

The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley

Concrete Herald

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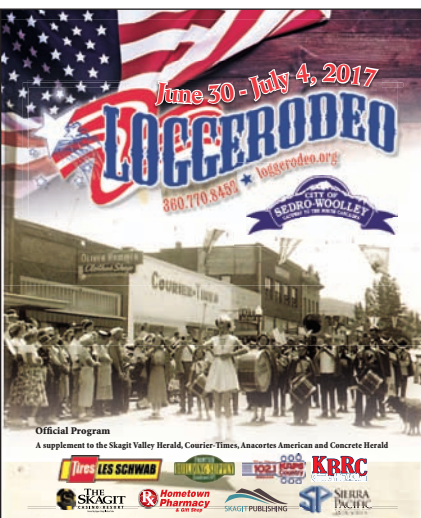
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IN THIS ISSUE



2017 Loggerodeo program

Upper Valley residents gather for public forum

Concrete and Upper Valley citizens had an opportunity to speak to and hear from representatives from county departments on May 17. *Page 4.*

Skagit River opens for sockeye June 11

Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife has announced the Skagit River will open for sockeye fishing from June 11 through July 15, with some closures within the schedule. *Page 6.*

SWHS Varsity in Volunteerism awards

Page 16.

Marblemount Community Market opens June 11

Page 26.

GAME CHANGERS

Members of Concrete High School class of 2017 explain their plans for improving the world. *Page 11*



Photo by Jackie Johnson

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Concrete Herald

The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley



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

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From the editor

Confederate battle flag sends mixed messages

Shortly after a KING TV segment on the Concrete Food Bank aired in May, *Concrete Herald* began receiving calls and e-mails from individuals all over Western Washington who voiced their concern after viewing the story and seeing a Confederate battle flag flying on one of the businesses in Concrete Town Center. At press time, a total of 17 complaints had been received—five from out of the area and 12 locals.

The Confederate flag, which, paired with the U.S. flag, flanks the entrance to Cascade Pickers, is a symbol of racism, in the opinion of the above 17 individuals. Most said that because of its presence, they would never darken the Cascade Pickers doorway. Some said that they would never patronize any other businesses in the Town Center. A couple said they would never return to Concrete.

Cascade Pickers owner Floyd Bunner says he put up the Confederate flag not to celebrate or even acknowledge racism, but to honor American veterans—all veterans, he says—even those who fought on the losing side of our country's most divisive war. Bunner is an Air Force veteran himself, with military service in his lineage dating back to the days of the Civil War, and yes, fighting on the Confederate side. For him, the issue is not the Confederate flag itself, but ignorance on the part of those who decry it. He says the Confederate forces fought to preserve their constitutional rights.

True. But among the constitutional rights the Confederate side fought for was the notion of states' rights, and within that the belief that human beings could hold other humans as property. That's baggage that has ridden along with the flag since its creation. Factor in contemporary use of the flag by some white supremacist groups, and you have an emblem that is problematic at best.

Bunner has every right to free speech, and he claims that flying the Confederate battle flag is exercising that right. This is true. But because of the location of the flag, a different kind of logic should be used, along with a healthy dose of the Golden Rule.

The flag currently is flying in Concrete Town Center, the town's heart, densely developed, with retail and services within easy walking distance of each other. Flying an emblem that obviously sends mixed messages and causes visitors to react so viscerally and negatively is problematic at best. Factor in the threats to stop patronizing Cascade Pickers and other businesses in the Town Center, or to stop coming to Concrete at all, and you have a situation that pulls the town in the exact opposite direction of the one that its mayor, its Town Council, its Chamber of Commerce, its Economic Development Commission, and the majority of its citizens have been striving toward for the past several years.

Is the statement Mr. Bunner intends worth it? This isn't a question of who's right or wrong, or who's educated or ignorant. It's a question of what's the better part of wisdom in this situation? What's a reasonable compromise?

No rights need to be trampled in order to resolve this. The wisest move is simply to bring the flag *inside* the Cascade Pickers building, where its personal significance is shared only by that building's owner and witnessed only by his patrons, not the entire Town Center business community and visitors to our fair town.

—J. K. M.

Opinion

Letters to the editor

Gas tax encourages much-needed conservation

I found the premise of Reema Griffith's (executive director of the WA State Transportation Commission) argument to replace the gas tax as somewhat backward thinking. She brings up the concern that as cars become more fuel efficient, taxes that support roads will go down and that in general the gas tax is unfair to gas-guzzling vehicles. But I believe it is a crucial time to encourage fuel-efficient vehicles, less driving, and alternative transit. Our lives ultimately benefit so much by burning less gas; our air is cleaner, and we are less reliant on foreign oil or domestic extraction that poisons our waters and threatens the environment. We have quieter, saner, and safer communities and less traffic. And we lessen the cause of climate change.

I understand her concern for finding funding to keep our roads and bridges repaired. I would argue that as fuel efficiency increases, we can raise the gas tax if needed to keep the roads repaired and to give incentive for folks to use fuel-efficient vehicles and drive less. Gas-guzzling vehicles are often larger and take more of a toll on roads, and should pay more. They also create more medical costs through air pollution (and accidents?) and again, contribute more to climate change. We need to move away from them when possible, not create crazy schemes that excuse the social and environmental costs we all pay for their use.

Terri Wilde
Rockport

Trump, Congress, and health care

The bottom line for most of us has to do with our own bottom line: our ability

to function and grow in our communities whether in Washington state or South Carolina or somewhere in between. Even voters whose bottom line may not allow the time or luxury needed to study political issues and Congressional voting records want fairness and opportunities, not handouts. We expect our representatives and certainly our president to stand for those rights.

Tax fairness, health care, and integrity are in danger. Why? Is it because political leaders and corporate heads have the power and know how to ensure their financial growth, which just may conflict with their constituencies?

We all remember that Trump said throughout his campaign he would rarely leave the White House (so much to do to correct the evils of Obama's time there). Yet he has averaged visiting one of his properties every 2.8 days and has golfed one of every 5.6 days. His visits to Mar-A-Lago where the Secret Service have been forced to pay thousands for golf carts (putting more money in his pockets and ... need I say ... taking it out of ours?) have cost the taxpayer \$25 million. Again, such taxpayer money could fund quite a few road improvements, Meals on Wheels, failing schools. Does it seem worrisome

See Letters, p. 38

Letters policy

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

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

Message from the mayor

By Jason Miller

June will be filled with several high-profile projects, some of which have been years in the planning.

