

Concrete River Journal

The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley

Vol. 99, No. 1

January 2016

Concrete

50 cents

Clear Lake • Sedro-Woolley • Lyman • Day Creek • Punkin Center • Hamilton • Birdsvew • Grasmere • Concrete • Cape Horn • Sauk City • Sauk Valley • Rockford • Rockkindale • Marblemount • Bullerville • Newhalem • Diablo

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Eagle Festival fills January

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Mayor Anderson retires after 24 years of service

Mike Anderson is putting away the gavel after about 16 years as Sedro-Woolley city councilman and nine years as the city's mayor. *Page 16.*

Poverty talk reveals tools and strategies

Teachers and staff at Darrington Elementary School attended a program dedicated to improving opportunities for people who live in the war zone of poverty. *Page 24.*

Festival celebrates native cultures

Marblemount Community Hall will host activities on Jan. 9-10 highlighting the area's Native American cultures and heritage. *Page 26.*



ALL ABOUT THE EAGLES

Coordinator Anissa Smith and President Cora Thomas welcome visitors to the Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center during the Skagit Eagle Festival this month. *Page 11.*

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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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Contacts: Newsroom: 360.853.8213 / editor@concrete-herald.com // Advertising: 360.853.8213 / ads@concrete-herald.com
Letters: P.O. Box 682, Concrete, WA 98237 / letters@concrete-herald.com // Classifieds: P.O. Box 682, Concrete, WA 98237 / classifieds@concrete-herald.com

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From the editor
Kicking off 2016

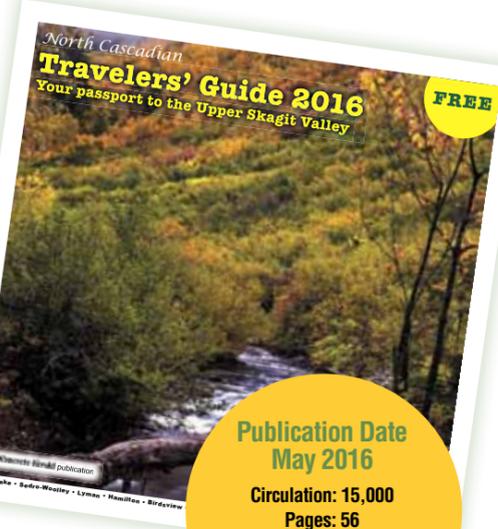
This time around, I'm struggling to calm my mind in the face of the great needs that face Concrete. One of my flaws is that I often stay almost permanently focused on what needs to be done, while successes that should be celebrated flow by without my noticing them.

Not this year. This year I resolve to trumpet the successes of every community in the *Concrete Herald* coverage area, to the point of being obnoxious. And why not? Every day I see on Facebook the same memes—the ones that make wild generalizations and call out the dark side of humanity: Every cop is dirty. Every pet owner is an ogre. Every politician is corrupt. Every preacher is greedy. Every young person is a vandal.

This year, I promise to do my part to confront that mindset with two words: Not so.

—J. K. M.

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Circulation: 15,000
Pages: 56
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For more information or to request an advertising rate card, send an e-mail to editor@concrete-herald.com.

Call 360.853.8213

A **Concrete Herald** Publication

Opinion

Letters to the editor

In support of school levy

We have no children ourselves, but it's very important to us that all the youth in our community receive a good education. Everyone should have the opportunity to develop their potential so that they can follow their interests and enjoy what they do for a living. A good education is key to that. It'll help make the world better for everyone. Please join us in supporting Concrete School District's tax levy this February.

*Barb Trask, Ger van den Engh
Birdsvew*

Barnaby Reach proposal smelling like fetid backwater

After attending the Dec. 10 Skagit River Systems Cooperative (SRSC) meeting on the Barnaby Reach proposal, I noticed a number of changes from their last meeting, many months before.

Most noticeably changed were their maps. Previous versions of their maps of the project showed a very limited scope: only the land immediately involved with the construction of the channel to divert the river into ancient oxbows to the south. However, the newer maps now actually include many south Rockport homes and private properties adjacent to this project. I think they now know that Rockport Cascade Rd. and State Route 530 are basically dikes or dams during high water events. Maybe they are beginning to hear us?

But the most important question on the minds of most attendees was the ongoing and unanswered one: "Who is responsible if their project results in damage to homeowners in south Rockport?" Their answer was a non-answer; they now say "they wouldn't accept a project that would

pose a risk." Well, if you place three big, artificial log jams in the main river forcing the water to flow uphill through a constructed channel and into ancient sloughs, and that new river's flow is 10 times closer to peoples' homes and lands than previously, I think *that* poses a risk. I had a boss who once told me that "it's not what I say, it's what I *don't* say that you should listen to." I am starting to appreciate that statement. This SRSC proposal is beginning to stink like fetid backwater.

The next community meeting is Jan. 7, 6:30 p.m., at the Marblemount Community Hall. State Representative Elizabeth Scott will also be there, at her request, to hear our concerns.

For more information on this project near Rockport, go to www.skagitupriverneighbors.com.

*Art Olson
Rockport*

A Charlie Brown town

In November, Adrienne Smith and I asked for help putting up lights in Concrete Town Center. The time came and went, and no one showed up to help. We both have bad knees and are unable to

See Letters, p. 39

Letters policy

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

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Message from the mayor

By Jason Miller

Public Works employees **Jimmy Luttrell** and **Rich Philips** helped the town take a relatively small yet significant step toward economic development last month. You might have seen them limbing up the trees between the Concrete Center and the Resource Center, in order to create better sight lines into our Town Center for drivers on Hwy. 20.

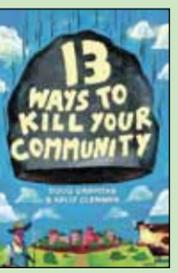


This is a strategy the town has wanted to pursue for several years, and we have our new commissioner, Lisa Janicki, to thank for permission to do so (most of the trees are on county-owned property).

I won't get on my soapbox about the short-sightedness of allowing the highway to bypass the Town Center in the first place; suffice it to say we are now taking steps to mitigate the effects of forcing potential customers away from

our businesses' front doors.

In January, town staff and I will begin working our way through **13 Ways to Kill Your Community**, a tongue-in-cheek book that takes a very pointed look at small towns and how our actions—intentional and unintentional—can support or devastate the very places we claim to love. I plan to encourage our Town Council to read the book this year too, and if dozens of our citizens were to join us, well, I would be the happiest mayor on the planet. (But don't do it for me. Do it for our community.)



As I look back at 2015, I find our town has much to be grateful for. A report from town engineer Cody Hart tells me that we were given almost **\$1.2 million in grant funds** for 10 major projects in town. That's music to my ears.

Here's to an even better 2016!

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

Commentary Concealing your carry? Be smart, responsible.

By Lin Tucker

In this uncertain world, a lot of people are getting their concealed weapons permits. I sign the ones issued by Sedro-Woolley Police Dept. and have noticed a pretty steady flow of these permits coming through our office. This has prompted me to send out a reminder to those folks who are carrying their concealed weapons.



1. Be aware of your surroundings. Carrying a firearm does not guarantee safety. We wear armor at work that will, at least, stop the round in the weapon we carry (officers are disarmed and killed with their own weapon regularly). Think before introducing a firearm into a potentially volatile situation; it

2. Be smart while armed. Packing a firearm and using alcohol at the same time is stupid, dangerous, and illegal.
3. Being a responsible citizen, paying attention to what's going on, having a firearm to defend yourself, and knowing when to use a firearm is smart, safe, and legal.
4. Know the basic firearms safety rules: Treat all firearms as if they were loaded. Keep your finger off the trigger until your sights are on target and you're ready to fire. Don't point your weapon at anything you are not willing to kill or destroy. Be sure of your backstop and what is beyond it.
5. Do your research and know when it's appropriate to use a firearm to defend yourself. We have the term "Reasonable and Necessary" drummed into our heads from the Police Academy on, throughout our entire career. If you look at all of the controversial and/or tragic events involving police officers and

See **Concealed Carry**, p. 35

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Happy New Year!

Stop in for all your winter needs: snow shovels, sleds, saucers, ice-melt, and more!

45900 Main St., Concrete • 360.853.8811 • Mon.—Sat., 8:30 to 5:30

Special meeting addressed Wastewater Treatment Plant inadequacies

By Haley McNealey

Edited by Katy Tomasulo

Concrete Town Council held a special meeting Dec. 21 to discuss and decide upon a plan of action to address complications at the town's wastewater treatment plant.

Problems with the wastewater treatment plan include failing membranes and subpar screening on the front end that allows too much grit and fiber to pass through to the membrane stage. "We are right on top of a system collapse if we don't act in some way," said Concrete Mayor Jason Miller.

The town is collaborating with Ameresco, a biotechnology company that specializes in working with organizations to increase energy efficiency. Faced with scarce funding resources to address the plant's maintenance and operations issues, the town is working with Ameresco to solve the core issues by upgrading the problem components. More grant funds are available for upgrade scenarios, which at the same time will improve the plant's

energy efficiency. Over time, the money the town saves in energy costs will help to offset the up-front cost of the upgrades. At the meeting, Ameresco representatives Bruce Poulin (project manager) and Baraka Poulin (project engineer), presented information regarding benefits, costs, funding, and other logistical material pertinent to the design and construction of the updates to the system; they also responded to inquiries from councilmembers.

The energy service proposal includes upgrades to three elements of the current system, all of which will save the town varying levels of money in energy costs: the headworks (screen), membranes, and blowers. The estimated costs are \$400,000, \$600,000, and \$200,000, respectively, putting the total projected expenditure for the upgrades at around \$1.2 million. The council expressed concern about the possibility of adding additional loans to the town's current debt

for the treatment plant, which includes six outstanding loans, two for the design of the operating system, and four for the construction of the operating system. The town will work with Ameresco to locate funding sources, primarily grants.

Public Works Director Alan Wilkins reported that the plant's membranes, which separate solids from fluids, are approaching the end of their life cycle. In addition, stormwater infiltration and inflow (I&I) is producing too much water for the plant to process. Recently, the amount has been so overwhelming that, according to Wilkins, it has been necessary to divert a portion of the flow into the adjoining sewer lagoon. The membranes currently in use also are susceptible to silt "caking," which rapidly reduces the amount of waste that can be processed. There are approximately 200 membranes in each of the eight modules. The new membranes would be less susceptible to caking, and the updated screen would be finer, allowing for more efficient separation of grit and fiber. A more efficient screen also would reduce the amount of biological oxygen demand (BOD) that reaches the membranes, preventing damage and prolonging their lifespan.

The life expectancy for the updated membranes is approximately 12 years. Each of the three proposed upgrades, most notably the blowers, would improve the plant's energy efficiency. The prospective contract with Ameresco would guarantee

a specified level of annual energy savings following the modifications; Ameresco also commits to commissioning the plant and providing one year of measurement and verification of the success of the energy savings.

The town initially planned on fully replacing the current membranes to maintain the system until money to pay for the higher quality membranes could be secured; however, the company from which the town purchased the original membranes will no longer be selling them. Wilkins believes the town can get through 2016 with the current system if the current membranes can be refurbished soon after, or if funds are found to upgrade to the new membranes.

Town Clerk Andrea Fichter is researching various potential funding sources for the project, including Imminent Threat grants from Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and a possible appropriation from the state. Wilkins also is exploring options for maintaining the system in the meantime. He is tasked with investigating other membrane vendors and exploring the possibility of refurbishing the current membranes, which likely would be a less costly choice than buying the new, improved membranes.

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

Halfway point for Mayor Miller

Concrete mayor reflects on first half of term.

By Haley McNealey

Edited by Katy Tomasulo

As of December, Concrete Mayor Jason Miller is halfway through his first term. Throughout the past two years, Miller has voiced his stance on a range of topics, including the economy, street improvements, public safety, and town landmarks. He recently reflected on the progress made during this time and discussed what he considers to be major accomplishments thus far and what he plans to focus on during the second half of his term.

Economic development

Miller has been vocal about the importance of economic development

within Concrete. When asked about the status of economic development efforts, Miller emphasized the formation of the Economic Development Task Force. The group, composed of nine residents, is collaborating on an economic development plan, a document that will be included as part of the town's comprehensive plan. The economic development plan is expected to reach the town council for discussion in June 2016.

Miller reports that hundreds of ideas have been discussed at the monthly economic development meetings, and

See Mayor, p. 35



Five Weekends of Family Fun! Saturdays and Sundays in January

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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
- Raptor Presentations
- Raffles & Contests

Community Bible Church

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Seattle City Light

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

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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 five weekends of recreation, entertainment, and education this month.

Festival activities are held on Saturdays and Sundays from Jan. 2 through 31, 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:

- Native American Dancing and Storytelling in Marblemount (see article, p. 26).
- Hayrides and bonfires at Ovenell's Ranch.
- Deep Forest Tours at Rockport State Park (see article, p. 23).
- Bluegrass & Box Lunch at the Concrete Theatre.
- Children's crafts and activities at the Upper Skagit Library.
- Live music at 5b's Bakery.

Festival Information Station, located in the Concrete Center, 45821 Railroad St. in Concrete, for brochures, maps, souvenirs, arts and crafts, free coffee, and restrooms. The Information Station is open on Saturdays and Sundays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. 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.

—J. K. M.

"This is the fifth year the event has been organized by the Concrete Chamber," said Valerie Stafford, president, "and we have a good track record for offering activities that are most popular with our visitors."

Most of the outdoor activities are held regardless of rain, snow, or freezing temperatures, so attendees should come prepared for the winter weather.

This year the Skagit Eagle Festival is sponsored by Puget Sound Energy, Seattle City Light, Community Bible Church of Concrete, and *Concrete Herald*. It is funded in part by a grant from Skagit County.

With so many activities available, where do you start? Visit the Skagit Eagle

Skagit Eagle Festival

WHERE: Various locations in Concrete, Rockport, and Marblemount

WHEN: Every Saturday and Sunday in January

SCHEDULE: Brochures at area businesses and at www.skagiteaglefestival.com

INFO: Skagit Eagle Festival Info Station
45821 Railroad St., Concrete
360.853.8784
www.skagiteaglefestival.com

- Eagle-Watching Stations with trained volunteers.
- Walks, talks, and presentations at the Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center in Rockport (see article, p. 11).
- 5K Run & Nature Walk at Ovenell's Ranch.
- Arts & crafts sales at the Concrete Center, 45821 Railroad St., Concrete.
- Boat trips by Skagit River Guide Service.
- Self-guided tours of the Marblemount Fish Hatchery.
- Photography workshops at the Concrete Theatre.
- Bird of Prey presentations by Sarvey Wildlife Center.

In The Service



Concrete resident Paul Rider was promoted to Technical Sergeant on Dec. 6, 2015, at a ceremony at the 194th Wing at Camp Murray, Wash., where he serves as a photojournalist in the Washington Air National Guard.

The photo at right shows Rider during the ceremony, with son Josiah preparing to place Rider's new rank over the old one and securing it there with a punch to the arm. Son Elijah is pondering the rank he will place on his father. Rider's wife, Kirstin, and daughter, Rebekah, are behind Elijah and to the right.



THIS AND THAT

By J. K. M.

A Foothills forestry enterprise has gotten a boost from the Washington State Dept. of Commerce.

A \$30,000 grant will help connect and organize woodland owners and workers who produce woodland products in the eastern foothills of Skagit County and Whatcom County.

The project covers a two-year span beginning Jan. 19 and 20, with public meetings in Concrete and Kendall to gauge interest and get direction in forming a cooperative effort to market more woodland products.

Convivium Renewable Energy, a local consulting firm, will lead the effort, with additional support from the Opportunity Council and the Town of Concrete.

