

The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley

Concrete Herald

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50 cents

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

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Sedro-Woolley youth vie for Youth of the Year

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Resolve to be resilient



Corina Sahlin and Melissa K. Norris want to help you withstand the slings and arrows that life throws at us. *Page 11.*

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Concrete Herald

The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley

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Guest editorial

After Cape Horn tragedy, a message for women

By Corina Sahlin

Last month an unimaginable tragedy happened in our community. A mother of four was killed by her boyfriend in her house, and after he yelled at her children to run, otherwise he'd kill them, too, he then shot himself. The kids fled to their neighbors' house, where they stayed for a few days until Child Protective Services sorted out their future.

One of the kids is in my daughter's class, and I felt very strongly about wanting to support the children who lost their mother and their temporary caregivers—the neighbors—who had witnessed the man's suicide. I spent time with them all for a couple of days, and I was there when the kids were told that after the holidays, they had to move away to live with a relative they didn't know.

From a larger perspective this was wonderful news because they were able to stay together and be raised by a blood relative, but the kids were initially devastated.

It was heart wrenching. I held the girls while they raged, wailed, wept, and shook. It was one of the hardest things I've ever done, but I'm glad I was there to hold space for them.

Our community has stepped up and rallied around these orphans in a big way. After people learned about the tragedy, they raised thousands of dollars in two days, organized meals, and collected bags and bags of toys.

I was there when a truckload of toys got delivered. No, presents cannot replace the mother they lost, nor can they take away the trauma they've been through. But they did distract the kids from their grief, and they brought them joy, excitement, and laughter.

I will never forget holding the bike seat and running alongside one of the girls as she tried out a brand-new bike. She had never learned how to ride a bike, but she got pretty

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Opinion

Letters to the editor

Seek positive solutions, not more prisons

We need to provide happy, healthy people and positive places to live, not new prisons to make people unhappy and to continue with crime. Help the less unfortunate people and families to become more positive instead of deprived and depressed. There are so many killings, suicides, hurtful, hateful people out there because they have no means to provide for themselves and their families. Get a clue! I'd rather see my tax dollars spent in a more positive community and not spent for more prisoners to fill the new Skagit County prison. I suppose there

is more money for investors in building prisons than in building homeless shelters, housing projects, and to promote more positive jobs.

Wendy Knoph
Cape Horn

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.

close that day with me huffing and puffing beside her, hiding my tears from her as she whooped with joy.

Many years ago, I worked at a shelter for abused women and children. I was the women's and children's advocate and also did outreach in the community to educate people about domestic violence.

If you or someone you know is affected by domestic violence, I want you to know that you are not alone. Please don't isolate yourself. If you know in your gut that things are wrong in your relationship, if you fear for your safety and mental health, please reach out to people who understand and can help you.

Here is the Web site for the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV), where you can find out everything you need to know and get valuable resources:

<https://ncadv.org>

If you are in crisis, contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 800.799.7233 or www.thehotline.org.

Here is more info from the NCADV Web site:

What is domestic violence?

Domestic violence is the willful intimidation, physical assault, battery, sexual assault, and/or other abusive behavior as part of a systematic pattern of power and control perpetrated by one intimate partner against another. It includes physical violence, sexual violence, threats, and emotional/psychological abuse. The frequency and severity of domestic violence varies dramatically.

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Message from the mayor

By Jason Miller

Our last staff meeting of the year found all of us—including me—staring at our to-do lists that seem to grow, rather than shrink, with every passing day. It's gotten to the point where Andrea Fichter (who manages the lists) is downright gleeful when anyone reports something that can be removed.

In the midst of all the "doing," it's sometimes a challenge to remember to celebrate the items in the "done" column. This is one of my weaknesses; I often just nod at any accomplishment and charge back into the fray. I'm working on that character trait, because it's important to pause for longer than two seconds and acknowledge that our efforts are, indeed, bearing fruit.

In 2017 we repaired, rebuilt, and maintained several of our streets, including S. Dillard, W. Main St., and Airport Way. We replaced water lines. We upgraded key components of our wastewater treatment plant and made other repairs to our sewer infrastructure. We prepped the site for the water spray park, which we intend to finish before July 4 this year. We extended a water line into our Urban Growth Area (Grasmere).

All of the above projects wouldn't have been accomplished—or at least wouldn't have been accomplished as smoothly—if it weren't for the town staff and town councilmembers working in concert with each other. Those individuals have my gratitude: staffers Andrea Fichter, Alan Wilkins, Chaun Hopfield, Rich Philips, Jimmy Luttrell, Dale Angell, and Jack McCormick, as well as our excellent town engineer Cody Hart, town planner Marianne Manville-Ailles, and town attorney David Day. Our councilmembers in 2017 were Rob Thomas, Jude Dippold, Mike Bartel, Marla Reed, and Ginger Kyritsis.

Concrete Mayor Jason Miller can be reached at goodwords@frontier.com or 360.853.8213, or by sending correspondence to P.O. Box 39, Concrete, WA 98237.



- Editorial, cont. from p. 2
- In the United States, an average of 20 people are physically abused by intimate partners every minute. This equates to more than 10 million abuse victims annually.
 - 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men have been physically abused by an intimate partner.
 - 1 in 5 women and 1 in 7 men have been severely physically abused by an intimate partner.
 - 1 in 7 women and 1 in 18 men have been stalked. Stalking causes the target to fear she/he or someone close to her/him will be harmed or killed.
 - On a typical day, domestic violence hotlines nationwide receive approximately 20,800 calls.
 - The presence of a gun in a domestic violence situation increases the risk of homicide by 500 percent.
 - Intimate partner violence accounts for 15 percent of all violent crime.
 - Intimate partner violence is most common among women between the ages of 18–24.
 - 19 percent of intimate partner violence involves a weapon.

Why it matters

Domestic violence is prevalent in every community and affects all people regardless of age, socio-economic status, sexual orientation, gender, race, religion, or nationality. Physical violence is often accompanied by emotionally abusive and controlling behavior as part of a much larger, systematic pattern of dominance and control. Domestic violence can result in physical injury, psychological trauma, and even death. The devastating consequences of domestic violence can cross generations and last a lifetime.

- Sexual assault**
- 1 in 5 women and 1 in 59 men in the United States is raped during his/her lifetime.
 - 9.4 percent of women in the United States have been raped by an intimate partner.

- Stalking**
- 19.3 million women and 5.1 million men in the United States have been stalked.
 - 66.2 percent of female stalking victims reported stalking by a current or former intimate partner.

Cape Horn murder-suicide leaves four orphans

On Dec. 18, Skagit County Sheriff deputies responded to the 41000 block of Cape Horn in Cape Horn for a report of gunshots at a residence. Upon arrival, deputies located a 36-year-old female deceased inside the residence. They also located a 36-year-old male deceased in the driveway of the residence. Both appeared to suffer from gunshot wounds.

There are no outstanding suspects or victims remaining. According to witnesses, the event was a murder-suicide, with the male first shooting the female and then taking his own life. Detectives are still working the investigation. The Coroner's Office has removed both

bodies. Both the female and male lived at the residence together.

Four children were orphaned by the event. A bank account has been established at Columbia Bank for them under the name "Stauffer Children Beneficiary Fund." Donations can be made at any Columbia Bank branch. Previous donations made to the GoFundMe account will be transferred to the Stauffer Beneficiary Fund and given to the children's permanent guardian.

For more information, contact Cheryl Cunningham or Claudia Marken at 360.416.1733.

—J. K. M.



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Concrete selects town flag design

Concrete High School senior Becky Azure has made history in the town of Concrete. On Dec. 11, the Concrete Town Council chose her flag design to represent the town.

The decision culminated a contest that was open to anyone who lives in the Concrete School District. Submissions totalled 114, which were judged in two rounds by members of the Economic Development Commission (EDC), which submitted their "final four" recommendations to the council, including their choice for the winning design.

The council agreed with the recommendation and named Azure the winner. She was recognized and handed a \$200 check courtesy of Imagine Concrete Foundation on Dec. 21.

Azure's design, shown at right, closely follows the rules of flag design. It is simple, uses no more than three colors, and references the place it represents. It shows a soaring green Sauk Mountain with the town's trademark silos in the

foreground and a blue sky over all.

"The design represents the beautiful attractions of Concrete," Azure wrote in a statement that accompanied her submission. "The Concrete silos and Sauk Mountain are a big part of why so many people love traveling to Concrete."

Azure said the three colors she chose "represent Concrete. The gray represents the historical cement manufacturing that brought this town to life, and also the rainy skies we get to enjoy most of the year. The green represents the mighty forests. The blue represents our many rivers, lakes, and streams."

Economic Development Commission Chair Eric Archuletta praised Azure's submission. "From the start, Becky's design stood out. Her design prompted an emotion in many members of the EDC. The colors, design elements—all said this is Concrete."

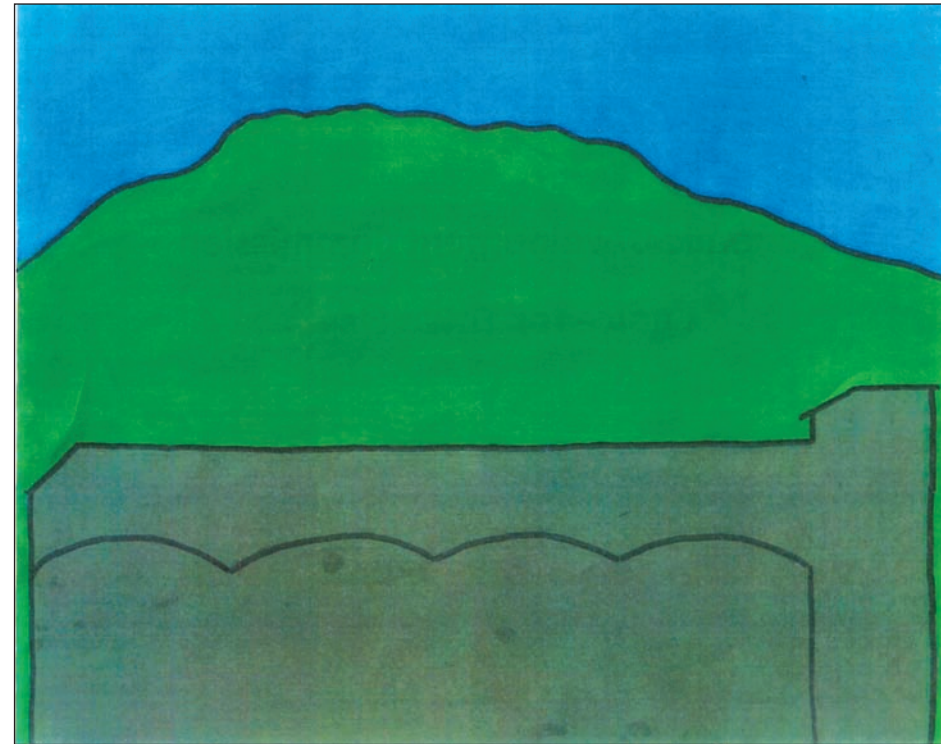
Next steps

A Flag Design Committee will refine the

design before final approval by the Town Council. The committee is composed of Azure, Archuletta, Concrete Mayor Jason Miller, Town Councilmember Ginger Kyritsis, and EDC member Tyler Nibarger. The committee will work with

a professional designer to develop a final version to be approved by the Town Council. The committee's first meeting is scheduled for Fri., Jan. 5, at 6 p.m. at Concrete Town Hall.

—J. K. M.



Concrete High School senior Becky Azure won the Concrete Town Flag Contest with her interpretation of the town and the region. It shows the Concrete silos, Sauk Mountain, and a blue sky over the scene.



Contest winner Becky Azure received a check for \$200 courtesy of Imagine Concrete Foundation during a special recognition ceremony on Dec. 21. Standing with Azure are, from left, Concrete Mayor Jason Miller, Economic Development Commission Chair Eric Archuletta, and Imagine Concrete Foundation Treasurer Stephanie Morgareidge. Photo by Ginger Kyritsis.

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- Major local events noted each month
- Community Meetings list

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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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Concrete Food Bank Building Fund still accepting donations

Even as repairs to its building continue, Concrete Food Bank is still accepting donations to the building fund at any Columbia Bank, according to Board

President Gladys Silrus.

An open house is planned for Jan. 14 at 12:30 p.m. to put the building improvements on display. A food drive also is planned for the same day.

"We want everyone in Concrete to see the improvements," said Silrus.

For more information, call Silrus at 360.826.4848 or Adrienne Smith at 360.853.8505.

—J. K. M.

Council summary

Concrete Town Council met for a regular meeting on Dec. 11. Following is a summary of that meeting. Complete and council-approved minutes for every council meeting are posted on the town's Web site at www.townofconcrete.com/cminutes.php.

Compiled by Chazlyn Lovely
Edited by Katy Tomasulo

American Legion Auxiliary ponders its future

The American Legion Auxiliary has a proud tradition in Concrete. While the Legionnaires put on the show, all the behind-the-scenes work to make everything come together was clearly the purview of the Auxiliary. Most of the charitable fundraising that supported the community was conceived first in the hearts of the women who supported their Legionnaire husbands.

The past 18 months has been a time of change for Post 132. We re-wrote our bylaws to allow for a more streamlined, and admittedly much smaller, level of participation; we sold our Legion Hall to be able to focus on something else other than merely paying our utility bills; and we mourned the death of our long-time Commander, Adolph Nieshe. In spite of all that, we continue to survive as an organization.

During that same period, Auxiliary participation continued to fall. Recently, this came to a breaking point when Anita Mathis decided to leave the area. The mail piled up in the post office box, the box rental wasn't paid, and all the mail was returned to the senders. That mail included

checks for membership renewals, as well as membership cards. Clearly, we had a mess on our hands. And by we, I mean the Legion Post and the Auxiliary, since we are integral partners.

For that reason, I corresponded with the District 2 and Department Presidents and offered to help get Concrete's Auxiliary Unit back on track. A meeting with the two presidents and Auxiliary members was held on Jan. 3, and promises to help shape the future of this important tradition in Concrete.

Until things get a little better organized, I have offered to be the temporary membership clerk for the unit. Since the old Auxiliary post office box has been closed, please send renewals and correspondence to P.O. Box 252, Concrete, WA 98237. Make any checks payable to "American Legion Post 132" because we combined all the accounts last year.

For more information contact me, John Boggs, at 360.853.8347 or jboggs@washington.aol.com.

—John Boggs

CERT training begins Jan. 8

If an earthquake or other major disaster struck your neighborhood, would you be willing to help rescue people and provide basic first aid until police, fire, and EMS personnel arrive?

If so, then join the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).

The CERT program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may affect their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations.

Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help.

Classes are held on six Mondays and one Saturday, at the Burlington Fire Dept., 350 Sharon Ave., Burlington:

- Jan. 8, 15, 22, 29, Feb. 5, 12 (6:30 to 9:30 p.m.)
- Feb. 17 (9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4:30 p.m.)

For more information or to register, call 360.202.3106 or e-mail skagitcert@gmail.com.

- weekends.
- Deputy Moore is slated to return in five to six weeks, filling a recently vacated spot and bringing the department back to full staff.
- A councilmember asked the sergeant about the recent rash of mail thefts. The sergeant reminded citizens to call 911 or report it to the Sheriff's Office so the department is aware of specific issues. A second councilmember brought up that P.O. boxes and the new USPS Informed Delivery system are helpful ways to keep track of your mail.
- Town Flag Contest: The council weighed four finalists in the town flag contest and chose a winner, designed by Concrete High School senior Becky Azure. Councilmember Ginger Kyritsis was appointed to the committee that will finalize the design.
- Town Planner Marianne Manville-Ailles presented the Growth Management Act Coordinated Planning Agreement, Resolution #2017-13. The county adopted the GMA framework in the 1990s, but Concrete did not participate at that

See Council Summary, p. 10

Keep track of your council

To have Concrete Town Council agendas and meeting minutes e-mailed to you automatically, e-mail your request to andrea@concretewa.gov or call 360.853.8401. Concrete Town Council meets the second and fourth Mondays of each month, at 6 p.m. at Town Hall.

Library accepts donation of renovated American Legion Hall

The Upper Skagit Library Board last month accepted the donation of the remodeled American Legion Hall in Concrete Town Center, to be used as the library's new bigger, better space.

Local benefactors—who wish to remain anonymous—purchased the building from the Heskett-Arnold Post 132 of the American Legion, renovated it, then donated it to the Upper Skagit Library Board. The ownership strategy allowed the Legion post to continue its commitment to the Upper Valley community by using the money from the sale to establish a trust fund for education scholarships and other community-related projects. The library is on the receiving end of a much larger space, giving it room to grow to expand services and resource collections.

