems early and may even save a life. Talk to your doctor about your risk for heart disease and whether an imaging exam or other screening test is an option.

Make 2020 the year you take care of your heart health!

Jerry Marschke is executive director for PeaceHealth St. Joseph Cardiovascular Center in Bellingham.



Geared up 2nd Amendment protestors gathered on the steps of the Capitol legislative building on Jan. 31. Attendees warned of the potential for forceful resistance against a "tyrannical" government. Photo by Cameron Sheppard.

Armed 2nd Amendment supporters rallied in resistance at Capitol

By Cameron Sheppard
WNPA News Service

Roughly 100 gun rights activists marched on the State Capitol on Jan. 31 and rallied in opposition to recently proposed gun regulation bills.

Matt Marshall, leader of the Washington Three Percent gun rights advocacy group, spoke to an excited crowd after announcing earlier this month he would run for the seat of House Minority Leader J. T. Wilcox, R-Yelm, after criticizing Wilcox's leadership regarding issues surrounding Rep. Matt Shea, R-Spokane.

Shea was expelled from the House Republican Caucus and stripped of his committee appointments after a private investigative report paid for by the House of Representatives and conducted by the Rampart Group accused Shea of participating in acts of domestic terrorism for his involvement with armed standoffs with law enforcement in Nevada and Oregon.

"Today closes my first month of fundraising," Marshall said to the crowd. "I am happy to announce that it is going to be a shock throughout the Republican establishment."

Joey Gibson, founder of the Patriot Prayer group, spoke to the crowd, praising Shea's willingness to stand up for the

rights of citizens in Bunkerville, Nevada, and Priest River, Idaho, when he felt the government had impeded their rights. It is alleged that Shea organized armed support to prevent the government seizure of firearms from a veteran in Priest River, and helped to organize and negotiate during the Bundy family's armed standoff in Bunkerville.

Gibson led supporters to the office of House Minority Leader J. T. Wilcox to demand due process for Rep. Matt Shea. An armed member of Washington Three Percent cursed Wilcox and called him a coward when he did not show up to address the marchers. The man yelled profanities as he made a gesture with his middle finger toward Wilcox's office.

Gun rights advocates wore tactical gear and carried assault rifles in front of the House Chamber as they spoke to the crowd of the need for resistance against a "tyrannical" government.

Meanwhile, resistance to gun regulations such as the voter-approved Initiative 1639 continues as county commissioners from Stevens County during the week of Jan. 27 adopted a resolution to nullify the initiative, claiming the regulations are an infringement on Second Amendment rights.

Nearly 60 percent of the state's voters approved I-1639 in Nov. 2018, which

5 things to know about heart disease

By Jerry Marschke

Can you name the leading cause of death among men and women in the United States?

You might think it's cancer, but heart disease is responsible for more deaths than all types of cancer combined.

Lifestyle factors such as diet and exercise may help lower heart disease risk, but many are linked to age genetics, or other factors beyond your control. In recognition of American Heart Month, we're sharing information to encourage you to become heart-smart.

Women and heart disease

It's a common misperception that heart disease mostly affects men. It's a major cause of death among women. In fact, certain conditions increase a woman's risk: gestational diabetes and pre-eclampsia—which are complications related to pregnancy—are two examples. Also, the hormone estrogen that helps protect a woman's heart can reach low levels during menopause and increase heart disease risk.

Women can experience different symptoms too. While chest pain is common among men and women, women can also have less obvious symptoms.

"Women often experience nausea, fatigue, and shortness of breath several weeks before a heart attack," said Dr. Kevin Steel, DO, a cardiologist with PeaceHealth St. Joseph Medical Center. "Since these symptoms are vague and happen with other illnesses, women may not recognize them as signs of something serious. That's why it's important to have preventive heart check-ups regularly."

Atrial fibrillation

Atrial fibrillation (AFib) is the most common cause of an irregular heartbeat and usually causes the heart to beat much faster than normal. A person with AFib is five times more likely to suffer a stroke than someone with a regular heartbeat.

People with AFib often take medicine to help prevent blood clots. However, medicines can have unwanted side effects, such as bruising or bleeding problems. In recent years, a new device called the WATCHMAN replaces blood thinners to reduce stroke risk.

"The WATCHMAN is a tiny device that we implant into the heart through a tiny incision near the groin, and then we guide it to the heart through a blood vessel," said Steel. "It usually requires just one night in the hospital, and for many patients who can't take blood thinners over an extended period, the WATCHMAN is a good alternative."

Heart failure

Heart failure happens when your heart can't pump as much blood as your body needs. It can have several causes, including coronary artery disease, high blood pressure, and problems with the valves. Your heart works even harder to pump blood, and your body tries to help by holding on to fluids. Eventually, this causes shortness of breath, irregular heartbeat, and weakness and swelling in your feet and ankles.

Treatments, including medicine, pacemakers to control the heartbeat, and surgery to repair the heart can help manage heart failure.

See Heart, p. 18



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Above: Rob Thomas gives this year's Penguin Dip a thumb's up as he emerges from the waters of Clear Lake on Jan. 1. The Concrete pastor is a regular at the event, but hasn't had much luck convincing his parishioners to join him.



Above: Kayla (left) and Kendra Knuth are all smiles, for some reason, after participating in the Clear Lake Penguin Dip on Jan. 1. The sisters braved the chilly waters and manageable air temperatures, along with dozens of likeminded souls.

January in pictures



Above: Monique Brigham (blue t-shirt) and Barb Thorp (red t-shirt) share a laugh after racing into Clear Lake for the 28th annual Penguin Dip on Jan. 1, this year hosted by Relay for Life Skagit County. Continuing left to right are Thorp's granddaughter, Kaydence (gray t-shirt); Abi Fergeson (red t-shirt); and Matthew Des Voigne (behind Fergeson). Thorp is activities chair, Fergeson is team ambassador, and Matt is survivor co-chair for Relay for Life. Brigham is event lead.

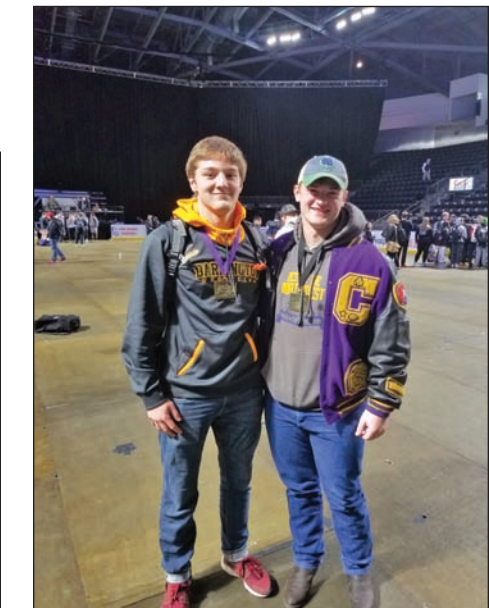


Far left: This young lady was full of juice during the Salmon Run 5K run/walk. Photo by Aaron Kramer.



Left: Outdoor enthusiasts kick off the Salmon Run, a 5K run/walk event that is part of the Skagit Bald Eagle Festival. The Salmon Run is held on the Ovenell family's Double O Ranch property. Photo by Val Stafford.

Right: Darrington junior Mikah Dewberry sinks yet another astonishing 3-pt. shot during the Loggers' match-up with the Lady Lions in Concrete on Jan. 10. The Loggers took home a win that night, 62-39.



Above: Logger and Lion. Darrington and Concrete wrestlers Johnny Franke and Hunter Olmstead traveled to Kent for the massive Gut Check wrestling tournament from Jan. 3-4. Photo by Tracy Franke.



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Council summary

The Hamilton Town Council held a regular meeting Dec. 10. Following is a summary of that meeting.

Dec. 10 regular meeting

- The evening began with a public hearing for the proposed 2020 budget. The budget is an increase of about \$40,000 more than the 2019 budget. The total budget is \$721,363. The operating budget is \$309,507. The various funds were described.

Tim Morrison expressed concern over spending money on code enforcement.

Patrick Benjamin, 500 Maple St., said that the town needs code enforcement.

Janet Koopsen, 518 Elm St., said she wants the town to enforce the RV

rules during flood events. She said that we need to remember that code enforcement and law enforcement is not the same thing, and the problems in the town need addressed by law enforcement, as the residents are not being voluntarily compliant, and suggested a team approach.

Discussion ensued about code enforcement, law enforcement, and town enhancement. Most people were interested in the account being labeled "Town Enhancement," and it can be used for community cleanup and other services as needed.

The public hearing was closed at 7:42 p.m.

- The regular meeting began at 7:42 p.m.
- Carla Vandiver suggested that the council position decision be made next month.

- Council approved Resolution 12-2019, a development agreement with Forterra, after changes to the agreement requested by Councilmember Perkins.
- Council postponed the hiring of a code enforcement officer until its January meeting.
- Councilmember Perkins will ride point on the Koopsen property and its entanglement with FEMA until the house is no longer flagged by FEMA.
- Jesse from the U.S. Census Bureau gave an update about positions for which they are hiring. Part-time jobs start at \$20.50 per hour. The census takers will ask residents eight questions and hope to get a good response, as the census numbers provide income to the town via taxes and other revenues.
- Donna Chipley asked to speak to council about her noncompliant trailer park at 700 Elm St. (California St.). She is asking for council to approve more time to have renters on a lot that is being occupied by people who are not the owner, which is against Hamilton ordinance. Council decided that the clerk should give Ms. Chipley until Dec. 13 to produce a legal purchase and sale agreement showing that the parcel is owned by the current occupants.

- Water rates were discussed. Council voted to approve Ordinance 348, 2020 Water Rates, with a 5 percent increase in consumption of water.
- Council approved the 2020 budget.
- Mayor Joan Cromley explained that the Skagit County Tourism TPA/ Interlocal Agreement will not need approval at this time. It is being

refined at the county level and will come before council at a later date.

- Council voted to name Councilmember Geoff Perkins as Mayor Pro Tem for the next 6 months.
- Water loss report reported a 3 percent unaccounted water loss. Scott Selin reported there a few meters that are old and need replaced.
- Streets update:* Scotty and Si have been chipping up branches and cleaning moss off the roof of the Town gazebo.
- Travis Patrick gave a fire department update. The county is providing us with a vacuum splint backboard at no cost to the town. They have one volunteer who recently completed EMT classes and she will need to get licensed by the state. The fire department will have its annual Christmas Party on Dec. 22 at 1 p.m.
- Mayor Cromley moved to the public seating. Discussion ensued about the vacant council position. Councilmember Kirkpatrick made a motion to postpone the appointment of the Position No. 4 councilmember until January. The motion passed with the stipulation that the town will not open the position for further applicants.
- Councilperson Perkins asked if council would like to discuss the development of the town Web site at the next workshop. All councilmembers consented.
- Council decided to cancel the workshop for December and have the next workshop on Jan. 28 at 6 p.m.

—Compiled from staff minutes

Rockport Bar & Grill not "just a bar"

The Rockport Pub is now the Rockport Bar & Grill, and it's not just a bar, says new owner Lacey Hoyt.

"We don't want to be just a bar," Hoyt wrote in an e-mail to *Concrete Herald*. "We would like to provide more to the community and we offer more services than some other places. So far we provide propane, ice, food and drinks to go, breakfast on the weekends, an ATM, and growlers."

