

The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley

# Concrete Herald

Vol. 99, No. 2

February 2016

concrete-herald.com

50 cents

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## IN THIS ISSUE

### New members join Town Council

At the Concrete Town Council's first regular meeting of 2016, newly elected councilmember Rob Thomas and council-appointee Corey Ruiz took their oaths of office. *Page 4.*

### Replacement levy vote looms for school district

The Concrete School District will ask voters to renew a three-year replacement levy on Feb. 9. *Page 4.*

### Chapman in ICU after on-the-job accident

Tragedy struck the Concrete community Jan. 16, when longtime tow truck driver Dave Chapman was gravely injured during a routine extraction. *Page 5.*

### Mardi Gras returns Feb. 6

It's party time again in Concrete. The 10th Annual Mardi Gras celebration will be held Feb. 6, when the town's Chamber of Commerce rolls out the purple, green, and gold celebration. *Page 6.*

### Elias named Youth of the Year

Jazzelle Elias is Boys & Girls Club's Youth of the Year for 2015. *Page 16.*

### Darrington, Arlington: America's Best Community?

Darrington/Arlington are among 15 national semifinalists to win funds in the \$10 million America's Best Communities competition. *Page 24.*

# A little help from a friend

**Jim Fichter encourages budding musicians to bloom.** *Page 11.*



"Grandpa Jim" Fichter practices with Matthew Denny, 11, during a 6th-grade wind instruments class.

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# Concrete Herald

The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley



Washington Newspaper Publishers Association

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## From the editor

# Upper Valley communities hit hard

While the rest of the U.S. reeled in January from the deaths of legendary rockers David Bowie and Glenn Frey, the communities of eastern Skagit County dealt with a round of life-altering tragedies.

House fires robbed Josh and Heather, then Rick and Sam, of everything they own. Frank Knight continues to battle cancer. And our hometown tow truck driver Dave Chapman was struck and paralyzed by a falling boulder.

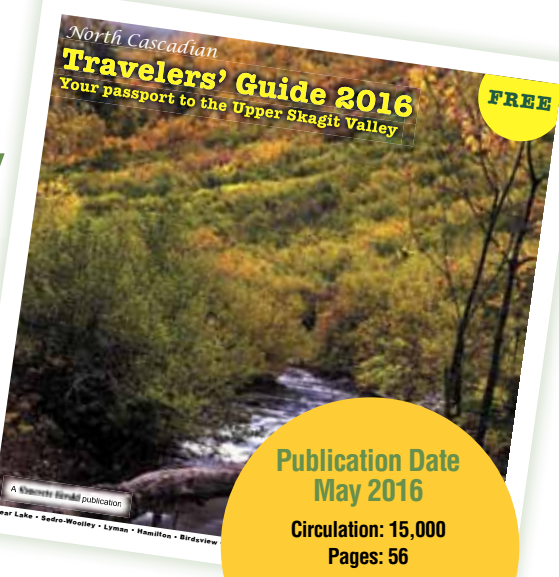
So much need, all at once. And I know of more I'm not mentioning. The one comfort I have is that our communities are rallying around those who got sucker punched last month and doing what we can to get them through these almost unbearable trials.

I promise I'll do what I can to join the rest of you. We can help.

—J. K. M.

## Smart businesses advertise in the Travelers' Guide!

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# Opinion

## Letters to the editor

### Day of Service thanks

Concrete Farm to School and North Cascades National Park Service Complex wish to thank the 25 volunteers who showed up on January 18 to make Martin Luther King Day a true Day of Service at Concrete Elementary School! Thanks to these volunteers' help, we were able to remove dozens of bags of invasive species and garbage from woods owned by Concrete School District and make the land a safer and healthier place to learn outdoors and recreate. Volunteers also aided in maintaining and supporting the Concrete Farm to School classroom and preparing a delicious and healthy meal for all. Thank you to everyone who attended! We are proud to be part of the Concrete community.

Thanks very much!

*Katie Bunge  
 VISTA Community Outreach Specialist  
 North Cascades National Park  
 Service Complex*

### Thanks to Washington Conservation Corps

Every year I'm thrilled to get the call from a Washington Conservation Corps volunteer in advance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day: "Where can we volunteer?"

This year we again put them to work in the Angele Cupples Community Garden, where they teamed up with Concrete High School senior Jonathan Goodwin and a newcomer to town who asked me to refer to her as "Taxpayer," which I suppose is accurate enough!

The volunteers got busy building gabion retaining walls, using galvanized security panels as a framework that they filled with chunks of concrete left over from the demolition of the old stockpile (the site of

the new Fire and Life Safety Facility). We built one long wall and one short one, behind the existing and future greenhouse location and immediately north of the garden shed in the southwest corner.

The walls are great finishers, defining their respective areas and allowing us to continue with the build-out of the garden. My deepest appreciation goes to all these volunteers for their hard work.

*Jason Miller, co-manager  
 Angele Cupples Community Garden*

### Marblemount's Eagle Festival events successful

January 9 and 10 saw hundreds of visitors from near and far enjoy the native cultural events hosted by the Marblemount Community Hall. From a Skagit tribal legend-inspired puppet show, to drumming and storytelling, to indigenous and original live music, the new tent filled up with audiences young and old.

Inside the hall, Indian fry bread tacos, hot beverages, and a variety of wonderful locally made arts and crafts were available to purchase. A good time was had by all and the weather, if chilly, was perfect. Huge thanks to all who made it happen!

*Christie Fairchild, vice president  
 Marblemount Community Hall*

### Letters policy

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

## Inside

Opinion .....	2	Lyman .....	18	Obituaries .....	30
Sports .....	8	Day Creek .....	19	Sheriff's blotter .....	31
Academics .....	12	Hamilton .....	22	Local columns .....	32
Clear Lake .....	14	Rockport .....	23	Business Directory .....	33
Community Calendar .....	15	Darrington .....	24	Out & About .....	34
Community Meetings .....	15	Marblemount .....	26	Smile .....	36
Sedro-Woolley .....	16	Newhalem .....	27	Classifieds .....	39
		Seniors .....	28		
		Sunday School lesson .....	30		

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## Commentary

# Property rights under assault

By Elizabeth Scott

I have grown increasingly concerned about the assaults on property rights in our state.

The people of East Skagit County, in particular, were not consulted on their opinion about elk being transplanted there with tax dollars, causing hundreds of traffic accidents, thousands of dollars of crop damage on many farms, damage to yards and gardens, and, now, hoof disease.

Skagit County citizens were not asked if they consented to 6,000 of their neighbors losing the right to use their already-existing wells for household and agricultural purposes. With a court ruling, nearly 500 homeowners, including elderly and veterans, lost their water rights, as well as up to three-



quarters of the value of their property. Just like that.

Citizens have grown weary of attending dozens of meetings, or "conversations," designed to badger them into giving up—or acquiescing to—manufactured "consensus," relegating them to more loss of private property and crops.

The latest outrage is the unelected bureaucrats' plan to redirect the Skagit River through Barnaby Slough near Rockport in an attempt to give fish more habitat.

Yes: the Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, Nature Conservancy, and Seattle City Light want to redirect a powerful river, in the third-largest watershed on the West Coast, through an area with many homes. (What could go wrong?)

The goal is, allegedly, to improve fish habitat, but if the goal is to have more healthy fish, why was a local citizen ordered by the Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) not to help salmon trapped in creek "potholes" on his property, because it "wouldn't be natural"?

He was ordered not to touch the salmon or help them get to the river, even though

**See Property rights, p. 27**

## Message from the mayor

By Jason Miller

Another soggy January brought more bad behavior from Lorenzen Creek, leaving residents to once again wonder why in the world that problem hasn't been fixed?

I'll write a more detailed explanation on my "Jason Miller Concrete Mayor" Facebook wall, but here's the short version.

Lorenzen Creek has been rerouted twice, and two of its wetland areas have been filled in. This wasn't a major deal until coho and cutthroat fry were discovered in it, leading WDFW to designate it as a fish-bearing stream.

In the mid-1990s, new regulations were created, preventing us from simply digging out the creek channel when it became choked with silt and dead foliage. The new way of doing things required at least a four-person crew and a time-intensive process that we

couldn't do ourselves, nor did we have the thousands of dollars needed to farm out the task.

Stuck between regulations and common sense, the town now finds itself with little choice but to allow the creek to swell, overflow, and threaten residences, thus giving us a lawful reason to call for an emergency dredging permit.

What are we doing about it? Our approach is twofold: The long-term strategy is to reroute Lorenzen Creek for good by daylighting it through Silo Park and turning it into an amenity instead of a threat. Funding for that project could take years to secure.

Our short-term strategy is to insist that WDFW make good on its promise to help the town financially: My goal will be to secure WDFW funding to do the dredging the way it says it must be done.

I'm also talking to our engineer about doing some longer-term berming and perhaps a deep ditch across Park Ave. S., covered by a cattle guard. Still, I'd rather fix the problem, rather than keep slapping bandages on it.

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

## Commentary

# Barnaby Reach project: A regional perspective

By Russ Dalton

I am a resident of Rockport, living at the north end of Martin Rd. in the larger Barnaby Reach Project Area. The Skagit River System Cooperative has proposed to restore habitat conditions for fish and wildlife in the Barnaby Reach of the Skagit River. I have been intrigued by their proposal.

I was born in the mid-1940s on the Olympic Peninsula. In my lifetime the forestlands were progressively logged up to the boundary of Olympic National Park, such that in today's satellite imagery, that park today stands out in map-like relief, completely defined by the clear-cuts.

Today's traveler who has an interest in history and forests can note more changes in our lowlands by taking a drive from Rockport to Lake Crescent, west of Port Angeles. After a stop at Rockport State Park, proceed west through Burlington to the ferry at Coupeville. Take the ferry to Port Townsend. Drive another 70 miles until you arrive at Lake Crescent and the boundary for Olympic National Park. You have just driven more than 150 miles between the remnants of the big tree forests. Those massive forests of the Puget Sound lowlands that stretched from Rockport to Lake Crescent were all cut down in just a matter of decades.

There have been enormous changes in our environment here on the Skagit. Many of us may yearn for the "old days," when forests stretched on forever and fish were uncountable. In the Pacific Northwest after the settlers arrived, those days lasted just a few decades, a tale that had been repeated from the Atlantic Coast to the Pacific.

Thankfully, across the nation there were people who woke up to what was being lost and fought hard to stem the tide of the colossal resource consumption and destruction. Progressive land use began in the days of President Teddy Roosevelt, huge conservation measures were introduced by President Franklin Roosevelt, and the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Environmental Protection Acts were some of the legacies of the Johnson and Nixon presidencies. Wild areas have been saved, the rivers no longer catch fire from pollution, and the bald eagle has been saved from extinction. Conservation, restoration, and preservation have all been

the great tools to recover something of the "old days."

The Barnaby Slough area wears the air of a morning-after hangover from the hatchery party that's now years gone by. It is waiting for the clean-up crew to haul away the junk. It is hard to argue against taking at least that step, which is defined in the Project Fact Sheet as Alternatives 1–3. Alternative 4 is a bigger step and rightly bears scrutiny, because it would introduce part of the river into an area where the river hasn't flowed for 100 years or more.

I left the Olympic Peninsula 25 years ago, and at that time was living near the banks of the Elwha River, a couple miles downstream of the Glines Canyon Dam. I settled near the banks of the Skagit River, in the Barnaby Reach. I have since closely followed the unfolding story of the removal of the dams on the Elwha.

It has been an enormous undertaking and, like the Barnaby Reach project, was driven by the desire to restore fish and wildlife habitat. There was the initial conceptual plan, followed by surveys, public testimony, project modeling, many negotiations amongst the numerous stakeholders—all steps that look familiar as we consider the Barnaby Reach Project.

The potential benefits were anticipated, as was any collateral damage to the extensive infrastructure in the flood plain—county roadways, a state highway, bridges, campgrounds, homes, two salmon hatcheries, a sewage treatment plant, even the Port Angeles city water system. More than 25 years passed from the first dam removal proposal to the final demolition in 2012. There were many stakeholders and it took those decades to address every perceived concern. And even so, things have unfolded not entirely as anticipated. The long-blocked salmon were actually spawning far sooner, the sediment released has created better than a hundred acres of delta at the river mouth, and more recently the river has wandered in its floodplain—perhaps more than was anticipated.

I am pleased with the dam removal project thus far, as are most Peninsula residents concerned with the environmental health of their region. It has been a remarkable achievement in restoration of lost habitat.

As the Barnaby Reach project unfolds, it is my impression that the public comments of local residents have been only the opponents of the project. But interest does exist with residents

**See Barnaby Reach, p. 30**



# New members join Town Council

By Haley McNealey

Edited by Katy Tomasulo

At the Concrete Town Council's first regular meeting of 2016, newly elected councilmember Rob Thomas and council-appointed Corey Ruiz took their oaths of office.

Re-elected councilmembers also were sworn into office during the Jan. 11 meeting. Marla Reed and Ginger Kyritsis, each of whom ran unopposed, were re-elected to serve another term in their council seats.

Thomas is a new addition to the council, elected into the position formerly held by retired councilmember Jack Mears.

At this meeting, the council also was tasked with appointing an applicant to the remaining council position, left vacant by the withdrawal of councilmember-elect Maryann Holbrook. Three candidates submitted an application for the vacant seat. After interviewing each of the three

candidates and hearing their responses to various inquiries, the council selected Corey Ruiz to fill the seat.

## Corey Ruiz

Ruiz grew up in Concrete. He moved away, but returned and has been a resident for the past nine years.

Ruiz is involved in an organization that fights for citizens' fishing rights. He emphasizes the importance of economic growth and industry in Concrete, reporting that there were between 1,500 and 2,000 residents in the town during his childhood. When asked what he perceives as an important issue the town is facing, Ruiz discussed the importance of securing funding



Ruiz

for necessary updates to the sewer and wastewater treatment plant.

Ruiz says he is dedicated to being an "ear to the public." After attending a few council meetings in recent months, he gained an understanding of the process through which elected representatives are able to implement solutions and improvements. His greatest motivation to apply for the position was the opportunity to represent the community so that when citizens recognize an issue, they can share concerns with him and he can report back to the council and work to make decisions that reflect the best interest of the community.

## Rob Thomas

Thomas has lived in Concrete for almost 24 years. During this time he has served the community as pastor of Community Bible Church, a member of the board of directors for the food bank, member of the board of directors for the Upper Skagit Library Foundation, and middle school coach and referee. He also has served as Civil Service Commission chairman.



Thomas

One issue that is important to Thomas is continuing economic development efforts. "Second of all," he said, "is maximizing resources available, including people. The next priority is both keeping people resources here and attracting new people here, including tourists and, more importantly, new people moving into the community."

## Committee appointments

During the meeting, council designated members to committees. Mike Bartel was nominated for the Airport Committee, replacing former councilmembers Mears and Dave Pfeiffer; Bartel also was nominated as a community garden co-manager, a position formerly held by Reed.

Reed was re-appointed as Parks Committee chair.

Kyritsis was nominated to both the Historic Preservation Committee and the Economic Development Task Force; she also was elected as mayor pro-tem, replacing former mayor pro-tem Bartel.

*Writer Haley McNealey is a 2015 graduate of Concrete High School. Editor Katy Tomasulo lives in Seattle.*

# Chapman in ICU after on-the-job accident

Tragedy struck the Concrete community Jan. 16, when longtime tow truck driver Dave Chapman was gravely injured during a routine extraction.

Chapman was called to retrieve a stolen BMW that had been driven off a cliffside along Burpee Hill Rd. approximately eight-tenths of a mile outside town limits. Chapman arrived shortly after 4 p.m. with employee James Peterson. As the two men worked to prepare the car for removal, a boulder the size of a basketball dislodged from the hillside and struck Chapman on the head.

Chapman's wife, Deborah, told *Concrete Herald* that the boulder fractured Chapman's skull and broke his neck. Hardware in his neck from a previous surgery was dislodged and pressed against his spinal cord, paralyzing him from the neck down.

Concrete, Grasmere, and Birdsvie Fire Departments arrived at the scene, and Grasmere's rope rescue team brought Chapman roadside. He was then transported to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle.

Chapman has been in the ICU at Harborview ever since. "Every day is baby steps," said Deborah Chapman. But what started as almost complete paralysis has, after surgery, changed to arm and leg movement, and sitting upright for 30 minutes—remarkable events so soon after so much damage. "Every day is a challenge, but he's meeting them like the kempo karate guy he is. That's keeping him focused," said Deborah. "We're taking it one day at a time."

Deborah said Chapman loves the cards that family and friends are sending. Anyone who wants to send a card should use this address:

Harborview Medical Center  
Attn: Dave Chapman Floor 2, Room 252  
325 9th Ave  
Seattle, WA 98104

An account for donations named "Dave's Donation Account" has been set up at the Concrete branch of Columbia Bank. Donations can be made in person or mailed to Columbia Bank at P.O. Box 426, Concrete, WA 98237.

—J. K. M.



**Dave Chapman of Concrete-based Dave's Towing** in April 2013. Chapman was gravely injured Jan. 16 when a boulder dislodged from a hillside above him and struck him on the head, fracturing his skull and breaking his neck.

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## Replacement levy vote looms for school district

By Jason Miller

The Concrete School District will ask voters to renew a three-year replacement levy on Feb. 9.

The levy is not a new tax, said district Superintendent Barbara Hawkings. Rather, it is an expiring tax, a replacement Educational Programs and Operations Levy request that supports the annual cost of operating the district, not a construction bond request, which is used to build or replace school buildings. The Concrete School District is bond-free; that is, its only local dollars come from the levy.

Because of cutbacks the state has made in funding education, the district gets 26 percent of its revenue from the local levy.

"We're the only district in the county that is asking our voters for only an Educational Programs and Operations Levy, which includes technology," said Hawkings. "All

of the other districts in Skagit County have a Bond and/or a separate Technology Levy."