The project proposes a Foothills Woodland Enterprise Center in each county. Established businesses need production, storage, and shipping facilities. Many individuals and businesses will benefit from cooperative marketing efforts. Fledgling woodland enterprises also can be included. Initially, the two key products will be low-moisture bulk and bundled firewood. Later, other forest products could be included.

Woodland owners, woodland workers, and those interested in East County foothills economic development efforts are encouraged to attend one or both of the meetings, either in Concrete on Jan. 19 at 6:30 p.m. at Annie's Pizza Station, 44568 State Route 20; and/or in Kendall on Jan. 20, 6:30 p.m. at the East Whatcom Regional Resource Center at 8251 Kendall Road.

For more info, contact Paul Schissler at pauls@schissler.com or 360.201.8900, and/or Terrance Meyer at terry@conviviumre.com or 785.865.8758.

Continue the cycle

Please recycle this newspaper



Council summary

Concrete Town Council met for a regular meeting on Dec. 14 and a special meeting on Dec. 21. The council cancelled its Dec. 28 regular meeting. Following is a summary of the two December meetings. Complete and council-approved minutes for every council meeting are posted on the town's Web site at www.townofconcrete.com/cminutes.php.

Dec. 14 regular meeting

- Bill McMillan with the Wild Fish Conservancy presented facts and figures regarding Wild Steelhead Gene Bank designations, in support of the Skagit River being designated as a Wild Gene Bank. McMillan said that he and a colleague developed a paper regarding historical steelhead numbers. He stated that from 1895 to present day, there has been a dramatic decline in wild steelhead. He stated that as hatcheries have been constructed and utilized, the wild steelhead numbers have greatly declined between 1948 and 2011. He reported a study was begun in 2008 to determine if hatchery steelheads were affecting the wild steelhead from returning and it was discovered that, yes, this was having a negative effect.

Mayor Jason Miller called upon audience member Corey Ruiz and asked why he opposes the Wild Gene Bank designation. Ruiz stated that information from other scientists and biologists indicates the problem is not hatcheries or hatchery fish causing the issue, but overfishing and habitat degradation. He stated there are a lot of habitat restoration projects occurring.

Ruiz also stated he believes the Wild Fish Conservancy would like to see all hatcheries shut down, which would cause a major decline in fishing, which would then result in a decline in licenses sold, which would have a considerable economic impact on the state's General Fund, as well as local businesses.

Public safety: Sgt. Chris Kading reported that kids have found a way to get into the generator building behind the Superior Bldg. by scaling the side of the building and getting into the windows that are 10 feet up. Mayor Miller stated the town will get the windows boarded up till the spring/summer, when they plan to turn the building into a gazebo-type

- structure.
- The town is still working on completing the necessary matching fund certification through the funding agency for the proposed Silo Park Water Spray Park project. Once that is completed, the project can proceed.
- Mayor Miller stated the town has been awarded funds through Skagit County for the restrooms that are planned to accompany the water spray park.
- A public hearing was held for chapters 1-6 of the town's Comprehensive Plan Update. Audience input included concern over the condition of Cedar St., gratitude for the tree-trimming project between Concrete Center and the Resource Center, and an inquiry into possible water line repairs needed before water meters are installed.
- A resolution opposing the Skagit River Gene Bank Designation came before council, who generally agreed that more research would be needed in order to approve the resolution. Council declined to take action on the resolution.

Dec. 21 special meeting

- This special meeting primarily was called to discuss Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrades and energy efficiency.
- Three components of the system were identified by energy services company Ameresco and explained in an energy service proposal presented to council: membranes, blowers, and headworks modifications. The total cost to replace all of these elements would be \$1.2 million.
- The membranes are problematic because they are near the end of their usable life, and the town just learned that the manufacturer plans to discontinue making the kind of membranes used by the Concrete system, forcing the town to step up its plans to switch over to an upgraded membrane product.
- For more information about this meeting, see the article on p. 4.

—Compiled from staff notes

Keep track of your council

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

KSVU launches fund drive

Concrete-based community radio station KSVU 90.1 FM has launched a fundraising drive to support itself.

Almost five years old, the station will lose its start-up financial support from Skagit Valley College this July. Sustainable funding, at least enough to cover the monthly tower and studio rents, must come from underwriters (usually businesses) and memberships (usually individuals), which is the norm for noncommercial, public radio stations.

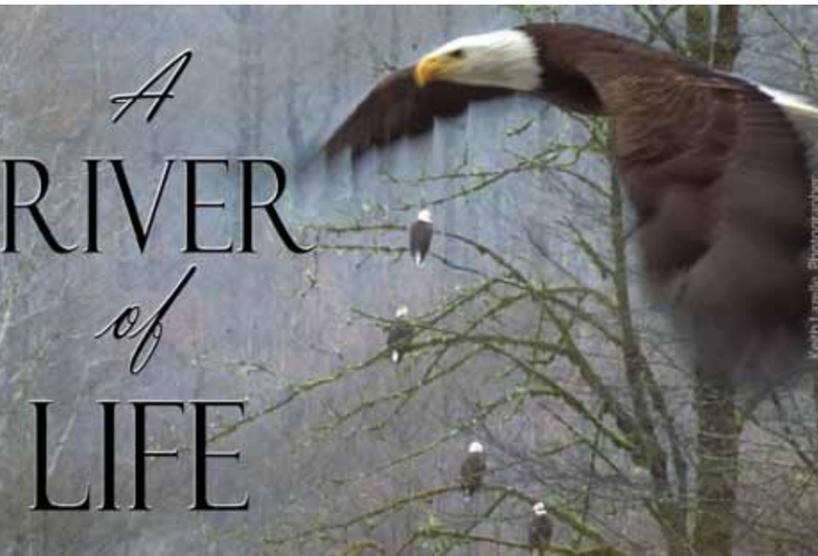
KSVU offers diverse music, news, and interviews, as well as the only emergency

announcement station serving the area, from Sedro-Woolley to Marblemount, and from Baker Lake to north of Darrington.

In February, KSVU plans to fill its airwaves with voices asking for financial support. The minimum amount needed during this fund drive is \$3,000; donations may be made in various ways:

- Mail: 7838 S. Superior Ave., Concrete, WA 98237
- Phone: 360.853.8588
- Internet: www.ksvu.org
- In person: Portable classroom "B" behind Concrete Elementary School

The station also welcomes more volunteers. For more information, call 360.853.8588.



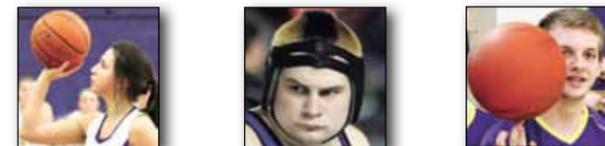
SKAGIT RIVER BALD EAGLE INTERPRETIVE CENTER

- Sat, Jan 9, 11 am: Craig Romano: Hiking in the Skagit Valley presentation & guided hike
- Sun, Jan 10, 1 pm: Terri Wilde: Useful Local Plants presentation & guided hike
- Sat, Jan 16, 1pm: Pete Haase: Forage Fish Around Skagit County presentation
- Sat, Jan 23, 1pm: Jon Riedel: Glaciers of the North Cascades presentation
- Sat, Jan 30, 1pm: Richard Brocksmith: Salmon and Trout of the Skagit River

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Sports



Lion hoops third in league

By Paul Bianchini, head coach

Women's basketball faces gauntlet

By Kevik Rensink, head coach

December is behind us, and the Lady Lions basketball team is a better team now than we were when we started the season seven weeks ago. January is before us, and we will need to build on our early season experiences to persevere in the tough Northwest League.

The women's basketball team has stuck together and is playing very competitive basketball this season. Our record is 3-4 as we prepare to face the gauntlet of league opponents the rest of the way. The girls have really bought into the style of play that will give us the best chance at playing really good basketball.

We want to play great defense, and this year's team is currently on pace to allow the fewest points per game ever recorded (38 ppg). Our goal is to keep our

opponents under 40 points per game; so far, the girls have done a pretty good job of that.

Destiny Vanbibber and Madisyn Renzelman set the tone for us defensively, and their quickness is really disruptive to other teams. Behind them, Cassidy Cargile and Chloe Stidman have benefited by racking up nine steals per game between the two of them (Cargile with 2.9 spg; Stidman with 6.1 spg).

Jaycelyn Kuipers has been a steady force for us on offense all season, averaging a double/double (14 points/10 rebounds) a game, and Emily Bridge has jumped into the scoring action by putting up 17 points (a career high) in a recent home game against Burlington-Edison.

Tate Mathis continues to work hard

every day in practice and has been used in several different roles this year. Look for Jenna Whorten to get an increase in playing time on varsity as we head into the rest of the season, as she has given us good minutes while continuing to lead the junior varsity in scoring.

I have said it since the beginning, but I need to keep on saying it: If this team sticks together, plays tough, and puts the team first in every decision they make on and off the court, then we will be able to do great things.

Our first four games of 2016 are all at home: Cedar Park Christian on Jan. 5, Orcas Island on Jan. 8, La Conner on Jan. 12, and Mount Vernon Christian on Jan. 15.

Join the Concrete Lions Booster Club

Current members of the Concrete Lions Booster Club invite you to join them in support of all Concrete extracurricular programs. The club has been around since 1977, when it was formed to promote Concrete programs and upgrade athletic facilities. Since its inception, the club has:

- Built the baseball and softball fields, dugouts, backstops, grandstands, and concession stands
- Participated in the building of the all-weather track
- Built the visitors' grandstand and other upgrades in the football stadium
- Built the weight room used by athletes, students, and community members
- Participated in the building of numerous other district facilities, including sidewalks, playfields, landscaping, etc.
- Raised money for all district programs through the Cement City Trail Run, birthday calendar, advertising signs, and other projects

The Club also is responsible for Athlete of the Month and Athlete of the Year awards, sports trophies for all programs, the booster's scholarship, and support of other activities as needs arise.

Many of the original members' children have long since grown and there is a real need for parents of current athletes and extracurricular programs to participate if the club is going to continue to provide the services and support that is needed.

There are many ways to help—big and small—but your help is needed. For more information, contact a current member, Athletic Director Karl Kerstetter, club President Jim Newby, or football coach Ron Rod.

Destiny Vanbibber pauses before bumping her team into winning position with a free throw in the final seconds of a home-court game against the Granite Falls Lady Tigers on Dec. 4. The Lady Lions edged the Tigers 26-25.



Lady Lions Chloe Stidman (left) and Madisyn Renzelman swarm a Granite Falls player during the Dec. 4 game against the Lady Tigers.

Concrete High School men's basketball team returns to league play on Jan. 5 after a lengthy holiday break. The Lions, who currently hold down third place in the league standings with a 2-1 record (2-6 overall), have two important home games during the week of Jan. 4. Cedar Park Christian (0-4) comes to town Jan. 5 (JV 6 p.m., varsity 7:30 p.m.). On Jan. 8, the Lions entertain Orcas Island (2-1), with the varsity team taking the court at 4 p.m. and JV at 5:30 p.m. The Lions' season thus far has seen the team win some tough league games, but struggle against some larger, nonleague schools. Starting the season on Dec. 5 versus a very athletically skilled South Whidbey team, the Lions couldn't match up and fell to the Falcons 72-33. The next night, Bush came to town in what turned out to be a highly competitive game. Close throughout, Bush hit their free throws in the fourth quarter to seal a 65-49 win. The Lions found the winning edge against league rival Darrington on Dec. 8, winning 63-41. Solid efforts from James Schoolland and Dylan Clark on offense, and a stingy Lion defense led by Tyler Labrousse and Joe Ramirez stifled the Loggers as the Lions got on the winning track. Three days later the Lions traveled to Friday Harbor to take on one of the top 2B teams in the state. FH jumped out to a big lead early and cruised to a 61-18 win—a tough loss for a Lion team that had visions of playing much better against the Wolverines. Concrete got back on the winning track at Shoreline Christian on Dec. 15. The entire team played their best game of the year, earning a hard-fought 60-53 league win against a talented Crusader squad. The Lions' interior passing from Clark, Tucker Scollard, Labrousse, and Grayson Luttrell, combined with ferocious rebounding from Schoolland and Solomon Holman, allowed the team to keep enough distance between them and a hot-shooting home team. Some fans remarked after the game, "That was the best I've seen the team play in several years."

As the year drew to a close, it was not kind to the Lions. A Dec. 18 game at Coupeville went down to the wire as the Lions battled from 18 points down with

four minutes left in the game and nearly pulled off the comeback before losing 66-60. Playing without four players who fouled out earlier, the Lions whittled the score to 64-59, but ran out of time in the end. Concrete got a much-needed inside boost from sophomore Rey Garibay, as well as an outstanding effort from senior captain Clark. The team effort at the end of the game helped ease the sting of a tough loss. The final two games to close out 2015 were losses against Northwest Conference opponents (2A) Blaine Borderites JV 58-48 and (1A) Meridian Trojans 54-14. Eleven of the 12 remaining games for the Lions are league games. Seven of those are home games. Follow the Lions' regular and post-season results, varsity and JV schedules, and the rest of the league teams on the NW1A2BAthletics.com Web site.

Concrete senior Dylan Clark lays one up during the Dec. 8 home game against the Darrington Loggers.



Tyler Labrousse soars over Darrington's Cooper Young for a bucket during the Lions' home-court match against the rival Loggers on Dec. 8. Concrete got the win that night, 63-41.



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Happy New Year of the Bulldog!

Help us finish the replication of our 1932 Hall Spring Bulldog by donating to the Giving Fuel campaign. The engine, landing gear and fuselage are built, but we need your help to finish the transformation. Once completed, it will be the only one in existence!
<https://ncvam.givingfuel.com/2016-year-of-the-bulldog>

Winter hours are Tuesdays & Thursdays
10:00am – 3:00pm or weekends
by appointment only
info@vintageaircraftmuseum.org

VINTAGE AIRCRAFT MUSEUM

Wrestlers perform despite fewer grapplers in December

By Jason Miller

A handful of wrestlers left the Concrete High School program last month, but the remaining grapplers notched impressive numbers in meets that took them all over the state.

December kicked off with a dual meet tournament in Stanwood on the 5th, where the Lions took third overall. They fell to Franklin Pierce after a tie-breaker, beat Cascade 42-30, defeated an All-Star team 54-24, and beat Stanwood in a tie-breaker. Lone woman wrestler Becky Azure pinned her male opponent during that match.

Dec. 9 found the Lions in Friday Harbor, defeating all three of the schools they faced: Darrington (60-36), Friday Harbor (58-30), and La Conner (75-30).

At the Iron Sharpens Iron tournament at Bellevue Christian on Dec. 12, Concrete walked away at the top of the pile, with 190 points.

"I took 10 kids down there, had eight in the finals, and seven won it," said Coach David Dellinger. The magnificent seven were Brayden Olmstead, Donnie Olmstead, Randall Beacham, Donovan Dellinger, Louie Ketchum, Riley Fichter, and Blaine Storms. Will May snagged second place at the tournament.

On Dec. 16 Concrete headed to Darrington to face four other schools. Again, the Lion wrestlers came out on top, defeating Lakewood 54-18, Friday

Harbor 63-18, Darrington 52-35, and La Conner 75-24.

At the Mount Baker Invite on Dec. 22, the finals again saw Beacham and Ketchum standing tall in first place. Donnie Olmstead and Azure snagged second place. Brayden Olmstead and Dellinger each grabbed third-place honors. Fichter wrestled above his weight class and still took fourth, along with teammate Storms. Robert Nevin placed fifth in the heavyweight class.

"If you look at our record this year compared to past years, you can tell we're doing something different," said Coach Dellinger. "We're pushing the kids harder, and they're performing at a higher level."

Dellinger spoke with *Concrete Herald* on Jan. 3, the day after the team traveled to Warden, where they faced stiff competition. But Dellinger said he was "tickled" with their fourth place performance.

