



Concrete High School seniors slowed down long enough to smile big for their hometown newspaper, days before graduation. Concrete will celebrate its graduating class of 2009 on June 13. See story and schedule on p. 13.

Lyman, Concrete welcome 3 new businesses

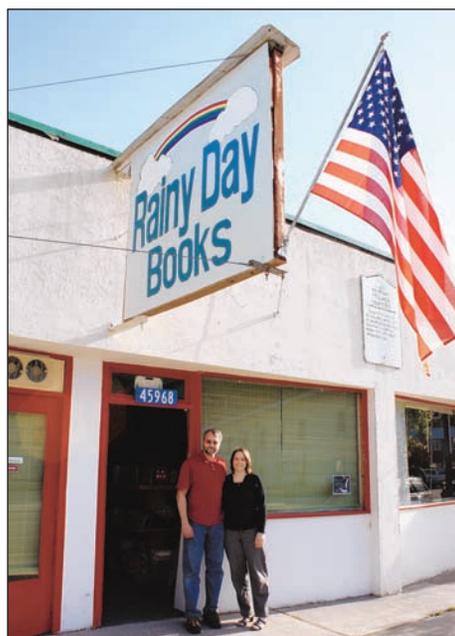
By Lacy Lahr

With three new businesses opening in Lyman and Concrete, east valley residents have new opportunities to support their fellow citizens—and they might recognize some familiar faces.

In Concrete's Town Center, two new businesses have opened on Main Street. On May 1, Diana and Michael Apple reopened their bookstore, formerly D'Apples Books-N-More, with a new name: **Rainy Day Books**, located at 45968 Main Street. After closing D'Apples to pursue other goals, Diana Apple said they wanted to reopen because they really enjoyed the bookstore and their customers. "When we got the opportunity again, we decided to come back and re-open," Apple said. The Apples have lived in Concrete intermittently for 11 years and have family who live here. Due to a military deployment, they moved to North Carolina to help their daughter.

When the family got orders to move to Tacoma in October, the Apples came back to Concrete.

See Businesses, p. 7



Rainy Day Books owners Mike and Diana Apple, in front of their downtown Concrete bookstore.

Concrete cleans up

By Jason Miller

Responding to one of the top concerns raised at Imagine Concrete, the visioning workshop held in April, Concrete Mayor Judd Wilson has announced a townwide cleanup initiative. The effort takes place the weekend of June 5-7, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day.

On Friday and Saturday, June 5 and 6, five 20-yard containers will be dropped near the wood-chipping site on Main Street on the eastern edge of Skateboard Park, where Concrete residents may bring their recyclables, scrap metal, and garbage items for free disposal.

The service is available only to Concrete residents, who will need to bring and

display the flyer they received in the mail, plus a valid form of ID verifying their address to gain admittance.

In order to manage the amount of material collected, residents will be allowed one average-size pick-up load per resident. Other restrictions are on the flyer.

Typical materials that will be accepted include household garbage, junk and debris, clean wood, and recyclable materials. The Sauk Transfer Station will take, free of charge, motor oil, scrap metal, cardboard, newspapers, and batteries.

For more information, call the Town of Concrete at 360.853.8401.

Concrete maintains sewer utility rate

State Auditor's Office flip-flops on initial feedback

Town of Concrete staff and officials got an unpleasant surprise after the State Auditor's Office completed its annual audit of the town in April.

The Town's approach to lowering its citizens' combined monthly sewer and water utility bills got a frown and a recommendation to backtrack, even

though the same office had all but agreed to the financial strategy months before.

A creative solution

The decreased sewer rate became effective Jan. 1, 2009, and was a result of research performed by former Concrete mayor Robin Feetham and his wife, Darla, during a period of several weeks leading up to the change, the Feethams presented the strategy to the Concrete Town Council,

See Sewer rate, p. 23

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Satellite radio station planned for Concrete

By Jeanna Smiley Squires

A community radio station has its eye on Concrete and plans to install a satellite station here soon.

The new radio station would be KSVU 90.1 FM, an offshoot of KSVR 91.7 FM, which broadcasts from Skagit Valley College in Mount Vernon. The planned station would broadcast eight hours of

See Radio, p. 15

Concrete Herald

Born 1901. Reborn 2009.

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Designer Paul Wayne Rider

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design@concrete-herald.com

Concrete Herald owes its success to a small army of volunteer contributors covering their individual communities. **Birdsview:** Kris Voigt; **Cape Horn:** Launi Harrell; **Concrete:** Linnaea Groh, Lacy Lahr, Sara Pritchard, Bill Sullivan, Dan Royal; **Diablo:** Wayne and Judy Knopf; **Hamilton:** Carol Bates, Aleaha Neimann; **Lyman:** Kristi Johnson; **Marblemount:** Christie Fairchild, Elise Lewis, Laurie Thomas; **Newhalem:** Jim and Judy Hannigan; **Rockport:** Christie Fairchild, Elise Lewis, Philip Moran. More local contributors are welcome: call or e-mail Jason Miller at 360.853.8213 or editor@concrete-herald.com.

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Editorial

The voice of eastern Skagit County has returned after an 18-year hiatus. I'm excited to serve as the new *Concrete Herald* publisher and editor, and I understand that I have very big shoes to fill. I aim to give it my best shot.

I've been getting lots of questions from the citizens of eastern Skagit County, so I thought it would be a good idea to use this space to get some housekeeping out of the way. If I don't address in this letter something you want to know, and if you have Internet access, go to www.concrete-herald.com and click on the FAQs link. If you still need answers, feel free to e-mail or call me at editor@concrete-herald.com or 360.853.8213.

Okay, let's get down to it.

General update: The fundraising effort for start-up capital has met with much success, with donations coming in from all over Skagit County and western Washington, as well as elsewhere in the U.S. As I write this, the fundraiser stands at \$9,152.75, within striking distance of our \$10,000 goal. If you would like to support the *Concrete Herald* with a donation, go to www.concrete-herald.com/how-to-donate for details.

Content: The *Herald* will cover every community between Sedro-Woolley and Diablo. While it will be based in Concrete, its focus will be on these smaller, rural communities in eastern Skagit County. If something happens in this area that you think is newsworthy, I want to know about it so I can spread the word.

This approach to journalism has been called "hyperlocal"; i.e., it is focused like a laser on what *you* want to read. In order to be successful, though, I need to be kept aware of what's going on in your community. A phone call or an e-mail is all I need.

Content for the *Herald* will be generated by volunteer writers, photographers, columnists, and tipsters, and credited appropriately in every issue. If you can string a

See Editorial, p. 23

Opinion

Letters to the editor

About people, not words

I would like to personally thank Jason Miller, who brought the *Concrete Herald* back into print. For so many years for everyone who grew up in Concrete, the *Concrete Herald* was a big part of our community and family.

I am very proud to have grown up in Concrete, and many who live there are not just close friends, but family. For many years I have lived away from the breathtaking views that surround Cement City and the people who live there; I am pleased the *Concrete Herald* would bridge the gap of miles between my hometown and where I am now, in Montana.

The *Concrete Herald* is more than just words on paper; it's about the people who bring life into each other's homes and the bond between one another in this small, yet growing community. I am looking forward to reading about the upcoming events, and the exciting news that makes Concrete home to me, as well as many others who are grateful to have grown up and still live in the Upper Skagit.

Thank you, Jason Miller, for bringing the heart of our community back into Concrete and the Upper Skagit Valley.

Welcome home, *Concrete Herald!*

Jeanna Smiley Squires
University of Montana

Skagit students don't run from rain

Thanks for reviving the *Concrete Herald*. I read the first edition and found it informative and enjoyable.

I appreciate being recognized for receiving the VIPP award, but would like to correct what I believe was an error in the quotation of a statement I made at the awards assembly.

I did say that I love the fact that the Concrete students were totally willing to work all day in a downpour and that I did not hear one complaint during the entire work party at Lorenzen Creek. These kids are champs who are willing to work hard to contribute to the betterment of their community and the natural world. Of course, Concrete students are

particularly unconcerned about rain, since we have so many opportunities to experience it here.

I do not remember stating that other Skagit students "run from the rain." If I did, I was wrong. I've worked with students from around the Valley and other locations in western Washington and they all seem to be surprisingly willing to be outside and work in all kinds of "bad" weather.

It's never my intent to praise one group of students by criticizing another, since I'm generally very impressed by all of the students I meet and work with.

I agree with Heather Nick (May, p. 20) when she encourages us to look around and notice how many great local youngsters work hard and contribute positively to our community.

Thanks for including this letter and for your fine work on the first edition of the new *Concrete Herald*. I'll send in my subscription fee and encourage other readers to do the same.

Mike Brondi
Rockport

Letters policy

Letters of 150 words or fewer may be sent to Concrete Herald, P.O. Box 682, Concrete, WA 98237 or e-mailed to letters@concrete-herald.com. Writers must include their name and town or community for publication, plus a daytime telephone number for confirmation purposes. *Concrete Herald* reserves the right to edit letters for length, clarity, accuracy, spelling, grammar, and potentially libelous statements. So be nice.

Volunteer contributors are needed for the new *Concrete Herald!*

If you'd like to write short articles about the goings-on in your community, contact Jason Miller, publisher and editor:

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May in pictures



The fourth annual Scion Pizza Run descended on Annie's Pizza in Concrete on May 17. Twenty-eight cars and 50 people filled the parking lot and the hometown pizza joint, the destination for the convoy, which began near Kent, Washington. Pizza Runner Steve Doud, 49, from Auburn, Wash., summed up his motivation for the drive: "I love my car, I love the Scion crowd, and I love Annie's. It's a blast!" Doud's Scion RS4 (left, far left) is painted a factory-applied "Torched Penny" hue. More photos of the event can be found at www.scionlife.com.



In honor of their town's 100th birthday, Concrete citizens and visitors gathered May 9 in Concrete's Town Center for a jubilant and triumphant celebration of a small town with a big future.



Kiana Wright, 10, beats the throw to first during a "coach pitch" softball game between the White Sox and Orioles on May 27, in Concrete. Wright's White Sox took the win that night, 17 to 12.



Joanna Bruno of Burlington learns how to remove a gall bladder during United General Hospital's Open House on May 12. Tours showcased the hospital's programs, treatments, and more.



Concrete Saturday Market opened for business on May 23 and will run through Sept. 12 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. every Saturday. Crafts, homemade eats, and live music are on tap every weekend.

Cape Horn ain't broke

Commentary by Mick Tomlin

I would first like to commend Mr. Miller on his reviving the much-needed local newspaper. Now I wish to respond to last month's commentary on Cape Horn. The writer gave the impression that something that was once beautiful has now turned into decay. Actually, the opposite is true.

The Cape Horn Development Company was formed in the early '60s. The sole purpose was to divide Cape Horn into the existing lots we have today. Like the writer stated, their brochure promised docks, trails, walking paths, etc. It was a good sales pitch. They got all of the lots sold and then deeded the land to the current Cape Horn Maintenance Company. In the late '60s, the roads became Skagit County property. This came with all the restrictions and laws by which all communities must abide. At one time, we had a boat launch. A flood washed it out. The community got together and attempted to replace it. The Federal Government came in and said no, not allowed. Cape Horn then became what we have today.

Our main purpose is to supply and maintain our water supply and our park. Our original water system going to the properties was more than 35 years old. Our boards have always been proactive, rather than reactive.

We've applied for and received a federal grant to replace all our old water lines. This was done with a setter box and a meter going to each and every property. In the near future, the government will mandate metering of all water usage. We are ahead of that.

When the new lines went in, a fire hydrant was installed every 1,000 feet, giving protection to all residents. I have been told some people had homeowners insurance lowered because of the added protection. We had another 119,000-gallon water cistern installed, giving the Cape and the fire department the usage to protect the people in here.

A new office was built, which is open during the week and used for flood-control meetings. A large, propane-powered generator was installed to keep a constant pump flow to our water system. All electrical components were upgraded to make this an automatic switchover, as well as the security systems. An analysis of our water is taken monthly to ensure the purity of our water.

For the previous writer to suggest that there was no community involvement is very biased. All of these improvements and changes were done with involvement. We have a \$1.5 million loan to repay. This is done through the assessments already in place.

The writer alluded to the fact that there was a call for more involvement. Yes, like any city, state, or community, there is a standing call for involvement. My next newsletter will have the same thing in it. This is not because we don't have involvement, but as a reminder that it is an ongoing process.