Watch for the water spray park project to break ground and kick into high gear. This fun addition to Silo Park is the brainchild of our Parks Committee Chair Marla Reed, so be sure to thank her when you see her! Our goal is to have the spray park up and running by July 4, but permitting delays might push that opening date into mid-July. We'll see.

Citizens who live in Mill Addition and Crofoot will be pleased to see S. Dillard get a new overlay from SR 20 to Benjamin. "Why not more?" asked our Asst. Public Works Dir. Rich Philips during a recent meeting. "That's where the money ran out," replied our town engineer Cody Hart. It's true. But we'll take what we can get!

That nasty spot on Airport Way will be repaired immediately after the Dillard project. (Last winter really hammered our street infrastructure.)

Preparations continue on the W. Main St. restoration project, a continuation of the Main St. work you've seen take place incrementally since the early 2000s. I recently sat down with a couple who live along that stretch of Main St., and had a productive conversation with them about the changes this important project will bring to them personally. Change isn't always easy, but I believe in and support the greater good this project will bring to that neighborhood and our town.

Finally, an acknowledgement of the concerns that have been brought to me regarding speeding motorists and motorcyclists in town and on SR 20. We are working diligently with the SCSO sergeant and deputies to curb this reckless behavior, and we urge everyone to call 911 and report the activity when you witness it.

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



Commentary

Flags are powerful symbols

By John Boggs

The days between Memorial Day and the Fourth of July are the most popular for flying the flag of our nation. You see the Stars and Stripes everywhere, on homes, businesses, parks, and memorials. Some people take for granted what that flag symbolizes, or have never given it much thought; but one thing is for certain, flags are powerful symbols. Flags were created for that very purpose: to stir inner emotions and to rally troops on the field of battle to victory.

Recently, my own inner emotions were stirred by seeing the Confederate battle flag flying on a business located on Main Street. I recall how my father held a special reverence for that flag. He would

also sternly correct anyone who said "Civil War," saying it was the "War of Northern Aggression," and it wasn't about ending slavery, it was about states' rights. The older I got, the more I concluded it was about the states' right to define who was and was not a person and who deserved equal protection under the law, and who didn't.

While that flag united the South, it at the same time divided the nation and compromised what our nation's flag has come to represent. My father taught me so much about the "Southern way of life," long after he'd moved away from it. He taught me about the need to keep people in their proper place, and those who got "uppity" needed to be pushed down hard. He taught me that the true measure of a human being was reflected in their national origin, religion, and most of all their skin color. He taught me that the Jim Crow laws that deprived many citizens from exercising their rights had been enacted for the purpose of keeping a "civilized" society. He was unhappy with the changes in our nation to give equality to those, who he felt, by his traditions, didn't deserve them. They were, after all, less deserving than he. Yes, my father taught me much about the "good old South."

As I grew older and taller than my father's shadow, my perspectives on the world changed. I came to understand that the notions held by my father were not held only by Southerners; that the fear of any outsiders was widespread and so were the adverse reactions to those fears. The lessons learned through living my own life conflicted with the lessons ingrained into my father's life and gave me reason to critically examine the world around me.

I have heard the argument from those who glorify the Confederate flag: They do so because they had relatives who fought and died protecting their homes from the Northern onslaught and its part of their own ancestral heritage. Part of that I can understand; my father could trace his family roots only back to the Civil War period because his family split to fight on opposite sides. And having a military background, I can respect the sacrifices made by the individual soldiers who fought. I cannot, however, respect the government that they were fighting to uphold, and the Confederate flag represents that government.

I recently heard something at a meeting that made me grit my teeth. Someone said that the Confederate battle flag has been

See Flags, p. 38

Huge garage sale planned

Concrete will host a **town- and Upper Skagit-wide Garage Sale** on June 24 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Anyone who lives in town can throw open their garage doors, set tables out in front of their houses, and sell off all that stuff you don't use. Those who live in the Upper Skagit outside of town can bring their items to the south side of the Concrete Community Center and set them out there.

Mark your calendar for June 24. Maps will be printed to show the locations of all the sale sites. The early-bird fee to obtain a site at the Concrete Community Center is \$10; after June 10 it will be \$15. Anyone selling at their homes inside town limits can submit \$10 by June 10 to get their sale location on the maps that will be available to all who attend the sale.

All donations and fees, minus expenses, will benefit the Concrete Community Center.

For more information and to reserve a location at the Concrete Community Center for this sale, call 360.853.8549.

—Michelle Coda



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Skagit County officials, Upper Valley residents gather for public forum

By Haley McNealey

Edited by Katy Tomasulo

Concrete and Upper Valley citizens had an opportunity to speak to and hear from representatives from several county departments on May 17. Held at Concrete High School, the East County Public Forum is an annual event designed to foster alliances between the county and the communities of eastern Skagit County. Guests in attendance were encouraged to register to comment.

Here are a few of the topics discussed:

Skagit County Community Justice Center

Construction of the new Justice Center has concluded. The enhanced facility boasts increased capacity, which will accommodate a greater number of offenders for transfer and detention upon

initial arrest. The facility's expanded space, equipment, and staff should allow for more effective diagnosis and subsequent management of underlying health concerns, which could contribute to a reduction in re-offense rates; it also will allow for more promotion of programs that introduce inmates to essential resources, hopefully yielding higher success rates for reintegration.

Speed limits

There have been requests for reduced speed limits between Sedro-Woolley and Marblemount, because of safety concerns around increased traffic and the presence of elk and deer; it also could help attract interest to local businesses. However, District 1 Commissioner Ron Wesen

explained that since State Route 20 falls under state jurisdiction, such a venture would require coordination with state officials.

Discussion ensued regarding effective collaborations between the county and state on former initiatives, and District 3 Commissioner Lisa Janicki indicated a desire for continued discourse with representatives from Lyman, Hamilton, Concrete, and Rockport before taking action in order to ensure consensus on reducing speed limits within their respective jurisdictions. Skagit County Sheriff Will Reichardt echoed the sentiment, stating that traffic enforcement on SR 20 is formally a task that belongs to the State Patrol, but that he would support and enforce it when present if speed limit updates are implemented.