"We've lost some kids, but I still believe we can be a Top 5 team," he said. "You go to Warden, you go to Mt. Baker, and for your kids to show up in the finals, that is huge. I am very proud of them."

Azure ahead of her game

Concrete's lone woman wrestler, sophomore Becky Azure, said she's very pleased with her results so far. She has

nine wins so far this season, compared to six overall last season. All but one win have been pins. She traveled to additional women's meets in December, including the Judy Emry Invite and the Pride of Lynden Tournament.

"I like being the only girl on the team; it gives me more of a challenge," she said. "I've wrestled every boy in the room. They push me harder. I've learned so much, so much more quickly!"



Scenes from the Dec. 22 Mount Baker Invite included Randall Beacham (left), crushing Bailey Graham-Tudor of Sultan into the mat for a pin, Louie Ketchum (above), pinning Hunter Cabrera of Glacier Peak, and Becky Azure (top), twisting Jocelyn Roberts of Friday Harbor into a pretzel before pinning her.

ALL ABOUT THE EAGLES

By Tahlia Honea

Each winter, hundreds of bald eagles fly hundreds of miles to feast on the salmon-rich waters of the Skagit River. Following them are an increasing number of tourists wanting to view and learn about the majestic bird.

Last year, 2,800 people came from around the world to view the once endangered bald eagles, according to the Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center in Rockport. This year is also turning out to be strong as well.

"We've been really surprised this year," said Cora Thomas, president of the Interpretive Center's Board of Directors. "The first day we had over 100 people. We're constantly trying to get the word out and reach more people, and it is working."

The nonprofit center focuses on eagle education, offering displays, activities, and resources through December and January, the peak season for eagle spotting along the river.

The eagles come here from Alaska and Canada to feed on live salmon and salmon carcasses left after spawning. They are building up nutrients to fly back home to build nests and lay eggs, said Ember LaBounty, a longtime volunteer at the Interpretive Center.

It is important that the eagles be undisturbed while eating because they burn so many calories getting here, LaBounty said.

The center survives on a meager \$17,000 yearly budget, most of which is allocated toward one staff person and advertising. The interpretive center heavily relies on volunteers.

The most successful efforts, however, seem to be word-of-mouth and a recent effort to increase Facebook activity and followers, said Thomas.

On a recent Saturday, tourists lined Highway 20 around Concrete, Rockport, and Marblemount with cameras and binoculars. Even though it was the day after Christmas, a steady stream of visitors circulated through the visitor center watching eagle and salmon videos and

talking to experts about the bird.

"It's just joyful and awesome," said Danya Wolf of Mount Vernon. "There is something about the eagles. I see the eagles and it's just ... wow."

Wolf and her husband visit the eagles every Christmas. They camp overnight and spend the holiday enjoying the peace of the wild. They celebrate Christmas with their families the weekend before.

"This is for us," added Wolf's husband, Don.

The largest group of registered visitors to the center is from King County, even more than local Skagitonian visitors. Other visitors have come from Canada, England, Ireland, Japan, Peru, Sweden, Panama, and Uruguay. Thomas said many of those people come back year after year.

Good for business

The eagles, as well as the Skagit Eagle Festival, organized and sponsored by the Concrete Chamber of Commerce, create a huge economic boost for the area in a typically slow time of year for most tourism.

"It's a huge thing for a lot of us," said Concrete Theatre owner Val Stafford. "It's a way to draw more people into the area for the beauty, wildlife, and outdoor activities."

Restaurants and lodging in Concrete, Sedro-Woolley, Burlington, and Mount Vernon all see the benefits of the eagles and events, Stafford said.

Once people visit, they often come back at other times of the year as well, she said. Plus, the eagles and festival aren't dependent on warm, dry weather. She said even the 5k Salmon Run is popular, drawing more than 100 people during the coldest part of the year. It is the kick-off to the festival.

The festival has seen a lot of changes during the past decade. Formerly, it was a large regional arts and crafts show with native dancing and many activities all in one weekend. However, with the economic crash and sponsors dropping out, it was unsustainable. The Concrete Chamber of Commerce began sponsoring the festival in 2010 and decided to spread



Skagit River Bald Eagle Awareness Team Treasurer Judy Hemenway (right) chats with visitors to the Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center in Rockport during the Skagit Eagle Festival last January. The center typically hosts more than 3,000 visitors every December and January.

the festival activities throughout January. Now, there are events every weekend. The Chamber works with many organizations to coordinate, support, and advertise those events.

One of the most popular events is the Raptor presentation by the Sarvey Wildlife Care Center, during which audience members see more than five raptors up close. The presentations are Sat., Jan. 16 and Sat., Jan. 30. Other activities include live music, photography workshops, and Native American storytelling.

The Interpretive Center holds lectures every Saturday. It posts eagle counts on its Web site and at the center every weekend. The eagle counts are collected by the volunteers for the Mount Baker Snoqualmie National Forest and North Cascades National Park. The most recent count was 161 eagles. The center also provides guided walks, and experts are available to answer any questions or talk about the integration of the eagles, salmon, river, and forest.

Volunteers are stationed at several safe viewing points to help visitors spot them with binoculars: the Interpretive Center, Howard Miller Steelhead Park, Milepost 100 Rest Area on Highway 20, and the Marblemount Fish Hatchery.

The Interpretive Center is funded by business sponsorships, lodging tax, donations, and its growing nature store featuring local artists. Those funding sources fluctuate. Every year, the Interpretive Center does the best with

what it has.

"We've had years when we didn't know if we were going to open the doors," LaBounty said.

But they make it work, mostly because volunteers give more time. This coming year they will have another blow because a longtime significant sponsor will no longer be contributing, said Judy Hemenway, the Interpretive Center's treasurer and longtime volunteer.

"We're going to be knocking on every door," Hemenway said. "We just deal with it. We're believers."

She and her fellow volunteers' passion is obvious. They light up as they talk to visitors walking through the door, especially when they announce, "We saw an eagle." After 20 years of helping with the festival, Hemenway still appreciates the thrill.

"People are so excited," she said. "I grew up in the city so I know what they're talking about. There is nothing like it. There is absolutely nothing like the fresh air and seeing the animals."

For more information on events or to donate, call the Interpretive Center at 360.853.7626 or go to www.skagiteagle.org.

For more information on events or about the Skagit Eagle Festival, go to www.skagiteaglefestival.com.

Tahlia Honea can be reached at tahlia.ann@gmail.com or 360.333.5815.

Academics



Concrete Elementary students were honored Dec. 18 at a "Character Assembly" that celebrated the ways they demonstrated kindness. Front row, from left, Hannah Hook, Leda Decoteau, Savannah Evans, Vija Vezis, Camille Crawley, Lila Farnworth, Addison Dilorenzo. Back row, from left, Charlie Bartel, DJ Young, Hunter O'Neil, Mariah Kelley, Hunter Throssel.



Concrete Elementary School students sing Christmas songs during the Holiday Program presented at the school on Dec. 15. The performance—which included appearances from all grade levels and a hilarious closer by school teachers and staff—was the first of its kind in 10 years. Teachers were the driving force behind its return.



Concrete Elementary School students gathered for a Dec. 17 Recognition Breakfast in honor of their special academic efforts. Front row, from left, Caleb Moore, most improved in self-managing; Alexa Dalton, excellence in reading; Adalynn Whitaker, for being a role model in class and great behavior; Savannah Middlemist, for accuracy and high achievement; Logan Alberts, for being a good role model for all students; Loren Vaughn, for beginning and completing work without being prompted. Back row, from left, Ashton Martin, for outstanding performance in math and ELA, for striving for excellence, and for displaying a need to be correct; Briar Cain, for willingness to help everyone and being kind-hearted; Kiaunna Gardner, who is always willing to help others; Caleb Lewis, for being a PAX leader every day; Logan Watts, for excellent homework effort.



Members of the 7th and 8th grade Strings Ensemble perform during the Concrete School Dist. Music Dept. Holiday Concert on Dec. 10. Under the direction of Peter Ormsby, the concert presented performances from every musical group within the department: 6th grade Strings, High School Band, High School Jazz Band, 6th grade Band, 7th and 8th Grade Intermediate Band, and 7th and 8th grade Book 2 Band. The musicians performed a mix of traditional Christmas favorites, modern pop, jazz, and international music.

MLK Day of Service: Volunteering at Concrete Elementary

AmeriCorps VISTA members Katie Bunge and Mitchell Metcalf are working in collaboration with Concrete School District to host a Day of Service at Concrete Elementary School.

On Mon., Jan. 18, East County residents and others are invited to participate in a school clean-up event focusing on the Concrete Elementary campus and surrounding trails. Local residents, students, and staff are encouraged to participate in this Day of Service as part of a broader effort to promote volunteerism and civic duty.

Bring garden gloves and a garbage bag to Concrete Elementary on Martin Luther King Jr. Day to participate. Volunteers will help pick up trash, pull weeds, and

remove invasive species to help their community. The event will run from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., with a free meal served to all volunteers at 1 p.m. Meals are being provided by Concrete Farm to School, a community-minded program bringing fresh and local farm food into the school cafeteria.

Each year Americans across the country come together on the King Holiday to serve their neighbors and communities. The MLK Day of Service is a part of United We Serve, President Obama's national call to service initiative. It calls for Americans from all walks of life to work together to provide solutions to our most pressing national problems.

For more information about the event, contact Mitchell Metcalf at mitchell.metcalf@unitedgeneral.org or 360.854.7175.

For more information about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. National Day of Service, go to www.mlkday.gov.

Town seeks applicants for AWC scholarship

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

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

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

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

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

—Andrea Fichter

S-W STEM Network awarded \$30K grant

Sedro-Woolley School District will receive a \$30,000 grant from Washington STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) to create a plan to establish the Sedro-Woolley STEM Network. The planned network will work with Washington STEM to grow systems in which educators, employers,

and community leaders work together to match education to STEM career opportunities in Sedro-Woolley. This is the first STEM Network in Skagit County and the only STEM Network north of Snohomish County.

"The STEM Network will help prepare future generations for economic success, and will create greater connections between our students and local industry," said Sedro-Woolley School District Superintendent Phil Brockman.



Concrete Middle and High Schools named their students of the quarter for the first quarter of the 2015–16 school year. Front row: Andrea Rogers, 7th grade; Colin Martin, 7th grade; Charles Parent, freshman. Back row: Becky Azure, sophomore; Jasmine Hopfield, senior; Mary Mauck senior.



Vicki Sheahan, Hannah Kononen, and Dawson Bass lend their talents to the Concrete High School Band float during the Sedro-Woolley Christmas parade on Dec. 5. The band captured first place in its category and brought home \$300 for the school's music program.

The initial focus of the STEM Network will be the Sedro-Woolley School District. The Network will partner the district with businesses, government, Community Based Organizations, and Skagit Valley College. The intent is to create a scalable program that other Skagit County School Districts can adopt or replicate.

The STEM announcement coincides with the redevelopment of the Northern State campus as a Center for Innovation and Technology. The center's first tenant is expected to be Janicki Bioenergy. It is anticipated that more than 1,000 STEM jobs could be located at the center within the next five years.



Clear Lake



HISTORY CORNER

This is a photo of Charles Hyatt, who was born in 1906 and moved to Clear Lake in 1914. This picture was taken in 1916. He lived in Clear Lake until 1933, but for years he used the Clear Lake Post Office and bought his meat at the Clear Lake Market. He is the author of the 1998 book *Memories of Clear Lake*, which is available from Clear Lake Historical Association for \$10.

An excerpt from the book:
"Mr. Hyatt was asked, 'How many times did the dentist come to town? Once a week?' 'Nope,' he replied. 'Once a month?' 'Nope.' 'Well then, how often?' 'Once,' he replied. 'Once?' 'Yep,' says Hyatt. 'That was Painless

Parker. He came in and set up a chair in the back of his truck. The whole town turned out to watch. Pretty soon a logger who needed his tooth pulled got into the chair and ol' Parker gave him his "painless dentistry" spiel. Then he got to work, and before too long we knew the logger didn't like it even a little bit. He jumped out of that chair and took off running for all he was worth. I don't ever remember ol' Parker ever coming back to town again."

If you would like a copy of *Memories of Clear Lake*, contact Deanna Ammons at 360.856.6798. *Photo courtesy of Clear Lake Historical Association.*

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

—Deanna Ammons, historian



Sisters Jill Tyler from Alaska and Ann Jeffries from Clear Lake serenaded shoppers during the Clear Lake Craft Fair on Dec. 5. The pair strolled from room to room at Clear Lake Elementary School, singing Christmas carols.



Val Berg shows off a handmade pepper grinder available at her Rustic Rooster booth at the Clear Lake Craft Fair Dec. 5. Based in Lyman, Rustic Rooster carries an eclectic variety of handcrafted goods, mostly created by Upper Valley artisans.



Community Calendar



JANUARY

Skagit Bald Eagle Festival, every weekend in January, various locations in Concrete, Rockport, Marblemount; see ad, p. 5, and article, p. 6

"Deep Forest Experience" guided weekend hikes on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. through Feb. 14; Rockport State Park; see notice, p. 23

- 6, 20 Concrete Lions Club meets at Annie's Pizza Station, 6:30 p.m.; see column, p. 32
- 7 Barnaby Slough Town Hall, Marblemount Community Hall, 6:30 p.m.; see articles, pp. 23 and 26; info at 360.873.2323 or <http://skagitupriverneighbors.com>
- 9 Community Movie Night, Day Creek Chapel, 6:30 p.m.; see notice, p. 19; info at 360.826.3522
- 9 Darrington Community Dance, Mansford Grange, potluck at 5:30 p.m., dancing from 7 to 9:30 p.m.; admission by \$7 suggested donation; info at 206.402.8646
- 9-10 Eagle Festival events in Marblemount at Marblemount Community Hall, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; free admission, donations welcome; see article, p. 26; info at www.marblemountcommunityhall.org/events, <http://concrete-wa.com/events>, and 360.873.2323
- 10 "Useful Local Plants" presentation and plant walk with Terri Wilde, Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center, Rockport, 1 p.m.
- 15 Upper Skagit Library Card Art Contest begins; submissions accepted through Feb. 29; contest guidelines at www.upper-skagit.lib.wa.us; see column, p. 32; info at 360.853.7939
- 16 "How Salmon and Eagles Feed the Old Growth Forest," Upper Skagit Library, Concrete; 4 to 5 p.m.; see column, p. 32; info at 360.853.7939
- 18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 18 MLK Day of Service at Concrete Elementary School, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; meal provided; see article, p. 13; info at 360.854.7175 or mitchell.metcalfe@unitedgeneral.org
- 20 Concrete Heritage Museum meets at museum, 7 p.m.; see column, p. 32
- 21 Darrington Seniors Monthly Lunch, Darrington Community Center, 570 Sauk Ave., Darrington; noon; \$5 admission; potluck submissions OK; open to all seniors in Snohomish and Skagit counties; please provide your own transportation
- 26 Concrete Food Bank operations change to the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, from noon to 3 p.m. (might be open on the third Tuesday during winter months); info at 360.853.8505

FEBRUARY

- 1-6 KSVU Annual Membership Drive; see article, p. 7; info at 360.853.8588
- 6 10th Annual Mardi Gras Parade, Concrete, 3 p.m.; info at 360.853.8784 or www.concrete-wa.com
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 15 Presidents' Day

MARCH

- 5 "Frozen"-themed benefit gala, Upper Skagit Library, Concrete, 1 to 3 p.m.; tickets are \$20; tickets and info at www.frozeninconcrete.brownpapertickets.com

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

Community meetings

Cedar Grove and Skagit Upriver C.E.R.T. Group meets the first Mon. of each month at 6:30 p.m., Concrete Center in Concrete. 360.853.7420 or emergencyresponsecomm@cedargrove-concrete.org.