When things are going smooth, it is easy to turn our attention to other matters. We have about 500 lots in Cape Horn. About 250 have permanent residences. The rest are usually RV lots. These people come to the Cape on vacations and holidays. They pay their dues, park their trailers or campers, and enjoy their time away. Unless there is a "call to arms," they are quite content to leave the "status quo."

Imagine Concrete continues with second workshop

Concrete's visioning initiative, titled "Imagine Concrete," will enter its second phase with a follow-up workshop planned for Sat., June 27, at 9 a.m. in the Concrete High School Commons Room. Everyone with an interest in Concrete's future is invited to attend.

At the upcoming workshop, steering committee members will present the feedback gathered from the initial workshop on April 18, which the committee members have been compiling and quantifying, based on the number of votes each idea garnered.

The results have been striking. Five initiatives—named by workshop attendees and high school students via a survey rose to the top of the lists, sometimes

beating the second-most-popular ideas by twice the votes. Grouped by category, the initiatives are:

- Transform Concrete into a sustainable community and destination
- Create/revise zoning codes and planning strategies designed to preserve Concrete's small-town character
- Clean up junk yards, including garbage and inoperable cars
- Preserve structurally sound historic buildings; demolish all others
- Reinvigorate Concrete's economy by encouraging local purchases, attracting new businesses, and securing better high-speed Internet

The June 27 workshop will develop task forces—subcommittees that will be led by steering committee members and charged with keeping the initiatives progressing toward completion.

Notes from the Concrete Chamber

At its May 14 meeting, the Concrete Chamber of Commerce covered a range of topics. Here's a summary.

The **Cement City Street Fair** is coming July 25, and will include a poetry/music festival, plus a Fun Run sponsored by *Concrete Herald*. Vendors of healthful foods are needed; contact Valerie Stafford, Chamber president, at 360.853.7621.

Heidi Korthuis is the new Chamber office manager. Chamber and licensing office hours are Mon. and Wed. through Fri., 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Tue., 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and the second Saturday of each month, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Should the Chamber make suggestions or otherwise get involved with **town**

cleanup projects? Members are still lobbying for a specific street-sweeping day to be instituted.

Cascade Days is coming Aug. 15–16. Mariners tickets will be raffled off and Centennial Quilt Contest kits are still available.

Skagit River Interpretive Center will open May 23, with speakers every other Saturday. The center is looking for a half-time director for SRBEAT, which needs to find more sponsors, plus volunteers to help write grants, staff the center, etc.

Concrete Schools will offer a summer program again this year, for all kids, at the school.

The next Chamber meeting is Wed., June 3, at 5:30 p.m., in the Ponderosa upper-floor meeting room. All Chamber members are welcome to attend.



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Concrete Heritage Museum News

The museum is open every Saturday from noon to 4 p.m., through Labor Day. Volunteer hosts are needed; call Robin Wood at 360.826.3075. The Sockeye Express also runs during the same period, giving guided tours around the town and to the museum.

Concrete's Centennial Celebration on May 9 was a great success. The museum launched the new Special Limited Edition of Charles M. Dwelley's book, *So They Called the Town Concrete*, selling 10 copies at our booth during the day. The book will continue to be on sale at the museum and Albert's Red Apple, so grab your copy today: The initial run is only 200 copies.

The Museum is still working on the scanning project. Contact Cathy Huntley at 360.853.8787 if you have old photos of anything east of Sedro-Woolley to Diablo that we can scan and save for our historical archives. This will be greatly appreciated.

Our annual Bow Hill Rest Area fundraiser is scheduled for June 26 to June 29 on the northbound side. Baked goods and volunteers will be needed, because

this event calls for 24-hour rotations. Contact Robin or museum members to sign up and help: 360.826.3075.

Come join the growing attendance of our Annual Potluck Picnic on Thurs., Aug. 13 at 6 p.m., at the Concrete Senior Center. Enjoy the good company and a terrific meal.

Interior renovation work accomplished by our dedicated members this year includes bright lights, flooring, and new walls in Scotty's Room, where we store the *Concrete Herald* archives, a growing collection of history books, and a computer donated by Douglas Dunn. The collection of Concrete yearbooks has its own special place and we are adding items from the Concrete Schools as well. We want to thank all individuals who have donated Upper Skagit memorabilia through the years to our growing collection. New items are added every month.

For more information, visit the museum Web site at www.stumpranchonline.com/concreteheritagemuseum.

D PR

Cape Horn, cont. from p. 4

We have our annual meeting in July. At our last two meetings, our County Commissioner, Sharon Dillon, has attended and given us updates. The East Detachment of the Sheriff's Department also attended. It was encouraging to hear them state that the crime rate in Cape Horn has dropped 60 percent since 2006.

In closing, I wish to thank Mr. Miller for this opportunity to rebut the previous article. To the writer who stated we wouldn't change, I reply, change what?

Sometimes, if it ain't broke, don't fix it.

Mick Tomlin is president of the Cape Horn Maintenance Co.

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THIS AND THAT

By J.K.M.

Congratulations to Concrete High School senior, **Heather Tropak**, who won 1st Place and the \$100 prize for the Mount Vernon Farmers Market Poster Contest!

The water flooding over the **Cascade Trail** is not long for this world, according to Brian Adams, Parks manager for Skagit County Parks and Recreation Department. Officials are aware of the situation and will fix the problem when the water table is lower, said Adams. The area presently is too wet to move in heavy equipment, but the flooding should be a distant memory by July 1.

Concrete Herald
The Voice of Eastern Skagit County

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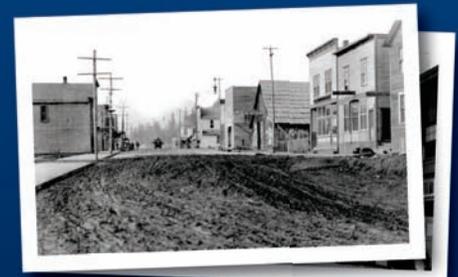
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Main Street in Concrete, c. 1911

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Lyman



Lyman Elementary names new principal

By Jason Miller

Sedro-Woolley High School Dean of Students Mark Nilson has been named principal of Lyman Elementary for the 2009-10 school year.

A 27-year veteran educator, Nilson has experience teaching grades 4 through 12, as well as the community college level. He spent the past six years at Sedro-Woolley High School, starting as a teacher. He took his current position last year.

"I had a couple choices within the district, but I jumped at this chance," said Nilson of his decision to take the Lyman position. "I like the staff a lot."

Nilson will serve the school primarily as principal, but also will perform some district administration and teaching duties.



Newly appointed Lyman Elementary Principal Mark Nilson will step into his position in August.

"I'll lean toward technology education," he said. "Lyman has a nice computer lab, and I like to help kids get up to speed on their computer knowledge."

Already, Nilson is gearing up for the job. He's been spending time with outgoing principal Lisa White, as well as Lyman Elementary staff, while finishing his current responsibilities at Sedro-Woolley High School. June will be a transition month for all involved; Nilson will formally step into his new role in August.

Lyman Car Show slated for July 11

The Town of Lyman invites its citizens and visitors to attend the popular Lyman Car Show, where raffle tickets will be sold to support the Lyman Cemetery and City Park.

Music by WhiteKnight Entertainment, unique trophies, and craft booths also are on the agenda; interested parties can contact the following folks for booth rental and pricing information:

Nancy Trythall:	360.855.1280
Karen Griffith:	360.826.3315
Sonja Haigh:	360.826.4906

Co-op preschool accepting registrations

By Janel Woiwod

The Sedro-Woolley Co-operative Preschool Lyman Campus at Lyman Elementary is now accepting registrations for the 2009-10 school year beginning this fall.

The school will operate one toddler class (ages 2 to 3-1/2; diapers okay) and one preschool class (ages 3-1/2 to 5). Toddlers attend on Tues. and Thurs., and preschoolers attend on Mon., Wed., and Friday. All classes run from 9:10 a.m. to noon.

Why a co-op? This 2009-10 school year marks the school's 31st year as a parent-owned and operated nonprofit preschool affiliated with Skagit Valley College (SVC). An SVC advisor actively works with the school and offers monthly seminars. The school offers a high-quality, family-focused environment with a low teacher/student ratio. Parent involvement helps to keep costs down and provides a richer environment for children.

For more information or to request a registration form, call Janel Woiwod at 854.0361 or Jamie Maloney at 826.3993, or e-mail mosescreek@comcast.net with your name and address.

Council summary

The Lyman Town Council held its monthly meeting on May 12. Major topics covered include:

- Mayor Heinzman reported that the Town of Lyman received \$46773.22 for work on the revetment project. \$18,292.24 was used to pay back the general fund for monies spent on engineering fees; \$28,480.98 went into a fund for use in the future.
- Bud Meyers reported that he met with the Car Show Committee. They are going to set up a booth and sell pavers at the car show, and put up a possible exhibit with items the town has. They are working on a jail theme and also a dunk tank.

- Mike Swanson said that he still has access to a color plotter copier, and that he can help out with some of the copies of photos, but he will be going out of town for work possibly in June.
- Some of the Car Show events have been postponed until the fall festival: the parade, exhibits from the museum in La Conner, and the possibility of a time capsule. Mayor Heinzman has spoken to the Booster Club about the capsule and will be working with them.

Lyman Elementary CALENDAR

June

- | | |
|----|--|
| 5 | All library books due |
| 10 | All-school barbecue and play day |
| 15 | Meet next year's teacher and read, 9:30 a.m. |
| 17 | Award Assembly, 9:30 a.m.
Early release, 11:25 a.m. |

Last day of school is June 17.

First day of school will be Sept. 2.

Townwide yard sale

Lyman will hold its townwide yard sale June 12-13. Proceeds from yard sale participation donations of \$5 per family will go to the Shepherd's Heart Hamilton Food Bank.

For more information, contact Renee' Self at 360.826.3205. Registration forms are available at the Lyman Post Office or Lyman Town Hall. Fees can be sent to Renee' at P.O. Box 1374, Lyman, WA 98263.

Volunteer correspondents are needed for Lyman!

Contact Jason Miller:

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Businesses, cont. from p. 1

Rainy Day Books offers a wide variety of paperbacks—mostly fiction—including mystery/suspense, novels, sci-fi fantasy, westerns, and romance. They also offer smaller sections of inspirational, nonfiction, reference, and children's books. Book prices range from \$1 to \$8, with most books in the \$2 to \$4 range. The store is open Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Their goal for the store is to “provide a shopping venue that the town needs, to offer competitive pricing, to be open to suggestions from customers, and to provide the type of merchandise they want,” said Apple. Rainy Day Books can be reached at 360.941.0606 or by e-mail at rainydaybookz@yahoo.com.

On May 8, in the building where the Cajun Bar and Grill operated at 7296 Baker Street, **Ponderosa** is offering a familiar cook in the kitchen. Many locals will recognize longtime cook Wilma Pressley, who cooked at North Cascade Inn in Concrete for 28 years. Owners Shirley Young and Tom Vanshur decided to open the restaurant in Concrete because they really liked the place and wanted to give it a try. Young also said that she “had a good feeling about it.”

After working for Young at Skidders Bar and Grill in Darrington for four years, Pressley is back cooking in Concrete and



Ponderosa owners Shirley Young and Tom Vanshur (left), with head chef Wilma Pressley.

customers already have said how glad they are. Pressley “loves the kitchen and is one of the family,” said Young.

The Ponderosa menu includes three different types of steaks, barbecue pork ribs, and mostly meat-and-potato dishes for now, expanding soon to include chicken and fish dishes. Young said that customers have been nice and that many people in the community have helped them, naming Philip Moran of Rockport as a special booster.

Ponderosa is open Monday, (closed Tuesdays) Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. The phone number is 360.853.8630.

The former Lyman Restaurant located at 31439 State Route 20 near the Cascade Mercantile in Lyman is slated for opening June 8 as **Old Mill Restaurant** after the remodeling is complete. Ten years ago, owners Wonona and Don Kaaland purchased the property that now includes the Cascade Mercantile, the espresso stand, and the restaurant, and wanted to open a restaurant based on the heritage of the area, and the businesses that helped the community grow. The Kaalands were both raised in Sedro-Woolley and also own Kaaland's Mill. So, after researching the history of the mills in the area and discovering that there were several mills in the area nearby area during the early 1900s, the Kaalands came up with the

name Old Mill Restaurant.