The establishment pulled its spirits license last September and is working to add an espresso machine to the mix. Hoyt is trying to make more room and has been carrying local handmade items.

"My goal is to pick up local items such

as produce, jams, honey, and handmade items," said Hoyt. "I believe this can help the community thrive a little bit better."

The business has been a fixture in Rockport since the 1950s and almost closed in 2019—an unwelcome possibility after the Rockport Store closed several years ago.

"We felt it needed to stay open since it's been here for so long. It's a part of history," said Hoyt.

The Bar & Grill's new lease on life includes entertainment, games, and bands, and the new owners want to offer even more options.

"We might have small swap meets during the summer for handmade items in the area," said Hoyt.

"My goal also is to have more crafting events or fundraising events. I want to be open to host such things for people who need a place. We would also like to get input from the area to find out what people are looking for, what is needed, and options. We also purchased the properties

—J. K. M.

next to us on both sides so we can expand and offer different things in the future.

For more information or to send feedback and suggestions, e-mail Hoyt at rockportbar@outlook.com or call 360.853.8266.

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Catch-and-release steelhead fishery will not open on Skagit, Sauk rivers amid projected low returns

With low numbers of wild steelhead projected to return to the Skagit Basin, fishery managers with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has announced that the Skagit steelhead catch-and-release fishery will not open this year.

Only 3,963 wild adult steelhead are expected to return to the Skagit Basin this year from Puget Sound.

Wild Puget Sound steelhead have been listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) since 2007. When projected returns to the Skagit Basin are below 4,000 fish, the number of allowable impacts to those fish is substantially restricted, said Edward Eleazer, regional fish program manager for WDFW.

"When returns are this low, our management plan and the ESA permit require us to be extremely conservative with how these fish might be impacted by fishing activity," Eleazer said. "We have to minimize those impacts to ensure we meet conservation objectives, and to allow for other fisheries that don't target steelhead in the Skagit and Sauk rivers and Puget Sound."

Most of the steelhead returning in 2020 are 4 or 5 years old, and the low returns are likely the result of severe drought and low river flows in 2015 and 2016, as well as an unprecedented marine heatwave in the Pacific Ocean that negatively affected survival rates.

The Skagit Basin was closed to wild steelhead fishing for several years before reopening for limited fisheries on the Skagit and Sauk rivers in 2018 and 2019. WDFW worked with tribal co-managers to develop a fishery plan and secure an ESA fishery permit to reopen.

WDFW and the tribes continue working to recover wild steelhead, protect habitat, and remove fish passage barriers to improve survival in Puget Sound.

—Submitted by WDFW

Are you craving something sweet?

If so, join Hamilton Fire Department for its first annual bake sale. There will be tons of sweet, homemade baked goodies! There will be an opportunity to meet our members, and if you're interested in joining, we will have more information on that as well.

Join us for a great time at our bake sale. It will be held on March 6, 7, and 8, in front of our fire hall at 951 Petit St., and we will have signs pointing you in the right direction.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Deep Forest Experience returns to Rockport State Park

The popular Deep Forest Experience is back at Rockport State Park, held every Saturday through March 14.

No Sunday events are offered this year. The event is headquartered at the Discovery Center in the park from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays, with guided walks led by Don Smith or another volunteer at 11 a.m., noon, 1 p.m., and 2 p.m.

Admission is free, but a Discover Pass is required to park at Rockport State Park.

Native Plant Walk

Native plant expert Marlee Mountain will guide a native plant walk at Rockport State Park on Sat., Feb. 22, from 2 to 4 p.m., starting from the picnic shelter. Admission is free.

—J. K. M.

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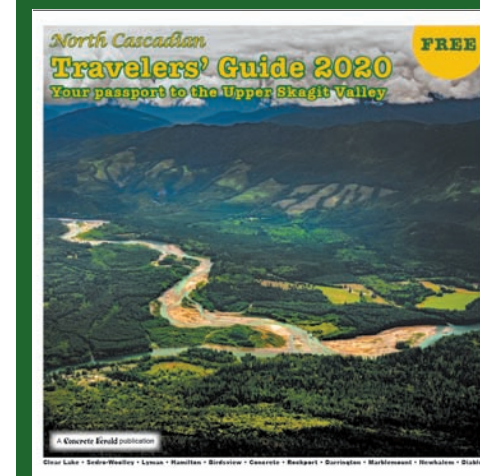
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Darrington



Council summary

Darrington Town Council met for a regular meeting on Nov. 13, and Dec. 11 and 26, 2019. The following are summaries of those meetings. Complete and council-approved minutes for every council meeting are available at Darrington Town Hall.

Nov. 13 regular meeting

- Three public hearings were held, for a USDA Rural Development funding opportunity for a new maintenance vehicle, the town's 6-year transportation program plan, and the 2020 Town of Darrington property tax levy.
- Marree Perrault presented on a prevention and community survey planned for Nov. 20.
- Council voted to participate in the national prescription opiate litigation, with Councilmember Kevin Ashe opposed.
- Council postponed a decision regarding whether Town of Darrington would continue to supply Narcan to law enforcement officers after Dec. 31, 2019.
- Councilmember Ashe attended the feasibility study for the Mountain Loop on Nov. 7. The popular option among attendees was an 18-foot paved roadway. The four options are to do nothing, re-gravel and crown the road, pave an 18-foot-wide road, and pave a 30- or 34-foot-wide road. This is funded through federal highways.
- Meters have not yet been installed on Glacier Peak, but the funding is there. Mt. Hood is getting meters installed; the local program is waiting to see how the Mt. Hood project goes, and to use its data and project plans to determine the best way to move forward.
- *Annexation:* The town is looking at bringing the cemetery and airport expansions into town limits. Council voted to approve the mayor to start the annexation process.

Dec. 11 regular meeting

- Councilmember Ashe stated that the Mountain Loop feasibility study is coming to an end, and would like the town to reaffirm its stance on the project.
- Snohomish County has banned plastic bags. Does Darrington want to do this? Councilmember Ashe contacted

County Councilman Nearing, who said that the county has not taken any action on a plastic bag ban. Councilmember Willis asked Ashe how a ban would affect the IGA. Ashe said that they would have to change bags. Paper bags are more expensive, so they would have to look into how to handle that change.

- Council voted to approve Mayor Dan Rankin as the representative to the Snohomish County Board of Health. The mayor will represent Town of Granite Falls, City of Arlington, City of Stanwood, and Town of Darrington.
- Citizen comment: Todd Ronning questioned why the county had not removed logs under the Sauk Bridge, stating they have piled up and are causing erosion at the banks.

Dec. 26 regular meeting

- New and returning councilmembers were sworn in: Kerry Frable, Billie Lee Burtenshaw, and Reed Rankin. Mayor Dan Rankin also was sworn in to begin a new term.
- Snohomish County Sheriff has discussed with town staff the potential for having a part-time sergeant contracted with the town in 2021. With the increase in the contract that that would cause, Councilmember Willis would like the town to investigate other law enforcement options. Willis said he would like to see a sergeant brought to the town, but he's concerned about the cost associated with a contract with the county sheriff. Discussion ensued.
- Council discussed other items in the 2020 budget, office and operating expenses, planning services, library, landfill, parks, airport, capital improvements, water, garbage, water reserve, cemetery, and more.
- Councilmember Ashe wants the council to entertain a resolution to make Darrington a 2nd Amendment sanctuary town.
- Council approved two change orders: one for the Mountain Loop Highway waterline project, and one for the Montague Ave. waterline project.

—Compiled from staff minutes

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

Snohomish County Sheriff's Report

Jan. 15

The Snohomish County Sheriff's Office recovered the body of a missing female near the 6300 block of Snohomish Cascade Dr. around 8 p.m. today. The body was discovered by someone walking in the area. The decedent is believed to be a 57-year-old female who was reported missing on Jan. 13. The death does not appear to be suspicious in nature, but is being investigated by detectives with the Major Crimes Unit.

Positive identification of the decedent, as well as cause and manner, will come from the Snohomish County Medical Examiner.

Jan. 28

A 31-year-old Sultan man was taken into custody following a carjacking and kidnapping in Sultan today. Around 4:10 p.m., deputies responded to the 35700 block of Mann Rd. The suspect, the 31-year-old Sultan man, grabbed the female driver, threw her to the ground, and stole her vehicle with a 9-year-old female inside. While driving, the suspect slowed, told the 9-year-old to "get out," and forced her out while the car was still slowly moving. Minutes later, the young victim was located by a school bus driver who reported seeing a young child on the side of the road in distress.

The suspect continued driving the vehicle recklessly to the 31400 block of Mann Rd., where he ditched the vehicle and attempted to steal a second vehicle from a nearby residence. The homeowner came outside and verbally confronted the suspect before pulling out a pocket knife. The suspect fled on foot and ran through a field, where deputies apprehended him at 4:30 p.m.

The 9-year-old victim was uninjured and reunited with her family. Deputies are actively investigating the incident, but believe the suspect and the victims are known to each other. The Sultan man was transported to the Snohomish County Jail and booked for first-degree kidnapping, first-degree robbery, theft of a motor vehicle, vehicle prowling, and reckless endangerment.

Washington State Patrol announced on Jan. 28 it had arrested seven men in Snohomish County during the course of several days as part of an operation identifying individuals allegedly involved in the sexual abuse and exploitation of children. This multi-day operation involved the Washington State Patrol (WSP), local Snohomish County law enforcement agencies, and several partner agencies.

Dubbed "Operation Net Nanny," this is the 18th operation spearheaded by the WSP's Missing and Exploited Children Task Force (MECTF), an Internet Crimes Against Children affiliate. Since the original operation in August of 2015, MECTF has netted a total of 294 and rescued more than 31 children across the state.

The names of the individuals arrested during the operation are:

- Nicholas Jerman, 25, Bellingham
- Eric Orth, 38, Bellingham
- Colin Wood, 31, Seattle
- Richard Rettig, 56, Monroe
- Anthony Scott, 23, Everett
- Kevin Pickett, 34, Arlington
- Michael Barbee, 21, Everett

Anyone with information related to the suspects listed, or information leading to the identity of victims potentially involved in these cases, is asked to contact MECTF at mectf@wsp.wa.gov.

Wrestlers working hard

"We've had pretty good success, kids placing high in all the tournaments we hit in January." So said Darrington High School wrestling coach Ray Franke of his young charges.

The team split its time last month at the Tri-State tournament in Coeur d'Alene, the Rubber Chicken in Kalama, Gut Check in Kent, The Rock tournament on Vashon Island, the Mount Baker Invitational, and of course its home tournament, King of the Mountain.

Senior Johnny Franke (195) took third at the highly competitive Gut Check, and second in the equally challenging Tri-State. Senior Lucas Reuwsaat (160 and 170) captured 4th at Tri-State.

The two seniors lead the pack in state rankings too. In the All Class category (4A to 2B schools), Reuwsaat is ranked 4th in the 170-lbs. class and Franke is ranked 2nd in the 195-lb. class. In the 2B schools

category, Reuwsaat is ranked 4th in his class and Franke is ranked first.

Should be an interesting road to this year's Mat Classic, said Coach Franke.