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

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

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

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

Concrete Chamber of Commerce meets the second Thur. of each month at 8 a.m. Meetings usually are held at Concrete Center in Concrete. 360.466.8754 or concretechamber@mac.com.

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 District Board will hold its next work session on Jan. 25, at 6 p.m. in the high school Commons. The board will hold its next regular monthly meeting on Jan. 28, 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 Strong meets the third Wed. of each month, 7 p.m., at Cascade Senior Center, 1115 Darrington St., Darrington. 360.436.2167.

Darrington Town Council meets the second Wed. of each month at Town Hall, 1005 Cascade St., at 7 p.m. 360.436.1131 or darrcityhall@frontier.com.

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, 11 a.m., open to public. Call 360.416.7001 to confirm appointment.

Lyman Town Council meets the second Tue. of each month at Lyman Town Hall (Minkler Mansion), 8405 S. Main St., Lyman, at 7 p.m. 360.826.3033 or clerk_lyman@msn.com.

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

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

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

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

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

Sedro-Woolley School District Board will meet for a work session on Jan. 11 at 5:30 p.m. at the Support Services Bldg., followed by a regular meeting at 7 p.m. The board also will meet for a regular meeting on Jan. 25 at 7 p.m. at Cascade Middle School. 360.855.3500 or kcargile@swsd.k12.wa.us.

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

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

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



Sedro-Woolley



Mayor Anderson retires after 24 years of service

Mike Anderson is putting away the gavel. After about 16 years as Sedro-Woolley City Councilman and nine years as the city's mayor, he closed out his mayoral term at the end of 2015 and set his sights on retirement.

Anderson, 65, said he looks back on his quarter-century as a public servant with fond eyes. "It's been interesting. It's been fun," he said.

He's proud of his and the city's accomplishments during the past 25 years. "We got a lot of infrastructure built," he said, specifically referencing the roundabouts on SR 20 that have allowed traffic to flow more smoothly.

He's also pleased with a "two-meeting rule" that he initiated, which slows down most council decisions in an effort to make sure the best course of action is chosen. "We'll discuss a topic without taking action, then take action at the next meeting. That gives everyone time to talk to their barber, their spouse—they might come back with a different perspective.

We do that with virtually every topic, except in emergency situations."

Anderson also was honored to receive a Key Award from Washington Coalition for Open Government in 2013, for protesting a Skagit Council of Governments meeting that had not been properly announced to the media and the general public.

What's next?

Travel is on the agenda for the retired mayor and his wife. The couple own a self-storage facility in town and plan to add to it, but the open road calls, and Anderson said they'll be gone for two- to three-week stints. He also plans to spend time with the Fraternal Order of Eagles, and enjoy steak dinners and beer at The Bullpen.

Anderson is succeeded by former City Councilman Keith Wagoner, for whom he had words of advice.

"Be totally open, so everybody knows what's going on. Don't keep secrets or appear to keep secrets. That way there's no surprises and nobody feels left out."



Former Sedro-Woolley Mayor Mike Anderson paused for a one of his last photos as mayor in mid-December. Anderson served the city as a councilman for about 16 years and as mayor for nine years. He retired at the end of his term and has been succeeded by Keith Wagoner, who defeated opponent Kevin Loy for the seat.



Martin Family was this year's Grand Marshals

The Frank & Bev Martin Family were selected as this year's Christmas Parade Grand Marshals. Family patriarch Frank Martin was the honored guest. A long-time resident of Sedro-Woolley, Frank lost his wife, Bev, last year. Beverly Ann Martin, 82, passed away on June 17, 2015, at PeaceHealth United General Medical Center.

Frank was born in Kelso, Wash., in 1934, and will turn 82 this month. He grew up in Concrete and was an employee of Puget Sound Power and Light Company, working with his dad on the Upper Baker Dam while still in school. Frank served in the United States Army after being drafted in 1952. He was deployed to Germany and when he returned from his two years of service, he went back to working for the power company as a meter reader in Kelso.

He met Bev while working there. They were married on Aug. 16, 1959, in Seattle, and they would have celebrated 56 years together. Bev and Frank lived in Clearview and Puyallup until coming to Sedro-Woolley in 1966.

Frank and Bev immediately became involved with the community, starting with the Jaycees and Skagina Junior

Women's Club, which was involved in the log float and the queen contest. Frank was responsible for building the Beta Burger Stand that is still in use today. They volunteered for the Skagit Community Accountability Board for 25 years and for more than 50 years were very involved with Loggerodeo.

Bev and Frank helped organize the Senior Crime Watch Program with the Sedro-Woolley Police Department and helped cook on Fridays for Meals on Wheels.

—Pola Kelley

Christmas Parade winners announced

With more than 20 vehicle entries and about 20 other entries, the Sedro-Whoolleyville Christmas Parade was a challenging event to judge. In the end, a panel of local celebrities decided on the following:

- Best-Lit Entry**
- 1st: Sedro-Woolley Fire Department
 - 2nd: Janicki Industries with Candyland Lane
 - 3rd: Jungle Playland
- Best Band**
- 1st: Concrete High School Band
 - 2nd: Sedro-Woolley High School
 - 3rd: Cascade Middle School Beginning Band
- Musical Entries**
- 1st: Sedro-Woolley High School Blue Horizon Jazz Choir
 - 2nd: Girl Scout Service Unit
 - 3rd: North Cascade Christian Fellowship



Above: Children ride the popular K.I.D.&S. train as it trundled along Metcalf St. in Sedro-Woolley during the Sedro-Whoolleyville Christmas activities on Dec. 5.

Left: Evelyn Collins, 3, from Sedro-Woolley, enjoys a pony ride during her hometown's Christmas festivities Dec. 5.

Port Commission approves 60-year lease for Northern State Campus

The Port of Skagit and the state Department of Enterprise Services announced on Dec. 8 they had entered into the first phase of several anticipated phases for transition of the 225-acre North Cascades Gateway Center campus to local control.

Beginning this month, the state will enter into a 60-year lease with the Port of Skagit to redevelop the site. The 2015 Washington Legislature granted Enterprise Services authority to pursue leases for the property for up to 60 years.

State Sen. Kirk Pearson, whose 39th district includes most of Skagit and Snohomish counties, as well as the northeast corner of King County, was instrumental in passing the measure allowing the long-term lease for the property.

Sen. Pearson said: "It is amazing to realize the former Northern State Hospital

campus has the potential to become a major local employer, just as it was more than a century ago."

The center, formerly the Northern State Hospital campus, is a state-owned property located in the City of Sedro-Woolley. Since the hospital closed in 1973, the site remained underutilized.

The partnership completes a significant step forward in an ongoing effort to turn the historic campus into a local and regional economic engine. The initial lease was approved during a regular meeting of the Port Commission on Dec. 8.

—Submitted by Port of Skagit

Nick VanJaarsveld
Financial Advisor

913 Metcalf Street
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Lyman



Day Creek



Charity announces events and fundraisers

Lyman-based Heart to Heart Charity will continue its outreach efforts by kicking off 2016 with three events.

“Tie One On”

The charity will hold a “Tie One On” event from Jan. 11 to Feb. 1. The idea is simply to give warmth where it is needed. Pick up a scarf or two at Lyman Town Hall, 8405 S. Main St., during regular business office hours, then Tie One On around our communities. They can be tied to trees, fences, and more, as long as they are left with permission of the property owner and fastened securely. Leave them where you know people congregate or

visit, such as parks, bus stops, etc.

Warm donations needed

In a separate drive, the charity is seeking donations of scarves, gloves, and hats. These can be new or used, but if used they must be washed and in great condition to put out. The items will be donated to those in need this winter. The charity’s KIDS Club will participate in this event as a Give Back project.

The charity also is seeking donations of yarn or fleece fabric and volunteers to make scarves. To help, contact Tammie at hearttoheartcharity@gmail.com.

Donations can be left at Lyman Town

Hall in the red donation bin only. Please do not leave these donations in the “Tie One On” bin.

“Sexy for a Cause”

Enamored Serenity Photography is hosting a fundraiser, “Sexy for a Cause,” for Heart to Heart Charity: Tasteful, sexy photos for Valentine’s Day, with proceeds going to Heart to Heart Charity.

All photos are private and include four lightly retouched photos on disc for \$75. Sessions will be scheduled Jan. 15–17 and photo shoots will take place at 3 Rivers Inn in Sedro-Woolley.

Contact Alisha at 360.610.9975 to make an appointment. Samples can be seen at www.facebook.com/enamoredserenityphotography.

—J. K. M.

Need a great gift idea?

Pick up the Concrete Heritage Museum Cookbook!

Find it Albert’s Red Apple Market or www.concreteheritagemuseum.org

Community notes

Community Movie Night

A Movie Night is planned for the Day Creek community on Sat., Jan. 9, at 6:30 p.m. at Day Creek Chapel. For movie choices and information, call Kristine at 360.826.3522.

Community Block Watch planned

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

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

WOMEN HAND in hand

WOMEN HAND in hand will welcome Isik Ablu in April. Born in Turkey, Ablu was raised in a devout Muslim home. Her childhood was filled with emotional

and physical abuse, which only escalated when she married. In 1996, Ablu fled to America after her violent husband nearly killed her. After this move, tragedies seemed to follow and she was in a state of suicidal despair and depression.

On the day Ablu planned to take her life, she had a personal encounter with God and surrendered her life to Jesus. She received supernatural healing and the redemption of Jesus Christ. Since that time, God has opened so many doors that now viewers from all over the U.S., Europe, Turkey, and throughout Muslim nations receive the message of God’s hope, love, and freedom through Ablu’s live and pre-recorded broadcasts. More information about Ablu and her ministry is at www.isikabla.com.

The event will be held April 21 at Darrington High School and April 22 and 23 at Sedro-Woolley High School. For ticket information, go to www.womenhandinhand.com

womenhandinhand.com or follow Eventbrite to purchase tickets. For more information, call 360.853.3066.

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

Kingdom Builders

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

Donna Pulver and Kathy Henderson, co-directors of Kingdom Builders, are reaching out to those in the Day Creek community who need help with trips to the doctor, hospital visits, store runs, and more. If you would like to become available to be a community helper, call 360.826.3003, 360.826.3581, or 360.826.3822.

Day Creek Book Club

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

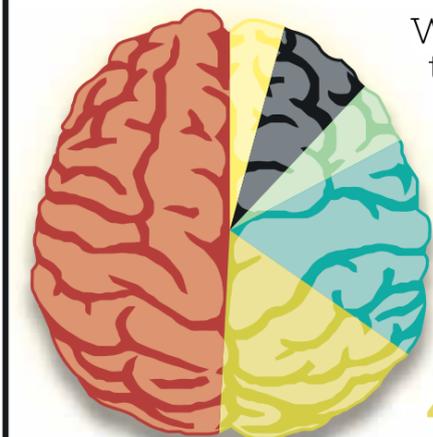
News and tips should be sent via e-mail to winningcircularchapel@gmail.com.
—Compiled by Kathy Henderson

2016 Community Potluck dates

- January 11, 6:30 p.m.
- February 8, 6:30 p.m.
- March 14, 6:30 p.m.
- April 11, 6:30 p.m.
- May 9, 6:30 p.m.
- June 13, 6:30 p.m.
- July 11, 6:30 p.m.
- August 8, 6:30 p.m.
- September 12, 6:30 p.m.
- October 10, 6:30 p.m.
- November 14, 6:30 p.m.
- December 15, 6:30 p.m.

Think People Get Their News from the Internet?

THINK AGAIN



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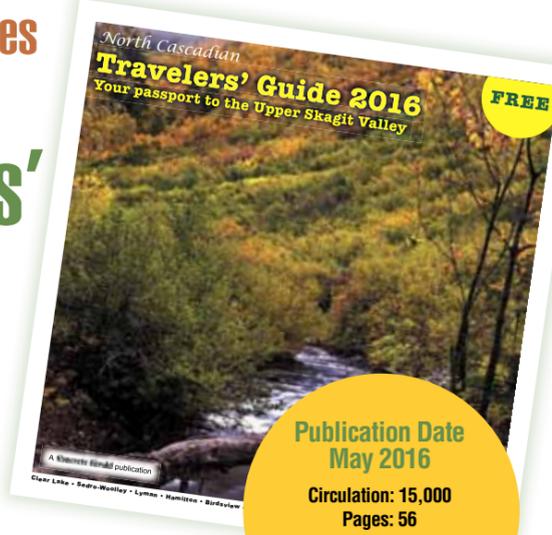
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*Source: 2011 National Newspaper Association Survey

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Pages: 56

Deadline for ads and payment:
April 18, 2016

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A Concrete Herald Publication

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

Call 360.853.8213

Snow-blower safety tips

With winter snows arriving, homeowners and business owners will again rely on their snow blowers to clear driveways and walks. Outdoor Power Equipment Institute offers the following tips for their safe and correct use:

- Prepare before it snows. Review your owner’s manual and check your

equipment. Check your owner’s manual for safe handling procedures. If you forgot to drain the fuel last winter before storing your snow blower, drain the tank now. Adjust any cables. Check the auger. Know how to operate the controls.

- Prepare your fuel and handle it properly. Be sure to use the correct fuel as recommended by your equipment’s manufacturer.
- Clear debris from the area you intend to clear with your equipment. Snow can sometimes hide objects that if run

over by a snow blower, may harm the machine or people.

- Dress appropriately. Wear safety glasses and footwear that can handle slippery surfaces.
- Operate your equipment safely. Never put your hands inside the auger or chute. Use a clean-out tool (or stick) to unclog snow or debris from your snow blower. Turn OFF your snow blower if you need to clear a clog.
- More safety tips and information are available at www.opei.org.

—Outdoor Power Equipment Institute

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December in pictures



Above: The first of two juvenile bald eagles takes flight after being released at Rasar State Park on Dec. 15. The eagles had been under the rehabilitative care of Wolf Hollow Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in Friday Harbor since July of last year, after suffering physical damage. The first eagle was discovered at North Beach on Orcas Island, weak and not moving well. The second eagle was from Bellingham and had suffered a strain to its left leg. The eagles spent five months at Wolf Hollow, recovering, eating, and learning to fly strongly. Wolf Hollow chooses the Upper Skagit for its eagle releases because the salmon runs provide a ready food supply.

Right: Concrete author Terri Peake reads from her memoir, 6200 Carbon Canyon Road: My life as a Penthouse Pet, at Naked Clothing in Sedro-Woolley Dec. 5. Peake's past includes an unsolved murder and health issues caused by breast implants.



Above: December was a good month for Elizabeth Aldridge, 4, who won the drawing for a giant stocking more than twice her height, stuffed with toys and goodies, courtesy of Cascade Supply in Concrete. *Submitted photo.*



Above: Santa Eric Archuletta was a hit with almost every kid at the Imagine Concrete Foundation (ICF) Community Bazaar and Children's Craft Fair, held in partnership with the Concrete Elementary School PTO on Dec. 12. Archuletta is vice president of the ICF board.



Above: Sisters Kaitlynn Michaud (seated) and Alia Marie Campbell shared their Christmas wishes with Santa Kevik Rensink after the Christmas parade in Concrete on Dec. 12. Organizers Adrienne Smith and Gladys Silrus set up Santa's workshop in the American Legion building this year. **Left: Star Wars fever descended on Concrete Theatre** last month and, as usual, theater co-owner Val Stafford played along with fans on opening night Dec. 18, dressing up as Princess Leia. The diminutive stormtrooper next to her—that's right, the one wearing cowboy boots—is Tick Sweet, 6. *Submitted photo.*



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Joshua Hawkins, MD
Surgeon
Michal Whiton, MD
Radiation Oncologist
Mehرداد Jafari, MD
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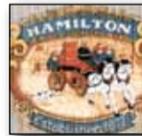
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Hamilton



Rockport



From the Mayor



Welcome to 2016! The predictions from the beginning of winter were that the weather streams should start shifting to the south around now, keeping the threat of more flooding lower, but not completely gone. Let's hope that prediction comes true; I've seen enough water flowing backward through the slough for a while! During the last high water, the predicted crest at Concrete of 37 feet easily would have overflowed our barriers and put 4 feet of water in the town in the middle of the night.