According to the school district, the replacement levy would fund the following areas:

- 39 percent: Staffing, student, and community programs.
- 18 percent: Facilities/grounds.
- 15 percent: Technology, including equipment replacement and upgrades.
- 12 percent: Curriculum and staff training.
- 10 percent: Individual building needs, such as textbook replacement.
- 3 percent: Unfunded district needs.
- 2 percent: Supplement transportation.
- 1 percent: Food services.

—J. K. M.

## Keep your heart happy

Who do you love with all your heart? Turns out the same people who warm your heart can help keep it healthy too. They inspire us to stay heart healthy. If you need more support in your pursuit of heart health, PeaceHealth is here with screenings, nutrition advice and teams of specialists who never miss a beat.

**Tag your #hearhappy friends on Facebook.**

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## Parties announce caucus information

Skagit County Democrat and Republican parties have announced their locations for the 2016 presidential precinct caucuses.

Voters can find their personal voting information by entering their name and birthdate at the Washington Secretary of State Web site: <https://weiapplets.sos.wa.gov/myvote>.

The link will display the voter's voting precinct, but not the caucus location.

### Democrat caucus

Democrats can find their caucus location by going to the Skagit Democrats Web site at [www.skagitdemocrats.org](http://www.skagitdemocrats.org). The caucus date is March 26 from 10 a.m. to noon. The three Upper Valley caucus locations are:

- Concrete High School cafeteria, 45389 Airport Way, Concrete.
- Rockport Fire Station, 52748 Main St., Rockport.
- Lyman Town Hall, 8334 S. Main St., Lyman.

### Republican caucus

Republicans can confirm which precinct they're in by calling the Skagit Republican Office at 360.424.9792 for information and help. The caucus date is Feb. 20. The Upper Valley caucus locations in the *Concrete Herald* coverage area are:

- Central Elementary School, 601 Talcott St., Sedro-Woolley.
- Clear Lake Historical Society, 12655 State Route 9, Clear Lake.
- Lyman Old City Hall, 8334 S. Main St., Lyman, WA 98263.

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## First CERT group graduates

The first Cedargrove and Skagit Upriver Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) has graduated.

The group of neighbors went through 10 weeks of nine class sessions, each three hours long, plus a 10-hour emergency drill before graduating in a ceremony in La Conner.

The CERT program helps citizens be better prepared for emergency situations.

"I am immensely proud to have witnessed the development of dedicated volunteers, ranging from the age of 11 to 70, into Department of Emergency Management, Department of Homeland Security, and President's Citizen Corps certified CERT and FEMA Emergency Workers," said Sandra Klier, president of the Cedargrove Maintenance Co.

Beginning in December, the group started regular monthly meetings in the Concrete Center. The meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. and everyone living in the Upper Valley who is interested at any level is welcome to attend. A new training class toward certification began in January and will be held in Mount Vernon and Anacortes.

For more information, contact Emergency Response Committee Chair Marcie Pierce at 360.853.7420 or [emergencyresponsecomm@cedargrove-concrete.org](mailto:emergencyresponsecomm@cedargrove-concrete.org).

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Photo by Lisa Corp

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## Mardi Gras returns Feb. 6

It's party time again in Concrete.

The 10th Annual Mardi Gras celebration will be held Feb. 6, when the town's Chamber of Commerce rolls out the purple, green, and gold celebration. The fun begins at 3 p.m. in Concrete Town Center.

"This is the only Mardi Gras event in Western Washington that's not just for grown-ups, doesn't encourage alcohol, and doesn't require a cover charge," said Valerie Stafford, president of the Concrete Chamber. "Everyone is welcome to be in the parade or just watch from the side. The only rule is to keep it fun and family-friendly."

Founders of the event, Tim Cooley and Sharon Feller, will reign as this year's Mardi Gras King and Queen. Cooley, a past vice-president of the Concrete Chamber, owned the Cajun Bar & Grill when he dreamed up the "almost anything goes" event for the town. Feller, his wife, owns a dental practice in Concrete.

When asked why he started the decade-long tradition, Cooley has always answered, "Why not?"

"Winter can be a challenging time in a small town," said Stafford. "We like any excuse to get out, dance in the street, and laugh with our friends and neighbors."

This year the parade will start at 3 p.m. at the post office and end in Town Center, with the Encore Fitness Zumba Team dancing in the street prior to the parade. Music will be provided by Jumbled Pie of Marblemount.

There is no cost to enter the parade. Each entry should include the official Mardi Gras colors of purple, green, and gold, with Seahawk colors added to the theme this year.

Prizes will be awarded in several categories.

Parade entry forms are available at the Chamber office in the Skagit County Resource Center and also will be available at line-up near the Concrete Post Office at 2 p.m.

For more information, contact the Concrete Chamber of Commerce at 360.853.8784 or [chamber@concrete-wa.com](mailto:chamber@concrete-wa.com).

—J. K. M.

**Concrete Herald**

## THIS AND THAT

By J. K. M.

A presentation designed to raise public awareness about the **potential hazards surrounding Mt. Baker** will be held on Thur., Feb. 18, at 7 p.m. at Concrete Theatre.

Contrary to the peaceful image we all see out our windows, Mt. Baker is an active volcano that last erupted in 1843. The area around Mt. Baker has a long history of volcanic and seismic activity. The remains of numerous other volcanoes surround the majestic mountain we see today. And people live and play in areas downstream and downwind that could be affected by any future volcanic hazards.

Dave Tucker, a director of the Mt. Baker Volcano Research Center (MBVRC), will discuss recent findings on the past activity and future hazards of Mt. Baker. Tucker will share what the research center does to monitor the sleeping giant.

Admission is free and sponsored by the Concrete Theatre and the Concrete Heritage Museum Association.

Upper Skagit Library Foundation presents **"Frozen in Concrete"** on Sat., March 5, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Concrete Theatre. Spend an afternoon with the real-life author of the most beloved companion books to "FROZEN," Barbara Jean Hicks, as she reads from her books. Purchase personalized autographed copies of Hicks' books. Sing and dance with Anna and Elsa as they come to life with performers from Emerald Kingdom Parties. Dress up as your favorite character and have your photo taken with Anna and Elsa. Refreshments and cupcakes provided. Raffle and door prizes. Tickets \$20 per child and per adult. Children 12 years and under must be accompanied by an adult. Ages 3 and above require a ticket to attend. Buy tickets at [www.frozeninconcrete.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.frozeninconcrete.brownpapertickets.com). For more information, e-mail [upperskagitlibraryfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:upperskagitlibraryfoundation@gmail.com), go to [upperskagitlibraryfoundation.org](http://upperskagitlibraryfoundation.org), or call 360.853.7939.

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## Council summary

*Concrete Town Council met for regular meetings on Jan. 11 and 25. Following is a summary of those two meetings. Complete and council-approved minutes for every council meeting are posted on the town's Web site at [www.townofconcrete.com/cminutes.php](http://www.townofconcrete.com/cminutes.php).*

### Jan. 11 regular meeting

- Newly elected Councilmember Rob Thomas took his oath of office for Position 1. Re-elected Councilmember Marla Reed took her oath of office for Position 4. Re-elected Councilmember Ginger Kyritsis took her oath of office for Position 5.

- In light of newly elected Councilmember Maryann Holbrook resigning her position, council interviewed three candidates for potential appointment to the Position 2 seat: Corey Ruiz, Paul Rider, and former councilmember Dave Pfeiffer. Council nominated Corey Ruiz to the position; Ruiz took the oath of office and took his seat at the council table.

- **Public safety:** Sergeant Chris Kading reported on damage that was done to the Columbia Bank ATM on Dec. 30 around 4:30 a.m. He stated the two individuals caught on camera were wearing ski masks and were not able to break into the machine, but caused extensive damage. He stated that he has video of the incident and they have suspects in mind.

Town engineer Cody Hart stated that he, Mayor Jason Miller, and Andrea Fichter had met with Senator Kirk Pearson to discuss funding options for the water spray park. Hart updated the new council members on the RCO funding application and award process, as well as the frustrations the town has gone through with this funding. He stated the town has the option of updating the plan for the spray park and seeking funding through the State Legislature.

- Janice Marlega with Reichhardt & Ebe reported the plans for the Secondary Access project are pretty close to 100 percent complete.
- Brian and Cheryl Massingale addressed the council and answered questions regarding the planned exterior of the building they are remodeling in Concrete Town Center. They hope to open sometime in February.

### Jan. 25 regular meeting

- Council further discussed the Skagit River Gene Bank Designation topic, and directed staff to bring the resolution in opposition to it to the Feb. 8 council meeting.
- **Public safety:** Sgt. Kading stated there are mental health-related incidents within a report in the council packet and that these types of calls are always an issue. He stated that he also heard there may be a mental health services office opening near the Skagit County shop on SR 20. He stated he wanted to make sure the town was aware so the same issues they had at the Eagles Nest do not occur again.

Mayor Miller stated that he had spoken with Stephanie Morgareidge at the Resource Center, who has been trying to contact them to get information on their plans, but has not been able to get an opening date for this office.

Town planner Marianne Manville-Ailles reported that when that entity submits an application through Skagit County, the town would receive a courtesy notification because the property is located within the town's urban growth area. She stated she received a notice and she had requested further information, but at that time the only thing they were doing was some internal renovations. She stated it looked to her that it was only offices they were putting in and not any type of housing. She stated she is not sure if this service is going to be offered only to locals or if they will be bringing people from outside the community as well.

Mayor Miller stated that is exactly the information that he would like to know.

Sgt. Kading stated that if the service is for the locals he is definitely okay with that, but his concern is they are going to bring people in and then not have anywhere for them to go, which is a cause for concern.

—Compiled from staff notes

### Keep track of your council

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

## Deputy Marlow moves on

Skagit County Deputy Don Marlow rode off into the sunset on Jan. 8, but he won't ride far. Marlow, who has been assigned to the East Detachment since about 1997, reunited with former partner Deputy Freddie Harrison on Jan. 11 to begin a new project designed to more proactively address crime in Skagit County.

"He's given many years of valuable service to the upriver community," said Sgt. Chris Kading. "Don has always been my go-to guy for catching crooks; he knows them all."

A follow-up story on Deputy Marlow and Deputy Harrison's new duties will be published in a future issue of *Concrete Herald*.

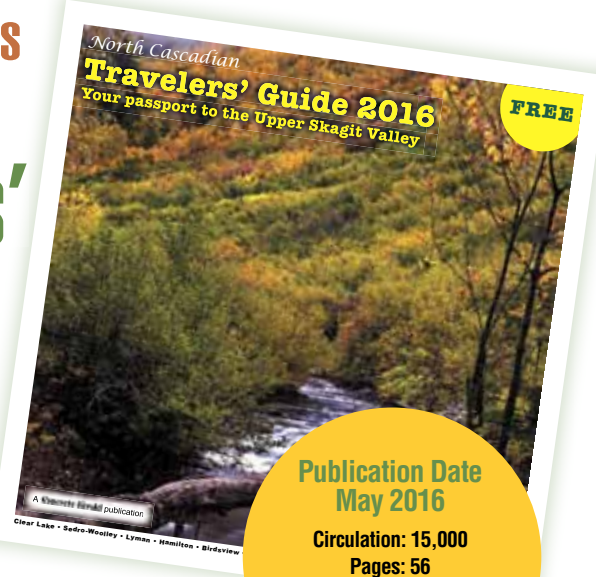
—J. K. M.



**Deputy Don Marlow speaks** during a going-away party in his honor at Concrete Town Hall on Jan. 8. He began his new duties on Jan. 11 after rejoining former partner, Deputy Freddie Harrison, for a project designed to more proactively address crime in Skagit County.

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# Sports



## Tough month for women's hoops

By Kevik Rensink, head coach

After a fast start to the women's basketball season, where the team collected four wins in December, January proved to be a tougher road. January is the thick of league play and the competition heats up, but to come so close so many times this month and come out with just two more wins has been frustrating at times.

I can say this about my team: They don't quit. I believe these girls play harder than anybody, and it doesn't matter what the lights on the scoreboard say. They are tough, and they play together. I am proud of their efforts this season, and I love the fight they have left in them.

Our record is 6-11, and we need a couple more wins during the first week of February to get into the playoffs. The girls know it, I know it, and we will do everything we can to extend our season one more day. I believe in this team, and more importantly, they believe in each other. We have pushed through some tough times together, and we have talked about overcoming some trust issues. The girls have responded extremely well, they have been courageous, and I believe our story will be one of success.

Cassidy Cargile, our lone senior, is not ready for the season to be over, so we want this for her. The rest of team has had a great year as well, where I can honestly say every player has improved. Jaycelyn Kuipers leads us in points and rebounds. Emily Bridge has had a huge second half of the season, and has turned into a great shooter and scorer. Chloe Stidman is the heart of the team and keeps everyone involved. Destiny Van Bibber and Madisyn Renzelman have made huge strides this year and are absolutely key at the top of our defense. Tate Mathis continues to improve on both ends of the floor, and is a vital part to everything we do.

One of the biggest surprises of the season has been Jenna Whorten. Jenna started out the year on the junior varsity team, and has stepped up to become a major contributor on varsity.

The girls will do everything they can to make a run into the playoffs this year. I know this to be true after being their coach every day for the last three months. I also know the future is bright with this group of young ladies, basketball or otherwise. Our last home game is Wed., Feb. 3 at 6 p.m. Please come out and celebrate their great season, and Cassidy Cargile's wonderful career.



Concrete senior Cassidy Cargile drives against an Orcas Island defender during the Jan. 8 game on the Concrete court.



Emily Bridge considers the basket before tossing up a free throw during the Jan. 8 game against the Orcas Island Vikings.

## Wrestlers strong through January

By Jason Miller

The Concrete Lions wrestlers blasted through January with strong performances and minimal injuries, and now look to Feb. 6, when Concrete will host the subregional matches on its home mats.

Our grapplers kicked off the month by traveling to Warden for the Jeremiah Schmunk Tournament on Jan. 2. Concrete captured fourth place, narrowly giving up third place to Kittitas by only four points.

"We would have beat Kittitas if I'd had my heavyweight," said Coach David Dellinger, referring to Robert Nevin, who was unable to attend the tournament.

Dellinger liked the competition, however, calling it "a mini-state tournament," since No. 1-ranked Warden, No. 2-ranked Tonasket, and No. 3-ranked Kittitas all were on hand to put the

Concrete grapplers through their paces. "That was a really good tournament," said Dellinger.

The team next took third at the Sky Valley Invitational in Sultan on Jan. 9, then beat both Friday Harbor and La Conner at home on Jan. 13.

A slew of schools showed up for the King of the Mountain tournament in Darrington on Jan. 16, with Concrete snagging second place. Donovan Dellinger, Donnie Olmstead, and Randall Beacham all took first in their classes.

Jan. 20 found Concrete in Friday Harbor, where they beat Darrington, La

Conner, and the home team.

A Jan. 27 match in La Conner against Darrington and the home team found the Concrete team on top again, losing only one match. Riley Fichter and Dellinger each notched satisfying wins, beating wrestlers they'd lost to earlier in the season.

The team's lone woman, Becky Azure, is out for the season with a disappointing shoulder injury, and Beacham still struggles with separated ribs from Warden, but Coach Dellinger remains hopeful. "I think every kid on our team is going to make it to subregionals," he said.



## Kuipers wins free throw contest

On Sat., Jan. 8, Robert Rushin, Kayla Knuth, Ashley Parker, Adam Culver, and Ava Kuipers represented Concrete Elementary School at the Elk's Hoop Shoot in Mount Vernon.

Ava Kuipers (above), won her 8- to 9-year-old division by making 11 out of 25 free throws. She will next represent Concrete at the district championship in Mount Vernon on Feb. 6. If Ava wins at the district level, she will move on to the state championship held at Saint Martins University at a later date.

The Elks Hoop Shoot is a free throw contest for youth ages 8 to 13. The program is free to all contestants and provides youth an opportunity to compete, connect, and succeed through hard work and healthy competition. Winners advance through Lodge, district, state, and regional contests to reach the National Finals in April. In the end, the names of six national champions will be permanently inscribed at the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Mass.

Congratulations to all of the Concrete students who participated!

—Paul Bianchini

Upper left: Lion Brayden Olmstead applies steady pressure to Michael Coombes of Muckleshoot at the King of the Mountain tournament in Darrington Jan. 16. Olmstead won with a pin.

Left: Blaine Storms attempts to twist Jimmy Yepez of Cedar Crest into position Jan. 16. The match rocked back and forth, but Yepez came out on top by decision.



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## Athletes of the Month



### Fall Athletes of the Month: Jaycelyn Kuipers and Donnie Olmstead

Junior Jaycelyn Kuipers wears No. 15 and is a 5'11" guard for the Concrete women's basketball team. She leads the team in points and rebounds, averaging 15 points and 10 rebounds per game. "Through her hard work and dedication in the off-season, Jaycelyn came into this season ready to start, but not sure what she was even capable of," said Head Coach Kevik Rensink. "She is very coachable and a great teammate. Jaycelyn has improved a ton from last year, and has been a huge reason for our team's success this season. This is Jaycelyn's first time receiving the Athlete of the Month award; she has worked very hard to earn this achievement."

Senior Donnie Olmstead wrestles in the 195 lb. class, and he's pretty good at it. Olmstead is currently ranked No. 1 in the state in his class and has lost only one match so far this season, to a wrestler from Forks—a 1A school. "He's wrestling harder than anybody in the room, and he's taking things very seriously," said Head Coach David Dellinger. You'll see this one at State.

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

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# Nail-biting January for Lion hoops

By Paul Bianchini, head coach

The Concrete men's basketball team started the new year on a positive note with a come-from-behind victory at home versus Cedar Park Christian.

Trailing by five points at the half, the Lions came out and shut down CPC by outscoring them 15-3 in the third quarter to take a 31-24 lead heading into the fourth period. CPC continued to battle as both teams traded baskets down the stretch, but Dylan Clark's 7 points in the final quarter and Joe Ramirez's tight defense secured the lead as the Lions held on for a 44-41 home win. Clark led the Lions with 21 points, followed by James Schoolland's 13.