Other younger wrestlers have placed at the tournaments, said Franke, naming junior Darin Sedenius, sophomore Nick Requa, sophomore Landen Brown, and senior Richard Zinnato.

Freshman Aksel Espeland (106) "has been doing really well too," said Franke. "He's been placing at all the tournaments, and he's gunning for a first place."

On the women's team, returning powerhouse Laura Langer (145) leads the charge and is a strong contender for a return trip to Mat Classic this year. She placed 3rd at the Everett tournament. Langer is joined by Kirsten Holyfield (125), Amanda Brown (125), and Jamie Larson (140).

—J. K. M.



Johnny Franke puts the pressure on Julian Evan of Eatonville during the King of the Mountain tournament at Darrington on Jan. 11.



Lucas Reuwsaat pins Sedro-Woolley's Connor Davis at the King of the Mountain tournament in Darrington on Jan. 11.

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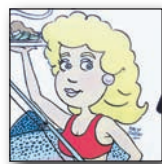
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Marblemount



Newhalem



Fun January at the hall

Marblemount Community Hall hosted exciting Eagle Festival events from Jan. 10–12. The lineup was excellent, with JP Falcon Grady, Dave Donahue, and Lisa Temcov. Andy Koch, clown and puppet showmaster, kept the children entertained, as well as some adults. These entertainers also agreed to perform at our Salmon Bar-B-Que on Aug. 2.

The entertainment was a hit; so too was the fry bread tacos, chili, and warm and tasty hot chocolate on that cold and this snowy January weekend. If you missed this event, you still can view a few eagles in the area.

Grub and Groove

What is it, you say? Grub and Groove started 8 years ago. Hosted by Terri Wild and Richard Lewis, it's home started in Rockport Fire Hall, then moved to the Marblemount Community Hall, where it now resides. The "grub" is a potluck that the community brings for fun and to get together. The "groove" is all kinds of performers, either playing instruments, singing, acting, or reading poetry. It is free to all and you may partake; the only "fee" is to bring something for the potluck. It is an open mic; however, you must sign up if you want to perform. You can come for community involvement, friendship, to listen, to dance or to perform. Grub and Groove brings everyone together for fun and friendship, and it is open to any age. On Jan. 18, it was one of the events

that was held only during the winter at Marblemount Community Hall. Two more Grub and Groove events will be held before summer break: on Feb. 15 and March 28.

For more information about Grub and Groove, call 360.853.7346.

The club

Marblemount Community Club holds monthly meetings on the second Wednesday of each month, at 6:30 p.m. at the community hall. Everyone is welcome to attend. Book a party, wedding, fundraiser or show; the hall's calendar is open with free Wi-Fi.

Calendar lineup at the hall

- Feb. 15: Grub and Groove from 6 to 10 p.m.
- March 28: Grub and Groove from 6 to 10 p.m.
- Jun. 27–28: Redmond Bicycle Group
- Aug. 1: Clark Family Reunion
- Aug. 2: Salmon Bar-B-Que from noon to 5 p.m.
- Aug. 23: Old Timers' Picnic from 1 to 4 p.m.
- Sept. 5–6 Sasquatch Festival from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days
- Nov. 21: Community event
- Dec. 6: Holiday Bazaar from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

—Syvella Kalil



Cherie Donovan-Smith and Tom Kallman perform during the Jan. 18 Grub and Groove event at Marblemount Community Hall. Photo by Richard Lewis.



Richard Lewis tucked into the good eats available at Marblemount Community Hall while it hosted Skagit Eagle Festival events on Jan. 11. Photo by Syvella Kalil.



Submitted photo

January Skagit cleanup nets 300 lbs. of trash

By Christie Fairchild

A filthy sweater lying in a tangle of river-tossed trash, exposed this message on its front: "What the hell is going on?"

That image has stayed with Marblemount resident Amy Hammer, inspiring her to find an answer. A longtime kayaker and river enthusiast, Hammer recalled Skagit River cleanups of years past: 2006–07 saw local commercial rafting company, Blue Sky, spending time and effort cleaning up the stretch from Newhalem to Concrete. From 2016–17, Bellingham's RE Sources took on cleaning up from Mount Vernon to La Conner. But, as we know, trash is a "renewable" resource—humans create trash constantly.

Amy and others involved in those previous river cleanups say, "Those were fun, successful adventures, but I had always wondered who was doing this for the longest stretch, from Concrete to Mount Vernon." No one, apparently, as literally tons of trash—plastic, tarp shreds, Styrofoam, cans, bottles, mattresses, dirty diapers, clothing, sleeping bags, fishing gear, wire, even cars—were seen in the

Skagit as she and five other volunteers paddled from Birdview to Hamilton on Tuesday, Jan. 21. Even in the midst of a "winter storm advisory," they ended up collecting almost 300 lbs. of trash in their three canoes. Only a few pounds of that garbage was recyclable.

Those volunteers, four from W.A.K.E. (Whatcom Area Kayak Enthusiasts) and two from Re Sources, paddled the 6.5 miles with the intent to clean up as much as they could carry. Larger items found (a riding lawnmower, couches, large appliances, a box of fireworks, and a submerged car) were reported to appropriate agencies for removal.

"Plastic is a global issue, choking our waterways, but the solutions start in the our streams, right here at home," said Eleanor Hines, North Sound Baykeeper and RE Sources participant. "Cleanups like this are vital because we can catch the trash before it has a chance to enter the Salish Sea. Amy identified a problem, asked us for our help, and we responded together. Nothing makes me happier than working with motivated community members."

Those involved in the Jan. 21 river cleanup included Hines, Hammer, Kirsten McDade, Debra Noonan, Barb Francis, and Tom Borst. Another cleanup, from Hamilton to Sedro-Woolley, is planned for February, "winter storm advisories" notwithstanding.

Reward offered for Newhalem site damage

U.S. Park Service rangers are investigating damage to the Newhalem Rock Shelter archeological site near Newhalem, according to a Jan. 13 press release from the National Park Service. A \$5,000 reward is being offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible.

During summer 2019, evidence of illegal digging, likely with hand tools, was discovered within the federally protected archeological site.

The Newhalem Rock Shelter is a significant archeological site that is recognized as a mountain goat hunting camp and for artifacts that establish its connection to exchange networks throughout the greater Pacific Northwest. The site is extremely significant to culturally associated tribes, such as the

Upper Skagit Tribe. The illegal excavation has caused irretrievable damage to the site and the tribe's heritage.

"Whatever artifacts were taken or removed probably didn't have a lot of monetary value to folks," Scott Schuyler, the Upper Skagit tribe's cultural policy representative, told KUOW. "But to the tribe, they're priceless and irreplaceable because ... in essence, they're our culture."

Anyone with information about the site looting is encouraged to call or text the NPS Investigative Services Branch Tip Line at 888.653.0009. Informers also may go online to www.nps.gov/ISB and click "Submit a Tip," send an e-mail to nps_isb@nps.gov, send a Facebook message to @investigativeservicesNPS, or tweet @specialagentnps.

—J. K. M.

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Seniors

Verna's Kitchen

By Verna McClure

Lazy Day Cobbler



- 1 stick margarine
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup flour
- 1½ teaspoon baking powder
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ¾ cup milk
- 1 quart fruit (of your choosing)
- ½ cup sugar

1. Melt margarine in 9 x 13 pan.
2. In a separate bowl, mix flour, sugar, baking powder, salt, and milk. Pour mixture over margarine. DO NOT STIR.
3. Pour fruit and liquid on top, and sprinkle with ½ cup sugar.
4. Bake until bubbly and brown on top in a 350-degree oven.

Editor's note: In memory of our dear Verna, this column will continue until her recipe inventory has been exhausted.

Way Back When

90 years ago

Feb. 27, 1930: For an excellent example of community spirit—and its results—cast an eye on the village of Birdsvew, located just six miles down the Skagit from [Concrete].

A few months ago, the old residents of the community decided to “tell the world,” and while they have not put on any extensive advertising campaign ... they have achieved enviable results.

With the exception of Clear Lake, no unincorporated community in the county can show a gain in population during the past six months that is equal to that of Birdsvew. Many property sales have been made, and a number of new homes have been built, with more under construction. The community is near three large lumber camps, making it easy for the head of the family to find outside employment.

Birdsvew has a commercial club

that includes in its membership almost every adult person in the community. A club with its spirit gets results, and the meetings are so interesting, its members keep coming. Just imagine what could be done in Concrete if the commercial club had a membership that represented almost every home in the town, and if every member turned out for the meetings.

Concrete and the other communities of the valley should follow the example set by the residents of this up-and-coming Birdsvew community. If they do, the entire valley will be the gainer. If the other communities remain asleep to their opportunities, it is very possible that Birdsvew will

continue until it will be a real town that will take the leadership of the Upper Skagit.

80 years ago

Feb. 14, 1940: Cassius Marcellus (C. M.) Cupples passed away at the home of his son, William, on Monday evening of this week, following an illness of several months.

Cupples was one of the early settlers here, having homesteaded on the Baker River in 1886, his original homestead now lying under the waters of Lake Shannon. Had he lived until Friday of this week, he would have turned 81.

See **Way Back**, p. 29



60 years ago, Feb. 11, 1960: Upper Skagit Hoop Shoot finalists won handsome eagle trophies. Vernon Garland (back row, third from left), Upper Skagit Hoop Shoot champion, topped runners-up and other local hoop shoot trophy winners. The second place trophy winner for the valley was F. Densen. The two trophies in the center will be prizes for the County Shoot, in which the valley's top two will compete. *Archive photo.*

East County

Feb. 2020 activities

Concrete Community Center
Mon. – Fri., 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Lunch served at noon
Donations always appreciated

Abbreviations:

East County Resource Center: RC
Concrete Community Center: CC
Upper Skagit Library Foundation: USLF

Monday

All	10 a.m.	Community Closet: CC
All	3 p.m.	USLF
2/17, 24	7-9 p.m.	Shelter intake: CC
2/17	6 p.m.	Cascade Days mtg.: CC

Tuesday

All	10 a.m.	UnitedHealthcare: RC
2/11	2 p.m.	Am. Legion Post 132: RC
2/18, 25	5-7 p.m.	Shelter intake: CC

Wednesday

All	9 a.m.	VA Service Officer: RC
All	10 a.m.	Community Closet: CC
2/5	11 a.m.	DVSAS: RC
2/19	Noon	DVSAS: RC
2/19, 26	5-7 p.m.	Shelter intake: CC

Thursday

All	10 a.m.	AARP Tax Aid
2/6	12:30 p.m.	Pinochle: CC
2/13	10 a.m.	WIC: RC
2/20	12:30 p.m.	Pinochle: CC
2/27	10 a.m.	WIC: RC
2/20, 27	5-7 p.m.	Shelter intake: CC

Friday

All	10 a.m.	Community Closet: CC
All	Noon	Painting Class: RC
2/7	9 a.m.	Probation Svcs: RC
2/14	1:30 p.m.	Legal Clinics: RC
2/28	1:30 p.m.	Legal Clinics: RC
2/21, 28	5-7 p.m.	Shelter intake: CC

Saturday

All	7 p.m.	AA meeting: RC
2/15	3-5 p.m.	Shelter intake: CC
2/22, 29	5-7 p.m.	Shelter intake: CC

Sunday

2/16	3-5 p.m.	Shelter intake: CC
2/23	5-7 p.m.	Shelter intake: CC

Way Back, cont. from p. 28

Cupples was born in Allentown, Penn., on March 15, 1859. As a young man, he came to this county, finally taking up a homestead on the Baker River a few miles from the present site of Concrete. He farmed there until his property was purchased by the Stone & Webster company when the dam was started, and at that time he purchased a block of land in central Concrete, upon which he gradually built a half dozen fine houses, from which he derived his income.