Thankfully that prediction was wrong, but we had no way of knowing that at the time. I appreciate the measures people in our community took to protect themselves, their neighbors, and their belongings. The Hamilton Volunteer Fire Dept. rocked another Christmas party. Santa and his elves hosted about 20 kids and their families for pictures, snacks, crafts, and presents. A HUGE thanks to Hamilton Store & Café, Birch Equipment, Camping World, and all the people who support this event. They are already looking forward to the Easter egg hunt. If you get bored during the long wet winter, please come get a book to read from the library!

—Mayor Joan Cromley



Hamilton Town Hall decorating crew members Zach, Tyler, Jenna, and Malaya hung out with Santa, who bears a strong resemblance to Scott Bates, at the annual Hamilton Fire Dept. Christmas Party on Dec. 20. Photo by Joan Cromley.

Council summary

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

- The regular meeting was preceded by a public hearing for the 2016 Budget Review. Mayor Joan Cromley discussed the budget. Councilmember Morrison asked about the property tax funds.
- Public comments: Fire Chief Bates asked who won the election. Mayor

- Cromley stated there were still some ballots that were not accounted for at this time and handed him a printout of the election results as of Nov. 10.
- Council voted to table the Critical Areas Ordinance until the December meeting.
- A Sheriff's deputy attended the meeting to talk about community awareness and registered sex offenders.
- Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution 07–2015 with a 1 percent property tax increase and increasing the requested revenue.
- Water Dept.: Cas Hancock was unable to attend the meeting. This month the town was at 4 percent unaccounted-for water loss.
- Fire Dept.: Councilmember Scott Bates announced the department would discuss the Christmas party at its next meeting. Fire Chief Nick Bates reminded people about the bad weather conditions.

—Compiled from staff minutes

Heart to Heart Charity's KIDS Club will meet on Wed., Jan. 13 and 27, at the Hamilton Town Hall from 4 to 5 p.m. Kids may ride the school bus to the meeting with a signed note from their parents. The meeting includes snacks and an activity. This is a free event for children 3 years and older (younger with a parent/guardian present), and all are welcome. For more information, contact Tammie at hearttoheartcharity@gmail.com.

“Deep Forest Experience” returns to Rockport State Park this winter

Guided weekend hikes offered through mid-February.

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission invites the public to experience the natural world of Rockport State Park this winter through guided hikes and activities. The “Deep Forest Experience” programs take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays through Feb. 14 at Rockport State Park in Rockport, off the North Cascades Highway 20. Hikes depart from the Discovery Center at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., noon, and 1 p.m. each day.

Rockport State Park staff and volunteers provide 30- to 45-minute guided hikes through lush forests of ancient fir, cedar, hemlock, and maple trees, some towering 250 feet tall and more than 300 years old. At the family-friendly Discovery Center, participants can enjoy refreshments while warming up by the woodstove, explore interactive displays, watch nature videos, read a book, make crafts, and create a puppet show. Staff can give visitors ideas for places to view bald eagles in the area. The park features an ADA-accessible trail. Dress for cold, wet weather with footwear suitable for wet trails. For more information, contact Laura Busby at 360.853.8461 or rockport@parks.wa.gov. A \$10 day-use pass or \$30 annual Discover Pass is required for parking at Rockport State Park and can be purchased at the office or Discovery Center. For more information about and directions to Rockport State Park, go to www.parks.wa.gov/574/rockport.

Barnaby Slough Town Hall gathering planned

A Town Hall-style meeting is planned this month to further discuss the Barnaby Slough proposal. The gathering is scheduled for Thur., Jan. 7, at 6:30 p.m. at Marblemount Community Hall, 60155 State Route 20, Marblemount. The meeting will continue the conversation surrounding a proposal from a consortium of environmental nongovernmental organizations, tribes, and government agencies to reroute the Skagit River through Barnaby Slough near Rockport. Proponents of the project say it will enhance salmon habitat and return. Detractors who live on land adjoining the project area say the idea is flawed because it increases the possibility of flooding and brings with it other unintended consequences of diverting a major river. Participants will welcome special guest and featured speaker Representative Elizabeth Scott, R-Monroe. The discussion will be moderated by Beth Easterday and include a panel composed of members of the Barnaby Reach Project Advisory Group. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, call 360.873.2323 or go to <http://skagitupriverneighbors.com>.

—J. K. M.

Concrete Herald

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For more information, call Upper Skagit Library at **360.853.7939**.



Darrington



Council summary

Darrington Town Council met for its regular meeting on Nov. 18. The following is a summary of that meeting. Complete and council-approved minutes for every council meeting are available at Darrington Town Hall.

Poverty talk reveals tools and strategies to help

Story and photo by Marla Skaglund

On Dec. 16, teachers and staff at Darrington Elementary School attended a program on “Communication Across Barriers,” dedicated to broadening and improving opportunities for people who live in the war zone of poverty. The event was held at the Community Center and hosted by North Counties Family Services.

Speaker Lynda Coates began the two-hour presentation telling her own story of a childhood of uncertainty, living in public parks, sleeping in cars and campers with her mother, father, and five siblings. Her mom washed their clothes in gas station bathrooms, where they also washed up for school, when they attended, which was rare. It was through encouragement and guidance from her cousin, Dr. Donna Beegle, author of *See Poverty, Be the Difference* and president of Communication Across Barriers, that Coates was able to leave poverty behind. Beegle, herself a child of poverty, applied hard work and dedication to complete her doctorate degree in Educational Leadership. Coates said that until she was in her 20s, she had never slept in her own bed or a bed at all. After receiving her GED, Coates went on to earn her BA and MA in Communications while expanding her social network,

studying abroad, and learning how to fit into the middle-class world.

Poverty and its effects

Accompanied by an informative slide show, Coates explained the types of poverty, including generational, working-class, immigrant, and situational, with an emphasis on how each of these experiences affects expectations, knowledge, confidence, and opportunities for gaining an education. She spoke of her own experiences and how they affected her perspective on the world around her. Families living in poverty receive messages from society that they don’t belong and there is something wrong with them.

Most Americans have been taught to have a particular assessment of their neighbors living in poverty, which is taught to them by the No. 1 culprit, media. Often only the extreme, sensationalized, and dramatic stories are shown, never the solutions. Neighborhood residents often are unaware of the poverty around them. Coates encouraged everyone to gain a deeper understanding of poverty, decide that failure is not an option, and to collaborate and strengthen partnerships.

The information shared during the program included five research-based



Coates

World view and experiences are different for everyone.

Coates explained two communication and learning styles: oral culture and print culture. In the oral culture, people communicate verbally, often sharing stories repeatedly. They are highly attuned to the senses, paying attention to sensory information and relationships.

The print culture uses reading to obtain information, which helps the brain to analyze and classify information and develop advanced reasoning skills. Institutions are set up in the print culture, which makes life difficult for those in poverty, which most often is an oral culture. It’s important to apply both the oral and print culture styles in order to effectively serve those in poverty.

Oral culture has unique attributes in its ability to share information for a long period. These abilities are shown through forming relationships, a strong desire for variety, and being in the here and now. Print culture has a high priority in daily activities, analytics, abstraction, and the ability to plan ahead, set goals, and focus on the future.

Coates’ ability to use her own life experiences and her gift of communication left all those who attended with many new tools and strategies in providing services to those living in poverty and to assist those in need.

Coates has worked with Beegle as curriculum developer, researcher, and writer for more than 10 years. She has also worked with the GEAR UP program, helping students in poverty to achieve a college education. She has more than seven years of experience speaking and training professionals in education, healthcare, and social work, and working with programs that support first-generation high school and college students.

More information is available at www.combarriers.com.

theories on helping people move out of poverty:

- The Strengths Perspective Approach maintains that every person has strengths and skills that might not have been realized. It is important to acknowledge those contributions.
- The Resiliency Theory is the ability to cope and function in the wake of stress and adversity.
- According to the Asset Theory, an individual possesses internal and external assets. These assets should be built upon as individuals learn how to navigate in the middle-class world.
- The Social Capital Theory speaks to the fact that no one can do everything by themselves. It’s important for people in poverty to partner with others who have successfully navigated the educational system. When they obtain the tools, resources, and knowledge they need, they feel as if they belong.
- The Faulty Attribution Theory dealt with the attribute motives to someone’s behavior. Never judge another’s ability to access the services available without realizing the circumstances behind the actions.



Cast and crew for “The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon” posed for a group photo in celebration of the production’s three-day run at Darrington High School. Produced by the Darrington Middle/High School Drama Club, the show ran from Nov. 12–14. Guided by two narrators, “Spectaculathon” moves rapidly among many of the Brothers Grimm fairy tales, giving each one a satirical teen twist. The production was directed by Alan Pickard and Amanda Cochran. Photo by Shelli DeVall.

Snohomish County Sheriff’s Report

Nov. 30
The Snohomish County Council approved a motion today for an agreement between the county and the City of Seattle for jail services. The agreement allows the Snohomish County jail to accept post-conviction misdemeanants from Seattle (who meet booking restrictions and standards) for housing. The agreement includes language that the Snohomish County Sheriff’s Office, which runs jail operations, will take steps to lessen the likelihood that contract inmates will end up homeless in Snohomish County.

Dec. 8
The Snohomish County Medical Examiner’s Office announced it had identified the human skull found in late November as Sandy L. Rideout of Ferndale. The cause and manner of her death are pending further investigation.

Rideout was reported as a missing person by the Whatcom County Sheriff’s Office in 2006. She was last seen in Bellingham, but it is believed frequented the Seattle area around that time. Major crimes detectives with the Snohomish County Sheriff’s Office continue to investigate with assistance from the Whatcom County Sheriff’s Office and Seattle Police Department’s Missing Persons Unit.

Rideout’s remains were discovered by a logger on Nov. 25 while marking trees on privately owned timberland about five miles west of SR 2 between Gold Bar and Index. No other human remains or evidence was found at the site.

Anyone with information about Rideout’s whereabouts since April 24, 2006, or who has any information about her death is asked to call the Sheriff’s Office Anonymous Tipline at 425.388.3845.



Rideout

Dec. 18
Detectives with the North Snohomish County Property Crimes Unit are hoping to reunite a large cache of recovered stolen property with its rightful owners. The Snohomish County Sheriff’s Office has posted the recovered items, which include a laptop, jewelry, cattle horns, and car keys, on the agency’s Instagram account.

The property was recovered after detectives served a warrant on 40-year-old Jesse Averhart at a Marysville hotel on Dec. 16. Averhart had an outstanding Department of Corrections warrant and is a suspect in an identity theft case. When detectives entered the hotel room to take Averhart into custody, they found the room full of miscellaneous stolen property, as well as evidence of financial fraud, including identity theft and forgery.

To claim property, contact Det. DeWitt at glenn.dewitt@snoco.org. Proof of ownership will be required to reclaim the property.

—Compiled from Snohomish County Sheriff’s Office reports

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Marblemount



Nature Notes

Eagles, salmon, and trees

A story of winter food in the Skagit Valley.

Festival celebrates native cultures

By Christie Fairchild

Celebrating the 30th annual event, the Marblemount Community Hall will once again host activities on the second weekend in January, highlighting the area's Native American cultures and heritage.

Doors open at 10 a.m. and close at 5 p.m. on Sat., Jan. 9 and Sun., Jan. 10. Admission is free, but donations are warmly welcomed.

Artisans will be vending their handmade wares, from Coast Salish cedar carvings to mountain and wildflower photography, from Icelandic sheep fleeces to luscious berry jams, from handmade wooden flutes to clay drums, and more. All offerings are locally crafted.

Popcorn 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:

- 11 a.m. to noon: "Saga of the Sockeye Salmon," an audience-interactive puppet show for all ages, based on an Upper Skagit tribal legend.
- Noon to 1 p.m. (Sat. only): Andrea Weiser, anthropologist and poet.
- Noon to 1 p.m. (Sun. only): Shubert Hunter, Marblemount native and Upper Skagit member.
- 1 to 2 p.m.: History, storytelling, and drumming by Rosie James, Samish

tribal elder.

- 2 to 3 p.m.: "Music from the Heart," Peter Ali, of Berber and Yaqui heritage, and his beautiful native flutes of many cultures worldwide
- 3 to 4 p.m. (Sat. only): Paul Wagoner, Saanich nation, B.C., performing traditional songs and stories of his Coast Salish ancestors.
- 4 to 5 p.m.: J.P. Falcon Grady, acoustic guitarist, Blackfoot nation (rock, blues, country, reggae).

For more information, go to www.marblemountcommunityhall.org/events or <http://concrete-wa.com/events>, or call the hall at 360.873.2323.

The good news is ...

By Laura Busby

By Sasa and Starwalker

Infinite blessings to everyone.

We didn't want to give you the same rhetoric about making goals for the year and trying not to do things you did last year. Instead we wanted to flip the coin to a positive side, our heartside.

Instead of making a lot of goals, which actually takes you out of the moment and into the future, causing stress, find a clean, empty Mason jar and label it as "The Happiness Jar." Every day for a year, write down something that made you happy, then, at the end of the year, open the jar and read all the amazing adventures that you went on. This year:

- Live in the moment
- Start each day with gratitude
- Laugh more
- Create meaningful connections
- Meditate
- Focus on the positive
- Believe it all will fall into place
- Stick to your goals
- Be generous
- Choose happy

—happsters.com

May every day of your new year, every year, be reason to celebrate and be grateful, peaceful, joyful, and full of love. We love each and every one of you.

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

Winter brings new life to the Skagit Valley. As snow geese and swans flood the flats, bald eagles migrate into the area to feast on the chum salmon that return to spawn and die. It's a winter spectacle that draws the interest of the nation, but it's much more than that.

The adult chum (or dog) salmon make their arduous journey up the rivers. They nest and their alevin (babies that have their egg sac) live for a few days in the river. Once the egg sac is gone, the young fry swim to an estuary, the place where the river meets the ocean tide. They grow here for a few months before going into the open ocean. They live there for two or three years before returning to the river to start the cycle over.

The dying and dead salmon become food for many other animals. In years when conditions are right, hundreds of eagles congregate along the river for this bounty. These eagles come from nearby—our year-round or resident eagles that nest here in the summer—and from far away: one eagle traveled 1,700 miles! Many of the migrating eagles come from locations in British Columbia or Alaska where the waterways freeze, making food/fish much harder to obtain. Rich in nutrients from their time at sea, the salmon carcasses help the eagles survive the winter and gain reserves needed for their migration back to their summer nesting grounds.

During the day, eagles feed on salmon and rest in the trees along the river. At night they roost in the 250-foot tall old growth trees of Rockport State Park and other nearby forests. They and other wildlife process the salmon they've eaten, depositing "fish fertilizer" on the forest floor. Wildlife also carry salmon carcasses into the forest. These materials are broken

down by slugs, bugs, worms, fungus, bacteria, and myriad other decomposers. Trees, aided by underground fungus, absorb the released nutrients.

This food source is important because rain washes Upper Valley soil and organic material into Puget Sound, causing a constant stream of nutrient loss. The forest is hungry. It needs these nutrients. Douglas firs, for example, need adequate nitrogen. It's limited here, affecting the ability of fir trees to live and grow. Foresters often supplement commercial forests with nitrogen to increase tree survivability and growth.