Next up was an energized Orcas team that came out and dominated the first half. The Lions found themselves trailing 48-17 as they entered the locker room.

The second half was a much better played game by the Lions, but it was far too little too late as Orcas was never threatened in a 71-36 Lion defeat. Sophomore Schoolland led the Lions with 16 points.

A more determined Lion team took the floor against the visiting La Conner Braves on Jan. 12. La Conner jumped out to a 21-10 first quarter lead and with 3 minutes left in the half, the Lions built a 33-23. La Conner then finished the half on a 10-point run to ruin what looked like a promising half for the Lions.

The team battled the rest of the way, with Grayson Luttrell chipping in 7 fourth quarter points, but the night belonged to the Braves as they handed the Lions an 85-42 defeat.

Mount Vernon Christian visited Concrete on Jan. 14, and the game went down to the wire. Trailing 25-16 at the half, Concrete came out the second half and played one of their finest "team" halves of the year. The team continued to chip away at the MVC lead and finally tied the game at 41-41 with two minutes left, but MVC had a little bit more firepower at the end to hand the Lions a tough home loss, 47-43.

Many of the Lions' points in the second half came off of the constant pressure and fast break points of Tyler Labrousse, Ramirez, and Schoolland. Labrousse finished with a season-high 12 points. The Lions were led by Schoolland with 20 points. "Composure" was the key on Jan. 19 as

Concrete traveled to Darrington to take on a winless Logger team. As usually is the case, throw out any records when two rivals meet. Both teams battled each other for the entire game as Concrete could not put together any long runs.

Late in the final quarter, the Loggers took their first lead of the game and looked like they might get their first win of the season. Some timely bench help from Mike Filtz and Cole Meacham, as well as clutch defense by Tucker Schollard, kept the Lions until the end. Free throws by Ramirez and Clark sealed the win as Concrete escaped with a hard-fought victory. Schoolland led the Lions with 20 points and Clark added 18.

On Jan. 21, Friday Harbor came to town and left with a hard-fought 60-37 victory. A nonproductive third quarter hurt the Lions as they were outscored 17-6. Concrete battled, but could never get enough momentum going as a talented Wolverine squad hit 11 of 15 free throws down the stretch.

This was one of those games where the final score did not reflect the effort and determination of the Lions. Solomon Holman, Meacham, and Scollard battled FH's big men, keeping them in check as all the Lion scoring was done by Clark with 19, Schoolland with 14, and Ramirez's 3 points.

The fifth home game of the month versus Shoreline Christian became an instant classic. Playing without two starters, the short-handed Lions got solid, inspired minutes from each player on the team. Both teams traded baskets the entire game as the Lions trailed by one point at the half and then led by two at the end of the third quarter. Clark scored nine fourth quarter points as the Lions played the final four minutes without starters Holman and Ramirez, who both fouled out.

Again, the Lions turned to their bench and got excellent performances from Rey Garibay, Meacham, and Filtz. Whether getting key rebounds, playing tough defense, or being strong with the ball, these three gave the team a huge lift down the stretch. Filtz's two free throws were timely as the fourth quarter ended with the game tied at 59. Overtime was more of the same as both teams went back and forth in what looked like the last team to have the ball might win. With the game tied at 68, Shoreline Christian hit a 3-point shot

with 1.1 seconds left to hand the Lions a bitter defeat. The Lions can look back at the defeat and note one of the reasons they did not win was the miserable 11 of 28 shooting from the free throw line, which negated a great team effort. Clark carried the Lions with a career-high 40 points.

On Jan. 26 the Lions traveled to Seattle to take on Cedar Park Christian. An ugly first half saw the Lions trailing 23-12 as they entered the locker room.

An inspired Lion team came out the second half determined to prove that the first half was not who they were as a team. Holding CPC to just four points throughout the entire third quarter and the first five minutes of the fourth quarter, the Lions chipped away at the lead. When Schoolland hit a 3-point shot to tie the game at 27 early in the fourth period, one could sense the wind go out of the sails of the home team. The Lions outscored CPC 28-14 in the second half to come home with an emotional 40-37 win. Clark scored 19 and Schoolland 15 to lead the team.

January came to a close as the Lions traveled to Orcas Island to take on the third place Vikings.

A different Lion team than the one in early January surprised the Vikings, matching them basket for basket throughout the first half. A strong first half (6 points and 6 steals) by Labrousse and Schollard's defense on the Vikings big man kept the game close as the Lions trailed at the half, 34-26.

Schoolland came alive in the second half, scoring 20 of his game-high 24 points. The Lions grabbed a 42-41 lead in the third quarter, but Orcas finished the quarter with a 46-42 lead. From that point on, Orcas continued to add and was able to hit 11 of 16 free throws down the stretch to win 71-54—a much better effort from the Lions than when the teams met earlier in the year. Schoolland's 24 and Clark's 15 points led the Lions.

With three games left to play before the Lions enter the District playoffs, here are the standings:

LaConner	12-0
Friday Harbor	10-2
Orcas	9-3
MV Christian	6-6
Concrete	5-7
Shoreline Ch.	5-8

CPC	2-11
Darrington	0-12

The final games are Mon., Feb. 1 at Mount Vernon Christian and Tue., Feb. 2 at La Conner. Our Wed., Feb. 3 home game is against Auburn Adventist. It's also "Senior Night," and will be the final home game for seniors Dylan Clark, Tucker Schollard, and James 'Bird' Suit.



Scenes from the Jan. 8 home game against Orcas Island: Dylan Clark drives against opponents, above. Below, Grayson Luttrell eyes the basket before taking a free throw.



# A little help from a friend

## Jim Fichter encourages budding musicians to bloom.

By Jason Miller

It's Monday morning in Peter Ormsby's 6th grade strings class at Concrete Elementary. While students work their way through short musical phrases in the main room, bass guitar player Georgia Gregush stands in a side room with the door closed, stretching out a finger to touch a 3x5 flashcard held by volunteer musician Jim Fichter. She's feeling her way to the answer of a note stranded on the third line up on the treble clef.

"B," she says tentatively. "Good," says Fichter. "Now this one ..." and another card comes up.

A familiar sight on local band stages, Fichter, or "Grandpa Jim," as he's known to the young musicians, is in his fourth year doing what he can to help Ormsby, the school district's music director, bring his students up to speed and on pace with the material. Fichter focuses on the first-year students—the 6th graders—although he's been known to show up and play with the 7th and 8th graders on occasion.

Today he's toggling back and forth between the main room and the smaller room, helping the cellists and violinists with their fingering, playing a phrase for them when they get stumped. And, one by one, the students find their way to the flashcard drills.

### Love of music

Fichter's work with the school district started with simple note-reading help, and "kind of morphed into helping them play different instruments, and went from there," says Fichter, 67. "It's fun for me, because I get to see when it clicks for them, when the light goes on and they say, 'Oh yeah! I see!'"

His love of—and talent for—music flows in his veins (quite literally) and shows on his face. "It makes me happy," he says. Influenced by a slew of acoustic musicians such as Sam Bush, David Grisman, and Jethro Burns—all mandolin players—he raised an equally talented son, Josh, and watched grandsons Gibson, Marshall, and Riley all follow in his footsteps.

Fichter is almost frustratingly humble. He plays guitar and mandolin in two bands, "can scratch out a few tunes" on a fiddle, and is learning the clarinet. He talks about having to "refresh" his memory of the bass clef, and sings the praises of the students instead. "When the kids talk about something, they usually know what they're talking about, because they just learned it."

Ormsby loves having an accomplished musician in his classes. "His presence shows the kids that music is important to him as a community member and a person, so it reinforces what I'm trying to teach them, to have another adult who's passionate about it. He also talks to kids and works with them one on one. Sometimes a student will be frustrated with the work, and he'll explain to them what a special opportunity the music is. He'll work with them on note-reading too."

Anyone who's taught young students knows that sometimes it feels like herding cats. "It helps to focus the kids even more, knowing he's right behind them, playing along," says Ormsby, laughing.

### Report card

Fichter got good marks from the students who spoke with *Concrete Herald*.

Payton Dickinson, who plays piano, valued her time in the practice room with him. "He gave me note charts to help me remember them," she says.

Christian Joens, who chose accordion, wrote a thoughtful response: "Grandpa Jim Fichter is a very important part of our class. He has helped us learn our notes, helps us learn new songs, and just having him around is nice. He has proven to us that working hard on our instrument really pays off in the long run. He has shown us that playing an instrument can actually be really fun!"

Trombone player Robert Rushin believes Fichter can play almost any instrument and was especially grateful for guidance in the fundamentals. "He taught me how to hold my trombone and showed

us the correct embouchure (how to make the mouthpiece meet the mouth properly)."

### Late bloomer

Fichter played trumpet during his 4th and 5th grade years, then stopped playing until he left the Army and learned the guitar. The mandolin followed later.

One of his goals is to impress upon the young musicians the importance of staying with their instrument. To that end, he does what he can to smooth the learning process. "I will sit in with them if they're having problems—more so in the strings class than band, because I can scratch out a few tunes on the fiddle, and I know the fingering, so I can help them with that and the phrasing. And if Peter's really busy, I can run them through some of the songs. And if they're playing around, we can pair up. I can run to the office and get copies made, if he needs me to do that. Basically anything he needs me to do."

"I really like to see the kids learning music," he says. "I think it's important,



Aspiring cellists Patience Kruger (left) and Tiffanie Hendry-Conrad listen as "Grandpa Jim" Fichter shares a few pointers during a 6th grade strings class in January.



Jim Fichter uses flash cards to help 6th grade musician Georgia Gregush name notes on the treble clef. First-year music students are pushing hard to learn fundamentals this year, including how to read music.

especially for kids who aren't particularly athletic. A lot of them are really good musicians, and once they get that positive feedback, it's amazing how well they do after that. And it's something they can do for the rest of their lives."





# Academics



**Concrete Elementary students** were honored Jan. 29 at a "Character Assembly" that celebrated the ways they demonstrated perseverance. Front row, from left, Rylee Morgan, Mia Crotto, Lily Dinkins, Nevin Benthimer, Kaylyn Andrews, Japheth Hook. Back row, from left, Lilly Avalos, Mason Baird, Rylee Baker, Andrew Cate, Courtney Hastings, Carlen Herz.



**Concrete Elementary students** were honored Jan. 29 during a special ceremony to congratulate them for not having missed a single day during the first 90 days of school. Front row, from left, JJ DeVries, Savannah Middlemist, Isabella Middlemist, Shane Maloy, David Sherman, Landin Keith Klasse, Hayden Maloy. Back row, from left, Hayley Daniels, Trevor Howard, Jasmine Lofton, Trenton Andrews, Caleb Lewis, Devon Howard.

## YD update

We came back from Christmas break with a great night under the lights for our annual Ultimate Frisbee championships.

The following weekend, three of our YD staff took 14 Concrete High School students to a four-day winter retreat in Leavenworth called Hotdoggin'. There was a ton of snow and the kids had a ton of fun. They went skiing, snowboarding, snow shoeing, ice wall climbing, cross-country skiing, sledding, tubing, and rafting—yes, rafting. On snow. Each evening all of the staff and students from all of the different schools gathered to compete in contests, sing songs, and listen to speakers about life and the decisions we all get to make. Two of our Concrete students decided to start a new life living for Christ. I am so proud of them taking this huge, courageous step toward a better life. This is my desire for every student: a better life. Some teenagers have stories that would make your heart break a thousand times, while other students have been so well protected they feel as if nothing could ever go wrong. At Concrete YD we get to interact with

both types of students and everything in between. Our goal is to meet each student right where they are in their lives, hear their story, and then just love and accept them for who they are. We attempt to do this through adventure retreats like Hotdoggin', our Monday night meetings, and every time we get to encounter each other in our day-to-day lives. Our staff is made up of all volunteers who want to give their time to teenagers in hope that their servanthood, love, patience, and consistency makes an impact that will last beyond their high school years. I love being a part of Youth Dynamics. I am so thankful for our staff, our community, and my family for their continued support and unconditional love for the young people in our community. I look forward to our February meetings, which include sledding on Sauk Mountain, Capture the Flag, Boys/Girls Night, "Think Inside the Box Night," a Leap Year Party, Minute To Win It, Just Better Night, Amazing Race, and a day of rock climbing out at Mount Erie in Anacortes. If you have a son or daughter in high school who needs some fun, and maybe some guidance in making life decisions, please send them our way.

—Kevik and Marta Rensink

## Registration open for 2016 Tulip Ambassador competition

Two child ambassadors will be chosen to represent the Skagit Valley Tulip Festival at the KeyBank 2016 Tulip Ambassador Event Feb. 9 at Cascade Mall in Burlington.

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

## Town seeks applicants for AWC scholarship

Town of Concrete is accepting applications for the AWC Center for Quality Communities Scholarship fund. The scholarship is available through a statewide competitive process for students who are actively engaged in their city government and/or community and/or school government, and plan to attend post-secondary school in fall 2016.

To be eligible, a student must be graduating from high school or home school or receiving a GED in spring/summer 2016, live within the Concrete School District boundaries, plan to continue their education at an accredited post-secondary institution in the 2016–2017 academic year on a half-time or more basis, and have been involved with a city or town government or with a community/school leadership activity.

"We have had ambassadors from many schools, plus home-schooled students," said Cindy Verge, executive director of the Festival. "Ambassadors and parents agree that it's a great experience and I hope we have lots of 4th and 5th graders apply."

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

The competition will be held at Cascade Mall in Burlington on Tue., Feb. 9, at 5 p.m., with applications due by 4 p.m. on Feb. 5.

For more information, contact Verge at 360.428.5959, cindy@tulipfestival.org, www.tulipfestival.org, or go to the festival office at 311 W. Kincaid in downtown Mount Vernon.

Information and application materials can be obtained at www.townofconcrete.com or www.cfqc.org, as well as by contacting the Concrete High School office. Completed applications are due no later than Feb. 19. Submit completed materials via U.S. Postal Service or e-mail to:

Town of Concrete  
ATTN: Andrea Fichter  
P.O. Box 39  
Concrete, WA 98237  
andrea@concretewa.gov

Center for Quality Communities promotes municipal leadership development and civic engagement. The Center's goal is to develop a broad public understanding of the important role that cities and towns play in Washington. The Center is a 501(c)(3) organization.

—Andrea Fichter

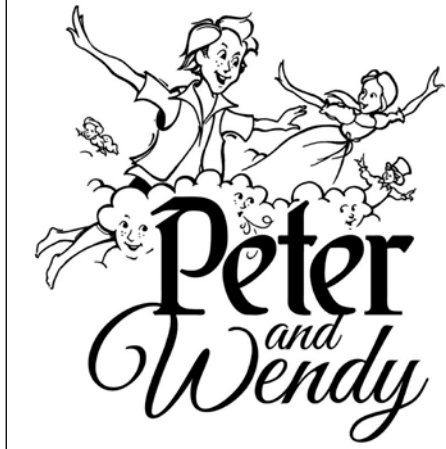
## Missoula Children's Theatre comes to town

Missoula Children's Theatre will perform "Peter and Wendy" in the Concrete Elementary School gymnasium on Sat., Feb. 6, at 1 p.m.

Auditions for the performance were held Feb. 1 at the school, with rehearsals following after school every day after that, through the end of the school week.

Missoula Children's Theatre is the world's largest traveling children's theatre. Its production strategy includes a unique twist: Use children from the host communities in each production. The theater offers an opportunity for children to be exposed to the arts in a new way, to learn about stage presence and performing. And, of course, to have a great time.

Admission to the show is \$5 per ticket or \$15 per family. Donations also will be accepted at the door to help cover the cost of the production. The show lasts 60 to 70 minutes.



**Concrete Elementary School students** gathered for a Jan. 27 Recognition Breakfast in honor of their special academic efforts. Front row, from left, Brendon Boozer, most improved class leader; Landin Keith Klasse, major improvement in math and reading; Hero Mitchell, outstanding job learning to count; Izaiah Allard, achievement in the classroom; Cody West, PAX behaviors; Morgan Markley, giving her best. Back row, from left, JJ DeVries, most improved reading and math; Jade McAdam, great work with fractions; Kyler Whorten, achievement in reading; Ethan Benjamin, role model every day; Levi Newman, working hard and being kind; Colby Whitford, willing to help/great attitude.

## Father-daughter dance

Fri., Feb. 19 • 6 to 8 p.m.

Concrete Elem. gym

Tickets: \$10/couple; \$5 each additional girl

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# Clear Lake



Girl Scout Service Unit 140 held its annual Pinewood Derby at Clear Lake Elementary on Jan. 23. More than 100 racers signed up, but rising to the top were the Grand Champions for Speed pictured above: 1st place went to Delaney Hurliman, Isabelle Smiley grabbed 2nd place, and Ella Griffith snapped up the 3rd place trophy. Below, guest racers Krista Salinas, Skagit County Dept. of Emergency Management coordinator (left), and Town of Concrete Deputy Clerk and volunteer firefighter Corrina Hart show off their awards. *Photos by Tammy Roberts.*



## Notice:

The Clear Lake Historical Association has changed its hours to Tuesday only, from 10 a.m. to noon. Members may be

able to accommodate appointments by request.

For more information, send an e-mail to [clha1987@gmail.com](mailto:clha1987@gmail.com) and allow up to a week for a response.



## HISTORY CORNER

The photo above shows a road crew

laying cement on Highway 9 near the gravel pit that is located south of Clear Lake, looking north toward Buchanan Hill. The photo was taken in 1919. *Photo courtesy of the Gillette*

Collection.