The Kaalands plan to offer a menu of familiar items such as pasta, chicken, and steaks, as well as daily specials and specialty items developed by their chef, Bill Elms, the popular chef from the former Ferry Street Bar and Grill in Sedro-Woolley. Wonona Kaaland said the community has responded favorably. “We appreciate all the community support; it gives us the encouragement to go forward,” Kaaland said. The restaurant will be open Monday through Thursday from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Friday through Sunday from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. The restaurant phone number will be 360.826.6404.

Quotable kids

“If you smoke, your lungs go all uuhhh ... and then you die.”

unknown girl, downtown Concrete

“[My strategy is to] bend forward as far as I can, get back, duck down, and hold on.”

Austin Mann, 10, at the Soap Box Derby (see p. 10)

“I'm hooked. I just need to buy a car.”

Rory Lewis, 11, at the Soap Box Derby (see p. 10)

“I think a good rule in life is to have as much fun as possible. And don't get hurt.”

Jonathan Carter, 12



Old Mill Restaurant owners Don and Wonona Kaaland (left), with head chef Billy Elms and manager Tina Chapel.

Kids birdhouses sought for Town Center sign landscape fence

Kids! The Concrete Parks Committee needs birdhouses to top the fence posts behind the Town Center sign, and they want *you* to build them.

There are 13 posts, so 13 birdhouses are needed. This offer is open to any Concrete kid up to and including age 15, and posts will be reserved on a first-come, first-served basis. To get your name on the list, contact Jason Miller at 360.853.8213 or editor@concrete-herald.com.

You can build your birdhouse from a kit or from scratch, paint it or stain it or leave it alone, just make sure its floor is at least an inch thick. Your birdhouse will perch atop a 4x4 post, so don't make it too big!

The *Concrete Herald* will have a small (1 inch x 2 inch) brass plate made for the front of your birdhouse, engraved with your name and the date on which the birdhouse is mounted on its post.

The Town Center sign project won't be complete until *you* add your personal touch, so join the fun today!

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Hamilton



Hamilton History

By Carol Bates

Back in April 2007, Julie Lanphere came to town, having just started a salvage business, Second Chance Hauling.

The town had flooded just months before Lanphere's arrival, leaving everything imaginable in its wake. Hot water tanks, push mowers, riding mowers, tires and lots of old lumber—you name it. So the cleanup began.

Lanphere picked up boards and debris. Mayor Tim Bates, with Tom Selin and Brian Friend, pitched in, and the cleanup effort picked up speed.

They removed the burned trailer on the corner of Cumberland and another trailer across the street, and tidied the acreage beside the old fire hall.

They tore down the old maid's cottage behind the Slipper home, now known as City Hall and the museum.

The crew then tore down the old garage from the home of Ervin Schillings. Trees went down on the corner of Baker Street, taking out some of the power lines, so they removed a full block of trees to protect the power lines in the future.

Next came the abandoned cars, RVs, and motor homes, some with registered owners in Anacortes, Mount Vernon, and even Arlington. Mayor Bates estimated they had 22 cars hauled away, 16 campers dismantled and salvaged, and 16-plus motor homes. In addition, several garbage

containers were filled with nonburnable wood products from the interiors of the campers and motor homes.

Our residents started noticing the improved looks of the town and got into the game. Blackberries were cleared, exposing more tires and lawn mowers. Some of these probably were left by previous owners or renters, as well as by floods from years ago.

The cleanup crews would pile all these items on the edges of the streets, and the city and Lanphere would pick them up. Lanphere collected and hauled more than 100 tons of salvaged scrap metal and other materials.

It wasn't long before the town was looking like something to be proud of.

We've lost several local people recently, such as **Tooter A. W. Belles**, formerly of Hamilton. At one time, he lived in the home of Nanny Byrd on Michigan Street, up a block from Tim Bates' home.

We also lost another friend, **Amos Ensley** from Punkin Center. His son, Ronny, lived for years in the home in which Cecil Self now resides.

Many of you probably knew **Vicki Valentine**, too. She was the daughter of Corky Vander Griend, a wonderful bookkeeper who did others' income taxes for 30 years.

Finally, I'd like to wish Jim Bates a happy 80th birthday. Born on May 30, 1929, in Gillette Wyo., he married me, Carol B. Robb, on Dec. 23, 1949. We have

five children: Tim, Karen, Kay, Marilyn, and Nicholis, as well as 10 grandchildren and 18 great grandchildren—with another one due soon—as well as four stepgreat grandchildren. Happy birthday, Dad/Grandpa/Great Grandpa/Gramps/Papy!

See Hamilton, p. 22

Birdsview buzz

By Kris Voigt

Apparently, Rob Deboer of Birdsview is a great outdoor chef. Rob and his wife, Deana, do a lot of cooking on the trail for overnight and weekend events such as horse rides. Heard he made some mean biscuits and gravy on one recent trip.

On May 12, the Birdsview Fire Dept. responded to a car fire west of Lusk Road.

Happy birthday to Jayme Adkinson and happy anniversary to her and Kevin as well. Nineteen years!

Birdsview Brewery recently installed a really cool, really big flag pole, right in the middle of the beer garden! (The location was not *my* idea.)

And speaking of the brewery, one of our favorite customers, Randi Devries from Sedro-Woolley, recently chaperoned her daughter Liz's Cascade Middle School History Class on a trip to the East Coast. While there, they attended a taping of the Today Show. Randi was chosen from the audience for a surprise makeover. She got a stylish new haircut and color, and a new outfit. Way to go, Randi!

Turkey vultures have been spotted in the area by us and a few others.

Rebecca Morse of Jericho Farms is now supplying me with fresh salad greens at the brewery and gearing up for another busy season at the Saturday Market in Concrete. Rebecca, Andy Cambo, and Thaylen hosted their annual Memorial Day Bash at their house as well.

On Mother's Day, the Voigts enjoyed a great barbecue. Debbie and Rich Riehl, Jack Mattingly, all the Voigt kids and grandkids (except Nicki), our friends Scott Hollenbeck and Eric Freeze, and my Aunt Pat from Seattle, and cousins Dale Hunt and Carol Anderson were there.

After dinner, a rousing game of kickball broke out, with all the Voigts, Scott, Jack, Eric, and even Thaylen Cambo played for a little while. A good time was had by all, despite the occasional downpour.

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It's not too late to show your support for the Concrete Herald with a donation in any amount. Funds donated so far have been used to buy the Upriver Community News, but we still need your help to reach our goal of \$10,000.

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Business Spotlight:

Willies Hi-Lead Tavern

By Aleaha Niemann

Walk to the corner of Maple St. and Cumberland Ave. in Hamilton, and you'll find a cozy little hangout the locals call Willies Hi-Lead Tavern.

Established in 1989 by Willie and Rose Richey, the business has survived five floods. Willie Richey passed away in 2000, leaving Rose to take on the business herself.

"It's hard work, but we are nice people doing the right thing," said Rose.

It's not uncommon for folks from town to walk into Willies on a Monday night, sit down, relax, and have a dollar burger. Some say the Willies burger makes the drive-through value menu not so appealing anymore.

"Well, back in the day when you could stay in your home, this place would not even close if the water got high. Willie and Rose knew people were still needing food and drink; they stayed open to help us all out," said one customer.

Twenty years later, Willies is still a place where locals chat over cold brew and chicken wings, and NASCAR is still the Sunday buzz.

"Just a down-home feeling," was the phrase many customers used to describe Willies.

"I like Willies because it's close to home," said Hamilton resident Tom Hooper.

Willies bartender Rusty Buchanan spoke of the "friendly faces" he encounters on his shifts. No matter what weeknight, or what nightly special, Willies will forever be a matriarchal business in Hamilton.

At a glance: Willies Hi-Lead

Where: 456 Maple St., Hamilton
Hours: M-Th. 2 p.m. to midnight
Fri. 2 p.m. till 2 a.m.
Sat.-Sun. Noon till 2 a.m.
7 days a week
Phone: 360.826.4366

Right: Willies Hi-Lead in Hamilton draws locals with its good, sensibly priced food and relaxed atmosphere.

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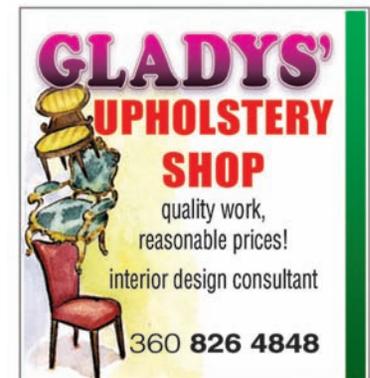
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Rockport



Rockport, Concrete boys on a roll

Rory Lewis and Austin Mann compete in Washington Alder Soap Box Derby

By Elise Lewis

On Sunday, May 17, 27 boys and girls, including Rory Lewis, 11, and Austin Mann, 10, from Concrete, competed in the Third Annual Washington Alder Soap Box Derby in Mount Vernon.

The day before the derby, racers were required to disassemble and reassemble their cars in less than an hour. The cars were weighed, and weighted so that each car and driver came in at 230 pounds.

Next, the cars went through a safety inspection. After completing all checks, the racers got one individual trial run down the track on the 2nd Street viaduct, averaging 30 miles per hour. At the bottom of the hill, cars were impounded for the night.

Sunday shone as bright as the derby cars. Lewis said his first thought was, "Wow, it's really race day!" Mann thought, "This is really going to happen!"

Racers ran several heats, each consisting of two competitors. Each racer had a chance to race in each lane against the same opponent. Because of a crown in the road, Lane One tended to be the faster of the two.

Times were not computed by timing each race from the top to the bottom of the hill. Instead, they were computed by a laser at the finish line, which sets off a timer as the first car crosses the line.

Then it calculates the time it takes for the second car to finish.

The time differences were never more than .6 of a second. In Lewis' case, it was only .008 of a second.

To a spectator, from the time the cars started rolling to the moment when they crossed the finish line, it seemed to take about 45 seconds. According to drivers Lewis and Mann, it seemed more like three seconds! They concentrated on cutting milliseconds off their time, with heads ducked, shoulders tucked, hoping for luck.

Austin Mann won four out of six runs, with solid wins averaging .212 of a second. Rory Lewis ran two heats and came in second in each. Neither boy quite made the finals.

Ariel and Paige Gear, sisters from Mount Vernon who race as "The Gear Girls," won in both categories, stock and super stock.

Mann hopes to find a sponsor for his next race, and both boys hope to compete again.

If you are interested in racing, most clubs have cars available and another Mount Vernon race is scheduled for September 19-20. If you're just curious, you can check out the All-American Soap Box Derby Web site at www.aasbd.org.



Rockport resident Rory Lewis, left, 11, and Concrete resident Austin Mann, 10, with their game faces on, prior to the start of the soapbox derby.

Brondi talks trees for tour

Why are lodgepole pine cones called "fire-dependent"? What do Douglas Firs need most? What did Native Americans make from nettles?

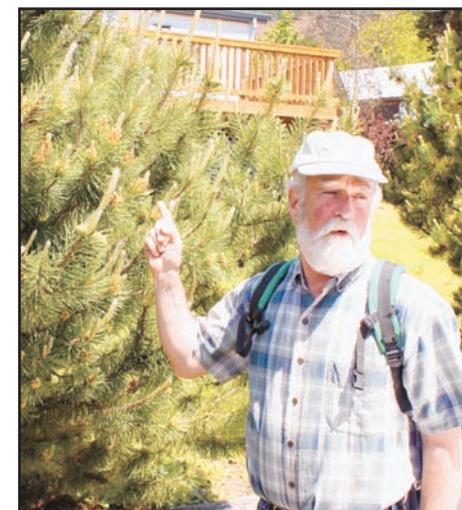
With his trademark wit, enthusiasm, and rapid-fire delivery, North Cascades National Park representative Michael Brondi answered these questions and more during a walking tour on May 23.

Brondi's talk began at the Interpretive Center in Rockport, and, after a brown-bag lunch, continued with a stroll along the river and through the meadow area west of Howard Miller Steelhead Park.

Trailed by a small group of eager listeners, Brondi held forth on the interplay between geology and plant life, with a focus on trees.

"Alders can fix nitrogen in their roots," he said at one point, referring to the tree's ability to draw nitrogen from the air and store it in nodules attached to its root system.

For Brondi, the natural world is a place of enduring discovery, one he hopes others will choose to experience. "Watch," he said with a wink, rolling up a nettle leaf, stuffing it between his molars, and chewing. "An 8th-grader taught me that."



