

The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley

Concrete Herald

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50 cents

Clear Lake • Sedro-Woolley • Lyman • Darrington • Punkin Center • Hamilton • Skagit Valley • Rockport • Van Horn • Darrington • Corral • Mount • Bullerville • Newhalem • Diablo



Cubs win! Cubs win!

Inside:

Sedro-Woolley makes history
with State win. Page 16

Commemorative state
championship poster.
Pages 20-21



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Sharon Dillon



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Concrete Herald

The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley



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

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From the editor Thoughts for the coming year

When April 2015 rolls around, *Concrete Herald* will celebrate the sixth anniversary of its return to a regular publishing schedule. I hope you continue to enjoy what our community newspaper is designed to be: a quality, trustworthy source of news about our Upper Valley communities.

I'm always interested in ideas for improvement and positive feedback on the contents of each issue of *Concrete Herald*. Speaking of which, so many readers had good things to say about playwright Nicola Pearson's serialized story in 2013, that she's returning in 2015 with another tale of suspense and intrigue. *The Man in the Mud Room* begins with this issue; you'll find it on p. 38. I'll keep the story online at www.concrete-herald.com, adding subsequent installments to it until the entire piece is complete. Enjoy!

Here's to a happy, healthy, productive, and prosperous 2015.

—J. K. M.

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Opinion

Letters to the editor

Hamilton stray dog ordinance a "joke"

The statement that Hamilton's "stray dog ordinance continued to be fine tuned" is a big laughing joke here in Hamilton. There is no code enforcement of any kind in Hamilton. There are dogs running loose seven days a week and as many as six at a time. The mayor posted some codes concerning the dog ordinance and went through the motion of making it look real by posting a notice on the community board at the post office.

Two months later the notices were taken down and nothing said about it at the December council meeting. The same dogs and cats have been digging holes and crapping in my yard for two months now. It's a lost cause having a weak mayor who is a pushover and afraid of losing votes to enforce the codes.

Renee R. Barley
Hamilton

commissioners even ethically consider they had the right to route their pet project through the consent agenda for approval? Did the commissioners not want public awareness or give consideration to Town of Concrete and county citizens' concerns and comments they received from the county budget public hearing?

In my opinion, Dillon and Dahlstedt stuck it to Concrete and the citizens of our county by not deliberating or addressing any of the town's or many citizens' concerns.

Aileen Good
Sedro-Woolley

Silrus spread Christmas cheer

I would like to thank Gladys Silrus and her helpers for putting up the nice Christmas decorations in town. They gave the holiday spirit for everyone to enjoy. For those who have not driven up Main Street, you should, and see all the lights and window displays.

Carol Rohan
Cascade Supply, Concrete

See Letters, p. 39

Commissioners "stuck it" to citizens

Why on Dec. 8 did County Commissioners Dillon and Dahlstedt stoop to an all-time low? Commissioners approved including two paving projects on Cascade Trail in the county's six-year Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP), including one project within Town of Concrete, by a 2-1 vote. Why would county commissioners even consider voting to pave trail within the town without first talking to town officials?

At a Dec. 8 county consent agenda session, commissioners showed up to a room of citizens, the Concrete mayor, Friends of Skagit County, Citizens Alliance for Property Rights, Skagit Citizens Alliance for Rural Preservation, and others. Why would county

Letters policy

Letters of 200 words or fewer may be e-mailed to letters@concrete-herald.com or sent to Concrete Herald, P.O. Box 682w, 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.

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Message from the mayor

By Jason Miller

As I begin the second year of my term, I look forward to dividing my time equally between strategizing and day-to-day work.

Infrastructure needs continue to occupy much of our staff's time. We have one more location in town with the original wooden water line, plus a couple other water lines that need attention. We'll continue to seek funding that will allow us to fix the infiltration into our wastewater system during heavy rainfalls so that we can at least partially decommission the sewer lagoon.

Concrete Town Center looked great during the Christmas season, thanks to our Public Works crew, who installed and lighted the annual Christmas tree, and locals Gladys Silrus, Adrienne Smith, Allen Silrus, and Terra Ruble, who put up Christmas lights and decorations along Main Street. Thank you!

The **Fire and Life Safety Building** project is buzzing along two or three



weeks ahead of schedule, and we have our contractor, Interwest Construction, to thank for that. We figured they earned a little break during the holiday season, because when they return, they'll still be ahead of the game.

Also thanks to Interwest for the **Cupples Alley water line** project. When it was discovered that the existing pavement was in worse shape than we'd thought, Interwest quietly moved some numbers around and paved the entire stretch—which wasn't part of the original plan—at no additional cost to the town.

The next **Imagine Concrete townwide workshop** will be held on Sat., March 14, from 9 a.m. to noon in the Commons room at Concrete High School. These workshops are held every other year; this year we plan to discuss Silo Park: its strengths, challenges, current projects, and potential for greatness. We'll hand all the feedback from this workshop to Parks Committee Chair Marla Reed and the Town Council for further discussion.

Got a topic you'd like me to address in this column? Let me know.

Concrete Mayor Jason Miller can be reached at goodwords@frontier.com or 360.853.8213.

Commentary When is a customer no longer a customer?

By Nicola Pearson

Recently I made the mistake of shipping a large mirror set in stained glass through one of the major carriers—an alternative to the U.S. Postal Service. I say mistake because (a) I usually ship through the Concrete Post Office, enjoying the friendly service I receive there, and (b) when the mirror arrived damaged, I learned that "customer service" was not available to me through this alternative carrier. And it got me thinking: When is a customer no longer a customer?

As the owner of a small business, I cherish my customers and often go to great lengths to make sure their needs are met. After all, they're meeting my needs by helping put food on my table every day. I'm pretty sure all businesses feel the same way until they get to a certain size; then the customer becomes secondary to the race toward mega-status and the business turns into Audrey II, the plant in "Little Shop of Horrors," growling, "Feed Me!" instead of the more appropriate, "Thank you for feeding me."

The first sign that a business is heading in this direction has to be the automated voice messaging system that seems designed to dissuade us from even trying to get customer service. After all, pressing or saying our way through options that have absolutely nothing to do with our particular concern is really not worth the 20 minutes of our life it's going to cost. And I'm convinced that there is a positive correlation between the size of the business and the frustration level of their automated messaging system, culminating with the really big guys sending us through interminable loops that suck our time only to put us right back at the beginning with not even a whisper of help.

But it turns out there is a new phenomenon—the loop within the loop—put in place to ensure that if you do manage to get through to a human being, your particular concern will not be addressed in their script, and you will

See Commentary, p. 19



Thank You Concrete for a Great 2014!

With your support, it's been a very productive year for NCVAM at Concrete:

- Installation of the first aviation fueling station at Mears Field
- Record Concrete Fly-In Attendance
- Acquisition of another hangar on Lot #4
- Acquisition of famous PNW historic '30's Art Deco Racer: Monocoupe Clipwing 110 Special "The Spirit of Dynamite"
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- Flying Key Collection Aircraft to Local Airshows at Skagit Regional, Arlington & Hood River Airports
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Homicide mars Birdsvie New Year's party

A 47-year-old man died from a gunshot wound in the early morning hours of Jan. 1, after a New Year's party at a Birdsvie residence.

Skagit County Sheriff's Office identified the victim as Allen Kesterson of Concrete, and said in a release the cause of death was an apparent gunshot wound to his head.

A 30-year-old male suspect was arrested and booked into the Skagit County Jail for investigation of second-degree murder.

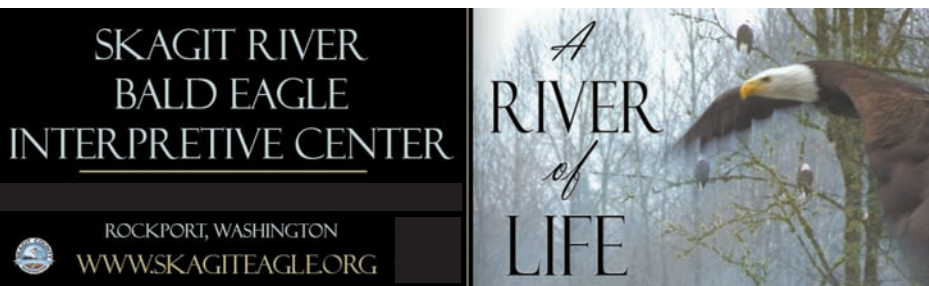
SCSO Chief Don McDermott said in the release that the only relationship between the victim and suspect was that they attended the same party at the Birdsvie

residence. The motive for the shooting is unclear, and the investigation is ongoing.

SCSO deputies responded to the scene in the 38800 block of State Route 20 at approximately 4:13 a.m. on Jan. 1. They found the victim lying in the yard and determined he had been shot. Several party attendees had left the scene, but detectives interviewed those remaining and eventually served a search warrant on a residence on Benjamin St. in Concrete, where they believed they would find the weapon used in the homicide.

—J. K.M.

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Official Skagit Eagle Festival Activity

Annexation on ballot

Concrete voters this fall will decide whether the town should be annexed into the Upper Skagit Library District.

During its Dec. 8 regular meeting, Concrete Town Council decided to move ahead with plans to add the measure to the November 2015 ballot.

Annexation would bring all library services to residents who live within town limits, spreading the cost of doing so to all residents. Currently, residents who live within town limits and want to check out a book must buy a library card for a \$30 annual fee, because the library is a county library, supported with taxes paid by residents who live on county land.

Annexation would allow in-town residents to immediately get a library card without the up-front \$30 fee. The card would give them access to all materials that must be checked out, as well as free application for library cards at any of the five Skagit County reciprocal libraries. The card also provides 24/7 access to online library services. The library currently offers more than 10,000 books, movies, music, and other materials, as

well as digital audio books and eBooks.

Annexation cost

If town voters approve annexation, property owners in the town will pay an annual tax of up to 50 cents for every \$1,000 of their property's assessed value. For example, a property assessed at \$150,000 would contribute a maximum of \$75 per year directly toward the library.

If annexation is approved, the county would start collecting the tax on behalf of the library in the year following the election, but in-town Concrete residents would have immediate full library privileges. Anytime after the first three years of annexation, the town council may ask Concrete voters if they wish to leave the library system.

To learn more about library services, call the library at 360.853.7939, go to www.upperskagit.lib.wa.us, or visit the library. Questions about annexation can be directed to the Upper Skagit Library at 360.853.7939 or Concrete Town Hall at 360.853.8401.

—J. K. M.

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The Skagit Eagle Festival is funded in part by a grant from Skagit County Lodging Tax.

Get to Know the Raptors

Saturday, Jan. 3

1:00 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.
Concrete Theatre
45920 Main Street, Concrete
FREE ADMISSION
Sponsored by PeaceHealth

Saturday, Jan. 17

11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.
Concrete High School Gymnasium
7830 S Superior Ave., Concrete
FREE ADMISSION
Sponsored by Puget Sound Energy

Saturday, Jan. 24

2:00 p.m.
Challenger Ridge Vineyard & Cellars
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FREE ADMISSION
Sponsored by Challenger Ridge
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Skagit Eagle Festival fills January

Month-long event celebrates eagles' return to the Upper Valley.

The popular Skagit Eagle Festival will once again welcome visitors to eastern Skagit County for four weekends of recreation, entertainment, and education in January.

Festival activities are held on Saturdays and Sundays from Jan. 3 through 25, and are designed to celebrate the return of the bald eagles to the Skagit River area.

Festival activities are planned at venues in Concrete, Rockport, and Marblemount, including:

- Eagle-Watching Stations with trained volunteers.
- Walks, talks, and presentations at the Bald Eagle Interpretive Center in Rockport.
- 5K Run and Nature Walk at Ovenell's Heritage Ranch.
- Arts & crafts sales at the Concrete Center.
- Boat trips by Skagit River Guide Service.
- Tours of the Marblemount Fish

Hatchery.

- Photography workshops at the Concrete Theatre.
- Birds of prey presentations by Sarvey Wildlife Center.
- Native American dancing and storytelling.
- Hayrides and bonfires at Ovenell's Heritage Ranch.
- Deep Forest Tours at Rockport State Park.
- Wine Tastings at Challenger Ridge Vineyard.
- Bluegrass & Box Lunch at the Concrete Theatre.
- Children's crafts and activities at the Upper Skagit Library.
- Winter Jazz at 5b's Bakery in Concrete.

"There's something for visitors of all ages, interests, and abilities," said Valerie Stafford, president of the Concrete Chamber of Commerce and organizer of the event. "Visitors need to remember that

most of the outdoor activities are held regardless of rain or snow, so please come prepared for winter weather."

The Skagit Eagle Festival is sponsored by United General Medical Center, Concrete Herald, Puget Sound Energy, and Challenger Ridge Vineyard & Cellars. It is also funded in part by a grant from Skagit County.

With so many activities available, where do you start? Visit the Skagit Eagle Festival Information Station, located in the Concrete Center, 45821 Railroad Ave. in Concrete, for brochures, maps, souvenirs, arts and crafts, free coffee, and restrooms. The Information Station is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., on Saturdays and Sundays during the festival.

A complete schedule is available online at www.skagiteaglefestival.com.

For more information, contact the Concrete Chamber of Commerce at 360.853.8784 or chamber@concrete-wa.com.

THIS AND THAT

By J. K. M.

Community Action of Skagit County and the Coalition to End Homelessness are in need of **Point in Time Count Outreach Volunteers** for Thur., Jan. 29. Help conduct short surveys that will provide census information regarding housing situations for potentially homeless individuals in Skagit County.

To volunteer or for more information, visit the Skagit Volunteer Center at 2221 Riverside Dr. in Mount Vernon, call 360.588.5731, or send an e-mail to susanr@communityactionskagit.org.

Save the date for the fourth **Imagine Concrete townwide workshop** on March 14. This year the workshop will focus on Silo Park in Concrete. The event will be held from 9 a.m. to noon in the Commons room at Concrete High School. Childcare will be provided. For more information, contact Jason Miller at goodwords@frontier.com or 360.853.8213.



Concrete football coaches honored

Concrete football Head Coach Ron Rood and Assistant Coach Chad Clark have been racking up accolades since the team wrapped up its season in December.

Shown above with Assistant Coach Don Olmstead between them, Rood (left), Clark, and the rest of the coaching staff led the team to a 9-2 record that culminated with the League title.

Rood notched his 200th win during the season and was named Coach of the Year.

Clark has been chosen by the Washington State Coaches Association as this year's Assistant Coach of the Year for District 1, which comprises the area north of Everett.

"It's a nice honor and he is very deserving," said Rood.

Clark and nine other district picks will be honored at the annual WSCA Mid-winter Clinic in Everett from Jan. 24-26.

—J. K. M.; photo by Claus Joens

Council summary

Concrete Town Council met for a regular meeting on Dec. 8, and decided at that meeting to cancel its second meeting in December. Complete and council-approved minutes for every council meeting are posted on the town's Web site at www.townofconcrete.com/cminutes.php.

Dec. 8 regular meeting

- Airport lot lessee Gary Dunlap asked if Skagit Surveyors could complete the survey he needs to have done for completing a boundary line adjustment on some of his lots at the airport.

Town Planner Marianne Manville-Ailles stated that Skagit Surveyors had completed both binding site plans for the airport and performed the surveys. She stated that she wanted to discuss this with council to ensure there was not a conflict of interest here. She stated that typically Skagit Surveyors would refuse to perform

this work, but since this is for a property actually owned by the town, she did not feel there would be a conflict.

Town Attorney David Day stated that he does not believe there would be a conflict in this case. He stated it has been disclosed, but a waiver should be signed by any applicant so they are aware of the relationship between the town and Skagit Surveyors.

- **Public Safety:** SCSO Sgt. Chris Kading reported there were about 60 calls in November. He mentioned one crime in particular: the flag that was

See Council, p. 39

Keep track of your council

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

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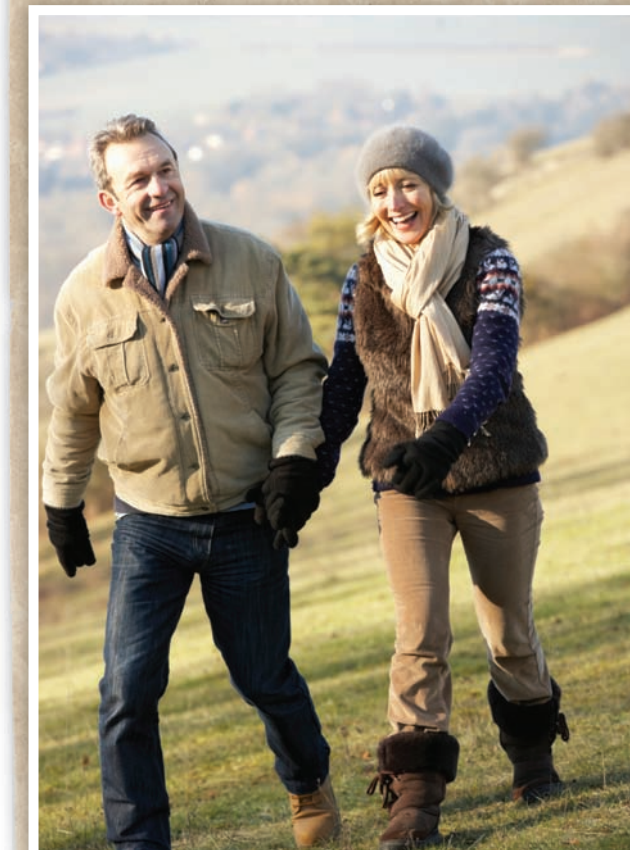
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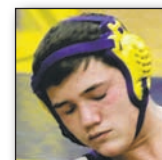


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Sports



Lady Lions getting tough

By Kevik Rensink, head coach

It is easy to talk about how tough you are. It is much more difficult to show it. The Concrete women's basketball team wrapped up a New Year's Tournament in Darrington over the Jan. 3 weekend, and the girls showed everyone just how much we are improving as a basketball team. They were tough.