The new library space offers 3,700 square feet, compared to the old space at 1,600 square feet. The board will complete more modifications in the space before filling it up with new furniture and resources, customizing it to fit the needs of the Upper Valley community. Library Director Brooke Pederson said the additional modifications will include installation of network wiring and soundproofing measures, as well as analyzing sight lines for staff to better monitor the larger space.

"We'll make it our own space," she said. "Technology will be one of our pillars of service, so we'll need to completely outfit

the space, making it specifically into a vibrant, forward-thinking library."

Library users will be able to peruse larger book and DVD collections, having more computers and spaces available to work on projects, and having an additional open day added to regular hours.

Extensive renovations

Local Legion member John Boggs was a proponent of selling the building, in part because it had become "a millstone" around the membership's neck. "We were spending all our time and resources trying to pay our utilities," he said. "If we get rid of our building, we can go back to our purpose, which is serving our community."

The building was structurally sound, but needed work. Renovations included replacing the sewer line, new bathrooms, new wiring, three new furnaces, separate air ducts for staff and public areas, a new reception desk, and new drywall.

Explore the new library

The library will provide tours of the newly renovated facility at 45952 Main St. (in Concrete's Town Center) on Sat., Jan. 6, between noon and 2 p.m. A grand opening is planned for spring of this year, with a firm date yet to be set.

For more information, contact library director Brooke Pederson at bpederson@upperskagit.lib.wa.us or 360.853.7939.

—J. K. M.



Looking brand-new, the future home of the Upper Skagit Library is the fully renovated former American Legion Hall in Concrete Town Center. The library will open in its new space sometime this spring. Tours of the new facility will be offered on Sat., Jan. 6, between noon and 2 p.m. Submitted photo.

Happy New Year!

See us for all your winter needs, including snow shovels and scrapers! Christmas lights: 50% off! Lock de-icer and windshield de-icer (1 gal. jug): Buy 1, get the second half off! (limit: 2 per household)

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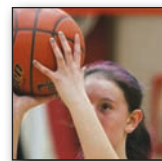
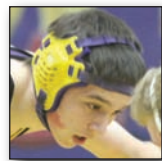
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Sports



Women's basketball team improving daily

By Kevik Rensink, head coach

Another win for the Concrete girls basketball team!

After winning on their second try of the season, the Lady Lions lost six in a row before taking their second win of the season two days before Christmas. What a wonderful Christmas present it was to all of the players, rewarding their hard work, patience, and perseverance.

The girls hung on for a 38–30 win over Cedar Park Christian, after letting a 12-point lead slip away as CPC scratched back to within three in the final moments. Freshman Kylie Clark led all scorers by setting a new career high with 16 points. It seems she has been setting a new career high almost every game, but that is what happens when you are coachable, like to shoot, play a ton of minutes—and she's a freshman. Clark has been growing, developing her game, learning the fast-paced game of high school basketball, and it has been fun to watch the progression. She also pulled down nine rebounds in that big win, but she wasn't the only one with a career night.

One of those players is senior Kaitlin Earheart, who tied a career best with 8 points, and set a new career high with 18 rebounds. Those rebounds were huge for us, as her knowledge and understanding of the game of basketball continue to show up in positive ways for her team. As a converted volleyball player, she is a possession eater, and she gives us more chances to do good things with the basketball.

Jenna Whorten also continues to be a solid force for us with her consistency in the paint, and she was big for us again vs. CPC. Jenna had 10 points and nine rebounds, and also leads the team in assists during our last seven games. She has developed into a great passer and takes advantage of all the times she is double-teamed in the post by finding her open teammates.

We recently returned from a Christmas Tournament in Chelan, where we were defeated by the host team, and then lost

again on day two to the Oroville Hornets.

Our second game vs. Oroville was much closer than the first, and I was greatly encouraged by our hot start. The girls shot 7-8 in the first quarter, scoring 14 points. Even though we went 1-9 shooting in the second quarter, we still only trailed by 10 at halftime. Thanks to better patience in the offense and smarter decision-making with the ball, the girls ran our offense better than we have all year. This resulted in a lot of great looks, and even though we missed some easy bunnies, the opportunities were there and will be there next time as well.

We still need to tighten up our defense, and take advantage of the precious opportunities we have on offense, but overall, the girls are improving daily, and they are having fun.

It is so much fun to watch this group get better every single day. We know that our real opponent is ourselves, and we set our goals accordingly. I am proud of what these girls have accomplished at the midway point of the season, and I am ready to get back home for some games in January (eight of our first 11 games have been on the road).

January schedule

A better balance of home games make this month's schedule a bit more bearable:

- Fri., Jan. 5: Friday Harbor at home, 5 p.m.
- Tue., Jan. 9: Mount Vernon Christian at home, 6 p.m.
- Fri., Jan. 12: at Darrington, 6 p.m.
- Tue., Jan. 16: Orcas Island at home, 4 p.m.
- Fri., Jan. 19: at La Conner, 5:30 p.m.
- Sat., Jan. 20: Entiat at home, 2:30 p.m.
- Tue., Jan. 23: at Friday Harbor, 6 p.m.
- Fri., Jan. 26: at Mount Vernon Christian, 6 p.m.
- Tue., Jan. 30: Darrington at home, 6 p.m.

Green grapplers still showing strong numbers on the mats

By Jason Miller

With six freshman on Concrete High School's brand-new mat, Concrete's wrestling team is green. Strong showings from senior Riley Fichter, junior Marshall Fichter, and sophomore Peyton Sanchez, however, are giving the coaching staff reason to hope for a trip to the state tournament in February.

Thirteen men and three women comprise this year's team, which kicked off its competitions on Dec. 2 with Wrestlerama at Stanwood High School. The matches here were designed to kick the wrestlers "out of the box, get their feet wet," said Coach David Dellinger.

The season began in earnest with a home match versus Darrington and Friday Harbor. Darrington handed Concrete a 47–18 team loss, while the Lions stomped the Wolverines 54–10.

"We were missing grades and turnouts and we're young and green, but I like the numbers," said Dellinger, noting his two seniors, Riley Fichter and Robert Thompson.

The team traveled next to the Iron Sharpens Iron tournament at Bellevue Christian on Dec. 9. Here, the Fichter

brothers flexed their muscles, with Riley taking first at 126 lbs. and Marshall taking second at 152 lbs. Dellinger said he has his eye on the brothers.

"Marshall has come on good this year; I'm proud of him," he said. "He's beaten two wrestlers who went to state last year, and during the finals at Iron, he was beating a third state contender before getting pinned."

The Dec. 16 Paul Reiman Classic at Mount Vernon High School saw the Fichter brothers in the winner's bracket again, with Marshall taking first and Riley taking second. At 160 lbs., Sanchez crushed his opposition, taking first.

The Mount Baker Invitational at Mount Baker High School rounded out competition last month on Dec. 20. Both Fichters captured third place in their respective classes, with Riley's match hotly contested by Dellinger and his son, Jesse, who felt the senior Fichter had earned an additional two points in the last 10 seconds of a match.

"He was robbed," said Dellinger.



Sophomore Peyton Sanches makes life miserable for his Friday Harbor opponent during a match on the home mat Dec. 6. Sanchez pinned his opponent for the win.



Senior Riley Fichter wrestles Teagan Magnuson of Friday Harbor as the Lions hosted the Wolverines and Darrington on Dec. 6. Fichter won the match by decision.

Athletes of the Month



Athletes of the Month: Jaidyn Swanson and Riley Fichter

Jaidyn Swanson played setter 2 position on the Concrete High School volleyball team. She started the year on junior varsity, worked extremely hard in practice, and earned a varsity position. She finished second on the team with 63 assists. Coach Kevik Rensink heaped praise on her for utilizing constructive criticism and being the ultimate team player. Swanson is the first to grab gear and the last to leave the school, ensuring everything is put away. "Congratulations on your first Athlete of the Month award; it is much deserved," said Coach Rensink.

Riley Fichter, senior captain on the Lions football team, was the starting quarterback and also played defensive back. He passed for 478 yards and seven touchdowns. Additionally, he ran for 10 touchdowns. These stats earned his selection as First Team All League Quarterback. Coach Marcus Carr said Fichter was also nominated to play in the East/West 2A/1A/B All-Star game in June.

Swanson and Fichter were selected by Concrete Lions Booster Club members based on their academic performance, athleticism, leadership, positive attitude, and demonstrating sportsmanship and character.

—Kathy Hurm

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- time. Manville-Ailles noted that the town's lack of full-member status has meant that policies apply to the town but the town doesn't have a vote. By adopting the framework agreement, Concrete will have to abide by participation rules and share in the funding, which is expected to be under \$1,000. Council approved, with Mayor Miller noting that it gives the town a voice.
- Planning & Historical Preservation Report: Manville-Ailles reported that the Upriver Craftsman & Artisan Guild planned to hold a farmers' market at Silo Park. Unfortunately, Splash Park construction will be happening at the same time, so they discussed holding the first couple dates at Veterans Memorial Park before switching to Silo Park after construction has finished. The Guild will need to come up with an events application fee by March.
 - Admin/Finance Report: The town is at the end of the process to replace the town building inspector and the town attorney. The town is trying to agree to terms with Steve Kramer as building inspector, following Jack McCormick's 15 years of service. The town also is nearing an agreement for a new town attorney. Current Town Attorney David Day will continue to serve as an employee of his replacement for one year, in order to make the transition period easier.
 - Mayor's Report: Mayor Miller was able to take a tour of the new library location and reported that it is beautiful. The new location will open this spring. Mayor Miller is trying to get a tour of the old high school's

- interior, noting that it has serious potential for economic development.
- An abundance of volunteers showed up Nov. 30 to help decorate for the holidays. Miller said that they've had difficulty keeping the Christmas tree lights operational, with vandalism playing a role in the problem.
- Council approved an events application for the Skagit Eagle Festival, the Capital Facilities Plan Ordinance #775, the Critical Areas LU17-003 Ordinance #776, and multiple lot modification agreements, and it voiced a consensus to follow the Economic Development Commission's Branding & Marketing Plan.
- Council selected Carl's Towing and Muffler, Inc. for towing services.
- Because of the cancellation of the month's second meeting on Dec. 25, the Dec. 11 meeting was Councilmember Jude Dippold's last. The mayor and council thanked Dippold for his service to the town.



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Editorial, cont. from p. 3

Homicide

- 1 in 3 female murder victims and 1 in 20 male murder victims is killed by intimate partners.
- A study of intimate partner homicides found 20 percent of victims were family members or friends of the abused partner, neighbors, persons who intervened, law enforcement responders, or bystanders.
- 72 percent of all murder-suicides are perpetrated by intimate partners.
- 94 percent of murder-suicide victims are female.

When I worked at the shelter, I listened to hundreds of stories of women who finally got up the courage to leave their abusive relationships. Many of them told me that they did it because of their kids. They didn't want their kids to witness any more of the abuse, or be abused themselves, or worse. So they left.

I know it can be so unbelievably hard and complicated to leave someone who abuses you. There are all kinds of reasons, including financial, emotional, and religious.

But I want you to know this: You deserve a better life. Your kids deserve a

Resilient, cont. from p. 11

creating a goal-setting plan, a blueprint that identifies more skills and capacities via inner guidance and wisdom, rather than being driven by the mind. Because for women, a lot of our deepest desires are based on feelings, rather than our minds."

Simultaneously, Corina and Steve operate Marblemount Homestead on their property, teaching skills that lead to resilience for students of all ages. They host summer camps for kids, and homestead and wilderness retreats for adults. Included in the retreats are such classes as cheese-making, traditional bow-making, and goat husbandry. They've developed online courses for fermentation, chicken-raising, and cheese-making, and are working on an online bow-making course.

For Sahlin, the two operations form a roadmap toward resilience. She uses personal examples to support her counseling efforts, saying she herself once

walked through life "victimized," thinking life was doing things to her, saying things like, "I could never have a relationship."

"When people learn how to have an empowered relationship vs. a victimized relationship, everything changes," said Sahlin. "I help my clients change the dialogue from what life is doing to them, to how life is playing out through them. 'How am I letting opportunities come to me, or not?' The way we speak to ourselves and relate to other people—that is how life is happening to us."

—J. K. M.

Find Norris and Sahlin online at www.melissaknorris.com, www.marblemounthomestead.com, and www.corinasahlin.com. Norris' books can be found wherever books are sold, including local outlets and online booksellers such as barnesandnoble.com and amazon.com.

CERT training begins Jan. 8

If an earthquake or other major disaster struck your neighborhood, would you be willing to help rescue people and provide basic first aid until police, fire, and EMS personnel arrive?

If so, then join the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).

The CERT program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may affect their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations.

Using the training learned in the

classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help.

Classes are held on six Mondays and one Saturday, at the Burlington Fire Dept., 350 Sharon Ave., Burlington:

- Jan. 8, 15, 22, 29, Feb. 5, 12 (6:30 to 9:30 p.m.)
- Feb. 17 (9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4:30 p.m.)

For more information or to register, call 360.202.3106 or e-mail skagitcert@gmail.com.

better life. You are not alone.

The Skagit Valley has its own resource: Skagit DVSAS is committed to eliminating domestic violence and sexual assault in our community. They provide direct advocacy-based counseling, legal assistance, emergency shelter, support during medical exams, adult and teen support groups, and extensive education and prevention programs throughout the county.

All services to survivors and their family and friends are free and confidential. To learn more, call them at 888.336.9591. Their Web site is www.skagitdvsas.org.

If you are a man who is abusive, you can get help, too. To find out more, go to www.thehotline.org/help-for-abusive-partners.

On this note, I wish you a peaceful 2018. I wish you the feeling of being loved and safe. I wish you the courage to be strong.

Corina Sahlin blogs at <http://marblemounthomestead.blogspot.com>. This editorial is an edited version of a blog post dated 12.24.17 and republished with permission.

Resolve to be resilient

You don't have to be a prepper to be interested in living a more resilient, self-sufficient life. Two Upper Valley women in particular understand this and have followed their calling to help people live more healthful and fulfilling lives, better able to withstand and bounce back from the slings and arrows that life throws at all of us.

Melissa K. Norris, who lives in Rockport with her family of four, has been sharing with people what she calls "the best of the old-fashioned skill sets in the modern world."

In other words, Norris teaches people how to raise, grow, and preserve their own food, using those old-fashioned skill sets she's captured from Depression-era people, some of whom have passed on but left their knowledge scribbled on notes and eagerly shared with Norris by her readers.

"It's modern homesteading," she said.

Norris was raised in the "modern homesteading" lifestyle, but in 2010 she kicked it up several notches after a health scare compelled her to "get our food under control. That's when we started raising our own organic chickens and pork, enlarging the garden—making a lot more from scratch at home instead of pre-produced."

Norris' journey drew her to writing too. She has published two books so far: *The Made from Scratch Life* in 2016 and *Handmade: The Modern Guide to Made-from-scratch Living* in 2017.

How does modern homesteading—the "made from scratch" life—make an individual or a family more resilient?

Because when you do something yourself, such as grow your own food or make your own meals from scratch, "you're going to experience some type of failure," she said. "Seeds don't germinate, a disease shows up, insects eat your veggies, crops fail. Or you come into the kitchen for a new recipe and it doesn't turn out like that beautiful Pinterest picture. There's always going to be failure along the way, even if you know what you're doing. Anytime you're doing things yourself, you'll run into failure—and you learn from it. If we're just buying things from the store or throwing together a boxed cake mix and not cooking

things from scratch, we don't have much opportunity for failure. You can be irritated with failure, but you also can discover how to fix the problem. The next time you do it right, that sense of accomplishment and pride—there's something pretty powerful about overcoming something, even if it's as basic as making something in your kitchen or growing something in a garden spot. That's why stories of humans overcoming things resonate so much with us. We need to experience failure—it's what makes us stronger and able to cope in many situations.

"I still tell stories about tomatoes in the Pacific Northwest. After four years of failure with those stinking tomatoes, when I finally grew 20 plants with no blight and had enough for sauces and salsas, I felt like blowing a trumpet!"

Norris encourages people to move toward resilience by starting small, in the kitchen. "Look at what you and your family are eating daily and weekly. Evaluate for a week, then pick one item and find a more healthful, at-home version of that item—two items tops. Use that alternative version at home every week until it's part of your normal routine. Once it's part of the routine, then move on to the next item. You'll slowly build that way. It will have an immediate impact. During the course of a year, you'll have close to 12 items that you're now making at home, without stressing yourself out."