70 years ago

Feb. 23, 1950: Local and county school authorities moved this week in a step toward legal action against the residents of the lower Sauk Valley who have refused to send their grade school children to school since Dec. 15.

The first step was to call the parents of the children to Mount Vernon for a Tuesday conference with the county superintendent of schools and the county prosecutor's office.

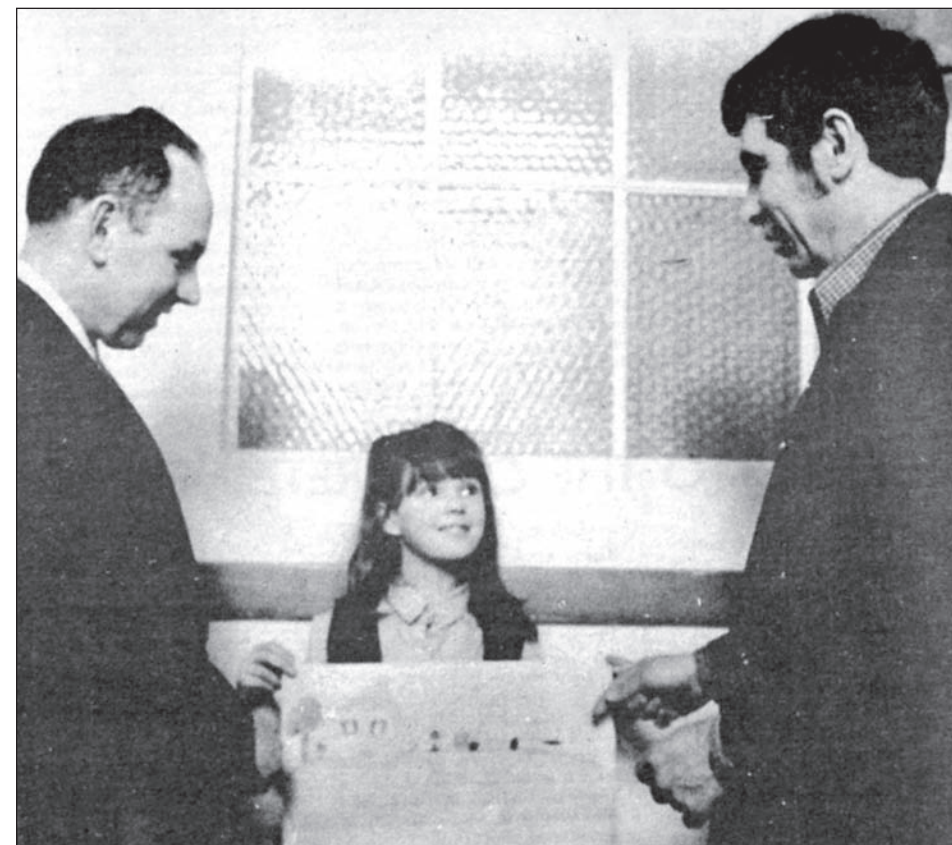
At the meeting, the Sauk residents reiterated their stand that the ferry did not meet with their approval, in spite of inspections and repairs made since their first complaint.

The next step for the school authorities may be notifying the parents to send their children to school or show up in court.

—Compiled from archives



Top right: 10 years ago, Don and Della Payne smooched from their perch high on top of Don's backhoe, taking their shot at—and winning—the 2010 “Best Place to Kiss in Concrete” contest.



Above right: 30 years ago, Feb. 28, 1980: Eight-year-old Erica Ross receives congratulations from Principal Bob Sjoboen (left) and George Theodoratus, representing the Skagit County Board of Realtors in presentation of first prize for her picture and essay, “What My Home Means to Me.” Erica's entry was judged best for the Concrete School District, bringing her a \$25 prize and a chance to compete in county and state finals. She wrote, “My home means love and care, but most of all it's always there. When I come home it helps me grow and learn. I am just glad it's there. My house reminds me of love that grows on a bush.” The prizewinner is the daughter of Gary and Gwen Ross of Cape Horn. *Archive photos.*

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Sunday School lesson

Engage without condemning

By Kevin Riley

In the Gospel of Matthew, there is a story of a leper who comes to Jesus for healing (Matt 8:1-4):

“When Jesus came down from the mountainside, large crowds followed him. A man with leprosy came and knelt before him and said, ‘Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean.’”

“Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. ‘I am willing,’ he said. ‘Be clean!’ Immediately he was cleansed of his leprosy. Then Jesus said to him, ‘See to yourself to the priest and offer the gift Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.’”

As a pastor, I am always looking for new and innovative ways to bridge the world of scripture and practical application in life—more so than simply “do unto others as you would have done unto you.” The Golden Rule is one that’s close to everyone’s heart; the simplicity in it is beautiful, and it holds no economic bounds: Treat people the way you want to be treated. It doesn’t refer to what specific class of humanity that you are called to treat with decency, just that we are called to treat others the way we want to be treated ourselves.

Simple right?
Not so much. As a jail chaplain and

someone who works with the afflicted (homeless, addicted, mental health issues) on a regular basis, I often have been able to see the parallels between those afflictions and leprosy, as well as how eerily similarly both are treated by society. Lepers of old were considered unclean and segregated to their own colonies, and it was illegal for them to interact with the “clean” Jewish community. They would be thrown in jail for life or even put to death if they did not obey the law. They were punished, segregated, and sometimes killed because of their disease.

I see the parallel to this in the individuals I contact on a regular basis. Laws are written to keep the afflicted away from society. No Loitering signs, Facebook posts, “put down the pipe and pick up your life,” “get a job”—statements like these run rampant, along with the same mentality that if we somehow come into contact with them, we will become defiled and unclean.

This simply is not true, and Jesus’ response to the leper says it all. As the man with leprosy approaches the “clean and undefiled” Jesus, he kneels at His feet and says, “‘Lord, if you will, you can make me clean,’ and Jesus stretched out His hand and touched him saying, ‘I am willing. Be clean.’” And immediately the leprosy was gone.

While we are not Jesus, we have the ability to ease the afflicted, simply by treating them the way we want to be treated, and having the same reaction as Jesus. Engagement without condemnation. Compassion that we would want if our

roles were reversed. You never know—that first bit of kindness could save a life.

Kevin Riley is pastor for Mount Baker Presbyterian Church in Concrete.

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

Skagit County Sheriff's Office Blotter

Dec. 25

On Christmas day, a citizen who lives on Knott Hill Place in Concrete called to advise that someone had taken her boyfriend’s Stihl chain saw from their

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.

Fox, Ronald Clayton

Age: 68
Race: White
Sex: M
Height: 5’ 11”
Weight: 254
Hair: White
Eyes: Blue
Address: 352xx Shangri La Dr., Sedro-Woolley



Fox was convicted of 1st degree statutory rape in Snohomish County in 1988; his victim was a 5-year-old familial female. He was on active parole at the time of the incidents. He was found guilty and sentenced to 204 months.

Fox was convicted of two counts of sex with a minor in 1980, in California.

Fox was convicted of rape by force and violence in 1976, in California. His victim was a known 16-year-old.

In 1974, Fox was convicted of a deviant sex act in California; his victim was an adult female who was not known to him.

Fox was committed as a sexually violent predator on April 14, 2000, and released on Oct. 25, 2016, “deemed to no longer meet criteria.”

Fox 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

Show your town pride with a
Town of Concrete
FLAG!

Only \$34
Price includes sales tax

Get your flag at
Concrete Town Hall
45672 Main St.
360.853.8401



Pay with check, cash, money order, or credit card.



Flag design by Becky Azure, CHS 2018

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

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
Concrete Group Meeting
7879 S. Superior Ave., Concrete (Pilots Lounge at Mears Field), 360.853.5417
Meeting Every Sunday, 1:30–4 p.m.
Potluck after services

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.

shop. The reporting party said that the suspect is a friend whom they had allowed to stay at their house, but they kicked out after the friend started behaving in a questionable manner. The chain saw was described as a Stihl 066 with a 32-inch bar. The victim called the next day and advised she had seen the suspect on the South Skagit Highway near milepost 10 using the chainsaw. He was last seen in a maroon truck. Deputy Brown checked the area, but was unable to locate the suspect. Deputy Wiggins is investigating the case.

Dec. 27

Deputy Wolfe responded to a domestic disturbance in the 7200 block of B Ave. in Concrete. The reporting party advised that her son had stayed at her house for the last few days and she wanted him to be removed. Deputy Wolfe contacted the suspect, who was in the process of leaving. Apparently his mom had allowed him to stay over Christmas, but had become upset at him when he invited his friends over and threw a large party without permission. He already had gathered up his belongings and agreed to leave.

A motor vehicle accident was reported near the Upper Skagit Library on Main St. in Concrete. It appeared the driver had driven off the street and struck a lamp post. An elderly male believed to be the driver was lying next to the vehicle. Deputy Esskew responded. He contacted the driver, who was lying next to the vehicle. It was obvious that the driver was extremely intoxicated and was unable to stand. Next to the driver’s seat was an open bottle of whiskey. Deputy Esskew arrested the suspect and transported him to the hospital to seek a blood test. After the test, the suspect was arrested for DUI and released to family members since he didn’t have previous history of DUIs.

A citizen reported a suspicious vehicle parked in a yard in the 46000 block of Baker Loop in Cape Horn. Deputy Rogers checked the residence and area around the park, but didn’t locate any vehicle or person.

Dec. 28

Two girls knocked on a door in the 45000 block of Short St. in Concrete and told the resident that they had tracked their cell phone to that residence. The resident asked to see the tracking device they had used to track the phone. They then told the resident that they didn’t have it, but were actually looking for a friend who lived next door. The resident asked for the name of their friend, and they gave her a name of a person who did not live next door. It

appears that the two girls were possibly looking to break into the residence or conducting some type of fraudulent activity. Deputy Esskew checked the area, but was unable to locate the two girls.

Dec. 29

Cascade Mercantile called and requested that a subject be removed from their property. Deputy Esskew contacted the person, who had a warrant for his arrest for trespassing. He was arrested on the warrant and then trespassed from the property.

Dec. 30

Mail theft appeared to have occurred in the area of Yeager Rd. near Concrete. The victim advised Deputy Wiggins that she had discovered all the mailboxes near her residence had been opened and no mail was seen in them. The only mailboxes that were not opened were the ones that were locked. She was unsure if any mail had been taken. The victim intended to contact her neighbors and let them know. There were no suspects.

A mother called to advise that her daughter had called her and told her that she had been assaulted by her husband. The victim told her mother that she was pushed to the ground by her husband.