Salmon bring lost resources back from the ocean. The bodies of salmon are rich in nitrogen, sulfur, carbon, and phosphorus. They are the return trip on our nutrient conveyor belt. Amazingly, scientists have documented oceanic nitrogen (nitrogen isotope 15—found almost exclusively in the ocean) in Pacific Northwest trees. Forests support fish and fish feed forests.

"Once you sense salmon in the trees, you begin to see the rainforest's chemistry in the salmon, and in the crabs and kelp. You can visualize that the wolves trotting off with fish are helping grow the berries that bears eat. You feel tidal rips, where fish gather to feed, surging in the wing flaps of eagles ... Everything flowing into everything else. This isn't New Age rhapsodizing. It's what the ages have wrought."

—Amy Gulick
Salmon in the Trees

Laura Busby is an Interpretive Specialist for Washington State Parks.



An adult bald eagle takes flight while a juvenile rests along the Skagit River last month. The eagles are found in great numbers along the river in December and January, luring tourists to the area for the Skagit Eagle Festival this month. Photo by Jude Dippold.



Left: Wyatt Throssel, 5, enjoyed his visit with Santa during the Dec. 6 Christmas festivities in Marblemount.



Above: Budding flutists practice during last year's Eagle Festival activities in Marblemount. Photo by Christie Fairchild.

PHOENIX MOBILE NEEDLE EXCHANGE BUS

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Concrete Center, 45821 Railroad St., Concrete, first and third Monday each month, 2-4 p.m.
Citipoint Church North Cascade, 59850 SR 20, Marblemount, first Monday each month, 10 a.m.-noon



Skagit County Public Health and Community Services

Phoenix Recovery Services LLC. • 360-848-8437

Rep. Scott to attend Barnaby Reach Meeting

A staunch defender of private property rights, State Representative Elizabeth Scott, R-Monroe, will attend the January community meeting of Skagit Upriver Neighbors, a group created to investigate the Barnaby Reach proposal.

Held at the Marblemount Community Hall on Jan. 7 at 6:30 p.m., the gathering

will include Rep. Scott, who wishes to learn more from area residents about their impressions of the project, as well as hear the group's Advisory Committee reports. Local mediator Beth Easterday will moderate.

Attendees are asked to come with questions and concerns that Rep. Scott may be able to investigate and share with her colleagues in Olympia. For more information on the proposal, go to www.skagitupriverneighbors.com.

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Seniors



Coffee Break

Day after day

By Patrick M. Kennedy

Throughout the year there are many days that should be remembered, such as New Year's Day, Easter, Memorial Day, and Independence Day. Labor Day ends the summer and all its sunny days and time off.

Autumn brings us Thanksgiving. In winter lies the most celebrated day of the year—Christmas Day—and a week later another New Year's Day.

Spread throughout the year are 365 birthdays, or 366 for those born on Feb. 29 and who age only one year every four years. There are anniversaries, memorial days remembering those who have passed, and of course the most important day for most seniors, the last day at work and the first day of retirement, and all the pleasures it brings. And the days move on.

"Once, during Prohibition, I was forced to live for days on nothing but food and water," said W. C. Fields. We hope Fields wasn't talking about his retirement. In

retirement we like to throw in a few cookies or tacos and an occasional beer.

"What day is it?" is a question many seniors ask each other many times. In a retired lifestyle, one day is like another and when you wake in the morning you look at the clock and not the calendar. The clock dictates breakfast and bathroom duties or the card game with the ladies or dart game with the guys; the calendar just dictates wrinkled old-age pages.

Yesterday's done, tomorrow's the future and to be done, but today is a gift. That's why it's called the present. That's why most seniors stick with the present, because each added minute is like a present; the past is done, and the future is better.

Day after day time moves on, but the memory doesn't. It gets stuck in a habitual track of motion and emotion. "Well, what do I do today?" is another question asked by many seniors.

Those card games mentioned for the ladies can be many kinds and many sorts: bridge, pinochle, hand and foot, and even poker for small or big stakes—and they can be stretched into days. The game of darts for men at the local bar can become a pool game, or games at the other end of the bar, a game of bowling at the place next door, or even a round of golf down the street.

You see, seniors, there are things to do day after day.

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

Way Back When

70 years ago

Jan. 24, 1946: The ill-concealed resentment against the local sect of Jehovah's Witnesses, which had become widespread during the war, broke out into open demonstration here last Friday evening or early Saturday morning, when one or more local residents completely wrecked the front of the building occupied by the sect on Main St., across from the bank building.

Early morning visitors to town found the building with all window glass smashed, the frames broken from the doors, and considerable damage done to benches and other furniture inside the hall.

Owned by Jack Solomon, the building had been rented to the group late last summer. Since that time there have been several incidents of vandalism.

The main objections to the presence of Jehovah's Witnesses in the community, as in others, is because of their refusal to salute the flag of the United States, or to serve in the armed forces other than as conscientious objectors.

60 years ago

Jan. 26, 1956: The alertness of two local boys—Wesley Jonson and Raymond Beazizo—can be credited for saving the St. Catherine's Catholic Church from destruction by fire Tuesday evening. Passing by the church on their paper route, the boys saw a flickering light in the lower part of the building. Peeking through

a crack, they were convinced that it could only be from flames, so they ran next door to tell Mrs. Dave O'Connor. She verified their findings and called the fire department.

The firefighters arrived in time to put out the flames, although by that time the church itself had been filled with black oil smoke. The flames were coming from a disconnected stove pipe on the oil floor furnace, and were licking against the floor joists in the basement.

The oil furnace had sooted up the flue, exploded, and blown the stove pipe apart.

Fire Chief Bob Ross credited the boys' alertness with saving the building as he estimated that another 10 minutes and the entire floor would have been burning. As the building is all wood, it could have been difficult to stop the fire.

50 years ago

Jan. 13, 1966: Skagit County became the owner of eight acres of former Seattle City Light property in Rockport this week, concluding a negotiation for the property for park purposes. The county paid \$2,850 for the riverfront acreage.

In cooperation with the game dept., the site will be developed as a public park and boat-launching area for steelheaders. Some work will be done this year and the balance as funds permit.

Much preparation of the site already has been done by the Rockport Community Club in anticipation of the acquisition of the land.

—Compiled from archives

Concrete Center

January 2016

Activities

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

Mondays

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

Tuesdays

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

Wednesdays

10 a.m. Jigsaw puzzles
10:30 a.m. Advisory Board mtg., 1/13
Noon Lunch
12:30 p.m. Skip Bo
12:30 p.m. Bingo, 1/13, 1/27

Thursdays

10 a.m. Jigsaw puzzles
Noon Lunch
12:30 p.m. Skip Bo
12:30 p.m. Pinochle, 1/7, 1/21

Fridays

10 a.m. Jigsaw puzzles
Noon Lunch
Noon Birthday Celebration 1/29
12:30 p.m. Dominoes, Skip Bo
12:30 p.m. Coffee with Commissioner Janicki, 1/15
1 p.m. Watercolor painting

Closures

1/18

Read
Concrete Herald
The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley

Continue the cycle

Please recycle
this newspaper



Verna's Kitchen

By Verna McClure

Banana bread

- 1 cup Crisco
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 cup white sugar
- 4 eggs
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 4 cups flour
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 6 large ripe bananas, mashed

Mix all ingredients together and pour into three greased and floured bread pans. Bake in a 350-degree oven for about one hour or until a toothpick inserted in the loaf comes out clean. Cool in the pans on racks for about 10 minutes. Remove from the pans to finish cooling. You may need to loosen the bread around the pan sides so the bread does not break apart.



40 years ago: Dean Ledford of Concrete showed off this gorgeous 35-inch, 15.5-lb. steelhead he landed on the Sauk River during the week of Jan. 8, 1976. The steelhead was the largest caught on hook and line to that point in the season, according to a Dept. of Fisheries representative who checked the fish's weight and measurements. Archive photo.

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

Citipoint Church North Cascade
59850 SR 20, Marblemount
360.873.2504
Sunday Gathering: 10:30 a.m.
www.citipointchurch.com
E-mail: mattd@citipointchurch.com

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

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

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

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

Covenant
Community Covenant Church
12605 Highway 9, Clear Lake
360.856.1023 // covenant@wavecable.com
www.clearlakecov.org
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sunday School lesson

Renewing your first love

By Rob Thomas

It's 6:20 a.m. on New Year's Day. While most people were ringing in the new year last night, my wife and I followed our typical routine of a quiet dinner, a nice movie, and a good night's sleep.

Am I anti-social in that I usually don't attend social gatherings on New Year's Eve? No. It's just that New Year's Day is my favorite day of the year and I want to start it as early as possible with as much energy as possible. That's why I quietly slipped out of bed at 5 a.m. today to begin my typical routine.

The challenge for me at this moment is to use my energy and enthusiasm (can you tell that I'm a morning person?) to channel so many thoughts and reflections from this past year with the excitement and anticipation of the New Year. Add to that the simple reality that I have the great privilege of preaching at two churches this Sunday (Mount Baker Presbyterian and Community Bible Church). Two churches and two different messages. But ...

Every New Year I am drawn to a passage in the last book of the Bible. In Revelation 2:1–7, a letter from Christ is shared with the church at Ephesus. In following the same pattern of all seven letters to the seven churches in Revelation 2–3, after commending the church (we are the church—individually

and congregationally) for what they have done right, the church is then called on the carpet for what they have not done right. In this case, Revelation 2:4, "Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love."

During my pastorate in Concrete, I have preached on this passage at least three times with a slightly different message each time. Space does not allow me to share all that I want to at this time. Therefore, let me get to the point. A church (individually and congregationally) that once was passionate for the things of God had become distracted and disinterested. To put it another way, the fire that once burned bright and hot had dimmed and cooled.

The exhortation? Repent and renew your first love. In other words, do the things your first did when your love burned bright and hot. Not very complicated counsel. (By the way, this not only applies to a spiritual relationship with Jesus, but it also applies to almost every relationship in life.)

A pastor years ago, G. Campbell Morgan, once said, "Burning of heart. That, I take it, is the supreme need of the church today. We have principles, but we very largely lack passion. We have more correct comprehension of Him (Jesus) than ever before. Yet, I am afraid that our sense of emotion and fire was never less."

Sobering but very important words for us to hear today.

Let me bring this home to your heart and life. The Greeks of old did not write obituaries when a person died. They

simply asked one question, "Did he (or she) have passion?"

May I ask you the same question? Do you still have passion for the things of God? If not, what better time than this to renew your love for the Savior?

Rob Thomas is pastor at Community Bible Church in Concrete.

Worth repeating

"The Christian life is not slightly better, but completely different."
"We serve God because of, not in order to."
—Clarence Sexton

"Neither when we have chosen our way can we keep company with those who go the other way. There must come with the decision for truth a corresponding protest against error."
—Charles Haddon Spurgeon

"God is not looking for brilliant men, is not depending upon eloquent men, is not shut up to the use of talented men in sending His Gospel out in the world. God is looking for broken men, for men who have judged themselves in the light of the Cross of Christ. When He wants anything done, He takes up men who have come to an end of themselves, and whose trust and confidence is not in themselves but in God."
—H. A. Ironside

Skagit County Sheriff's Office Blotter

Dec. 4
A female caller from Marblemount reported a violation of a no-contact order. Deputies were able to find the man and arrest him on the violation. This is an ongoing issue between these two, and neither side elects to go to court to resolve the issue. Protection orders are just that: They're meant to protect one party from another, not to be used as a tool for enforcement. Judges are very unhappy if this system is abused. Charges may be pending against the female if further information develops.

Dec. 5
A fight occurred on Main St. in Concrete, near the Fire and Life Safety Building. Several young men were involved. Deputies responded and found two men had obviously lost the fight.

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.

McFarlane, Joel Patrick
Age: 51
Race: W
Sex: M
Height: 5' 8"
Weight: 160
Hair: Brown
Eyes: Brown
Address: 594xx SR 20, Rockport



McFarlane was convicted of first-degree child molestation in Skagit County. His victim during an eight-year period was a male age 3 to 11, who was known to him.

McFarlane 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

The deputies contacted several parties and it appears this has been an ongoing dispute over a young lady. For days, social media was being utilized by both sides. Accusations flew and they eventually all agreed to fight. The literal sore losers are now blaming everyone but themselves for failing to take responsibility for their actions. Deputies will continue the investigation and charges are likely pending.

Dec. 8
Deputies recovered a stolen car from the Caskey Lake area near Rockport. The car had been taken unlawfully from a property off of Cascade River Rd. There are two persons of interest at this time. Deputies are looking for 23-year-old James J. Kelly and his girlfriend, 25-year-old Crystal L. Vandyk. They have warrants for their arrest and are considered suspects in several recent break-ins. I don't often call out fugitives by name, but these two have no regard for other people's property. They run from deputies both in vehicles and on foot. I'm afraid they may endanger more lives if not caught soon. If you have any information, contact Sgt. Kading at the Concrete East Detachment, at 360.853.8583.

Dec. 12
A caller from Cape Horn Rd. near Hamilton reported a possible fraud issue. Several folks have reported a caller saying they were from the IRS and were delinquent in taxes. This is an obvious fraud call and has been occurring throughout the county.

A caller from Maple Ave. in Lyman reported a possible domestic issue. A deputy responded and determined it was a verbal altercation. It appeared there were kids there, so even though no arrest was made, this is not good for the kids to witness.

Dec. 14
Three youngsters decided to skip school and unlawfully enter a building near the new Fire and Life Safety Building in Concrete. One youngster told me how they entered the building and it was quite creative, but still unlawful. After conferring with town officials and school staff, the young men will face school sanctions, but criminal charges are possible for this type of activity.

Dec. 15
An argument in Hamilton over a Chihuahua resulted in one woman's finger being bitten. One party was interested in buying the Chihuahua from another party. The two couldn't agree, because the sellers didn't feel the puppy would be well cared for. The buyer ended up taking the

Sergeant's corner

Happy New Year

By Chris Kading



As we welcome 2016, many of us are working on New Year's resolutions. Often, folks will commit to positive changes in their lives. Whether it's saving money, getting a new job, or losing some of those extra holiday pounds, here are a few tips to do it safely.

One of the most common resolutions is to get into better shape. As a rule of thumb, start slow, speak to your doctor prior to embarking on this journey, and stick with it. If you plan to get out and start walking or running, keep the following in mind:

- If it's dark outside, wear light-colored clothing, preferably with reflective material.
- If you can convince someone to be your running or walking partner, it's always better to be out in pairs. Two people can motivate each other, catch up on gossip, talk politics, whatever it takes. Just get out there and stick to it.

- Bring a cell phone. Call 911 if you see anything suspicious or witness any criminal activity. If you do call 911, don't hang up. The 911 center may be able to determine your location based off the GPS on your phone.
- If you're walking and listening to music and wearing a Walkman, realize it's now 2016 and that Walkman may be worth selling online. If you're wearing earbuds or headphones, keep the volume low enough so you can hear important sounds like cars, trains, animals, etc. Don't jam out to your music at a level where you cannot hear the traffic around you. People have been killed while walking train tracks and listening to music.
- As always, follow all pedestrian laws and cross at designated crosswalks. You may not be seen by vehicles and they may not slow down. Drivers are more likely to see you if you run/walk against the flow of traffic.

Happy New Year!

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

Chihuahua puppy out of the seller's car. The seller saw the puppy hidden in the buyer's coat, and a doggone altercation occurred. A deputy mediated the situation, and the puppy was returned.

A caller from Maple Ave. in Lyman reported a possible domestic issue. A deputy responded and determined it was a verbal altercation. It appeared there were kids there, so even though no arrest was made, this is not good for the kids to witness.