Above: Tour guide Mike Brondi pauses to discuss the parts of a lodgepole pine.

Below: Tour participant Erma Baude squints to spot tiny perforations in a leaf of St. John's Wort held by Brondi.



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Joseph F. Dwelley: Father to a legend

By Dan Royal

Kate Maloy wrote of her father, "Joseph Franklin Dwelley came to Whidbey Island in February 1870 working on Whidbey as a carpenter in the vicinity of Coupeville. Crossing to the mainland, he filed on a pre-emption claim on the Skagit River, on a part of which land the County Court house and City of Mount Vernon now stands."

In 1871, his wife, Angeline, joined him, coming by train, boat, and horse and wagon. She brought with her two small daughters, Vista and Vesta.

Following the arrival of his wife and daughters, Joseph settled his family permanently in La Conner. Joseph served as postmaster, mayor, storekeeper, carpenter, and boat builder, as well as justice of the peace for more than 50 years. Angeline was one of the pioneer teachers to the town. Joseph's love of boats and the water, according to his daughter, Kate, "was his hobby, so both as his pleasure and for profit he built a

number of launches and small boat models. He finished his last launch in his 73rd year. The Zephyr."

According to Kate, "By 1875 he had much of his claim cleared and planted in orchard, selling the timber and during this year he sold his claim to William Tinkham and wife, and came to La Conner, where he established a cabinet shop and contracted dwelling and barns. Having built a number of houses in and around La Conner flats. Later that year he established a furniture business and continued in business until the year 1886, when he was appointed post master, holding that office for eight years; holding one term under a Democratic president."

Alice Catherine "Kate" Dwelley was born November 22, 1872, in their log cabin at Mount Vernon. Tragedy struck the family in the mid-1870s when Vesta, 9; Viola, 6; and Joseph, 17 days old died of typhoid fever. Only Kate survived the epidemic. Joseph and Angeline's son,



Charles Lemuel Dwelley, was born July 17, 1878, and was followed by another daughter, Edna, born on December 13, 1879.

"Mr. Dwelley was prominent in the G.A.R., an active member of the A.O.U.W. and also an Odd Fellow. In religion he was a Methodist, while his wife was Catholic. He was a friend of every movement

for the betterment of the community in which he lived, especially interested in the schools and the youth of that generation.

"He was born in Kittery, Maine, a ship-building town, where his father was then employed; but was raised and received his education in the city of Boston, Mass., and so crossed the continent from the Atlantic to the Pacific, where in his 95th year he passed away quietly through the Golden Gates.

"Joseph died at his home on 3rd and Benton Street in La Conner in 1933. Mrs. Dwelley had preceded him in death in 1919 at the age of 70."

Dan Royal is a Skagit County historian, memorialist, and genealogist of the Skagit County Pioneer Association. This is the second installment in a four-part series on the life of Charles M. Dwelley. Excerpts and photo courtesy of Doris Pollack, niece of Charles M. Dwelley, from family histories.

Concrete Herald

The Voice of Eastern Skagit County

Volunteer correspondents are needed for Rockport!

Want to write short updates, or simply provide news tips about Rockport for *Concrete Herald*?
Contact Jason Miller:

360.853.8213
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SRBEAT announces coming events

The Skagit River Bald Eagle Awareness Team (SRBEAT), a nonprofit organization whose focus is to provide information on how to safely view Eagles in the Upper Skagit during winter migration, and the promotion and creation of the yearly Eagle Festival, has announced an exciting line-up of events for the coming months—and they're free!

On **Sat., June 6**, at 11 a.m., join retired fish biologist Kurt Buchanan for a slideshow, plus a guided outdoor walk and discussion of Skagit watershed restoration projects, the impact of people, and future efforts directed at improving water quality in the Skagit River.

On **Sat., June 20**, at 11 a.m., Kurt Buchanan returns for another presentation and walk, this time with a focus on how you as a citizen of eastern Skagit County can get involved to improve the quality of the Skagit watershed.

Both June presentations are offered in partnership with Skagit Conservation Education Alliance (SCEA). Information

will be available on this organization and how you can volunteer for one of their restoration projects, if you wish.

Looking ahead, a **July 4 Kite-Flying Event** is planned. Bring your kite to Howard Miller Steelhead Park and enter a kite-flying contest with prizes for best kite, highest fly, and skill. Top it off with a staff-guided hike.

Save the date: **July 18 brings Sash Johnson** to the Interpretive Center for an 11 a.m. talk and a 1 p.m. guided walk on native plants.

On **August 1, Doug Bruland** or a representative from PSE will present a slide show about the recovery of Sockeye salmon and what PSE is doing at the Baker River Hydroelectric project to double salmon populations and protect them. More events are on the way.

The Skagit River Interpretive Center is located in Rockport, Wash., at Howard Miller Steelhead Park. The Center is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on alternate Saturdays, beginning May 23 this year. **All activities are free to the public.** For more information, call 360.853.7626 or e-mail srbeat@fidalgo.net.

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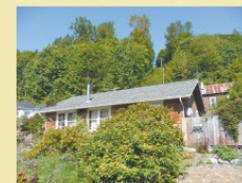
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Sports

Concrete athletes shine at Middle School Track Finals

By Coach Sarah Dinkins

At our Middle School Finals track meet on May 27—the middle school equivalent to high school State—we competed against Cascade Middle School, Stanwood Middle, Post Middle, Arlington Middle, Whidbey United, Anacortes, Mount Vernon Christian, and Mount Baker Middle School.

Our athletes did very well, even though we ended up taking only six of the nine who had qualified, because of a grade check.

Nathan Butler took 4th place in the 7th grade boys long jump, with a distance of 14' 8".

Hayden Holbrook took 6th place in the 8th grade boys long jump, with a distance of 15' 4-1/2".

Jessica Filtz took 4th place in the 8th grade girls shot put, throwing 30' 4 3/4"; she also took 2nd place in the 8th grade girls javelin, throwing 84' 6".

Arielle Aiken took 3rd place in the 8th grade girls high jump, with a leap of 4' 5".

Also worth mentioning is the fact that this season we broke three Concrete Middle School records. New record holders are: Jessica Filtz in the 8th grade girls javelin, throwing 78' 8"; Arielle Aiken in the 8th grade girls hurdles, with 20.12 seconds; and Garrett Green in the 7th grade boys hurdles, with 19.15 seconds. Congratulations!



Concrete Middle School runner Joseph DiLeo, 14, pushes hard at the finish of the 400-meter run at a May 6 home meet against Burlington-Edison Middle School and Cascade Middle School.

Concrete Herald Web site launches at www.concrete-herald.com

A redesigned version of the *Concrete Herald* Web site has launched at www.concrete-herald.com, delivering a go-to resource for all citizens of eastern Skagit County.

The new site places a priority on easily accessible news by community, as well as links to popular columns and topics, such as sports, music, and local academics.

Because many *Concrete Herald* readers use dial-up connections to access the Internet, the new site minimizes unnecessary images and segregates large-file content, such as photos and videos, into separate pages. Readers with DSL or other higher-speed connections can click on those pages, while dial-up users can enjoy the site with shorter wait times.

Virtually all the content found in the

print version of the *Herald* will be found online after the print version is published.

The site will be free for its first year, which runs through April 30, 2010. On May 1, 2010, the site will move to a subscription-only model, with one-year subscriptions running \$12. A combination print/Web subscription also will be offered for \$30 annually. After May 1, 2010, free "passes" will be granted to infrequent users, such as tourists, said publisher and editor Jason Miller.

"I do not intend to make the same mistake that larger newspapers have made, by giving away content for free," he said. "I intend to continue the *Concrete Herald's* tradition of excellence, and I believe that people will be willing to pay for that level of quality."

Filing for public office?

Lyman, Hamilton, and Concrete all have positions up for re-election this coming November.

The period during which you must file to run for election for these positions is June 1 through 5, 2009. Your name will not be added to the ballot for the Nov. 3, 2009 elections if you do not hit this window of opportunity.

Declaration of Candidacy paperwork should be available at your Town Hall.

File online or download the proper forms at www.skagitcounty.net or in person at the Skagit County Auditor's Office, located at 700 S. 2nd St., Room 201, Mount Vernon.

If you wish to mail your forms, they must be notarized and received by June 5; mail to Skagit County Elections, P.O. Box 1306, Mount Vernon, WA 98273.

If you have questions regarding this process, contact your Town Hall or the Skagit County Auditor's Office at 360.336.9305.

Here are the positions up for election

in Concrete, Hamilton, Lyman, and Sedro-Woolley. All positions are four-year terms.

Concrete

Mayor: Judd Wilson

Town Council, position 2: Paul Rider

Town Council, position 5: Jason Miller

Hamilton

Town Council, position 4: Harold Pitts

Town Council, position 5: Tamara

McGrady

Lyman

Town Council, position 1: Jeff Chester

Town Council, position 2: Ron Hodgins

Town Council, position 4: Jada Trammel

Sedro-Woolley

City Council, position 2: Tony Splane

City Council, position 3: Thomas Storrs

City Council, position 6: Rick Lemley

Council at Large: Dennis London

This July 4, be safe and legal!

The Town of Concrete wishes you a safe and fun July 4 holiday, and reminds you that setting off fireworks within town limits is illegal.

Academics

Graduation countdown begins

If you're a Concrete High School senior, you've probably been staring at your June calendar intently for the past several weeks. On June 13, at 1 p.m. in the Concrete High School gymnasium, the Class of 2009 will graduate.

Approximately 50 students will participate in the commencement ceremony this year. Concrete High School has students looking at the military, vo-tech schools, community colleges, and four-year universities as their next steps.

The schedule of events during graduation week is:

- Yearbook distribution and signing, June 11.
- The Senior Trip to Silverwood, Idaho, June 47. All graduating seniors

from the Class of 2009 may go.

- Community Bible Church dinner for seniors and parents, June 11, 5 p.m.
- Baccalaureate at the high school gymnasium begins June 11, 6:30 p.m.
- Scholarship and award presentations begin at the high school gymnasium on June 11, 7:30 p.m.
- Graduation practice for all graduating seniors will be Fri., June 12, 8 a.m., in the high school gymnasium.
- Graduation will be held on Sat., June 13, at 1 p.m., in the high school gymnasium.

Everyone is welcome to join our graduates in this celebration of high school completion for our Concrete High School graduating class of 2009!

If you have questions or need more information, please call the high school office at 360.853.8143.



Concrete High School seniors let off a little steam in anticipation of their graduation ceremony on Sat., June 13. **Pictured:** Joshua Anderson, Krista Baker, Gabrielle Bauer, Michael Bower, Jacob Brigham, Clinton Bryant, Cody Carvalho, Brandi Dellinger, Sean Fipps, Cynthia Gaona, Amanda Geertgens, Lacey Haight, Chad Hawkings, Justin Hayes, Tore Holm, Cody Holt, Lacey Holter, K. Lee Johnson, Brandon Kales, Jasmine Keeney, Daniel Kimble, Trent Kitchen, Kellianne Lane, Violet League, Samantha Moser, Shannon Moudy, Heather Nick, Isadora O'Brien, Mary O'Connor, Britnie Oversby, Christopher Paxton, Brandie Plake, Derek Rice, Victoria Semro-Wegener, Christopher Smith, Natasha Smith, Heather Tropak, Hunter Van Wagoner, Sara Wenrick, Reba West, Kevin Williams. **Not pictured:** Melissa Aldridge, Almonte Benjamin, Kyle Corne, Jesse Hising, William Keller, Caleb Martin, Seth Raugh, Lukas Scherer, Dawn Smith, Eric Taylor, Liam Walsh, Charles White.

Want to write for the *Concrete Herald*?

Attention, Journalism students! Your hometown newspaper is back, offering a tremendous opportunity to learn "the biz" without a sweaty, loudmouthed editor

breathing down your neck. If you'd like to write for the *Concrete Herald*, call or e-mail editor Jason Miller at 360.853.8213 or editor@concrete-herald.com.

Concrete Herald salutes Concrete Schools first semester honor students!

Grade 4

Rebecca Ross, Emma Riedel, Tyler LaBrousse, Thomas Kelly, Kiya Mann, Anna Huppuch, Sidney Hockett, Chloe Stidman, Treyton Howell, Kyra Smith, Riley Pritchard, Nickolas Parker, Ashlee Gilbert, Jaycelyn Kuipers, Tessa Coffell, Emily Bridge, Diane Bergsma, Katelynn Baumert, Kiana Wright.