Both games we played came down to toughness and getting some of the dirty work done under the boards. In the first game of the tournament, we went up against Manson (an Eastern Washington school), and we were out "toughed" 49-38. Jaycelyn Kuipers led us with 10 points, while Lydia Schoolland had nine points and 14 rebounds. Chloe Stidman had another solid game with seven points, six rebounds, five steals, and three assists. Cassidy Cargile continues her suffocating defense and took five steals of her own. Unfortunately we lost the rebound battle 40-33, and that was the difference.

The second game was our most complete game of the season, and we pulled away from a pesky Charles Wright team for a tough 47-41 win. The biggest difference in this game came right back to rebounding, where we pounded the glass for 50 rebounds compared to 20 total rebounds for Charles Wright. Muriel Troka had a monster game, putting up 16 points and pulling down 15 rebounds, while putting the team on her back in the fourth quarter with the game on the line. Schoolland gave us 13 points and eight rebounds, and Kuipers continues to improve by leaps and bounds, contributing eight points and 12 rebounds.

Rebecca Torheim continues to be tough down low for us, and we will need her toughness as we head into league play. Kelse Cargile has had a couple of really nice games lately as well, contributing to both ends of the floor. Katelin Pritchard, Tate Mathis, and Emily Bridge continue to give us positive minutes off the bench as well.

The players have bought into the program and the philosophies we have, and they are working extremely well together. As a coach, I get to see improvement every day, and it is exciting to say the least. It took us a few games to really get going, but we are playing with a lot of consistency and increased toughness. We have won two of our last three games, and the girls continue to put themselves in a position to win. Now



that January is here, we are heading right into the thick of league play. Every game is a big game, with playoff implications looming. We have a lot of ground to make up over the next month, but I really like the way we are playing right now. We are on the road for eight of our 11 games

Athletes of the Month



Athletes of the Month are Jasmine Hopfield and Gibson Fichter

Junior volleyball player Jasmine Hopfield plays the No. 1 setter in the Concrete team's 6-2 system, leading the team in kills, saves, and assists. Hopfield also received the plaque for "Best Server" for the past two seasons, with another stellar 93% serving rate this year. "She was voted Athlete of the Month because of her consistency that she brought to the team all the way through the district tournament," said Head Coach Kevik Rensink. "We relied on Jasmine because of her knowledge of the game and her tremendous leadership skills. She is very deserving of this honor."

Senior running back Gibson Fichter collected a slew of accomplishments during the 2014 football season. He broke the Skagit County all-time rushing record with 3,648 yards, was the league's offensive MVP, and was nominated to the WSCA East-West senior all star game. He was the team captain too. "He's the ASB president and can play a number of different instruments," Head Coach Ron Rood added. "He's a good kid, a well-rounded young man."

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

Top left: Kelse Cargile drives past a Friday Harbor defender as the Lady Lions hosted the Wolverines on Dec. 12.

Left: Lydia Schoolland shoots for three during the Dec. 12 game.

Basketball team finding its identity

By Jason Miller

After losing a few players to attrition, the Concrete High School men's basketball team is beginning to find its stride.

At the end of December, the team was 2-5 overall and 1-2 in league play. Head Coach Paul Bianchini said he looks forward to the January schedule.

"The games so far have been excellent learning opportunities—me as coach learning the players' capabilities, and the players learning their capabilities. We're getting closer to finding our identity—who we are as a team. Every day our communication is getting better," he said.

The players recruited two additional athletes—Tucker Scollard and Trevor Lerma—who have bolstered the team

physically and mentally.

"They've been great additions for the morale of the team and the competitiveness of our practices," said Bianchini. "We needed that in order to prepare for real competition."

Incremental improvement is the goal, according to Bianchini, who said he was pleased with the mindset his players are bringing to the court.

"We have a solid core of kids who have been there day in and day out. That's encouraging," he said. "They come to the practices ready to go."

January will find the team moving more fully into league play, starting with Cedar Park Christian on Jan. 6, Orcas Island on Jan. 9, and La Conner on Jan. 13.

New coach for men's team

Concrete's new men's basketball coach, Paul Bianchini, has basketball in his blood.

His father and uncles all played basketball at CHS in the 1940s. Bianchini, 60, played too, and already has taken a turn at the helm, coaching the team from 1998-2007.

Bianchini teaches physical education at Concrete Elementary School and has been with the school district for 25 years. "Kids keep me young," he said.

"Basketball has always been my favorite sport," said Coach Bianchini. "When I was growing up here, all the teachers were coaches, so I coach. I want to give these kids an opportunity to enjoy basketball the way I do."

Bianchini replaces former head coach Larry Tyndall, who coached the team for two years.



Bianchini

—J. K. M.



Above: Dylan Clark sneaks a layup past defenders during a Dec. 12 game against Friday Harbor. **Below: Tyler Labrousse** threads a shot between two Wolverines.

Below right: Solomon Holman looks for an open teammate.



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Wrestlers pick up speed in Jan.

By Jason Miller

Concrete grapplers went their separate ways in December. The men's team attended a four-team meet in Darrington on Dec. 10, the Iron Sharpens Iron invitational on Dec. 13, and the Mount Baker Wrestling Invite at Mount Baker High School on Dec. 23.

The team will pick up the pace in January with a full schedule that includes another four-team meet at Darrington on Jan. 7, the Sky Valley Invitational on Jan. 10, a dual meet at Friday Harbor on Jan. 13, a double dual meet at Lakewood on Jan. 14, and the King of the Mountain Tournament at Darrington on Jan. 17.

The Lady Lion wrestlers are showing plenty of spirit despite small numbers. The squad this year numbers four: seniors Anjelika Koenig and Madeline Corn, freshman Becky Azure, and sophomore Vicky Sheahan.

Koenig placed third at the team's first two outings, but has since been sidelined with a misaligned kneecap. Koenig should be back on the mats by Jan. 7, when the team travels to Darrington for a four-team dual meet. Joining Koenig on the injured list is Azure, who dislocated her shoulder, but has since shrugged off her sling.



Above: Riley Fichter tangles with Nate Oystre of Sultan at the Mount Baker Wrestling Invite at Mount Baker High School on Dec. 23. Fichter won with a pin.

Left: River Lee taught Trevor Chase of Lakewood a lesson, pinning Chase for a win at the Mount Baker Invite.

Far left: Madeline Corn struggles to get the upper hand against Lynden's Karina Martinez during the Woolley Women Wrestling Invite at Sedro-Woolley High School on Jan. 3. Martinez took the hard-fought match, beating Corn on points, 6-2.



Paid announcement

Skagit County held an annual budget public hearing December 1, 2014 that included its Capital Facilities Plan and six-year Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP). A recap of TIP comments follows.

Town of Concrete submitted a letter to County Commissioners addressing paving of Cascade Trail. Town of Concrete council expressed its disapproval to paving any portion of Cascade Trail. In the council's opinion, paving would have the following detrimental outcomes:

- Would facilitate unlawful use of motorized vehicles on trail.
- Would discourage horseback riding.
- Will introduce impermeable surface in wet climate.
- Will add costs to potential future conversion of trail back to railroad use.

In a letter to the commissioners, Concrete Mayor Jason Miller wrote, "Town of Concrete views the proposal to pave portions of the Cascade Trail as nothing more than a waste of money."

Comments from Friends of Skagit County, Citizens Alliance for Property Rights, Skagit Citizens Alliance

for Rural Preservation, landowners, and citizens included:

- Once project is on the TIP, there is no further public input or public involvement.
- Wiseman Creek flows over and has eroded away one mile of trail. A boardwalk will not work; will require one-mile bridge, which will fill in with sediment.
- Skagit River is seeping through trail bed at milepost 7 during high waters, threatening to wash out trail with deep undercutting.
- County is liable if someone falls into river; there are no safety fences, no warning signs; trail edge is inches from dropping straight into river. Park bench is 10 feet from straight drop into river.
- Paving will eliminate horses, senior citizens, joggers—the present users.
- User groups discourage members from using trail due to safety concerns as most users carry guns and knives for their protection. Most of trail is secluded and wooded, unsafe. Sheriff's deputies are unable to respond in time.
- Altercations between users are happening now; other users purposely try to scare horses

and riders on trail.

- No public process at all, no planning, no cost effectiveness done.
- Paving not discussed by Parks Board; paving not top priority of Parks Director.
- Spraying four chemicals on trail potentially contaminating many organic gardens and wells within 100 feet of trail.
- Paving is unnecessary as hardened surface remains out there now.
- SR 20 from Anacortes to Idaho border 416 miles, along with 172 miles of side routes, is now federally designated US Bicycle Route 10, which is parallel to this trail. This roadway route is much safer and provides better connectivity between city and towns.

Commissioners declined to deliberate on the Town of Concrete's and many citizens' concerns addressing the two trail paving projects listed on the TIP. There was no public comment or letters in support of two paving projects to be included on the TIP at the county budget hearing.

Commissioners then approved by 2-1 vote, including projects on the TIP.

—Randy Good
Sedro-Woolley

SOCCER AWARDS

Second Team All-League: Iris Nevin, Madisyn Renzelman. **Hustle Award:** Madisyn Renzelman. **Most Inspirational:** Emily Schmidt. **Most Valuable Teammate:** Chloe Stidman. **First Team All-League:** Chloe Stidman. **Rookie of the Year:** Nora Towner.

VOLLEYBALL AWARDS

Most Valuable Player: Kelse Cargile. **All-League:** Kelse Cargile, libero. **Most Improved Player:** Muriel Troka. **Best Server:** Jasmine Hopfield. **Perfect Passer:** Cassidy Cargile. **JV Most Valuable Player:** Emily Bridge. **JV Most Improved Player:** Ashlee Gilbert.

FOOTBALL AWARDS

NWB League MVP: Gibson Fichter. **NWB League Honorable Mention:** Dylan Clark, quarterback. **First Team All-League:** Dylan Clark, linebacker; Clay Nelson, running back; Donnie Olmstead, linebacker; Robert Nevin, offensive and defensive lineman. **Second Team All-League:** Mat Baird, defensive lineman; Donnie Olmstead, running back; Gibson Fichter, defensive back; Trevor Lerma, offensive lineman; Cameron Post, offensive lineman. **Second Team All-League Honorable Mention:** Randall Beacham, linebacker; Tyler Labrousse, defensive back. **Coach of the Year:** Ron Rood.

Where are they now?

Car talk and flowers from CHS grads Steve and Judy Hazel

By Jeanna Mae Squires

Steve and Judy (Pritchard) Hazel are alumni of Concrete High School. Steve graduated in 1981, and Judy graduated in 1984. They were high school sweethearts who married in 1983. They currently reside in Bellingham, where they raised their five children.

Steve started his automotive repair business, Panacea Auto Repair, in 1999. The business specializes in drivability and computer control. "I actually always wanted to own my own auto repair shop since I was probably 10 years old," he said.

His shop may be small, but he does a good job; he is straight and honest with his customers.

Steve is thankful for his wife, Judy, who always has supported his automotive endeavors. Judy worked within the business to take care of the bookkeeping and answer the phones at a time when he was all by himself in the shop.

Steve also does a talk radio show on Saturday mornings with the local radio station, 790 KGMI. Usually, the program has a topic; however, anyone can call in and ask questions over the phone about anything automotive-related. His talk show airs Saturday mornings between 9 and 10 a.m. Steve has been doing the show for 13 years.

Judy Hazel has been in the floral industry since 1983. She started her own business, Happily Ever After, in her home in 2005. Judy's family time—especially during the holidays—is important to her, so she wanted to remain in her field as a florist without the long hours a flower shop demands.

She decided to serve in the bridal industry and make wedding flowers for brides, and still have a level of control of how many weddings she did each year. When she started her business, a lot of her children's friends had begun marrying, and since they knew Judy, she started



Steve and Judy Hazel make their home in Bellingham. They graduated in 1981 and 1984, respectively. *Submitted photo.*

doing weddings for them.

Judy only does weddings, as she wants to serve her customers effectively and for them to know they are her only focus. By remaining a small business, she has been able to design and change with the latest trends that the floral industry offers.

Judy enjoys working with brides. She said, "Every single bride is different and every single wedding is different. I need to adapt and innovate for each bride, and I enjoy that." She started out with business cards. Now she has a Facebook page and a Web site.

Steve and Judy Hazel have been married for 31 years. Judy said, "We are thankful we had our beginning in Concrete and our friends there. They are good people who care about people. There are a lot of really good folks up there."

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Academics



Concrete Elementary students were honored Dec. 19 at a "Character Assembly," during which children from each grade level were recognized for their interpretations of what the concept of "kindness" means to them. Front row, from left: Jasmine Lofton, Lilly Landweer, Kelsy Martin, Sammy Mitchell, Rylee Baker, Cail Wilson, Hallee Dickerman, Jacob Oliver. Back row, from left: Mariah Kelly, Melanie Siqueiros, Hunter Kelley, Kiuanna Gardner, Matthew Denny.



Concrete 3rd grader Zack Hendry-Conrad accepts a dictionary from Sedro-Woolley Rotary Club member Mark Venn at Concrete Elementary School Dec. 12. Venn and fellow club member Doug Wood handed out the brand-new dictionaries to every 3rd grade student that day. Every year, the club puts a dictionary in the hands of every 3rd grader at every elementary school in the Sedro-Woolley and Concrete school districts. This year, the Rotary Club handed out about 450 dictionaries at a cost of about \$5,000.

Come to the Career Fair

**Feb. 10
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

CHS Commons

Representatives from the military, Skills Center, community colleges, universities, and local businesses will have display tables set up and will answer your questions.

Parents are welcome to attend!

YD update

The other day I heard a 100-year-old woman say she loves January 1 because she gets to start all over. She wipes the slate clean and leaves pain and mistakes behind her.

If everybody had that attitude, the world would be a different place. But why wait until the first day of January? Why not wipe the slate clean every single day that we wake up?

Many people wait until January 1, and there are a lot of people who continue to deal with pain in their lives. Sometimes we feel helpless. Seattle Seahawks' free safety Earl Thomas said, "If you put your best into every single thing that you do, good things will happen." It comes down to the two things that we control every single day: our effort and our attitude. For these reasons, and the sense of hope that we have the opportunity to give to our young people, we choose to have Youth Dynamics available to the high school students of East Skagit County.

We have a lot of activities planned for 2015. The first Monday of January we hosted our annual Winter Olympic Games. Other planned activities include taking a group sledding on Sauk Mountain and ultimate Frisbee "under the lights."

We also have a few adventure trips planned this year, including Hotdoggin' 2015 (Jan. 16–19), 30-Hour Famine (April 10–11), and Rock-n-Roll (June 5–7). We are trying to finalize our list for the upcoming Hotdoggin' retreat, so be sure to get signed up if you want to go. What is Hotdoggin' 2015? We take 15 Concrete High School students to Leavenworth for a four-day snow retreat. The students go skiing, snowboarding, cross-country skiing, sledding, snowshoeing, tubing, downhill rafting, and sleigh riding. Several schools show up for great fun and adventure at Stonewater Ranch.

Our students meet new people, develop new relationships, and discover more than they ever expected. I have heard many wonderful stories as a result of this trip. If you would like to donate a full or partial scholarship for a student to go, call me at 360.630.6063. Help us to keep hope alive in our young people.

—Kevik Rensink

CASCADE MIDDLE SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

The following 7th and 8th grade students at Cascade Middle School received honors for high marks for the first semester of the 2014–15 school year. An asterisk denotes a student with a perfect 4.0 GPA.

Grade 7 Honor Roll

Emma C. Adams, Josseline D. Aguirre, Anahy Alcazar Salinas, Stephanie Amaro, Isabella R. Archer, Alexandra Bannister, Eric C. Barrera, Angelina J. Benitez, Keegan A. Blaine, Kevi A. Blair Ruiz, Ariana K. Brown, Haylee A. Bryson, Cheyan K. Budrow, Starlynn J. Burnside, Peyton X. Burrell, Ryan A. Carpenter, Lorianne V. Castellanos, Emma L. Cook, Elleece I. Derby, Ty J. Dills, Camden J. Dowhaniuk*, Ethan J. Eacret, Ayle M. Edson, Macy L. Evans, Eleanor R. Fair, Madelyn R. Farnham, Kaleb C. Ferris, Shauna C. Flores, Hannah M. Forst, Jackson D. Francisco, Megan Friend*, Elliott G. Gahan, Raul Galindo, Elise C. Gamson, Amy J. Graber*, Devin A. Gray, Jared C. Gunderson, Jacob M. Gwin, Mackenzie L. Hamilton*, Sebastian J. Hanna, John C. Hansen, Crista J. Harris, Amber T. Helinski*, Karin A. Henderson*, Fatima Hernandez-Lara, Madisyn R. Hill, Lily J. Himes, Caleb R. Hoogendam, Gabriel J. Hyder, Chloe N. Hynds, Joseph L. Jennings, Samantha J. Jewell, Logan J. Johnson, Morgan B. Johnson, Cameron M. Kapan, Madison A. Lake, Alyssa J. Lecca La Cruz, Jacob N. Lennox*, Mark S. Leus, Kelsey N. Loop, Denisse Lopez Nolasco, Trinity R. Luchi, Alexa D. Lynn*, Logan E. Maloney, Asia A. McDermott, Harleigh K. McSpadden, Mauricio Medina Mondragon, Rylee R. Moors, Aaliyah M. Mora, Jennifer Morales, Rachel M. Neeld, Jacob B. Norris, Mitchel A. Pepper, Makenna A. Peterson*, Grace M. Pohl*, Elijah I. Price*, Endorra S. Priddy, Taylor R. Prokos, Sierra M. Rapp, Ariel A. Resnik, Anthony I. Rivera, Christopher I. Rodriguez, Karsyn T. Rooks, Gabrielle Salazar, Romel A. Saragena, Abriellah F. Saylor, Dylan J. Scheib, Alyssa J. Scherf, Natalya A. Schwetz*, Hallie J. Simpson, Zoe K. Slabodnik, Piper R. Smith, Tessa C. Smith, Jared J. Snodgrass*, Brandi E. Stewart, Liliana Tapia, Natalia R. Taylor, Kaylee M. Thomas, Madisun R. Tobisch, Ian A. Valdivinos, Alejandro Vega-Macedo, Avery E. Wagner, Roweann A. Wagner, Anna G. Waldrop, Noah A. Walz, Serina E. Wilson, Samantha R. Wise, Mitchell T. Wolkenhauer*, Frankie A. Wood, Alexis J. Wysong, Yasmin Zavala Mendoza.