In noting the increasing number of vehicles traveling at unsafe speeds, particularly in the Birdview area, participants inquired about the installment of recording devices to catch culprits. Sheriff Reichardt discussed the functions of a speed study so enforcement can be employed at targeted times; again he emphasized a need for coordination with the State Patrol.

South Skagit Highway

Another safety concern raised was the substandard conditions on South Skagit Highway caused by recurrent potholes.

Commissioner Wesen confirmed this area as county jurisdiction, and discussion ensued, confirming plans to chip seal within the year. The source of the potholes are logs and stumps situated underneath the paved road, a problem that currently has no permanent remedy. It was also noted that no plans have been developed to address the need for restoration in the Sauk Valley Rd. region, where the river has reportedly caused even more deterioration of the road.

Food bank

A resident discussed recent proceedings that potentially threatened the current home of the Concrete Food Bank, expressing apprehension about the future for the Community Center and requesting reassurance the resource would not soon vanish. Commissioner Wesen confirmed there are no intentions of selling the Concrete Community Center building, adding that the auctioning process requires approximately 60 days' prior notification.

Commissioner Janicki took a similar stance, calling the community center "an integral part of community life" and noting the increased programming that can be attributed to the role of Community Action. Commissioner Janicki also clarified that the minimum bid for the food bank building was intentionally set at \$2,500, providing the opportunity for a benefactor to step in and purchase the building for the food bank's continued use.

Board of Equalization

Bill Blunt addressed the crowd, representing the Board of Equalization. Blunt described the resources that exist for property owners who believe their property value assessment is inaccurate; if adequate evidence exists to establish an error, a property owner can file a petition with the Board of Equalization. Citizens can also file a petition for senior exemption denials.

Department introductions

Others who introduced themselves and discussed their roles were Public Works Director Dan Berentson, County Engineer Paul Randall, and Planning and Development Services Department Director Dale Pernula, alongside former attorney and Assistant Director Ryan Walters.

Brian Adams, Parks and Recreation director, briefly explained the scope of responsibility for his department, which

Forum, cont. from p. 4

includes approximately 2,400 acres divided between 26 parks from Guemes Island to Marblemount. He discussed the prospect of offering further amenities at the parks, noting recent efforts to leverage grants for parks enhancement.

This department is also responsible for regional sports like the SWISH program and maintenance of softball fields, in addition to hosting the Skagit County Fair. A recent coalition with YMCA reserves two basketball courts for eight hours on Saturdays and Sundays, a \$600,000 contract that is active for the next decade. Adams went on to discuss the state Recreation and Conservation Office's decision to prioritize the local Pressentin Park improvements; funding for this project, which will bring expanded use of the park, is pending.

Public Health Director Jennifer Johnson described her department's holistic view and philosophy on social determinacy of health, and how this perspective has influenced the focus on housing, employment, education, and economic vitality. Johnson also confirmed 17 cases of mumps in the county.

Skagit Transit Service Director Dale

O'Brien provided an overview of services in Concrete, which consist of six round trips per day. O'Brien reported there were 1,052 riders in April and announced there are no anticipated changes to the services offered. Claudia Marken, Community Action East County coordinator, requested drivers announce the last rides so the individuals who utilize the service are aware and can make arrangements accordingly.

Sheriff Reichardt offered a brief overview of programs implemented in East Skagit County, which include a mentoring program that pairs interested adolescents with law enforcement officers to prepare for careers in community justice and expansion of the block watch program that is active in Cedar Grove and Marblemount. Anyone interested in implementing a block watch in their community is encouraged to contact Chad Clark or Sergeant Chris Kading. Reichardt also announced the renewal of the three-year contract with Town of Concrete.

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

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MARBLEMOUNT: 1st Monday each month: 10 AM to Noon; call to schedule, 360-848-8437, ext. 318

ANACORTES: 3rd Monday each month: 10 AM to Noon at the Salvation Army, 3001 R Ave.

BURLINGTON: Thursdays 12-2 PM at Tierra Nueva, 701 E. Fairhaven Ave.

SEDRO-WOOLLEY: Tuesdays 1-4 PM at PeaceHealth United General Medical Center, 2000 Hospital Dr., AND Thursdays 9-11 AM at the Senior Center, 715 Pacific St.

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Skagit River to open to sockeye fishing June 11

Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife has announced the Skagit River will open for sockeye fishing from June 11 through July 15, with some closures within the schedule. The open area will be from Hwy. 536 at Mt. Vernon (Memorial Hwy. Bridge) to the mouth of Gilligan Creek. The daily limit is set at three sockeye salmon. A night closure will be in effect, and the season may end earlier.

The sockeye fishery, along with other fisheries on the Skagit River, are tentatively scheduled to close June 28, 29, July 6, 7, and 11 to avoid gear conflicts with tribal fisheries scheduled those dates.

Those dates may change as catches and river conditions change. For updates, anglers should check the emergency rule Web page at <https://fortress.wa.gov/dfw/erules/efishrules>.

The sockeye fishery at Baker Lake will open on July 8 with a four-fish daily limit. Refer to the Baker sockeye Web page at http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/salmon/sockeye/baker_river.html for further information on seasons, fishing rule updates, and fish counts.

For more information, call 425.775.1311.

—Submitted by WDFW

THIS AND THAT

By J. K. M.

A **community dinner** followed by a forum and discussion will be held on Mon., June 19, at Concrete Community Center. The meal of Chicken Florentine, salad, French bread, and dessert will begin at 6 p.m., and the forum and discussion at 7 p.m. A donation of \$5 per person is suggested.

The forum will be facilitated by Marjorie Bell from United General District 304, with group discussions led by members of the East County Advisory Group. Discussions will be based on these questions: "How do we strengthen the Upriver community and make it a place where kids can thrive?" Be ready to share your ideas and opinions! The meal is provided by Community Action of Skagit County, United General District 304, and the Kettering Foundation.

The **Skagit River Bald Eagle Awareness Team** (SRBEAT), a local nonprofit organization, seeks community members to join its Board of Directors, which oversees the operation and management of the Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center. Located at Howard Miller Steelhead Park in Rockport, the environmental educational facility is open in December and January each year to welcome visitors during

bald eagle migration on the Skagit River. SRBEAT's mission for the past 20 years has been to inspire appreciation and encourage restoration of the Skagit River Watershed ecosystem by providing opportunities to explore and learn about bald eagles, spawning salmon, and the interconnections of the environment. The organization seeks individuals who are committed to furthering the mission of the organization and value conservation awareness and education.