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

—Deanna Ammons, historian



Rick Lemley  
Doug Hutter  
Tobi Stidman

360-855-1288

1008 Third St. • Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284  
[www.lemleychapel.com](http://www.lemleychapel.com) [info@lemleychapel.com](mailto:info@lemleychapel.com)



## Community Calendar



### FEBRUARY

- 1-6 KSVU Annual Membership Drive; see article, p. 26; info at 360.853.8588
- 6 Upper Skagit Library Storytime, 11 a.m.
- 6 Missoula Children's Theatre presents "Peter and Wendy," Concrete Elementary School gymnasium, 1 p.m.; admission \$5 per ticket or \$15 per family; see article, p. 13
- 6 10th Annual Mardi Gras Parade, Concrete, 3 p.m.; info at 360.853.8784 or [www.concrete-wa.com](http://www.concrete-wa.com); see article, p. 6
- 9 Deadline to vote for Concrete School District Replacement Levy; see article, p. 4
- 10 Concrete Elementary PTO meeting, elementary school library, 5 p.m.
- 13 Darrington Community Dance, Mansford Grange, Darrington; potluck at 5:30 p.m., dance from 7 to 9:30 p.m.; see article, p. 24; info at 206.402.8646
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 14 Model Train Open House, Sedro-Woolley Museum, 725 Murdock St., Sedro-Woolley, noon to 3 p.m.; see notice, p. 17
- 15 Presidents' Day
- 16 Free skin cancer screenings, PeaceHealth United General Medical Center, 2000 Hospital Drive., Sedro-Woolley, 8 a.m. to noon; call for appointment: 360.856.7583
- 18 Mt. Baker Volcano Hazards presentation, Concrete Theatre, 7 p.m.; free admission; see notice, p. 6
- 19 Father-Daughter Dance, Concrete Elementary School gym, 6 to 8 p.m.; admission \$10 per couple and \$5 per each additional girl
- 20 Skagit County Republican Caucus; see article, p. 6
- 27 Marblemount/Rockport Fire Dept. Scholarship Fundraiser Dance, Marblemount Community Hall, 7 p.m. to midnight; tickets at the door or in advance from any firefighter; see article, p. 26
- 29 Library Card Art Design Contest deadline; guidelines available at library and [www.upperskagit.lib.wa.us](http://www.upperskagit.lib.wa.us); info at 360.853.7939

### MARCH

- 5 "Frozen in Concrete" Benefit Gala (Upper Skagit Library Building Fundraiser), Concrete Theatre, 1 to 3 p.m.; tickets are \$20; tickets and info at [www.frozeninconcrete.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.frozeninconcrete.brownpapertickets.com); see notice, p. 6; info at 360.853.7939
- 19 State Parks Free Day (no Discover Pass needed for day-use visits)
- 25 Concrete Heritage Museum Pre-Easter Bake Sale, Albert's Red Apple Market, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.; see notice, p. 32
- 26 Skagit County Democrat Caucus, 10 a.m. to noon; see article, p. 6
- 26 State Parks Free Day (no Discover Pass needed for day-use visits)
- 30 Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day, George Baldrige American Legion Post #43, 701 Murdock St., Sedro-Woolley, 7 to 9 p.m.; info at 360.856.2762

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

## Community meetings

**Cedar Grove and Skagit Upriver C.E.R.T.**

Group meets the first Mon. of each month at 6:30 p.m., Concrete Center in Concrete. 360.853.7420 or [emergencyresponsecomm@cedargrove-concrete.org](mailto:emergencyresponsecomm@cedargrove-concrete.org).

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

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

**Concrete American Legion Post and**

**Auxiliary** meet the second Tue. of each month, Sept. through May, at 5:30 p.m. in the American Legion Building. 360.853.8940.

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

**Concrete Chamber of Commerce** meets the second Thur. of each month at 8 a.m. Meetings usually are held at Concrete Center in Concrete. 360.466.8754 or [concretechamber@mac.com](mailto:concretechamber@mac.com).

**Concrete Heritage Museum Board** meets the third Wed. of each month, at 7 p.m. at the museum. Meetings are open to the public. 360.826.3075 or [concreteheritagemuseum@gmail.com](mailto:concreteheritagemuseum@gmail.com)

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

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

**Concrete School District Board** will hold its next work session on Feb. 22, at 6 p.m. in the high school Commons. The board will hold its next regular monthly meeting on Feb. 25, at 6 p.m., in the Commons. 360.853.8141.

**Concrete Town Council** meets the second and fourth Monday of each month at Town Hall, 45672 Main St., Concrete, at 7 p.m. 360.853.8401 or [andrea@concretewa.gov](mailto:andrea@concretewa.gov).

**Darrington Strong** meets the third Wed. of each month, 7 p.m., at Cascade Senior Center, 1115 Darrington St., Darrington. 360.436.2167.

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

**Forest Park Cemetery District No. 5** meets

the second Wed. of each month at the cemetery office on Compton Lane in Concrete, at 8 a.m. 360.708.3656.

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

**Imagine Concrete** meets the third Tue. of each month in the Pilots' Lounge at Mears Field in Concrete, at 6 p.m. Open to the public. 360.853.8213 or [goodwords@frontier.com](mailto:goodwords@frontier.com).

**KSVU** station info and host training, second Wed. of each month at Portable B behind Concrete K-8 School, 11 a.m., open to public. Call 360.416.7001 to confirm appointment.

**Lyman Town Council** meets the second Tue. of each month at Lyman Town Hall (Minkler Mansion), 8405 S. Main St., Lyman, at 7 p.m. 360.826.3033 or [clerk\\_lyman@msn.com](mailto:clerk_lyman@msn.com).

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

**Marblemount Community Hall board and staff** meet the second Wed. of each month at the hall, at 6:30 p.m. 360.873.2048 or 360.853.8388.

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

**Saukrates Cafe** meets the last Wed. of each month at Annie's Pizza Station in Concrete, at 5 p.m. Conversation topics are posted at Upper Skagit Library and <http://saukratescafe.wordpress.com>.

**Sedro-Woolley Town Council** meets the second and fourth Wed. of each month, at 7 p.m., in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 325 Metcalf St. 360.855.1661.

**Sedro-Woolley School District Board** will hold a regular meeting on Feb. 8 at 7 p.m. at Sedro-Woolley High School. The board will hold a second regular meeting on Feb. 22 at 7 p.m. at Central Elementary. 360.855.3500 or [kcargile@swsd.k12.wa.us](mailto:kcargile@swsd.k12.wa.us).

**Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center Board** meets the second Tue. of each month, 6:30 p.m., at Annie's Pizza Station in Grasmere. Open to the public. [sauksister@frontier.com](mailto:sauksister@frontier.com) or [www.skagiteagle.org](http://www.skagiteagle.org).

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

## 10th Annual Mardi Gras Parade

Concrete, 3 p.m.  
info at 360.853.8784  
or [www.concrete-wa.com](http://www.concrete-wa.com)

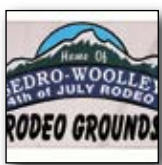
## Parents! Get involved in your PTO!

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





# Sedro-Woolley



## Boys & Girls Club news

### Briefly ...

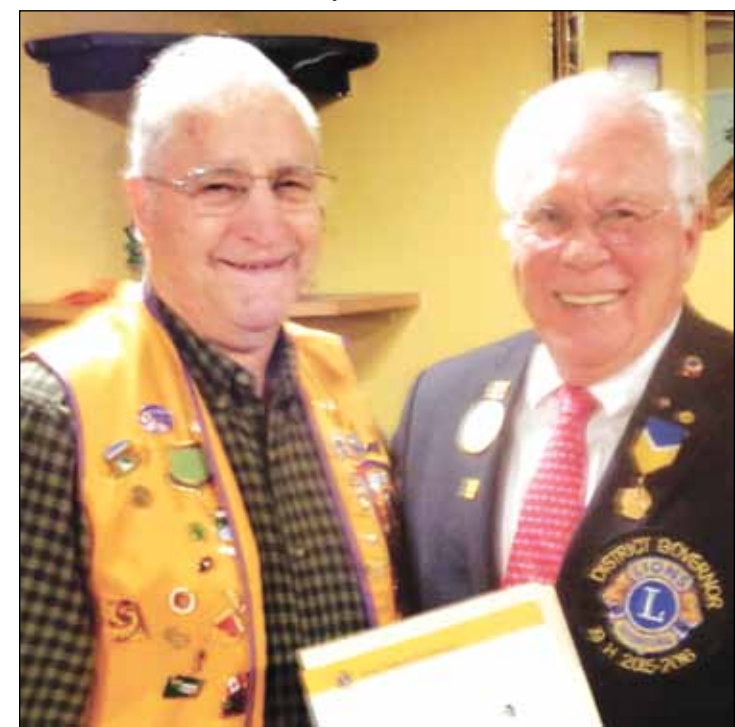
Due to the high price of turkeys and the overwhelming number of free home delivery meals, organizers of last year's **Community Thanksgiving Dinner** are facing a \$900 shortfall. Some suppliers still need to be paid, so organizers are reaching out to the community for follow-up donations. To arrange a donation, send an e-mail to [toslokkebo@yahoo.com](mailto:toslokkebo@yahoo.com).

For railroad enthusiasts of all ages, trains will run nonstop on the Museum's extensive model railroad layout, which includes both passenger and logging railroads. Videos on railroad history will run throughout the event in the museum theater.

Romantics can enjoy the exhibit "For My Vintage Valentine," featuring Valentines from the 1900s through the 1950s, paired with vintage items that represent the kind of romantic gifts that would have been given during each time period. "Rails and romance" refreshments will be served, and reproductions of vintage valentines will be given to attendees.

The event will feature raffle prize drawings for children and adult railroad enthusiasts, as well as a basket of gifts for a romantic Valentine celebration. All proceeds benefit museum operations.

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



**Sedro-Woolley Lions Club Lion Gus Suryan** (left) was honored on Jan. 18 for 50 years of service to his community. District Governor Gary Wight attended the Sedro-Woolley Lions Club meeting and presented Lion Gus with a congratulatory letter from Dr. Jitsuhiro Yamada, Lions Clubs International President, and a pin recognizing his accomplishment. Lion Gus and his family continue to give many hours of their time volunteering in our community. *Photo by Carol Torset.*

## The Biggest Loser Community Challenge launches in S-W

By Jason Miller

Sedro-Woolley Chamber of Commerce is encouraging businesses in town to get involved with a national wellness initiative that is launching across the country in February.

NBC and The Biggest Loser are launching The Biggest Loser Community Challenge this month. The Company vs. Company competition invites teams of four to join an eight-week online health and wellness community challenge.

The challenge is for companies of all sizes and people of all fitness levels. It is designed to get communities moving, eating better, and having fun.

"This challenge is for everyone. No matter what your goals are you'll find something in it to help you achieve your next level of fitness," said Dolvett Quince, Biggest Loser and Community Challenge Trainer.

Businesses are encouraged to register teams of employees to represent their company in the challenge. Registration is \$100 for a team of four.

Past contestants of The Biggest Loser

will guide teams through eight weekly challenges. Challengers also will receive weekly motivation and nutrition tips from Quince. Participants will earn points for each minute of activity they engage in, as well as additional points for completing weekly tasks and logging additional challenge activities designed to improve nutrition and overall wellness.

Each participant will have access to a private wellness account and mobile app, where they will journal challenge activities, access weekly health guidance, and keep their eye on friends and competitors on live leaderboards. The focus of the challenge is not on weight loss; all personal information, including weight, is completely private.

Prize draws will be made each week, with more than 10,000 prizes to be won across the country, including trips to Los Angeles to see the finale live. More information, registration, and key dates can be found online at [www.biggestlosercommunity.com](http://www.biggestlosercommunity.com).

## Elias named Youth of the Year

Jazzelle Elias is Boys & Girls Club's Youth of the Year for 2015.

Elias was named winner of the club's top honors during a "Dinner with Friends" event in Mount Vernon on Jan. 27, where community members gathered to hear club youth present a program that recognizes their fellow club members with awards in several key programs, most notably, Youth of the Year.

The process for the 2015 Youth of the Year program began at the club level, with club members preparing their speeches and then presenting to a panel of judges. Each candidate went on to share their speech at their club's Dinner with Friends event, where the winners were announced. The 2015 Youth of the Year awardees at the club level were Claire Severin from the Anacortes Boys & Girls Club and Elias from the Sedro-Woolley Boys & Girls Club.

Attendees at the Jan. 27 dinner heard



Elias otherwise have no place to go.

new speeches from the Youth of the Year candidates. Elias was named the countywide candidate during the program, and awarded \$1,000 in scholarship money. She will next travel to the state competition in March. Last year's candidate, Justice Lively from Mount Vernon, was named the 2015 Washington State Youth of the Year, a first for Skagit County.

For more information, go to [www.skagitclubs.org](http://www.skagitclubs.org).

During the past two years, the Winter Fundraiser has raised more than \$16,000 each year and has seen as many as 150 community members in attendance. The Sedro-Woolley club continues to draw the highest membership and is now serving 395 kids in the community. The S-W club also has the highest teen membership.

The fundraiser will feature a silent auction, raffle, and Bids for Kids during a gourmet dinner. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.skagitclubs.org](http://www.skagitclubs.org) or at the Sedro-Woolley Boys & Girls Club (915 McGarigle Rd.).

For more information, contact Interim Club Director Shane Collins at 360.419.5523 or [shanec@skagitclubs.org](mailto:shanec@skagitclubs.org).

## Johnston named chief administrative office for PeaceHealth United General Medical Center

Chris Johnston, PharmD, has been named interim chief administrative officer for PeaceHealth United General Medical Center, following the Jan. 15 retirement of



Johnston

pharmacy. Earlier in his career, he held a variety of pharmacy management roles in several health care organizations in Washington.

Johnston earned his bachelor and doctor of pharmacy degrees from Washington State University.

He is a member of the board of directors for the Sedro-Woolley Chamber of Commerce and a member of the Sedro-Woolley Rotary International chapter.

Jim Barnhart.

Johnston has worked at PeaceHealth United General Medical Center for more than two decades, most recently as director of professional services. He also has served as director of oncology services

and director of pharmacy. Earlier in his career, he held a variety of pharmacy management roles in several health care organizations in Washington.

Johnston earned his bachelor and doctor of pharmacy degrees from Washington State University.

He is a member of the board of directors for the Sedro-Woolley Chamber of Commerce and a member of the Sedro-Woolley Rotary International chapter.

### Spring Break registration open

Boys & Girls Club of Sedro-Woolley Spring Break registration has opened, and will close on March 25. Spring Break is April 4-8.

Registration is available online at [www.skagitclubs.org](http://www.skagitclubs.org) or at the Sedro-Woolley facility, 915 McGarigle Rd.

Regular club hours will be from 2-6:30 p.m., with lunch and snacks served. The Morning Program is an additional \$100 for the week and goes from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Clubs will need a minimum of 25 participants to be open for morning and afternoon hours.

Registration is required, but there is no additional fee for the afternoon, although a club membership is required. For more information, go to [www.skagitclubs.org](http://www.skagitclubs.org) or contact Sedro-Woolley Club Director Shane Collins at [shanec@skagitclubs.org](mailto:shanec@skagitclubs.org) or 360.419.5523, ext. 42.

—Tammy Findlay

## Five injured in SR 9 collision

A Sedro-Woolley man injured himself and four others Jan. 15 after losing control of his vehicle and colliding head-on with an oncoming car.

Zachary Taylor, 18, of Sedro-Woolley was traveling southbound on SR 9 at about 6:30 p.m. when his Chevrolet Cavalier slipped on ice, crossed the center lane, and collided head on with a Lincoln Navigator driven by Maulilio Villanuevabarriga, 26, of Machican, Mexico. Villanuevabarriga and his passenger, a 15-year-old boy, were both injured. Villanuevabarriga was transported privately to an unspecified hospital; the boy was transported to Harborview Medical Center.

Taylor was transported to Skagit Valley Hospital. All passengers were wearing their seatbelts, and both vehicles were totaled.

Washington State Patrol listed the cause of the accident as speed too fast for conditions. Charges are pending.



**Model Train Open House**  
**February 14**

725 Murdock St. | 360.855.2390  
[www.sedrowoolleymuseum.org](http://www.sedrowoolleymuseum.org)



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Doug Hutter  
Tobi Stidman

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by appointment only  
[info@vintageaircraftmuseum.org](mailto:info@vintageaircraftmuseum.org)







# Lyman



# Day Creek



## Charity announces fundraiser, drive

Lyman-based Heart to Heart Charity is doing a Valentine's Day fundraiser, selling two different gift options each just \$10:

- Stuffed animal and chocolate or candy.
- Coffee mug with coffee, chocolate, or candy.

Each gift will be delivered on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14. All proceeds go toward supporting the charity's efforts to help low-income children and their

families.

Deliveries will be made to Concrete, Birdsvie, Lyman, Hamilton, Sedro-Woolley, Mount Vernon, Big Lake, and Burlington. Other delivery locations may be available; contact the charity for more information.

Payment may be made by check, debit/credit cards, or online via PayPal. An order form is available by e-mailing [hearttoheartcharity@gmail.com](mailto:hearttoheartcharity@gmail.com).

The charity also is seeking volunteers who will deliver gifts. Anyone wishing to help may contact Tammie at [hearttoheartcharity@gmail.com](mailto:hearttoheartcharity@gmail.com).

—Tammie Werner

## Diaper & Wipes Drive

The charity also is hosting a Diaper & Wipes Drive to benefit Brigid Collins Family Support Center during February. The children picked this event for their next Give Back project.

The charity will accept donations of diapers, wipes, baby powder, rash creams, etc. during February. Donations can be left at Lyman Town Hall at 8405 S. Main St. in the charity's red donation bin in the hall during regular office hours. For more information or to schedule a donation pickup, contact Tammie at [hearttoheartcharity@gmail.com](mailto:hearttoheartcharity@gmail.com).

—Tammie Werner

- Warm Home Fund. This program, administered by The Salvation Army, provides emergency utility bill assistance during the winter to qualified low-income households served by PSE. The fund is composed of voluntary contributions from PSE, its customers, and employees. Local Salvation Army offices will have more information.
- Weatherization Assistance. The state's Weatherization Assistance Program, with funding support from PSE, provides free weatherization to houses, apartment units, and mobile homes of income-eligible customers to help reduce energy use and lower bills by up to 30 percent. This includes free upgrades such as insulation, sealing air leaks, lighting, and refrigerator replacement.