Deputy Wiggins contacted the victim outside her residence, sitting in her car. She refused to speak to Deputy Wiggins other than to say that she and her husband had an argument. Deputy Wiggins saw no signs of any injuries. He contacted the husband, who stated that there had been no assault, only a verbal argument. Because Deputy Wiggins couldn’t substantiate the information given by the reporting party, and since the victim was uncooperative, there was no arrest.

Dec. 31

Seattle City Light called and told Deputy Moore that they had recently purchased some property near the river on Concrete Sauk Valley Rd. Employees had discovered that there was a camp on the property consisting of tents and tarps. Deputy Moore directed them to contact the previous owner and determine if the individuals had been allowed to live on the property or if they were squatting. Once that was determined, he advised them to call back to determine the appropriate action to remove the subjects.

Sgt. Adams and Deputy Moore responded to a removal request near the

See Sheriff’s Blotter, p. 33



[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

Reading the caption for the photo on the lower right-hand corner of page 4 of last month's *Concrete Herald* jogged my memory about a previous C-H story from 1968. The article was about the paper's longtime editor, Charles M. Dwelley, marrying Helen Pemberton of California. Helen also had a love and a background in newspapers, as she and her late husband published the Burlington Journal, and later the Mission Beach Californian. Charles and Helen were a good team and spent many fine years together. Certainly a record to emulate.

While perusing the news from 1968, I found a few other stories worth relaying. The Junior Chamber of Commerce completed building the board fence along the south side of Main Street. It wasn't the biggest news story of the year, but it's worth remembering that many good things happen here. Stories that garnered more attention were the ones on the Lone Star Cement Company detailing its plans to phase out and close the cement plant in Concrete, along with two other plants, in an effort to rid themselves of outdated facilities. The bruises from that blow to Concrete's economy remain.

Fortunately, Puget Power, now Puget

Sound Energy, chose another road. After the power house on the Lower Baker River was severely damaged by a landslide in 1966, they invested in rebuilding and restoring electrical service. In September 1968, the Lower Baker power house went back online. A month later, the route for the North Cascades Highway opened to 4-wheel-drive traffic. The first caravan for the 2.5-hour trip over the remaining 29 miles included Governor Evans. That stretch was slated to be paved and open to the public by 1971. Not coincidentally, the bill to establish the North Cascades National Park was signed that same month. Lots of proposed development seemed to offset the closure of the cement plant, including the development of the Cedar Grove project.

On the darker side, Concrete suffered a fatal Saturday night shooting in the alley off Baker Street. Dale Gardner, president-elect of the local Eagles Aerie, died en route to the hospital. The very next day, Sunday, the Town Council convened a special meeting to address concerns over the lack of an adequate police presence in the community. At

See **Museum**, p. 39

Civil Air Patrol

Skagit Composite Squadron, Civil Air Patrol, United States Air Force Auxiliary wishes you all a wonderful 2020, and is looking forward to another great year of learning and service to our communities.

In 2019 we participated in many exciting activities: First-aid and CPR certification training, water survival training at NAS Whidbey, 10-day training encampments at Camp Casey in Coupeville and at Camp Rilea in Oregon, and CAP classes at Camp Boucher in Ephrata, Washington.

We performed community service by maintaining the Doug Vose memorial at Concrete High School and assisting Lions Club International at its annual Halloween party in Concrete. We also hosted information tables at Heritage Flight Museum Fly Days, Concrete's Old-Fashioned Fly-In, and Darrington High School's career day.

Thanks to public generosity at locations in Concrete, Burlington, and Mount Vernon in November, we raised \$780—the equivalent of 52 wreaths—for Wreaths Across America. On Dec. 12 our squadron helped lay those wreaths on veterans' graves at Tahoma National Cemetery.

We continue to meet on Tuesday nights, where cadets learn about aerospace, emergency services, and character development. If you are an adult, or a young person ages 12–18 who is interested in seeing what CAP is about, join us at a Tuesday night meeting! In Burlington we meet at 6 p.m. at Skagit Regional Airport; in Concrete we meet at 6:30 p.m. in the pilot's lounge at Mears Field. You also may send e-mail inquiries to kelly.siebecke@wawg.cap.gov or the squadron commander at robert.shupe@wawg.cap.gov.

—2d Lt. Kelly A. Siebecke

At the Upper Skagit Library

February is **Love Your Library** month; make a paper heart with the reasons you love the library and we'll put it on display all month long!

Also on display is our **1,000 Cranes Project**, which is off to a good start; we'll keep providing everything needed to fold origami cranes until we've reached our goal.

Last month's first meeting of the **Photography Club** was a roaring success—thank you so much to those who joined in on the fun. We'll have our second meeting on Feb. 4 at 5 p.m.

LEGO Club was postponed last month because of weather, so we're going to try again on Feb. 12 at 3:30 p.m.

Sticker Club returns on Feb. 18 at 5 p.m.

Our usual suspects in terms of programming are still in their usual spots:

- **Storytime** at 11 a.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month.
- **Drop-In Tech Tutoring** on the first and third Wednesday of each month from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

- **Sign Language Club** every Friday at 4 p.m.

On Feb. 21 we're celebrating **International Language Day** during our usual Sign Club slot—join us for fun in multiple languages!

The **Board of Trustees monthly meeting** is held on the second Thursday of each month; this time it's Feb. 13 at 6 p.m.

The big news this month is our **Harry Potter Day** on Feb. 5, all day long. We're going all out for this one: wizard chess and Uno, wand making, Harry Potter Wizards Unite, movie viewings, a costume contest with prizes, and more! We're going to have a **MAGICAL** day.

To stay up to date on events and new materials, go to our Web site at www.upperskagitlibrary.org. You can also follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, and YouTube. Want to receive our monthly newsletter e-mail? Sign up in person at the library or on our Web site.

Chazlyn Lovely
Library Assistant - Marketing

February at the Darrington Library

Children & Families

- LEGO Club. Thur., Feb. 6, at 3 p.m.
- Little Science Lab. Appropriate for children ages 3–5. Due to supplies, space is limited to 30 children in each class. Fridays, Feb. 7–28, at 3:30 p.m.
- Family Storytime. Caregiver required; all ages welcome. Wednesdays, Feb. 5–26, at 11 a.m.

Tweens & Teens

- DIY Hand Warmers. Come and sew your own set of hand warmers. No sewing experience required. We will teach you a basic stitch. Ages 7 and up. Thur., Feb. 13, from 3:30 to 5 p.m.
- Make Your Own Scribble Bot out of a cup, markers, battery and motor with a propeller. Watch it convert chemical energy to electricity and draw in on its own. All materials provided. Sat., Feb. 15, 1:30 to 3 p.m.

All Ages

- DIY Hedgehog Book Folding.

Explore creative ways to turn old books into folded book art. All materials provided. Thur., Feb. 27, 3:30 p.m.

Adults

- 2020 Census: Everyone Counts. Join us for an informative forum about the 2020 census. Learn how a complete and accurate count benefits our communities, from representation in government to important funding for local services. Thur., Feb. 6, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Health and Social Services Signup. Need help connecting with social services? Meet with a Community Health Center of Snohomish County specialist on the second Tuesday of each month, from 4 to 6 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

8200 block of Cedar Grove Ave. in Cedar Grove. The reporting party advised that a person living on the property in a trailer was at his front door screaming and acting loony. He requested that she be removed. When deputies arrived, they discovered that the suspect had returned to her trailer and appeared to be asleep. The reporting party asked that deputies not wake her. Deputies advised him of the process needed to evict the suspect.

A female called to report she needed an order served on her ex-boyfriend. Dispatch could hear a male yelling in the background. Deputies Wiggins and Gonzales responded to the residence, which was located off of Illabot Creek Lane near Rockport. While they were headed to the call, a second person called in to advise that there was no assault, but that the original caller was making threats to the ex-boyfriend and herself. When deputies arrived, they determined that the first caller had broken into her ex-boyfriend's home and took property

belonging to him. There also was a valid order restraining the first caller from going to her ex-boyfriend's house. She was arrested and booked into jail for residential burglary domestic violence and violation of a no-contact order.

Jan. 1

An overdue person was reported missing from the 7700 block of Pinelli Rd. The wife of the overdue person reported that her husband had left about noon to go on a short hike on the Cascade Trail (Rails to Trails path). He had not returned and had been gone for more than 5 hours; his wife advised that at times he becomes confused. She said she had been able to call him on his cell phone and he advised that he was lost. She convinced him to call 911 so they could get his coordinates. The coordinates showed him northeast of the Cowboy Camp off of Medford Rd. near Hamilton, quite a ways north of his residence. Deputy Wiggins contacted him near Alder Creek on some DNR roads that had been deactivated. Because of the depth of the creek, he was unable to cross the creek. District 8 fire personnel

responded to assist. With their assistance, the victim was able to cross the creek. He was medically evaluated for hypothermia and then given a ride home.

Jan. 2

A concerned citizen called to ask that the Sheriff's Office check on a person lying in the parking lot at Logger's Landing in Concrete. The person appeared to be unconscious. Before deputies could arrive, Med 7 arrived and contacted a female lying on the ground. Med 7 transported the patient to the hospital without incident. Deputies were advised they could disregard the report.

Jan. 3

Deputy Wolfe was contacted at the East Detachment Office in reference to a possible violation on a court order. The victim advised that his ex-wife, who is named in a protection order, had contacted his employer and had attempted to discover if he was working and where he was living. After investigating the incident, Deputy Wolfe arrested the ex-wife for a violation of the protection order.

A resident in the 46000 block of Baker

Loop in Cedar Grove called to advise that a person she did not know had stopped by the residence she is staying at and told her she had to leave. The reporting party advised that she and her boyfriend had been staying at the residence for more than 3 months with permission of the owner. Deputy Wolfe determined that she did not have to vacate the residence and to call 911 if the subject returned.

Jan. 4

While on patrol in Concrete, Deputy Clark observed a vehicle westbound on SR 20, traveling 62 mph in a posted 50 mph zone. As he attempted to catch up to the vehicle, it appeared to be trying to lose him. The vehicle tried to turn north onto Dillard Ave., but crossed over the center line, then finally stopped near the old Police Department building. Deputy Clark contacted the driver, who was obviously impaired. The driver was arrested and taken to the East Detachment Office for a breath test. After talking to his attorney, the driver submitted to the breath test.

See **Sheriff's Blotter**, p. 35

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Bookkeeping

UpRiver Bookkeeping Services

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

Brew pubs

Birdsview Brewing Co.