For inquiries, contact Board President Cora Thomas at srbeatic@frontier.com. SRBEAT Board meetings occur the second Tuesday of each month at Annie's Pizza Station in Grasmere, at 5:30 p.m. Learn more at www.skagiteagle.org.

Woolley Fiber Quilters will hold its annual quilt show July 14–16 at Cascade Middle School in Sedro-Woolley. This year's theme is "Blast of Birds"; the show features more than 250 quilts made by local quilters, demonstrations, the popular bed turning, vendors, and some surprises. Admission is still only \$3.

The group found it necessary to move away from their traditional June dates to secure a new facility with plenty of room for the large quilt show. Quilt-appreciators from all over Washington and Lower British Columbia typically attend and enjoy the festive event.

To enter quilts, pick up a registration form at Cascade Fabrics in Sedro-Woolley and submit it with a photo of your quilt by June 28. Quilt turn-in day is July 11. Everyone is welcome to enter quilts and be a part of the show.

Council summary

Concrete Town Council met for regular meetings on May 8 and 22. Following is a summary of those meetings. Complete and council-approved minutes for every council meeting are posted on the town's Web site at www.townofconcrete.com/cminutes.php.

May 8 regular meeting

- Michael Dahl from Kenmore, Wash., addressed the council about his considering purchase of the Eagles Nest property, and stated that after meeting with the mayor and town staff that afternoon, he had decided to do so. He stated he would like to come back to council at a later date with his plans for the building and the former Hi. Lo. restaurant—which he also owns—and get feedback from the community on what they would like to see.

- Youth Activity Day is on July 14 and will be held in Silo Park this year.
- Public safety:** Sgt. Chris Kading reported that PSE now has the gate installed on its property along Baker Bar Rd. He stated this gate is shut and

locked, and as of today there were no trailers on the property. He stated they will request a gate key from PSE so they can gain access if needed during an emergency in that area.

- Town engineer Cody Hart reported they are still proceeding with the permitting on the First St. Water Line project, as well as the Water System Improvement project. He reported there is more permitting work that needs to be done through WSDOT than was originally anticipated.

Hart reported they are working on the finalization of the contract documents for the S. Dillard Overlay project. He stated the pre-construction meeting and actual construction should start toward the end of the month. Mayor Jason Miller asked about the Airport Way project. Cody stated this has been awarded grant dollars and will be added into the S. Dillard project as a change order with the contractor.

Hart also reported that he and Town Clerk Andrea Fichter will attend the Transportation Improvement Board workshop in June, and that Cedar St. will be the focus for this year's application; hopefully the town will

be able to go to construction around this time next year.

May 22 regular meeting

- Dan Bannier with RCAC presented a plan to study the town's sewer utility rate to, among other things, confirm it is calculated accurately in order to support the town's wastewater infrastructure. The study, which is worth tens of thousands of dollars, will not cost the town any hard dollars, only staff time as they provide Bannier with the numbers he needs to develop the study. The process will take about six months.
- Public safety:** Deputy Backstrom stated the public forum held last week had many representatives from the county and a lot of discussion and good talking points. He stated that it was not very well attended.

Mayor Miller stated he has received complaints regarding speeding on Cedar St. He stated there may be an issue with a certain motorcycle or two. Deputy Backstrom stated they believe they know who the individuals are, but have not yet caught them in the act.

It was the consensus of the council

to add "Slow, Children at Play" signage on the east and west ends of Cedar Street.

- Hart reported the town should receive official notification soon for an award of approximately \$630,000 for the Secondary Access project. He stated this funding will assist in completing the right-of-way purchase and to begin construction.
- Public Works Dir. Alan Wilkins reported an hours-long clean he was able to do at the plant, which increased the plant's efficiency significantly. Discussion ensued on the pending arrival and installation of the new style of membranes, which were thought to have been ordered weeks before. The town is waiting for an e-mail from Dept. of Ecology on that subject.

—Compiled from staff minutes

Keep track of your council

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

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Sports

Storms nabs 7th at State

By Jason Miller

Concrete senior Blaine Storms wanted to go to the State tournament this year. He did—in three events.

“Blaine was probably the hardest working athlete I have seen,” said Head Coach Hayden Holbrook. “He set a goal to make it to State, and he achieved it.”

Storms punched his ticket to Cheney on May 20, with commanding first-place finishes in the 100m, 200m, and 400m during the Bi-District meet in Shoreline.

Blistering weather challenge Storms and his fellow athletes at the State tournament in Cheney May 26–27. During the first day of competition, Storms failed to place high enough in the prelims in the 100m and 200m to advance to the finals on May 27. But in the 400m he placed 8th, earning him a lane in the finals.

His performance improved even more the next day, as he gained a notch in the 400m, giving him a solid 7th place finish and a State medal around his neck.

“I wanted to medal,” Storms said after the race. “I’m glad I did.”

Holbrook said Storms’ attitude played a large role in his success. “He set the bar high for himself and his teammates during practices from day one. His attitude was focused, driven. He helped other athletes with their form during practices.”

Bi-District successes

While not following him to State, some of Storms’ fellow athletes nevertheless turned in memorable performances during the Bi-District meet in Shoreline on May 20:

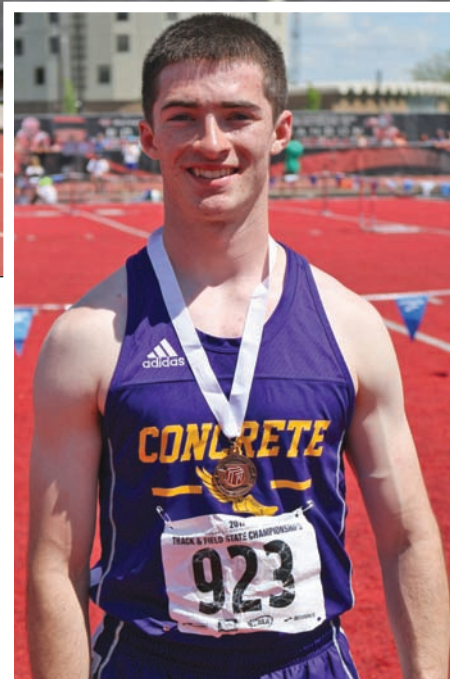
- Becky Azure: 2nd in shot, 3rd in discus, 4th in javelin.
- Hannah Rensink: 3rd in shot, 6th in discus.
- Emily Bridge: 5th in discus, 6th in javelin (with an 81’ PR), 6th in shot.
- Charles Parent: 2nd in the 800m.
- Levi Lowry: 6th in shot (with a 35’ 6” PR) and 7th in javelin.