Grade 5

Dawson Bass*, Joshua Gentry*, Hannah Kononen*, Haley McNealy*, David Quang*, Tye Thompson, Adam Adkinson, Edison Bergsma, April Allbritton, Samuel Holbrook, Katelin Pritchard, Mindy Sutton, Jessica Bridge, Angelica Zapata, Megan Fenley, Suncirray O'Gwin, Zeeta Thornton, Seth Shaffer, Donald Olmstead, Dylan Clark, Shelby Meacham, Ashten Tygret, Donovan Dellinger, Cassidy Cargile, Brandon Dunn, Brandon Roberts, Kayde Durrant.

Grade 6

Muriel Troka*, Taylor Warner*, Anjelika Koenig, Jordan Munnings, Sahale Riedel, Emily Stidman, Gibson Fichter, Madeline

Corn, Renay Miller, Baylee Robinson-Oleary, Kathleen Haverstick, Shayane Gilbert, Taylor Mathis, Shiloh Bower, Tiffany Forrester, Juanita Castaneda-Guerrero, Tyler Richmond.

Grade 7

Aimee Adkinson*, Dallas Newby*, Joshua Rogge*, Nathan Butler, Simon Marks-Franks, Jonnie Rohweder, Samantha Christensen, Emilee Fenley, Jacquelynn Frizzell, Andrew Freeman, Javon Thrasher, Forest Barnedt, Kristien Mann.

Grade 8

Frankie Rohweder*, Kylee Warner, Melia Thompson, Linnaea Groh, Arielle Aiken, Hayden Holbrook, Jessica Filtz, Jaily Hastings, Anastasia Zitkovich, Claire Saludo, Ashlee Evans, Dilyn Stidman, Madeline Vogler.

Grade 9

Tyler Clark*, Kassandra Barnedt, Emily Ogle, Danielle Pringle, Aiden Walsh, Arienne Fengler-Nelson, Sarah Spaeth, Benjamin Troka, Jocelyn Hernandez, Laura Blasutto, Cody Corn, Lonna Lloyd, Andrew Aiken.

Grade 10

Alex Aiken*, Megan Rogge*, Shae Van Wagoner*, Kellen Russell, Miranda Wallen, Kyler Howell, Spencer Duffy, Evan Holm, Kelsey Mitchell, Cody Mills, Daniel Herrera, Sherry Pringle, Scott Rice, August Hanke, Ashley Johnson, Shelby Lloyd.

Grade 11

Cheri Baker*, Tanner VanPutten, James Martin, Jacquelyn Scheer, Taylor Lee, Greg McIntosh, Rebecca Wood, Launi Harrell, Alexander Rathie, Joshua Crosson, Isela Garibay, Jared Johnson, Emily Holbrook, Kelsey Barnett.

Grade 12

Brandi Dellinger*, Shannon Moudy*, Isadora O'Brien*, Phoenix Van Wagoner*, Liam Walsh*, Kellianne Lane, Kevin Williams, Heather Nick, Cynthia Gaona, Chad Hawkings, Violet League, Amanda Geertgens, Brandie Plake, Reba West, Lukas Scherer, Caleb Martin, Heather Tropak, Charles White.

*Denotes 4.0 GPA

Summer food program for kids ages 1 through 18

The Concrete School District announces the sponsorship of the Simplified Summer Food Program for all children ages 1 through 18.

Monday through Thursday, July 6 through August 6, any child may come and eat meals at the following times:

- **Breakfast: 7:30 a.m. to 8 a.m.**
- **Lunch: 11:30 a.m. to 12 noon**

Children do not need to be enrolled in the summer program in order to receive free meals. Children must consume all food in the cafeteria.

All meals will be served in the Concrete High School cafeteria, located at 7830 South Superior Ave., in Concrete.



Marblemount



Community Club Hall serves up history, hope

By Jason Miller

In Marblemount sits a building with more history than many of its citizens.

Originally a bunkhouse at the Upper Baker Dam, the Marblemount Community Club Hall was cut into pieces, transported to its current location, and reassembled under the watchful eye of a fledgling organization called the Marblemount Community Club (MCC). That was in 1955, the same year the MCC was created.

Only a handful remain of the MCC's original founders, and Merv Peterson is one of them. He loved the building—still does—and he marvels at the club's accomplishments when money was scarce.

"Our community club predated anything east of Mount Vernon," he said. "[Moving the bunkhouse and reassembling it] was a pretty good feat for such a small, unincorporated community."

For Peterson and the other remaining founders, such as Bill Newby, Nancy Cook, and Heyward Cowan, the hall is saturated with history and memories. It sits at 60155 State Route 20 in Marblemount, across from the fire hall, on land originally owned by Mabel Pressentin. The hall was paid for by timber sales, and supported and maintained by a laundry list of fundraisers.

"We collected scrap iron, held dances, anything to keep it going and pay the insurance," said Peterson.

Plenty of room

The hall is big, measuring 29 feet wide and 115 feet long. Its interior is divided into a large hall, with a meeting room, a modern kitchen, two bathrooms, and a storage room toward the back. Behind the main building lies an open-air barbecue pit.

It's had its share of facelifts, to be sure, said Bill Newby. "We've shingled it, we put in the paneling and kitchen. We replaced the windows and the rotten steps. We added a wheelchair-accessible ramp. We added the metal roof. It was a constant effort to improve it; the list goes on and on. If you can name it, we did it," said Newby.

For decades, the hall hosted gatherings diverse and memorable—even a little, well, odd.

"We had a pig party, once," recalled Newby. "I took the head, dyed it red, garnished it with pickled apples. I put a big ruby in the forehead. It was a hit!"

Modern challenges

Perhaps that's why it's so hard to watch the facility struggle financially. Interest in renting the facility has flagged over the years and the Board has felt challenged raising the money to support it. "We have to pay taxes on it, heat it, take care of the general upkeep . . . those costs are tough," said Newby. "Insurance is terrible, phone cost is terrible, just the basic stuff costs more than you can make."



The Marblemount Community Club Hall, located at 60155 State Route 20 in Marblemount.

Club President Connie Clark hopes that the local and extended communities of eastern Skagit County will support the hall, which is the only one of its kind for miles in either direction. "We're here and we want to be supported," she said. "We need new Board members, new people with new, fresh ideas."

Marblemount Community Club Hall is available for rent. Receptions, weddings, birthday parties, company seminars or training sessions, and meetings of any kind are just a few of the uses for which the hall is well suited. For more information, call the MCC at 360.873.4631.

Volunteer contributors are needed for the new *Concrete Herald!*

If you'd like to write short articles about the goings-on in your community, contact Jason Miller, publisher and editor, directly:

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editor@concrete-herald.com

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Sheriff's blotter

May 7

A Concrete Schools bus driver reported that while driving kids to school, a logging truck started tailgating the bus and constantly pumping his air brakes and scaring the kids. Bus driver obtained the name of the logging company from the side of the truck and reported this information to the deputy. Deputy is following up with the logging company.

May 8

A Hamilton caller reported a fight between two females at his residence. Deputy arrived to find female no. 1 saying she was at the house when the suspect arrived very intoxicated and started pushing and scratching her. Female no. 2 said she never touched anyone, but had been drinking and was uncooperative. Witnesses confirmed that an assault took place. A 24-year-old Hamilton woman was cited for misdemeanor assault fourth degree.

May 11

Two neighbors in the Grasmere area were found in dispute over an easement. One neighbor had a chain across the road,

preventing the other from accessing his property. Neighbor said he needs the chain because people will come and try to steal from him; said he will shoot anyone who comes onto his property uninvited. Deputy spoke to both parties.

May 12

In the Cedar Grove area of Concrete, a caller said she was walking by a house with her small dog and four dogs came out onto the road and a black lab bit her small dog. No injuries, but the dogs were aggressive. Deputy contacted owner of the four dogs, who admitted his dogs got out of the house that morning. He was warned about their aggressive nature.

May 13

Caller reported two juvenile males sitting on the balcony of an apartment on North Superior Ave. in Concrete, smoking what appeared to be marijuana. Deputy checked and discovered boys were smoking cigarettes and eating sunflower seeds. No marijuana was found at the scene.

May 14

A caller reported her ex-husband was at the Concrete Elementary School in violation of a court order that he is not to

be there. Deputy arrived and discovered the 35-year-old Marblemount man was at the school. The man claimed he was there for a parent/teacher conference for his son. Since the court order says he is not to be at the school, the man was cited for violating the order.

May 15

A caller driving by a residence on Concrete-Sauk Valley Road reported her ex-husband was at that house, yelling at her as she drove by. Caller wanted him arrested for harassment. Deputy determined no crime was committed.

May 16

A homeowner on Division Street in Concrete reported that after leaving his residence several months ago because of a landslide threat, he found that a neighbor had an extension cord plugged into his house. Homeowner believed the neighbor was stealing power. A deputy is investigating.

May 16

A caller reported mail theft on Baker Loop Road in Concrete. Caller said he was missing two envelopes that should have had checks in them. No current suspects.

Radio, cont. from p. 1

original programming per day.

The station would not re-broadcast KSVR; rather, KSVU would be an independent station, offering a new program schedule. The schedule could include programs such as Bluegrass Review and Blues, as well as programs from eastern Skagit communities.

"It's really fun to explore the interests of people in the community," said Rip Robbins, general manager of KSVR, of the possibility of local radio hosts. Citizens who would like to be involved in KSVU could bring in their CDs and perform their own shows. Other possibilities include local performances, alternative national news, and half-hour interview segments. "[They could] talk about the fun things in life, a hobby, an activity they want to share in the community," said Robbins.

KSVU plans to settle at the corner of Main and Thompson Ave., in Concrete's Town Center, thanks to Don and Della Payne, who have offered to donate their building for one year.

"It's quite an honor for our little town to

wind up with its own radio station," said Don Payne. "I think it will be a very big benefit in this small community."

Robbins has secured a construction permit and been authorized by the Federal Communications Commission to build the satellite station.

KSVU will broadcast 350 feet into the air, with an antenna located in Grasmere, southwest of Concrete. The signal could carry to Rockport and Sedro-Woolley. The fledgling station will need a small relay system in addition to the tower site, which will provide a microwave relay to send a signal from the utility site to the transmitting antenna.

Administration will be provided by the KSVR staff to train the participants of KSVU to learn to produce radio segments of their own.

Robbins hopes for funding to come in part from a First Service grant, which offers a 3-to-1 match to public radio stations that haven't had any other full public radio, noncommercial radio channels previously broadcasting in an area.

See Radio, p. 16

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Radio, cont. from p. 15

“We (KSVR/Skagit Valley College) have raised the money [necessary to] match the grant,” said Robbins.

KSVU 90.1 will need to be supported by the community, as well as underwriters, business sponsors, and special fundraising events.

Meetings will continue as the plan for satellite radio in Concrete takes shape; meanwhile, Robbins encourages eastern Skagit County citizens to remain patient. “It may look like things are not happening, but when the day comes for installation of the transmitter, they will be ready to go,” he said.

For more information, contact Rip Robbins, KSVR general manager, at 360.416.7711 or rip.robbins@skagit.edu.

Jeanna Smiley Squires is a Concrete native who is pursuing a broadcast journalism degree at the University of Montana.

Broadband: Who needs it?

By Grace Popoff

What is broadband, and do you need it?

Are you curious about what your government is up to? Do you wonder what’s happening with the Hubble telescope, or want to find the calories in your favorite fast food? Perhaps you want to learn the calls of birds that hang out near your property. Maybe you don’t have TV, but once in a while, you’d like to watch a video clip of news or entertainment. Do you want to send and receive pictures of friends or family, or listen to the radio without a lot of static?

The Internet is an amazing resource, but much of the content that’s available doesn’t come easily via a dial-up modem. You need fast Internet service. You need broadband.

The challenge for Upper Valley folks is getting true broadband service that we can afford.

If you live in an urban area, the Telecommunications Act of 1996 has worked well for you. There’s a lot of

competition for your business, so you have affordable options of cable Internet, DSL, wireless services, or satellite, and there are lots of community access sites.

If you live in *Concrete Herald* territory, however, it’s another story. The Upper Skagit Library has public Internet access, but you can’t get DSL for your home if you live more than a couple of miles from town. Only a few neighborhoods outside of town have cable, satellite has limitations for home-based businesses or telecommuters (as well as challenges when there’s five feet of snow), and wireless services are great, but only for those locations in a direct line to a tower.