Grade 8 Honor Roll

Weston D. Abbott, Savannah M. Acton, Oscar D.

Aguilar-Cerna, Stephany Ayala-Cerna*, Nikolas R. Barron, Maya R. Becerra, Paris Y. Becker-Tidington, Ethan J. Beierle, Janessa L. Belisle, Megan J. Benham*, Nicole L. Bohme, Helena T. Brase, Hailey N. Brooks, Lane R. Browning, Cody R. Buchanan, Edgar Bueno, Samantha R. Busadre, Gloria Cantu, Kristen Carlson, Adam P. Cassidy*, Catalina Chaires, Cassidy R. Chambers, Nicole E. Christensen, Kristin M. Cline, Aspen M. Cole, Chandler J. Comstock, Riley J. Conn, Ashleigh C. Cork, Anthony G. Corona, Jasmine L. Cortez, David D'Arienzo, Autumn R. Davis, Hollie J. Davis*, Katie R. Davis, Taylor N. Deitz, Eli J. DeJong, Olivia A. Doorn, Megan L. Dressor, Rachelle A. Eakin, Jacob C. Eason, Jazzelle B. Elias, Richard S. Ershig, Tyler D. Fisher, Sophia A. Fox, Beau T. Freiberg, Justine D. Gonzales, Raul Gonzalez, Saul Gonzalez, Tyler D. Goss, Joie E. Hackney*, Cody D. Hamilton, Gavin A. Hamilton, Luke D. Hedberg, Cole D. Helgeson, Justine T. Henderson, Tayler A. Henderson, Erann T. Henry, Josiah J. Hernandez, Laelah L. Himes, Brandon A. Holdeman*, Jacob D. Hollands, Riley B. Hoyle, Erin K. Hudson, Tanner J. Huisman, Alexander J. Hulst, Alex S. Jack, Hunter L. Jackson*, Rachel I. Jackson*, Emily F. Jennings, Zoe A. Jennison, Canyon R. Jones, Lindsey A. Joyce, Jacob Kachinskiy, Katie E. Kickert, Shelby A. King, Kyah J. Lamb, Hunter W. Lawler, Julia B. Layland, Sydney C. Light, Reed A. Lloyd, Bree L. Lobdell, Allyanna R. Madera, Tyler C. Malloy, Kindred J. Marden, Tanna Marshall, Crystal M. Martin, Kathryn A. Matthews, Kelsie B. McCloud*, Averi N. McKay, Thomas M. McKenna, Atalissa R. McLeomore, Emma M. Mesman, Nahaleana M. Metcalf, Maren A. Mihelich*, Lillian M. Millison, Chandler E. Mitcham, Alexander A. Morales, Cameron C. Moses, Andrew J. Neeld, Jillian T. Nelson*, Haley R. Nersten, Alaina A. O'Regan, Britney L. Oaks, Hunter Olsen, Kavin N. Palmer, Kody J. Palmer, Brady M. Parker, Ashlyn N. Peden, Ben Y. Peden, Rochelle L. Peterson, Ryan A. Pierce, Hanna S. Pleasant, Ephanie E. Prochaska-Wegley, Monica D. Quintanilla, Karissa M. Rice, Jacob S. Ridgell, Lexi Rodriguez, Lucas A. Rodriguez, Dillon J. Russell, Levi P. Ryan, Shianna L. Samuelsen, Charlotte K. Saric*, Jarrid R. Schmidt, Janelle A. Schuyler, Haley T. Severson, Payton L. Simpson, Hayden M. Skiles*, Anna M. Skrinde, David L. Smith, Taylor P. Smith, Shaely Spilker*, Elizabeth J. Staggs, McKylee E. Stephenson, Eden Suchsland, Dayna R. Sumrall, Eleanor R. Taylor, William E. Taylor, Jake A. Thompson, Kylie Thornton, Adriana N. Timblin, Atziry R. Torres, Carter J. Trammell, Hannah L. VanOvermeiren, Sierra R. VanSweden, Delaney E. Warren, Conner L. Washington, Darius C. Washington, Nicole M. Wright, Sophia R. Wright, Yulisa Zapata Cruz.



Above: Local 4-H members demonstrated community pride and civic duty the evening of Dec. 19, descending on Concrete Town Center with brooms and trash bags. They picked up litter and swept the sidewalks, leaving Concrete's business district neat and clean.



Right: Isabel Rogers proudly displays her Christmas present—a giant stocking filled with toys and candy that she won from Cascade Supply in Concrete Town Center. Photo by Terry McDonald.

School year winding down for seniors

The senior class of 2015 is rapidly finishing up their portfolios, job shadows, and volunteer hours needed to graduate. Job shadow and volunteer hours should have been finished by Dec. 15.

Portfolios are due to Mrs. Straathof by Jan. 7 and will be distributed for grading using the pass/fail grading system, with a minimum of 60 percent to pass.

Presentations will be held in February, where students present their career and 13th year plan to a panel of judges from the community and the school district. Seniors always have expenses their

senior year, dealing with graduation in June. Students should have their cap and gown secured with the Josten Co. If they don't, they need to see Mrs. Straathof right away. Other expenses include graduation invitations, pictures, and the senior trip. Seniors should check with their senior class advisor if this has not been done.

Students are working hard to meet all of their graduation requirements. I encourage the parents of seniors to work with their seniors on life after high school plans and continue to ask what career interests them and how they plan to get there.

We are all rooting for the Class of 2015 to be the best they can be!

—Sally Straathof



Clear Lake



HISTORY CORNER

The concrete bridge at Big Rock was built in the mid-1930s by the Works Progress Administration (WPA). Note the railroad tracks under the bridge.

Some people who worked for the WPA said it stood for "Whistle, Pee, and Argue."

In April 1935, the WPA was established under the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act, as a means of creating government jobs for some of the nation's many unemployed. Under the direction of Harry L. Hopkins, the WPA employed more than 8.5 million persons

on 1.4 million public projects before it was disbanded in 1943. The program chose work that would not interfere with private enterprise, especially vast public building projects like the construction of highways, bridges, and dams. *Photo courtesy of Clear Lake Historical Association.*

—Deanna Ammons, historian
Clear Lake and Day Creek

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Community Calendar



JANUARY

Every weekend: Skagit Eagle Festival, various events; see article, p. 6; info at 360.853.8784 or chamber@concrete-wa.com

Every weekend: Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center, Rockport, various programs; see ad, p. 4

10 Career Fair, Concrete High School Commons room, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; see notice, p. 12

10 Upper Skagit Library 10th Anniversary Celebration, Upper Skagit Library, 45770B Main St., Concrete, 1 to 3 p.m.; see notice, p. 32; info at 360.853.7939 or info@upperskagit.lib.wa.us

10 Darrington Community Dance, Mansford Grange, 1265 Railroad Ave., Darrington, 7 p.m.; see notice, p. 25

10-11 Skagit Eagle Festival in Marblemount, featuring Native American presentations, hot food, and arts/crafts vendors, Marblemount Community Hall, all day; see notice, p. 26

14 Heart to Heart Charity KIDS Club meets, Hamilton Town Hall, 4 to 5 p.m.; info at hearttoheartcharity@gmail.com

14 Concrete PTO meeting, Concrete Elementary School library, 5:30 p.m.

15 Multi-chamber All-county After Hours event, Sedro-Woolley Chamber of Commerce, 810 Metcalf St., Sedro-Woolley, 4 to 7 p.m.; see ad, p. 17

17 Wildlife photographer Kelly Peacock at The Woolley Market, downtown Sedro-Woolley, 5 to 7 p.m.

17 Raptor presentations by Sarvey Wildlife Center, Concrete High School gym, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.; see ad, p. 5

24 Raptor presentation by Sarvey Wildlife Center, Challenger Ridge Vineyard, 2 p.m.; see ad, p. 5

28 Heart to Heart Charity KIDS Club meets, Hamilton Town Hall, 4 to 5 p.m.; info at hearttoheartcharity@gmail.com

29 Boys & Girls Clubs of Skagit County Youth of the Year event, Anacortes; invitation only, info at ifaley@skagitclubs.org or 360.202.9021

FEBRUARY

14 Mardi Gras Parade, Concrete. Oh, and Valentine's Day.

MARCH

14 Imagine Concrete townwide workshop: The future of Silo Park, Concrete High School Commons room, 9 a.m. to noon; info at 360.853.8213 or goodwords@frontier.com

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

Community meetings

Community Chat, an informal conversation about projects in Darrington, meets the second Fri. of each month at 8 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 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.

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

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 Board will hold a workshop on Jan. 26, at 6 p.m. in the high school Commons. The board will hold its regular monthly meeting on Jan. 29, 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.

Darrington Area Business Assn (DABA) 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 darrocityhall@glaciertown.net.

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.

KSVU station info and host training, second Wed. of each month at Portable B behind Concrete K-8 School, 1 to 4 p.m. 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.

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

Paranormal Discussion Group meets the last Wed. of each month at Birdview Brewing Co., at 2 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 High School Alumni Association meets the third Wed. of each month, at 1 p.m., at the Sedro-Woolley Senior Center. 360.424.7243

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 meet for regular meetings on Jan. 12 at 7 p.m. in the Support Services Building, and Jan. 26 at 7 p.m. at Big Lake Elementary. 360.855.3500 or kcargile@swsd.k12.wa.us.

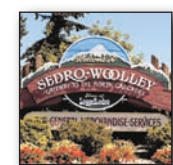
Upper Skagit Library District (USLD) Board meets the second Thurs. of each month at 5 p.m., at the library in Concrete. Public is welcome. 360.853.7939 or info@upperskagit.lib.wa.us.

Save the date!

**Imagine Concrete workshop
Sat., March 14, 9 a.m. to noon
CHS Commons room
Topic: The future of Silo Park**

For more info, call 360.853.8213 or e-mail goodwords@frontier.com





Sedro-Woolley



Champions of Diversity program honors Sedro-Woolley students

On Dec. 3, Skagit Valley College (SVC) hosted its 15th Annual Champions of Diversity Awards ceremony, which honored 89 area high school students for their contributions to diversity in their schools and communities. The event was sponsored by SVC's Multicultural Student Services and held at McIntyre Hall on the SVC Mount Vernon Campus.

Educational institutions, local businesses, and community organizations awarded \$167,500 in scholarships to 54 seniors who have shown exemplary service in leadership, community service, as well as academic and educational activities. North Cascades Institute provided 35 10th and 11th grade nominees with an opportunity to participate in a free North Cascades Wild program.

Several state colleges and universities also honored high school students from Skagit and Island counties.

Among the evening's honorees were several from Sedro-Woolley High School.

2014 scholarship winners

- Kylee Eaton-Cortez, Central Washington University, \$5,000
- Max Gregory, Eastern Washington University, \$1,500
- Makayla Hamilton, Eastern Washington University, \$1,500
- Neftali Camacho, University of Washington-Bothell, \$5,000
- Esmeralda Muñoz, University of Washington-Bothell, \$5,000
- Nicholas Baldwin, Western Washington University, \$6,000
- Makayla Matthews, Western Washington University, \$6,000
- Gerardo Arias, Skagit Valley College, \$1,500
- Martha Avila, Skagit Valley College, \$1,500
- Alondra Caro, Skagit Valley College, \$1,500
- Christofer Celaya, Skagit Valley College, \$1,500
- Esteban Salazar, Skagit Valley College, \$1,500-\$4,000

—Submitted by Arden Ainley
Skagit Valley College

2014 10th- and 11th-grade award winners

- Treyton Howell, sophomore
- Alexis Magana, sophomore
- Abril Torres, sophomore

Cubs take state

Sedro-Woolley captures first football championship.

"We did what we had to do, and we killed it," said Sedro-Woolley Cubs running back Carter Crosby on Dec. 6. Truer words were never spoken. As the final seconds ticked away during the 2A state football tournament in the Tacoma Dome, a sea of blue in the bleachers chanted the countdown, then let out a roar that must have been heard in Skagit County.

The Sedro-Woolley fans believed their Cubs could topple the three-time defending state champion Lynden Lions, and they were right. Sedro-Woolley

mauled the Lions 42-13 and brought home its first state football championship.

The Cubs started strong and steamrolled the Lions during the second half. Sedro-Woolley scored first, with a TD toss from quarterback Devin Willard to Mason Elms, who leaped high for the ball and came down with one foot just in bounds.

Lynden answered with a second-quarter touchdown, but the Cubs blocked the extra point attempt. A Lion drive late in the second quarter ended with a Cub interception by Anthony Cann. The Cubs were able to convert the turnover and ended the first half with a 14-6 lead.

Whatever head coach Dave Ward told his players in the locker room at halftime, it worked. Sedro-Woolley came out hotter than ever, scorching the Lions with multiple interceptions in the second half.

Elms pulled in an interception with 3:55 left in the third quarter; combined with a personal foul against Lynden, the turnover put the ball on Lynden's 23-yard line. Crosby scrambled; his effort and a second personal foul against the Lions brought the ball to the 4-yard line, where Elms ran it in for the touchdown.

Chad Wilburg snagged an interception late in the third quarter and thundered down the sideline to again bring the Cubs within striking distance. Quinn Carpenter ran it in, bringing the score to 28-6, Cubs.

Lynden scored at the third quarter buzzer, but it was to be their last taste of the end zone. Sedro-Woolley's defense continued to dominate the Lions, with Crosby and Cann pulling in one interception each during the fourth quarter. The Cubs were able to convert on both turnovers, driving the score to 42-13 with 5:24 left in the game.

A fifth Cub interception with 4:29 left took out any wind left in the Lions' sails. After that, long counts before snaps ran out the clock and the Cubs made history.

—J. K. M.



Carter Crosby shreds the Lynden Lion defense during the 2A championship game on Dec. 6 in the Tacoma Dome.



Quinn Carpenter carries the ball during the Dec. 6 championship game. Sedro-Woolley took home its first state football title, crushing the Lynden Lions 42-13.

The chamber has moved.

Effective Jan. 1, Sedro-Woolley Chamber of Commerce moved to its new location at 810 Metcalf St. in downtown Sedro-Woolley.

Potluck & Fellowship

The River Gathering church at 720 Puget Ave., Ste. B in Sedro-Woolley will start a Wednesday Night Potluck & Fellowship each week, starting at 6 pm. A family-style potluck will be followed by conversation, games, or movies.

Open to all who want to attend. For more information, go to www.facebook.com/therivergathering.

Sedro-Woolley Christmas Parade winners

Best Lighted Entries

First (tie): Sedro-Woolley Fire Department
First Baptist Church: Jungle Playland
Third: Girl Scouts

Best Musical Entries

First: Concrete High School Band
Second: Girl Scouts
Third: Cascade Middle School Beginning Choir

Honorable Mentions

Equestrian: Darrington Timberbowl Queen Lindsay
Animal: 4 On the Floor 4-H Dog Club
Other: Las Senoritas Saber Drill Team, ages 13-20

SWHS Alumni Assn merges with Sedro-Woolley Schools Foundation

The Sedro-Woolley High School Alumni Association and Sedro-Woolley Schools Foundation have elected to merge both organizations, effective January 1, 2015.

Each organization's purpose and focus will be maintained in the new structure. The Alumni Association has historically worked to provide vocational scholarships to Sedro-Woolley school graduates. The Sedro-Woolley Schools Foundation raises money to fund grants and improve Sedro-Woolley schools at the classroom level. The new organization will do both, through a set of permanent committees.

To emphasize that the merged organization funds projects for students of all ages, the words "high school" have been dropped from the new name:

Sedro-Woolley Alumni and Schools Foundation.

"This will make our organization bigger and better than ever," stated Rob Taylor '61, current president of the SWHS Alumni. "We welcome the Schools Foundation to work with us in raising funds and putting on the annual All-Class Picnic."

"Both organizations have compatible goals, and the synergy resulting from the merger will help us involve more community members overall," commented Brock Stiles, current president of the Sedro-Woolley Schools Foundation.

The merged organization will continue to publish two newsletters per year and maintain a Web site, blog, and Facebook page.

Meetings will be held on the third Friday of odd-numbered months at the SWSD administrative offices on Trail Rd. at 11 a.m. All members are welcome to attend.

—Judy Johnson

Continue the cycle: Please recycle this newspaper!

Thursday, January 15, 2015
4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Come toast the **100 year celebration** of the Sedro-Woolley Chamber at an All County After Hours in our **new location** at 810 Metcalf Street, Sedro-Woolley

Ribbon Cutting
Fun ★ Prizes
Beverages



POP-FIZZ-CLINK



50's Bakery

Dedicated Gluten Free
Great Food For Every Body

- Variety of morning baked goods including cinnamon rolls, french toast and waffles
- Panini sandwiches, hearty salads, and soups made from scratch daily
- Daily specials include lasagna, pot pies or baked macaroni & 5 cheese

A 1940s-style bakery in Concrete serving espresso, old-fashioned sodas, handcrafted pies and artisan breads!

SERVING
Breakfast ~ Lunch ~ Early Supper

360.853.8700
45597 Main St., Concrete
7-5 Daily • Closed Tuesday



Lyman



Day Creek



Charity plans outreach, fundraisers

Lyman-based Heart to Heart Charity will offer Valentine's Day gifts delivery again this year.

The gifts may be delivered to anyone who deserves a smile this year. Each gift will be delivered on Valentine's Day—Feb. 14—and costs \$10. All proceeds go toward supporting the charity's efforts toward helping low-income children and their families.

- Option 1: Stuffed animal and chocolate.
- Option 2: Coffee mug, coffee, and chocolate.

Deliveries will be made to Concrete, Birdview, Lyman, Hamilton, Sedro-Woolley, Mount Vernon, Big Lake, and Burlington. Inquire for delivery to other locations.

Payment can be made by check, debit/credit card, or online via PayPal. For an order form, send an e-mail to hearttoheartcharity@gmail.com.

Volunteers are needed to help with gift delivery.