Dec. 16
A deputy responded to Concrete High School for a weapons offense issue. School staff discovered a student had three small throwing daggers in their possession. The student didn't make any threats or overt gestures with the

weapons; however, they are weapons. They are specifically banned by law from school property, and the student will be referred for charges. By state law and in light of recent events, deputies have zero tolerance for any weapons on or even near school grounds. There's no good reason to have daggers in school. I encourage the statement "If you see something, say something," even at school.

See Sheriff's Blotter, p. 33

PHOENIX MOBILE NEEDLE EXCHANGE BUS

The bus will offer 1 for 1 needle exchange and safe disposal services

Concrete Center, 45821 Railroad St., Concrete, first and third Monday each month, 2–4 p.m.

Citipoint Church North Cascade, 59850 SR 20, Marblemount, first Monday each month, 10 a.m.–noon

Skagit County Public Health and Community Services
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CONCRETE HERITAGE MUSEUM NEWS

I was surprised that not one person submitted any interesting family Christmas traditions in response to last month's request. In spite of that, I will not bore you with the details of who was wearing what at our annual Christmas party.

Instead, I will ask you to reflect on the nostalgia that most people associate with the Christmas season. Although we have all experienced some that were better than others, the ones we usually reminisce about are ones that are fond memories that bring a smile to our faces. The outpouring of Christmas spirit transcends the original or traditional basis for celebrating the event. That should not deter anyone from embracing the sentiment. During this season, the haves and have-nots exhibit a common and genuine concern for others. If we can put aside our differences during this season to make our most pleasurable and lasting memories, why can't we make a sincere effort to extend this season throughout the year?

If you're not up to that great a challenge, try extending it a week or a month—

anything would be an improvement. This is your opportunity not only to make history, but to make a brighter future. Instead of idly wishing each other a "Happy New Year," let's work together to help make it one! Hopefully at least one person will take this challenge to heart.

Our new **Museum Cookbook** is still available at Albert's Red Apple, 5b's Bakery, and online (www.concreteheritagemuseum.org).

Our **monthly business meeting** will be held on Jan. 20, beginning at 7 p.m. at the museum. At the January meeting, we will determine which projects we wish to accomplish for the upcoming year. The public is always welcome and we will appreciate your input.

For more information about the museum, contact John Lloyd, president, at 484.575.6374, or John Boggs at 360.853.8347. Our Web site is www.concreteheritagemuseum.org.

—John Boggs

November at the Darrington Library

Children and family programs

- Read-A-Loud: *Little Wolf's Book of Badness*, by Ian Whybrow, Mon., Jan. 11 and 25; 3 to 3:30 p.m.
- Family Storytime, Wed., Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27; 11 to 11:45 a.m.
- LEGO Robotics, Wed., Jan. 6; 1 to 2 p.m.
- Bikes for Books Kick Off: Angry Birds Live, Jan. 13; 1 to 2 p.m.

Teen programs

- Teen Movie Night: "Pitch Perfect," Jan. 14; 3 to 5 p.m.
- Teen Movie Night: "Pitch Perfect 2," Jan. 16, 3 to 5 p.m.
- Chocolate Creations, Jan. 16; 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Learn how to transform different types of chocolate into yummy treats and wrap them up in a beautiful bag to take home. Ages 12–18.

Adult programs

- Darrington Friends of the Library meeting, Jan. 6; 5:30 to 7 p.m.
- Darrington Library Board meeting, Jan. 11; 5 to 6 p.m.
- Darrington Writers Group, Jan. 15; 3 to 5 p.m.
- 3C Book Group: Coffee, Cookies, & Classics, Jan. 29, 4 to 5:30 p.m. January's classic: *Things Fall Apart*, by Chinua Achebe.

Closures

- Jan. 18, for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

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

—Ashley Bryson, branch manager

At the Upper Skagit Library

Join us for an interactive presentation that will be fun for the whole family: **"How Salmon and Eagles Feed the Old Growth Forest,"** on Jan. 16 from 4 to 5 p.m. Presenter Laura Busby, Washington State Parks Interpretive Specialist, will demonstrate the connections between forests and the winter salmon run that draws eagles here from far away.

"FROZEN" is coming to Concrete! A Frozen-themed benefit gala on March 5 from 1 to 3 p.m. will feature storytelling by Barbara Jean Hicks, author of the companion books; singing and dancing with performers from Emerald Kingdom Parties; and have the chance to have your photo taken with your favorite ice princesses. All proceeds to benefit the new library building. Tickets are \$20/per person; buy tickets and learn more at www.frozeninconcrete.brownpapertickets.com.

Cache in Concrete is back for the month of January, this time with an eagle theme! Find booklets at the library, Concrete Chamber of Commerce, and 5b's Bakery.

Fill out our **Library Services and Programs Survey** to help us improve library services for you. Stop by, complete the survey, and then get a chance to win awesome prizes.

Library Card Art Design Contest runs Jan. 15 through Feb. 29. Our staff will select three finalists; the public will vote for their favorite. The winning design will be featured on our official library card! Contest guidelines are available at the library and online at www.upperskagit.lib.wa.us.

Join us for **Eaglet Storytime** Saturdays in January at 11 a.m. We will read eagle stories, sing songs, and provide an eaglet craft.

New arrivals

In adult fiction, the newest Dean Koontz, *Ashley Bell*. In adult nonfiction, *Good and Cheap: Eat Well on \$4/Day*, by Leanne Brown. In children's, *Waiting*.

Upper Skagit Library Board of Trustees meeting will occur on Jan. 14 at 5 p.m.

—Cora Thomas, library associate

Lions ROAR

contact any Lions Club member and we will do our best to help you.

As winter begins, it is the time to think about our commitment to ourselves and to others. I encourage members of our community to think about and **join your local Lions Club**. Our club is your club. We are a club to serve you and our community. Our hope for 2016 is to increase our membership numbers times two. 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!

We are happy to announce **four new members** joined the Lions Club in 2015. We cannot thank you enough for wanting to be part of this wonderful organization.

Thank you for your continued prayers for the healing of our club members.

—Connie Smithhart

The Lions Club has access to **medical equipment**, such as wheelchairs, walkers, shower chairs, and commodes, that can be loaned out to help those in need. Please

Sheriff's Blotter, cont. from p. 31

Dec. 17

A deputy responded to Davis Lane in Lyman regarding a graffiti complaint. The resident had their house and fence spray painted. A neighbor's garage was also "tagged." The resident has a juvenile suspect in mind and deputies are following up on an arrest.

Dec. 24

Deputies responded to a Concrete residence, where an elderly female subject was getting combative with relatives. Deputies were able to assist in getting the person to be seen by hospital staff. The SCSO has a program called CareTrak, in which persons at risk of walking away from a safe environment are fitted

with a bracelet. This bracelet can be tracked electronically if the person goes missing. Contact Sgt. Kading at the East Detachment in Concrete for more details: 360.853.8583.

Dec. 25

An alert caller from Limestone St. in Lyman called in a suspicious circumstance. The caller saw two people lurking around a vehicle wearing headlamps. When confronted they turned off their lights and left. A deputy arrived and discovered those folks were actually town residents who lived nearby.

Dec. 27

An inmate at the Skagit County Jail reported his vehicle stolen. Friends of the man had found the vehicle abandoned on Cockreham Island near Hamilton and let

the inmate know about it. A deputy met these folks on scene and they recovered the vehicle.

Dec. 28

Some criminal activity is taking place at the park on the end of Robinson Rd. in Lyman. Recently a stolen car was found, along with used heroin syringes dumped in the parking lot. The Game Department also has been advised of several dumped animal parts. Deputies are stepping up patrols in the area.

Dec. 31

At approximately 4:45 a.m., two subjects were caught on video attempting to steal the ATM from the Concrete branch of Columbia Bank. The video shows the two subjects dressed in black, with gloves and facemasks. The individuals were

unsuccessful in their attempts to remove the machine, but the machine and the framework around it were damaged. The investigation into this incident is ongoing.

—Compiled by Sgt. Chris Kading

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Out & About



Skagit County

County to host housing summit in January

More and more Skagit County residents say local housing issues have reached a crisis state. Purchasing a home is out of reach for many families, while monthly rents stretch household budgets. The local homeless population is increasing. There is a shortfall in area housing for people with a wide range of incomes. Many people who were once financially comfortable now struggle, taking money away from basics in order to keep a roof over their heads.

In response to these trends, the Skagit County Public Health Department will

host a "Housing Summit" on Jan. 22, from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. at McIntyre Hall on 2501 E. College Way in Mount Vernon.

Jennifer Johnson, public health director, said, "Our department became involved in local housing issues and is convening the summit because housing is crucial to the health of our community. Where a person lives is often the main factor determining his or her well-being."

People attending the summit will learn about housing mismatches in Skagit County, data on the scope and scale of the issue, proven models, and successful local efforts. Participants will help to shape the steps to solutions.

Anyone interested may register for the event at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/skagithousingsummit>. Space is limited, so participants are urged to sign up soon.

—Submitted by Skagit County



Skagit County

Realtors Association honors Dahlstedt as Citizen of the Year

Skagit County Commissioner Ken Dahlstedt was honored last month as 2015 Citizen of the Year by the North Puget Sound Association of Realtors (NPSAR), cited for his "outstanding contributions on the public behalf."

Dahlstedt (pictured above, center), who is in his fourth term as District 2 Commissioner, received a commemorative plaque from association representatives Paul Weisz (above right) and Dominic Petruzzelli (above left).

"We want to thank you for all that you do," said Weisz, "including your representation of the agribusiness community and your work toward creation of a war memorial at the re-established Northern State Hospital property."

Petruzzelli also acknowledged Dahlstedt's contributions as a board member of the National Association of Counties (NACo).

Dahlstedt accepted the award with thanks and acknowledgement of partners. "This is truly an honor. I really appreciate it," he said, "but I must say any personal achievements have been as the result of partnerships with others. It's really about the citizens of this county and my colleagues on the Board of Commissioners."

Dahlstedt cited a reinvigorated real estate market that provides vital tax funds to local governments. He also singled out homelessness as a national challenge, "with a shadow that falls over Skagit County as well."

"It is important that everyone has a roof over their heads—a place they can call home," he said. "Thank you for your service as Realtors, and for your work helping people find homes."

NPSAR goals include "To represent our members and the housing industry with government decision makers by demonstrating the vital role that home ownership plays in the continued health and prosperity of our communities."

Weisz is outgoing president of the Mount Vernon-based association, and Petruzzelli is incoming president.

—Submitted by Steve Berentson, Skagit County

Mayor, cont. from p. 4

the group will be releasing a series of recommendations for four other entities integral to economic development in Concrete: the Chamber of Commerce, the Concrete School District, local businesses, and town citizens. Miller notes significant achievements already implemented include the introduction of a geo cache, work to redesign the town website, and the recent cleanup of limbs to clear the sightline from the highway to downtown.

Miller recently connected with the Economic Development Association of Skagit County (EDASC) director, John Sternlicht, who will be visiting Concrete in January to meet with the Economic Development Task Force.

Infrastructure

Miller describes the newly constructed the Fire and Life Safety Building, which began with the efforts of the previous administration and was completed after he took office, as a great success. "It is an excellent example of what can happen when local, state, and federal elected officials get together and set their minds to a project," he said, noting that the firefighters he has spoken with are very pleased with the outcome.

Miller does not plan to continue efforts to revive the historic Superior Building. "The council has spoken," he stated. "It has opted not to save the building and would rather demolish it and replace it with a new Town Hall and Visitor's Center."

Street improvements and maintenance have been a priority for the mayor and council. There is a list that includes every street in town, prioritized for the arrival of grant opportunities. Miller reports that funding has been secured for the completion of Main St. renovation from Superior Ave. north to Grasmere Rd.; construction will begin in 2016. When asked which streets most urgently need attention, he cited the poor condition of both Limestone and Cedar streets.

The challenge is identifying specifically tailored grants that can be applied to these areas; Miller mentioned ongoing discussions with the town's engineer exploring less costly alternatives for refinishing those two streets.

When asked about the improvements to the crosswalk at SR 20 and Superior Ave., Miller stated, "Physically, it is obviously an upgrade," but expressed concerns regarding the new crossing lights, which some pedestrians have claimed are less visible than the old lights. Few reports

have surfaced about dangerous situations as a result of the new system, but Miller encourages any person with concerns to relay them to the town.

Throughout the first half of his term, Miller has emphasized the importance of rerouting Lorenzen Creek, which regularly floods in the winter and threatens private properties. The project will take multiple years to complete, and there is ongoing investigation into potential funding sources. The town has struggled to find funding designed to protect the fish, but hopes to secure funding by taking a storm-water approach.

Utilities

On the topic of rising utility rates, Miller said, "It is unfortunate that we are placed in this position, but it is the only option right now." Because the sewer and water funds are enterprise funds, they must operate independently and cannot be supported by capital from other funds.

In the past, Miller had discussed the possibility of litigation to receive compensation for flawed engineering of the current wastewater treatment plant, but discovered that it would require many years and hundreds of thousands of dollars; instead, council has determined the town's best option is to spend time and energy on finding funding sources to pay for the necessary improvements. The town plans to avoid taking out further loans to fund the improvements and is instead exploring grant opportunities.

Income from water sales plummeted significantly last year. Miller said the town is awaiting response from the current bottling company to determine why its draw has decreased. The council may consider additional options to replace the lost revenue, including a town-owned bottling plant or examining the current contract to determine if it would allow the town to sell to an additional company.

Other issues

Miller said that he is pleased with the approval of Proposition No. 1, Annexation into Upper Skagit Partial-County Rural Library District, which he sees as an investment in the community.

Miller said that since the introduction of the town's new policy on loose dogs, there have been fewer incidences that have required using the kennels located in town. He describes the updated policy as successful: "It appears a lot of people got the message that [violating the policy regarding leashes] will not be tolerated."

According to Miller, the town will continue its contract with the sheriff's

office. "It allows us to take a harder stance on crime within town limits," he said. "We are aware of challenges that exist, and they are being dealt with as quickly and efficiently as possible. We know where the town's 'problem children' live,

Concealed Carry, cont. from p. 3

shootings, there's always a question as to whether that shooting was reasonable and necessary.

- Think about why you want to carry a firearm and what type of scenario would prompt you to draw your weapon. Then think, would it be better for all involved if I was an excellent witness and called 911, or is there an immediate threat to someone's safety and there's no reasonably effective alternative to using force?
- There are a lot of places that offer training and support in Concealed Carry and Firearms Training. Check them out. This is a serious issue and deserves serious consideration.
- Firearms are not dangerous; irresponsible people, fools, ignorance, people with no thought

but for the most part our citizenry is law-abiding."

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

for the consequences of their actions, and people intent on doing bad things are dangerous. In other words, humans and their actions can be dangerous.

- Safely secure your weapons when they are not on your person. If you have mini-humans at home and think your secret hiding spot is safe, think again. Your kids or grandkids will find anything; don't be the person who let this happen.

We have the latest and greatest pamphlet regarding firearms laws and hunting regulations, if anyone wants this information. We also have gun safety locks if you are in need of one; contact our office at 360.855.0111 for more information.

Lin Tucker is Chief of the Sedro-Woolley Police Department.

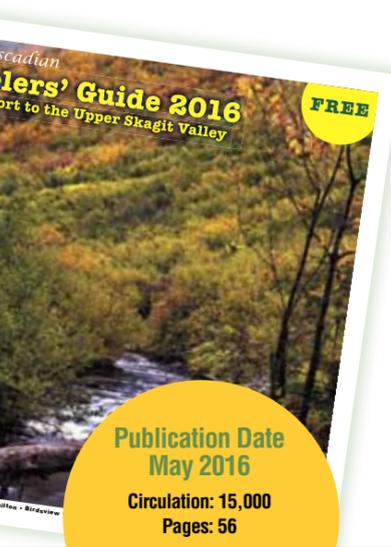
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Hamilton Hamilton Community Food Bank
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*Changes? Call 360.853.8213.