Coaching resilience

Life coach Corina Sahlin lives in Marblemount with her husband, Steve, and their three children. Sahlin is a Certified Feminine Power life coach, what she calls her "soul business"; she's driven by a deep desire to help people sort out subconscious issues of which they're usually unaware. Most of her clients are women, and most of her counseling is done via telephone during an eight-week course.

What's it all about? CFP is a system, a different way of doing things than the masculine way, which is logical and linear: make a plan, set goals, achieve goals.

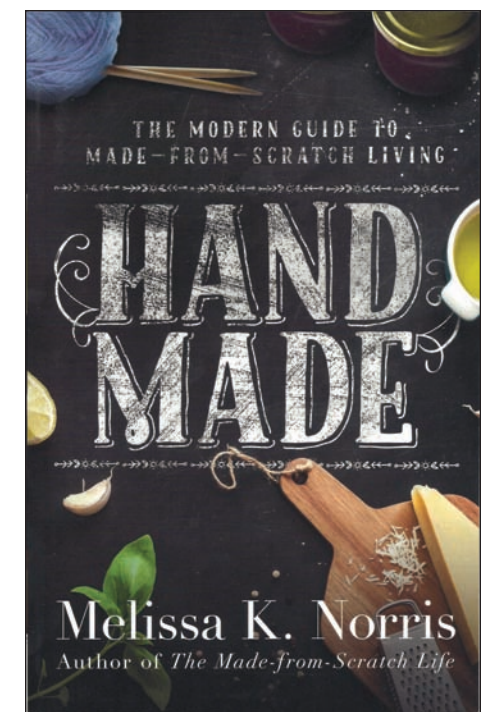
For women, "the old way of doing things is to accept the masculine way, which is wonderful on one hand, because

we've leveled the playing field for the most part," said Sahlin. "But the new paradigm for Western women is to ask questions like 'Why am I here?' and 'What is my destiny?' and 'How can I make a difference in this world?'"

Women often can't find answers to those questions by using the masculine paradigm, said Sahlin. And they certainly can't find answers if they're being held back by subconscious beliefs like "I'm not wanted," or "I'm not worthy."

"The feminine power helps people look at what they want to create—their deepest desires," said Sahlin. "I work with people to actively evolve that and give them a road map to cultivate and learn the new way of doing things. The FP model is achieved not by goal-setting, but guided by intuition, being open and receptive, clearing out old beliefs, then

See Resilient, p. 10



Melissa K. Norris' second book, *Handmade: The Modern Guide to Made-from-scratch Living*, is available wherever books are sold. Locally you'll find it at Albert's Red Apple in Concrete, the Darrington Pharmacy in Darrington, and Shelley's Shack in Sedro-Woolley.



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Academics



Scholarship opportunity

AWC Center for Quality Communities

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 plan to attend post-secondary school in fall 2018.

To be eligible, a student must be graduating from high school or home school or receiving a GED in spring/summer 2018, live within the Concrete School District boundaries, plan to continue their education at an accredited post-secondary institution in the 2018–19 academic year on a half-time or more basis, and been involved with a city government or with a community/school leadership activity.

Information and application materials can be obtained at www.townofconcrete.com or cfqc.org. Completed applications are due no later than 4:30 p.m. on Fri., Feb. 16, 2018. Submit completed materials to:

Town of Concrete, Attn: Andrea Fichter
P.O. Box 39, Concrete, WA 98237

E-mail to andrea@concretewa.gov or hand-deliver to 45672 Main St., Concrete, WA 98237.

Read Concrete Herald
The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley

Concrete Resource Coalition



Happy New Year!

On Dec. 19, four families graduated from the Strengthening Families program. It was a great time and many laughs and a few tears were shared.

Our next Strengthening Families program will begin in February on Tuesday nights. If you have a child between 10 and 14 and would like to learn more about this program, please contact me. Our family did it for the first time and it was an amazing experience.

Our yearly community survey wrapped up on Dec. 31. We received 146 surveys! Thank you to all who took the time to share your thoughts and opinions on substance use; this data really helps the coalition prioritize issues that we hear matter to you.

Coming up on Jan. 8 from 6 to 8 p.m. is a Community Dinner talk at the Community Center. The coalition will share its plan to reduce substance abuse problems in East Skagit County and give a brief introduction about substance abuse, how to recognize the signs of overdose, and what to do. Dinner will be provided by Community Action.

Our next coalition meeting is Thur., Jan. 18, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. in the high school library. Meetings are open to the public. If you have questions, please feel free to reach out. For more information, contact me at stephanie.morgareidge@unitedgeneral.org or 360.854.7179.

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

In The Service



Two local young men have joined the U.S. Navy and are working their way through training.

Josiah Werda, 20, from Concrete, has completed boot camp in Great Lakes, Ill., and is currently stationed at New London Naval Submarine Base in Groton, Connecticut.

On Dec. 21 he completed basic enlisted submarine school, the first of four schools he will complete on the way to his new job, which will be as a sonar technician for submarines. He graduated the first school in the top five of 67, which included seasoned officers. The second school starts on Jan. 8 and will take six to eight months to complete.

Werda's current rank is E-1. When he finishes his training, he should be E-3 and will begin earning higher ranks at that point.

"So far it's been a lot of fun," said Werda. "I really enjoy life in Connecticut. The scenery is similar to Washington, but it's less rainy."

Werda graduated from Sedro-Woolley High School in 2016.

Brian Torheim, 18, from Marblemount, graduated from Concrete High School last year and is following a similar path in the U.S. Navy. He too has completed his boot camp in Great Lakes, Ill., and is in the sixth week of a nine-week ATT school. After he completes this school, he'll embark on a 3-month A School training. His current rank is E-3.

"I'm not sure what happens after A School," said Torheim. "I might have another school, or I could go straight to a ship."

Torheim plans to take advantage of the G.I. Bill opportunity: He's eyeing college after his time in the service.

"It's pretty fun," he said during his holiday break. "There's times when it's a little annoying and it's nice to be home, but it's not too bad. I'm doing something I enjoy."

Read Concrete Herald
The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley



Werda



Torheim

PTO calendar

The Concrete Elementary School PTO plans another visit from the always-popular Reptile Man this month.

The Reptile Man—a.k.a. Scott Peterson—will visit the school on Wed., Jan. 10 at 6 p.m. Admission is \$1.

Kids always enjoy the traveling show, which puts them up close and personal with live reptiles, such as a king cobra, an alligator snapping turtle, a black mamba, an albino python, an American alligator, a diamondback rattlesnake, and more. (All poisonous snakes are surgically de venomized—whew!)



Above and above right: Members of the newly formed Concrete High School chapter of Family and Career Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) paused for photos. The group above right attended the Washington State Fall Regional Meeting in Stanwood on Oct. 24. Submitted photos.



Concrete High School kicks off FCCLA chapter

Concrete High School has joined Family and Career Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), a national organization. Concrete High School is represented by a core group of students who are interested in leading school and community efforts.

The Concrete students were invited to attend the Washington State Fall Regional Meeting, which took place in Stanwood. Chaperoned by FCCLA sponsor Gracie Thompson, Chaquala Davis, Michael Booker, Tasha Brink, Kai Sahlin, Eleanor Parent, and Collin Martin piled into the school van on Oct. 24 to enjoy the educational opportunity with surrounding FCCLA schools.

These student FCCLA leaders and others, such as Unity Reynolds, Riley Bushong, and Hunter Olmstead, are establishing a team of students that hope to lead educational competitions

with other schools, local volunteer opportunities, and fundraisers to further the cause.

On Nov. 3, students planned and hosted a movie night, which drew 16 students. This was a great opportunity for members to learn more about FCCLA, share ideas for upcoming fundraisers and service projects, and eat munchies.

The next event found Concrete inviting the Sedro-Woolley FCCLA chapter to join in some holiday cheer on Dec. 5.

FCCLA hopes to collaborate with Concrete local businesses and organizations to support growth and needs in the school and community.

To discuss opportunities for student involvement, contact Thompson at 360.853.4015 or gthompson@concrete.k12.wa.us.

—Gracie Thompson

Kersteter retires

Concrete School District Transportation Supervisor Karl Kersteter has ridden into the sunset after 12 years of service to the district.

Kersteter, 73, has worn many hats during his time with the district. He started as a substitute bus driver and para-educator, then moved to the transportation supervisor position. He also spent three total years as athletic director.

"I've had a job for 61 years; I don't know what I'm going to do!" Kersteter laughed during a Dec. 15 farewell party in his honor at the high school. The party drew friends and staff to the commons room to wish him all the best in his retirement.

—J. K. M.



Kersteter

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.

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ANNIE'S PIZZA STATION



Clear Lake



HISTORY CORNER

Our picture this month shows some of the Clear Lake volunteer firefighters proudly standing next to Skagit County's new Fire Protection District No. 4's Ford fire truck on what appears to be a cold, snowy day in 1947.

From left: Bill Eastberry, Lyle Haunstein, Jack Turner Sr., Red Moore, Bill Gilbert, Monty Cassal, and Douglas Trainer Sr.

The fire truck was outfitted with a 500-gallon water tank, 1,000 feet of 2-1/2-inch hose, and 500 feet of 1-1/2-inch hose. This fire truck was restored to like-new condition by a team organized by Stacy Jansma in 2010, and can

still be seen in local parades and at the Skagit County Fair.
Photo courtesy of Clear Lake Historical Association.

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

Like the Clear Lake Historical Association on Facebook at www.facebook.com/clearlakehistory.

—Deanna Ammons, historian



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Community Calendar



JANUARY

Every Saturday and Sunday:

- Skagit Eagle Festival, various events; see ad, p. 5
- 2–31 Bookmark Design Contest for Upper Skagit Library bookmark; stop by the library for full details
- 6 Wildlife Area Stewardship: Skagit Land Trust's Hurn Field (2 miles west of Concrete), 9 a.m. to noon; RSVP and details at <http://www.skagitlandtrust.org/event.aspx?eventid=389>
- 6 Sue Madsen presents Howard Miller Steelhead Park Salmon Habitat Projects, Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center, Rockport; info at www.skagiteagle.org
- 6 Storytime at the future location of the Upper Skagit Library, 45952 Main St., Concrete, 11 a.m.
- 6 Tour of the new Upper Skagit Library building, 45952 Main St., Concrete, noon to 2 p.m.
- 7 John Scurlock presents Aerial Photography: North American Mountains and Glaciers, Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center, Rockport; info at www.skagiteagle.org
- 11 Upper Skagit Library Board Meeting, current building, 5 p.m.; public welcome
- 13 Native Cultural Day (Skagit Eagle Festival event), Marblemount Community Hall; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; see article, p. 26
- 13 Jenna Friebe presentation: Skagit River Delta Salmon Recovery, Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center, Rockport; info at www.skagiteagle.org
- 13 Darrington Community Dance, Mansford Grange, Darrington; potluck at 6 p.m., dance from 7 to 9:30; \$7 suggested donation; see notice, p. 25; info at 206.402.8646
- 14 Jennifer Sevigny presentation: N. Cascades Elk Herd, Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center, Rockport; info at www.skagiteagle.org
- 19 Invasive Ivy Removal, Skagit Land Trust's Minkler Lake, 9 a.m. to noon; RSVP and details at <http://www.skagitlandtrust.org/event.aspx?eventid=388>
- 20 Pete Haase presents: Forage Fish Around Skagit County, Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center, Rockport; info at www.skagiteagle.org
- 21 Mike Larrabee presents: Glaciers of the North Cascades, Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center, Rockport; info at www.skagiteagle.org
- 26 Silent Medication instruction, 4 to 8 p.m. (half-hour segments), see article, p. 26; info at douglas pocock@hotmail.com or 360.873.2323
- 27 Work Party at Washington Woodland Co-op site, 7628 Russell Rd., Birdview (across SR 20 from Birdview Burgers), 1 p.m. to dusk; see ad, p. 11; info at 360.855.8768 or info@washingtonwoodland.coop
- 27 Terri Wilde presents: Native Plants of the Upper Skagit, Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center, Rockport; info at www.skagiteagle.org
- 27 "Grub'n'Groove" open mic event, Marblemount Community Hall; 6 p.m. potluck, 7 p.m. open mic; see notice, p. 26; info at 360.853.7346
- 28 Christ Brewer and Ken Salzman present: Winter Birds of Skagit County, Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center, Rockport; info at www.skagiteagle.org

FEBRUARY

- 3 Tree Planting at Skagit River Kahn (along the river by Cascadian Farms), Rockport, 9 a.m. to noon; RSVP and details at <http://www.skagitlandtrust.org/event.aspx?eventid=390>

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

Community meetings

Cascade Days planning meetings will be held the third Mon. of each month, at 7460 S. Dillard, Ste. A (corner of SR 20 and Dillard), at 5:30 p.m. Meetings are not mandatory for volunteers. Info at ember@cascaadedays.com.

Christian Motorcyclists Assn Morning Star Chapter 39 meets the first Mon. of each month at Royal Star Buffet in Mount Vernon. Optional dinner at 6 p.m.; meeting at 7 p.m. 425.770.6154 or cmchapter39@gmail.com.

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

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

Concrete American Legion Post and Auxiliary meets the second Tue. of each month, Sept. through May, at 1 p.m., in the conference room of the East County Resource Center. 360.853.8347.

Concrete Economic Development Commission meets quarterly at Concrete Town Hall. Its next meeting is Nov. 8 at 6 p.m. 503.333.2406

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

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

Concrete Heritage Museum Board meets the third Wed. of each month, at 7 p.m. at the museum. Meetings are open to the public. 360.826.3075 or www.concreteheritagemuseum.org.

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

Concrete Resource Coalition meets the third Thur. of each month, at 2 p.m., in the Concrete High School library.

Concrete School District Board: The board will hold a work session on Jan. 22 at 6 p.m. in the high school commons room. The board will hold its regular monthly meeting on Jan. 25 at 6 p.m., same location. 360.853.4000.

Concrete Town Council meets the second and fourth Monday of each month at Town Hall, 45672 Main St., Concrete, at 6 p.m. 360.853.8401 or andrea@concretewa.gov.

Darrington Strong meets the third Wed. of

each month, 7 p.m., at Cascade Senior Center, 1115 Darrington St., Darrington. 360.436.2167.

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

Forest Park Cemetery District No. 5 meets the first Tue. of each month at the cemetery office on Compton Lane in Concrete, at 6 p.m. 360.708.3656.

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

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

KSVU staff and volunteer meeting, second Tue. of each month at Portable B behind Concrete Elementary School, 4 p.m., open to public. 360.853.8588.

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

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

Marblemount Community Hall board and staff meet the second Wed. of each month at the hall, at 6 p.m. 360.873.2323.

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

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.

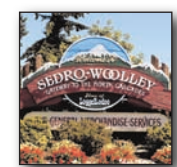
Sedro-Woolley School District Board: A work session is planned for Jan. 8 at 6 p.m. in the Support Services Bldg., followed by a regular meeting at 7 p.m., same location. A regular meeting is planned for Jan. 22 at 7 p.m. at Cascade Middle School. 360.855.3500 or kcargile@swsd.k12.wa.us.

Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center Board meets the second Tue. of each month, 5:30 p.m., at Annie's Pizza Station in Grasmere. Open to the public. saunksister@frontier.com or www.skagiteagle.org.

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

Upper Skagit Writers Group meets the third Mon. of each month at 6 p.m., at 5b's Bakery, Concrete. Open to the public and all skill levels. em@5bsbakery.com.

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



Sedro-Woolley youth vie for Boys & Girls Clubs Youth of the Year title

Two Sedro-Woolley Boys & Girls Clubs Youth of the Year winners are about to find out if they win the countywide title.

Youth of the Year Cameron Queen and Junior Youth of the Year Aaliyah Wolfe will attend the Skagit County Boys & Girls Clubs Youth of the Year dinner on Jan. 31, where the countywide winners will be announced.

The dinner will include speeches from select youth representing their individual local clubs.

Last fall, members from each local club started working with a staff mentor to prepare for Youth of the Year, a program

that recognizes and seeks to celebrate those members who embrace and embody the characteristics of leadership and service, academic success, and healthy lifestyles. Staff mentors help each club member with essay writing, as well as interviewing and public speaking skills, to showcase their achievements and development. Participants are presented with many opportunities to practice and hone their skills in front of their peers, the public, and a panel of selected community judges.

Being named Youth of the Year is highest honor a club member can achieve.



Sedro-Woolley Youth of the Year Cameron Queen and Junior Youth of the Year Aaliyah Wolfe will find out Jan. 31 whether they've been named as the countywide Youth of the Year. Submitted photo.

Candidates can earn scholarship funds, and are presented with opportunities to meet and make connections with prominent, key individuals in their prospective fields.