Homeless kits

The charity is seeking items for its homeless backpacks and shower kits. Items needed include gently used but still usable backpacks, duffle bags, etc., to fill with items such as blankets or flannel sheets, books, puzzle books, toiletries, towels, washcloths, and nonperishable food that is easy to open such as flip-top cans of chili, ravioli, tuna packets, Top Ramen, dry cereal, gum, and water bottles.

Donations can be left at the charity's office at 720 Puget Ave., Ste. B, in Sedro-Woolley, in the donation bin in the hall behind the partition, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mark donations "Homeless Bags."

For more information, e-mail hearttoheartcharity@gmail.com.

KIDS Club

Heart to Heart Charity's KIDS Club will meet on Wed., Jan. 14 and 28, at 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. Plans for the meetings include crafts and snacks.

This is a free event for children 4 years and older (younger with a parent/guardian present) and all are welcome. KIDS Club leader Tammy Roberts welcomes all children, so invite your friends. For more information, e-mail hearttoheartcharity@gmail.com.

—Tammie Werner

Pioneering, cont. from p. 23

water and milk, or all water. You can also use yogurt in place of milk. Yogurt has a richer flavor and heavier texture. I love using buttermilk in place of milk. It has an acidity to it that does wonderful things to baked goods. Out of buttermilk? Add 1 tablespoon of lemon juice or apple cider vinegar to a cup of milk in place of buttermilk. Let it sit for a minute until it begins to curdle.

If you're making a chocolate recipe, use a small amount of coffee, which will heighten the chocolate. I use leftover brewed coffee in my chocolate recipes. If I'm making a chocolate cake or muffins, I use 1/4 cup of coffee in place of some of the liquid. You don't taste the coffee flavor, but it brings out the chocolate.

Melissa K. Norris lives in Rockport.

What to know about electric space heaters

Winter can be tough on heaters, and sometimes one heater is just not enough to heat an entire house. Electric space heaters can be very helpful; however, if they are not used and monitored properly, electric space heaters can be dangerous. To make sure you're using your space heaters correctly and safely, follow these tips.

Check safety features

Before buying a space heater, be sure it has been safety certified. There should be a safety certification mark on the box. Many space heaters have a safety feature that automatically turns the space heater off when it is tipped to a certain degree.

General inspection

When using the space heater for the first time, or after an extended period of

no use, inspect for damages. Check the power cord for burn marks or frays. The heater unit itself should be inspected for dents and other damages that may cause a malfunction. Turn switches on and off to make sure they are working properly.

Proper heater use

Place the heater on a level, stable surface at least 3 feet away from any combustible items. Because of the amount of heat that can be generated, never run the heater cords under carpets or rugs because this can damage the cords and possibly lead to fires.

General heater safety

Never leave an electric heater unattended. Before moving the heater itself, switch it off and allow time for it to cool down. Be sure to keep children and animals away from space heaters. They produce a lot of heat, and the unit can be hot to the touch.

Electric space heaters can be a great way to keep a home warm during these chilly winter months. Following these tips will keep homeowners safe and warm this winter.

Commentary, cont. from p. 3

therefore be dropped into "no customer service" land.

In my case, this stemmed from the fact that I was not "the shipper." I paid to have this mirror shipped—and paid extra to cover it at full value—but because I shipped it from a store, I was not the shipper. The store was the shipper.

Unfortunately the store was not interested in helping me once the claim was denied, so I went to the company's automated voice system, which bounced me to the claims agent who had denied my claim. She sneered at me—yes, actually sneered at me, like a snarky 13-year-old—saying, "you're not the shipper so you can't talk to me."

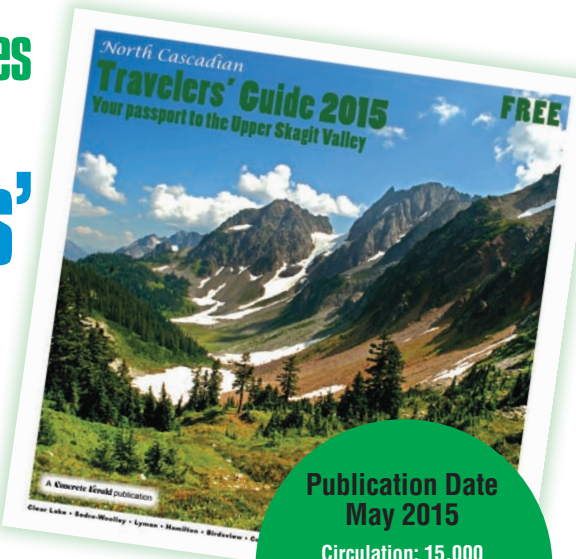
All I wanted was a discussion with

someone who could talk through the claim with me. I didn't want the insurance money for the object because, in between frustrating phone calls, I had taken the mirror back to the stained glass artist, who repaired the damage; but I would have loved someone to see me as—dare I say it?—a valued customer, and suggest that the company ship the object back for me at their cost. But that kind of reality is not written into the list of replies given to customer service representatives, and since the bosses don't talk to customers, we're stuck with "Feed me!"

When is a customer no longer a customer? When we're a script. "Thank you for believing that we cared. Have a nice day."

Smart businesses advertise in the Travelers' Guide!

Reach visitors to the Upper Skagit Valley by advertising in the 2015 North Cascadian Travelers' Guide.



Publication Date
May 2015

Circulation: 15,000
Pages: 56

Deadline for ads
and payment:
April 10, 2015

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

Clear Lake, Sedro-Woolley, Lyman, Hamilton, Birdview, Grasmere, Concrete, Rockport, Darrington, Marblemount, Newhalem, and Diablo.

For more information or to request an advertising rate card, send an e-mail to editor@concrete-herald.com.

A **Concrete Herald** Publication

Call 360.853.8213

Continue the cycle: Please recycle this newspaper!

Community notes

Kingdom Builders

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, 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.

WOMEN HAND in hand

WOMEN HAND in hand is excited to present another great speaker in 2015. Ruth Graham, the youngest daughter of Dr. Billy Graham, will be with us in Darrington on Thur., April 23, and Sedro-Woolley on Friday and Saturday, April 24–25. We are excited to have her come for our HOPE LOVES women's conference. Plan now to attend with all your friends and family. Cost is \$20 for the two-day event. Follow WOMEN HAND in hand on our Facebook page or Web site.

To join WOMEN HAND in hand, call Sylvia Miles @ 360.826.3067.

Fashion diva

Fashion for this winter, suggested to me by my granddaughter, Kylie, is long socks!

Yes, this is all the rage. They do not need to match anything you are wearing. They are worn scrunched or pulled up. Pair them with high boots, short boots, ankle-tied shoes or flats, or anything.

Walkie Talkies walking group

The Day Creek Walkie Talkies are up and at 'em. Every day around 7 a.m., there is a group walking the streets of Day Creek. When you see them, wave or honk—or better yet, join them. For more information, call 360.826.4375.

Day Creek Book Club

The club meets at Cedar Springs Lodge on Barben Rd. on the third Monday of each month. New members are welcome. All members are welcome to host a club meeting at their favorite hangout spot.

For more information, call 360.661.0247.

Garden dirt

Our resident gardener Donna Pulver offers these tips for January:

- The new year is beginning, so get your thoughts going on what and how to make a difference in your garden.
- Clean your pots and tools, and your garden shed.
- Here are some useful terms to know when shopping for seeds:
OP: Open pollinated; refers to pollination by insects, birds, wind, and other natural ways.

F1: Hybrid seeds are produced by the controlled crossing of two plants of closely related species or strains. Hybrids cannot be saved as the seed is from the first generation and is not reliable to produce a true copy.

OG: Certified Organic seeds that are produced in compliance with the federal organic law.

We are looking for ideas for the Day Creek community—fun events and fundraisers—to support the fire hall and get to know the neighbors. If you have an idea, call Donna Pulver 360.826.3003 or Kathy Henderson at 360.826.3581.

—Kathy Henderson

Nick VanJaarsveld Financial Advisor

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING



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www.edwardjones.com

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Sedro-Woolley Cubs

2014 State 2A Champions





Hamilton



Rockport



Scott and Jen Bates pause for a photo with Santa during the Hamilton Christmas party at Hamilton Town Hall Dec. 21. The family-friendly event included festive decorations, gifts, activities for kids, and, of course, photos with Santa. *Photo by Joan Cromley.*

From the Mayor

Thank you to everyone who helped make the Hamilton Christmas party a success! There were a lot of people involved in making it a fun event for the kids, from decorating (Brockman family, Cas Hancock, Renee Barley) to the party, gifts, and activities (Bates family, Hamilton Volunteer Fire Department, Santa). We appreciate all the hard work you put in.

Susan will be back to open the library again starting Jan. 7. Hours will be Monday and Wednesday from 4:30 to 6 p.m., with the second Monday of the month having a Children's Story Time. We have more books than the shelves can hold, so please take a look and take home something to read.

This time of year, everyone starts throwing quotes around to inspire us for the new year. I want to share one of my favorites. It is framed on the mantel at Town Hall, next to the picture of Tim Bates and the gavel used during council meetings. It is titled "The Man in the Arena," and is part of a speech given by President Theodore Roosevelt on April 23, 1910:

"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat."

—Mayor Joan Cromley

Council summary

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

- The regular meeting was preceded by two public hearings. The first public hearing was for the Property Tax Levy. Mayor Joan Cromley explained what property tax actually goes for in Hamilton and that the town is allowed to raise the taxes by 1 percent. There were no public comments. Mayor Cromley closed the public hearing on the property taxes.
- The second public hearing was for the proposed 2015 budget. Mayor Cromley explained the 2015 budget. Public comments were made regarding the plan to have larger amounts in ending balances for future projects. Mayor Cromley closed the public hearing on the proposed 2015 budget.
- Mayor Cromley called the regular meeting to order.
- Council accepted the minutes from its Oct. 14 meeting.
- Mayor Cromley announced the first order of new business, the open council position. The town received two letters of interest: one from Renee Barley and one from Christina Kasner. Christina Kasner stood up and gave a small introduction about herself. Renee Barley was not present at the meeting. Council voted to appoint Christina Kasner to the open

council position. Mayor Cromley administered the oath of office to Christina Kasner.

- Council voted to approve Resolution 07-14, raising the property tax 1 percent for 2015.
- Mayor Cromley explained the Watershed Council Membership. Council voted to accept the membership.
- Water Department:** Cas Hancock stated that this month we have a 9 percent unaccounted for water loss. Hancock talked about the water leaks and our high water table.
- Fire Department:** Mayor Cromley announced that the Department of Health license has been renewed. Options for moving the fire siren were discussed. Councilmember Bates announced the date of the Christmas party, which is Sun., Dec. 21. Volunteer help and donations are gladly accepted. Fire Chief Nick Bates stated that the truck is completely fixed.
- Street Department:** Mayor Cromley talked about replacing some of the street lights with LED bulbs. Mayor Cromley announced that the ecology blocks may have been moved down by the river.
- Public Comments:** Resident and new council member Christina Kasner had concerns regarding the sound of the siren. Fire Chief Bates explained the difference in the sounds of the siren and the process of evacuation.

Birdsview Buzz

Happy New Year, everyone. Hope you all had a great holiday time. 2014 was a great year at the brewery, and we look forward to having an even better 2015.

We had several fundraisers, with the latest two being another successful Toys 4 Tots drive. We overfilled the bin twice thanks to our generous customers. And thanks again to Dan and Kim Brown for donating the trees that we sold for money to buy toys.

Next we held a fundraiser for the

Concrete Food Bank, complete with music from Barefeet. We collected a lot of food and more than \$100 in cash. Again, thanks to all who came out and supported.

Birthdays I missed in December included both my son-in-laws (Jack Mattingly and Matt Hocking on Dec. 16) and daughter Jessie on Christmas Eve, as well as our friend Ginger. Good friends Dan and Kim Brown celebrated 33 years on December 27.

Stay tuned for more great things coming in the new year.

—Kris Voigt

PIONEERING TODAY

Healthful ingredient swaps

By Melissa K. Norris

These are ways I adapt our recipes to a more whole and real food lifestyle. It saves us time to have a list of swaps so I don't have to run to the store if I'm missing one ingredient. It's also more frugal to make it from scratch.

A lot of my holiday baking recipes call for shortening. Shortening used to be cheaper than butter, but it has hydrogenated oils in it and GMO ingredients that are not good for us.

You can swap out any fat in a recipe. I mainly use organic butter or my own rendered lard from our pigs (you can get lard from the butcher if you're not raising pigs).

When you use coconut oil in a recipe that calls for shortening, coconut oil melts at a lower temperature than shortening or butter. Coconut oil makes things like cookies spread out faster. If the recipe calls for 1 cup of shortening or butter, I use 3/4 cup coconut oil. My mom made pie crust and mixed all three of these fats. Play around with your recipes and see which fat you prefer.

Use molasses and honey for some of your sweetener. Use applesauce or pumpkin puree in place of some of the sugar and fat. I use this to replace some of the fat; in pancakes I use 3/4 of the amount. I make my own sugar pie pumpkin puree and our homemade applesauce, which is naturally sweet.

Try to cut back the sugar in your existing recipes. I've used the Betty Crocker chocolate chip cookie recipe forever. I altered it from part shortening and butter to all butter and fresh ground spelt flour. It calls for brown and white sugar and I cut back each cup to 3/4 cup.

Have a dry recipe? Try using brown sugar, which will add more moisture to the recipe. I prefer the taste of brown sugar in a recipe, but I like to use maple syrup, molasses, or honey as my sweeteners.

If you have a recipe that calls for milk and you're running low, you can use half

See **Pioneering**, p. 18

Illabot Creek

"Wild and Scenic" legislation passes

Legislation that will protect portions of the Alpine Lakes Wilderness and Illabot Creek near Rockport passed the U.S. House of Representatives Dec. 4. The bills for the above lands were part of a large package of public lands bills that were included in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). The NDAA is expected to be voted on by the U.S. Senate soon.

Congresswoman Suzan DelBene (WA-01) praised the passage of the bills. "For years, there has been a broad coalition of stakeholders from our region who have fought tirelessly to protect these important public lands, and I am thrilled that these bills were adopted by the House today. With the inclusion of the Alpine Lakes Wilderness expansion bill, we will be preserving one of the most popular and most beautiful outdoor destinations in the country. Passing the Illabot Creek Wild and Scenic bill means we will ensure the preservation of significant wild lands that are home to several threatened species.

"The Alpine Lakes Wilderness is particularly special because of its proximity to a major metropolitan area. It provides a place for countless residents and tourists to camp, fish, and hike, and enjoy some of the most spectacular open spaces that the Northwest has to offer. In addition to being important to local wildlife habitat, people have come to Illabot Creek for generations to hunt, fish, and recreate. This legislation will preserve these opportunities for generations to come. Protecting these lands is crucial to supporting outdoor recreation, which generates \$22.5 billion in consumer spending each year and is responsible for 227,000 jobs in our state."

The public lands section of the bill includes legislation affecting public lands across the country, encompassing more than 245,000 acres of new wilderness, and new or increased protections for more than 1 million acres of public lands.

The Skagit River beckons

Learn about salmon and more during January events.

Abundant runs of wild salmon are bringing record numbers of bald eagles to the Skagit River this winter. Visitors are free to enjoy the eagles and salmon in a variety of ways, including interpretive hikes, hatchery tours (see p. 26), and guest speaker programs.

Here's a look at opportunities available in and near Rockport.

Eagle Watcher viewing locations and information

- Saturdays and Sundays, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., through Jan. 31
- Along State Route 20 to Mt. Baker Ranger District

Join the Mt. Baker Ranger District at one of three stops along Highway 20 to learn about and enjoy bald eagles. Forest Service staff and volunteers will be stationed at Howard Miller Steelhead Park in Rockport, Milepost 100 (east of Rockport), and Marblemount Fish Hatchery to provide information and eagle viewing opportunities.

Guided interpretive walks

- Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center: Saturdays and Sundays, 11 a.m., through Jan. 31, free admission; Howard Miller Steelhead Park, 52809 Rockport Park Rd., Rockport.
- Rockport State Park: Fridays through Sundays; 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., through Feb. 15. 51095 SR 20, Rockport. WA State Discover Pass required.

Visitor centers

- Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center, open Saturdays and Sundays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., through January. Howard Miller Steelhead Park, 52809 Rockport Park Rd. Rockport.
- Rockport State Park: Open Fridays through Sundays; 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., through Feb. 15. 51095 SR 20, Rockport.

Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center: January schedule

There's something for everyone every weekend in January at the Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center in Rockport, located in Howard Miller Steelhead Park, 52809 Rockport Park Rd.

- Every Saturday and Sunday: Guided Naturalist Hike, 11 a.m.
- Sat., Jan. 10, 11 a.m.: "Hiking in the Skagit Valley" presentation followed by a hike with Craig Romano, outdoors writer and guidebook author.
- Sat., Jan. 17, 11 a.m.: guided hike and avian presentation led by Melvin Walters, avian specialist, Puget Sound Energy.
- Sun., Jan. 18, 1 p.m.: "Year of the Eagle" presentation by Kevin Ebi, author and photographer.
- Sat., Jan. 24, 1 p.m.: "Glaciers of the North Cascades" presentation by Jon Riedel, geologist, North Cascades National Park.
- Sun., Jan. 25, 1 p.m.: "Explorations of the Skagit Watershed" presentation by Pat Buller, photographer, blogger, artist.
- Sat., Jan. 31, 1 p.m.: "Creating Natural Nursery Habitat for Young Salmon" presentation by Susan Madsen, restoration ecologist, Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group.

Schedule subject to change. Go to www.skagiteagle.org before arrival to verify or call 360.853.7626. January hours of operation are Sat. and Sun., 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Alcohol or other drug use causing problems in your life?

Skagit Recovery Center Returns To Concrete, WA!



- Counseling, treatment, and Alcohol/Drug information School available for adults and adolescents
- DUI and Deferred Prosecution Treatment for court-referred clients
- Reasonable sliding fee scale; some FREE services available

For information and appointments, call 360.428.7835, ext. 227



Darrington



Deputies catch package, mail thieves

On Dec. 24, Snohomish County Sheriff's Office deputies apprehended two suspected package and mail thieves in East Snohomish County.