PSE customers can call 866.223.5425 for more information on the programs and to see if they qualify. Specific details and a list of agencies by county can be found online at <http://pse.com/accountsandservices/youraccount/pages/low-income-assistance.aspx>.

Customers who are not eligible for bill payment assistance and are having difficulty paying their bills can call PSE at 888.225.5773 or sign in to their myPSE account to set up payment arrangements to avoid having their account go in arrears.

—Submitted by PSE

## Trouble paying energy bills?

### Bill payment assistance available for low-income PSE customers

For low-income families, monthly energy bills can be a hefty burden. Fortunately more than \$27 million is available for qualified Puget Sound Energy customers who need help paying their electric and natural gas bills.

There are several programs to help customers receive financial help with their bills, manage their household utility budgets, and lower their home energy usage. These programs are administered by local community-services agencies in partnership with the Washington State Department of Commerce.

- Federal Bill Payment Assistance. Eligible PSE customers can apply for more than \$9 million under the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) offered by the federal government.
- PSE's HELP Program. Also for qualified customers, there's more than \$18 million in PSE's Home Energy Lifeline Program (HELP) that offers additional bill payment assistance.

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Mon. - Sat. 10:30 - 6, Sun. 11 - 4  
18042 Highway 20, Burlington, WA 98233

## Community notes

### Community Movie Night

A Movie Night is planned for the Day Creek community on Sat., Feb. 13, at 6:30 p.m. at Day Creek Chapel. For movie choices and information, call Kristine at 360.826.3522.

### Community Block Watch planned

Day Creek plans to organize a Community Block Watch after reading about similar efforts in Marblemount and Darrington in the *Concrete Herald*.

Stay tuned for more information and opportunities to join the planning efforts.

### WOMEN HAND in hand

WOMEN HAND in hand will welcome Isik Abila in April. Born in Turkey, Abila was raised in a devout Muslim home. More information about Abila and her

ministry is at [www.isikabla.com](http://www.isikabla.com).

The event will be held April 21 at Darrington High School and April 22 and 23 at Sedro-Woolley High School. For ticket information, go to [www.womenhandinhand.com](http://www.womenhandinhand.com) or follow Eventbrite to purchase tickets. For more information, call 360.853.3066.

WOMEN HAND in hand can be followed on its Facebook page or on its Web site. To join WOMEN HAND in hand, call 360.826.3067.

### Kingdom Builders

If you know anyone in need this year, please call the numbers below. Kingdom Builders can put together food baskets and gather other needs for kids and families.

Donna Pulver and Kathy Henderson, co-directors of Kingdom Builders, are reaching out to those in the Day Creek community who need help with trips to the doctor, hospital visits, store runs,

counties. The hoof that tested positive for treponeme bacteria was taken from an elk found dead along SR 20.

"We routinely send disfigured elk hooves from around the state for testing, but this is the first one outside of southwest Washington that shows evidence of this disease," Mansfield said. "At this point it is unclear whether this condition will spread to other elk as it has in the affected area."

Mansfield said WDFW now plans to have hoof samples from the animal sent to testing facilities at Washington State University and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to confirm the initial findings and determine whether the bacteria are the same strain found in southwest Washington. Test results are expected this month.

Treponeme-associated hoof disease was first diagnosed in southwest Washington elk herds in 2014, after five years of analysis by five independent laboratories. While relatively common in livestock, hoof disease caused by treponeme bacteria had never before been diagnosed in wildlife.

Starting in the late 1990s with reports of elk with hoof deformities in the Cowlitz River Basin, the disease has spread

and more. If you would like to become available to be a community helper, call 360.826.3003, 360.826.3581, or 360.826.3822.

### Day Creek Book Club

The book club is open to new members. Members are welcome to host a book club meeting at their favorite "hang out" spot. Meetings are held on the third Monday of each month at Cedar Springs Lodge on Barben Road. For more information, call 360.661.0247.

### Garden Dirt

Here are a few items that need to be done this month, weather permitting:

- Prune hydrangeas, wisteria, and deciduous shrubs. Wait till late winter to prune the fruit trees (pruning seems to bring out buds on fruit trees, so I wait).
- Cut down the grasses and perennial

plants that bloom late in the spring, summer, and fall, and can be safely divided in February and replanted. Be sure to add compost to the new plant holes.

- Trim grapes and blueberries. Clip one-third of the old growth and remove all suckers.
- Read the seed catalogs and maybe do some ordering. Go to workshops and garden shows.

News and tips should be sent via e-mail to [winningcircularchance@gmail.com](mailto:winningcircularchance@gmail.com).

—Compiled by Kathy Henderson

## 2016 Community Potluck dates

February 16, 6:30 p.m.

March 15, 6:30 p.m.

April 19, 6:30 p.m.

May 17, 6:30 p.m.

June 21, 6:30 p.m.

July 19, 6:30 p.m.

August 16, 6:30 p.m.

September 20, 6:30 p.m.

October 18, 6:30 p.m.

November 15, 6:30 p.m.

December 20, 6:30 p.m.

## Farm fined for illegal irrigation

\$16,000 penalty for unauthorized watering on 200 acres.

A blueberry farm on Cockreham Island along the Skagit River near Lyman has been cited for illegally watering 200 acres of blueberries this summer after repeated warnings from the Washington Department of Ecology to cease the illegal use.

Ecology fined U.S. Golden Eagle Farms \$16,000 for unauthorized use of public water resources. The company has rights or claims that allow irrigation on 250 acres, but watered at least 450 acres this summer on its farm between the communities of Lyman and Hamilton.

Inspectors estimate the farm used between 210 and 267 acre feet of water beyond its authorized 470 acre feet per year. Excessive watering was documented during four visits to the farm this summer.

An acre foot of water is the amount of water that covers an acre of land, one foot

deep.

The citation is not directly tied to last summer's severe drought, which caused historically low stream flows in the Skagit River basin. The low river levels triggered irrigation water cutoffs that affected thousands of acres of cropland along the Skagit's lower reaches below Mount Vernon.

U.S. Golden Eagle Farms had been warned numerous times that they were using more water than allotted. Ecology has provided the company with information about the scope of water rights for its fields on Cockreham Island since 2011.

The company filed an application on May 29, 2015, to modify its water rights and claims to allow watering of all of its blueberry acreage, starting in 2016. Ecology expects to act on the request, after public review and comment, prior to this year's growing season.

U.S. Golden Eagle Farms can appeal the penalty to the Washington State Pollution Control Hearings Board.

Ecology oversees Washington's water rights system.

—Submitted by DOE

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# January in pictures



**Above:** On Jan. 21, heavy rainfall caused a creek on Faber Hill east of Concrete to jump its banks and supersaturate the soil above SR 20. The hillside gave way, dumping mud and trees onto the roadway. The highway was closed until Jan. 28, when WSDOT crews were able to divert runoff, stabilize the slope, remove unstable trees, and clear the roadway enough to allow one-way traffic through. Temporary signals are now directing traffic through the open lane. WSDOT is developing a permanent repair plan to stabilize the slope. Once finalized, contractor crews will begin construction. The state is seeking federal funding for the project. *Photo by Bob Hopfield.*



**Left:** Adam Lorio, a member of the Samish Nation, drums and sings during a Jan. 10 presentation at the Marblemount Community Hall for Skagit Eagle Festival. Lorio, who is wearing a traditional cedar bark hat, spoke of the salmon and eagles, saying their relationship reminded him of "our human communities and our interactions."

**Below left:** Volunteers gather trash near Concrete Elementary School during Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service on Jan. 18. *Photo by Mitchell Metcalf.*

**Below:** Visitors listen to a speaker from the Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center during a guided hike near Howard Miller Steelhead Park in Rockport to look for eagles and other wildlife. *Submitted photo.*



**Above, left and right:** Concrete Lions Club members Dave Wright (above left, in vest), Bill Newby (above right, in vest), and Ray Drake (above left, far left) were honored Jan. 20 for their service to the local chapter of the international service club. Drake was recognized for 50 years of service, and Dave Wright for 45 years of service. Newby received the Melvin Jones Fellowship Award, the highest form of recognition from Lions Club International. On hand to confer the awards was District Governor Gary Wight. *Submitted photos.*



**Above:** Runners braved a clear and cold day Jan. 2 for this year's Salmon Run, a Skagit Eagle Festival event. **Left:** Audience members act out the life cycle of salmon during an interactive presentation by Rockport State Park Interpretive Specialist Laura Busby at Upper Skagit Library on Jan. 16. **Below:** In Rockport, Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center Coordinator Anissa Smith shows kids the width of an eagle's wingspan. *Submitted photos.*



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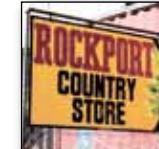
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# Hamilton



# Rockport



## Council summary

*The Hamilton Town Council held a regular meeting Dec. 8. Following is a summary of that meeting.*

- The regular meeting was preceded by a public hearing for the 2016 Budget. Mayor Joan Cromley discussed the budget and asked if anyone had any questions regarding the budget. No comments. Mayor Cromley closed the public hearing.
- Council voted to adopt Ordinance 315, the 2016 Budget.
- Council decided to meet on Dec. 22 to go over Critical Areas information and the proposed ordinance associated with it.
- Mayor Cromley tabled the Skagit Gene Bank Resolution until the council's January meeting.
- Mayor Cromley talked about the Interlocal Growth Management Act

Services. Council voted to allow Mayor Cromley to sign the Interlocal.

- **Water Dept.:** Mayor Cromley announced that Cas Hancock was unable to attend the meeting and that this month the town was at 7 percent unaccounted for water loss.
- **Fire Dept.:** Mayor Cromley announced that the fire department was on flood watch.
- **Fire Dept.:** Mayor Cromley announced that the street department was on flood watch.

—Compiled from staff minutes

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## From the Mayor

The other day my youngest and I were waiting for dinner at the Hamilton Café when she said we should do a fire drill at home. We talked about various scenarios, how to get out of the house, and how to get help. Then she said we should do a volcano drill. We talked about how that would affect Hamilton. We also talked about the emergency plans that we have worked out for all kinds of natural disasters that might occur here.

The Skagit Department of Emergency Management is great at providing training classes and tabletop exercises (which are like mini-scale fire drills). Concrete Mayor Jason Miller and I participated in a volcano crisis class that really opened my eyes to all the decisions that would need to be made, both immediate and long-term, for a major event. I've gone to a wide variety of classes—mass fatality shooting is

coming up. I'm going because knowing how other agencies will respond helps me know how we can help our neighboring communities, especially since an event like that could involve people we know.

I traveled to Olympia last month for Association of Washington Cities' "City Days," where I attended a session about the emergency response during the fires in Wenatchee over the summer. There seemed to be issues with some agencies not having the right resources and knowing how they all worked together. I am grateful that Skagit has the communication between communities and agencies and lots of safe opportunities to practice how all the teams work together. We are always trying to make sure we have equipment to keep everyone as safe as possible, that we know what our emergencies could be, and are prepared for them.

Have you considered what emergencies might happen at your home? Do you know how your family will respond? Consider doing a fire drill.

—Mayor Joan Cromley



**Heart to Heart Charity's KIDS Club** will meet on Wed., Feb. 10 and 24, at the Hamilton Town Hall from 4 to 5 p.m. Kids may ride the school bus to the meeting with a signed note from their parents. The meeting includes snacks and an activity. This is a free event for children 3 years and older (younger with a parent/guardian present), and all are welcome. For more information, contact Tammie at hearttoheartcharity@gmail.com.

## Birdsview Buzz

Happy Valentine's Day everyone! Hope everyone is having a good winter. It's been great so far for the skiers and snowboarders, and we've seen a lot of snowmobilers as well. Seems like this year will make up for last year.

February 6 will be the last performance of Back Porch Apostles for awhile. One of their members, Scott, is going to hike the Pacific Crest Trail this spring. We wish him the best of luck and can't wait to hear about his adventures when he returns.

Happy birthday this month to my good friend and fellow crocheter Pam Giecek

on Feb. 3, to teacher Matt Slater on Feb. 10, Concrete Mayor Jason Miller on Feb. 14, and Rudy Giecek on Feb. 23.

Our request for a rezone was approved by the Skagit County Commissioners in December. Now we have to wait for official word, then short plat off about two acres that the brewery is on for the commercial part, etc. Eventually we will expand the kitchen area and the brew room cooler for more food options and beer storage. Thanks to everyone who wrote letters or e-mails, or spoke on our behalf.

Have a great month and please support your local businesses.

—Kris Voigt



**Above: Christian Boland**, a German exchange intern at Rockport State Park, uses a chainsaw to cut long, intersecting grooves in a Douglas fir round about 3 feet tall. After drizzling kerosene into the green wood, Boland soaked a rag with the fuel, tucked it into the round at the lowest point of the cuts, and lit it (left).

Boland is a participant of the 2015–16 Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange for Young Professionals, administered by Cultural Vistas in New York and the GLZ GmbH in Bonn, Germany. The competitive scholarship program was created in celebration of the 300th anniversary of German immigration to the U.S., and is designed to strengthen ties between younger generations of both countries.

A logger back home, Boland will be in the Upper Valley through June.

## Making a Swedish candle

A Jan. 8 demonstration at Rockport State Park drew a small crowd. On hand was Christian Boland, the park's German exchange intern, who demonstrated how to make and burn a "Swedish candle," a.k.a. "Swedish fire log" or "Swedish torch."

Boland, who is living with a host family in Lyman, showed visitors the process, which involves cutting upright rounds of wood in intersecting grooves, then lighting the round at the lowest point of the cuts. Working with green wood, Boland used kerosene as an accelerant to speed things along.

Depending on the size of the wood used, a Swedish candle will burn from one to three hours, Boland said.

—J. K. M.



**To make a Swedish candle**, use a chainsaw to cut wide, crossing gaps almost all the way down a standing round of firewood. Drizzle an accelerant into the cracks if necessary, light the round at the cuts' lowest point, and enjoy. The candle will burn from one to three hours, depending on the size of the round.

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# Darrington



## Darrington, Arlington in running for America's Best Communities' \$10 million prize

Story and photo by Marla Skaglund

Darrington/Arlington are among 15 national semifinalists to win funds in the \$10 million America's Best Communities competition.

Sponsored by Frontier Communications, DISH Network, CoBank, and The Weather Channel, the competition has dedicated \$10 million in prizes and other support to spark economic revitalization in small towns and rural communities across the country. The 15 communities advancing into the semifinals have crafted innovative solutions designed to transform their local economies and improve the lives and livelihoods of their citizens.

More than 350 communities nationwide entered the competition after it began in 2014. Fifty were selected as quarter-finalists in April 2015 and awarded \$50,000 in seed money to develop a Community Revitalization Plan, assisted by a major corporation that served as a strategic advisor, part of the competition's Adopt-a-Community Program. The 15 entries with the best plans and most innovative ideas being effectively executed were named semifinalists.

A breakfast was held Jan. 13 at the Tulalip Resort, hosted by Ken Baldwin, general manager, Frontier Business Edge,

who announced Arlington/Darrington had advanced.

All 15 semifinalist communities will attend the America's Best Communities Summit, April 26-27, in Durham, N.C. They will present their proposals to a panel of expert judges and executives from the sponsoring companies, and compete for additional financial support.

At the end of the summit, eight communities will be named finalists and awarded \$100,000 to bring their plans to life. The winners also will share best practices and ideas for innovative growth among all the communities that participate in the competition.

"This is a great opportunity for Darrington," said Darrington Mayor Dan Rankin. "I've enjoyed working with (Arlington Mayor) Barb Tolbert. It's important for both communities to work together in the Stilly Valley."

**Above right: Darrington Mayor Dan Rankin and Arlington Mayor Barb Tolbert attended a Jan. 13 breakfast at Tulalip Resort, during which they learned the two municipalities had advanced to the semifinals in the America's Best Communities competition.**



## Community contra dance has rich tradition

On the second Saturday of each month October through April, a special dance fills the Mansford Grange in Darrington with sound and movement. The community contra dance has become a destination for many during the past few years.

Contra dance is a traditional American dance in which couples dance in two long facing lines or in groups of four. Often referred to as an "entryway dance," contra dance is the most accessible of all dances for beginners.

Derived from English and French country dancing, it's led by a caller who supports dancers with a walkthrough, practice dance before the actual dance begins.

The music played at contra dances includes Irish, Scottish, Old-Time, and French-Canadian folk tunes. Often anchored by fiddle, contra dance bands can include piano, flute, guitar, mandolin, accordion, and in some cases even brass instruments.

While dancing, participants hear the caller use terms like "balance and swing" or "do-si-do." The moves that match the terms are not hard, and once learned, the

basic moves are repeated throughout the dances.

Matt Rikken started the contra dances at the Mansford Grange in 2011. He had visited dances in Seattle and decided it would be perfect in Darrington. Two musicians drove from Olympia with a caller for the first dance. Rikken spread the word and soon folks started showing up.

"The word also spread throughout the musicians in the Seattle area and I've had no trouble getting a band to play at the grange," said Rikken. "I think they like the country setting and the dancers. There are children and elders and everyone in between, which gives a good, hometown feel."

The dancers come together for a potluck at 5:30 p.m., with the dance beginning at 7 and ending at 9:30.

On the night I took pictures at the contra dance, the power was out in Darrington. Because the music is acoustic, electricity wasn't needed. Several folks left and brought back lanterns to light the grange. The dance continued, with more than 50 dancers participating.

This month's dance is scheduled for Sat., Feb. 13, with music by Northern Contraband and caller Amy Carroll.

—Marla Skaglund

## Council summary

Darrington Town Council met for its regular meeting on Dec. 9. The following is a summary of that meeting. Complete and council-approved minutes for every council meeting are available at Darrington Town Hall.