Aside from Youth of the Year, select club members have been awarded for excellence in Sportsmanship, Art, Good

Character, STEM, and Homework (Power Hour). The clubs also took time to recognize community members for exceptional service. In Sedro-Woolley, the Mike and Dianne Crawford Service Award went to Cookson Beecher.

—Tammy Findlay

Janicki Industries passes Nadcap audit for composite manufacturing

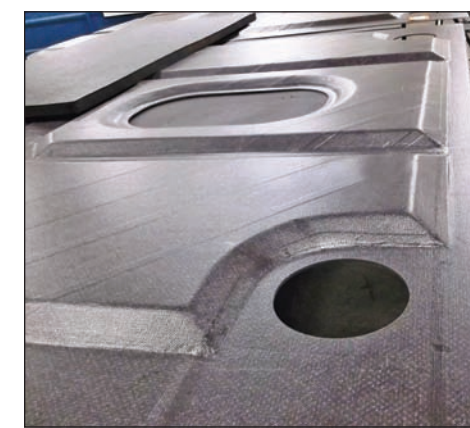
Janicki Industries announced Dec. 11 that it has been approved for Nadcap (National Aerospace and Defense Contractors Accreditation Program) accreditation until 2020. Nadcap accreditation indicates that Janicki's

Hamilton Facility is a qualified manufacturer of composite parts and tools.

Janicki has made several capital investments that helped ensure this accreditation, including implementing nondestructive inspection equipment and processes, adding advance testing equipment to its research and development lab, and expanding its Class 8 Clean Room by 50 percent to accommodate larger parts and greater production speed.

Janicki Industries is one of only 11 composite suppliers in Washington that are Nadcap-approved to make composite parts. It is one of four suppliers that have achieved 24-month merit. This means its manufacturing process controls are so excellent the auditors have certified Janicki for two years, rather than the one year normally applied.

Janicki Industries Director of Quality Assurance Bill Vaith said, "This Nadcap



qualification shows our aerospace customers that JI is a premium supplier of composite parts and tools, and that we meet the most stringent process requirements for manufacturing with advanced composite materials."

Janicki Industries President John Janicki added, "We are pleased to achieve 24-month merit on our Nadcap certification and our customers can trust Janicki for their most challenging carbon-fiber composite fly-away parts."

Nadcap is an industry-managed approach to conformity assessment of "special processes" that brings together technical experts from prime contractors, suppliers and representatives from government to work together and establish requirements for approval of suppliers using a standardized approach. Unlike traditional third party programs, Nadcap approval is granted based upon industry consensus.

—Submitted by Janicki Industries

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Lyman



Scam alert: Watch out for scammers posing as Washington State Supreme Court clerk

Scammers are posing as the Washington State Supreme Court clerk to call Washingtonians to demand money and threaten arrest, according to a Dec. 13 press release from the Washington State Attorney General.

The fraudulent calls have so far targeted individuals with Hispanic last names. Attorney General Bob Ferguson and Chief Justice Mary Fairhurst urge consumers not to fall for the scammers' ploy. The Supreme Court will never threaten people with arrest or demand payment.

"These imposters prey on consumers' fears to gain access to their bank

accounts," Ferguson said. "Washington court clerks have never and will never behave that way."

The State Supreme Court has received dozens of reports from Washingtonians of scammers using fake caller ID information to make a call appear to come from the Supreme Court clerk's office. The caller typically states they are from the courts or law enforcement, and threatens arrest if recipients do not send money.

What to do

If you or a family member receives one of these calls, hang up immediately. Do

not give in to high-pressure tactics. Do not trust callers who use threats to bully or frighten you. The Supreme Court, any other Washington court, or a law enforcement agency will never call to demand payment or threaten arrest.

The Office of AG asks all residents to spread the word about this scam by sharing this information with friends and family.

If you receive a suspicious call, hang up and file a complaint with the Washington State Attorney General's Office at www.atg.wa.gov or report it to the Federal Trade Commission.

NEW library hours

The Free Library in Lyman is no longer open on Wednesday.

The new hours are Saturdays from noon to 4 p.m.

2017 Upper Valley memorials

By Dan Royal

The following is not a complete list of those families, friends, and neighbors who passed away during 2017 in the Upper Valley area covered by *Concrete Herald*. The list is meant to give a sense of the people who have been a part of our communities and schools. No disrespect is meant by any omissions.

Concrete High School alumni

Wenrick, Betty L. (Maupin), 78, of Bow. Worked for Seattle City Light.

Metcalf, Joan M. (Weir), 70, of Sedro-Woolley, died in Everett. Worked for North Cascades National Parks. Graduate of 1964.

Browning, Patricia (McCanless), 86, of Hamilton.

Nieshe, Adolph, 79, of Birdsvew. A veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, became an active member of Heskett-Arnold American Legion Post 132 in Concrete. Adolph worked for Goodyear-Nelson, later Northwest Hardwoods the majority of his career.

Martin, Frank D., 83, of Sedro-Woolley. Inspector for Puget Sound Energy. Graduate of 1952.

Johnson, Evelyn S., 77, of Sedro-Woolley. O'Brien, Myrtle N. (Buchanan), 93, of Burlington. Accountant for Skagit County Health Dept.

Reynolds, Phyllis J. (Johnson), 74, of Concrete. Former hair dresser. Canales-McGuire, Alisha M., 24, of Birdsvew, died in Everett. Worked at Life Care of Skagit.

Clark, Madrene "Tootsie" (Buller), 95, of Marblemount. Owner-operator of Clark's Cabins & Eatery and Skagit River Resort. She was also known as the Cinnamon Roll Lady from 1972 to 2017 at the opening of the pass gate on Highway 20. Pioneer Family of the Year 1998 at the Annual Pioneer Picnic in La Conner.

Yeager, David "Allen" 80, of Auburn. Worked for Intalco. Graduate of 1957.

Note: Obituary information may only have shared the school(s) the deceased attended. Most obituaries did not list the year they graduated.

Upper Valley communities

Hoyt, Richard R. "Dick," 85, of Ephrata. Washington State Game Dept. Graduate of SWHS, 1948. Of the Pioneer Boyd family honored at 2012 Pioneer Picnic at the Annual Pioneer Picnic in La Conner.

Lemley, Joanna K. (Land), 83, of Sedro-Woolley. Her husband, the late Dick Lemley, was an owner-operator of Lemley Chapel. Joanna was a 1951 graduate of SWHS 1951.

Dickinson, O. M. Dean, 84, formerly of Sedro-Woolley. Worked for Dunlap Towing. Rabb, David P. "Hillbilly," 71, of Sedro-Woolley. Career in logging.

Mitchell, Sheila J. (Oliver), 59, of Hamilton. Worked for Value Village.

Dills, Hezekiah J. "Hez," 84, of Sedro-Woolley, died in Seattle. Retired foreman at cedar shake mill.

Stendal, William "Bill," 89, formerly of Sedro-Woolley. Retired principal at Sedro-Woolley School Dist. and former mayor of Sedro-Woolley. Past president of Skagit County Pioneer Association. Graduate of SWHS, 1946.

Nieshe, John P., 46, of Birdsvew. Career in construction. Batnich, Frances E., 90, of Hamilton, died in Mount Vernon.

McCormick, Larry B., 72, of Sedro-Woolley. Klinger, Dennis L. "Denny," 75, of Sedro-Woolley. Worked for Skagit County Public Works. Graduate of SWHS, 1960.

Frizzell, Alan "Dean," 56, of Sedro-Woolley. Graduate of SWHS, 1978.

Broom, Annie F., 90, of Hamilton. Died in Sedro-Woolley.

Dellinger, Michele R. (Cruse), 57, of Sedro-Woolley. Worked for Food Pavilion. Graduate of SWHS, 1977.

Self, Earl E., 83, of Sedro-Woolley.

Roberts, Leroy D., 75, of Sedro-Woolley. Worked for Snelson Company; part owner in Old Skagit Gun Club.

Austin, Addison P., 95, of Sedro-Woolley. Career as heavy equipment operator. Graduate of SWHS, 1940.

Metcalf, Willard W., 84, of Hamilton. Worked in the timber industry. Owned Metcalf Cutting. Burrell, Mildred V., 91, of Sedro-Woolley. Former sales clerk at Oliver Hammer Clothing.

Fox, Jerry M., 66, of Concrete. Worked as an auto mechanic; very talented karaoke country singer.

Ruiz, Rosendo S., 80 of Birdsvew. Worked for General Chemical.

Taylor, Russell L., 62, of Concrete. Babcock, Helen (Straight), 82, of Birdsvew. Gronemyer, John "Rick," 57, of Clear Lake. Career as a carpenter.

Moody, Sharon L. (Mericle), 75, of Lyman, died in Bellingham. Former postmaster at Lyman Post Office.

Pallogi Jr., Leo L., 52, of Sedro-Woolley. Heavy equipment operator.

Sylva, Antonia L., 74, of Concrete. Kennedy, Nellie L., 84, of Sedro-Woolley.

See Memorials, p. 35

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For a referral, call Love Inc. at 360.419.7061 between 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

360.826.4090

Concrete

Concrete Food Bank

45942 Main St., Concrete
Second and fourth Tue. each month, Noon-3 p.m.
360.853.8505

Darrington

Darrington Food Bank

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

Hamilton

Hamilton Community Food Bank

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

Lyman

Shepherd's Heart Food Bank

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

Marblemount

Bread of Life Food Bank

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Sedro-Woolley

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December in pictures



Above: Santa, Mrs. Claus, and their No. 1 elf took photos with Upper Valley kids after the tree-lighting ceremony and Christmas carols in Concrete Town Center on Dec. 2. Every child got a candy cane and a \$1 coin from Santa and his helpers, and refreshments were available for mom and dad. Photo by Bill Pfeifer.



Above: Santa, Mrs. Claus, and even more elves were on hand with presents and good cheer during the Christmas on Moen Road event near Concrete on Dec. 9. The outdoor gathering at the residence of Marty and Adrienne Smith included hay rides, hot dogs, s'mores, a live Nativity scene, and a bonfire.

Right: Sheena Daniels snapped this silly selfie with Santa and his elf during the Imagine Concrete Foundation Christmas Bazaar and Children's Craft Fair on Dec. 9.



Above and right: Young musicians perform during the Concrete Elementary School Holiday Program on Dec. 13. The event showcased young talent from the Upper Valley one grade at a time, with familiar tunes being the order of the evening.



Left: From left, Ebby Buchta, Izzy Ramos, and Tasha Brink focus on their performance during the Winter Concert presented by Concrete School District Music Program on Dec. 14. The evening included music from the 6th graders, the middle school strings and band, the Book One band, the high school strings and band, and the jazz band.

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Hamilton



Rockport



Council summary

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

- A public meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. to discuss the budget. The public hearing ended at 7:11 p.m. The regular meeting was called to order at 7:11 p.m.
- The council and mayor entered an executive session at 7:13 p.m. The regular meeting resumed at 7:31 p.m.
- Council voted unanimously to pass two interlocal agreements, both with Skagit County: one for fire marshal and one for road maintenance.

- Council voted to sign the mitigation plan letter.
- Council voted to approve Resolution 06–2017, increasing the levy by 1 percent.
- **Water Dept.:** Cas Hancock reported a 6 percent loss.
- **Fire Dept.:** 911 NexGen requires latitude/longitude for all town addresses. Mayor Joan Cromley was going to get started on this. Fire Department would like to upgrade or surplus the O₂ refiller.
- **Street Dept.:** The Street Department requested a man lift for various tasks. Council voted to allow up to \$5,000 to be used in acquiring a man lift.

—Compiled from staff notes

**Upper Valley merchants
bring you Concrete Herald each month.
Please support them!**

From the Mayor

We owe Brian Kirkpatrick a huge “thank you” for having the Dumpsters at his place. They were there for a month!



I’m glad so many people were able to get rid of flood debris, and I appreciate everyone’s courteous attitude at the dumpsters. Now to keep everything cleaned up so there’s less to get rid of if the water comes back.

The Rails to Trails has been fixed, and the levee at the west end of town has been filled back in. As soon as it dries out some more, the gravel will be

compacted to strengthen it. The undercut in the road was fixed within two weeks of the flood.

If you had any flood damage that requires tearing things out of walls or floors, please contact Town Hall about a permit.

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Hamilton Kids Christmas party. It was awesome to see the wide variety of people who sat with Santa.

Our clerk, Denise DuVarney, wants to start an evening game night to give the kids something to do that doesn’t involve getting into trouble. Please keep an eye peeled for flyers once dates get confirmed. We’d love some donations of good board games.

—Mayor Joan Cromley

Flood gauge resources for Rockport-area residents

During emergency situations, such as Skagit River flood events, here is a list of trustworthy data sources, courtesy of R. Leif Embertson, principal river engineer for Natural Systems Design.

USGS stage gauge near Swift Creek confluence

https://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/uv/?site_no=12184700&agency_cd=USGS

This USGS link is a “stage-only” gauge, and the reading does not correlate to Concrete or Marblemount gauges.

It does, however, offer real-time stage measurements, making it a little more accurate than the Concrete gauge.

Northwest River Forecast Center

<https://www.nwrfc.noaa.gov/rfc>
<https://www.nwrfc.noaa.gov/river/station/flowplot/flowplot.cgi?lid=CONW1>

These two links are updated every 6 to 12 hours, based on current river flows and predicted precipitation amounts. Weather in Washington is very unpredictable, and these forecasts do not likely take into account dam operations, but they might provide more frequent updates than the Skagit County hotline.

Sauk at Sauk

<https://www.nwrfc.noaa.gov/river/station/flowplot/flowplot.cgi?lid=SAKW1>

Skagit at Marblemount

<https://www.nwrfc.noaa.gov/river/station/flowplot/flowplot.cgi?lid=SRMW1>

Rockport State Park hosts guided hikes, Junior Ranger activities through the winter

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission invites the public to experience an ancient forest this winter at Rockport State Park, through guided hikes, educational programming, and interpretive activities for all ages.

Deep Forest Experience will take place between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays through Feb. 18 at Rockport State Park, 51905 SR 20, Rockport.

Guided hikes depart from the Discovery Center at 11 a.m., noon, 1 p.m., and 2 p.m.

Rockport State Park staff and volunteers will lead half-mile, 45-minute walks under a canopy of maple trees and old growth fir, cedar, and hemlock. Many of the Rockport trees are more than 400 years old and top out at 250 feet. They include the 500-year old Grandmother Cedar.

During the walks, interpretive staff and guest speakers will discuss the ecosystems that keep forests healthy, including salmon-bearing streams, bird and animal scat, and mycorrhizal fungi.

Participants are encouraged to dress for cold, wet winter weather, including suitable footwear.

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

Rockport also will offer Junior Ranger programs this winter, which combine

age-appropriate opportunities for children to learn, play, and protect natural spaces. Junior Rangers are encouraged to complete the Junior Ranger activity booklet, as well as attend a guided hike. Booklets are available at the Discovery Center, and activities are suitable for children age five and older.

Two guest speakers remain in the schedule as part of the 2017–18 Deep Forest Experience:

- “Lichens and Why They’re Important to the Forest,” with Dr. Katherine Glew, associate curator, Univ. of Wash. Herbarium, Burke Museum of Natural History: Feb. 10, 11 a.m.
- “Tree Ecology—Discussion and Walkabout” with Kevin Zobrist, author and forestry professor, Washington State University: Feb. 17, 11 a.m.

More speakers may be added to the Deep Forest Experience programming; their presentations will be listed on the State Parks online calendar at <http://parks.state.wa.us/Calendar.aspx>. For more information, contact Rockport State Park, 360.854.8846 or 360.853.8461.

The Deep Forest Experience programs are free. A \$10 day-use pass or \$30 annual Discover Pass is required for parking at Rockport State Park; passes can be purchased at the office or Discovery Center.

For more information, go to www.discoverpass.wa.gov.

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Hamilton Town Councilmember Brian Kirkpatrick was grateful to Santa for his present—an ammo box—during the Dec. 16 Christmas Party in Hamilton. Kirkpatrick was joined at the event by three other councilmembers.



Athena got up close and personal with Santa (a.k.a. Harry Smith) during the Hamilton Volunteer Fire Dept. Children's Christmas party on Dec. 16. The party ran the gamut, with babies, teens, and adults sitting with Santa. Photos by Denise DuVarney.

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Darrington



Local massage therapist completes advanced training



Rasmussen

Darrington massage therapist Roselie Rasmussen recently completed her Clinical Rehabilitative Massage Specialty Certificate, the nation's most comprehensive and rigorous advanced training program specifically designed to provide the skills essential for addressing pain and injury problems.