A call came in to 911 around 7:30 a.m. the same day; the caller claimed to have

witnessed a man and woman taking mail from the mailbox and a package from the porch of a house at the 600 block of Date Ave.

Using the description of the suspects provided by witnesses, a sheriff's deputy spotted the pair a few minutes later and detained them. They were in possession of at least one stolen package and a backpack full of stolen mail.

The 30-year-old male and 26-year-old female, both of Sultan, were arrested and booked into Snohomish County Jail.

—Snohomish County Sheriff's Office

Darrington grapplers at Mt. Baker Invite

Dec. 23 found the Darrington wrestlers at the Mt. Baker Invite at Mt. Baker High School, racking up points.



Clockwise from above: Alfred Mugho wrestled Concrete sophomore Blaine Storms at the Mt. Baker Wrestling Invite on Dec. 23, and captured the win with a pin. Lane Monteith wrestled Eric Lukner from Sedro-Woolley and got the win on points, 8-5. Last year's state champion, junior Mason McKenzie, handled Sedro-Woolley's Gabe Torgerson. Sophomore Rachel Sherson wrestled Teagan Manzo from Mt. Baker and took the win.



December at the Darrington Library

Children

- Ready Readers Family Storytime, Wednesdays, Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28; 10 to 10:45 a.m. Let imaginations run wild with fun books, sing-along songs, and creative activities that prepare young minds for the adventures of reading. Playtime or craft may follow. For ages birth to 5 years. Caregiver required.

Families/All ages

- Lego Club, Wednesdays, Jan. 7 and 14; 1 to 2 p.m. Learn about and play with Lego. Children are invited to come and build whatever they can imagine through individual and cooperative play. Jan. 7 will include projects using Lego Robotics. Jan. 14 will be free play.

Adults

- Darrington Library Board meeting, Wed., Jan. 14; 5 to 6 p.m. Guests and new members are always welcome. The Friends of Darrington Library

are the generous folks who help raise funds for library programs for children, teens, and adults. We are looking for new leaders to help move us forward. Enrich your community through the library and enrich your life. For more information, call the library at 360.436.1600.

- Bibliophiles (book lovers): *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou, Wed., Jan. 7, 6:30 to 8 p.m. Do you enjoy reading good books and discussing them with others? Come and join our book group, where each month we enjoy a new book and each other's company. This year, we again are reading books that were suggested by each member of Bibliophiles.

The library will be closed Mon., Jan. 19, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

For more information, go to www.sno-isle.org?ID=1194 or call 360.436.1600.

—Bryan Stratton, branch manager

Community dance lineup

This season of Darrington Community Dance events continues in January.

Evenings typically begin with dance instruction at 6:30 p.m., with the dance following at 7 p.m. The dances are held at Mansford Grange, 1265 Railroad Ave. in Darrington.

Whitehorse Musician's Guild provides the sound. Admission is a suggested donation of \$7, with all proceeds going to the band, caller, and sound.

The dances are designed to appeal to

all family members; dancing is optional. The 2015 season is as follows:

- Sat., Jan. 10: Peckin' Out Dough, with guest caller Joanna Stodden
- Sat., Feb. 7: Heliotrope
- Sat., March 7: Cobbler
- Sat., April 4: La Famille Leger

For more information, call 206.402.8646.

—Marla Skaglund

Bergstrom is 2014 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

The Washington Council of Police and Sheriffs has selected Snohomish County Sheriff's Deputy Glen Bergstrom as the 2014 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.

The WACOPS Law Enforcement Officer of the Year provides "recognition of clearly exceptional and outstanding performance of duties above and beyond the normal scope of the profession."

Deputy Bergstrom joined the Sheriff's Office in fall 1986 and initially worked in patrol, narcotics, and burglary. Bergstrom has dedicated much of his career to special operations, including two years with the Dive Team, 16 years with SWAT, and more than 15 years with Search and Rescue, where he is currently assigned.

In his role with SAR, Bergstrom has served as helicopter crew chief, tactical flight officer, and cadaver dog handler. Bergstrom, a longtime resident of the Oso community, is credited with making many quick and crucial decisions during the SR 530 slide response and recovery operations last spring. Knowing that the Sheriff's Office rescue helicopter and crew were on the flight pad for a pre-scheduled training at the time the slide occurred, Bergstrom ordered that SnoHAWK10 respond to the affected

area. He also ordered jet fuel to be delivered into the area and identified where refueling operations would take place.

"Glen was instrumental in decision-making because of his working knowledge of the area," said SAR co-pilot Ed Hrivnak. "He figured out where we needed to refuel, and where we could safely load and unload."

Bergstrom continued to work on search and recovery operations for several months, working closely with family members of slide victims, equipment operators, and search teams. He was there when the last victim, Kris Regelbrugge, was located on July 22, 2014.

"Kindness, empathy, deductive reasoning, and a spirit of incredible tenaciousness were brought to bear by Deputy Bergstrom, and a victim was returned to her family," said Search and Rescue Sgt. Danny Wikstrom. "A public servant, none finer in my experience."

The award will be presented to Deputy Bergstrom at the WACOPS Winter General Membership Meeting on Jan. 16 in Olympia.



Bergstrom

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Marblemount



Newhalem



Above: Marblemount singers, from left, Corina Sahlin, Andrea Weiser, and Linda Jordan perform during "An Evening of Story and Song" at Concrete Theatre Dec. 18. The event included local writers and musicians reading their work, singing and playing, and sharing their favorite Christmas stories. **Right:** Andy Stern, Rose Oliver, and little Cassidy Oliver-Stern visit Santa during Christmas festivities at Marblemount Community Hall Dec. 7. Photo by Christie Fairchild.



Hatchery steelhead limit increase on the Cascade River

Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife announced Dec. 10 it would increase the daily limit of hatchery steelhead on part of the Cascade River to three fish, effective Dec. 16 through Feb. 15.

The area affected is that portion of the Cascade River from Rockport-Cascade Rd. downstream to the mouth.

The Marblemount Hatchery will not take broodstock during the 2014–15 season; therefore, all hatchery steelhead returning are harvestable. Increasing the steelhead daily limit in the Cascade River will provide additional angling opportunity.

All other rules for the Cascade River fishery remain in effect. For more information, see rules as listed in the 2014–15 sport fishing pamphlet. For the latest rule information, call 360.902.2500 and press 2 for recreational rules.

—Submitted by WDFW

Skagit Eagle Festival

Every weekend in January

www.skagiteagle.org

<http://concrete-wa.com/skagit-eagle-festival-2015>

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.

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

Concrete

Concrete Food Bank

112 E. Main St., Concrete
Second, third, and fourth Thur. 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.

*Changes? Call 360.853.8213.

Skagit Eagle Festival activities along the Skagit River

Thanks to abundant runs of wild salmon, the Skagit River watershed boasts one of the largest wintering populations of bald eagles in the lower 48 states. Each year the Skagit River sees the return of hundreds of eagles taking advantage of the winter salmon runs. Join in on an interpretive hike, hatchery tour, or guest speaker programs to see and learn more about the bald eagles and the Skagit River watershed ecosystem. Many activities will continue through February.

Eagle Watcher viewing locations and information

- Saturdays and Sundays, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., through Jan. 31
 - Along State Route 20 to Mt. Baker Ranger District
- Join the Mt. Baker Ranger District at

one of three stops along Highway 20 to learn and enjoy bald eagles. Forest Service staff and volunteers will be stationed at Howard Miller Steelhead Park in Rockport, Milepost 100 (east of Rockport), and Marblemount Fish Hatchery to provide information and eagle viewing opportunities.

Marblemount Fish Hatchery tours

- Saturdays and Sundays, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Feb. 1
 - Marblemount Fish Hatchery, 8319 Fish Hatchery Road, Marblemount
- Tour the fish hatchery with Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group and learn about the salmon life cycle, hatchery operations, habitat needs of salmon, and other local wildlife.

Tours are free of charge.

Visitor centers

Marblemount Fish Hatchery
Open daily from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
8319 Fish Hatchery Rd.
Marblemount, WA 98267

Eagle Festival celebrates native cultures

Celebrating the 28th annual event, Marblemount Community Hall in Marblemount once again will host events on the second weekend in January, highlighting our Native American cultures and heritage.

Doors open at 10 a.m. and close at 5 p.m. on Sat., Jan. 10 and Sun., Jan. 11.

Artisans will be vending their handmade wares, from Coast Salish cedar carvings to mountain and wildflower photography, from clay drums to luscious berry jams, and all offerings are locally crafted.

A bake sale and hot drinks will be available throughout the day, with Indian frybread tacos made to order and sold from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

As the main attraction, guest presenters

are as follows, both days, unless otherwise noted:

- "Saga of the Sockeye Salmon," an interactive puppet show based on an Upper Skagit tribal legend, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.
- History, storytelling, and drumming by Rosie James, Samish tribal elder, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- Collaborative watershed restoration efforts, 1 p.m.
- "Music from the Heart": Peter Ali and his beautiful native flutes, 2 to 3:30 p.m.
- J.P. Falcon Grady, acoustic guitarist (rock, blues, reggae), Blackfoot nation, Sunday only, 3:30 to 5 p.m.

Marblemount Community Hall is located at 60155 State Route 20 in Marblemount. For more information, go to www.marblemountcommunityhall.org/ events or <http://concrete-wa.com/events/>, or call Kathy Hunter at 360.770.3173.

—Christie Fairchild

Rockslide covers SR 20 Dec. 31

A large rockslide covered about 300 feet of SR 20 east of milepost 142, near the Whatcom/Skagit County line, on Dec. 31.

The rockslide is well east of WSDOT's winter gate closure location, but in order for crews to reopen the highway on time next spring, work to clear the slide began immediately.

The closed section of SR 20 that normally is accessible to cross country skiers, snowshoers, and snowmobiles between mileposts 134 and 143 will not be available for winter recreation for

approximately one month, beginning Jan. 5.

Contractor crews need to keep the road plowed to remove the rock that covers the highway. Once work is complete, the road will be available for winter recreation.

SR 20 is closed for the winter between mileposts 134, the Diablo gate, and milepost 171, the Silver Star gate. The eastern closed section of SR 20, starting westbound at milepost 171, remains open for winter recreation.

—Submitted by WSDOT

Summer recreation, wilderness, and trail job announcements

The Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest will soon begin filling multiple temporary seasonal aquatics, timber, recreation, wilderness, and trail positions for the 2015 summer season offered in January. These positions are temporary with a maximum six-month tour schedule, not to exceed 1,039 hours. Housing may be available at duty stations. The anticipated start date for the positions varies from the end of April to early June 2015.

The job vacancy announcements for the fire positions will be open at www.usajobs.gov for a limited time between Jan. 6–12. All temporary seasonal positions in the Pacific Northwest Region will be announced during that period.

Temporary seasonal positions in Concrete Herald coverage area

- Aquatics (located in Sedro-Woolley, Glacier, or Granite Falls)

- Recreation (located in Concrete, Glacier, Sedro-Woolley, or Darrington)
- Wilderness (located in Concrete, Glacier, Sedro-Woolley, or Darrington)
- Trails (located in Concrete, Glacier, Sedro-Woolley, or Darrington)

The work is performed outdoors in all weather conditions including summer heat, rain, and snow. Virtually all of the positions require physical exertion in rough terrain. Hiking long distances to remote areas may be expected. The health of individuals must be such that they have the capacity to meet the demands for performance in the positions.

All regional temporary seasonal job outreach announcements are listed at <https://fsoutreach.gdcii.com/outreach>.

—Kelly Sprute
U.S. Forest Service

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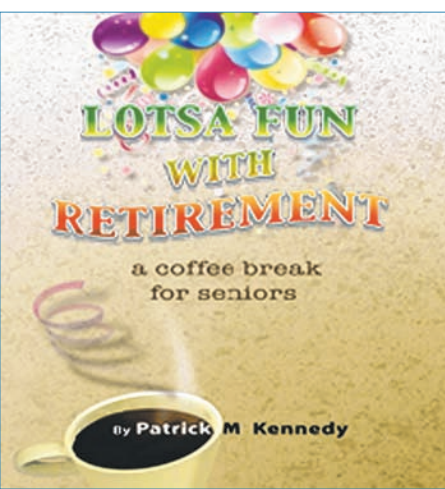
Seniors

Coffee Break Whatever

By Patrick Kennedy

Flashes of color at hours of darkness
A brief daze during the daylight
Plans beyond the close at hand
outlook
Someone walking through whose
force ignites
Notions of a future gratifying game
The paramount of all is whatever
comes about
A calling thought about and then
ignored
A lost fortune, notoriety or fame
Pacing on clouds looking down
Admiring the sportster nice to own
A different driver behind the wheel
And feel a fit and create a frown
Noise intrudes here and there
For a while new for a moment not
Overwhelming and often a whisper
Above below and around
somewhere
Nothing is as it would seem
Plodding through night and days
It has to come about and stays
All this and wishes are but a
dream.

Patrick M. Kennedy is the author
of *Lotsa Fun with Retirement*. Find
it at *Amazon.com*.



Way Back When

80 years ago

Jan. 24, 1935: In connection with a move for state-owned cement plants, an investigation into the cost and distribution of cement used in public projects was authorized by the senate Tuesday of this week. The resolution was submitted by Senators Malstrom and Gannon, from Pierce and Whitman counties respectively.

It was reported that the move was based on serious charges against the cement industry.

Jan. 31, 1935: The Concrete Volunteer Fire Dept. celebrated its first anniversary on Tuesday evening with a big dinner at Bud Thompson's cafe, the guests of honor being the mayor and members of the Town Council.

After a hearty meal, all present discussed present and future plans for the department and heard reports of the subjects of fire prevention, insurance, etc. Short talks were made by many of the firemen and guests.

All members of the council were present, with the exception of Carl Monrad and M. M. Mount. The fire department was represented by its chief and eight members.

60 years ago

Jan. 13, 1955: Marblemount decided Tuesday evening to drop out of the Rockport Marblemount Volunteer Fire Dept. and form its own department.

The Marblemount group is now making plans for building a new

community hall, and the project will be tied in closely with the new fire department, which is sponsoring the idea.

Jan. 20, 1955: Close to 300 guests were present last Saturday evening for a ham dinner and program of entertainment put on by members of the local cement workers union. The large dining hall at the grade school was filled for two settings in order to handle the crowd. After a hearty meal, the guests gathered in the gymnasium for a program and entertainment.

President James Roundy of the local union spoke for the members of his organization, which was organized in October 1936.

50 years ago

Jan. 28, 1965: A delegation from Darrington accepted an invitation to attend a meeting of the Lions Club in Concrete last Wednesday night to discuss their efforts toward possible formation of a backcountry county called "Cascade." Within the new county would lie parts of King, most of Snohomish, and parts of both Skagit and Whatcom counties, plus Camano Island, which is now in Island County.

The area covered would be mostly rural. While the plan is vague at the moment, an enabling bill is now in the hopper in Olympia, which would permit formation of the county by a vote of the people within its proposed borders.

The idea began when Darrington found itself a poor relation as far as government services from the courthouse in Everett. Frustration at trying to get county sheriff protection, decent roads, and just

plain courtesy at the county seat caused so much ill feeling that one individual suggested seceding from the county.

From that remark, the rising tide of dissatisfaction swelled into a tongue-in-cheek plan. Other communities in that county, faced with the same feeling of being left out, asked to be included. Finally, the Darrington Chamber of Commerce Industrial Resources committee began to gather facts and information.

40 years ago

Jan. 16, 1975: Hamilton's "Coal Mountain," discovered in 1874, may be mined on a large scale in the near future, according to a news story from Arizona that surprised Skagit County officials late last week.

J. M. Willis, president of Dax Corp of Tucson, announced plans to mine 300 tons of coal a day from the site, two miles south of Hamilton. He later telephoned Skagit County Commissioner Howard Miller to apologize for premature release of the announcement and said he will set up a meeting with county officials later this month.

The company has obtained mineral rights for 4,000 acres in that area, Miller said.

Jan. 30, 1975: Fire of undetermined origin swept a small home in Concrete Tuesday evening. The owner, Richard McKee, was found dead in the building when firemen extinguished the flames.

The fire was first reported shortly after 9 p.m. Tuesday. The McKee

See **Way Back**, p. 29

Concrete Center

January 2015

Activities

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

Mondays

10 a.m. Jigsaw puzzles
11 a.m. Dr. Talk program, 1/12
Noon Coffee Bar
Noon Birthday party, 1/26
12:30 p.m. Skip Bo, Cribbage, Yahtzee

Tuesdays

10 a.m. Jigsaw puzzles
10:30 a.m. Tai Chi
Noon Lunch
12:15 p.m. Leap of Faith, 1/27
12:30 p.m. Skip Bo, Cribbage

Wednesdays

10 a.m. Jigsaw puzzles
10:30 a.m. Advisory Board mtg., 1/14
Noon Lunch
12:30 p.m. Skip Bo, Cribbage
12:30 p.m. White Elephant Bingo, 1/14, 1/28

Thursdays

10 a.m. Jigsaw puzzles
Noon Lunch
12:30 p.m. Skip Bo, Cribbage
12:30 p.m. Pinochle, 1/15, 1/29

Fridays

10 a.m. Jigsaw puzzles, watercolor painting
Noon Lunch
12:30 p.m. Dominoes, Skip Bo, Cribbage

Holiday closures

Jan. 19

Way Back, cont. from p. 28

home was on Baker St., one block north of Main St. in downtown Concrete.

McKee, a World War II veteran, worked in the logging industry in the Concrete area until he was injured in 1962. He celebrated his 62nd birthday this week.

Jan. 30, 1975: A public hearing on federal legislation to permit children under 12 years of age to work in summer berry harvests is scheduled for Feb. 8 in Skagit County. The House General Labor Subcommittee will conduct the hearing at Burlington-Edison High School.

Berry pickers under 12 years old were banned from working by a Senate amendment in 1974.