Perhaps fortunately, there’s a recession on right now, so the economic stimulus package that is unfolding this year has money dedicated to improving rural broadband services.

A small group of committed citizens has begun meeting to try to put together a grant proposal for improved Internet access for eastern Skagit County. We’ll address the county commissioners soon, asking for their support for this effort, and it would be really helpful to have several people present who care about this matter.

Please check the *Concrete Herald* calendar at www.concrete-herald.com for the date of this presentation, plus information about a public meeting up here in June. We’ll also post notices at Albert’s Red Apple, the library, and other places in the area.

For more information, contact us at upriverweb@gmail.com.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR**JUNE**

- 3 Concrete School Bands Finale Concert, 7 p.m., high school gym
- 5 Movie Night at Lyman Church, 6:30 p.m. (bring blankets and pillows)
- 5 Concrete Schools Surplus Sale, 8 a.m. to noon, near football field
- 5–7 Concrete Community Clean-up Weekend
- 12–13 7th Annual Lyman Townwide Yard Sale, Lyman
- 13 Concrete Class of 2009 graduation ceremony, 1 p.m., high school gym
- 18 Concrete Elementary School 8th grade graduation, 1 p.m., elementary school gym

JULY

- 11 Lyman Car Show, Lyman; more info at 855.1280, 826.3315, or 826.4906
- 24–26 Old-Fashioned Fly-In, dawn till dusk, Concrete
- 23 Youth Activity Day, Silo Park/playfield/Concrete Theatre, Concrete
- 25 Cement City Street Fair, Poetry Festival, and *Concrete Herald* Fun Run 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Concrete
- 31–8/1 Western Washington Family Forest Owners Field Day, Lusk Road, Birdsvew; see ad, p. 5

AUGUST

- 2 Salmon barbecue at Marblemount Community Hall, Marblemount; more info at 360.873.4631
- 15–16 Cascade Days, Concrete

In The Service

Alan Beaumont Brown, Jr., is Concrete citizen Rose Weaver’s oldest son. Bright, outgoing, and energetic, the 23-year-old has been a soldier in the U.S. Army for more than four years.

Brown has spent 16 months in Iraq and currently is stationed in Fort Knox, Ky., as a 19 Delta Cavalry Scout. He will be deployed in November to Afghanistan.

The new tour will be harder for him as he will leave behind his new wife and 1-year-old daughter.

“Throughout all of the changes in his life, he remains in good humor with a

positive attitude,” said Weaver, who added that he uses humor as a tool for lightening up otherwise tense and frightening situations.

“He e-mailed me from Iraq once to let me know that I should be thankful that my cell phone battery dies, because his troop was on a mission and spotted something unusual on the side of the road. They passed it up and continued on their mission, but when they returned, they stopped to investigate it. It was a cell phone rigged up as an IED, but the battery had died, rendering it useless.”

Concrete citizens Shelle and Guy Timmer’s 20-year-old son, **Jeremy Kenneth James Timmer**, is serving in the U.S. Army as a private in the 3-4 Calvary. He currently is stationed in Hawaii and deployed to Iraq. He spent a total of less than two months in Hawaii before going off to fight a war.

“My son is doing a job he believes needs to be done,” said Shelle. “He is risking his life for freedom while doing his job, but he wants to do it. He is well trained, and better off than a lot of 20-year-olds in having a direction to set forth.

“I am not sorry; I am proud he made a choice that works for him. I pray every day for his continued safety and guidance.

“Please support all mothers of soldiers by simply saying ‘Thank you’ or ‘God Bless.’ Support our troops no matter where they are; they give us and many others freedoms we would not otherwise have.”

Editor’s note: Concrete Herald wants to tell its readers about how our citizens are serving their country. If you’d like to share updates on loved ones’ service in the armed forces, please e-mail Jason Miller, editor, at editor@concrete-herald.com, or call 360.853.8213.

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Newhalem



Back in the 1930s, Seattle City Light thought it would be a great idea to give tours of its Diablo, Gorge, and Ross dams and powerhouses.

The company was right. People from all over Washington flocked to Rockport, where they parked their cars and took a train to Newhalem.

Accommodations were meager; for example, husbands slept in one barracks, wives and children in another. The price was only \$5,

though, so apparently it was worth it. And hey, at least the husbands got a good night's sleep.

The tour program was interrupted during World War II, but it started up again in the 1950s and is still going strong. The Seattle City Light Diablo Lake Adventure tour has begun its 2009 season, and adventure is exactly what awaits you.

Maybe you've seen it on "Evening Magazine" or "Northwest Backroads,"

but there's nothing like experiencing it for yourself. A sumptuous dinner, gorgeous scenery, and more await. See www.skagittours.com for details!

Diablo dishes

Wayne and Julie Knopf are still pretty tickled about the engagement of their daughter, Sabrina, who plans to wed Joey Peninger Aug. 22, in Newhalem. The couple will continue to live in Sedro-Woolley.

Volunteer correspondents are needed for Newhalem and Diablo!

If you'd like to write short updates for *Concrete Herald* readers, or simply provide news tips, contact Jason Miller, publisher and editor:

360.853.8213
editor@concrete-herald.com

The meaning of Father's Day

By Launi Harrell

Father's Day is June 21. On that day, we'll honor our fathers and let them know what they mean to us.

The Concrete Herald decided to get a sneak peek at what Father's Day means to the sons and daughters in Concrete.

When asked what Father's Day means to them, the different voices of the Valley responded, well, in different ways. Here are some of their responses.

"Fathers should be recognized for all the work they put into raising their children."

—Kristine Walker

"Showing affection for and supporting my hardworking father."

Dalton Dellinger

"Honoring my dad."

—Kyle Corne

"It's a time to spend quality time with your father . . . when he's not at work."

Jessica Bauer

"It gives me an opportunity to finally do something for my dad."

Destiny Thompson

"It represents all the dads in the world."

Rianna Mulvihill

"Yet another day to appreciate my dad."

August Hanke

"Fathers day is a daddy's day."

Chanel Christensen

"It's a day to honor my father."

Sally Straathof

" . . . Being thankful for my dad."

—Alex Kristovitch-Warner

Worth repeating

"The most important thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother."

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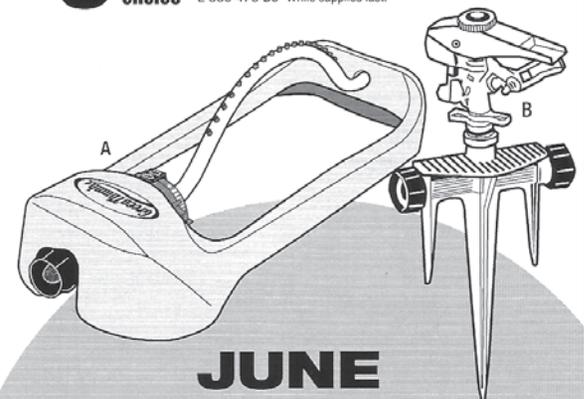


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Seniors

Coffee Break

By Patrick Kennedy

As a senior, you've had to make many choices at forks in the road. Yes to this, no to that, and here you are, square on the path you have chosen. Sometimes right and sometimes wrong, but nonetheless, here you are.

You are married or not, you work here or there, you have kids or not, and all because you made thousands of little and large decisions along the way. Decisions, decisions, decisions, your brain wants to go one way, while your heart want to go the other way.

"I coulda had class. I coulda been a contender. I coulda been somebody," says Terry Malloy (Marlon Brando) who is a dockworker and boxer in the 1954 movie, "On the Waterfront." Are you saying that or are you celebrating your choices? You cannot do anything about the past anyhow, so it is best to deal with the present.

So many things got in the way or made you take a detour on your way to your final happiness, which may be retirement. "I'm retired—goodbye tension, hello pension!" said the famous Author Unknown. That sounds great. But getting here has been tough, and you are not alone in that. Bias, gender, age, race, politics, ambitions, emotions, traditions, limitations, reasoning, and instinct have nothing to do with what you want to do now or not.

Those are just phases of life,

like rings in a tree trunk, and are relevant only to themselves. There are so many opinions in life, so many decisions to make. Life is like a world of horse races and paint stores: So many options, and so many tastes to satisfy, and if you choose the wrong color to paint your room, you have to live with it for a long time or go through the painful process of making another decision. Or, if you pick the wrong horse, you must watch your money slowly disappear, trot by trot, as the nag you picked hobbles around the racing oval, staring at the tails of faster horses.

"The world we have created is a product of our thinking; it cannot be changed without changing our thinking," said Albert Einstein

So, can you change your way of thinking in this new world of never-ending free time and no alarm clock? The answer is obvious in this case: you must—or linger in a world of disorientation with no fun. Fun in retirement is the name of the game. It is a hard transition from "doing all the time" to "doing only once in a while."

What to do? "The trick is growing up without growing old," said that famous catcher and thrower of baseball and dry wit, Casey Stengel. And then, wasn't it Dr. Seuss who said to you as a kid, "Today you are you, that is truer than true"?

The wisdom and secret of being a little older, and a little more practiced in life, and trying to be a little happier, comes from all regions of the human experience. Sometimes the need to be busy

is an itch that must be scratched. Another decision must be made. What to do to keep busy? Paint your house, or go to the horse races?

There are practical answers, and there are fun answers. You can get a job to keep busy and supplement a sparse income, or you can start a hobby to take up some time. Life in retirement is still filled with choices and tastes; you cannot escape that.

But, as someone said, "When confronted with a bad situation, sometimes the best decision is to take a nap."

Patrick M. Kennedy is the author of How to Have Fun with Retirement, a sneak peek for which is available online at www.funwithretirement.com.

Way Back When

79 years ago

The Jan. 23, 1930 *Concrete Herald* centerfold announces "Concrete now has talking pictures! C. D. Sticklely of the Concrete Theatre has installed the finest sound and talking reproducing equipment. In addition he has made an effort to secure all the latest attractions to be shown in his theater. The inside of the house has been completely remodeled and redecorated. We have a new theater!" The first feature to be shown was Red Hot Rhythm, starring Alan Hale and Josephine Dunn.

60 years ago

On June 22, 1949, the Hagin Shingle Mill in Marblemount was totally destroyed when a fire of unknown origin started in the dry kiln. The entire plant was swept away within five minutes.

50 years ago

In June 1959, George C. Bricka of White Swan was named the new high school principal. Bricka was selected by the School Board to step into the position vacated by Hugh Barr's promotion to the job of Superintendent of the district.

The Upper Baker Dam neared completion, with only two small sections at the west end remaining to be filled with cement. Cement also had to be poured to fill up around "the plug" to close off the flow of the Baker River.

40 years ago

In June 1969, construction and paving of the new 2,700-ft. airstrip at the Concrete Municipal Airport was complete and the facility opened for public use, according to officials of the Puget Sound Power & Light Company. Puget Power, in partnership with the Lone Star Cement Company, completed application of a hard surfacing on the old airstrip and aircraft parking area the week prior.

30 years ago

June 14, 1979: Work to improve traffic flow at the intersection of State Highway 20 and the Cascade River Road in Marblemount

See Way back, p. 19

Concrete Senior Center Activities – May 2009

Lunch is served Monday through Thursday, 12:30 p.m.

Mondays

9:00 a.m. Gray Ladies hoop quilting
1:00 p.m. Skip Bo
1:00 p.m. Mexican Train Dominos

Tuesdays

11:30 a.m. Jigsaw puzzle
1:00 p.m. Skip Bo

Wednesdays

8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. Quilting
11:30 a.m. Jigsaw puzzle
1:00 p.m. Skip Bo

Thursdays

10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Wii Sports play
11:30 a.m. Jigsaw puzzle

Fridays

8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. Quilting
11:30 a.m. Jigsaw puzzle
Noon Mexican Train Dominos

Special Events

6/10 11 a.m. Advisory Board Meeting
6/10 1 p.m. Bingo
6/18 12:30 p.m. Father's Day Luncheon
6/23 12:45 p.m. Leap of Faith
6/24 12:30 p.m. Birthday Lunch
6/24 1:00 p.m. Birthday Bingo
6/25 Foot care by appointment

Way back, cont. from p. 18

was assured under a \$268,000 contract awarded by the State Transportation Department to Associated Sand & Gravel Co. of Everett. Lou Stanton, project engineer for the state, said completion should come late this year or early in 1980.