- Guest speaker:** Mitch Wright requested a vote to add one more I-502 producer to the moratorium cap of two, for a total of three, explaining that the additional producer would be on the same property that the other two licenses are on. Council had numerous inquiries, including groundwater concerns, zoning, water runoff, chemical use (none; all organic), ordinances, electricity use, smell, water consumption, licensing, security, and building appearance. Council voted 3-2 to increase the cap to three facilities, with Councilmembers Gary Willis and Kevin Ashe not in favor.
- Old business:** Council discussed the 2016 Darrington Street Project List. TIB and county funding has been obtained to fund projects on the list. Money from PRSC has some constraints, not insurmountable.

Water rate increases will take effect on Jan. 1.

The recent audit was discussed.

Discussion ensued regarding signage throughout town, including a request for "Children at Play" on Emens.

The Community Center Board needs new members.

- "Destination Darrington" trademark information was presented. Other options and pricing were discussed. Council voted to pursue trademarking for "Destination Darrington" and "Town of Darrington."
- Councilmember Mary Requa was chosen to represent Darrington at Community Transit meetings. Numerous signing approvals were made, including one allowing Mayor Dan Rankin to seek and hire a planning employee and an economic development employee.
- Council approved Dept. of Commerce and RCO grants for the Skate Park project.
- Council approved the SCSO jail contract.
- Council accepted authorization approval for carryover of hours for town staff.

—Compiled from staff minutes

## Snohomish County Sheriff's Report

Jan. 19

Snohomish County Sheriff's Office detectives and Search and Rescue are looking for 53-year-old Marianne Humble, who was last seen in Monroe on Jan. 18 around 4:30 p.m.

Humble has no prior history of depression or disappearing, and family members became concerned when she did not return home on Jan. 18. An extensive search of the area near her residence at the 14600 block of High Bridge Rd. has been ongoing.

Humble is 5'7" with brown hair and blue eyes. Anyone with information about Humble or her whereabouts is asked to call 911.



Humble

Jan. 22

The body of an adult male was discovered today in a drainage ditch near the intersection of 2nd and Pine St. in Snohomish. The call reporting the discovery of the body was made to 911 by a passerby just before noon.

The Snohomish County Medical Examiner took custody of the body. Identification of the deceased, as well as cause and manner of death, is pending from the examiner.

Jan. 29

The search for a missing 2-year-old boy ended in tragedy today, after the toddler was found deceased on the property where his family lives.

The Sheriff's Office launched a search for the boy, who was believed to have wandered away from his residence at the 12700 block of Woods Creek Rd. in Monroe. The boy was last seen by his parents around 12:20 p.m. They called 911 around 12:40 p.m. to report that he was missing.

Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue, dive team, and helicopter units responded, along with units from Monroe Fire Dist. 3, Snohomish County Fire Dist. 7, and Monroe Police Dept. More than 70 people were on scene for the search.

The boy was found around 3:30 p.m. in a creek that runs about 35 feet from his home. The creek was running high and fast from recent heavy rainfall.

—Compiled from Snohomish County Sheriff's Office reports

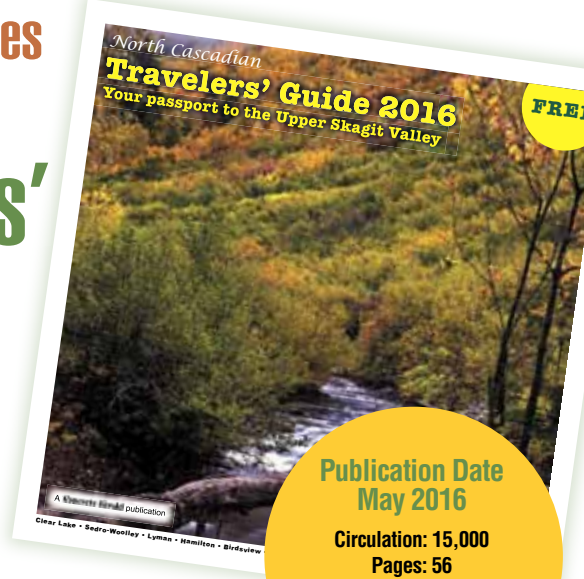


**Wrestling at 120 lbs., Darrington's Jeff Barribal makes life miserable for Sam Smith of La Conner during the "King of the Mountain" wrestling tournament in Darrington Jan. 16. Barribal won the match with a pin.**

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# Marblemount



## Nature Notes

## Celebrating rain: Water in the old growth

## Barnaby meeting draws dozens

By Jason Miller

A community meeting to further discuss the Barnaby Reach proposal drew dozens of area residents to the Marblemount Community Hall on Jan. 7.

The proposal includes four alternatives for restoring and improving fish and wildlife habitat at the 1950s hatchery site upstream from Rockport, each one building upon the previous alternatives:

1. Restore fish passage by upgrading fishways and culverts and other structures that are currently blocking fish passage at the site.
2. Option 1, plus remove all infrastructure at Barnaby Slough, such as dikes. Remove fish passage

3. barriers in Harrison Pond. Remove all infrastructure for Barnaby Slough, Harrison Pond, an existing roadway into the former hatchery at the site, fishways, flow control structures, and wells.
4. All of the above, plus actively divert a portion of the Skagit River flow through Barnaby Slough and back out into the main river channel.

The fourth alternative is of particular concern for residents and landowners along Martin Rd., which skirts the project site.

At the Jan. 7 meeting, a panel of locals and State Representative Elizabeth Scott fielded questions, and facilitator Beth Easterday kept the conversation flowing.

The tone at the meeting was decidedly more conciliatory than previous gatherings, with more attendees looking favorably upon alternatives 1 and 2. Alternative 4, however, remained an

unpopular option, even though it is the one the Skagit River System Cooperative (SRSC) prefers. The SRSC provides fisheries and environmental services for the Sauk-Suiattle and Swinomish tribes, and has said alternative 4 has the greatest potential for increasing Chinook salmon runs.

"I feel this project should be subjected to very conservative evaluation, much more conservative than if the project were occurring out where nobody was living," said attendee Dave Hallock, who lives near the project area. "One-hundred-year flood data is insufficient; it should be more conservative. The fourth proposal estimates 30 percent of the river going through the slough. I see that channel as an invitation for the Skagit to change course."

Project proponents have stated that understanding the potential risks and designing to address them is the next phase for the proposed project.

## The good news is ...

By Sasa and Starwalker

Considering the competition and costs of attending college after school becomes a depressing topic to those who struggle with structured education and have limited resources for such a high cost of obtaining knowledge to better oneself and position in the world as we know it.

The good news is that Stanford University recently announced that tuition of \$46,000 per year will be waived for families making less than \$125,000 a year and assets of \$300,000 or less, including home equity and excluding retirement accounts. Students whose families make less than \$65,000 also get free room and board, which usually costs around \$14,000 a year. With a \$21 billion endowment, the university can provide scholarships or grants to cover the costs instead. Students will still need to come up with \$5,000 a year, but that takes so much pressure and limits off our young population. We do not learn very well while under stress. Keep up the mindful thinking, Stanford.

"Opinion is really the lowest form of human knowledge. It requires no accountability, no understanding. The highest form of knowledge is empathy, for it requires us to suspend our egos and live in another's world."

—Bill Bullard

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

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Water is a plentiful primary element of the coastal Pacific Northwest. The rain has benefits too numerous to count. Without it, this environment would look quite different. Old growth forests, like Rockport State Park, are temperate rainforests with impressive contributions to our lives.

Washingtonians are familiar with the effects of orographic lifting, a process that results in significant clouds and rain on the west side of the Cascades. The mountains are responsible for wringing the Pacific Ocean moisture out of the westerly air masses onto our heads.

This influx of water is essential to the landscape and its inhabitants. This terrain was formed, in part, by water, snow, and ice. Glaciers and annual snowpack continue to feed the streams and rivers, providing a reservoir of water in summer for all living things. The coastal temperate rainforest is a valuable byproduct of all that water.

We adapt to the rain with our clothing choices and lifestyles. Plants and animals also have amazing adaptations to survive

in this wet climate. The rain supports lush, thick forests, while the clouds cause keen competition for light. Bigleaf maples and devil's club have extra-large leaves for capturing as much light as possible. Epiphytes are organisms that grow on other plants, but do not get food or water from them. Mosses, lichens, and ferns are epiphytes, positioned high in the trees to get increased exposure to the limited light. Mosses do not have a well-developed internal water transport system, so they must live in a wet environment in order to make food and reproduce. Mosses are quite absorbent; some species can hold up to 20 times their weight in water! They also can survive the dry summers by completely drying out and returning to life when the fall rains begin.

Douglas fir trees have shallow root structures. They don't need extensive roots for water or nutrient collection since these elements are mainly available in the top layers of soil. As evergreens, they are able to photosynthesize year-round as conditions permit. These trees are able to get so big, in large part, because the rain

provides persistent moisture.

The west-side forests do not have the susceptibility for wildfire that the dry east side has. The rain and resulting moist conditions tend to discourage fire. Yet fire is still a part of this ecosystem, as we were reminded last summer, even if an uncommon occurrence. Many species have traits that allow them to survive the infrequent fires, and the ecosystem as a whole regenerates burned patches over time.

Animals also are well adapted to this climate. They have physical and behavioral characteristics that allow them to live here. Mammals and birds have thick fur and feathers to stay warm and dry. Birds have a gland that produces oil they distribute on their feathers to make them waterproof. The individual hairs on a deer are hollow, creating excellent insulation and rain resistance. Many animals live in standing dead trees, called snags, where they can be out of the wet and cold. Wolverines require sustained high elevation winter snowpack for den sites to raise their young. Black bears hibernate through the winter when food supplies are low. All of these adaptations are related to this rainy climate.

Old growth temperate rainforests perform important ecosystem functions that benefit people as well. They maintain nutrients against the constant outflow of water mitigating nutrient pollution. Dead trees in streams and rivers slow the water, preventing stream bank erosion and



allowing sediment to fall out of the water. Live trees provide shade, keeping the streams cool for fish. The forests absorb large amounts of water, assisting with flood and mudslide prevention.

Rain provides us with many incredible gifts. It is an essential ingredient for life and has many important roles in shaping and sustaining where we live. It also provides us with ample opportunities for recreation and appreciation of this amazing place we call home.

*Laura Busby is an Interpretive Specialist for Washington State Parks.*

## Hall to host scholarship dance

By Christie Fairchild

Following this winter's Eagle Festival, the Marblemount Community Hall will again host Skagit Fire District No. 19's annual scholarship dinner and dance on Sat., Feb. 27.

Intended to raise funds for a deserving

high school senior from Rockport or Marblemount, the event will begin with a potluck dinner from 7 to 8 p.m., with dancing and a raffle from 8 p.m. to midnight. Live music by Dakota Poorman of Tacoma.

Advance tickets are \$25 per couple or \$15 per single, with tickets at the door \$5 more.

Contact any firefighter/EMT from Fire District No. 19 to pre-purchase or to donate a raffle item.

## KSVU launches membership drive Feb. 1–7

Facing the end of its start-up funds this July, eastern Skagit County's 5-year-old community radio station has begun a membership drive that will last through Feb. 7.

Completely volunteer-powered, KSVU 90.1 FM has bills to pay, including studio rent, utilities, and the broadcast tower lease, which amounts to more than \$1,000/month. All equipment was originally donated by its sister station, KSVR at Skagit Valley College, as well as individuals in the Upper Valley community. But bills never sleep.

KSVU volunteers ask their listeners to consider the service the radio station offers to the upriver communities, many of whom have no other radio reception: diverse musical offerings, including live performances; local news and views; critical emergency announcements; local events; and fundraisers.

Anyone interested in donating to the station can become a contributing member

## Property Rights, cont. from p. 3

the creekside sign says "Yours to Protect." It would be funny if it weren't so sad.

Furthermore, if it is a crime to put a 4-inch-wide post in the ground near a river or tributary because the post "might" interrupt the natural flow of water in a flood, it's odd that it is suddenly okay for the state and nongovernmental organizations to post multiple pilings in the river in an attempt to redirect it.

Seems like just another case of government saying, "Do as I say and not as I do."

Government is forgetting that its purpose is to serve the people and protect their rights.

Our State Constitution puts it succinctly in Article 1, Section 1: "All political power is inherent in the People, and governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed, and are established to protect and maintain individual rights ...

"(Sec. 3) No person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law ...

"(Sec. 16) No private property shall be taken or damaged for public or private use without just compensation having been made ..."

If this plan is implemented, and if it results in a flood or a loss of property value due to an increased risk of flooding, it stands to reason that the right thing to do is for the entities who caused the redirection of the river compensate the property owner for his or her loss.

I am drafting a bill to address this. I also proposed a dozen bills last year to return agency bureaucrats' rule-making authority to the State Legislature, who are directly accountable to the people and can be fired and replaced by someone who will do a better job.

Five of my agency-authority bills received a hearing, but were then blocked

from a vote in committee. We will keep trying; committee chairs could change next January. Please continue to stay in touch and let me know of any way I can be of assistance, and contact my office to receive e-mail updates concerning bills to

protect property rights.

*State Representative Elizabeth Scott, R-Monroe, represents the 39th Legislative District, which includes Monroe, Sedro-Woolley, and Oso.*

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# Seniors

## Coffee Break

Someday I'm gonna ...

By Patrick M. Kennedy

Be a millionaire, tour the world in my yacht, and hit every port.

Be a major league baseball player and make ads. Write a novel, sell a million, and be interviewed on all the late night shows and maybe even have my own TV show.

Go into politics and become the governor of this state and change the world as we know it.

And you sit in your comfy chair and think about all these broken dreams.

"Lord save us all from old age and broken health and a hope tree that has lost the faculty of putting out blossoms," said Mark Twain.

Many of us have those broken blossoms called dreams scattered in all the drawers and notebooks in the house, and all the checks written to travel agencies and then cancelled in cowardice. You blame it on age, but second thoughts are the real demons in a boring life.

You coulda woulda shouda, and this is the mantra you sing yourself to sleep with every night in that

same old worn-out bed, in that same old room, year after year.

"Someday I'm gonna" can change to "tomorrow I'm gonna." It is just a matter of waking up in the morning and making a plan called "I'm Gonna."

"Positive thinking will let you do everything better than negative thinking will," said motivational speaker Zig Ziglar. Positive thinking might get you out of that easy chair and moving.

Any plan starts with a step-by-step sketch on a board or in your mind. Get out of the chair, check your calendar, bank account, and income to see if you have the time and can afford this new direction.

Find a friend to go along with you and combine efforts. Maybe he/she will have new ideas. It always sounds better to say, "We gonna."

Sometimes it happens and sometimes it doesn't. Be prepared for all outcomes and hold the tears if the first plan fails ... move on to another "Someday I'm Gonna."

*Patrick M. Kennedy is the author of Lotsa Fun with Retirement. Find it at Amazon.com. For more, go to www.funwithretirement.com.*

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## Way Back When

### 70 years ago

*Feb. 14, 1946:* Concrete's police department had an odd whodunit on its hands this week, when persons unknown broke into the Great Northern depot early Wednesday morning after breaking a pane or two out of three different windows and finally entering through two more panes broken from the window in front of the telegraph key desk. The mystery is why nothing has been missed from the building, although express packages were in plain sight and office equipment was undisturbed.

The prowler entered the building sometime between 4 and 7 a.m. The night marshal came by the depot at 4 a.m. and it was untouched, but when Agent E. D. Hamm showed up in the morning, he found the doors open and the interior littered with broken glass. All cupboard doors and desk drawers had been opened in a search for something. As far as Hamm could ascertain, nothing had been taken. A small amount of money was locked in the safe. The only other valuable articles were the express packages and office equipment, all untouched.

### 60 years ago

*Feb. 2, 1956:* Friends and neighbors gathered at the Marblemount School last Saturday evening to honor and express their gratitude to Mrs. Mabel Pressentin, for 31 years of loyal service as postmaster of Marblemount.

Guests were many and varied. Among those having a few words to say with regard to the long service of Mrs. Pressentin were E. Pressentin of Rockport, Paul V. Pressentin of Mount Vernon, Fred DeSilvia, Mrs. William Graham of Newhalem, Fred Buller of Marblemount, and Fred Martin of East Rockport.

Mrs. Pressentin was born in Little Falls, Minn., and was one of the 11 children of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Martin, who came west and settled in a little log house on the homestead at Illabot Creek, across from the present town of Rockport, in 1889.

At that time the only transportation from Mount Vernon was by canoe up the Skagit River. Food and belongings were poled up the river to the homestead. They had a school at Illabot Creek, which they attended three months of each year, with the youngsters walking 1.5 miles each way every day when it was in session.

In 1903 she married Frank Pressentin, also of a pioneer Skagit family, and they settled down in the big log hotel that is still standing in Marblemount. They ran the hotel for 15 years; during that time, it was headquarters for all the early settlers and placer miners going through to Ruby and Slate Creek. At the time, Mr. Pressentin also ran a horse and buggy stage to Rockport.

The Pressentins raised five children: Bernard, Ruth, Edith, Warren, and Vernon.

Mr. Pressentin passed away in November 1952 and she carried on alone with her post office duties. She was appointed in 1925 and

## Concrete Center

**February 2016**

### Activities

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

#### Mondays

10 a.m. Jigsaw puzzles  
12:30 p.m. Skip Bo  
12:30 p.m. Healthy Living Bingo,  
2/8, 2/15, 2/22,  
2/29

#### Tuesdays

10 a.m. Jigsaw puzzles  
Noon Lunch  
12:30 p.m. Skip Bo

#### Wednesdays

10 a.m. Jigsaw puzzles  
10:30 a.m. Advisory Board mtg.,  
2/10  
Noon Lunch  
12:30 p.m. Skip Bo  
12:30 p.m. Bingo, 2/10, 2/24

#### Thursdays

10 a.m. Jigsaw puzzles  
10:15-2:15 Income tax assistance  
by appointment:  
360.416.1376  
2/4, 2/11, 2/18,  
2/25  
Noon Lunch  
12:30 p.m. Skip Bo  
12:30 p.m. Pinochle, 2/4, 2/18

#### Fridays

10 a.m. Jigsaw puzzles  
Noon Lunch  
Noon Birthday Celebration  
2/26  
12:30 p.m. Dominoes, Skip Bo  
12:30 p.m. Coffee with Commissioner Janicki, 2/5  
1 p.m. Watercolor painting

#### Closures

2/15

Way Back, cont. from p. 28

retired from the job on Dec. 31, 1955.