—Compiled from archives



Stuffed toys waited at the American Legion Hall in Concrete during the Toys 4 Tots giveaway Dec. 21. With 21 kids signed up for presents, the numbers were down from last year, said Legion member John Boggs, who assisted that day with other Legion members. The majority of the toys were donated by Seattle City Light, said Boggs.



30 years ago. The Jan. 31, 1985, issue of *Concrete Herald* included this photo of kindergarten students in Mary Novy's Concrete Elementary School class. The students were playing with a unique learning quilt designed, constructed, and donated to the kindergarten by Bonnie Rogge. The fabric quilt included pockets with names of the removable stuffed animals found inside written on each pocket. The children were able to identify animals by their written names and spent time each day sorting the animals, making animal sounds, and interacting with each other. *Archive photo by Anne Bussiere.*

Sunday School lesson

New beginning, new year!

By Chris Anderson

"He who was seated on the throne said, 'Behold, I am making everything new!'" Revelation 21:5.

Isn't that the goal we all have whenever something goes wrong? We just want to start all over again. If only life was that easy!

Most of what we need is not to get rid of the past, but to learn from it and to live with it. We need to see everything with a different and new set of eyes. We need to see it all with the eyes of the one who is speaking in the verse from Revelation above. That is the opportunity of New Year that we so often seem to miss.

I remember living at Ft. Irwin, Calif., in the middle of the Mojave Desert. I never realized the value of a "desert experience" until after I had been there for more than a year. At first, everything seemed so harsh and unyielding. As I began to relax and let go of all my expectations and preconceptions, I found that there was a sense of order and direction to everything that was happening around me. Not easy at first, but the more I learned to let go, the more I learned about myself and the world around me.

What does it take to let go? What does it take to allow ourselves to "see" what there is for each one of us in this world? What does it take for us to discover how God can use us in any situation, even those that seem unbearable or impossible?

The secret is letting go. That allows us to start over, to begin a new year, a new life wherever we are and under all circumstances.

This New Year I pray for our nation and its leaders. I pray for our world and all the different cultures and understandings that are a part of it. I pray that they may learn to get along! I pray for those I personally know in our world. I pray for myself and my own family.

May we all learn to let go of our self-centeredness and selfishness. May we open our eyes and "see" what God has set out for us in our living. May we truly be able to "start again" and begin the New Year in style!

We make our own decisions as to what is important in life. Furthermore, what we get out of life that will have everlasting value will always be based on our own choices. We cannot blame anyone else!

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

Concrete Herald
The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley

Obituaries published in Concrete Herald

from May 2009 to present are posted online at:

www.concrete-herald.com/obituaries
For more information, call 360.853.8213 or e-mail editor@concrete-herald.com.

Worship directory

Assembly of God

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

North Cascade Community Church
59850 SR 20, Marblemount
360.873.2504 // www.mmag.net
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Sun. worship: 10:30 a.m.
Thur.: Men's meeting, 8 a.m.
Thur.: Bible Study, 7 p.m.
Dave Nichols, pastor
E-mail: pastordave@fastmail.fm

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.
Father Martin Bourke, pastor
www.svcc.us/scm

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.
John Batts, pastor
E-mail: pastorjohn@firstbaptistclearlake.com
Hamilton First Baptist Church
797 Hamilton Cemetery Rd. at SR 20
Office: 360.826.3307
Sunday School: 9:40 a.m.
Sun. worship: 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.
Ron Edwards, pastor

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

Covenant
Community Covenant Church
12605 Highway 9, Clear Lake
360.856.1023 // covenant@wavecable.com
www.clearlakecov.org
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Sun. worship: 11 a.m.
Call for weekly youth group/Bible studies
Tim Hedberg, pastor

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

Methodist
Central United Methodist Church
1013 Polke Rd., Sedro-Woolley
360.856.6412 / centralumcsw@yahoo.com
<http://centralumcsw.org>
Adult Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

Sun. worship: 11 a.m.
Marilyn Kallshian, pastor

Presbyterian
Mount Baker Presbyterian Church
45705 Main St., P.O. Box 246, Concrete
Church 360.853.8585; office 360.595.0446
www.mtbakerpresbyterian.synodnw.org
Sun. worship: 9 a.m.
Tom Ross, pastor

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

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

Community Bible Church
45672 Limestone, Concrete; 360.853.8511

Worth repeating

"Man is the same today that he has always been. He is a rebel against God. He may, in some generations, hide his rebellion a little more carefully than at other times, but there is no change in his heart. The men who builded the city against God back in the days of Babylon had the same hatred as that which possessed the men who nailed the Lord Jesus Christ to the cross."

—Donald Grey Barnhouse

"The first duty of the gospel preacher is to declare God's law and to show the nature of sin."

—Martin Luther

"Practically every false doctrine comes from getting things out of order. God's divine order is salvation, then change; not change and then salvation! If one has to be changed to be saved, that's salvation by works. It is also salvation by the flesh. The truth is, one is cleansed from the sins of the flesh just as he is saved: by yielding to the Holy Spirit and letting Him do His work."

—Jack Hyles

"Let's quit fiddling with religion and do something to bring the world to Christ."

—Billy Sunday

"The Jesus that men want to see is not the Jesus they really need to see."

—G. Campbell Morgan

"It is a poor sermon that gives no offense; that neither makes the hearer displeased with

himself nor with the preacher."

—George Whitefield

"It is a sad and shocking fact that many religious people are in Hell."

—John R. Rice

"It ill becomes the servant to seek to be rich, and great, and honoured in that world where his Lord was poor, and mean, and despised."

—George Muller

"The preaching that this world needs most is the sermons in shoes that are walking with Jesus Christ."

—D.L. Moody

"The only reason some of us are not exiled or thrown into prison is simply because we do not preach as fervently and as sternly as did Paul, John, Peter, and others. This modern 'Santa Claus' religion that is sweeping the country today is not the religion Jesus taught and John practiced."

—Oliver B. Greene

"We are too busy to pray, and so we are too busy to have power. We have a great deal of activity, but we accomplish little; many services, but few conversions; much machinery, but few results."

—R.A. Torrey

"If the Holy Spirit guides us, He will do it according to the Scriptures and never contrary to them."

—George Muller

Skagit County Sheriff's Office

Blotter

Nov. 25

A 23-year-old Hamilton man was seriously injured in a motor vehicle accident. He was eastbound on Lyman Hamilton Highway near Lyman when his vehicle left the roadway and struck a power pole. He was taken to the hospital by a coworker. The power was out for several hours from Lyman to Hamilton.

Water covered the roadway in several places on Cascade River Rd. near Marblemount. Residents there are all too familiar with this time of year. The SCSO didn't receive any requests for high-water rescues.

Nov. 26

An alert Hamilton citizen near Pinelli Rd. reported a suspicious vehicle parked nearby. A deputy responded and discovered an Upper Valley girl and a

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.

Lederle, Jesse Dean
Age: 30

Race: W Sex: M
Height: 5' 6"
Weight: 155
Hair: Blonde
Eyes: Green
Address: Transient,
Sedro-Woolley

A Level 2 sex offender, Lederle was convicted of second degree child molestation in Skagit County. His victim was a 13-year-old female who was known to him.

Lederle 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 will result in the removal of the online notification resource.

Source: Skagit County Sheriff

boy who lived out of the area had made arrangements to watch the submarine races at midnight. Although embarrassed, there was no crime.

Nov. 27

Two citizens on Cumberland St. in Hamilton reported damage to their lawns. A vehicle had swerved into their yards—causing significant lawn damage—and fled the area. Deputies will step up their patrols in town. There's been an increase in alcohol-related incidents in town.

Nov. 28

A caller from Bacus Rd. near Lyman reported a bullet had just come through his window and lodged in his wall. Deputies responded and thankfully no one was killed. The investigation revealed two neighbors had been shooting nearby. They forgot to ensure they had a safe backstop, which could have been tragic. Deputies will be charging the two shooters with reckless endangerment.

Dec. 1

A criminal stole the American flag from the Veterans Park in Concrete, around Thanksgiving. That is unacceptable. If you have any information about the whereabouts of this large, 6x10-foot American flag, please contact Sgt. Kading in the East Detachment office in Concrete at 360.853.8583, or any other veteran who's served this great country.

Dec. 17

The SCSO Animal Control Officer gave a warning about dogs to a resident on Pipeline Rd. in Lyman. The dogs need to be registered as potentially dangerous, and the owner has failed to do so. This could allow the dogs to be seized and may open the owner up to possible civil litigation.

Dec. 20

A blue 1990 Toyota pickup was stolen right out of the owner's driveway in Concrete. There were no suspects, and deputies had few leads to go on, but in time the vehicle was located.

Dec. 21

Two patrons were watching the Seahawks game at the bar in Concrete. One was a Seahawk fan, the other, not so much. The Seahawk fan got a little too aggressive with the verbal taunts, which made the other person uncomfortable. A deputy was able to mediate the situation, and apologies were gathered before any penalty flags were thrown.

Dec. 24

Deputies responded to a motor vehicle accident in Hamilton. A female was backing out of a driveway at high speed, hit her ex-boyfriend's truck hard enough to push him into a tree. She fled in her broken-up car. Deputies followed the

Sergeant's corner

Winter driving

By Chris Kading



As we try to stay warm this winter, here are a few tips about winter driving.

Preparation before the storm

Check each of your vehicle's tires. Make sure they all have at least a 6/32-inch-deep tread and that they are properly inflated. Cold weather tends to decrease air pressure.

Keep your gas tank at least half full to avoid gas line freeze-up. Use a water remover such as Heet to help prevent water accumulation in your gas tank.

Check antifreeze level in your engine's radiator.

Check your battery connections and make sure that your battery is up to snuff for cold weather. Batteries that are slow to start your car are usually in bad shape. Many shops in the area will check your battery for free.

Ensure defroster and rear window defoggers are working. Please don't drive until your windows, lights, hood, and roof are cleared of snow, ice, or fog. I'll often see people in a hurry to get to work peering through a small hole they've cleared in their iced-up windshield. This is very dangerous

trail of carnage to a nearby house where she was arrested on several charges. Thankfully no one was injured and alcohol was not a factor—this time.

Concrete Resource Center reported damage to a bench in front of their building. It appeared someone used a lighter to damage the bench and carve graffiti into it. The suspect is a younger male, carrying a baseball bat at 1:30 a.m. Deputies are following up on leads.

Dec. 26

A patron at the bar in Hamilton discovered a cell phone missing from his car. Someone had entered his car after he entered the bar. One cell phone is currently missing.

A caller reported a pickup in the ditch on E. Main St. in Concrete. A deputy responded and found a big pickup truck had gotten hung up while trying to turn around in a small area. The driver was sober, there were no injuries, but the new

and you have limited visibility. There's nothing worse than snow sliding off the roof of your vehicle and onto your windshield, obstructing your view.

Put some blankets, jumper cables, flashlights, kitty litter—or sand or strips of carpet—in your vehicle for traction if you get stuck. Add a snow shovel for the trunk and an ice scraper for the windows.

Slow down. The posted speed limits are for dry weather conditions, so be extra safe.

Do not use cruise control. Roads that appear clear can have sudden slippery spots and the slightest touch of your brakes to deactivate the cruise control can cause you to lose control of your vehicle.

Double or triple your normal distance between cars, giving yourself a minimum braking distance of six seconds.

Remember that bridges and highway exits have a tendency to be icier than other areas of the roads, so slow down before you get to them.

If you do get stuck, call for help. Unless you are near a business, do not try to walk your way out; wait for help. If you want to leave your car running, make sure your exhaust pipe is clear of snow or your vehicle will fill with carbon monoxide, which can lead to severe sickness or death.

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

onboard GPS unit that told the driver to take that route ... it's done.

A caller from the Marblemount area reported an assault. A subject who is known to them unlawfully entered a trailer and pepper-sprayed them. The suspect then fled, as he often does. Deputies are familiar with all the persons involved and are currently looking for a silver BMW SUV. This is a serious assault and yes, there's much more to this story.

Dec. 28

A deputy responded to Concrete High School to check on a suspicious circumstance. The school is currently on winter break and no one should be in the building; however, a witness observed lights in a classroom come off and on. The building was found to be secure. Shall we add this to the list of haunted places?

Dec. 29

CONCRETE HERITAGE MUSEUM NEWS

2014 Upper Valley memorials

The following is not a complete list of those families, friends, and neighbors we have lost in the Upper Valley area covered by *Concrete Herald* in 2014. We simply want to give a sense of the people that have been a part of the communities and schools for a significant amount of their lives. No disrespect is meant by any omissions.

Concrete High School alumni

Maxine (Stacey) Arnold-Stokes, 94, of Sedro-Woolley, former postal clerk for Concrete Post Office.

Leonard Hornbeck, 93, of Roseburg, Ore., owner-operator of Hornbeck Brothers Logging.

Neil Foss, 90, of Anacortes, logger for F.E. Foss & Sons.

James H. Beckett, 81, of Big Lake. Chico M. Yzaguirre, 26, of Mount Vernon.

Lonnie S. Sopher, 66, of Concrete, former owner of Sandy's Country Store in Marblemount.

Allen L. Metzger, 57, of Marblemount. Ronald P. White, 79, of Mount Vernon. Donald W. Johnston, 86, of Concrete.

Doris (Arrington) Buller, 87, of Marblemount.

Theo Denny, 90, of Marblemount. Nellie (Isham) Erie, 82, of Burlington, class of CHS 1949.

Lois (Stafford) Ayers, 82, of Burlington, class of CHS 1950.

Betty Lou (Holyfield) Taylor, 75, of Concrete, class of CHS 1956.

Pauline (Taylor) Wenrick, 76, class of CHS 1957.

Sandra (Wilson) Dillon, 72, of Concrete, class of CHS 1960.

Ronald J. Coulter, 65, of Arlington, Wash., class of CHS 1966, longtime former bus driver for Concrete School District.

Patricia (Ray) Walden, 58, of Sedro-Woolley, class of CHS 1973.

Kevin C. Lee, 53, of Sedro-Woolley, class of CHS 1979. Thank you for your service, Kevin.

Christopher J. Zitkovich, 25, of Concrete, class of CHS 2006, longtime volunteer fireman for the Grasmere Fire Dept.

Obituary information may only have been shared the person attended CHS or earlier surrounding schools. Most did not list the year they graduated. Hamilton once had a

high school; the last graduating year was 1943.

Upper Valley communities

Joe Nemo, 100, lifetime resident of Sedro-Woolley, of the pioneer Debay family in Skagit County.

Jack W. Shields, 60, of Concrete.

Joyce (Finsen) Dillard, 87, of Mount Vernon.

Donna M. Lloyd, 64, of Concrete, bus driver for SKAT.

Evelyn S. (Parker) Dills, 77, formerly of Hamilton, former manager of Grandy Creek Grocery.

David B. Parker, 96, longtime resident of Clear Lake, former owner-operator of Clear Lake Market.

Tod W. Ross, 59, of Concrete.

Verna B. Henderson, 101, of Clear Lake.

Patricia A. Nicholson, 90, of Birdsvew, former clerk for City of Sedro-Woolley.

Vern F. Sims, 89, lifetime resident of Sedro-Woolley, owner-operator of Vern Sims Ford dealership.

James A. Trueman, 86, of Sedro-Woolley.

Homer H. Hughes, 82, of Hamilton, former teacher.

Jack R. Moore, 63, of Clear Lake.

Bonnie Bumgarner-Nations, 89, of Lyman.

Betty M. Bullene, 87, of Marblemount.

Margaret A. Hoffman, 84, formerly of Concrete.

Doris J. Prisel, 86, of Concrete.

James M. Benfield, 71, of Anacortes.

Clifford L. Edwards, 72, of Sedro-Woolley.

J.T. Mathis, 78, of Concrete.

Allan L. Tucker, 54, of Clear Lake.

Reino "Ray" Marsula, 90, of Sedro-Woolley, original owner-operator of Ray's Auto Parts in Sedro-Woolley.

William "Red" Wetzal, 85, of Sedro-Woolley, formerly of Concrete and worked for the National Park Service.

Frederick A. Brand, 65, of Concrete.

Linda M. Hazel, 72, formerly of Birdsvew.

Jerold and Marlys Warrington, 83 and 80 respectively, formerly of Concrete.

William "Butch" French, 65, of Concrete.

John T. Woodworth, 75, of Concrete, former Carpenter at Seattle City Light.

The above list was compiled by Dan Royal, historian for Concrete Heritage Museum and Skagit County Pioneer

Association. Royal encourages corrections and additions to this compilation.

The Concrete Heritage Museum is closed for the season. Until Memorial Day weekend, you can **make an appointment to visit the museum** or do research in our library; just call Robin at 360.826.3075.

Monthly meetings are held year-round

At the Upper Skagit Library

Happy New Year to all from the team at Upper Skagit Library!

Thank you, Upper Valley community, for contributing items to the library's **Winter Food and Book Drive**. We collected a generous number of kids and teen books and bursting boxes of food for the Concrete and Bread of Life (Marblemount) food banks. The food bank coordinators were very thankful to see the generosity of the community. Items were distributed to the banks before and after Christmas for folks to access during the holiday season. We also thank Athena Hornsby from Northwest Garden Bling for helping us collect items at her business and Em Beals from 5b's Bakery for donating bread to the food banks.

You're invited to the Upper Skagit Library District **10th Anniversary Celebration** on Saturday January 10 from 1pm to 3pm. Our open house will include a touch of nostalgia and a look into the library's exciting future. Join us for a special presentation at 2 p.m., Annie's Pizza, and cake baked especially for this occasion from 5b's Bakery.

We now offer **One-on-One Tutoring** at the library on the first and third Fridays of each month. Tutoring will focus on basic computer skills, resumes, and cover letters. If you need extra help with job applications, we can assist with that too. Call the library (360.853.7939) or stop by to reserve a spot. Scheduled appointments take place from 10 to 11 a.m. on Jan. 16, Feb. 6 and 20, March 6 and 20, and April 3 and 17. You can reserve a 30- or 60-minute appointment.

In celebration of the Skagit Eagle Festival, join us for **Little Eaglet Storytime** any Saturday in January from 11 to 11:45 a.m. Families with young children are invited to join us for eagle-themed stories, songs, and a simple craft. The next Storytime will be Jan. 10 from 11 to 11:45 a.m. at the library. Let's read

on the third Wednesday of each month, at 7 p.m., at the museum. All meetings are open to the public.