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

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

Concrete Liquor Store & Convenience Store

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

Pawn shops

Gold Nugget Jewelry & Loan

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

Ranches

Double O Ranch, LLC

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

Restaurants

Cascade Burgers

45292 State Route 20, Concrete
Featuring great burgers, fries, and milkshakes in a 1950s, family-style atmosphere!
OPEN DAILY: Mon.-Sat. 11–7, Sun. 11–6
Ask about our daily specials! 360.853.7580

Perks Espresso & Deli

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

Self-storage

Concrete Self-storage

Located on Fir Street, Concrete
Heated and nonheated, security surveillance, coded entry, 4x5 to 15x32 units, locks for sale.
Customer service is our top priority!
360.853.8100/concreteselfstorageinc@live.com

Septic services

Cinema Septic

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

Towing services

Cascades Towing

Professional flatbed towing. Winch outs, lock outs, jump starts, and fuel deliveries.
Motorcycle and equipment towing. Junk vehicle removal. Lowest prices.
360.853.8599 // www.cascadestowing.com

To add your business to this directory, call 360.853.8213 or e-mail editor@concrete-herald.com



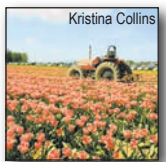
Northwest Garden Bling

- Gift shop
- Stained glass & glass supplies
- Souvenirs

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



Out & About



Winners of the Skagit County Democratic Party high school essay contest paused for a photo during a party at Skagit Democratic headquarters in Mt. Vernon on Jan. 26. From left, Skagit County Commissioner Ken Dahlstedt, who presented the monetary awards and certificates; Grace Uppendahl of Mt. Vernon High school, third place winner of \$250 for her essay, "The Normalization of Violence"; Alexa Grechishkin, also from Mt. Vernon, second place winner of \$500 for her piece "Dreams of Democracy"; Lauren McClintock from Anacortes High School, first prize winner of \$750 for her work entitled "Empathy"; Lynn Campbell, presiding officer of the Skagit Democrats.

This year's topic, "The Most Pressing Issue Confronting America", inspired a record number of students to consider issues that affected their lives, with some 87 entries received from Anacortes, Burlington, La Conner, Mount Vernon, and Sedro-Woolley high schools.

Other essays dealt with climate change, teen suicide, immigration, cell phones, better teaching, addiction, women and choice, conversion therapy, and the prevalence of greed. The winning writers chose topics that applied well to the nation as a whole and suggested ways for people to make a difference.

At the presentation celebration, the winning essays were read by their writers. To read the winning essays, go to skagitdemocrats.org and click on the link under the winner's name.

Submitted photo.

Burlington



Lancaster to retire from United Way

After 10 years with the United Way of Skagit County, Executive Director Debra Lancaster announced on Jan. 21 that she will retire in June 2020.

"It's been a joy to work with the United Way board, staff, and other nonprofit leaders for the past 10 years," said Lancaster in a press release. "I'm proud to have been a part of the transformation that has positioned United Way to build a brighter future for Skagit County."

During Lancaster's 10 years, United Way of Skagit County raised more than \$11 million. She led the the nonprofit's board of directors through a change in how United Way supports the community through Collective Impact and working collaboratively with other organizations. Board president Andrew Entrikin touted Lancaster's development of United Way staff organization, and lauded some of the programs she helped to launch, including Welcome Baby, We're Reading, and the Financial People Project.

The board has begun the process of hiring Lancaster's replacement. Applications will be available Feb. 10 at unitedwayskagit.org; the deadline for submissions is March 6.

—Submitted by United Way

Mt. Vernon

Skagit Community Foundation accepting grant applications

The Skagit Community Foundation is accepting applications for the 2020 grant season from nonprofits serving primarily Skagit County.

Applications are accepted by March 1. Grants are awarded in the areas of art and culture, education, health, and the environment.

For more information, go to www.skagitcf.org.

Foundation names new executive director

The Skagit Community Foundation Board of Directors on Jan. 11 hired Michael B. Stark as Executive Director effective January 1, 2020, succeeding Mary J. McGoffin.



Stark

Stark brings several years of nonprofit experience to the position. He served as president of the board of directors for the Women's Opportunity Resource and Development (W.O.R.D.), and treasurer of the board of directors for Head Start-Child Start Missoula.

"We looked for someone who had the right combination of professional and personal skills to represent the Foundation and we found this in Michael," said Mary J. McGoffin, retiring Executive Director.

Sheriff's Blotter, cont. from p. 33

test results were .166 and .158, double the legal limit for alcohol. He was arrested for DUI and released.

Jan. 5

A prowler was reported in the 34000 block of SR 20. The homeowner went outside and saw someone run from his property into the woods. Deputy Clark checked the area, but didn't locate anyone. He located a vehicle relatively close to the property, but could not tell if it was involved.

Jan. 7

A barking dog was reported on Washington St. in Concrete. Animal Control Officer Diaz called and talked to the reporting party. She was able to get the necessary information to send to the Concrete code enforcement officer for followup.

Jan. 9

Deputy Clark received a message from a victim of a theft, who advised him that he had discovered that his wallet was missing. He said he had three suspects who had been at his house recently. He learned from the bank that his debit card had been used at Logger's Landing in Concrete. There had been three different transactions. Deputy Clark contacted the business, and, using the video equipment, was able to identify the suspect. Deputy Clark developed probable cause to arrest the suspect for 2nd degree theft. Deputy Clark is trying to locate the suspect to make an arrest.

Jan. 10

Deputy Moore investigated a suspicious circumstance on Robertson Court in Concrete. A porch light at a residence kept shutting on and off, as if someone was trying to get someone's attention. He discovered that the sensor on the light was defective. The homeowner shut the light off until it could be repaired.

Jan. 12

The manager at Logger's Landing called to advise that a male suspect had come into the store and stolen several items. She requested that deputies contact the suspect and trespass him from the store. She didn't know the person, but gave Deputy Wiggins the name of the person he was with when the suspect came to the store. Deputy Wiggins will follow up to determine the identity of the suspect and trespass him.

Jan. 13

Officer Atkins from the Arlington Police Department called to advise that he had spoken to a resident on Baker Dr. in Cedar Grove, who had reported that

his son, who was staying at the Smokey Point Motor Inn, called and threatened him. Sgt. Adams contacted the victim to interview him regarding the threats. The victim said that his son, who has a history of drug abuse and violence, called him and threatened to come over to his house and beat him to death. The victim also said that his son threatened to drive his car through the victim's house. This caused the victim great concern because his son had recently been arrested in Snohomish County for driving his vehicle into a house intentionally. Sgt. Adams relayed the information to Deputy Clark for follow up. Deputy Clark, with the assistance of Arlington P. D., located the suspect, arrested him for domestic violence harassment, and booked the suspect into Skagit County Jail.

Jan. 14

Deputy Clark responded to a possible search and rescue on Medford Rd. near Hamilton. The reporting party said that two people had left about two hours prior on a horseback ride and had not returned. She was concerned because neither were prepared or dressed for the frigid weather. Prior to Deputy Clark's arrival, the reporting party called back and told him that both riders had returned.

A male who lives in Lyman was reported missing by his wife. The subject, who has dementia, walked out of his house, and his wife was unable to locate him. While driving to the call, Deputy Rogers located the male walking nearby. He was taken to the hospital for evaluation.

Jan. 16

A citizen dispute involving dogs occurred at the Concrete Community Center in Concrete. The reporting party said that he was at the community center throwing a ball for his dog and there was another person with his dog walking nearby. The dog who was off his lead playing ball ran over to the other dog to play. The owner of the dog who was walking by became upset and felt that the reporting party's dog was trying to be aggressive. The two humans got into an argument and the owner of the second dog threatened to release his dog to attack the reporting party. The reporting party then showed him that he was carrying a firearm and told him if he released the dog he would be forced to shoot the dog to protect himself. When the reporting party called 911, the younger dog owner left. Deputy Moore searched the area, but could not locate the person. Deputy Moore was later told that the other dog owner

lived on S. Dillard and had warrants for his arrest. Deputy Moore was unable to locate the subject and no crime had been committed.

Jan. 19

While patrolling the Lyman area, Deputy Walker observed a truck parked at Cascade Mercantile and occupied by a driver he knew from previous contacts. Deputy Walker ran the person's name and discovered that he had a felony warrant for bail jumping. The suspect was arrested and taken to jail.

Jan. 21

An employee of the Kenco Group called to report that two Samsung TVs were stolen out of his work van on Baker Loop Rd. in Cedar Grove, approximately 30 to 60 minutes prior to calling. The victim had no suspects and was unfamiliar with the area.

A caretaker called to report that her friend's house on SR 530 near Rockport had been burglarized. The caretaker said that someone had broken the back door to the house and crawled in and ransacked the house. She was not able to determine what had been taken. Deputy Wolfe will investigate the burglary.

Jan. 22

A concerned citizen called to report

that at approximately 5:30 a.m., she had discovered a 6-year-old child at her front door. The child claimed to have been walking all night. The reporting party was not familiar with the child. Deputies Wolfe and Brenner responded. After talking to the child, they were able to locate the child's home and return the child to the parents.

—Compiled by Sgt. Greg Adams

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Darrington Food Bank

First Baptist Church
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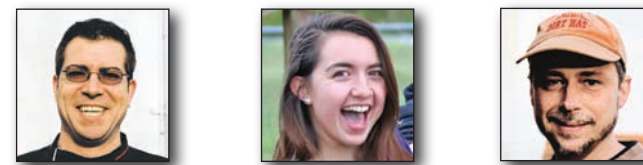
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Smile



Collin's realm of truly awful jokes

I have so many great vegetable puns, they can't be beet.



Sign on a Scottish golf course:
"Members will please refrain from picking up lost balls until after they have stopped rolling."

— § —
— And a gentleman can be polished without being bright.

— § —
A little boy was caught by the ankle in the dangling rope of a balloon at a county fair. As he was borne skyward hanging head downward, the crowd stood and stared aghast. Finally, the voice of the boy's father was heard above the screams of the bystanders: "Ikey! Ikey! Throw out some of our business cards!"

— § —
"How did you break your leg?"
"I threw a cigarette into a manhole, then stepped on it."

Dwelleysms:

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

"There are so many experts making speeches now about how we are rapidly drowning in our own pollution that it is hard to follow their reasoning for immediately putting all open country off limits. We would hope that faith in mankind is such that there will be some room left for those of us who wish to earn a living from natural resources, rather than be forced to join the great horde of the 'penned up.' Conservation of land for looking purposes only is a myth. What people are permitted to look at and stand on they manage to dump litter upon. The chance that we will end up as litter collectors is not our idea of making a living in the Evergreen State."
"Telling the truth will never be popular. Even a poor lie is better accepted than a dull fact."

—Feb. 4, 1970

"Anybody can be good these days, but the bad guys are getting all the fame and glory. What price purity now?"

—Feb. 11, 1970

"Keep breathing. Soon that will be the only requirement for federal, state, county, town, private, and family assistance to the cop-out citizen who finds that idleness can be profitable. Stop breathing and some eager bureaucrat will bury you before you can get all the papers signed."

"Funny that no matter how much we admire a man who knows where he is going, none of us want to hear in detail all the places he's been."