### 30 years ago

*Feb. 13, 1986:* Mary Lester (right), daughter of Bill and Kathy Lester of Marblemount and a fourth grader at Concrete Elementary School, won second place in the state in a patriotic essay contest sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Ladies Auxiliary. A total of 10,165 entries were submitted. In a special assembly held at the school, VFW Ladies Auxiliary District Contest Chairwoman Ragna Doherty presented Lester with a plaque, certificate, and \$15 check.

Here is Lester's essay:

### My Dreams for America By Mary Lester

My Dreams for America would include preserving special areas such as nat'l parks for future generations to enjoy as I have.

My dreams would also eliminate prejudice of people and nations so we are all working together in a positive direction without hurting each other, understanding different cultures and respecting each other.

Unemployment would not be allowed. Everyone who wants work would be able to work. There would be no hungry people in America.

Everyone's dreams and ideas will be heard. Freedom to speak up and express our opinions without being punished because it didn't agree with another person's opinion.

People suffering from illnesses or sickness will be treated by medical people regardless of their ability to pay. People will not die needlessly. Life is too precious.

My dreams for senior adults would be many. I would want them to have all the comforts they



Mary Lester. Archive photo by Anne Bussiere.

deserve and have earned. They have made what we have today possible.

These are a few of my dreams for our beautiful America. Even though it will be difficult for some to come true, others are happening now.

*Feb. 27, 1987:* Despite objections from his mother that no one ever wins sweepstakes contests on cereal boxes, 10-year-old Alex Cumby of Concrete decided to take his chances anyway.

Following the rules of the "Where's the Cap'n?" contest on boxes of Cap'n Crunch, he located the missing cartoon character "in the Milky Way, trying to defeat the Evil Squish," and mailed in his entry.

Five months later, he received notice that he was one of 10,000 winners and was sent a check for \$100, a lot of money for a 10-year-old.

The son of Ray and Anita Cumby of Cedargrove and a fifth grader at Concrete Elementary School, his mom said he was planning to spend the money on computer parts, plus something fun and extravagant.

"I never thought I'd win," he said, "but this is really neat!"

—Compiled from archives

## Verna's Kitchen

By Verna McClure

**Chocolate Chip  
Oatmeal Raisin  
Cookies**

This was my mother's recipe, which she had taped to the back of the kitchen cupboard doors. The paper was yellow with age. This recipe is from the 1940s.

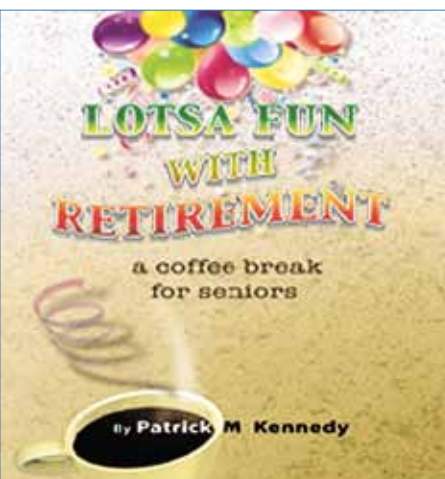
- 1 cup Crisco
- 1 cup white sugar
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 cups sifted flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 2 cups rolled oats
- 1 cup chocolate chips
- 1 cup raisins

Mix first 10 ingredients together well. Add last two ingredients and gently fold together. Drop the dough by teaspoonful on lightly greased cookie sheets. Bake in a 350-degree oven for about 8 minutes. Do not overbake.

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## Sunday School lesson

How a believer lives

By Chris Anderson

What does it take to make faith real? When we say we're a follower of Jesus, we need to look closely at what He asks of us. Most of His teachings center on love. We all face the challenge of accepting and including His type of love in our everyday lives.

Jesus' lessons were intended to change the world for the better. The innocence of a small child is our example of how to treat others. We are to be humble and a servant to everyone who comes into our lives. That's not easy at all! Jesus told us, if someone asks us to walk a mile, don't stop, but continue on. If they need a shirt, also give them your coat. Don't do good deeds to get noticed. It's just between God and yourself—no one else needs to know. Love and compassion are to be the center of everything we do, even in difficult situations such as turning the other cheek when someone harms us. When an enemy persecutes us, we pray for them. All of these are tough, but are just small examples of what Jesus put before His disciples and us.

I don't know what the right answer is for us. However, as I am reminded of the way Jesus lived and died for me, I wonder if I can follow His example when I make decisions. Everything He did was based on compassion and love. No matter what, He asks us to love one another. That's

hard! I begin by caring about those around me. It might mean I'll have to do some changing. It might mean I'll be alone. It might mean I'll face rejection because others will be uncomfortable. It might mean I'll endure suffering. But then, isn't that what Jesus told us to expect?

Maybe if we followed His example better, our churches would be growing instead of dying!

*Chris Anderson is pastor of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Concrete.*

### Worth repeating

"Satan is not fighting churches; he is joining them. He does more harm by sowing tares than by pulling up wheat. He accomplishes more by imitation than by outright opposition."

—Vance Havner

"Satan promises the best, but pays with the worst. He promises honor and pays with disgrace; he promises pleasure and pays with pain; he promises profit and pays with loss; he promises life and pays with death."

—Thomas Brooks

"There is only one book in the world that bears the impress of the hand of God and that vibrates with His breath. That Book is the Bible."

"You cannot starve a man who is feeding on God's promises."

—Erling C. Olsen

## Skagit County Sheriff's Office Blotter

**Jan. 1**

A 20-year-old man was walking near the Hamilton Post Office when he was bit by a dog. A really big dog. It appears the 100 lb. Great Dane had been jumping out of his fenced area lately and on that day, the big fella ran up and bit the man on his arm. The bite was fairly minor but yikes! The SCSO Animal Control officer ordered the dog quarantined. The dog owner installed taller fencing and hopefully the beast will remain contained.

On New Year's Eve, three folks parked their cars near the Swift Creek pullout near Rockport. They intended to spend the night camping and celebrating the New Year. When they arrived back at their vehicles, all three rigs had windows broken out and items taken from inside. Metal detectors, CDs, and more items

### Level 2 Sex Offender NOTIFICATION

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

**Tijerina, Rene Alaniz**

Age: 54

Race: H

Sex: M

Height: 5' 8"

Weight: 170

Hair: Black

Eyes: Brown

Address: 10xx

Clifford St., Sedro-Woolley

Tijerina was

convicted of first-degree rape of a child in Skagit County. His victim was an 8-year-old female who was known to him.

Tijerina 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



were stolen. Quite an unfortunate way to remember the first day of the New Year.

**Jan. 3**

A Marblemount woman called 911 after she said a man struck her with a metal pipe. It appears the man was upset about the woman allegedly taking his drug paraphernalia. The man supposedly threw her down some steps, picked up a propane tank, and then hit her with a metal pipe several times. The deputy collected her statement and began looking for the man. He was found days later and booked on several charges.

**Jan. 4**

A Hamilton bar patron stopped in to wet his whistle. When he came out, he discovered someone had taken his brand-new \$1,400 chainsaw out of his pickup truck. There is currently no specific suspect information. The new saw should be documented, and the victim will assist deputies in narrowing down the search.

**Jan. 8**

A Lyman caller wondered about child visitation issues. The mother of the child was concerned the father didn't have a valid driver's license, but the deputy confirmed he did.

**Jan. 9**

At approximately 1:30 a.m., deputies were sent to a car in the ditch on Concrete Sauk Valley Rd., near Miller Lane, near Rockport. The car had significant front-end damage. The driver was out of the car, bleeding from a head wound. Aid was dispatched, and the man went to the hospital. A deputy met the man at the hospital to continue the investigation. The deputy arrested the man, and then drafted a search warrant to obtain a sample of his blood. The man had no previous arrests for DUI; therefore, he was released at that time. Charges are pending based on the blood sample results.

**Jan. 12**

The owner of the bakery in Concrete was working late. She looked over and saw a female trying to jimmy the front door and possibly break in. She yelled at her, the woman fled, and the owner gave chase. She called 911, and a deputy found the woman not far away. She was identified and could face attempted burglary charges. Closed means closed.

**Jan. 13**

Deputies were sent to an address they've been to before on Shangri La Dr. in Hamilton. The resident was armed with a handgun. He'd fired shots at an unknown intruder and said he was holding them at gunpoint. Several deputies responded and determined the man was suffering from an ongoing mental health episode, and

## Sergeant's corner

An alternative to overdose

By Chris Kading



Opioid use, abuse, and mortality have increased nationally and across Washington State. Skagit County law enforcement has seen a significant increase in heroin use. Deputies often see the after-effects of opiate abuse and how destructive it can be. Criminal activity is directly related to heroin use.

Heroin is incredibly addictive, and individual tolerance levels grow with its increased use. Addicts need to remain in a continual state of opiate use and dread "getting sick," meaning they are unable to get an opiate into their system. In order to remain "well," they will do whatever it takes to obtain their drug of choice. Heroin is not regulated by the FDA; therefore, the dosages and the quality of the drug are never consistent. This can lead to life-threatening overdoses.

Law enforcement is often the first to arrive on an overdose scene, and we have recently identified the opportunity to intervene and possibly save a life.

Deputies are now able to administer the counteracting nasal mist called Naloxone, or brand name, NARCAN.

On Jan. 7, the entire SCSO East Detachment staff of six deputies, along with three additional downriver deputies, were trained in the use of this life-saving intervention. Skagit EMS Paramedic Joel Pratt taught a class on the recognition, intervention, and administration of the nasal mist. The deputies will follow established EMS protocols and SCSO policy recently put in place. This new policy was a cooperative effort between the SCSO and Skagit EMS to allow deputies the opportunity to intervene and assist the medical personnel. As an EMT, I will oversee the deputies' activities and report to the SCSO and Skagit EMS on the status of the program. The remainder of the SCSO downriver deputies will receive training in the upcoming months.

As deputies working in the East Detachment, we're often the first responders to a scene, whether that call is strictly a law enforcement call, a fire call, or a medical event. NARCAN is one more tool we're able to use to assist the public in their time of need.

*Chris Kading is sergeant for the Skagit County Sheriff's Office East County Detachment in Concrete.*

no intruders were actually present. The deputies talked to the man and got him to drop the handgun. The man's behavior was very unusual and he admitted he had used cocaine prior to the deputies' arrival. This call could have ended much differently had it not been for the professionalism shown by the deputies.

**Jan. 14**

A Lyman caller reported a suspicious vehicle parked near the storage units for a

few days. The person was from the Cape Horn area, but had recently been living in her car. She was asked to move along and headed back to Cape Horn.

**Jan. 17**

A stolen car was located on Burpee Hill Rd. near Concrete. A local tow company was summoned to retrieve the car. During the removal, one of the tow

See Sheriff's Blotter, p. 33

## Worship directory

### Assembly of God

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

### Citipoint Church North Cascade

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

### Baptist

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

### Hamilton First Baptist Church

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

### Lyman Church

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

### Catholic

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

### Covenant

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

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

### Episcopal

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

### Free Methodist

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

### Methodist

**Central United Methodist Church**  
1013 Polke Rd., Sedro-Woolley  
360.856.6412 / [centralumcsw@yahoo.com](mailto:centralumcsw@yahoo.com)  
<http://centralumcsw.org>  
Adult Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.  
Sun. worship: 11 a.m.

### Presbyterian

**Mount Baker Presbyterian Church**  
45705 Main St., P.O. Box 246, Concrete  
Church 360.853.8585; office 360.595.0446  
[www.mtbakerpresbyterian.synodnw.org](http://www.mtbakerpresbyterian.synodnw.org)  
Sun. worship: 9 a.m.

### Lutheran

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

### Nondenominational

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

### Community Bible Church

45672 Limestone, Concrete; 360.853.8511  
E-mail: [cbcofconcrete@earthlink.net](mailto:cbcofconcrete@earthlink.net)  
Sun. School: 9 a.m.; Worship Svc: 10 a.m.  
Childcare/Children's Ministries at both  
Contact church for other ministries

### The RIVER Gathering

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

### Rockport Christ the King Comm. Church

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

### Wildwood Chapel

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



## CONCRETE HERITAGE MUSEUM NEWS

Our **first meeting of the year** was encouraging: We had a full house! We recapped the successes of 2015 and reminded ourselves of the work that remains to be done. By the next regular meeting, we will have added to our proposed projects list and started making the definite plans to re-open in May. It may seem like a long way away, but it really isn't. Before then, we will participate in several events.

On Sat., Feb. 6, **Mardi Gras** comes to Concrete and we will sell our traditional cupcakes and cookies in front of the theater for all those brave and crazy enough to attend the parade, which starts at 3 p.m.

On Thur., Feb. 18, the Museum Association will co-host Dave Tucker's presentation on the **history and expected hazards of Mt. Baker**—that sleeping giant in our backyard. Dave is a director at the Mt. Baker Volcano Research Center, which not only monitors Mt. Baker, but conducts field trips for those interested in learning more about the mountain. The presentation starts at 7 p.m. in Concrete Theatre. Donations are welcome.

Our annual **Pre-Easter Bake Sale** will be held on Fri., March 25, at Albert's Red Apple Market, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. or till we sell out.

We responded to an interesting request from John Tylczak, a **photographer from Tacoma**, trying to find old lumber mills in the Upper Skagit Valley. We provided him with a rough list of what our members could recall. If you have more information on the subject, please contact us via [www.concreteheritagemuseum.org](http://www.concreteheritagemuseum.org).

The museum was offered some books from the estate of area historian **Noel Bourasaw**, who passed away in October. You may recall Noel from the various presentations he gave around the county, including Concrete.

If you haven't purchased the **Museum Cookbook** yet, please rush out to Albert's Red Apple or 5b's Bakery and do so. **For more information** about the museum, contact John Lloyd, president, at 484.575.6374, or John Boggs at 360.853.8347. Our Web site is [www.concreteheritagemuseum.org](http://www.concreteheritagemuseum.org).

—John Boggs

## February at the Darrington Library

### Children and family programs

- Family Storytime, Wed., Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24; 11 to 11:45 a.m.
- LEGO Robotics, Wed., Feb. 3; 1 to 2 p.m.
- LEGO Club free play, Feb. 10; 1 to 2 p.m.
- Minecraft Build Challenge, Thur., Feb. 18, 3 to 4 p.m.; first come, first served. Ages 9–12.
- Elementary Girls Day Out (hair, nails, chatting, snacks, tutus!), Sat., Feb. 20; 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Give a Hoot about Owls! Wed., Feb. 24; 1 to 2 p.m.; school-age children.

### Teen programs

- Teen Henna Tattoo Workshop, Sat., Feb. 13; 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

### Adult programs

- Darrington Book Group discusses *Slaughterhouse 5* by Kurt Vonnegut, Wed., Feb. 3; 5:30 to 7 p.m.
- Craft Your Heart Out: Valentine's Day

gifts, crafts, and card-making, Mon., Feb. 8; 3:15 to 5:15 p.m.

- Friends of North Mountain present: "Eyes on the Forest" (fire lookouts of Idaho), Wed., Feb. 10, 5 to 6:30 p.m.
- TEDx Darrington Library Live (simulcast TED talks), Tue., Feb. 16, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Darrington Writers Group, Fri., Feb. 19; 3 to 5 p.m.
- 3C Book Group: Coffee, Cookies, & Classics, Fri., Feb. 26, 4 to 5:30 p.m. February's classic: *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, by Douglas Adams.

### Closures

- Mon., Feb. 15, for Presidents Day.

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

—Asheley Bryson, branch manager

## At the Upper Skagit Library

Thank you, **Laura Busby**, Interpretive Specialist from Rockport State Park, for speaking at the library in January. Laura kept audience members busy as they helped answer questions about how eagles and salmon are connected to old growth forests. Thanks for the laughter and learning opportunity.

Fill out our **Library Survey** and get a chance to win a Kindle Fire or a \$20 Gift Certificate to local businesses. We value your feedback about how we can serve you better. The survey available at the library and on our Web site ([www.upperskagit.lib.wa.us](http://www.upperskagit.lib.wa.us)); return it to the library by Feb. 27 and enter to win a prize.

**Library Card Art Design Contest** runs through Feb. 29. Our staff will select three finalists; the public will then vote for their favorite. The winning design will be featured on our official library card! Contest Guidelines available at the library and online at [www.upperskagit.lib.wa.us](http://www.upperskagit.lib.wa.us).

**"Frozen in Concrete"** extravaganza is March 5 at Concrete Theatre. Featuring storytelling and book signing by Barbara Jean Hicks. Sing and dance with Anna and Elsa, and have your photo taken with your favorite characters. Come play with us and help raise funds for a new library building. Buy tickets at [www.frozeninconcrete.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.frozeninconcrete.brownpapertickets.com).

**Storytime with Miss Brooke** is Feb. 6 at 11 a.m. Let's read about "books."

Families with young children join us for stories, songs, and a simple craft.

## Lions ROAR

On Jan. 20, Concrete Lion **Bill Newby** received The Melvin Jones Fellowship Award from District Governor Gary Wight. Lions International recognizes outstanding individuals by bestowing on them an award that is named for its founder, Melvin Jones. The Fellowship Award is the highest form of recognition and embodies humanitarian ideas consistent with the nature and purpose of Lionism. Recipients of this award become models because of the exemplary service to their club and the community it serves. Also receiving awards on Jan. 20 were

### New arrivals

In adult fiction, *My Name is Lucy Barton* by Elizabeth Strout. In adult nonfiction, *One Child: The Story of China's Most Radical Experiment* by Mei Fong. In children's, *Tea Rex*.