Museum Web site: Our new home on the Internet can be found at www.concreteheritagemuseum.org.

Our new e-mail address is concreteheritagemuseum@gmail.com.

—Dan Royal

about eagles and Northwest wildlife!

We are accepting applications for a **Library Substitute** position. This person will fill in for regular staff when needed, assist patrons, and perform a variety of clerical functions in support of everyday library operations. This position requires computer skills and an interest in reader's advisory. Excellent customer service skills required. This position requires a high school diploma. Library experience desired. No regular scheduled hours; \$11.50 per hour. Applications are available at Upper Skagit Library, 45770B Main Street, Concrete, WA 98237 or online at www.upperskagit.lib.wa.us. Application deadline is Jan. 24.

What's new at the library

Begin your new year fresh with a brand-new book. In adult fiction, check out *Family Furnishings: Selected Stories* by Alice Munro, *Falling From Horses* by Molly Glass, *Sherlock Holmes and Laurie King fans will delight in In the Company of Sherlock Holmes: Stories Inspired by the Holmes Canon*, edited by Laurie King.

In adult nonfiction, improve your mind with *The Better Brain Book* by David Perlmutter, M.D.; discover what bees can teach us in *Bee Time: Lessons from the Hive* by Mark L. Winston; and get your football on with *Seattle Seahawks Super Season: Notes from a 12 on the Best Season in Seahawks History* by Mark Turner.

We have new hours: Tuesday and Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Upper Skagit Library Board meetings have been rescheduled to the second Thursday of each month in 2015. The next meeting will be at the library on Jan. 8 at 5 p.m.

—Cora Thomas, library associate

Blotter, cont. from p. 31

A Concrete caller reported a dog being neglected in town. The SCSO Animal Control Officer responded and found the dog was quite old and needed medical care. The dog was transported to the Humane Society for treatment and possible placement to a foster home.

Dec. 30

SCSO deputies and Washington State Patrol troopers responded to a logging truck accident approximately three miles up Medford Rd. near Hamilton. It appears the driver of the log truck was attempting to remedy a brake issue when the vehicle ran him over. He was pronounced dead at the scene, a sad reminder of how dangerous the logging industry can be.

WSP is the lead agency conducting the investigation. Later on Dec. 30, WSP

released more details on the accident. The driver of the log truck was Richard Rector, 56, from Sequim. Rector was parked on MJ-MI logging road near Medford Rd. when he exited the truck to check the brakes in front of the trailer. He released the brakes and the truck rolled forward, dragging him beneath the vehicle.

A caller from the Marblemount area reported being shot. Deputies and medics found a 30-year-old man in the middle of Rockport Cascade Rd., bleeding from the leg. He indicated he had been walking home when a vehicle drove by him, turned around, then came back and fired a single shotgun round at him. He also indicated he had no idea who may have done this. Deputies are skeptical of his story, because he was wanted by deputies for breaking into a man's trailer earlier and pepper-spraying him. He was treated

for his wounds, then booked into jail on the earlier charges of first-degree burglary and second-degree assault. He is currently being held on \$50,000 bail. SCSO detectives anticipate making more arrests.

—Compiled by Sgt. Chris Kading

Read
Concrete Herald
The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley

Lions ROAR

See page 34

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Out & About



Home & Garden



Anacortes

Skagit County Youth of the Year event to be held Jan. 29

This year's countywide Boys & Girls Clubs of Skagit County Youth of the Year event will be held Jan. 29 in Anacortes.

The event comes on the heels of Dinner with Friends, which was held in December and during which community members gathered to hear club youth recognize their fellow club members with awards in several key programs, most notably Youth of the Year.

The process for the Youth of the Year program began at the club level, with members preparing their speeches and presenting to a panel of judges. Each candidate shared their speech at their club's Dinner with Friends event, where

the winners were announced.

The following individuals were named Youth of the Year at individual club levels:

- Karen Gallardo, Anacortes Boys & Girls Club
- Madisen Cork, Sedro-Woolley Boys & Girls Club
- Ariana Shirley, La Conner Boys & Girls Club
- Justice Lively, Mount Vernon Boys & Girls Club

During the countywide Youth of the Year event, candidates will present new speeches. The countywide winner will win \$500 in scholarship money and go on to the state competition.

Attendance at the Jan. 29 event is by invitation only. Contact Ian Faley at ifaley@skagitclubs.org or 360.202.9021 to be put on the guest list. Seating is limited.

Information about Youth of the Year sponsorship levels is available online at www.skagitclubs.org/youth-of-the-year-sponsorship-opportunities/.

Mount Vernon

Shuler elected president of Port Commission

The Port of Skagit Board of Commissioners has elected new officers who will lead the port in 2015. They are as follows:

- President: Bill Shuler, District 3 commissioner
- Vice President: Kevin Ware, District 1 commissioner
- Secretary: Steven Omdal, District 2 commissioner

The port commissioners also serve as the board of directors for the Port of Skagit Industrial Development Corp. The corporation's slate of officers for 2015 is the same as that of the port commission.

Chartered in 2001, the industrial development corporation facilitates local economic development and employment opportunities within the port district by



Bill Shuler will serve as president of the Port of Skagit Board of Commissioners in 2015. Submitted photo.

providing tax-exempt financing for the acquisition, construction, enlargement, or improvement of industrial facilities.

Lions ROAR

As 2015 starts, it is the time to think about our commitment to ourselves and others. While we contemplate our New Year's resolutions, I encourage members of our community to **consider joining our local Lions Club**. Our club is your club. We are a club to serve you and our community. Our hope for 2015 is to increase our membership numbers twofold. We all have friends and family who have seen the outreach of your local Lions Club, so now is the time to give great thought about being a member! For those interested in becoming a member, submitting a request, or just wanting to see what we are about, please feel free to visit one of our meetings.

November and December were busy months for the Concrete Lions Club. Many hours were donated to building a

wheelchair ramp, the BBQ at the Senior Center, helping with the Sight and Hearing Van, and Christmas tree sales.

This month's meetings will be held Jan. 7 and 21 in the front dining room at Annie's Pizza Station. The meeting starts at 6:30 p.m.; however, some members always show up around 6 p.m. to eat and socialize before the meeting starts. Existing members, remember to mark your calendar.

The Lions Club has access to **medical equipment** such as wheelchairs, walkers, shower chairs, and portable commodes that can be loaned out to help those in need. Contact any Lions Club member if you know of someone who has a need for such equipment; we will do our best to help you out.

The Concrete chapter of Lions Club International sends our best and heartfelt New Year wishes to the Concrete and Upper Valley community.

—Connie Smithhart•

Garden Patch

By Gladys Silrus

Hydrangea care is this month's topic.

Pruning hydrangea bushes is not necessary unless the shrubs have become overgrown or unsightly. You can safely remove spent blooms anytime. However, there are a couple deadheading tips to keep in mind for best results.

1. Try to keep cuts above the first set of large leaves or only cut down to the last healthy buds. This ensures the safety of any developing blooms for the next season.
2. When pruning hydrangea bushes that have become overgrown, cut stems to the ground. Although this may delay blooming the following season, it helps to revitalize the plants. All types of hydrangea respond well to occasional pruning, but it's important to know what variety you have as hydrangea pruning care varies.

Types of hydrangea and pruning care

Understanding how to prune hydrangea bushes according to their particular type and individual needs is important for the overall health and vigor of hydrangea plants. Hydrangea pruning care techniques and timing differ

Bigleaf hydrangea (*H. macrophylla*) includes the commonly grown mophead and lacecap varieties. Generally, they are pruned in late summer, after blooming has ceased. However, some people prune them in fall, while others do so in spring. As long as you do not cut any stems that have not bloomed, leaving healthy buds intact, they should be OK. Prune weak stems to the ground and cut or deadhead spent flowers and stems to the last bud.

Oakleaf hydrangea (*H. quercifolia*) gets its name from the oak leaf-shaped leaves. These hydrangeas are typically pruned in early spring, as their colorful fall foliage is often a welcome sight in autumn. Many people also enjoy leaving the flower heads over winter for additional interest.

PeeGee hydrangea (*H. paniculata*), also known as panicle, usually

flowers on the current season's growth. Therefore, they are generally pruned in late winter or early spring just before summer blooming. They can be pruned in fall as well. This type can also be pruned into a tree form, as it exhibits an upright growth habit.

- Annabelle hydrangea (*H. arborescens*) are usually pruned in the summer following spring blooming. Some people choose to prune them to the ground in late winter or trim dead growth in early spring just prior to blooming.
- Climbing hydrangea (*H. anamala*) often does not require pruning. Hydrangeas of this type produce flowers from side shoots that can be pruned in fall after blooming has ended. Cut back shoots to the last healthy bud.

When to prune hydrangea bushes is not an exact science. Pruning is not always necessary; unless the situation calls for it, they can simply be left alone. Removal of spent blooms and dead stems each year should be adequate for maintaining healthy hydrangea bushes.

In a nutshell:

1. Summer pruning after flower fades for bigleaf or florist hydrangea.
2. Late winter or early spring pruning for hills-of-snow or sevenbark hydrangea, oakleaf Hydrangea, PeeGee hydrangea, and tea of heaven
3. Prune as needed to control growth for climbing hydrangea. I have a mophead and a lacecap that got out of hand, so two years ago I cut them both down to about 5 inches from the ground in late winter. The year after I got only a few flowers, but last year (2014) both hydrangeas grew very tall and produced so many huge, beautiful flowers they were falling over. This month I am going to cut them back to about 5 or 6 inches again. I know I won't get many flowers this summer, but that's OK.

Happy gardening!

Send gardening questions to Gladys. Call her at 360.826.4848, or write to her at gsilrus@frontier.com or 42002 Pine St., Concrete, WA 98237.

Whether the Weather?

We hear about weather and climate all the time. Most of us check the local weather to plan our day. And climate change is certainly a hot topic. There is, however, still confusion over the difference between the two.

Think about it this way: Climate is what you expect. Weather is what you get! Climate is the average weather, usually taken over a 30-year time period for a specific region and time period. Weather is just the state of the atmosphere at any time, including temperature, precipitation, air pressure, and cloud cover. Winds and storms cause daily changes in weather. Earth's revolutions around the sun cause seasonal changes.

What causes weather? Because the Earth is not flat, the sun's rays don't fall evenly on land and oceans. The sun shines more directly near the equator, bringing

those areas more warmth. However, polar regions are at such an angle to the sun that they get little or no sunlight during the winter, causing colder temperatures. These differences in temperature create a restless movement of air and water in great, swirling currents to distribute heat energy from the sun across the planet.

All of this reminds me of a ditty, taught to me by a friend from England many years ago:

"Whether the weather be cold, or whether the weather be hot, whether the weather be damp, or whether the weather be draught, we'll weather the weather, no matter the weather, whether we like it or not!"

So, put on those wool hats and gloves, rain or snow gear, and, of course, boots, and go out in the weather and enjoy the few hours of daylight we have at this northern latitude this winter, whether you like it or not.

—Christie Fairchild

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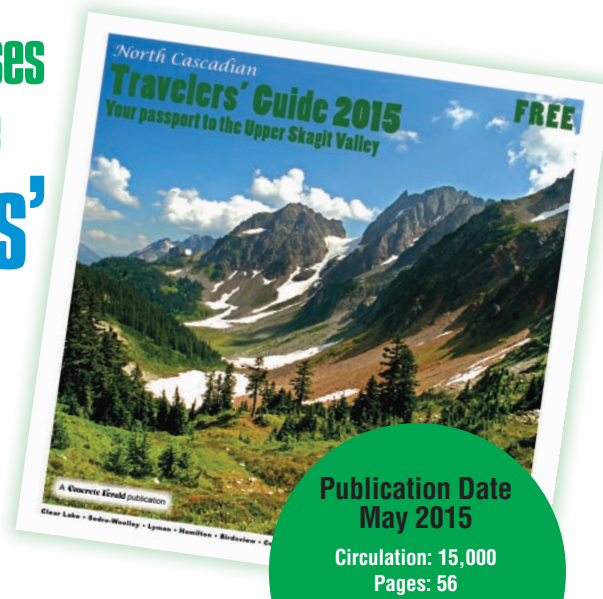
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Pages: 56

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Smile



Chancing on a Flock of Snow Geese

I watched one day in morn's clear light
as migrant snow geese settled down.
Sunbeams scattered at ended flight
and lost feathers sheltered the ground.

I saw the leaders land their flocks
yet their day's tasks had just begun.
With upstretched necks they now stood watch
until the day was fin'ly done.

I strolled on down to the lake's edge,
there to a grassy overhang.
I took the journey through the sedge
away from all the noisy gang.

Keeping vigil over his mate,
stood a proud and watchful gander.
How long would he stand, how long wait,
caught in the current's meander?

He stood guard while she lay drifting,
sleeping at last, not coming back.
Currents stronger, swifter, lifting
the breathless body now gone slack.

They'd flown high, just below the stars,
and fought mighty rivers of air,
battered bodies covered by scars
in their journey to here from there.

Could he have given her his strength
or carried her beneath his wings,
he'd have flown the Earth's breadth and length
singing songs that a lover sings.

I left the field midst resting geese,
saddened by the gander's plight,
yet leaving with a sense of peace,
filled with awe at devotion's might.

Cynthia M. Bateman

Dwelleysms
Wit from former
Concrete Herald editor
Charles M. Dwelley

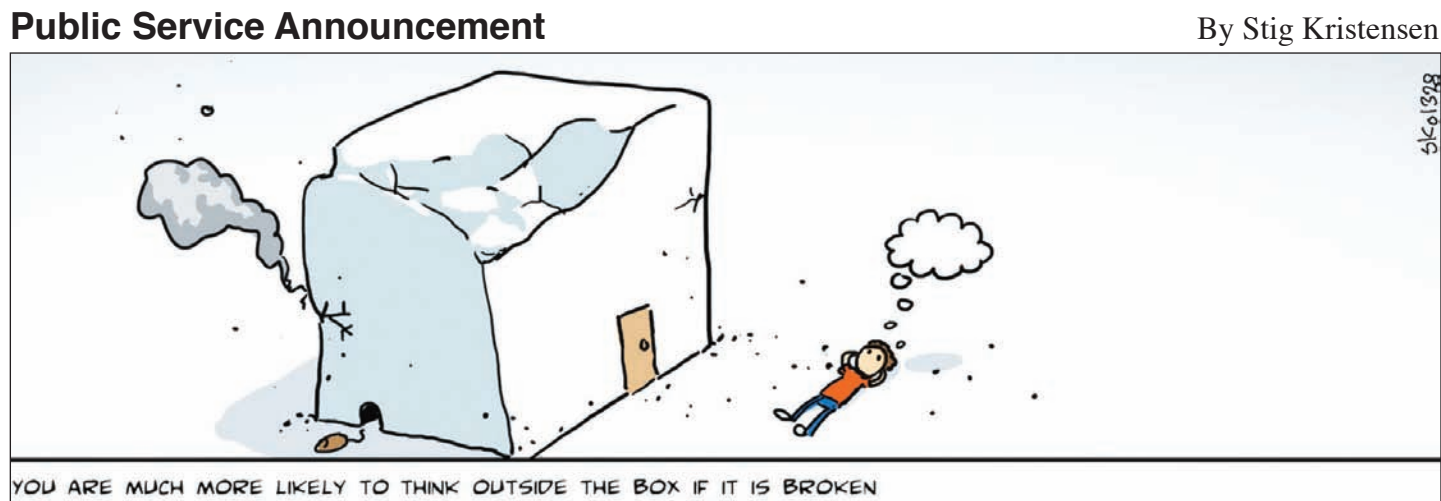
"The Great Society is a new name for an old gimmick—everything anybody would ask for, but never could afford. The same old society with a new batch of interest-bearing credit cards."
—Jan. 7, 1965

"Looking forward to 1965's promise, the greatest gift would be a spring, a summer, and a fall. Somehow past years have failed in this respect."
—Jan. 7, 1965

"Take any budget, from family to nation, and you will find subject for argument. It may change when a new arithmetic system shows us how to subtract our desires from our shortcomings."
—Jan. 14, 1965

"More to be honored than the wife who makes her husband a great man is the gentler one who makes her husband think he is."
"Strength of character is delivering a melting ice cream cone intact."
"It seems the movie industry has exhausted the realm of good literature. All they have left is the products of modern, gutter-style writers or expanding a dirty story. Dirty stories are cheaper to secure."
—Jan. 21, 1965

"One trouble with our world affairs is that they are conducted too much on the fear of what the neighbors will think."
—Feb. 11, 1965



Crossword: "Looks like a thousand bucks"

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- Across**
- 1. Pretense
 - 4. Chips
 - 8. Like some kitchens
 - 13. Vamp's accessory
 - 14. Narthex neighbor
 - 15. Unite
 - 16. They were introduced by Sohmer & Co. in 1884
 - 19. Out
 - 20. Cousin of a canvasback
 - 21. Big bang producer
 - 22. Appropriate
 - 23. Computer instructions
 - 25. Web page
 - 27. Money transferring systems
 - 31. Uneven
 - 34. Stumblebum
 - 36. Most immense
 - 37. In a pompous style
 - 41. Pull back
 - 42. Heater
 - 43. Kind of skin
 - 44. Some painted vessels
 - 45. New couple
 - 48. Frilly hat of long ago
 - 52. Itinerant, British var.
 - 56. Fox competitor
- Down**
- 1. Old Jewish scholars
 - 2. Go downhill, maybe
 - 3. Put off, as a motion
 - 4. "Measure for Measure" villain
 - 5. Dwell
 - 6. Female gametes
 - 7. "Fiddler on the Roof" role
 - 8. Afterword
 - 9. C.S.A. state
 - 10. TV control
 - 11. Desktop feature
 - 12. Birth place
 - 15. Debate (with)
 - 17. "Sure"
 - 18. Datebook abbr.
 - 23. Kind of ticket
 - 24. Omen
 - 26. Drudge
 - 28. No longer working: Abbr.
 - 29. Cold capital
 - 30. Eye problem
 - 31. Brute
 - 32. Didn't stand pat
 - 33. Freshwater fish
 - 35. Radiohead tune
 - 36. Stalk
 - 38. Cliff's pal on "Cheers"
 - 39. Chaos
 - 40. Bon mot
 - 46. Means of escape
 - 47. Like some vases
 - 49. Big cheese
 - 50. Dude
 - 51. Pointer
 - 53. Bangladesh dough
 - 54. Charger
 - 55. Toadies' replies
 - 56. Old Mogul capital
 - 57. Support group?
 - 58. Jargon
 - 60. Camp Swampy dog
 - 62. Liberal leader?
 - 63. Spa sound
 - 59. Expression of pride?
 - 60. Baroque
 - 61. Military approaches
 - 64. Hindu wives
 - 65. They may be wild
 - 66. Consult
 - 67. Fur capitalist
 - 68. ____ Who
 - 69. Much spam

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.