Above: Blaine Storms rockets out of the starting blocks at Roos Field on the Eastern Washington University campus in Cheney, Wash., during the finals round of the 400m sprint on May 27. A close call at the finish line netted him 7th place and a medal.

Right: Storms shows off his 7th place medal for the 400m sprint. He made it to State also in the 100m and 200m sprints, but was unable to make it to the finals round in those events.

Facing page, left and right: Charles Parent and Hannah Rensink compete in the 800m and shotput during the Bi-District meet in Shoreline on May 20.



- Brian Torheim: 8th in javelin.
- J. K. M.

Athletes of the Month



April Athletes of the Month: Iris Nevin and Tyler Coffell

Editor’s note: The writeup for Iris Nevin will appear in the July issue of Concrete Herald.

Sophomore Tyler Coffell is baseball Head Coach Randy Sweeney’s “utility man.” This season he pitched, caught, played third base, and even took a few innings in the outfield. Coffell was third on the team for RBIs and hit about .333 on the season. “He’s an absolute joy to have on the team,” said Sweeney. “Ask him to do something, and there’s no excuses, no hesitation. He did everything for us.”

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

Athletes of the Month



May Athletes of the Month: Sidney Hockett and Devin Blankenship

Editor’s note: The writeup for Sidney Hockett will appear in the July issue of Concrete Herald.

Freshman Devin Blankenship didn’t even get his baseball uniform till the end of the season, said Coach Randy Sweeney. “But his is a tale of persistence. He waited for his chance, and he got it. He’s a great teammate; the other players love him. His hard work and perseverance deserves to be rewarded. I’m proud of the way he went about his business this season, working hard as if he was a starter.”

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



Baseball dreams end in Adna

Aw, nuts.

After an encouraging start against Crosspoint Academy on May 13, the Concrete Lions team lost to Friday Harbor that same day, then were pushed out of the running by the Napavine Tigers one week later.

On May 13, Head Coach Randy Sweeney was pleased with the team's placement going in. "We got the second placement spot—key for us to avoid Friday Harbor in the first round," he said.

The Lions ended up facing Crosspoint Academy (Bremerton) in Stanwood, taking the Warriors to school in a 6-1 rout.

"It was a big playoff game," said Sweeney. "We made all the plays, did everything right. Everything was working for us; we played one of the best games of our season, when it counted."

Senior Grayson Luttrell was on the mound that day, giving up only three hits,

and notching 10 strikeouts and two bases on balls. "He got us there; he carried us," said Sweeney.

Senior Austin Wenneker popped a two-run double, and senior Tyler Labrousse went on a torrid tear, with a hot bat and a hot glove to match, going 3-3.

The second game of that day's doubleheader found Concrete facing Friday Harbor, a fierce competitor with plenty of talent in the bullpen.

"Friday Harbor beat up on us a bit," said Sweeney of the Lions' 10-2 loss.

Still, the first win was enough to send Concrete to the playoffs in Adna, where they immediately faced one of the top teams in the state: the Napavine Tigers.

"They proved why they were the best," said Sweeney. "We knew we'd have to play one of our best games, and they'd have to make a mistake or two."

They didn't. The Tigers devoured the Lions in a 10-0 defeat, ending their run for State.

Labrousse again went 3-3, including a double, but Luttrell struggled on the mound, and replacement Tyler Coffell "got roughed up a bit" by the powerful Tiger bats, said Sweeney.

Next year

Sweeney already is looking forward to next year, he said.

"We have a number of kids returning, and they know now what it looks like to go up against those excellent teams at the State level," he said. "That's what we're shooting for: the top. We'll pick up right where we left this year, and keep rolling."

—J. K. M.



Riley Fichter waits for a pitch during the Lions' tangle with the Napavine Tigers in Adna, Wash., on May 20. One of the top teams in the state, Napavine thumped Concrete 10-0, ending the Lions' playoff run. Photo by Hildi Parker.

GAME CHANGERS

Members of Concrete High School class of 2017 explain their plans for improving the world. *Page 11*

Editor's note:

Concrete Herald asked several members of this year's senior class at Concrete High School to tell us how they plan to improve the world we live in after they graduate. Their responses were sometimes unpredictable, sometimes thoughtful, sometimes hilarious. The world will be a better place with them in it.

GRAYSON

LUTTRELL: To make my world a better place, I will make money, pay taxes, stay in tune with politics, and keep the environment healthy.

My favorite memory from high school was the field trip to union apprentice programs.



great job, and start a family. My favorite memory from high school was being able to participate at State for baseball with all my friends.

TANNER WILSON:

To make my world a better place, I will get a well-paying job to live a comfortable life. My favorite memory from high school is impossible to pick because I have a lot of memories to narrow down from.



TESSA COFFELL: My favorite memory from high school was playing sports and going to State my junior year.

TYLER WASSON:

To make my world a better place, I will learn who I am and where I stand as an individual, never compromise my values, and continue to strive to be my best self. My favorite memory from high school was the time I spent managing the girls' basketball team.



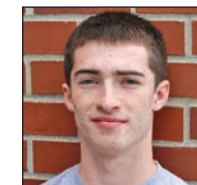
HANNAH

RENSINK: To make my world a better place, I will create a positive environment for those around me and share the love of the Lord for the rest of my life. My favorite memory from high school was creating movies about all of my friends.



BLAINE STORMS:

To make my world a better place, I will get a good job and work to better my situation. My favorite memory from high school was eating at Tomato Street in Spokane during the State Track Tournament—it's one of my favorites.



NICK PARKER: To make my world a better place, I will stay positive, find a

hunting and fishing, and start a family. My favorite memory from high school was playing football.

IRIS NEVIN: To make my world a better place, I will start a nonprofit eventually to raise money for unfortunate people whether they are homeless or in a third world country and can't feed their family. My favorite memory from high school was sports, because you create this bond with people and you spend a lot of time with them so a lot of times you continue that bond outside of sports. The bus rides are fun and the away trips are the best!