Practitioners who have completed this 160-hour program have demonstrated a working knowledge of clinical anatomy, biomechanics, injury management, treatment planning, and clinical reasoning. A massage therapist who has earned this credential has demonstrated a commitment to excellence in their practice and along with well-polished treatment skills will clearly demonstrate a high degree of professionalism for addressing essential patient needs.

Rasmussen has lived in Darrington since 1992. She's a fourth-generation holistic health care provider.

"My father, both grandparents, and great grandfather were all chiropractors, so the integrative, body-mind approach to health care is in my blood and was part of my upbringing," said Rasmussen. "But when I really became interested in helping people get past pain to achieve their dreams was after a prolonged period of severe back pain myself. It helped me understand the frustration and fear that people with pain are facing. There are so many experiences available to us, we just can't have pain getting in our way. Pain can also keep us from being our best self with our friends and family and prevent us from sharing our beauty and our gifts with a world that needs those things."

In 2004, Rasmussen completed a 1,000-

hour training at the Brian Utting School of Massage and received her massage license. In 2015 she became certified in Orthopedic Massage by the Orthopedic Massage Education and Research Institute.

"In 2017 I converted that certification to a Clinical Rehabilitative Massage Specialty Certificate, because the latter is recognized nationally as the most comprehensive and advanced massage training available in the United States," said Rasmussen.

Darrington Community Dance

Sat., Jan. 13

Potluck: 6 p.m. / Dance: 7 to 9:30 p.m.

Live music by Red Crow
Caller: Ron Mickelberry

Mansford Grange, 1265 Railroad Ave., Darrington

Suggested donation: \$7
(proceeds to band and caller)

Information: 206.402.8646

Eslick comes to town

Story and photo by Marla Skaglund

The new state representative for the 39th Legislative District Carolyn Eslick greeted community members and Mayor Dan Rankin to an informal Q&A gathering held at Mountain Loop Books and Coffee on Dec. 13. The evening started with a discussion on the McCleary Bill, House Bill 2242, about funding education. Eslick explained because she had only recently been appointed, she had not fully read the bill and planned to do so as soon as she serves on the Early Learning and Human Service committee. She also serves on the House Capital Budget committee.

Eslick asked everyone in the room to identify themselves and explain if they represented a particular group. Paul Wagoner explained the role of a forestry consultant. Eslick asked him if he had any concerns. Wagoner spoke of a bill for the DNR Good Neighborhood Authority, which would allow the DNR to manage and work on federal lands, and a bill allowing collaboratives for forest cleaning and fire abatement in Eastern Washington.

Martha Rasmussen, president of Darrington Strong, explained how the organization works within the community to foster the opportunity for community members to volunteer in local projects. She explained Friends for Public Use, Friends of North Mountain, Darrington Area Resource Advocates (DARA), and other committees including visual impact, events, and Whitehorse Park. She explained that while working to make Darrington a recreational area, trails and roads are either closing or in much-needed repair because of budget restrictions. Eslick said she would make inquiries.

Discussion continued on the effects of discharging automatic weapons in the local gravel pits, and the garbage and destruction left behind. Mayor Rankin voiced concern for nearby homes and the finding of bullets in siding. Carl Wright, community member, shared stories of the noise the weapons create and the



Eslick

lack of concern the shooters exhibit by discharging their weapons at all hours of the day and night. Mayor Rankin also brought up the issue of shooters destroying timber by filling large trees with lead, making them impossible to cut and totally unusable. Eslick said she would be willing to put together a meeting with the National Rifle Association, Snohomish County, Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Forest Service, and community members to discuss a solution for the problem.

Rasmussen expressed concern about the "mudders" who dam the creeks and ruin the remaining roads.

The Legislature will reconvene on Jan. 8 in Olympia.

Eslick was appointed on Sept. 20, 2017 to the 39th District seat. She had served six years as a city council member and more than nine years as the mayor of Sultan. She is a champion for economic growth and is the founder and former president of GroWashington, a business development and retail incubator.

Read Concrete Herald
The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley

Council summary

Darrington Town Council met for a regular meeting on Nov. 8, preceded by a special meeting to conduct interviews to fill Position No. 2. The following is a summary of those meetings. Complete and council-approved minutes for every council meeting are available at Darrington Town Hall.

Nov. 8 special meeting

- The meeting was called to order at 5:57 p.m. Interviews were conducted with the following applicants: Todd Ronning, Carolyn Erickson, JoAnn Milton, Kerry Frable.
- The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Nov. 8 regular meeting

- Kerry Frable was sworn in at Council Position #2 and signed the Oath of Office for a two-year term, to complete Richard Osenbrock's term.
- Public hearings were held for Ordinance No. 733 and Ordinance No. 734, establishing the 2018 budget for Town of Darrington. There were no questions from the public.
- Council discussed the town's liability regarding kids at the skate park bowl who were not using helmets. It was stated that the town has done its due diligence to ensure the public is aware of the rules. The fire dept. has been asked to run drills at the park in the event there is an injury in the bowl. A grand opening for the skate park bowl is planned for spring.
- Councilman Kevin Ashe announced that Kirk Pearson will resign his Senate seat. Ashe stated that he feels Pearson has done a great job representing the Darrington community.
- It was announced that Nate Nehring was re-elected to the Snohomish County Council.
- This year's Trunk or Treat event was a success.
- Audience member Todd Ronning requested that the east end of Seeman St. be added to the street list for 2018.
- Council directed Mayor Dan Rankin to sign a letter of support for the Summer Learn and Earn program, a

collaboration among WSU and north counties. So far 30-plus kids have used the program and progressed significantly. There is a push to expand the program into a Workforce Development program. There was general support for the letter.

- Council discussed a price increase for an interlocal agreement with Snohomish County regarding District Court filing fees.
- Council will discuss at its next meeting whether to move its Thursday meetings from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
- The T-Mobile tower is complete. A generator has provided power; PUD should have the power hooked up by the end of the week.
- Council approved numerous items in addition to the two ordinances listed above:

A SnoPac 911 interlocal agreement with Town of Darrington.

Amendment 3 within an interlocal agreement with Snohomish County for law enforcement service. The town still owes approximately \$113,000 to the SCSO for back pay. It was recommended to ask for the full amount from grant funding.

Cascade Design Collaborative Certificate of Substantial Completion for Old School Park.

Ordinance No. 732: imposing an interim official control regarding the prohibition of community health engagement locations, safe injection sites, and other uses or activities designed to provide a location for individuals to consume illicit drugs; providing for severability; and establishing an effective date.

Permission to award to the lowest responsible bidder for the Givens Ave. water line project.

- Mayor Rankin reported on his trip to the SHIFT Convention in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, and a Puget Sound Regional Council session.

—Compiled from staff minutes

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

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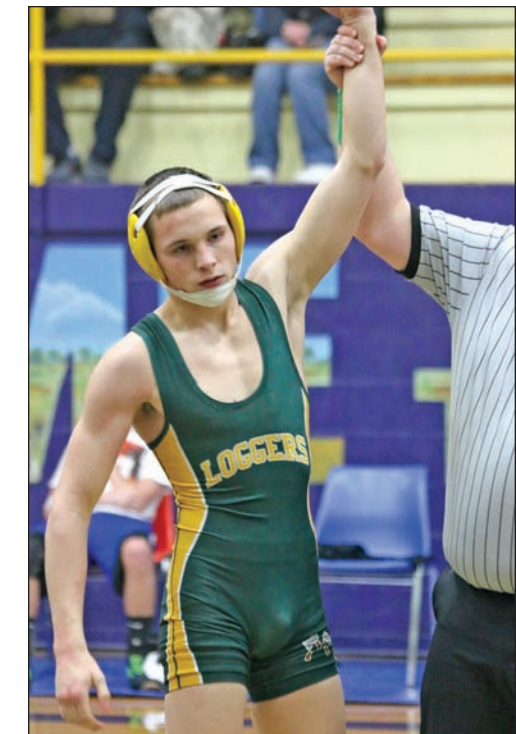
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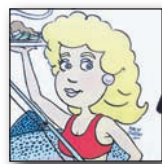
d.iga@frontier.com



Right: Joseph Monchack stood triumphant after defeating Jordan Lawson of Friday Harbor during a Dec. 6 match at Concrete.

Below: Gage Burtenshaw wrestles Hunter Olmstead of Concrete during an exhibition match on Dec. 6 at Concrete. Burtenshaw, a state medalist last year, won the match by decision.





Marblemount



Newhalem



Eagle Festival events return to community hall

During the 33rd annual Skagit Eagle Festival on Sat., Jan. 13, visitors to the Marblemount Community Hall will once again enjoy speakers, presentations, art, and music by members of our native tribal communities.

The day will be filled with cultural events, hot food, and craft vendors from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Presentations will offer insights into Skagit indigenous peoples' history, as well as contemporary issues and projects in the watershed. Fresh, hot food, including the ever-popular Indian fry bread tacos, will be available to purchase all day as well.

Following Eagle Festival events, the

Hall is also hosting the following events this month:

- **Silent meditation:** Instruction, discourse, and discussion on Fri., Jan. 26. Drop in on this course led by instructor Doug Pocock, who will accommodate all interested folks from novices to experienced in half-hour segments from 4 to 8 p.m. Chairs will be provided, but students may wish to bring their own mat or cushion as well. For more information, e-mail douglas pocock@hotmail.com or leave a message at the hall: 360.873.2323.

- On Sat., Jan. 27, the popular wintertime open mic event, "Grub'n'Groove," returns. Beginning the evening with a potluck meal, local musicians, storytellers, actors, and others wanting to step on stage will entertain all who come. Doors open at 6 p.m. for the potluck, with open mic beginning at 7 p.m. For more information, call 360.853.7346.

All January events are free; donations are appreciated.

—Christie Fairchild

The good news is ...

By Sasa, Starwalker, and Two Hats

When we experience tragic events in our lives, it is terribly difficult to glimpse a bigger picture. When we perceive from our hearts we begin to understand the meaning behind our experiences. It is only as our heart settles the dust that we begin to see the lessons within the experience.

In 2008 we went through a great upheaval in our lives, where we were engaged in a nasty custody battle with one past abuser while battling another who insisted in putting us in harm's way of the prior abuser. All this while my baby girl lay dying in the hospital with an extremely aggressive liver tumor that eventually took her life at 16 months.

These events taught me a great deal about myself and about healing. As a young girl, I lost my mom to cancer as well, and my dad abandoned me, not having the tools to deal with grief of his life's love.

After all this tragedy, I realized it is not what happens to us in life, but from where we experience it. If I had the tools of my heart, things would have been different. We have a choice to experience things from our head, which will always provide us with duality—black and white. Or, we can choose to experience things from our hearts, which provides us with polarity, an understanding of how things work together for a higher purpose of understanding. We cannot come to understand something without first experiencing it through life school.

Although what happened was tragic, we were shown the beauty of our resilience. I was not told of my inner beauty and strength, but by following my heart, I discovered a power from within to endure and evolve through life's events. Anyone who needs support in transforming their lives into one from their heart, please connect with us. We gather at full and new moon every month, as well as all Mother Earth Celebrations.

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

North Cascades grizzly restoration plan "indefinitely on hold"

The project to reintroduce grizzly bears into the North Cascades ecosystem has apparently been suspended indefinitely.

The story broke in the Montana-based newspaper *The Missoulian* on Dec. 16. That paper reported that North Cascades National Park Superintendent Karen Taylor-Goodrich told the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee (IGBC) on Dec. 13 that her staff had been asked to stop work on its environmental impact statement by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's office.

The alleged order also stalls discussions with Canadian wildlife managers who oversee a similar grizzly recovery process in British Columbia, she said.

"We were in the process of evaluating public comment," Taylor-Goodrich said of the stop order, as quoted in *The Missoulian*. "We're in year three of the process and all the public scoping has been done. The draft EIS went out for public review in spring and we've received about 127,000 comments."

The order from Zinke's office, however, is difficult to corroborate. Zinke spokeswoman Heather Swift told *The Associated Press* on Dec. 19 that Zinke did not direct a stop work order on the environmental review. Swift didn't provide further details, and did not return a call from *Concrete Herald* for confirmation.

The EIS, which went out last January for comment, garnered 127,000 responses from the public. Alternatives ranged from no action to fast-tracking the relocation of bears to build a self-sustaining population of 200 in the North Cascades ecosystem (see graphic, this page).

The stalled U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Park Service proposal for bringing grizzly bears back to the North Cascades includes three options plus the alternative of maintaining the existing plan. Under the proposal, bears from Montana and British Columbia

would be brought here and released to live in nearly 10,000 square miles of remote forests covering portions of seven Washington state counties. The goal would be to eventually reach a population of 200; biologists estimate the region could carry about 280 grizzlies.

The three options are:

- Release five to seven bears annually for 5 to 10 years, until the population reaches 25. Under that plan, it's estimated that a population of 200 bears will take 60 to 100 years to reach. Conservation Northwest, a Seattle-based advocacy group, prefers this alternative.
- A more aggressive alternative would see five to seven bears added annually for about 25 years, until the goal population of 200 is reached.
- Another approach would release up to 10 bears in two years and monitor them for four years before deciding to repeat that cycle or switch to the more aggressive approach to reach 25 bears.

Under each of the plans, grizzlies that die, leave, or are removed because of human conflict could be replaced.

A fourth option, required by law to be listed, is to maintain the existing plan, which has not done anything in the past two decades to increase the North Cascades' estimated grizzly bear population of fewer than 10.

Grizzlies were listed as a threatened species in the contiguous U.S. in 1975. They were listed as endangered in Washington in 1980.

Hikers and environmental groups enthusiastically supported the idea. But many residents and politicians, including U.S. Rep. Dan Newhouse, former State Senator Kirk Pearson, and Skagit County Commissioner Lisa Janicki, remain opposed to the idea because of concerns for safety, as well as local agriculture.



This graphic shows the proposed area for the grizzly bear recovery project within the North Cascades ecosystem. The project is on indefinite hold after National Park Service officials were allegedly asked in December to stop work on the project's environmental impact statement by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's office. Image courtesy of Alan Kenaga/Capital Press.

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Seniors



Way Back, cont. from p. 28

The town will receive all the pipe lines with the exception of one from Lake Shannon to the plant, which is a separate agreement between Puget Power and Lone Star. The water tank and the property on which it rests will be deeded to the town. There will be a transfer of water rights on the spring source of the water system, but Lone Star will retain a portion of the rights to handle future needs, such as the still-pending project of piping slurry from Concrete to the Anacortes plant site.

Lone Star spells out plans for phase-out of local plant

Jan. 10, 1968: Mayor Margaret Stadlman, town councilmen, town attorney Hugh Ridgway, and Clerk-Treasurer Marie Miller met with cement company officials Robert Hutton and Richard Farrow, accountant Ray Rainwater, and Plant Superintendent W. R. McClinton Saturday for a several-hour discussion on the various aspects of the Lone Star phase-out of operations in Concrete. The picture was not as gloomy as had been rumored.

Hutton stated that phase-out will

continue as previously announced, and that the final stages of shipping might continue into the first months of 1969 under some circumstances, but that the mill itself would be down late this fall and ready for disposal.

Plans for 1969 include leveling the entire plant with the exception of the storage tanks and the office building. All other buildings will be taken down and the debris removed to leave a clean site. Tram towers and equipment also will be removed.

Scattered lots owned by the company will be sold, and those

having homes on leased lots will be permitted to purchase the lots. All acreage will be held by the company for future use.

Farrow reiterated the Lone Star statement that air pollution control activity had nothing to do with the decision to phase out the local plant. He stated it and the Hudson, N.Y., plant were the least economical plants in their operations, mainly due to obsolescence, and were therefore first to feel the cutback under planning by the firm for the past several years.

—Compiled from archives

Way Back When

70 years ago

Jan. 15, 1948: The installation of an automatic oil burner at the Legion Hall in Concrete, which was to have solved the heating problem of the big building, did more than that Wednesday morning—it burned the place down.

Sparks or intense heat from the furnace ignited the wood floor between the furnace and the flue early yesterday morning, and by the time the fire was discovered by residents living nearby, it had almost completely gutted the big building.

The local volunteer fire department arrived in time to save the outer shell of the structure and to prevent any damage to the nearby residences. The flames were extinguished inside the building before the roof was breached by fire in more than a few small spots.

The G. I. Club fixtures were a total loss, piano, juke box, bar, and booths being burned

beyond salvage. One of the prized possessions of the Legion destroyed by the fire was the original Post Colors, presented by the Legion Auxiliary in 1920. Approximately \$300 worth of Junior Baseball equipment purchased last season also went up in the flames.