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

*Solutions to both puzzles are on p. 39.

- Funny as Facebook**
- The following funnies were pulled verbatim from Facebook status updates in December.
- "First you roll the pearl. When it stops, you may take a jewel, either a red or a white, but not both. Now you can make either a cow or a moose. The first player to build a zebra wins. I'll go first. Hmmm. OK. I am building a chicken." —Rowan, during the first blind playtest of her new as yet untitled boardgame.
 - "You know you work in customer service when you thank the officer for pulling you over after you tell him to have a great night! Sooooo not looking forward to school later this morning."
 - "What a weird start to the day! I ended up calling 911 because of an older gentleman wandering down Stein Blvd. in nothing but his tights and a Packer jacket. I feared for his safety and made the call. The responding cop was appreciative and an ambulance was called."
 - "What's the over/under on a kid who thinks he lost his underwear at preschool and is then surprised to find out (after a lengthy search around the classroom for said underwear) that he's actually wearing them?"
 - "Things I Am Grateful For #5310: I'm glad the kids are old enough to get themselves to the bathroom without incident when they need to puke."
 - "OK, with so much excitement on the field, I just broke my tooth. I guess a visit to the dentist is a small price to pay for this game."
 - "I swear that when the bad guy dies at the end of 'Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade,' for a moment he looks just like Christopher Lloyd ..."
 - "Went to Walmart for Pokémon X and some drunk guy told me that I looked like I was in a band. I feel totally validated."
 - "Watching World War Z. Apparently we cannot count on zombies being slow."
 - "Task for today: freezer archeology. Who knows what I might discover?"

Continue the cycle

Please
recycle
this
newspaper

The Man in the Mud Room

By Nicola Pearson

Editor's note: This is the first installment of a monthly serialized story by award-winning author and playwright Nicola Pearson of Sauk City. Future installments will appear on this page each month during 2014 until the story is complete. Enjoy!

Callum Lange's stride didn't vary as he climbed the last few feet toward his property. It used to take him 40 minutes to make the walk from the highway up to the gate, but now he could do it easily in 20. Well usually in 20, but today he was carrying a pack with his groceries in it, as well as his laptop, his mail, and a couple of tomes by Jared Diamond he'd picked up at the library, so maybe he'd been slower.

He pulled his cell phone out of the waist pocket of his purple fleece jacket to double check his time and saw that he'd missed a call. He stopped, wondering who had thought to call him, then edged forward slowly as he peered down at the number. It was a 360 area code, so local, but he didn't recognize the number. He grunted surprise low in his chest.

At the gate to his property he stopped again, feeling the chill of the October air on the tip of his nose, and debated calling the number back while he still had cell phone reception. He thought about the pint of s'mores-flavored ice cream in his backpack and the letter from his ex-partner on the job in NYC, which he was curious to read. He also thought about the game of Pirateer in his yurt that he was playing with Suleka and the fact that he was only 45 minutes shy of their self-imposed time limit to make a move. He peered at his cell phone again, wondering if it was Suleka who had called him, but her number ended in 24, not 77. Lange didn't have any of his contacts stored in his smart phone because he figured it would help keep his brain cells limber to have them all memorized.

He slipped the phone back into his pocket, having decided the call could wait, and scissored his legs over the 15-foot-long gate to his property. Walking down the gently curving, gently undulating, quarter-mile-long dirt road that led into the flattest section of his 80 acres, Lange listened to the songbirds around him as he thought about the last time he and his

partner, Jimmy Vonortas, had seen each other.

It was Lange's final day of work for NYPD and he was cleaning out his desk when Jimmy, who'd been temporarily suspended for shooting a suspect who was fleeing the scene, burst into the squad room. "You're leaving?" asked his Greek-American partner, both hands out at his sides in a how-could-this-be gesture.

"I told you I was retiring," Lange answered.

"Yes, but you're leaving?!" Vonortas insisted, coming around the desk despite himself to help throw Lange's personal items into a box.

Lange shrugged. "I'm flying out to Washington tomorrow, yes."

"How can you? How can you leave New York?"

They'd had this discussion many times and Callum Lange was tired of hearing about how he could buy ice cream at 2 in the morning in Manhattan, a concept that didn't interest him in the least. But Jimmy Vonortas was about 20 years Lange's junior and even though they'd only been partners just over a year, what they'd gone through together with the shooting had bonded the young man to him. "If you only knew where I was going," Lange sighed.

Jimmy threw his athletic body down into a hardback chair next to the desk and slid forward so his torso was at an angle to the seat. "Yeah, I know, I know, the Magic Skagit!" he growled. "You don't even know why it's called that."

The older detective sucked on his dentures a moment before replying. "Nobody does," he said softly. "That's what makes it magic."

That had been a year and four months ago. Since then he and Vonortas had e-mailed a few times, mostly about the investigation, but it was always stilted, impersonal. A handwritten letter though—well, that had the potential to be different. Lange looked down, suddenly aware that his right hand had drifted up to the spot by his left shoulder; even through the fleece he could feel the hard, wrinkled skin of the scar.

A strong, high-pitched, fluty call to his right took his mind out of New York City and into the forest around him. He stopped, mid-stride, and ran his eyes

over the trees alongside the road. There he was, sitting on the branch of a Doug fir; a bright yellow-breasted, red-headed Western tanager. Lange felt a surge of regret that he didn't have a pair of binoculars with him to get a closer look at this beautiful little bird. What he needed was a small, high-quality pair that would live in his pocket for just this kind of occasion. The regret quickly dissipated, however, with his enjoyment of the bird's throaty, repetitive chirp ch-chirp ch-chirp ch-chirp.

Lange stood for a few verses, then took off down the road again, buoyed by his constant amazement that he was lucky enough to live in such a place. In fact, he was so pumped he almost missed the footprints in the wet mud.

But he didn't. As soon as his eyes caught them, he stopped and bent forward, glad that this one section of his road almost never dried out, shaded as it was by tall trees on both sides. Curiously the footprints only went in one direction, toward him, suggesting that whoever made them had left by this road but not come in this way. Unless they'd just skirted the wet ground on the way in. Didn't make a lot of sense for them not to skirt it again on the way out, Lange thought. But then he'd met a lot of people whose actions didn't make sense.

He crouched down and stared at the telltale tracks in the dark, shiny, muddy circle splayed across the center of his road. He tipped his head to the right, then the left, and narrowed his eyes. There were three different footprints in the damp dirt, each one sufficiently well defined that he was pretty sure he could determine the brand and size of the shoes that made them. Maybe even the idiosyncratic walking patterns of the person wearing them. He huffed to himself; in NYC he could do that; or even better, have someone do it for him. Out here, he'd have to look up shoe soles on the Internet and keep searching until he found a match and since he had just gone to the local library to do what he wanted online, he wasn't about to go back.

He spread the fingers of his right hand apart and used the distance between his thumb and his pinkie to guesstimate the length of each print. Two were longer than his spread hand, considerably longer, and when he held his hand against the length of his own foot, he found the same to be true. The third footprint was smaller. So maybe two guys and a woman, Lange thought to himself. Or two adult males and a kid? None of the footprints had a deep tread pattern, so Lange guessed they

were made by sneakers, not hiking boots. He stood up and reflected a moment. Most likely it was teenagers, using his place to drink. Or smoke. Or both.

He edged around the wet ground, heading for his yurt, then changed his mind. He pulled his smart phone out of his pocket and snapped a quick photo of the prints. Just in case. Then he walked on.

He was still conscious of the timeline on his move in Pirateer, plus he wanted to see if there was further evidence of this visit his property had been paid. The one thing he really hoped was that if they'd come to party, they'd taken home the empties. The thought of litter set his teeth on edge.

At the end of the road, the land opened up to a wide, rugged plateau with views out over the valley below. Lange's yurt was directly ahead, with the door facing him and one half of its circle nestled up against the trees. The other half, which held the only window in the entire canvas wall, faced out toward the rest of the ledge and the view. Nothing looked disturbed, as far as he could tell from the outside. He veered to the right and eyeballed a simple pole building he'd erected late in the summer to house his John Deere tractor and lawn mower, as well as sundry other items he was accumulating for his future log cabin. His searched the ground in front of the building for signs of possible trespass, but it looked undisturbed; his tractor, chainsaw, and tools inside the structure under the blue metal roof were untouched.

Lange strode forward, his lithe, six-foot-one frame moving comfortably, easily, across the uneven terrain as his Red Wings scrunched through the woody ground cover. He slowed when he reached his log pile and walked a lazy rectangle around the perimeter, looking for empty beer cans. But there were none. Satisfied but still curious about what had brought uninvited visitors to his property, he began the journey over to his yurt.

Dusk began to descend on his mountain hollow and as Lange tried to rub the cold away from the end of his nose, he pictured a cheery fire in his woodstove. He walked past the steps leading up to the door of his yurt and over to his long, tidy stacks of firewood. He contemplated just grabbing an armload, but when he thought about how toasty he could get in his yurt with the fire going, he decided to get enough for the entire evening. He walked around the wheelbarrow, which was lying upside down on the ground at the end of the stacks, and bent forward to grab the

See Mud Room, p. 39

Classifieds

MOVIES & EVENTS AT THE HISTORIC CONCRETE THEATRE
WEEKEND MOVIE SCHEDULE:
Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Sat., 4 and 7:30 p.m.; Sun., 4 and 6:30 p.m.

TIX: \$8 gen admission, \$9 balcony, \$7 over 65/under 12
24-hour MovieLine: 360.941.0403
www.concrete-theatre.com

EMPLOYMENT

Drivers wanted. Dave's Towing. 360.853.7433.
~~Reporter, contract position. Concrete Herald seeks a competent writer to cover Concrete town government on a monthly basis, beginning ASAP. Compensation will be based on attendance at all Town Council meetings, plus production of two articles per monthly issue. Interested persons should send resume, two journalism samples, and letter of interest to editor@concrete-herald.com. For more information on this position, call 360.853.8213 or e-mail editor@concrete-herald.com.~~

SERVICES

Eagles In Flight Motorcycle Sales and Service / Sissy Bar. 360.853.7000.
Gladys' Upholstery Shop. Quality work, reasonable prices. 360.826.4848.
Headstones. Traditional & One-Of-A-Kind. TODD'S MONUMENTS, 360.708.0403. www.toddsmonuments.com.

NOTICES

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS ARCHITECTURAL, ENGINEERING AND ARCHITECTURAL LANDSCAPING AND CONSULTING SERVICES

I. PURPOSE OF REQUEST

The Town of Concrete ("Town") is soliciting annual statements of qualifications and performance data (RFQ) from architects, engineers, architectural landscaping and consulting/professional firms in connection with performing professional services for the Town pursuant to RCW 39.80.

These qualifications and performance statements will be reviewed and placed on file and will be used as a source from which to select one or more qualified firms from whom a detailed proposal will be requested for any specific project.

II. TIME SCHEDULE

The Town will follow the following timetable:

Issue RFQ: 01/01/2015
Deadline for Submittal of Responses to RFQ: 12/31/2015

III. INSTRUCTIONS TO PROPOSERS

A. All responses shall be sent to:

Town of Concrete
Attn: Professional Services Roster
P.O. Box 39
Concrete, WA 98237

B. Please place one (1) copy of your RFQ in a sealed envelope and clearly label the lower left corner "Statement of Qualification for A & E Services."

C. Qualifications should be prepared simply and economically, providing a straightforward, concise description of provider capabilities to satisfy the requirements of the request. Emphasis should be on completeness and clarity of content. Use of recycled paper for requests and any printed or photocopied material created pursuant to a contract with the Town is desirable whenever practical. Use of both sides of paper sheets for any submittals to the Town is desirable whenever practical. Please submit only one (1) statement of qualification.

D. Any questions concerning the specifications or RFQ process shall be directed to the Clerk-Treasurer at (360) 853-8401. Minority and women-owned firms are encouraged to submit statements.

IV. PUBLICATION

This RFQ shall be published as follows:
Skagit Valley Herald: 01/01/2015
Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises Website Posting
Concrete Herald: January 2015

TOWN OF CONCRETE SMALL WORKS ROSTER

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town of Concrete is soliciting applications from "contractors" to be placed on the TOWN'S SMALL WORKS ROSTER. All applicants must be licensed or registered as required by law to work in the State of Washington. Contractors appearing on the small works roster may be contacted from time to time to submit job proposals for Public Works projects pursuant to R.C.W. 35.23.352(3) and R.C.W. 39.04.155. Applications may be obtained at 45672 Main Street or requested by mail, e-mail, or phone. Applications are also available on the Town's Web site at www.townofconcrete.com. These forms must be completed each year, once a year, to remain on the Small Works Roster.

Published in the Skagit Valley Herald January 9, 2015, and the January 2015 issue of Concrete Herald.

Andrea R Fichter, Clerk-Treasurer
Town of Concrete
P.O. Box 39
Concrete, WA 98237
(360)853-8401
(360)853-8002 Fax
andrea@concretewa.gov

To place a Classified ad, call 360.853.8213 or e-mail ads@concrete-herald.com. Ads are \$5 per every 10 words, rounded up to the nearest 10. Payment is due at time of placement. Deadline for the February 2015 issue is Jan. 26.

Letters, cont. from p. 2

American Legion hosts toy giveaway

This year's toy event at the American Legion was successful because of the commendable efforts of all the businesses and individuals who assisted in collecting or donating toys for our local boys and girls.

Especially noteworthy are the outstanding responses from Seattle City Light, Birdsvew Brewery, Eagles in Flight, and Carol Penn from Albert's Red Apple.

Thanks to all.

John Boggs
Concrete

Mud Room, cont. from p. 38

handles so he could flip it right side up.

That's when he noticed the hole in the rows of firewood at the back of his stacks. Dammit, he thought, somebody is getting at my wood! Just last week he'd dumped a bucket load of cut and split alder out of his tractor onto the ground over here, thinking he'd add it to the stacks, but when he came back to it a couple of days later, the pile looked smaller. Except dumped like that and covered with a tarp, he couldn't be sure. Now a U-shaped hole under the sheet metal cover on his furthest, driest stack made him sure.

What he didn't understand was, why his firewood, so far up the mountain? And why on foot?

Continued next month ...

Council, cont. from p. 7

stolen from Veterans Memorial Park.

- *Fire and Life Safety Building:* Town Engineer Cody Hart reported the framing and trusses are up and inspections will take place this week. The structural engineer will do a walk-through and the roofing installation will begin soon after that. Hart also reported that the retaining wall and sidewalks on the south side of the building have been installed, and in about two weeks they will start the site paving. They are now two to three weeks ahead of schedule.
- Hart also reported the Cupples Alley water line project has reached substantial completion, and they are working on a small punch list.
- Councilmember Dave Pfeiffer reported on research he had performed into building permit expiration and renewal terms. Pfeiffer stated that according to industry standards, he believes one year for building permits with one six-month extension should be sufficient for the airport lots. He stated that he also spoke with Town Building Inspector Jack McCormick, who had agreed that the extensions could be limited.
- Manville-Ailles stated there are still two RVs at the Eagles Nest property that are occupied at this time, and that the property owner has begun the eviction process. She stated there is also one RV left on the property, which is not currently occupied.

—Compiled by J. K. M.

Crossword solution, from p. 37

1	A	C	T		4	A	H	O	Y		8	E	A	T	11	12
13	B	O	A		14	N	A	V	E		15	S	P	L	I	C
16	B	A	B	Y	17	G	R	A	N	D	18	P	I	A	N	O
19	A	S	L	E	P						20	T	E	A	L	
22	S	T	E	A	L		23	M	A	C	R	O	S		24	
						25	H	O	M	E		27	G	I	R	O
31	O	D	D		32					34	O	A	F		36	H
37	G	R	A	N	D	I	L	O	40	Q	U	E	N	T	L	Y
42	R	E	C	O	I	L			43	G	U	N			45	D
46	E	W	E	R	S				48	I	T	E	M			
						49	M	O	B	C	A	P		52	G	I
56	A	B	C		57	R	O	A	R		60	O	R	N	A	T
63	G	R	A	N	D	S	T	R	A	T	E	G	I	E	S	
64	R	A	N	E	E	S			65	O	A	T	S		68	S
67	A	S	T	O	R				69	W	H	O	S		71	A

Sudoku solution, from p. 37

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



2015 SKAGIT EAGLE FESTIVAL

Four Weekends of Family Fun!
Saturdays and Sundays in January

CONCRETE • ROCKPORT • MARBLEMOUNT

Join us as we celebrate the annual return of the majestic eagles to the Skagit Valley. Whether you live in the area or are planning to visit from far away, you'll enjoy the wide variety of indoor and outdoor activities.

- Eagle Watcher Stations
- River Rafting & Boat Trips
- Photography Workshops
- 5K Salmon Run & Nature Walk
- Special Tours & Presentations
- Guided Walks, Talks & Hayrides
- Native American Storytelling & Music
- Music, Dancing & Wine Tasting
- Raptor Presentations
- Wine Tasting & Music
- Raffles & Contests



PeaceHealth
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PUGET
SOUND
ENERGY

Challenger Ridge

www.SkagitEagleFestival.com

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The Skagit Eagle Festival is funded in part by a grant from the Skagit County Lodging Tax Fund.