ASHLEE GILBERT: To make my world a better place, I will do what makes me happy and continue my education. My favorite memory from high school is hanging out with my friends.



—Compiled by Haley McNealey



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APRIL 22

FIREWORKS SHOW
MAY 27

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JULY 14, 2017
10th Annual

**CONCRETE YOUTH
ACTIVITY DAY**

Silo Park
12:30 - 4:00 p.m.

**FREE
FAMILY
FUN FOR
ALL AGES**

Special Entertainment sponsored by
the Upper Skagit Library at 2:30 p.m.:
KCPuppetree (Puppet Show).

SPONSORED BY Upper Valley
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• Food & Prizes!
• Community
Resources!
• Movie on
July 15!

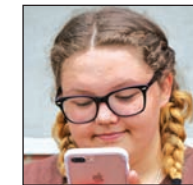
EMILY BRIDGE:

To make my world a better place, I won't say bad words because that's negativity and there's enough of that in the world, that and I am going to keep smiling and sharing my love for Jesus, because everyone needs Jesus. My favorite memory from high school was going on a road trip with Hannah Rensink and Brian Torheim to see Blaine at State for track. We all had lots of inside jokes that we'll remember forever.



DIANE BERGSMAS:

To make my world a better place, I will continue my education, get a good job, and make good choices to make me happy. My favorite memory from high school was when Jaycelyn sat on the back of my car and I made her fall off, resulting in her hurting her butt.



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Academics



Concrete woman named to All-Washington Academic Team

Skagit Valley College (SVC) students Victoria Waller from Concrete (right) and Mayuko Jordan from Oak Harbor were named to this year's All-Washington Academic Team. Both were honored at the 22nd annual ceremony at South Puget Sound Community College on March 23.

With more than 300 people in attendance, the ceremony provided an opportunity for community and technical college students to be recognized for their academic achievements and community involvement. This year's

team was made up of 63 students representing all 34 community and technical colleges in Washington. Many legislators, college trustees, and family members also attended the celebration.

The students were honored by Gov. Jay Inslee during the recognition ceremony. In addition, each student received a medallion from his/her college president.

Waller is 33 years old, maintains a 3.8 GPA, and is majoring in Early Childhood Education. She describes herself as a passionate mother of five and believes that all children should have access to quality early learning. She is pursuing an ATA in Early Childhood Education with the intent of also earning a master's degree. Waller is pursuing a career in early learning education so that all children have the best start possible.

—Submitted by Skagit Valley College



Soroptimists group offers scholarships

Soroptimist International of Sedro-Woolley has Continuing Education Scholarships available for Sedro-Woolley High School and Concrete High School graduates who have completed at least one year of college and will be returning this fall.

Submit an essay explaining your future educational goals and a transcript of this year's grades to P.O. Box 249, Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284, by July 31.



Outgoing Concrete School District Superintendent Barb Hawkins speaks during a retirement party in her honor on May 21. After decades of involvement with the school district, Hawkins retired effective May 31 to enjoy time with family. A full-length feature on Hawkins' contributions to the school district will appear in the August 2017 issue of Concrete Herald.

Photo by Gail Boggs.

PTO carnival a success

Concrete Elementary PTO would like to send out a huge thank you to all of the teachers, staff, parents, volunteers, and students for all of their hard work in putting on the 2017 Spring Carnival.

Without the dedication and creativity of each individual, the event could not have been possible.

We would also like to thank Albert's Red Apple, Perks Espresso, Concrete Herald, Honey Bee Holistics, Candy Cakes, Lisa Deryke, Cascade Skies Herbals, Costco, and everyone else who donated time and merchandise to our successful event.

—Sheena Daniels



Above and right: Dozens of students performed during the Concrete Music Dept. Spring Concert on May 31 in the Concrete High School gym. Above, Marshall Fichter teamed with teacher Peter Ormsby for a rendition of "More Than Words." Right, Asusena Fregoso plays her flute during the concert, which was themed "You've Got a Friend."



Read Concrete Herald
The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley

JULY 14, 2017
10th Annual
CONCRETE YOUTH ACTIVITY DAY
Silo Park
12:30 - 4:00 p.m.

FREE FAMILY FUN FOR ALL AGES

Special Entertainment sponsored by the Upper Skagit Library at 2:30 p.m.: KCPuppetree (Puppet Show).

- Food & Prizes!
- Community Resources!
- Movie on July 15!



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Clear Lake



HISTORY CORNER

The photo this month is a reproduction of a poster for a wrestling match that took place at McDonald's Hall on Nov. 18, 1905. In early 1903, a group of Clear Lake ladies known as The Ladies' Improvement Club met every week in each others' homes to socialize, review books, and discuss newspaper articles and laws enacted by the legislature. The ladies also hosted musicals by local visiting artists and programs on holidays. Deciding it would be nice to have a meeting place of its own, the ladies group set to work having a hall built for these events on a lot donated by Alex McDonald, in the northwestern corner of Block 6 of the town of Mountain View (the original name of Clear Lake). With much enthusiasm and little cash, they ordered materials from Clear Lake Lumber Company, hired Elver Smith as carpenter, and had the hall built. During the next few years, the ladies attempted to raise funds to pay for the materials, but eventually Mr. McDonald purchased the hall for \$150 in gold and gave a mortgage to the ladies club for \$250. The hall was lost to fire about 1920. *Photo courtesy of Clear Lake Historical Association.* If you have old photos of Clear Lake and/or Day Creek, please contact historian Deanna Ammons at 360.856.6798.