Smile



Dwelleysms

Wit from former Concrete Herald editor Charles M. Dwelley

“Our New Year’s philosopher says that it’s not a matter of how many times you fall down, it’s whether or not you break the bottle.”

“This is election year and Leap Year, with a great deal of leaping for election already accomplished.”

“In reporting the present activity on the weather front, the situation is described as ‘fluid.’”

—Jan. 5, 1956

“Ever notice that diseases chosen for nationwide charity drives are on the spectacular side, while the one that causes the most general discomfort in every household—the common cold—is passed up like a soiled hanky?”

“What new cars need is a little more strength in the depreciation. They tell us that every buyer knocks off several hundred dollars worth just trying to drive one out of a showroom.”

“Nobody jokes about fat men anymore. What’s so funny about a guy who eats all he wants, is seldom in a hurry, and is still able to afford oversize clothes?”

“Food left in the Antarctic in 1908 has been found still in good condition by our explorers. And in our ice box it seldom keeps past the midnight snack raid.”

“War used to be just that, take it or leave it. Now you can have it hot or cold.”

—Jan. 12, 1956

“From the way things are shaping up in science, there is a shortage of young men capable of understanding the theories upon which our future is destined to be based—and a surplus of knotheads who don’t know what is going on, but wish they’d stop it.”

“It’s getting so you can’t tell what a top government official is thinking from what he says and does. You have to go down the street and buy a magazine.”

“A vacant mind is usually subtle to the nearest noisy neighbor.”

—Jan. 19, 1956

“Nobody can say that Americans are afraid to die for their country. In fact, a lot of them are willing to die for the space in front of the car ahead.”

—Jan. 26, 1956

“Don’t fret if Junior is an unbearable irritation at times. Such talent, properly developed, will someday earn him big money as a TV announcer.”

“One thing wrong with progress is that it is what causes us to yearn for the good old days when we only dreamed about it.”

—Feb. 2, 1956

“There are two ways to look at any problem. The best way, however, is cold sober.”

“The old fable of the tortoise and the hare still applies on our highways. Many a car driven down the road like a jackrabbit turned turtle before reaching its destination.”

—Feb. 9, 1956

Concrete Harold

By Joyce Harris



Public Service Announcement

By Stig Kristensen



Crossword: “Fairy tales”

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17					18					19				
20								21						
					22		23	24			25			
26	27	28	29			30			31					
32				33	34				35	36	37	38	39	40
41									42					
43								44						
						45	46				47			
48	49	50	51	52		53			54	55				
56					57				58		59	60	61	62
63								64	65					
66						67					68			
69						70					71			

Across

- 1. Founder of PLF
- 6. Time out?
- 10. Morrison and Cramer
- 14. It was founded in 1909
- 15. Burgeon
- 16. Berry touted as medicinal
- 17. Home-builders association?
- 20. Skeleton parts
- 21. Laurels
- 22. Asportation, e.g.
- 25. Marshal
- 26. Aggregation
- 30. To boot
- 32. Succulent plant
- 35. Benign tumor
- 41. Extortionist?
- 43. Ranges
- 44. 1992 Christopher Reid movie
- 45. Bibliographic abbr.
- 47. Kid
- 48. Group of eight
- 53. Rice
- 56. Involuntary response
- 58. Entry
- 63. Grimm duo?
- 66. Bladed weapon
- 67. Descendant of Hezekiah

Down

- 1. Hill dwellers
- 2. Thai currency
- 3. Plain
- 4. Maple genus
- 5. Done for
- 6. Special effects: Abbr.
- 7. Food scrap
- 8. Sacred songs
- 9. Some punches
- 10. Quipster
- 11. Less cordial
- 12. Fruit residue
- 13. Cream puff
- 18. ___-di-dah
- 19. Pilot’s announcement, for short
- 23. All ___
- 24. Train part
- 26. Normal prefix
- 27. Astringent
- 28. ___ jellies
- 29. Cap

Across

- 68. Harden
- 69. 1990 World Series champs
- 70. Mug variety
- 71. In a pen

Down

- 31. Guisado cooker
- 33. Chow checker
- 34. It may follow something
- 36. “___ De-Lovely”
- 37. Head-turner
- 38. Thumbs-up
- 39. Jagger
- 40. Penny, perhaps
- 42. In a bad way
- 46. Plant native to South America
- 48. Catchall category
- 49. ___ myrtle
- 50. Shaded
- 51. Vaulted recesses
- 52. Expire
- 54. Make a sharp turn
- 55. Large amounts
- 57. Blind segment
- 59. Copper
- 60. Case
- 61. Dehydrated
- 62. Winter toy
- 64. Kan. neighbor
- 65. Like some humor

Sudoku

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

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

*Solutions to both puzzles are on p. 39.

Funny as Facebook

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

- “I think I am a fan of Bayer Leverkusen of the Bundesliga only because I like saying ‘Leverkusen.’”
- “This is not a joke; this actually took place on Dec. 26 in Aberdeen. Two very intelligent men were discussing the theory and teaching of evolution in schools/colleges. One proclaimed that it has been taught for many years. The other said yes, nearly a hundred. I get soooo informed eating at Denny’s.”
- “I have often thought about skeet shooting my dirty dishes instead of washing them.”
- “Whoever slipped my kid a venti caramel macchiato when I wasn’t looking is gonna get it.”
- “When your dogs’ favorite show is ‘America’s Funniest Home Videos.’ Pyper and Clyde watch the whole thing with us.”
- “I’m just over here fighting the urge to eat a gallon of ice cream.”
- “Happiness is having a large, loving, close-knit family ... in another city.”
- “Politics recap: The frontrunner for the GOP is a snake-oil salesman. The frontrunner for the Dems is a disaster, and the No. 2 behind her is an idiot on all things economic. I say we go back to the old way of selecting leaders. Anyone have a sword embedded in a stone? Or a strange woman lying in a pond distributing swords?”
- “After listening to a ton of Beatles music over the past couple of days (thanks to them finally streaming on Apple Music), I’ve come to the conclusion that “Paperback Writer” is their best song. (Go ahead and tell me why I’m wrong.)”
- “[Earthquake] reports coming in from Victoria, B.C.: “Bottles of wine knocked over, none broke”! Cheers!”
- “HOLY @!\$!\$!! I FEEL AN EARTHQUAKE!!!...(after shock)”
- “Got the nicest compliment on how well the kids have been raised. I said the compliments should go to the wisdom of Bill Watterson. They laughed. I was serious. Thank you, Bill.”

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The Man in the Mud Room

By Nicola Pearson

Editor's note: This is the 13th 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 until the story is complete. Previous installments are posted at www.concrete-herald.com.

Fortunately, the gourd was definitely worth the trip. A handsome older woman with a halo of white hair and peaches-and-cream complexion stood at the door to the inn as Suleka and Lange pulled up.

"That's Charlotte," said Suleka as she switched off the engine. "She was waiting for us?" "No. She probably saw us coming up the driveway and recognizes that you're on a timeline."

Lange nodded and threw open his door. "I like her already." His nostrils caught the slightly acrid aroma of manure and newly turned earth. "Good morning," he called out over the welcome barks from the resident canines.

"You made it," Charlotte replied, and her face lit up in a coquettish smile. Lange returned the smile and let the barking dominate while he admired the impressive collection of classic tractors and gently rusted tillers ornamenting the top of the driveway. He walked around the Nissan, taking in the acres of verdant pasture that fed the herd of prize Maine-Anjou cattle, and then his eyes lifted and his breath caught at the sight of Mount Baker, sitting like a pinnacle of shiny white meringue, in the sky opposite. Nice view, he thought.

"You coming?" asked Suleka from the doorway. "Mmm hmm," he murmured. He pulled himself away and strode up a ramp to follow Suleka into the inn. The painted gourd was sitting on a short length of counter just inside the door with Charlotte standing just beyond it, her hands folded tidily in front of her like a teacher waiting for an answer.

Suleka flattened herself against a bookcase in the narrow reception area, giving Lange room to bend forward and examine the gourd. Three wolves stared out at him, their yellow eyes piercing through his soul to the wilderness beyond, and he felt a curious inclination to run his hand over the charcoal tips of their sepia-

toned coats to see if they were as soft as they looked. He straightened up, lifted the gourd, and turned it over and around, looking for a signature. There wasn't one. He gently placed it back on the counter, slipped his phone out of his pocket, and took a photograph. It definitely looked like Margi's work. He heard a whisper, like a breeze in the air, or a sigh, and glanced around. Charlotte was watching him, gauging his response to the gourd with her soft blue eyes, and he felt like he was in the presence of Miss Marple and should watch his Ps and Qs. "This belongs to one of your guests?" he asked, slipping his phone back in his pocket.

Charlotte nodded. "She brought it down to show us at breakfast this morning, she was so proud of it, and as soon as I saw it I remembered what Suleka had told Emily ..."

"It was Emily," said Suleka, snapping her fingers and pointing at Lange. "And I asked the woman if I could hold on to it for a while, to show a friend. I didn't say who or why, of course."

Lange tipped his eyebrows at Suleka; someone knew how to hold their tongue. "My guest agreed, even though this gourd was expensive. She trusts me," Charlotte finished with an honest nod and a blink.

Lange wanted to squeeze her with delight that she'd acted so quickly, but he managed to refrain. "Did your guest say where she purchased the gourd?"

The innkeeper nodded again. "Up at the Women's Retreat." She hesitated. "Mary Lynn McCracken sold it to her."

"Mary Lynn did?!" wailed Suleka. Lange shot her a look. "What?" she said, "I never would have thought—"

He put a palm up in front of her. "We don't know the story yet."

"I suppose. But she never told us ..."

Lange cautioned her by biting down on his jaw, and Suleka zipped it. He looked back at Charlotte. "Can you hold on to this gourd for the time being?"

"He's not very good at goodbyes," he heard her mutter to Charlotte. "No need," said Charlotte. "I understand."

Lange was sure that she did. "Thank you!" he called out when he got to his side of the Nissan. "You come back some time for tea now."

"Only if you promise to put something stronger than tea in it," he joked and heard a peal of laughter before he slid into his seat.

Suleka plopped down beside him, looking like she'd eaten something sour. "Back to Mary Lynn's?" she asked. "As fast as you can."

She followed the command, starting up the truck and maneuvering it to go back down the driveway, while making it obvious that this was the last thing she wanted to do. "I just can't get my mind around the idea of Mary Lynn being somehow involved with Margi's disappearance!"

Before she could look at him, expecting a reply, Lange's phone rang. He recognized the number as Deller's. "Have you got the lab results?" he asked, in place of a greeting.

But Deller had her own thread she was following. "Did you notice whether Sam Breckenridge's girlfriend was wearing an engagement ring when you questioned her? Something with diamonds in it?"

"She was not," Lange replied without hesitation. He watched Mount Baker disappear as Suleka drove back toward the Dalles Bridge and Highway 20. She'd chosen the faster route despite her reluctance.

"You sound sure."

"I am. She kept waving her hands in my face and pointing and I noticed purple nail polish, tattoos on both wrists, and a lot of metal ornamentation. No diamonds."

"Seriously?" said Deller. "That's his type?"

"Maybe it's with Margi." "He'd tell me that." "He would if he knew."

"Oh. You're thinking she might have found the ring and took it with her wherever she went." "That's one theory."

"Hmm." Deller chewed on this for a second. "But there's more."

"Tell me." The Nissan picked up speed as they exited the town limits of Concrete and Lange let his mind ski the surface of the Skagit, rushing downvalley while they rushed up.

"Search and Rescue dogs followed a trail from the house down to the creek, twice. And there was blood where they stopped."

Lange groaned. "That doesn't sound good."

"Nope. We're getting it tested." "What about the lab results on last night's findings?"

"Too soon. At least, it was before I left this morning to join the search. But I asked them to put a rush on it, so I'm hoping. Where are you?"

"On our way back to Mary Lynn McCracken's house." Lange filled Deller in on his morning: his interviews with Shelby and Mary Lynn, the phone call about one of Margi's wildlife gourds, and his subsequent trip to the inn to see it.

"You're sure it's her work?" "Positive. But I took a photo just in case McCracken tries to argue the opposite with me."

"You don't want to stop and show the photo to Breckenridge, just in case?" "Don't need to. But I'll text you the photo if you're worried and you can show it to him."

"I'm not there anymore. I'm on my way downriver already, for a debriefing with Search and Rescue. Then I hope the lab will have some news for me and after that, I think I might spring a surprise visit on Breckenridge's girlfriend at work."

"I told you I questioned her already." "I know. But we found a threatening letter from her to Margi. 'You'd-better-agree-to-a-divorce-or-else' kind of thing."

"Maybe she does have the ring and is hiding it till after this settles."

"Maybe. I don't know why Sam wouldn't have told us that though."

"Fear," suggested Lange. "Yeah," Deller said, long and slow, like it was a possibility but not one she favored. "I don't get the impression he's savvy enough to be scared."

"Funny," said Lange. "I thought the

climb a ladder. I am surprised but not surprised. I thought with the town looking so festive the last two years, we would get help. In other towns the Chamber of Commerce members are the ones who decorate the town with help from volunteers from the business and townspeople. I still don't understand why our Chamber of

Crossword solution, from p. 37

1	A	B	B	A	S	6	C	O	M	10	J	I	M	S			
14	N	A	A	C	P	16	G	R	O	W	18	A	C	A	I		
17	T	H	R	E	E	19	I	T	T	L	21	E	P	I	G	S	
20	S	T	E	R	N	A	22	H	E	S	T	E	R	E	A	M	Y
23	P	A	C	25	K	27	A	L	S	29	O						
32	A	L	O	E	V	34	E	R	A	36	L	I	P	O	M	40	
41	R	U	M	P	E	L	S	T	42	I	L	T	S	K	I	N	
43	A	M	B	I	T	S	45	C	L	A	S	S	A	C	T		
46	O	C	T	A	D	48	E	T	A	L	50	T	Y	K	E		
56	T	R	O	P	I	S	M	57	A	C	59	A	C	E	61	S	
63	H	A	N	S	E	L	A	N	65	D	G	R	E	T	E	L	
66	E	P	E	E	67	A	T	E	R	68	E	N	U	R	E		
69	R	E	D	S	70	T	O	B	Y	71	S	T	I	E	D		

See Mud Room, p. 39

Commerce doesn't help out with this. I guess it's not on their list of important things to do. Correct me if I'm wrong in my thinking, but I thought the Chamber of Commerce was all about the town and the businesses in town. Guess not.

A big thank-you to the Public Works employees who put up the Christmas tree every year. Even the elementary art class headed by Mary Bianchini decorated Christmas bulbs to put on the town Christmas tree; thank you to all the children who helped with this. The tree looked great.

I'm just putting my thoughts out there. Hope all had a great holiday!

Gladys Silrus
Concrete

A Sedro-Woolley thank-you

Thanks to the following people who worked so hard to put on our Christmas event last month. First, Jo Ann Lazaron. Jo Ann goes above and beyond for Christmas. She ensures that the branches go up on the poles downtown every year, she runs the parade, and has chaired the committee for the past two years. Nathan Salseina, head of the Parks Dept., has been instrumental in acquiring a tree for downtown and so much more. To Patrick Janicki for acquiring branches for the poles, to Janicki Industries' Mitch Annema and Willard Boyd for putting the branches on the poles, and to Wayne Ramsey and his horticulture class for their assistance.

To Snelson's Inc., with the leadership of Steve Massey in raising the tree for the past 35 years. To Peterson Landscaping for ensuring that every lightbulb on top of downtown buildings was working.

Pola Kelley, exec. dir.
Sedro-Woolley Chamber of Commerce

Letters, cont. from p. 2

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Sudoku solution, from p. 37

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

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