20 years ago

In June 1989, more than 150

people attended the dedication and open house of the East Valley Medical Diagnostic Center and Pharmacy in Concrete. The center is owned and operated by Dr. Daniel Garcia and his wife, Emily. Dr. Garcia practiced medicine in the clinic on Main Street, Concrete, before moving to the new center in January 1989. Guests sipped sparkling apple cider as they toured the facility.

EAST COUNTY RESOURCE CENTER

Hours: Mon.–Fri., 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
45770 Main Street, Concrete, WA 98237
phone 360.853.7000 // fax 360.853.7555

Scheduled programs and events:

Adult Literacy	Mon. & Fri., 9 to noon	drop in
Commissioner Dillon	Fri., 9 to noon	call for appt.
GED testing & classes	Weekly	call for appt.
DC probation	1st Fri. of month	spring, summer
DSHS Representative	1st & 3rd Tues.	Call for appt.
Legal Clinic	2nd & 4th Fri.	Call for appt.
NAMI Adult Craft Classes	Every other Thurs.	1:30–3:30 drop in
Needle Exchange Program	1st Wed. of month	2–4:30
Teen Clinic (no appt, required)	1st Wed. & 4th Tues.	2–4:30
Veterans Representative	2nd & 4th Mon.	Call for appt.
WIC (call 336.9392 for appt.)	2nd & 3rd Tues.	9:30–3
Women s AA	Wed. nights	6 p.m.

Services and referrals:

SCCAA & Skagit County Satellite office	Energy Assistance program info
Salvation Army Service Extension Partner	Weekly courier service to County
Copy, FAX and Notary services	Voter & Election information
Tax Payments & property record search	Food Handler permits
Water Sample testing	Community Voice Mail
East County event publicity/community info	Meeting space available



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Hang Time

Science, salmon, and Lorenzen Creek

By Linnaea Groh

In Mary Janda's science classroom, walls are splattered with posters that explain everything from the water cycle to local wildlife. Atop shelving units lies a strategically placed hodgepodge of artifacts. It's a typical science classroom. But the education that Janda's students receive extends beyond these four white walls. Her young scientists explore Geo Science with weekly classes in a very unlikely place: their local watershed.

Concrete's Lorenzen Creek is a seemingly dormant salmon stream. It runs from the intersection of Superior Avenue and Cedar Street to the river. The creek is littered with trash and overrun with invasive species like reed canary grass.

Lorenzen is within walking distance of the school and is, for Janda, an ideal spot to teach kids about watershed science. "It's a fun way to learn about the environment, and how we can protect our ecosystem," said Olivia Davis, an eighth-grader at Concrete Middle School.

Learning inside and out

In the classroom, National Park Service volunteers Mike Brondi, Lucy DeGrace, Marieke Slovin, and Ona Strikas talk about microinvertebrates. The students aren't just learning about these tiny wonders out of a textbook; in mid-May, they searched for bugs in Lorenzen Creek. Along with microinvertebrates, students have studied riparian forests, energy conservation, and force and motion.

But there is trouble in watershed paradise. The tranquil waters of Lorenzen Creek are in desperate need of another culvert to control this flowing body of

water. (There already is one culvert in the stream, nearer to the river.) Lorenzen's water is described as "low flow" by watershed experts and, once you clear away the foliage, you can see that the water also is quite muddy. In order for salmon to thrive, their water must be cold, clean, clear, and consistent (dubbed the "Four Cs" in Janda's classroom). A culvert would help the water flow more freely through Lorenzen Creek, and fast-moving water provides all of the Four Cs. Janda showed me a pair of dead fish she had found recently, two salmon fry forever preserved in zipper-lock bags. "They were found dead by students, just floating on the west side of the creek," she said.

Culvert precedent

In spring 2008, Hiawata Creek in Mason County, Wash., underwent a culvert replacement. The result showed obvious benefits of the change, with plenty of

Chum salmon residing and spawning in the water. If the same thing happened in Lorenzen Creek, it would help the dwindling salmon populace to rise, and the creek's appearance would improve drastically. The culvert would help the salmon reach other waterways, without the fish coming to a sad end in insufficient water. A muddy, slow-flowing habitat is not ideal for Skagit County's invaluable fish population.

Concrete is surrounded by picturesque rivers and fishing is popular in this area. Concrete, then, is a logical choice for the location of a healthy salmon stream. Also, the hands-on instruction in the science classroom is extremely beneficial for the next generation. But four classrooms of 20 tweens each cannot singlehandedly restore Lorenzen Creek.

Funding for a new culvert is vital.



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Want a fun place to hang out 2nd and last Thursdays?

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Upriver Oasis Teen Outreach
Pizza Party
Teens ages 13-17

When: Thurs., May 28, 6-8 p.m.

Where: Upriver Oasis Teen Outreach Center
7337 North Dillard
Concrete, WA

Contact: Karen Newburn
360.708.3643

Hang out, play video games, watch a movie, enjoy pizza, chips, and soda

FREE!

Upper Skagit Library news

By Aimee Hirschel

This is the time of year when exciting things start happening at the library.

A new Web site at www.upperskagit.lib.wa.us became available a few weeks ago. The first page has library news and events, as well as a calendar, in an effort to provide up-to-date information on programs and other happenings at the library. We're open to suggestions for any additional improvements.

As summer approaches, we remind everyone that cards are available for children living within the city limits of Concrete, courtesy of the Friends of the Library. This wonderful solution allows children to participate in the summer reading program and to continue reading during the summer. Please visit the library to fill out an application before summer reading starts.

Speaking of summer reading, registration begins June 16. This year's theme, Be Creative @ Your Library, promises to be a fun and diverse theme. We have some great programs scheduled, including a children's singer/musician, a drummer, plant pressing and a plant hunt,

a singer/storyteller, and, as a grand finale, the Noise Guy! Activity days at the library include tie dyeing, learning about wool, sidewalk chalk drawing and soap making. Watch for those dates!

The Friends of the Library are currently planning the summer used book sales and finalizing details for the quilt fundraiser. The quilt is on display at the library for those who want to view it before buying tickets.

The June Board meeting is Thursday, June 11, at 5 p.m., in the library.

High-speed trivia

Quick! How many of these questions can you answer?

Q: What does DNA stand for?

A: Deoxyribonucleic acid.

Q: What is the common name for iron pyrite?

A: Fools gold.

Q: What is the highest waterfall in the world?

A: Angel Falls in Canaima National Park, Venezuela, at 3,212 feet.

Smile

Dwelleysms

Wit from the Herald's former editor

"Now that most of our new year resolutions have been broken we can settle down and work the same as we did last year."

Jan. 8, 1930

"There are always so many people talking about how poor business is, that we Concrete people won't be missed if we keep quiet and put that extra energy into thinking of some way to make business better."

April 3, 1930

Following a townwide clean-up initiative, "Did you clean up your home and yard? If not, why not?"

April 17, 1930

"The jawbone of an ass used to be quite useful as a weapon in olden times. After hearing many impassioned speeches on

subjects from communism to prohibition we have come to the conclusion that the jawbones are now retained by their owners and set to work strewing propaganda."

Jan. 15, 1931

"Prohibition was supposed to be the cure of the ills of hard liquor. Now it appears that we need a cure for the effects of the treatment."

May 15, 1930

"After questioning all various political leaders and accepting their opinions as correct, we find that none of the candidates who have opposition have any chance of being elected."

Aug. 28, 1930

"So far Concrete has not been infested with the miniature golf bug. It's a good thing, although some of the vacant lots around town probably wouldn't need much more junk on them to make a fine bunch of hazards."

Sept. 1930

Thinking small and smart

A big department store comes to a small town, chooses City Center Square for its new building, and buys out every merchant, except for one.

Big store doubles its cash offer. Doubles it again. Always gets the same answer: "No."

Big store sends two vice presidents. The first says to the small business owner, "Take the money. Go to Hawaii. Buy yourself a Rolls Royce, a yacht, gold coins. Have fun!"

Still: "No."

The second vice president says, "If you don't sell today, we'll bankrupt you. You will curse the day you were born. No end of grief. Now sign this."

Still: "No."

Opening day arrives. Big store plasters signs outside its new building: "GRAND OPENING! EASY CREDIT! SUPER BARGAINS!"

Little fellow looks at the scene, takes poster paper, paint, and brush in hand, and places one small sign over his little shop: "MAIN ENTRANCE HERE."

The second man is almost speechless. "That is the single most incredible thing I have ever seen," he gushes. "I have got to try that!"

The second man rushes to the window, climbs out, and falls to his death.

The first man watches him fall, shrugs, walks back to the bar, and orders another beer from the bartender, who stands there shaking his head and says,

"Man, you are one mean drunk, Superman."

—JKM

Jokes of the day

Three old guys are out walking. First one says, "Windy, isn't it?"

Second one says, "No, it's Thursday."

Third one says, "So am I. Let's go have a beer."

C BB

Two men are sitting in a bar at the top of the Empire State Building. First man turns to the second and says, "Have you heard of the updrafts around this building? The wind currents are so strong that you could jump out that window and they would

catch you before you hit the ground and blow you back up to the top."

Second man says, "You're crazy. That's the craziest thing I've ever heard."

First man: "I'll prove it." He gets off his bar stool, stumbles over to a window, opens it, and jumps out.

The second man watches in astonishment as the first man falls... falls... falls... but then begins to slow down. Just before he strikes the sidewalk, he reverses direction, whisks up the side of the building and back up to the bar window.

In he climbs.

Community fundraisers

Marblemount Community Hall Slide Show Fundraiser, presented by Pat Buller Photography, Thurs., June 18, 7 p.m.; 60155 State Route 20, Marblemount; \$5 at the door; more info at: www.pdbphotos.net

Yard Sale benefiting Concrete Lions Club Scholarship Fund, June 26–27, 7463 2nd St., Concrete

They say that laughter is good for the soul. So's the Cement City Street Fair!

**Save the date: Sat., July 25
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

The Concrete Chamber of Commerce and United General Hospital are pleased to present the second annual Cement City Street Fair. This unique summer celebration emphasizes healthy family fun, and features:

- Arts & crafts, live music
- 2nd Annual Poetry Festival
- Health screenings, resource tables
- Kids activities
- Concrete Herald Fun Run/Walk
- Evening Entertainment in Theatre

More info at www.concrete-wa.com



**Upper Skagit
Library District**

Library Hours

Tuesday and Wednesday

11 am - 8 pm

Friday and Saturday

11 am - 5 pm

**45770-B Main Street
Concrete**

360-853-7939

www.upperskagit.lib.wa.us

Sunday School lesson

Good news!

By Bruce Martin

A few months ago, one of the major news networks was flooded with letters and e-mails suggesting the network report on something other than bad news.

In response, the network invited its viewers to send in ideas for stories that would fit this description and be of interest to others. They promised to report these stories as a way of sharing some good news in difficult times.

Perhaps this “good news” was not as sensational as the “bad news,” but the stories I viewed were well worth watching and were a source of great encouragement.

A Scripture passage comes to mind from the Apostle Paul’s letter to the people in the city of Ephesus. He cautioned them: “Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen” (Ephesians 4:29).

In our conversations every day, we have the opportunity to emphasize the good news or the bad. Since there is no shortage of bad news to repeat, let us find some good news to report, things that will be helpful and beneficial, and that have the potential to build up and encourage one another.

A friend once stated that he thought the simplest form of encouragement was to find someone doing something good and commend them for it.

We are blessed to live in one of the most beautiful places on earth. The greatest resource we have, however, is not our natural surroundings. Rather, it is the people who make up our community.

We can choose each day to invest in each other and in our community by finding worth in one another through a kind word, an exchange of greetings, a thoughtful compliment, a question of genuine concern. All these opportunities to share some “good news” have the potential to draw us closer together and make us a stronger community.

When we invest in one another, we invest in ourselves. Let’s share some “Good News!”

Bruce Martin is pastor of Concrete Assembly of God.

Worship directory

Assembly of God

Concrete Assembly of God
45734 Main St., Concrete; 360.853.8042
Sunday worship, 10 a.m.
Tuesday: Men’s meeting, 8:30 a.m.
Wednesday: Adult Bible Study, 6 p.m.
Thursday: Women’s Bible Study, 6:30 p.m.