—March 4, 1970

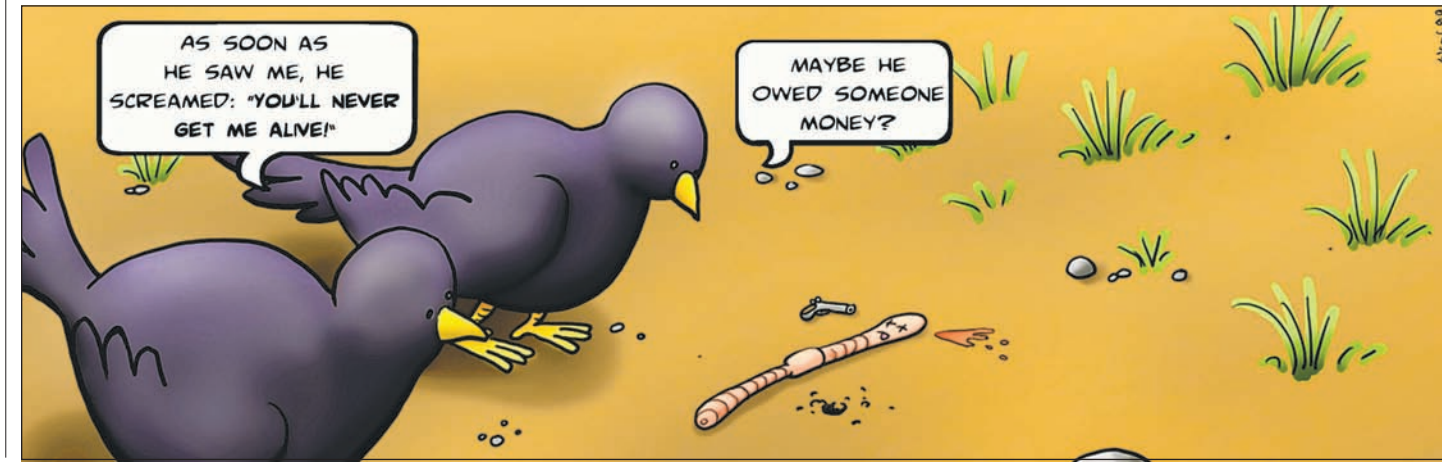
Throwback February



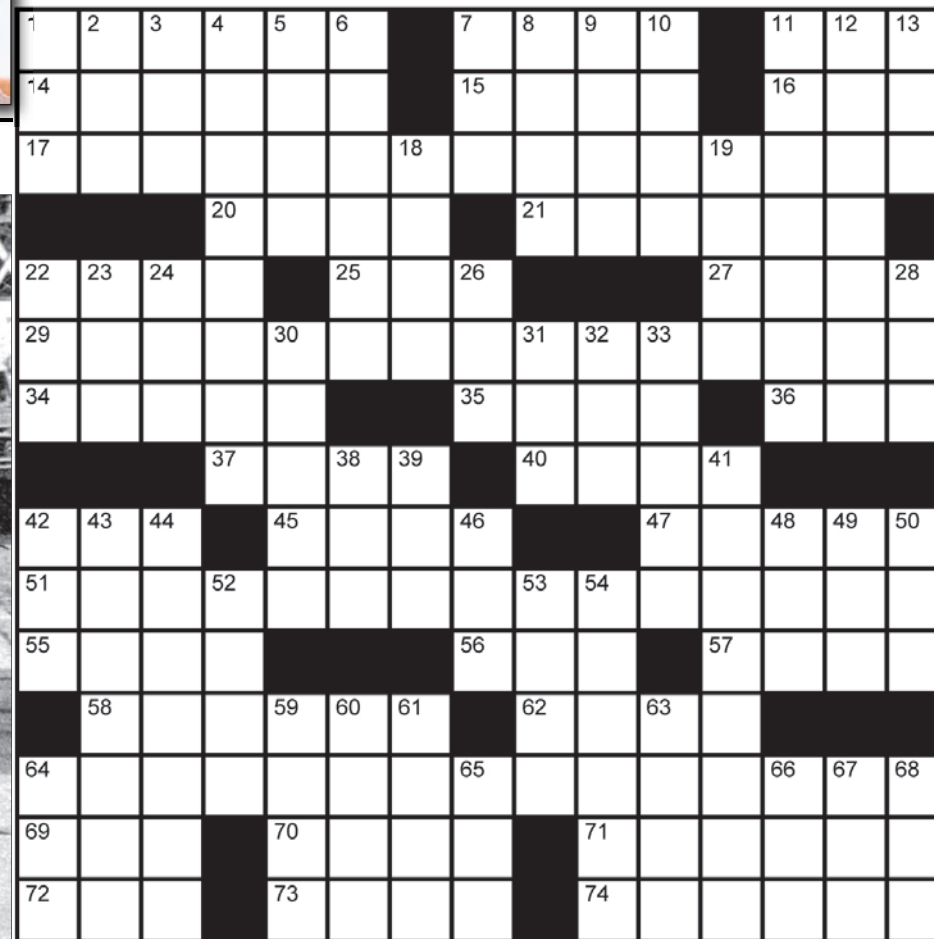
Three intrepid Upper Valley Camp Fire Girls graced the front page of the Feb. 7, 1980, issue of *Concrete Herald* as they sold Camp Fire Mints in town. From left, Dani Frank, Maria Ross, and Dianne Frank. Archive photo.

By Stig Kristensen

Public Service Announcement



Crossword: "Game, Match ..."



Across

- Verse group
- Bryce Canyon locale
- Recipe word
- Family life, figuratively
- Madras dress
- Small amount
- Racer starter
- "Later"
- Souvenir item
- Capital of Azerbaijan
- Feed lines to
- 100 dinars
- Make irritable
- Skin problem
- Delicate
- Time zone
- Agitation
- Office fill-in
- "We ____ Family"
- Chinese mafia
- Father of Paris
- Reveal a secret
- Band member
- King preceder
- Distress
- Sci-fi weaponry
- While lead-in
- Opposed

Down

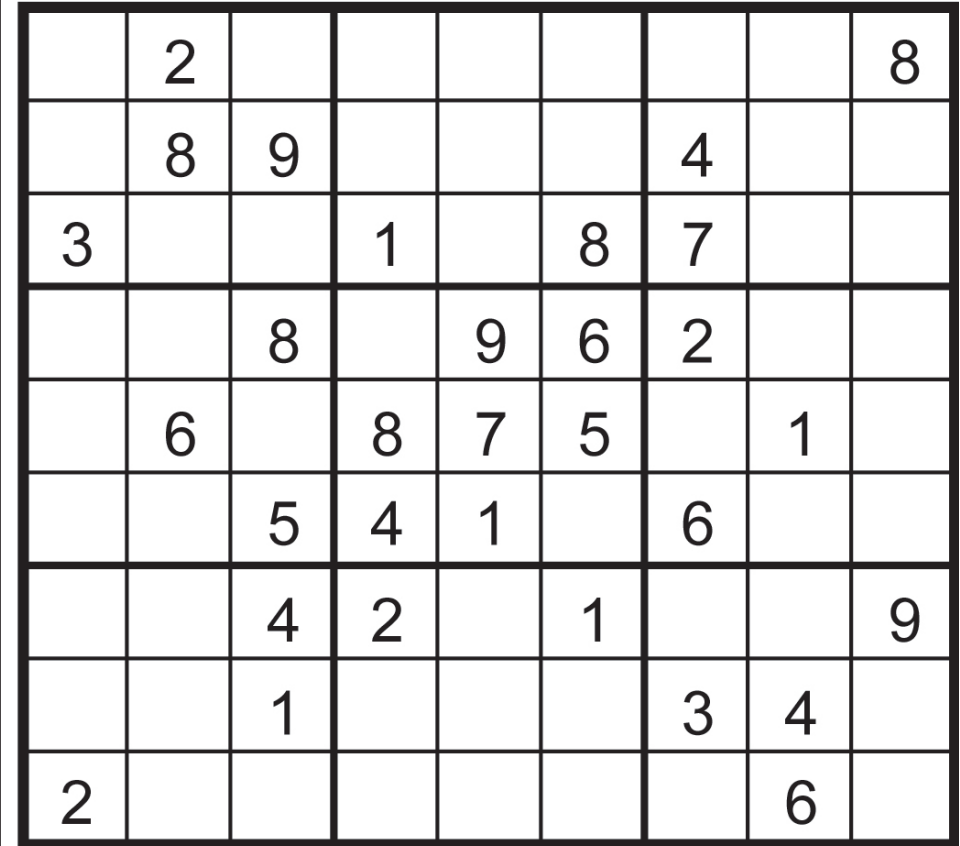
- Poison ____
- It has a code
- Break out
- Fraternity letters
- First family's home
- City in central Egypt

Across

- Japanese weapon
- Bomb's opposite
- Kind of deposit
- Nature goddess
- Debtor's note
- Big blast maker
- Village in Wisconsin
- Undertaking
- Small roll
- Sets off
- Former Portuguese colony in India
- Bar stock
- Bitter ____
- Stylish, in the 60s
- Mollify
- Hopper
- Aim
- Fringe
- Cattail, e.g.
- Commonsensual
- Cummerbund
- Took the cake
- Place for a VCR
- Arrest
- Jacuzzi
- Midmorning

Sudoku

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



*Solutions to both puzzles are on p. 39.

Funny as Facebook

- The following funnies were pulled verbatim from Facebook status updates in January:
- "I'm watching the reboot of Scooby-Doo on Netflix. I'm having a hard time suspending my belief. Scooby runs into a palm tree, and bananas, coconuts, pineapples, and several other fruits all fall out of the tree and land on his head, creating a perfect Carmen Miranda hat. I can't believe all of that fruit fell out of a palm tree."
 - "I just set my phone down to look for my phone in my purse ... send help!"
 - "On my way out the door to run an errand, the 3-year-old asked me if I could pick her up some coffee while I was out."
 - "Learning a new song can be hard on the voice, especially if it's a long song and some caterwauling is involved."

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2019 Upper Valley memorials

By Dan Royal

The following is not a complete list of those families, friends, and neighbors we have lost in the Upper Valley area covered by Concrete Herald. The list is simply meant to give a sense of the people who have been a part of our communities and schools. No disrespect is meant by any omissions.

Concrete High School alumni

Eldridge, Lester, 84, formerly of Concrete, died in Sedro-Woolley. The son of Fred and Mabel Eldridge, graduate class of 1953.
Hurn, Kathleen (Kinley), 75, of Concrete. Former head secretary of Concrete High School, noted as the “Unforgettable Lady,” her caring ways, and happy smile from the student body when she retired. Graduate class of 1962.
Keller, Jerroll R. “Jerry,” 81, of Anacortes, son of Ralph and Phrona (Benfield) Keller. Jerry worked for PACCAR. Graduate class of 1955.
Parker, Helen A. (Pressentin), 80, formerly of Concrete, died in Sedro-Woolley. Helen was the daughter of Edward and Venna (Jensen) Pressentin. She was the former owner-operator of Village Pantry. Graduate class of 1957.
Russell, Veronica E. (Young), 73, of Bellevue. She was the daughter of Jack and Rose Young. Graduate class of 1964.
Rantschler, Judy R. (Hornbeck), 68, formerly of Concrete, she lived with her husband John in Big Lake and died in Mount Vernon. Judy was the daughter of Rawson and Muthel (Wilson) Hornbeck. She worked for Skagit County Public Works. Graduate class of 1968.
Barnhart, Pamela K., 63, of Ione. Pamela was the daughter of Harold “Skip” and Shirley Barnhart. Graduate class of 1974.
Self, Jennifer J. (Richmyer), 49, of Sedro-Woolley. Jennifer was the daughter of Gary and Judith (Ferorg) Richmyer; she worked in grocery. Graduate class of 1988.
Wilson, Ian James, 41, of Bellingham. Ian was the son of James Wilson, former Concrete High School teacher, and Berna (Belle). Ian worked for Cigna Insurance. Graduate class of 1996.
Sorensen, Eileen R. (Costa), 94, of Sedro-Woolley. Eileen was the daughter of Jack and Mary (Hill) Costa. She worked for Hub Cafeteria at Northern State Hospital. Graduate class of Hamilton High School, 1942.
Blunt, William A., 83, of Sedro-Woolley. Bill was the son of Dwight and Florence Blunt. Bill was a former teacher at Concrete High School and known affectionately as the “Penguin.” Bill taught at CHS for 21 years.