Like the Clear Lake Historical Association on Facebook at www.facebook.com/clearlakehistory.
—Deanna Ammons, historian

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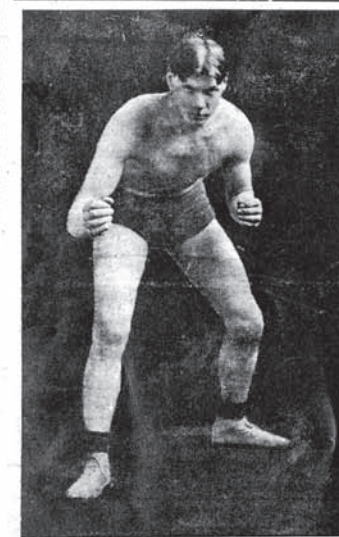
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Continue the cycle

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Community Calendar



JUNE

- 4-6 Concrete High School Senior Trip: Lake Chelan
- 8 CHS All-School Barbecue, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- 8 CHS Senior Dinner at Community Bible Church, Concrete, 5 p.m., parents invited
- 8 CHS Baccalaureate, CHS gym, 6:30 p.m.
- 8 CHS Scholarship Night, CHS gym, 7:30 p.m.
- 9 CHS Graduation Practice, CHS gym, 8 a.m.
- 9 CHS Graduation ceremony, CHS gym, 7 p.m.
- 10 Native Plant Walk, Rockport State Park, 2 to 4 p.m.; see notice, p. 23
- 10 Mystery Author Event: H. M. Bowker (Marie Phillips), Upper Skagit Library, 3:30 to 5 p.m.; see notice, p. 33; info at www.upperskagit.lib.wa.us, www.icantbreatheanovel.com
- 11 Skagit River opens to sockeye fishing; see article, p. 6
- 11 Marblemount Community Market opening day, Marblemount Community Hall, noon to 4 p.m.; see article, p. 26; info at 360.873.2312 or 360.853.8388
- 17 Skagit Land Trust Annual Volunteer Appreciation Potluck and New Volunteer Outreach, Howard Miller Steelhead Park clubhouse, noon to 4 p.m.; see notice, p. 23; info at www.skagitlandtrust.org/events
- 20 "Build a Better World" Summer Reading Program begins at Upper Skagit Library, Concrete; ages 0-17; library card not required; pick up a reading log and challenges at the library or download from www.upperskagit.lib.wa.us; info at 360.853.7939
- 23 STEM Series: Jumbo Jenga, Upper Skagit Library, Concrete, 1 to 3 p.m.; info at 360.853.7939 or www.upperskagit.lib.wa.us
- 23-25 Grassmere Village Garage Sale, 44574 SR 20, Grassmere, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- 23-25 Townwide Cleanup Days, Concrete town limits, Dumpsters located immediately east of Superior Bldg. on Main St.; bring your flier
- 23-25 Spur Festival, Darrington Bluegrass Music Park; info at www.thespurfestival.com
- 24 Concrete and Upper Skagit-wide Garage Sale; see notice, p. 3
- 30 Concrete Food Bank Building auction, 45942 Main St., Concrete, 10 a.m.; see notice, p. 39
- 30 Traditional Japanese storytelling at Upper Skagit Library, Concrete: "Mr. Mike and the Story Bike," 11 a.m.; free admission, info at 360.853.7939 or www.upperskagit.lib.wa.us
- 30 Loggerodeo, Sedro-Woolley; see program insert, this issue; info at www.loggerodeo.org

JULY

- 1-4 Loggerodeo continues in Sedro-Woolley; see program insert, this issue; info at www.loggerodeo.org
- 4 July 4 Parade, Darrington
- 4 July 4 Parade, Concrete
- 4 July 4 Parade, Sedro-Woolley
- 6 Kids & Teens Gaming Afternoon, Upper Skagit Library, Concrete, noon to 3 p.m.; info at 360.853.7939 or www.upperskagit.lib.wa.us
- 14-16 Woolley Fiber Quilters annual quilt show, Cascade Middle School, Sedro-Woolley; admission \$3; see notice, p. 17
- 16-21 Vacation Bible School at Community Bible Church, 45672 Limestone St., Concrete, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. each day; see notice, p. 30; info at 360.853.8511
- 21-23 Concrete Vintage Aircraft Fly-In, Mears Field, Concrete

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

Community meetings

Cascade Days Committee Board of Directors meets the third Mon. of each month at 5:30 p.m., at Lone Star Restaurant in Concrete Town Center. 360.853.7867, ember@cascaadedays.com, info@cascaadedays.com.

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

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

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

Concrete Economic Development Commission meets quarterly at Concrete Town Hall. Its first meeting is Oct. 12 at 6 p.m. 503.333.2406

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

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

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

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

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

Concrete School District Board will hold its next work session on June 19, at 6 p.m. in the high school Commons. The board will hold its regular monthly meeting on June 22 at 6 p.m. in the same location. 360.853.4000.

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

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

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

Forest Park Cemetery District No. 5 meets the second Wed. of each month at the cemetery office on Compton Lane in Concrete, at 8 a.m. 360.708.3656.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

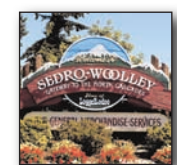
Sedro-Woolley School District Board will meet on June 12, at 7 p.m. at the Support Services Bldg., and on June 28, at 7 p.m. at the Support Services Bldg. 360.855.3500 or kcargile@swsd.k12.wa.us.

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

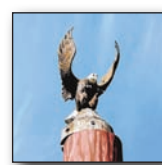
Upper Skagit Library District (USLD) Board meets the second Thursday of each month, 5 p.m., at the library. Public is welcome. 360.853.7939 or info@upperskagit.lib.wa.us.

Upper Skagit Writers Group meets the third Mon. of each month at 6 p.m., at 5b's Bakery, Concrete. Open to the public and all skill levels. ctomas@upperskagit.lib.wa.us.

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



Sedro-Woolley



Sedro-Woolley SMART girls show unity



Varsity in Volunteerism celebrates successes

Celebrate July 4 with fresh seafood!

"Skagit's Own" FISH MARKET
Northwest's Finest Seafood

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Sedro-Woolley High School students gathered May 30 for a Youth United Varsity in Volunteerism awards ceremony in the high school cafeteria. The evening included dinner and a photo slide show of the students' efforts during the school year. Presentations by students focused on their efforts to affect their world (trips to Mexico and Guatemala, for example) and community (volunteer work with local schools, fire departments, Skagit Search and Rescue, etc.).

Junior Colvin Swanberg (pictured at right) delivered a moving speech as he explained the individual impact the program had on him. Swanberg spoke of his parents' divorce and subsequent



homeless status he bore with his brother and mother, and how the program, his church, and fellow students helped him navigate a very difficult period in his life. Swanberg threw himself into the ViV program, racking up more than 400 volunteer hours in one school year—a

school record.

Students in all four grades received varsity letters in the program. Also of note was club President Treyton Howell, a senior who has amassed more than 900 hours of volunteer work during his high school career.

Boys & Girls Club staff member Harmonie Emerick has been running the Club's SMART Girls program in Sedro-Woolley since last January.