### Project architect chosen

Upper Skagit Library has chosen HKP Architects, located in Mount Vernon and Seattle, to design its new library.

HKP has worked on other regional civic projects, such as the North Cascades Environmental Learning Center, the Children's Museum of Skagit County, and the Orcas Island Public Library.

The library plans to build on a 1.9-acre parcel located near the intersection of Superior Ave. and SR 20 in Concrete. The site has been donated by Glacier Northwest.

The Upper Skagit Library Foundation is currently working on raising money for the new library through grants, corporate sponsors, and private donations. For more information on the building project, including how you can help, go to [www.upperskagitlibraryfoundation.org](http://www.upperskagitlibraryfoundation.org) or call the library at 360.853.7939.

The next Upper Skagit Library **Board of Trustees meeting** will occur on Thur., Feb. 11 at 5 p.m.

—Cora Thomas, library associate

**Ray Drake** for 50 years of service and **Dave Wright** for 45 years of service with the Concrete Lions Club.

On Wed., March 16 we'll host our annual **Corned Beef and Cabbage Feed**. The meal will be held in the Concrete High School Commons Room. The feed starts at 5:30 p.m., with a social time and dinner at 6:30 p.m. This event is open to the community, and the price is \$15 per person. Please let any of the Concrete Lions know by March 6 if you plan to attend, so enough food can be ordered.

The other big event is the **Annual Easter Egg Hunt** on March 26 at 1 p.m. at the Concrete Grade School. Please plan to bring all the kids to have a great day collecting all of those eggs.

—Connie Smithhart

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

truck employees was seriously injured. The Grasmere Fire Dept. rope rescue team retrieved the man. He was transported to the hospital with serious injuries. We wish him the best and hope for a speedy recovery. The car was later removed and returned to its owner. (Read more on p. 5.)

### Jan. 20

A deputy responded to a domestic dispute on West Main St. in Lyman. A woman called on behalf of her daughter, who is living with her. It seems that the daughter's baby's father showed up to remove his things and became unruly. He was asked to leave and return another day and to be more civil.

A man came into the medical clinic

in Concrete, reporting tooth pain. The problem is, he'd been there before and appeared to simply want more pain medication. The doctor refused to prescribe more and the man left upset. Deputies are aware of who the man is and will warn him about his behavior.

### Jan. 22

A deputy responded to the apartments on Superior Ave. in Concrete. A female reported an odd event. She had apparently parked in a man's spot, but she agreed to move. While waiting, the man revved his engine and spun his tires as she moved her truck. She was upset and yelled at him, so he did what any unruly person would do: He put her in a headlock. She broke free and called 911. Ultimately he apologized and she accepted.

## BUSINESS DIRECTORY

### Bookkeeping

#### UpRiver Bookkeeping Services

360.853.7667 or 360.708.9761  
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[dpaynes2001@yahoo.com](mailto:dpaynes2001@yahoo.com)

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Online: [www.allvalleystorageinc.com](http://www.allvalleystorageinc.com)

### The Rustic Rooster

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Unique selection of handcrafted gift by local artists. Collectibles and antiques.  
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[Facebook or rusticrooster20@gmail.com](mailto:Facebook or rusticrooster20@gmail.com)

### Hair salons

#### Hair Fitness

Complete family hair care, specializing in: PERMS / COLOR & CUTS / WAXING  
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360.853.8684

### Liquor stores

#### Concrete Liquor Store & Convenience Store

45895 Main Street, Concrete // 360.853.7149  
Monday thru Saturday 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.  
Sundays Noon to 5 p.m.  
Gifts, Rocks, Tobacco, Cigars, and more!

### Pawn shops

#### Gold Nugget Jewelry & Loan

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

### Ranches

#### Double O Ranch, LLC

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

### Jan. 23

A Marblemount couple who have been involved in many no-contact order violations continue to call the SCSO about possible violations. The female seems to call after the male has violated the order and not complied with her demands to leave the area. His version is slightly different. Having no other independent witnesses, deputies are having difficulty determining where truth lies, but we do know this much: There's much more to this story, and we'll be back.

### Jan. 24

A deputy was flagged down asking for help with horse struggling in muddy water near Hamilton. The horse was lying on its side and some kids were trying to keep its head out of the water. The Hamilton

### 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  
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#### Perks Espresso & Deli

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M–F, 5 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Sa.–Su. 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
44586 SR 20, Concrete  
360.853.9006

### RV Repair

#### Goldner RV Repair, Concrete

Mobile RV Maintenance & Repair  
LP gas systems, water, heating systems, AC/DC electrical  
360.826.3303 // [rvrepair@frontier.com](mailto:rvrepair@frontier.com)

### Self-storage

#### Concrete Self-storage

Located on Fir Street, Concrete  
Heated and nonheated, security surveillance, coded entry, 4x5 to 15x32 units, locks for sale.  
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### Septic services

#### Cinema Septic

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[www.cinemaseptic.com](http://www.cinemaseptic.com)

### Thrift stores

#### Second Floor Thrift Store

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

Fire Dept. was summoned to help free the horse. The deputy used his winch cable, but despite all their best efforts, the horse expired.

### Jan. 25

A deputy spoke to a man in a Concrete apartment complex about his neighbors. The man felt his neighbors may be trying to poison him. The deputy spoke at length to the man, and it appears the incident was unfounded.

### Jan. 26

A Rockport man wanted to speak to a deputy about his phone possibly being tapped by the police. The man described using a cordless phone and hearing other persons' conversations on his phone. It

See Sheriff's Blotter, p. 35

### Towing services

#### Cascades Towing

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# Out & About



# Home & Garden



## State

### Pearson awarded for hunting, fishing support

OLYMPIA — Hunting and fishing advocates in January awarded Sen. Kirk Pearson for his efforts to support and preserve outdoor hunting and fishing opportunities in Washington. The Hunters Heritage Council inducted Pearson into its Hall of Fame, and Fish First gave him its Legislator of the Year award.

"Every hunter in Washington State owes a debt of gratitude to this fine legislator," said Mark Pidgeon, president of the Hunters Heritage Council. "His support of the hunting community has been unwavering. Inducting him to our highest honor, the Hunters Heritage Council Hall of Fame, was a no-brainer. He truly deserves the honor."

Pearson is chair of the Senate Natural Resources and Parks Committee, which is responsible for vetting and confirming



Washington State Senator Kirk Pearson paused for photos in January with Gary Loomis, founder and president of Fish First, and Mark Pidgeon, president of Hunter Heritage Council, after being presented with the Fish First Legislator of the year award and his induction into the Hunter Heritage Council's Hall of Fame. *Submitted photos.*

Fish and Wildlife Commission appointees. Pearson made a priority of ensuring qualified appointments to the Commission and protecting opportunities for hunting and fishing.

"I deeply value the friendships I have in the hunting and fishing community," said Pearson. "My door is always open to hear any concerns about how we can keep these traditions alive."



The Hunters Heritage Council created its Hall of Fame to recognize legislators who went "above and beyond" for hunters and is not given every year. Fish First is a not-for-profit effort to return declining fish populations in the Lewis River System to historical levels. Founder and president Gary Loomis presented the award to Pearson.

—Submitted by Skagit County

All cities in Skagit County are also subject to the permit and will be required to update their stormwater codes to require LID by the end of 2016. Skagit County's code update affects development both inside and outside the NPDES Permit Area, although requirements outside the permit area are relaxed.

The code changes, in summary:

- Inside the County's NPDES (stormwater) permit area, development must use LID techniques when feasible. Outside the County's NPDES permit area, development may use LID techniques if desired.
- The technical basis for stormwater management requirements will be Ecology's 2012 Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington.
- Inside the permit area, full compliance with the stormwater manual is required; outside the permit area, some of the requirements of the manual are backed off proportionally to the intensity of the development.
- All construction inside and outside the permit area will require a Construction Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan.

The County Planning Department has updated its building permit application forms and handouts to implement the code changes. Contractors and frequent applicants should allow extra time to review the new checklists and forms.

For more information, go to [www.skagitcounty.net/stormwaterpermitting](http://www.skagitcounty.net/stormwaterpermitting).



Washington Conservation Corps volunteers put in a long day's work on Martin Luther King Jr. Day at the Angele Cupples Community Garden in Concrete. Joined by Concrete High School senior Jonathan Goodwin and a Concrete newcomer who calls herself "Taxpayer," the crew built two gabion retaining walls. The one in progress above will run behind the three greenhouses planned for the east end of the garden. A shorter wall was built immediately north of the new shed. The WCC volunteers on site that day were Alan Richardson, Zach Leavitt, Nick Haughey, Raine Chrysostom, and Ashley Sytsma.

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### New stormwater management code in effect

Skagit County's new stormwater management code went into effect Jan. 1, making the county one of the first governments in the region to achieve compliance with the state Department of Ecology's updated Municipal Stormwater Permit for Western Washington.

The code update was endorsed unanimously by the County Planning Commission in 2015 and was adopted by the Board of County Commissioners on September 8.

Like much of Western Washington, Skagit County is subject to a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System ("NPDES") permit that is required by the federal Clean Water Act and managed in Washington by the State Department of Ecology. Most urban growth areas, including Bayview Ridge, and some rural areas, including Big Lake and Clear Lake, are part of the County's NPDES Permit Area.

deliberation and fiscal responsibility. I would like to see us continue to streamline the process of county government, to expand and upgrade technologies, and to make access to services easier for the people in Skagit County.

"I'm excited about Skagit County being at the forefront of seeking new ways to address mental health issues and affordable housing in the area," she said. "Those two issues will continue to be priorities for us this year."

In addition to presiding over Board of Commissioner meetings, the chair assumes responsibilities including representation of the county as a member of several boards and commissions.

Janicki represents Skagit County on the County Road Administration Board (CRAB), created by the Legislature in 1965 to provide statutory oversight of Washington's 39 county road departments. The agency is governed by a nine-member board that meets quarterly and is composed of six county commissioners/council members and three county engineers.

## Skagit County

### Janicki to chair County Board of Commissioners

In keeping with tradition, Dist. 3 Skagit County Commissioner Lisa Janicki will serve as chair of the Board of Commissioners for 2016.

District 2 Commissioner Ken Dahlstedt passed the gavel to Janicki at the board's inaugural 2016 session on Jan. 4. Commissioners rotate in the role of chair on an annual basis.

In her first term of service as a commissioner, Janicki said, "It has been my privilege to serve this past year, an exciting year in which I gained a deeper appreciation for the challenges faced by this board and a very able Skagit County staff."

"I look forward to the coming year, confident that we will continue to represent the people of this county with a commitment to open, inclusive

### Barnaby Reach, cont. from p. 3

residing in the immediate area to at least consider a project that may have long-term restoration benefit for this area. I am remaining open to investigating—neither embracing nor championing—but considering Alternative 4. We all want to see—and the project managers are planning—more survey work, river hydrology modeling, and planning against every eventuality, especially as it might affect public safety and private property.

I believe the Barnaby Reach project is a reasonable consideration, if indeed the science shows the benefit analysis to be high for the restoration goals with very low risk for adverse private property concerns.

We humans have dramatically altered this Skagit watershed in the past 100 years. If we can at least undo some of the mess in the Barnaby Reach, that seems like a very good thing to do.

### Sheriff's Blotter, cont. from p. 33

appears he may have had some type of bleed over from a neighbor's phone, but it wasn't law enforcement listening.

**Jan. 28**

At approximately 4 a.m., a Cape Horn woman called 911, saying her boyfriend had poured gasoline on her and her 4-year-old son. She said he had a lighter and was trying to set them ablaze. Two deputies responded and the man fled just before their arrival. The SCSO K9 tracked the 26-year-old man to some nearby bushes, where he was hiding. He was arrested without getting bitten by the K9. Deputies determined the woman and child were safe for the time being. The man, who has a significant criminal history, was booked into jail for several felony charges, attempted arson, attempted assault, and resisting arrest, among others.

—Compiled by Sgt. Chris Kading

## AREA FOOD BANKS

### Clear Lake

#### Community Covenant Food Bank

Next to church at 12605 Hwy 9, Clear Lake  
For a referral, call Love Inc. at 360.419.7061  
between 9:30 a.m.–3 p.m.

### Concrete

#### Concrete Food Bank

112 E. Main St., Concrete  
Second and fourth Tue. each month,  
Noon–3 p.m.  
360.853.8505

### Darrington

#### Darrington Food Bank

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

### Hamilton

#### Hamilton Community Food Bank

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

360.826.4090

### Lyman

#### Shepherd's Heart Food Bank

8334 S. Main St., Lyman  
Every Thur. 10:30 a.m.–1 p.m.  
Self-help classes after food bank closes; call  
for subjects: 360.853.3765

### Marblemount

#### Bread of Life Food Bank

59850 State Route 20, Marblemount  
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### Sedro-Woolley

#### Helping Hands Food Bank

601 Cook Rd., Sedro-Woolley  
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\*Changes? Call 360.853.8213.

**Area businesses bring you Concrete Herald  
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# Smile



## Dwelleysms

Wit from former  
Concrete Herald editor  
Charles M. Dwelley

“A strange quirk in human nature is that people are sold on the idea of group action and will band together in organizations from a bridge club to a national charity drive without hesitation, and then will turn around and tell you they don’t vote very often because they feel their vote doesn’t amount to much.”

“Any time you find enough information to become an authority on one subject, it is well to realize how little you know about everything else.”

“Presidential candidates are to be pitied. They can’t blow their noses without being quoted or put down as poor health risks.”

“Some of the best things in this world have been brought about by dissatisfied people. Don’t be afraid to gripe.”

“‘Welcome as the flowers of spring’ is certainly going to be an understatement this year.”

—Feb. 16, 1956

“Winter steelhead season closes on Feb. 29 as previously announced, the upriver petition being dismissed on the grounds that ‘you always have to step on somebody’s toes.’ That may be true, but ours are getting pretty tender from the tromping.”

—Feb. 23, 1956

“Even stupidity, if carried to extreme, will be recognized as a rare type of genius.”

“Exasperation affects most with the urge to kill ... time.”

—March 1, 1956

“One thing coming out of the improvement talk is the growing realization that everybody’s taxes should be raised—except mine and yours.”

—March 8, 1956

“In community work there is no such thing as an overdose of enthusiasm. Just scarcity of targets that will tumble before the fever dies down.”

—March 22, 1956

## Public Service Announcement

By Stig Kristensen



## Concrete Harold

By Joyce Harris



## Crossword: “On the set”

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

### Across

- Dovetail
- Ankh feature
- Sweetly, in music
- Montreal player
- Retin-A treats it
- New Jersey county
- Turturro and Bacon, e.g.
- Ancient horn
- Horse handler
- Dance, e.g.
- Elephant grp.
- Bivalve shells
- “Enter” and “left”
- Can you dig it?
- Clumsy boats
- Tags
- Legal org.
- Govt. agency
- Layer
- Back
- Berry
- Gasteyer of “Mean Girls”
- Camera chief
- Synagogue singer
- Cousin of an ostrich
- Bar order
- Encourage

### Down

- Centers of activity
- Give a pep talk
- Ancient military hub
- Phone, slangily
- Fond du \_\_\_\_\_
- Marine mollusks
- Addition column
- Chipper
- Lecturers
- Sovereign’s privilege
- “Seinfeld” uncle
- One for the road
- Dash widths
- Bit
- “Wellaway!”
- Catullus composition
- Churn
- May event, for short

### Across

- Bubblehead
- \_\_\_\_\_ few rounds
- Call
- It’s full of periods
- “Tosca” tune
- Beethoven’s birthplace
- Blubber
- Twaddle
- TV monitor?
- Love devotee
- Freight
- Coat part
- Pacific island
- Short musical pieces
- Swiss canton
- Marine compound
- Big roll
- Move audience members
- Fish caught in pots
- Beasts of burden
- Suffix with psych-
- Blubber
- Central truth
- Can. neighbor
- Minor player

## Sudoku

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

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

\*Solutions to both puzzles are on p. 39.

## Funny as Facebook

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

- “Remembered my shorts this time. Fewer stares on the treadmill.”
- “Did my taxes and GOT SOMETHING BACK! The tax preparer turned her head and I made off with a stapler and three pens.”
- “Yay, my coursework just told me to watch TV for 15 minutes. I’m all over it.”
- “‘The Revenant.’ Someone give DiCaprio an Oscar before he kills himself proving that he can act in any situation thrown, dropped, nearly drowned, or delivered via grizzly.”
- “Blaming my lack of productivity today on the cat pinning me down.”
- “Last week LinkedIn let me know that my profile was viewed by a ‘VP Drilling and Completions’ with a Tulsa energy company. Today, a ‘top jobs for you’ e-mail tells me that Petroplan Houston is looking for an automation and controls product manager. Maybe textual analysis software flagged the words ‘crude’ and ‘unrefined’ in my recommendations.”
- “Just once, when I comment on someone’s blog post, I’d like them to concede that I have made a good point and then announce their retirement from their chosen field. Is that so much to ask?”
- “Happy Thomas Crapper Day! He has always been #1 and #2! Let the porcelain puns begin!”
- “When I find myself in times of trouble / Mother Charlie comes to me / Speaking words of wisdom / Mac and Cheese.”
- “I know I should be happy because the Seahawks won, but I’m too busy being sad for Walsh. I can’t imagine how hard everyone is going to be on him; it’s tragic. I hate being an emotional person.”
- “First person to buy me a Barack Obama Chia Pet wins.”



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Joshua Hawkins, MD  
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Skagit Valley Hospital Regional Cancer Care Center, the Fantastic Four and more, committed to treating cancer and creating survivors.

**Skagit Regional Health**  
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*Regional Cancer Care Center*



More info: **360-814-2424**

[www.skagiticancersurvivors.org](http://www.skagiticancersurvivors.org)