Presbyterian

Mount Baker Presbyterian Church
45705 Main Street, Concrete
Sunday worship: 8:45 a.m.
Church 360.853.8585 office 360.595.0446
Tom Ross, pastor

Nondenominational

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

Lutheran

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
46372 Main St., Concrete; 360.853.8814
Adult Sunday School 10 a.m.
Worship 11 a.m.
Marcus Stroud, pastor

To add your place of worship to these listings, call or e-mail
360.853.8213 or editor@concrete-herald.com.

Worth repeating...

“You don’t have a soul. You are a soul. You have a body.”

—C. S. Lewis
Mere Christianity

Hamilton, cont. from p. 8

Council summary

The Hamilton Town Council held a monthly meeting on April 14. Major topics covered include:

- Mayor Bates reported that the County has deemed the streets so bad that patching would not work. He submitted an estimate from JR Excavating & Paving for \$77,321.61. Mayor Bates will speak with Skagit Council of Government about the availability of a Public Works Loan of approximately \$80,000, which would be payments of \$810.00 per month at the rate of 4 percent interest. Repayment could come from the Capital Facilities budget.
- Margaret Fleek discussed having a Smart Growth workshop. She stated some basic decisions need to be made but not to commit ourselves before we do more studies.
- Margaret Fleek presented a flyer to be posted regarding recreational fires for the Hamilton Fire Department. Bob from air pollution contacted Margaret regarding two illegal fires in Hamilton. A Notice of Violation has been issued.
- Mayor Bates asked Margaret Fleek whether the PDA was finished. Fleek stated that it was not done, that our goal should be to be ready for funding. All money has to be spent by June 30. The Town needs to finish up everything we can or turn the money back at the end of June.
- Nick Bates reported there is a problem with the Fire Department’s radios: The County redid frequencies, and now the radios need to be replaced. They may be able to purchase surplus radios.
- The Interlocal Agreement with the PDA was approved and signed by the Mayor.

Where can I find Concrete Herald?

Concrete Herald is distributed via retailers and newspaper racks from Sedro-Woolley to Newhalem. Single-issue price is 50 cents (cheap!). If you’re wondering where you can pick up a copy when you’re out and about, here are the locations and businesses where you’ll find it.

New distribution outlets are welcome. If you’d like to sell Concrete Herald over the counter at your business, please contact Jason Miller at editor@concrete-herald.com or 360.853.8213. Now here’s that list:

Birdsview:

Baker Lake Grocery (rack)
Birdsview Brewing Co. (OTC*)

Concrete:

Albert’s Red Apple Market (OTC)
Annie’s Pizza Station (OTC)
Concrete Herald Building (rack)
Concrete Post Office (rack)
Concrete Saturday Market (OTC)
Loggers Landing (rack)
Northwest Garden Bling (OTC)
Sauk View Gallery (OTC)

Hamilton:

Hamilton Market and Cafe (OTC)

Lyman:

Cascade Mercantile (rack)
Old Mill Restaurant (OTC)

Lake Tye:

Manager’s office (rack)

Marblemount:

Shell station (OTC)
Chom’s Chevron station (OTC)

Newhalem:

Skagit General store (OTC)

Rockport:

Rockport Country Store (OTC)
Rockport Pub (OTC)

Sedro-Woolley:

Mailbox Depot/Speedee Tax (rack)
Quick Lube (OTC)

*OTC = Sold over the counter

Interested in an Alzheimer’s support group?

East County Resource Center Coordinator Lou Hillman is looking into offering space at the Center to start an Alzheimer’s Support Group.

Designed for caregivers of those suffering from Alzheimer’s, the support group could provide a forum for them to

get together and talk, sharing experiences, challenges, and triumphs.

If you’re interested in this possibility, contact Lou Hillman at 360.853.7009 or _louh@co.skagit.wa.us (remember to include the leading underscore in her e-mail address).

Editorial, cont. from p. 2

sentence together or take a decent, high-resolution photo with a digital camera, I want to put you on my list of content providers. I'll take care of the rest. If you want to be a regular contributor to the *Herald*, reporting on what's going on in your neck of the woods, please let me know.

I'm reviving columns you may remember, including "This and that," "Way back when," "In the service," "Sunday School Lesson," and "Overheard on Main Street," to name a few. Look for a sports page that hopefully will evolve as the new paper matures, as well as an opinion page, targeted columns, classifieds, "Celebrations" (weddings, anniversaries, births, etc.), and an obituaries section to honor those who have bid us farewell. If you have items for any of these columns, e-mail them to editor@concrete-herald.com or snail-mail them to Concrete Herald, P.O. Box 682, Concrete, WA 98237.

Publication frequency: The *Concrete Herald* will be distributed monthly, on the first Wednesday of each month. After its first year, I will analyze its numbers and consider the feasibility of publishing on a more frequent basis. I will perform this analysis yearly.

Subscriptions: The paper will be available for 50 cents per copy at newsstands and selected businesses along State Route 20 (see list on p. 22). If you own a business and would like to increase your store's walk-in customer numbers by offering the *Herald* for sale, please contact me at 360.853.8213 or editor@concrete-herald.com.

Potential subscribers have three choices:

- A subscription to the print version, delivered via U.S. Mail: \$24 per year for 12 monthly issues
- A subscription to the Web site: \$12 per year (paid Web subscriptions will begin May 2010; the Web site will be free during its first year, so as not to short-change those businesses who donated \$250 or more and received a free Web ad for one year)
- A combo subscription to the print version and Web site: \$30 per year

Subscriptions may be purchased by sending a check for the appropriate amount, payable to Concrete Herald, to Concrete Herald, P.O. Box 682, Concrete, WA 98237.

Business location: The paper will be managed from my home office. Unfortunately, I simply haven't the money to buy a storefront in downtown Concrete, which is what I'd prefer to do. Therefore, if you ever need to speak with me in person, or just want to drop off a photo or other item(s), please feel free to stop by my house at 7674 Cedar Park, in Concrete. You also may call me at 360.853.8213, e-mail me at editor@concrete-herald.com, or snail-mail me at P.O. Box 682, Concrete, WA 98237.

Web site: The *Herald's* online presence at www.concrete-herald.com got a later start than I had intended, but by the time you read this, I will be hard at work populating it with the content from this issue. I intend to update the site daily. The Web site will include links to everything in the print version of the *Herald*, as well as an archive with PDF files of each issue. You'll appreciate its search capabilities, too. And, when inclement weather or emergency situations hit, look to www.concrete-herald.com for details about what's going on and how you can respond.

Targeted advertising: The *Concrete Herald* is dedicated to the businesses of eastern Skagit County, and will work hard to publicize them. Any business will be allowed to advertise in the *Herald*—as long as it doesn't compete directly with an advertising eastern Skagit County business. My advertising policy favors businesses located in eastern Skagit County and points farther east, a region bounded by and including Sedro-Woolley and Diablo. I also will seek advertisers in the Winthrop business community, since tourists stopping in Concrete and other communities on their way east would likely appreciate a heads-up on what awaits them at their destination. For more details on this hyperlocal ad-sales model, go to www.concrete-herald.com/advertise.

The *Concrete Herald* belongs to all of us; I'm just the caretaker. Please consider what you can do to help make the paper a success, and join me in bringing back the voice of eastern Skagit County.

Finally, without getting all Sally Field on you, I want to thank Anne Bussiere, Ken and Pat Betts, Dan Royal, EDASC, Larry Coffman, my fine printer the Daily Herald in Everett, and all the Skagit County donors, contributors, and distributors who are helping transform this dream into a reality.

I hope I haven't bored you to tears. Thanks for reading!

—JKM

Sewer rate, cont. from p. 1

saying that the definition of wastewater was not necessarily confined to residents' homes, but any spigot from which flowed town water—even the spigot connected to the trucks servicing Advanced H2O, the water bottling company with operations in Burlington. If the water sold to Advanced H2O could be defined as wastewater, why not use a portion of that revenue to pay for the construction of the town's new wastewater treatment plant?

After further research by Concrete town attorney David Day, and after e-mail correspondence with Sadie Armijo from the State Auditor's Office, Town Council members decided to approve the approach, which first transferred funds from the water fund to the general fund as surplus monies from the sale of water to Advanced H2O, then from the general fund to the sewer fund.

In an e-mail dated Nov. 3, 2008, State Auditor Armijo wrote to Concrete Clerk-Treasurer Andrea Fichter: "... the short answer is yes the Town can do this but they have to make sure that they are in compliance with any bond covenants and have set aside proper funds for system maintenance and replacement. We are currently working with our Attorney and some specialists within [our] office to ensure that we are giving you and other small cities the correct answer."

No further communication on the matter was received from the State Auditor's Office until this April, when state auditors determined that the strategy was not allowed, telling Fichter that the Advanced H2O revenues were not "unexpected" and that for the transfer to be allowable, the revenues needed to be a "surprise."

Fichter responded that this explanation did not fit RCW 35.27.510, which she had researched and included in the resolution for the transfer.

Fichter then was told that the Town had to make sure that its water rates were as low as possible before making any transfers. The state auditors recommended the town lower its water rates, thereby maintaining a lower monthly bill.

Fichter reported the finding to the Town Council, which, at its May 26 meeting, resisted the state auditors' finding, perceiving it as an effort on the state's part to influence the elected officials' decisions, which are intended to be in the best interest of Concrete's citizens.

Council members decided in that meeting not to pursue any rate decrease and subsequent public hearing. Rather, they will wait for the final audit report before proceeding with any budget changes. The final audit report should be available in four to six weeks.

Classifieds

FACILITY RENTALS

Marblemount Community Club Hall is available for rent. Receptions, weddings, birthday parties, meetings, and more. **360.873.4631.**

FREE GOODS/SERVICES

FREE! 500-gallon, above-ground fuel tank. Call **360.853.7767.**

GARAGE SALES

Multi-family garage sale, June 5–7. Fri.–Sat.: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sun.: 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. 45119 Cedar St., Concrete.

JOBS

"Just As I Am" now hiring various positions. Call **360.853.7800**; ask for Shelle or Rose.

Housekeepers, cooks and waitstaff apply at Buffalo Run Restaurant\$\$\$ **360.873.2103.**

Want to place a classified ad?

Contact *Concrete Herald* at 360.853.8213 or classifieds@concrete-herald.com. Monthly rate is \$5 for every 10 words, rounded up to nearest 10. Ads must be paid for at time of submission.

The fundraiser continues...

The *Concrete Herald* fundraising drive is within striking distance of success! At press time, our communities and other donors' determination to bring back the *Herald* had made our desires known to the tune of \$9,152.75, almost all the way to our final goal of \$10,000.

A big **THANK YOU** goes to everyone who contributed to the cause in May.

Michael Lockhart
Sauk Mountain Pottery
George and Staci Barjoud
Ray Johnson
Melinda Mann and Henry Hughes
Eric and Janel Woiwod
Marblemount Diner

If you would like to donate to the *Concrete Herald*, see the ad on p. 8 of this issue.



Our New Program Can Prevent Falls

Protect Your Independence

When we were kids, falling down didn't faze us... a band-aid on a skinned knee and we were good as new. But older adults face a high risk for serious injuries when they fall.

One in three adults 65 and older fall each year and about one-third of those suffer moderate to severe injuries, including head trauma and bone fractures. Falls are the main factor in 40 percent of nursing home admissions.

Now there's a program at United General Hospital that can help prevent falls and protect your independence.

The **GET UP & GO** program will help you assess risk factors such as your history of falling; fear of falling; vision, hearing and balance issues; medication use; and leg, hand and foot strength. You will learn the importance of regular exercise and techniques that can improve balance and coordination, as well as ways to "fall-proof" your home to reduce common hazards like poor lighting and slippery bathtubs.

"Older adults are more at risk for falling for several reasons," explains Andrea Blois, Physical Therapist who leads the **GET UP & GO** program, "including medical conditions like arthritis, or medications that can make you feel dizzy."

In this individualized program, you will practice balancing on one leg while stepping over a curb, or bending forward to pick up an object on the floor. You will also learn exercises to increase strength, endurance, balance and flexibility—all critical to preventing falls.

Falling is not an inevitable part of aging, Andrea reminds us. With this new program, she's looking forward to helping people stay active, independent and on their feet.

A physician's referral is required to enroll in the program. For more information, please call Rehabilitation Services at (360) 856-7242.

Try a Free Sample

Learn more about the **Get Up & Go** by trying a free sample class on Thursday, June 25 from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. Instructors are Andrea Blois, Physical Therapist, and Marie Salerno, Occupational Therapist. Registration is required. Call (360) 856-7245 or send an email to: wellness360@unitedgeneral.org.