Note: Obituary information may have shared only that the person attended CHS or earlier surrounding schools. Most did not list the year they graduated.

Upper Valley communities

Adams, Floyd “Ernie,” 77, Sedro-Woolley. Worked for Vandegrift Trucking.
Allen, Raymond L., 80, Sedro-Woolley. Worked for the City of Sedro-Woolley.
Anderson, Marjorie M., 75, Sedro-Woolley.
Anthony, Carol A., 56, of Sedro-Woolley, died in Bellingham. Carol was a massage therapist.
Ashley, Jerry N., 76, of Clear Lake, died in Sedro-Woolley.
Bagley, Viola L., 100, of Sedro-Woolley.
Bates, Jack N., 64, of Sedro-Woolley. Jack worked in the grocery business.
Bellos, George F., 84, of Sedro-Woolley. He was a former owner-operator of Liberty Café.
Brewer, Theresa M., 87, of Concrete.
Buchanan, Charles D., 87, of Rockport.
Buchanan, Ellis H., 87, and his wife, Buchanan, Ruby R. (Willis), 88, of Clear Lake. Owner operators of A & B Shake Mill.
Bullard, Charles L. “Chuck,” 61, of Sedro-Woolley.
Candler, Dillard H., 90, of Sedro-Woolley.
Claybo, Gladys “Maud,” 98, formerly of Birdview and matriarch of the Claybo clan, died in Sedro-Woolley.
Coffell, Nancy K., 85, formerly of Concrete, died in Everett.
Conard, Riley C., 31, of Sedro-Woolley. Worked for McClure & Sons.
Cook, Burrell J., 79, of Sedro-Woolley. He worked for Skagit Cedar Products.
Coons, Estelle A., 85, of Sedro-Woolley.
Cooper, Vicki Jo, 69, formerly of Sedro-Woolley, died in Everett. Vicki worked in maintenance at Sedro-Woolley Housing Authority.
Cornett, Kenneth K., 86, Sedro-Woolley.
Curry, Jerdie R., 45, of Sedro-Woolley.
Dean, Ronnie L., 72, of Sedro-Woolley. Retired auto mechanic.
Demeyer, Theresa (Fagan), 98, of Sedro-Woolley, former cook at Clear Lake Elementary.
Duvall, Esther M., 72, formerly of Sedro-Woolley; died in California.
Eberli, Terry G., 63, formerly of Sedro-Woolley, died in Everett.
Edson, Stanley D., 68, of Sedro-Woolley; he worked in the Maintenance Dept. at Sedro-Woolley School Dist.
Engen, Virginia (Olson), 79, of Sedro-Woolley. Worked at The Gateway Restaurant.
Erickson, Clayton G. “Pete,” 91, of Sedro-Woolley.
Fernandez, Ramiro G., 70, of Sedro-Woolley. Owner-operator of Last Detail.
Fernando, Violet I. (Lyle), 97, of Sedro-Woolley. Member of the Upper Skagit Indian Tribe.
Fox, Allen R., 86, formerly of Sedro-Woolley; died in Mount Vernon. Former owner of Hal’s Drive-In; sold Hal’s Drive-In to Bob Anderson in 1993.
Fretz, Paul D., 79, of Sedro-Woolley. Worked for the City of Burlington Post Office.

Gallagher, Barbara “Bobbie Sue,” 81, of Sedro-Woolley.
Gibbs, Melvin, 83, of Sedro-Woolley. Former electrician at Twin City Foods.
Gomez, Willyne “Cal” (Mahle), 57, of Sedro-Woolley. Member of the Upper Skagit Indian Tribe.
Good, Allan A., 89, of Mount Vernon. Retired teacher at Sedro-Woolley High School.
Hanson, Leland C. “Lee,” 78, of Sedro-Woolley.
Harker, Colleen L. (Draper), 68, of Sedro-Woolley. Worked for Skagit Casino.
Harris, Marvin, 64, of Sedro-Woolley. Worked for Tesoro Oil Refinery.
Helgeson, Carol J. (Biggerstaff), 89, of Sedro-Woolley. Former bookkeeper for Copeland Lumber.
Hernandez, Marcus P., 50, of Sedro-Woolley.
Hodgins, Don K., 86, of SeaTac. Worked for Northern Pacific Railroad Co.
Holmes, June D., 91, of Sedro-Woolley.
Huff, Hazel E. (Terwillegar), 85, of Sedro-Woolley. Former waitress at Iron Skillet.
Jackson, Edna P. (West), 93, of Sedro-Woolley; died in Burlington. Former L.P.N. at Northern State Hospital.
King, Mildred A., 79, of Sedro-Woolley.
Lamphiear, Danny M., 76, of Sedro-Woolley. Roofer for WRP.
Latting, Dorothy M. (Wiggins), 76, of Sedro-Woolley. Bus driver for Sedro-Woolley School District.
Leaf, Berniece C. “Bernie” (Hoyt), 92, formerly of Sedro-Woolley, died at her home on Camano Island. Retired longtime teacher for Sedro-Woolley School District. Bernie’s families were honored at the 2012 Pioneer Picnic.
Leopard, Bobby D., 51, of Sedro-Woolley.
Lintz, Larry E., 78, of Sedro-Woolley.
Long, Patricia A. (McDougle), 76, formerly of Sedro-Woolley, died in Edmonds. Nursing assistant at Skagit Hospice.
Manion, Mary M. (Ellis), 91, of Sedro-Woolley.
Mannon, Paul D., 66, of Sedro-Woolley. Worked as a carpenter.
Martin, Bob J., 89, of Sedro-Woolley. Former owner-operator of Ben Franklin Store.
Martin, Gladys M., 81, of Rockport.
Martin, Juanita R. (Knight) of Sedro-Woolley.
McClure, Verna A., 97, formerly of Hamilton, died in Sedro-Woolley. Verna worked with her husband, Lyle, as occupational therapists at Northern State Hospital. She and Lyle were founding members of Concrete Heritage Museum; she also wrote the “Verna’s Kitchen” column for *Concrete Herald*.
McCormick, John A. “Jack,” 72, of Concrete, died in Bellingham. Jack was Building Inspector for Town of Concrete.
Miller, Dean E., 69, of Sedro-Woolley. Worked for Skagit County Sheriff’s Office.
Miller, George F., 93, of Big Lake. Former teacher at Sedro-Woolley High School.
Mohler, Eugene “Tom,” 74, of Sedro-Woolley. Worked for Commercial Cold Storage.
Moore, James “David,” 76, of Sedro-Woolley.
Mulholland, John D., 95, of Clear Lake. Worked

Construction for Snelson Company.

Nieshe, Wilbur “Butch,” 96, of Sedro-Woolley.
Oudman, Joshua M. “Josh,” 25, of Sedro-Woolley, died in Bellingham. Worked for Les Schwab Tire.
Perrigo, Laurel W., 92, of Sedro-Woolley. Worked for GTE.
Pippin, Junior A., 86, of Sedro-Woolley. Owner-operator of Pippin Roofing.
Postma, Gregory J., 55, of Sedro-Woolley. Truck driver for Knutzen Potato Farm.
Queen, June (Mitchell), 69, formerly of Sedro-Woolley; died in Coupeville.
Rayfield, Donald E., 83, of Clear Lake. Logger for Janicki Logging.
Russell, Vivian C., 90, of Sedro-Woolley.
Shira, Harry L., 63, of Concrete.
Slipper, Virginia (Fellows), 101, formerly of Sedro-Woolley, died in Olympia.
Smith, Daniel J., 66, of Concrete. Supervisor for Hexcel Corp.
Sommerseith, Jerrold P. “Jerry,” 83, of Sedro-Woolley. Former music teacher at Sedro-Woolley School District.
Strinden, LaDonna M., 90, of Sedro-Woolley. Worked as a dental assistant.
Struther, Leroy “Roy,” 66, of Sedro-Woolley. Worked in shake mills.
Taylor, Richard L., 69, of Sedro-Woolley.
Theodorsen, Kristin “Lola,” 86, of Sedro-Woolley.
Torgerson, Thomas L., 67, of Sedro-Woolley. Long-haul trucker for Brown Line Trucking.
Torset, Randle L., 65, of Sedro-Woolley.
Walker, Roy “Ed,” 76, of Sedro-Woolley.
Walker, Velma (Kolb), 49, of Sedro-Woolley; died in Bellingham. Owner-operator of Huggins Texaco Service from 1955 to 1976.
Ward, John H., 90, died in Bellingham. Attorney-at-law.
Ward, Patrick J., 79, of Sedro-Woolley. Machinist for Skagit Steel & Ironworks.
Williams, Sandra R., 76, of Sedro-Woolley. Former owner-operator of Mom’s Café.
Wood, Gerald W., 92, and his wife, Robin, 88, of Concrete, both founding members of Concrete Heritage Museum, Robin its past president. Gerald retired from North Cascades National Park, while Robin worked as librarian for Town of Concrete and wrote novels in her later years.
Woody, Ricky Lee, 59, of Hamilton. Ricky worked for Fred Meyer and the restaurant industry before that. He died of cancer.
Zitka, Patrick J., 79, of Sedro-Woolley. Worked in the financial industry.

Dan Royal is a local historian, a past president of Skagit County Pioneer Association, and editor of the Skagit River Journal Web site at skagitriverjournal.com. He encourages any and all corrections and additions to this compilation.

Read Concrete Herald
The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley

Classifieds

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Crossword solution

1	T	2	E	3	R	4	C	5	E	6	T	7	U	8	T	9	A	10	H	11	A	12	D	13
14	H	15	E	16	A	17	R	18	T	19	H	20	S	21	A	22	R	23	I	24	15	S	25	O
17	O	N	Y	O	U	R	18	M	A	R	K	G	E	T	G	C								
							20	C	I	A	O	21	T	S	H	I	R	T						
22	B	23	A	K	U	24	C	25	U	26	E	27												
28	O	N	E	S	T	E	E	30																
34	T	I	N	E	A	35																		
							37	S	N	I	T	38												
42	A	43	R	44	E	45	S	46	T	O	N	G	47	P	R	I	48	A	49	50				
51	C	O	M	E	O	U	T	O	53	F	54	T	H	E	C	L	O							
55	T	U	B	A	56																			
58	T	L	A	S	E	60																		
64	W	E	R	E	D	E	A	65																
69	O	A	K	70																				
72	N	U	S	73	E	N	E	N	74															

Sudoku solution

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

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Museum, cont. from p. 32

that meeting, they immediately resolved to install a street light in that dark alley. A citizens committee met the following night and cited the fact that the only law enforcement stationed east of Sedro-Woolley was the Concrete Marshall. A familiar sentiment was expressed: “the apparent inability of the courts to handle continual offenders and probationers who cause trouble, yet often are free within hours after arrest and in some cases never appear for trial or sentencing.”
To schedule special tours or presentations, contact us at the following: John Lloyd (360.982.0423 autohistory@hotmail.com) or John Boggs (360.853.8347 jboggs@comcast.net).
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