Though there might be some lumber salvage to the building, it was deemed a total loss as far as ever being used again. The organization carried \$2,000 in insurance on the building and a small extra policy on fixtures.

Displaying the old U.S. fighting spirit, the members of the Legion met Wednesday evening to launch a program for a new building. A building committee was named to secure a new site and make plans for erection of a concrete or concrete block building as soon as possible.

The new building is to include club room facilities for both Legion and Auxiliary, and a meeting place for the local Boy Scout troop.

60 years ago

Jan. 9, 1958: Penalties were imposed on two local men in

the superior court this week for their recent robbery activities in Concrete.

Harold Ellenberger, up for theft of money from a hotel room, was given a five-month jail sentence and three years deferred sentence with probation.

John Barnes, who tried to break into a safe in the Eagles Club, was given four months in the county jail, will be forced to make full restitution (\$312.20) for damages, and will be faced with a three-year deferred sentence with probation.

Deputy Glen Whittaker explained that the “deferred sentence with probation” is not a light penalty. The clause means that each man will have to report regularly to a parole officer for three years. At any time during that period, a violation of the judge’s instructions as to behavior will automatically send the man to the state penitentiary without further trial. If this occurs, a 20-year term is specifically imposed.

In each local case, the probation

rules forbid drinking or disturbing the peace. Barnes was also ordered to live with his family and be fully responsible for their maintenance and support.

50 years ago

Jan. 10, 1968: In a conference with officials of Lone Star Cement Corporation in Concrete Saturday, the Town Council accepted an offer from the plant to sell the water system of the Baker River Power, Light & Water Co. to the town. The figure quoted to the town was far below market value and represents almost a gift of the system to the community.

Under the terms discussed only informally, the town can take over the system just as soon as legal details of the purchase can be worked out by the town and plant attorneys. Terms will be made to fit the town’s financial structure and should not affect the present budget.

See Way Back, p. 29

Verna's Kitchen

By Verna McClure



Banana Bread

This is a healthful way to use up ripe bananas. It freezes well. Try a slice with some cheese spread.

2/3 cup sugar
1/2 cup butter
2 eggs, beaten
3 or 4 large bananas, mashed
3 teaspoons baking powder

1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon baking soda
1 3/4 cup flour
1/2 cup chopped nuts, optional

1. Cream sugar and butter together.
2. Add eggs and bananas.
3. Mix well. Add flour, baking soda, salt, baking powder, and mix well. Add nuts if desired.
4. Grease and flour a loaf pan. Bake at 325 degrees for one hour.

Be sure loaf is fully baked before removing it from pan.

Concrete Community Center

January 2018 Activities

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

Monday through Friday

Jigsaw puzzles, walking group, games, more

All subject to change. For latest information:
www.facebook.com/concretecommunity or call 360.416.1377.

Monday

1/8 3 p.m.

EAP Roundtable: Fire
Disaster Planning

1/8 6 p.m.

Dinner Talk: Concrete
Resource Coalition update

Wednesday

1/10 6 p.m.

Ohana Support Group

1/24 6 p.m.

Ohana Support Group

Thursday

1/4 12:30 p.m. Pinochle

1/18 12:30 p.m. Pinochle

Friday

1/5 Noon

Visit: Mill Creek seniors

1/12 12:30 p.m.

Commissioner Janicki

Saturday

All 10 a.m.

Eagle Festival
Information Station

All 7 p.m.

AA meeting



40 years ago, Jan. 26, 1978: It looks so simple till you try it! Concrete Elementary School students in David Wahl's art class sample a new dimension in craft work, watching Upper Valley potter Steve Murray demonstrate before taking their own turns at his potter's wheel. Students were sampling various media as a series of area artists visited the classroom to demonstrate and teach their crafts. Archive photo.



Rick Lemley
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Sunday School lesson

Don't just sit there, do something!

By Cindy Myatt

Living a nomadic lifestyle for most of my adult life, I have figured out a few things.

One, contact the community you are moving to either by phone or Internet. Ask for maps, lists of schools, churches, and local businesses. Make sure you have enough resources so you can get a feel for the community ahead of time.

Two, once you arrive, keep your mouth closed and your eyes and ears open. Every community has a rich history, and if you are lucky, people will tell you about it.

Three, just because you feel like you are an outsider doesn't mean God hasn't called you to this place for just this moment. We all have been called in one way or another to speak in ways that God will connect us to one another.

Remember the old poster of Uncle Sam? You know, the one where Uncle Sam is pointing at you with the words, "I want you!" It should say, "I need you." We all need each other, and just as there are no insignificant callings, there also are no insignificant people. In Galatians 3:28 it says, "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus."

We can make a difference in each other's lives. We can work stronger and smarter if we are just willing to work together. Our resources can go further. Can you imagine what the town of Concrete could do if the community worked from the same page? The Concrete Resource Coalition, the Concrete Chamber of Commerce, the Concrete Community Center, the community churches, the library, schools, and businesses, the town officials, and even each individual resident?

It shouldn't matter how long you have lived in a community. Even if you have lived here all your life or you are just passing through, you never know what you might have to give or what you might receive from just a simple conversation. It is about being brave; it is about stepping out of our comfort zone and trusting God. It is about loving our neighbor even if we don't know how to trust or accept one's lifestyle.

The Rolling Stones were right when they sang, "You can't always get what you want, but if you try sometimes, you just might find, you get what you need!"

And God knows we need each other!

Vicar Cindy Myatt serves Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Concrete.

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

Worship directory

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Episcopal
St. Martin/St. Francis Episcopal Church
55223 Conrad Rd., Rockport
Services: first and third Sunday of each month, 1 p.m.

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

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 / 360.853.3714
www.uprivergrace.com
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

Worth repeating

"My desire is to live more to God today than yesterday, and to be more holy this day than the last."

"We should so work as if we were to be saved by our works; and so rely on Jesus Christ, as if we did no works."

"Preach as if you had seen heaven and its celestial inhabitants, and had hovered over the bottomless pit, and beheld the tortures, and heard the groans of the damned."

"We live by faith in a prayer-hearing, soul-converting, soul-sanctifying, soul-restoring,

soul-comforting God."

"Whither am I going? To the New World. What to do? To gain honor? No, if I know my own heart. To get money? No: I am going to live to God, and to bring others so to do."

"God is gracious beyond the power of language to describe."

"Oh what people of God we ought to be; and grace can make us so!"

"My soul is more at rest from the tempter when I am busily employed."

—Francis Asbury



Join the folks at **Citipoint Church North Cascades** for a six-month journey through the first 12 chapters of the book of Acts. Sundays at 10 a.m., 59850 SR 20, Marblemount.

Skagit County Sheriff's Office Blotter

Nov. 27

Deputies responded to a report of a dog bite in Cedar Grove. A citizen reported a dog had attacked her dog while she was walking it. During the attack, the dog bit her. Animal Control Officer Diaz located the owner of the dog, who agreed to turn the dog over to the Sheriff's Office. The dog was taken to the Humane Society to be quarantined.

Nov. 28

Deputies Esskew and Hagglund investigated an assault that occurred on the previous Saturday at the Lyman Tavern. The victim said he had been punched by a male suspect, who he said had told him that he was being obnoxious with the suspect's wife. The victim

Level 3 Sex Offender NOTIFICATION

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

Parker, Brennen Lee

Age: 36
Race: W
Sex: M
Height: 6' 2"
Weight: 320
Hair: Blonde
Eyes: Blue
Address: 464xx Baker Loop Rd., Cedar Grove



Parker was convicted of first-degree child molestation in Clallam County. His victim was a 7-year-old male who was known to him. Threats/intimidation were used.

Parker is not wanted by the police at this time. Citizen abuse of this information to threaten, intimidate, or harass registered sex or kidnap offenders is a punishable offense and also could result in the removal of the online notification resource.

Source: Skagit County Sheriff

went to the hospital the next day and discovered that his jaw was broken and he would need surgery. The investigation is ongoing.

Nov. 29

Deputy Esskew took a report of a burglary at Lake Tyee. During the previous week, someone had broken into a shed and had taken a solar panel and propane tank. There are no suspects at this time.

Deputy Esskew discovered another possible burglary at an address at Lake Tyee. He was unable to tell if anything had been taken. An attempt had been made to break into a shed and trailer on the property. The owners were notified.

Deputy Devero responded to an aggressive dog complaint on Short St. in Concrete. A pitbull-type dog was being aggressive. He checked the area, but was unable to locate the animal.

Deputy Devero received a call of possible domestic violence on Main St. in Concrete. He responded and discovered that the suspects were only arguing loudly, and no assault had occurred. He was able to convince both parties to stop arguing and go to sleep.

Nov. 30

Deputy Devero was advised of a prowler on Baker Dr. in Cedar Grove. The reporting party said that someone had walked around and entered her neighbor's house. Deputy Devero checked the residence and surrounding area, but did not locate anyone.

Dec. 1

Deputy Backstrom took a theft-of-mail complaint that occurred on Shields Ct. in Concrete. A citizen observed a male suspect wearing a light-colored jacket drive up to her mailbox in a tan car shortly after she had placed outgoing mail in her mailbox. The suspect opened her mailbox and took the mail that she had just put into it. The suspect jumped into his car and sped off. Several checks were taken with the mail.

Because of the high number of mail thefts that occur daily in the county, the Sheriff's Office recommends that you mail checks or other valuables directly from the post office or hand them directly to your mail delivery person.

Many of the post offices in the county also offer an Informed Delivery service. This service will notify you each day regarding what mail was delivered to you. It is a good way to make sure your mail isn't stolen. To sign up, go to the United States Postal Service Web site and click on "Informed Delivery."

Dec. 2

Everett Bail Bond advised that they had the location for a suspect who had multiple warrants in Snohomish County. Deputies went to a location near Caskey Lake in Rockport and found a trailer belonging to the suspect. The suspect attempted to hide and then tried to provide a false name to the deputies. The deputies arrested the suspect and took him to jail.

Dec. 3

Deputy Backstrom investigated a report of malicious mischief on Center Ct. in Cape Horn. A female suspect slashed two tires on a vehicle parked at that location. Deputy Backstrom was unable to locate the suspect. He referred the suspect for charges.

Deputy Tweit and Deputy Backstrom handled a domestic call on Baker Dr. in Cedar Grove. The suspect was believed to be using drugs, and the residents of the house wanted him removed. Deputies contacted the suspect, who admitted to consuming methamphetamine and alcohol. He told deputies that he still had some methamphetamine in his pocket. Deputy Tweit located the drugs and took them for evidence. The suspect was removed from the property and taken to Mount Vernon. The substance field

tested positive and will be sent to the Washington State Crime Lab for analysis. If the substance comes back positive, the suspect will be charged with possession of drugs.

Dec. 4

Deputies assisted the Sedro-Woolley Police Department with a warrant on Cedar Grove Ave. in Sedro-Woolley. Officers were looking for several stolen firearms from a theft in Sedro-Woolley. During the warrant service, several people were arrested for warrants. A female suspect who lives at the residence was arrested for possession of drugs and taken to Skagit County Jail.

Deputy Esskew investigated a fraud complaint on Ridgway Ct. in Concrete. The victim reported that a debit card had been stolen and used several times. Deputy Esskew was able to determine where the card had been used. He went to the business and viewed video of the suspect using the card. Upon viewing the video, he was able to identify the suspect. Deputy Esskew was unable to locate the suspect, but will refer him for theft charges.

Dec. 5

See Sheriff's Blotter, p. 33



[Chief Darrel Reed]

Concrete Volunteer Fire Dept. needs firefighters!

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

Interested?

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



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CONCRETE HERITAGE MUSEUM NEWS

For all those who missed the Museum Association's Annual Christmas Potluck, we're sorry you weren't there. As always, we had plenty of good food and conversation. Our next regular business meeting will be Jan. 18 at 7 p.m. Come help us establish our priorities and projects for the upcoming year.

January is often considered the start of new beginnings. It's a time of optimism and many resolutions. After the numerous fires that destroyed much of the business district, Concrete saw a resurgence of such optimism from 1914 to 1917, when numerous plans for new buildings were announced. Some plans were like so many New Year's resolutions: They simply faded away, like the concrete building planned in 1916 for the corner of Baker and Main Street for a "modern hotel." Others faded into obscurity like the large garage W. N. Rhodes planned next to George Nick's Shoe Store in 1920, on the site now occupied by the old gas station and parking lot. Other buildings still grace downtown. In 1915, Walter D. Ross, owner of the Concrete Bank, announced plans to build a new concrete building for the bank on the south side of Main Street, east of the Herald Building. The bank was originally located on the north side of Main Street on the site now occupied by Gretchen's Music Studio and the old Chamber office. In 1917 the old Whitney Hotel that occupied the west corner of Main and Aldridge was torn down after having the top floor "burned off."

The Superior Portland Cement Company (SPCC) sold 3,000 acres of property to the Puget Sound Traction Light and Power Company (now PSE) for the Lower Baker Dam in 1915. PSE got its start in Seattle in the electric street car business and was a competitor of Seattle City Light (SCL) long before their fight to harness the rivers of the Upper Skagit Valley. This was also the same year the Commissioner Henry Thompson announced the bridge that now bears his name would be built. Later, SPCC offered to donate the cement for its construction. While the Baker River was being harnessed, SCL made lots of folks happy when they announced the next year they would build a new road east from Rockport to their dam projects on the Upper Skagit River.

In other business-related news, D. D. Dillard, the first mayor of Concrete, made the trek to Burlington in 1916 to bring home his 18 pack horses he had wintering there. He used those horses to resupply his bolt camp on the Upper Baker River.

Before you complain too much about this winter's weather, take note: Heavy snows hit the area in 1929, with more than 27 inches measured at the cement plant (now Silo Park), along with 12- to 25-degree temperatures.

Even though we are closed for the season, special tours can still be arranged by calling 360.853.8347 or e-mailing your requests to jboggs@washingtonaol.com.

—John Boggs

At the Upper Skagit Library

Upper Skagit Library has recently accepted the donation of the renovated American Legion Hall to be used as the Library's new bigger, better space! The Library will complete some additional modifications in the space before filling it up with new furniture and exciting resources, customizing it to fit the needs of the upriver community. (See article, p. 7, for more details.)

Everyone interested in seeing the newly renovated facility, stop by on Jan. 6 between noon and 2 p.m. for a tour. The address is 45952 Main St., Concrete. Grand opening TBA in spring 2018.

We want to thank those of you who donated to the Library's Scarf and Hat Drive in November. We received a total of 23 hats, 16 scarves, 6 pairs of gloves, and one baby sweater!

We also want to thank all of you who showed up for Stocking Stuffer Crafternoon. The kids had a blast making stocking stuffers for family and friends!

A reminder that Storytime is back! Families with young children are invited to join us for stories, songs, and a simple craft on the first and third Saturday of each month, October through May, at 11 a.m. On Jan. 6 we have a special Storytime planned! It will take place at the future home of the Upper Skagit Library in the old American Legion building at 45952 Main St. Bring the kids for Storytime at 11 a.m., then take a tour of the future home of Upper Skagit Library from noon to 2 p.m., after Storytime.

New on our shelves

In adult fiction, *Gwendy's Button Box* by Stephen King; *Book of Swords*, a compilation of stories by various writers, including George R. R. Martin and his latest *Game of Thrones* story; and *Love and Other Consolation Prizes* by Jamie Ford.

In adult nonfiction, *Gold Dust Woman*, the biography of Stephen Davis; *The Inner Life Of Animals* by Peter Wohlleben; and *Renaissance* by Manfred Wundrum.

In young adult, *Lady Midnight—The Dark Artifices—Book 1* by Cassandra Clare, *Strange the Dreamer* by Laini Taylor, and *Artemis Fowl—the Eternity Code* by Eoin Colfer.

In juvenile, *National Geographic Kids Weird But True! 7, Look! What Do You See?* by Xu Bing, and *What Was the Great Depression?* by Janet Pascal.

In children's, *Accident!* by Andrea Tsurumi, *The Keeping Quilt* by Patricia Polacco, and *Round* by Joyce Sidman.

Upper Skagit Board of Trustees Meeting will occur on Jan. 11 at 5 p.m. As always, public is welcome.

Upper Skagit Library is having an art contest for the design of a new library bookmark. Entries accepted Jan. 2–31. Stop by the library for details.

All of us at Upper Skagit Library wish you and yours a New Year filled with hope, health, and happiness!

—Tess Carroll, Library Associate

Sheriff's Blotter, cont. from p. 31

Deputy Passovoy stopped a vehicle on Superior Ave. in Concrete for a broken headlight. The driver did not have a license and his driving status was suspended because of unpaid tickets. The suspect also did not have insurance on the vehicle, which had an invalid registration. Deputy Passovoy cited the driver for driving with a suspended license and no insurance.

Deputy Esskew contacted a female near Cedar Grove and Concrete Sauk Valley Rd. near Concrete. The female had warrants for her arrest. She was taken into custody and booked into jail.

Dec. 6

Deputy Devero stopped a vehicle for speeding in Day Creek. The driver's license had been suspended and he had expired vehicle tabs. The driver also had several warrants. He was arrested on the new charges and the warrants and taken to jail.

Dec. 7

Deputy Devero responded to

a suspicious vehicle near Lyman Elementary School. He contacted the driver, who advised that he had pulled into the school parking lot to text.

Dec. 8

Deputy Wiggins and Deputy Devero handled a trespass complaint at Logger's Landing in Concrete. The suspect had been trespassed from the business several times. The owner requested that she be arrested for trespass. Deputies arrested her and took her to jail.

A citizen reported that an assault had occurred at the Concrete Post Office. The people involved left in a purple truck. Deputy Backstrom located the truck on Limestone St. in Concrete. The owner of the truck admitted that he had been in a dispute with his friend, who had kicked his truck and then came at him aggressively. He said he was forced to hold her back to avoid being assaulted. Deputy Backstrom found the second party involved who gave a similar story. Neither party wanted to prosecute for assault.

Dec. 10

Deputies responded to Skagit Ave.

in Hamilton, in reference to a fight. When they arrived they determined that several people had gone to that location to confront residents who they said were gossiping about them. During the confrontation the three suspects assaulted, threatened, and damaged the property of several people. The three suspects were arrested or referred for several charges, including felony charges for assault.

Dec. 11

Deputy Backstrom and Sgt. Adams investigated a shooting that occurred on the Sauk Suiattle Rd. near Darrington. The victim advised that he had been manipulating his pistol while seated in his truck. The pistol discharged and he was shot through his foot. He then drove to a residence in Rockport, where deputies contacted him. Deputies determined that it was an accident and no crime was committed.

Dec. 12

Deputy Backstrom and Sgt. Adams responded to a reported attempted vehicle prowl at the Concrete School District transportation department. The suspect

had been seen attempting to take a battery from a school vehicle. A video showed the suspect and his vehicle. Using information from the video, deputies were able to get a search warrant for the suspect's house on C St. in Concrete, and for the vehicle involved. On Dec. 13 the Sheriff's Office served a warrant on the car and house. Evidence linking the suspect to the vehicle prowl was obtained. A female who was driving the car at the time was arrested for a warrant. The suspect had fled earlier and was not located. He will be referred for attempted vehicle prowl. The suspect also has a felony warrant out of the Department of Corrections.

Dec. 14

Golden Eagles Farm reported that an excavator that had been left near Cockreham Island Rd. near Lyman was vandalized and several batteries taken in the last few months. The cost of the vandalism and theft was nearly \$3,000. There are no suspects at this time.

Dec. 16

See Sheriff's Blotter, p. 35

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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January at the Darrington Library

Children and family programs

- Family Storytime, Wednesdays, Jan. 3–31 at 11 a.m.; all ages welcome, caregiver required.
- Crazy 8s Math Club, Tuesdays, Jan. 9–30 at 4 p.m.; space limited to 16 students, registration urged.
- LEGO Free Play, Wed., Jan. 10; 3 p.m.
- Stuffed Animal Sleepover, Fri., Jan. 26, 5 p.m.; evening storytime followed by sleepover; stuffed animals can be picked up the next day.

Tweens and Teens programs

- Teen Advisory Board, Tue., Jan. 2, 5 p.m.; earn volunteer hours by helping to plan activities and events at the Darrington Library.
- Darrington Teen Book Group discusses *Part Wild* by Ceiridwen Terrill, Mon., Jan. 8, 5:30 p.m.

All ages

- Saturday Family Movie Matinee: "Dr. Strange" (PG-13), Sat., Jan. 20; 11 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.

Adults

- Darrington Book Group, *H is for Hawk* by Helen MacDonald, Wed., Jan. 3; 5:30 to 7 p.m.
- Friends of the Library meeting, Wed., Jan. 10, 5:30 to 7 p.m.
- Issues that Matter: Trauma Timeline: Breaking Down Barriers for Community Healing, Sat., Jan. 20, 2 to 4 p.m.

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

—Asheley Bryson, branch manager



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Out & About



Burlington

Skagit Speedway champions donate to local food banks

For a third year, Skagit Speedway has hosted its Champions 4 Community Food Drive, a combined effort of the drivers, owners, teams, and fans coming together to raise funds to purchase food for local food banks.

In mid-December, the race track's series Champions set out on a special shopping day at Costco. This year they had \$4,300 in donations, which they spent on 4,380 lbs. of food and staples for local families.

Food was delivered to the Helping Hands Food Bank for distribution to additional food banks during the week of Christmas.

"We are honored to help in making the holiday time a little brighter and put some extra food on tables of our local families," said Skagit Speedway owner Steve Beitler. "We would also like to say thank you to everyone who contributed to the Champions 4 Community Food Drive."

Skagit Speedway will kick off its 2018 season on Sat., April 21, with its season opener.

For more information and a schedule, go to www.skagitspeedway.com.

State

Attorney general files lawsuits

Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson announced several lawsuits in December, including Comcast and a Leavenworth family as targets.

Claim: Comcast deceived customers

Ferguson amended his lawsuit against Comcast to include new evidence revealing even more deceptive conduct than previously alleged.

Ferguson filed a more than \$100,000,000 lawsuit against the cable



Skagit Speedway series champions pause for a photo with some of the more than \$4,300 in food they purchased at Costco, then donated to Helping Hands Food Bank for distribution to other food banks during Christmas week. From left, Skagit Speedway Owner Steve Beitler, Modified Series Champion Kevin Smith, Outlaw Tuner Champion Vance Hibbard, NW Midget Series (Skagit) Champion Tristin Thomas, Sportsman Sprint Champion Kelsey Carpenter, and Carpenter's son, also named Kelsey. *Submitted photo.*

television and Internet giant in King County Superior Court in August 2016. According to a press release from the attorney general's office, the suit asserts Comcast misrepresented the scope of its Service Protection Plan (SPP) as part of more than 1.8 million violations of Washington's Consumer Protection Act (CPA).

More than half a million Washingtonians had subscribed to the SPP since 2011, paying at least \$73 million to Comcast for the service plan from 2011 through the end of 2015.

A sample of recorded calls between SPP subscribers and Comcast representatives obtained by the Attorney General's Office reveals that Comcast may have signed up more than half of all SPP subscribers without their consent. Comcast deceived consumers even when mentioning the SPP, telling them the SPP plan was "free" when they signed up, when in fact, Comcast would automatically charge them every month after the first month.

"This new evidence makes clear that Comcast's conduct is even more egregious than we first realized," Ferguson said.

The Attorney General's Office analyzed a random sample of recorded sales calls between Comcast and 150 Washingtonians. Comcast did not even mention the SPP to nearly half the sample. Additional consumers in the sample explicitly rejected the SPP, but Comcast signed them up anyway. Consequently, Comcast enrolled more than half of these subscribers without their consent.

Even when Comcast actually mentioned the SPP on the sales call before signing consumers up for the SPP, Comcast continued to engage in deception.

Comcast deceptively failed to disclose the SPP was a monthly recurring charge to 20 percent of the Washingtonians in the sample. Rather, Comcast often told subscribers the SPP was added for "free" to their account.

The Attorney General's Office alleges this pattern of deception is a systemic

issue throughout Comcast's marketing and "sale" of the SPP, and represents potentially tens of thousands of new violations of the Washington state Consumer Protection Act.

Washington consumers who believe Comcast added the SPP to their account without their consent should file a complaint with the Attorney General's Office by going to www.atg.wa.gov and clicking on the "file a complaint" button on the homepage.

Claim: Leavenworth family pocketed donations

Ferguson last month announced a lawsuit against a Leavenworth man and his family for pocketing most of \$1.5 million in donations that thousands of Washingtonians thought was going to disadvantaged children. Roy Bronsin Haueter's family instead used most of the donations to pay themselves and go on family vacations.

The Attorney General's investigators have not found any evidence that the charities provided any direct benefit to children since at least 2012. The charities instead only have provided a small number of gift cards to a few nonprofit entities.

The lawsuit, filed in King County Superior Court, alleges that Roy Bronsin Haueter, his wife, and his children and their spouses operated four charities and a commercial fundraiser that continually violated the state Charitable Solicitations Act and Consumer Protection Act. The Attorney General's Office asks the court to halt all deceptive activities by the organizations. The lawsuit seeks civil penalties of up to \$2,000 per violation of the Consumer Protection Act.

Ferguson also asks the court to require the Haueter family to give the charities' ill-gotten donations to legitimate charities that provide services to the children that the Haueters' organizations claimed to help.

"The Haueter family used their so-called charities to take advantage of thousands of Washingtonians wanting to make a difference in a child's life," said Ferguson. "They abused their charity status for their personal gain. That's wrong, and we will hold them accountable."

Sheriff's Blotter, cont. from p. 33

Deputy Esskew and Deputy Walton investigated a DUI complaint on Cockreham Island near Lyman. The reporting party advised that as they were cutting wood on the dike near Cockreham Island Rd., the suspect whom they know almost hit them with his vehicle. Deputies contacted the suspect, who was still on scene. He was obviously intoxicated. He was arrested and taken to Sedro-Woolley for a breath test. The test showed the suspect's blood alcohol level was more than three times the legal limit.

Deputy Wolfe stopped a car near Cedar Grove for failing to use its turn signal. The driver had a suspended license. Deputy Wolfe arrested the driver for driving with a suspended driver's license.

Dec. 18

Deputies responded to a possible homicide on Cape Horn Drive in Cape Horn. The reporting party advised that the suspect had shot his girlfriend and then shot himself. Deputies responded and determined that the two people involved had been in a disagreement. The male suspect shot the female and then shot himself. Three children who lived at the address fled to a neighbor's house. One child who was too small to leave was found by deputies inside the house unharmed.

A fisherman reported that someone had broken into the back of his truck and taken four fishing poles. His truck had been parked near the Government Bridge near

Memorials, cont. from p. 19

Worked for Cascades Job Corps at Northern State Hospital.

Powell, Robby Dean, 54, of Marblemount. Houser, Ray E., 92, of Sedro-Woolley, owned local dairy farm.

Eastman, William A. "Bill," 74, of Sedro-Woolley. Worked as a lineman for Puget Power. Graduate of SWHS, 1961.

Chisholm, David M., 76, of Clear Lake. Worked for Department of Natural Resources. Graduate of SWHS, 1959.

Presnell, Michael M., 62, of Sedro-Woolley, died in Mount Vernon. Owner-operator of a road construction business. Graduate of SWHS, 1972.

Shearer, Stephanie (Ammons), 63, of Sedro-Woolley. Worked as a bookkeeper. Davis, Charles M. "Chuck," 73, of Samish Island. Retired maritime lawyer. Graduate of SWHS, 1962.

Geary, Henry A. "Hank," 86, of Sedro-Woolley. Former owner-operator of Hank's

the Sauk Suiattle Rd. near Darrington. There are no suspects at this time.

Dec. 21

Deputy Dills observed a vehicle with a broken tail light near Cedar Grove. He stopped the vehicle and contacted the driver, whom he knew from previous contacts. The driver provided Deputy Dills with a false name. The driver, who had a warrant for his arrest, didn't want to go to jail. Deputy Dills advised the driver that he knew who he was and that in addition to the warrant, also knew the driver did not have a valid driver's license. The driver was arrested on four new charges and the warrant.

Deputy Adams handled an assault complaint at the Lyman Mercantile in Lyman. Two females were claiming that each had been assaulted by the other. After investigating the complaint, Deputy Adams was unable to determine who the aggressor was and advised the participants that he believed it was a mutual assault. Neither of the suspects/victims wished to pursue charges after they were advised that both of them would be arrested.

Dec. 22

Deputy Devero took a call about a Jet Ski near Robinson Rd. in Lyman. The Jet Ski was up against a log jam in the river. Deputy Devero was able to get the registration numbers and will attempt to locate the owner. Deputy Devero believes it may have been swept away during the last flood.

—Compiled by Sgt. Greg Adams

Barber Shop.

Breland, Betty R. (McKinney), 92, Graduate of SWHS, 1943.

King, Cecil R. "CK," 74, of Birdview. Former logger.

Nelson, Beverly J., 89, of Sedro-Woolley, known as the ticket lady for SWHS games for 40-plus years.

Baird, Robert G., 67, of Concrete. Former logger.

Vandenburg, Lavonda M., 88, of Sedro-Woolley, longtime volunteer with Helping Hands Food Bank. Graduate of SWHS, 1947.

Gibson, Norman "Gary," 72, of Hamilton. Heavy equipment operator.

Janicki, Patrick A., 30, of Sedro-Woolley. Worked for Janicki Logging. Graduate of SWHS, 2006.

Russell, Marion D. "Bud," 86, of Sedro-Woolley. Worked for Scott Paper Company; owner operator of Bud's Dozing. Graduate of SWHS, 1947.

Resolved: Lose weight

By Pamela Hassler

Is losing weight on your list of resolutions for the new year? For some of us, this feels like the equivalent of climbing Mt. Everest, or at least the nearest hill. A little daunting.

It doesn't have to be. Successful mountaineers offer this reassurance: Every climb is made one step at a time. You can do it.

If losing weight is your "Everest," here are a few tips to keep in mind:

1. Set your mind on the "why." Mountain climbers head uphill for the view or the rush of accomplishment. You're not losing weight just for the sake of losing it. You're doing it for a reason that means something to you. Is it to keep up with your kids or grandkids? Or to manage diabetes? Or to keep your favorite wardrobe? Hold fast to what drives you.
2. Have a plan. No mountaineer starts climbing without a trail map or without knowing the terrain. You too need a clear idea in advance of how to achieve your goal. Map out a workout schedule. Put together some healthful menus. Look ahead to the "big" events on your calendar so you can create a strategy to deal with wedding cake or other cliffs of temptation.
3. Pack for success. This is a journey. You won't finish it in one day, so

take along good provisions. Grocery shop when your resolve is high. Fill your pantry and fridge with healthful snacks. Invest in a yoga mat or a workout top.

4. Travel with a buddy. You probably have a friend or family member who is just as eager as you to tackle "fat mountain." Team up. Call each other your "Sherpa" and enjoy the journey in good company.
5. Keep the end in sight. Review your plan every so often. Get out your proverbial compass and recalibrate when necessary. If something's not working, fix it.
6. Rest and celebrate now and then. Enjoy what you learn and see along the way. Reward yourself with a mani-pedi or something that doesn't involve food.
7. Record your journey. Take pictures so you can look back on where you've been. Keep an eating journal and/or an activity log to be mindful of how you're doing. These might also help you see daily or weekly patterns that affect your success. Share your observations to inspire other fitness seekers.

Remember, you didn't gain extra weight overnight. Don't expect to lose it overnight. Be patient with yourself and with your journey. And keep putting one foot in front of the other. This climb is worth the effort.

Pamela Hassler is a physician assistant for PeaceHealth Medical Group-Sedro-Woolley Family Medicine in Sedro-Woolley.

Abenroth, John L., 73, of Sedro-Woolley. Owner-operator of Skagit Surveyors & Engineers. Graduate of SWHS, 1962.

Goss, Sue E. (Rankin), 64, of Sedro-Woolley.

Stiles Jr., William A., 93, of Sedro-Woolley. Attorney at Law, Stiles & Sons. Graduate of SWHS, 1942.

Shular, Lowery "Wayne," 85, of Sedro-Woolley. Worked for Concrete Nor'West.

Potter, Judith K., 72, of Concrete. Worked for Pacific Northwest Bell.

Williams, Billy Ray, 75, formerly of Sedro-Woolley, died in Seattle.

Potter, Rollin V., 75, of Concrete, died in Sedro-Woolley.

Rothenbuhler, Ronald L., 74, of Sedro-Woolley. Worked for Skagit Transit. Graduate of SWHS, 1975.

Walker, Steven P., 34, of Sedro-Woolley. Mason for R&D Masonry. Graduate of SWHS, 2001.

Boston, Margaret "Maggie," 71, of Clear Lake. Drug & Alcohol Rehab counselor.

Graduate of SWHS, 1964.

Harrison, Agnes G. (Stotz), 91, of Sedro-Woolley. Retired RN for Skagit Valley Hospital.

Ortiz, Nena R., 49, of Sedro-Woolley. Loving heart!

Dan Royal is historian for Skagit County Pioneer Association and the current editor of Skagit River Journal (www.skagitriverjournal.com). Corrections and additions to this compilation are welcome; send them to dmroyal@earthlink.net.



Smile



... from the Concrete Herald archives ...

A house-to-house salesman rang the bell of a cheap-looking house. As the door opened, he tossed in a carefully prepared mudball, which disintegrated and made a mess on the front room rug.

"Now, don't get excited, ma'am," he said calmly. "I am demonstrating the Super Duper vacuum cleaner. If this little wonder doesn't remove every trace of dirt on your rug, I'll eat the whole mudball!"

The indignant housewife left for the kitchen, returning in a few moments bearing a tray containing a bottle of ketchup, a jar of mustard, salt, pepper—and a rolling pin. She deposited the condiments with elaborate care, then picked up the rolling pin and hefted it expertly.

"But, madam," exclaimed the startled salesman, "I don't understand!"

"Start eating!" commanded the woman. "We ain't got no electricity!"

— § —

He: "Does this wind bother you?"

She: "No, talk as much as you like."

— § —

Little Jimmy to Little Johnny: "The way I got the story is that a bird dropped me off in a flower, and a bee picked me up there and brought me home."

— § —

The stork is smarter than the owl. The owl asks, who, who? The stork knows who.

Dwelleysms

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

"Of the things wrong with this world, there are practically none that you can correct all by yourself."

"The average person's repertoire is not geared to long holidays. Unlike the old song, after the second day of Christmas, what can you do for an encore?"

"Closing of the cement plant can be likened to going to the dentist to have a decaying tooth removed. The initial operation is going to hurt a bit."

"Take heart. At least at this time of year you are also a year older, but your car drops in value while yours as a taxpayer goes up."

—Jan. 3, 1968

"Our chances for future peace would improve if we could put all presidential candidates on active patrol in Vietnam for 30 days before starting their campaigns."

"The making of a gentleman takes time. Being one calls for gracious expenditure of the same."

"An optimist is a fellow who, falling to his death, would instinctively review a flashback of all the things he had done right."

—Jan. 10, 1968

"Presidential candidates are now hot on the campaign trail. Greatest problem for most is what to promise that will have the least chance of becoming an embarrassment after election."

"We would be a lot better off if foreign travel restrictions were confined to the armed forces."

—Jan. 17, 1968

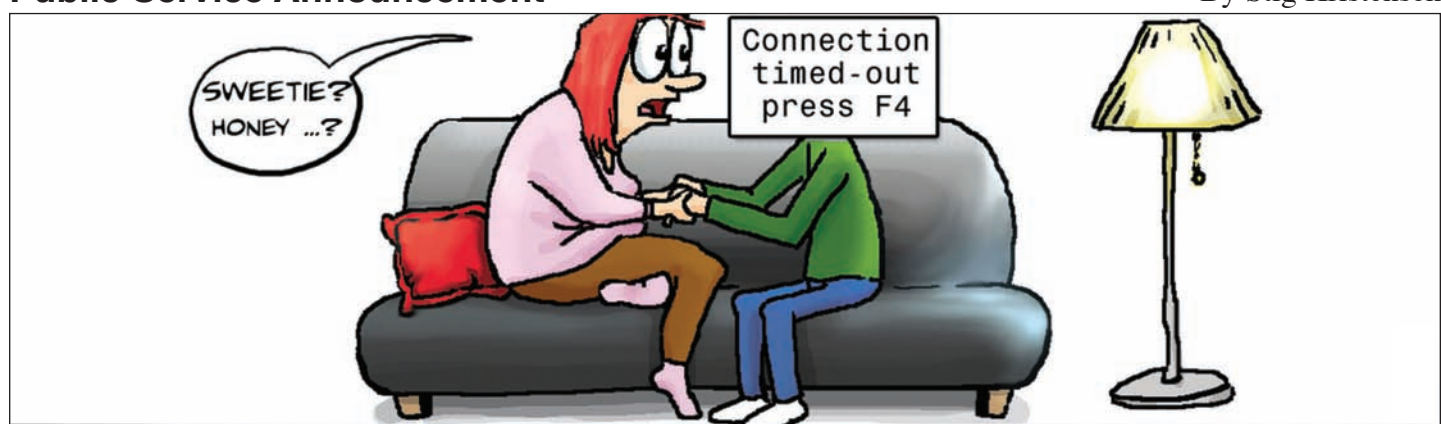
Concrete Harold

By Joyce Harris



Public Service Announcement

By Stig Kristensen



AFTER A LONG DAY AT THE OFFICE, CHRISTIAN WASN'T ALWAYS SO EASY TO CONNECT WITH.

Crossword: "Valuable Items"

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				

- Across**
- Groban or Brolin
 - Like some piano keys
 - Receptacle
 - Celebes buffalo
 - Push
 - Bizet work
 - Foot
 - Get to
 - Orbital point
 - Valuable books
 - Second shot
 - Appoint starter
 - Cable network
 - Kind of hour
 - One of the Pillars of Islam
 - Brown fur
 - Companion of Artemis
 - Go right
 - Valuables
 - Modern address
 - Wretched
 - Afflict
 - Plain
 - Preschoolers?
 - Pitcher, of a sort
 - Self center
- Down**
- Cooler
 - Way to walk
 - Amiens is its capital
 - Commonly used
 - City in Northern California
 - Modern ____
 - Look like a wolf
 - Desideratum
 - Neotropical mammal
 - Snooty
 - Tender in Tijuana
 - Burnett of CNBC
 - "O, gie me the ____ that
- Across**
- The bear is its symbol
 - Valuables
 - Certain ridge
 - Big show
 - Bibliog. space saver
 - Fervors
 - Staff leader
 - Final Four game
 - Simplifies
 - Groove made by a cutting tool
 - Catch-22
- Down**
- Sampler
 - Mind set?
 - Ordained
 - Mysterious: Var.
 - Census data
 - Prefix with god
 - Witty remark
 - Hightail it
 - Unit of pressure
 - Pot over a fire
 - One of the Ringling Brothers
 - Strip
 - Billiards bounce
 - Most unsteady
 - ____ nut tree
 - Overflow
 - Hypothesis
 - More malodorous
 - Ensepulcher
 - Insect-eating lizard
 - Labyrinth
 - Organic compound
 - Salty septet
 - Eat like a bird
 - Bridge toll unit
 - Berth place

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.

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

*Solutions to both puzzles are on p. 39.

Funny as Facebook

- The following funnies were pulled verbatim from Facebook status updates in December:
- "Something you never want to hear: one of your boys come over and say, 'hey, smell this...' umm thanks, but I think I'll pass!"
 - "There are two similar and implacable forces in the world: gravity and mediocrity. Explaining one leads to physics, the other leads to religion."

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THE BODY IN THE BLACKBERRIES

By Nicola Pearson

Editor's note: This is the fourth installment of a new serialized story by award-winning author and playwright Nicola Pearson of Sauk City. Future installments will appear on this page each month during 2018 until the story is complete. Previous installments are posted at www.concrete-herald.com.

Lange buckled up next to Suleka as she started the vehicle. The Nissan was so old it didn't have a cup holder in the front, but she had hung one from the air vent on the dash and Lange used it for his coffee. He rolled his window down to release some of the stuffiness that had permeated the vehicle while it sat out in the sun, and thought he heard that whining sound again. He poked his head out to listen. "What're you doing?" "Did you hear something?" "Like what?" "No, it's nothing," said Lange, pulling his head back in. He peeled the lid off the plastic container on his lap and dug his fork into a chunk of salmon quiche. He tossed the quiche into his mouth and chomped down on it. He hadn't eaten since a few apple chips early in the morning, when he was writing, and his stomach ached with hunger. "Where're we going?" Lange swallowed. "Robert and René Doyle's house. D'you know where that is?" "Uh huh. Why're we going there?" "I have to tell René that Robert's dead." "Ohhhh," lamented Suleka. "Robert Doyle's dead. That's too bad. But he was getting up there ... Hang on a minute," she said, her tone sharper. She flipped her long, silvery brown braid over her shoulder. "Why do you have to tell her? What happened to him? Is it something to do with all these emergency vehicles?" Lange nodded, his mouth full. "What? Somebody killed him? Sweet, harmless Robert Doyle?! That's terrible." She turned right at the end of the driveway, hammering the Nissan down Sauk Mountain Road. Lange went to wash down his quiche with coffee, so he could answer her, and nearly spilled the lot all over himself. "Woah!" he shouted. "Slow down."

Suleka slowed to a stop at the side of the road and Callum looked up, surprised that she'd done what he asked so completely.

Then he saw the coroner's van coming toward them. He drank quickly while the vehicle wasn't moving, the coffee burning the sides of his mouth. "We don't know for sure that Doyle was killed yet," he said. "But it looks that way. And we're think it had something to do with his grandson." "We?" "Me and the DEA agent, Pate-Swenson." "What does she know about Robert Doyle's grandson?" scoffed Suleka. The coroner drove past, acknowledging them with an uplift of his hand but no eye contact. Lange got the impression from his tense-shouldered posture that he wasn't all that comfortable driving the mountain road. Suleka pulled back out, once the van passed them, and drove on, but slower now. "Kevin's not very smart when it comes to girlfriends, but he would never kill his grandfather. Why would you even think that?" Lange leaned forward and slipped his coffee back into the makeshift cup holder. "We don't. Not exactly. It's like a puzzle where the pieces don't seem to want to fit together." "Give me some of the pieces. Maybe I'll have better luck." "Okay. A shipment of drugs, up on Sauk. That's how come Pate-Swenson was up there." "A shipment of drugs?!" "I know. That's what I said. But apparently this is a great area for covert dumping of drugs out of small planes." "Ohhhhh, you know I've heard about that." "You have?" "Yes. Not planes but helicopters. I've heard there's a meadow on North Mountain where the debris field—you know, the twigs and sticks and bark and leaves—is entirely on the perimeter, blown there by the rotors on the helicopters when they land to deliver the

drugs." Lange was surprised. "How come you never told me that?" "You never asked." "Hmmm." He put another piece of quiche in his mouth. Suleka reached the bottom of Sauk Mountain Road and turned right onto Highway 20. "Give me some more puzzle pieces." "Robert Doyle's dead body. And a check made out to Kyle Clarkson." "A check made out to Kyle Clarkson?" "Yes. And it had blood on it." "Oh this is not good. This is not good!" cried Suleka. "Kyle Clarkson has been real steady ever since his daughter, Alice, was born." "I remember you telling me something like that," nodded Lange. "I'd hate to see him go back to his old ways. When is this all supposed to have happened?" "Yesterday. Maybe early morning." "Kyle works at the mill in Darrington so it should be easy enough to find out if he was working yesterday." "Good to know." "And what about Kevin? Was there some kind of incriminating evidence of him being up there, too?" "No. But it's the only logical explanation for why his grandfather was up there." "To try to stop him from getting involved in drugs again. I see that." Suleka became agitated. "But I still don't see him killing his grandfather. If they'd been up there at the same time and somebody had gone for Robert Doyle, I see Kevin trying to protect him, not just letting it happen." Lange sighed. "And maybe he'll tell us that when we get the chance to talk to him. Maybe it was all just one big accident. But if that was the case, I don't see why Bob Doyle's body is still lying in a ditch up on Sauk." He forked himself another chunk of quiche and threw it into his mouth. His eyes bounced over the sunlit surface of the Skagit River as the Nissan trundled past Faber Landing and headed for the bend in the road leading to Faber Hill. "We'll probably see Kevin with his grandmother and I'm sure—I'm sure—he'll make sense of what happened for us. I've known Kevin most of his life and, yes, he's been known to hang out with the Clarksons, but he's always been very responsible when it comes to his family, even though he can't seem to make it work to live with the mother of his children for more than a couple of months

at a time. Of course, I've heard she's in and out of rehab, so it's not all his fault ..." Lange let her chatter on as they sailed down the hill. He munched more sedately on the quiche, noticing how good it was now that he had time to actually enjoy it rather than just inhaling it, and he contemplated Robert Doyle's absence from home. Why hadn't René said anything to anyone? Or had she? Did she even live at their home anymore? Maybe she was in a care center because of her Alzheimer's. He didn't know Doyle that well, but he was pretty sure the old fellow was a creature of habit. Why hadn't anyone called the sheriff saying he hadn't come home? Or had they? They drove past the wood carver's place and around to the short stretch of road where the steep uphill often slid down toward the river during the rainy season, covering the highway in saturated mud, rocks, and broken saplings. Lange took the last bite of his quiche looking at the proliferation of summer greens on the hillside. It looked pretty settled right now, he thought. They crossed the Baker River and turned into Robert Doyle's driveway. "See, Kevin's truck is here," Suleka remarked, pointing ahead of them at a beat-up Ford Ranger. "He's probably inside making lunch for his grandmother like I told you." Lange snapped the lid back on the plastic container the quiche had come in and placed it on the floor by his feet. "It was good," he said. "The quiche? I'm glad you liked it." She glared at him as he unbuckled his seatbelt. "Did you hear anything I said to you?" "What?" Suleka tsked her irritation, but Lange was already out the door and striding toward the house. He got to the front door and went to rap on it, but it swung open before he could make contact. A wiry young man who smelled like he'd just walked through a cluster of Christmas trees stood facing Lange, pale chips of sawdust on his jeans and T-shirt, in his dark curls and moustache, giving a reason for the smell. The young man's feet shifted, like he wasn't sure about this, but he made direct eye contact. Guarded but not evasive, thought Lange. "Yep?" "Kevin, how are you?" Suleka called out on her way to the front door. "Hey, Suleka, what's up?" Kevin replied, at ease with someone he knew. Lange stepped to one side to allow Suleka the lead on this one.

The Body, cont. from p. 38

"Is your grandmother home? We need to talk to her." "Yeah, she's here. Come on in." Suleka stepped through the doorway and into a small living room, ahead of Kevin then Lange. There were two overstuffed armchairs and a battered couch crowding the room, with an old-style TV directly opposite where they came in. René Doyle was sitting in the armchair closest to the door, her back to them, watching some kind of soap opera. Suleka edged around the side of the armchair, her face tipped down. "Hi, René," she said. She dropped her hand to touch the old lady's. "How are you?" "Kevin, someone's here," René called out. She didn't sound scared, just surprised. Kevin squeezed past Suleka and put himself in front of his grandmother. Suleka swung around and crouched on the other side of René, holding her left hand now, which gave Lange enough space to come into the tiny room where René could see him. The old woman's dark eyes clouded at the unusual presence in the room. She looked confused, panicked. "Kevin?" she uttered. "It's okay, grandma. These people have just come to see you. You remember Suleka? And this is ..."

"Callum Lange. I'm sorry I didn't get a chance to tell you that earlier." "S'okay." René's eyes cleared and she smiled at Suleka. "I remember you! You helped my Bob do exercises after he broke his leg. Did you see him walking around outside? Looks good, don't he?" "He's not there, René," Suleka said gently. "That's what we came to talk to you about." "He is there," argued René. "Ask Kevin. He told me they was just cutting up some fir together. Didn't you, Kev?"

And suddenly Kevin Doyle didn't look so comfortable anymore.

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

Published in the *Concrete Herald* January 2018.

Andrea R Fichter, Clerk-Treasurer
Town of Concrete
P.O. Box 39
Concrete, WA 98237

Sudoku solution

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

Crossword solution

1	J	O	S	4	H	5	E	B	O	N	9	C	U	P	E	L
14	A	N	O	A	15	U	R	G	E	16	O	P	E	R	A	
17	I	A	M	B	21	R	I	L	E	19	A	P	S	I	S	
20	L	I	M	I	T	E	D	E	D	22	I	T	I	O	N	S
23	R	E	T	A	K	E	24	D	I	S						
25	U	S	A	26	W	E	E	27	H	A	D	28	J			
32	S	T	O	A	T	35	O	R	E	A	D	37	G	E	E	
38	C	O	L	L	E	C	T	O	R	S	I	T	E	M	S	
41	U	R	L	42	R	A	T	T	Y	43	V	I	S	I	T	
44	D	R	A	B	45	R	O	E	46	R	E	P				
48	E	G	O	49	P	A	I	N	T	I	N	G	50	S		
53	M	U	S	E	U	56	P	A	I	N	T	I	N	G	58	S
59	A	R	E	T	E	60	E	X	P	O	61	E	T	A	L	
62	Z	E	A	L	S	63	C	L	E	F	64	S	E	M	I	
65	E	A	S	E	S	66	K	E	R	F	67	T	R	A	P	

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See **The Body**, p. 39

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