"When I first decided to run the SMART Girls program, I had no idea how much I would learn in such a short amount of time. The girls are smart, vivacious, and always willing to help out. They created a fire in me to teach them female camaraderie and that if they work hard enough anything is achievable," said Emerick.

One member of SMART Girls, Julz Banoie, shared her thoughts on the program: "SMART Girls is a place where you can express yourself to other girls without the fear of being made fun of or not accepted."

Ellie McLemore added, "Being in SMART Girls makes me feel special and included. I love having other girls to go to when I need to talk. Sometimes it is hard to find someone who I can confide in, but now I never have to worry about that anymore. We are all very supportive of each other."

The Sedro-Woolley SMART Girls program consists of girls ages 9 to 11, with a focus on healthy attitudes and positive choices, and provides them a safe forum to discuss their unique needs.

Emerick reflected that at their first meeting, the girls were excited and full of questions. They talked about their eagerness to have something that tied them all together, and that was when the idea for making SMART Girls T-shirts was born. They felt that the SMART Girls T-shirts would be more than just tie-dyed shirts, they would become a tool to symbolize SMART girls unity, and a way to provide visibility in the community. The group wanted to show their unity and their willingness to go the extra mile for what they believe in, and soon crafted

a plan to have a bake sale to fund their T-shirt dreams. Desserts were made by SMART Girls, parents, and staff. One of the SMART Girls took it upon herself to make a flier, which the other girls quickly helped out with. When the day of the Bake Sale arrived, the weather was perfect. It was the only sunny day the area had seen in weeks. The turnout and support from the community was strong, as the group sold more than 350 baked goods in less than two hours and raised \$345 for their club. For them it was a valuable lesson on taking ownership and putting in hard work to accomplish a goal.

Proudly donning their handmade tie-dyed shirts, the SMART Girls showed up in solidarity to volunteer at their next community event—the Bayview Women's 10k Run and Walk, where they handed out water to race participants.

"We were honored and whole-heartedly accepted. Once again the sun was shining on us, and the girls did an impeccable job. They were polite and encouraging to the women who were participating," said Emerick.

Aaliyah Wolfe remarked, "At the 10k run we learned that some women are abused in their homes. That is very sad. I really enjoyed being able to contribute to such a good cause."

The event was organized by Soroptimist International of Burlington to support Skagit Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Services (SDVSAS) and Women's Health.

"I am so proud of these girls. I am confident that these ladies will do great things in the future," exclaimed Emerick. To celebrate their hard work, a movie outing is planned for June.

The Sedro-Woolley Boys & Girls Clubs thanks the community for supporting SMART Girls and the girl's Bake Sale.

—Submitted by Tammy Findlay

CASCADE MIDDLE SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

The following 8th grade students at Cascade Middle School received honors for high marks for the third quarter of the 2016–17 school year. An asterisk denotes a student with a perfect 4.0 GPA.

Grade 8 Honor Roll

Bryce H. Abbott, Elizabeth L. Abhold, Kalin J. Adkerson, Magali Antonio Salgado, Gabrielle M. Ashton, Katie L. Backstrom*, Kaiden J. Baker-Ellis, Paula C. Banda, Megan L. Bawden, Josiah P. Beauvais, Kian Beisler, Camryn A. Benham, Lauren A. Benham, Brady O. Biggs, Christian J. Bowers, Adam J. Bryson, Diego Bueno, Jayda M. Carter, Megan E. Christensen*, Ashton C. Constantine, Colby W. Constantine, Giovanni Contreras, Dalton J. Cook, Eliot S. Cooper, Wyatt J. Covert, Arrora L. Craig*, James A. Cukierski, Victoria D'Arienzo, Erin R. Davis, Brandon Deleon, Kylee N. Dobson, Beau G. Elder, Harmony L. Fetterly, Dakota R. Fox, Johnathon R. Francisco, Colsen J. Friedrichs, Shawn Froneberger, Lillian M. Fulford, Bryan Garcia Cervantes, Kylie R. Gibson, Kailar K. Greenough, Mackenzie E. Grimm, Savannah K. Halverson, Ethan J. Hasenoehrl*, Leslie C. Hastings, Carson A. Hawkins, Jacenda M. Hoagland, Emma H. Hoboy, Peyton J. Holdt, Melissa A. Howry, Meghan N. Hudson, Savannah G. Hupp*, Olivia M. Isakson,

Kaidyn J. Jewell, Benjamin Johnson, Emily C. Johnson, Madilyn C. Johnson*, Kathryn Johnston, Hannah K. Jutte*, Laura A. Kester, Adin M. Kilcup, Sommer A. King, Evan C. Kolb, Daniel A. Laurance, Olivia A. Leas, Brynna K. Lee, Ember L. Leese, Noel N. Levai, Jose M. Martinez Bautista, Emma C. Martinson, Ekaterina Matsko*, Zayler R. Mauck, Tanner M. McCurdy, Deja S. McGrue*, Noelan T. Melton, Samantha L. Meyer, Charles J. Moore, Isabella M. Moore, Leonlee W. Morales, Owen S. Murdock, Ty A. Neal, Annalee R. Nersten*, Shawn B. Newman, Alexis M. Noyes, Eduardo Nuno-Macias, Karlee M. Nurmi, Keiton M. Page, Kimberly L. Partida, Jeffrey C. Prestmo, Logan R. Purdy, Cameron Queen, Emily M. Redling, Teylor Reed, Xander M. Renkema, Madelyn A. Requa*, Dustin L. Rhodes, Isabella G. Rinne, London A. Roberts, Jessica L. Robertson, Lyric P. Robinette, Isaak E. Sanders, Emily J. Sanford, Connor J. Schneider, Jeffrey Z. Sheridan*, Keaton Skiles, Madesyn C. Skinner, Madeline E. Smith, Katelyn S. Snodgrass, Vanessa Soto Lopez*, Matthew G. Stephenson, Seth Sternhill-Tift*, Jakob E. Storm, Olivia A. Stormo, Lila Suchsland*, Xavier M. Swanson, Pedro I. Tamayo, Keyaira L. Taylor, Keely A. Thibodeau, Abigail H. Thomas, Cassie G. Thomas, Gabriella M. Timblin, Mikayla R. Townsend, Colton J. Trammell, Layne A. Tucker, Carmen E. Ugalde, Kaylynn E. Vahovick, Amelia R. Vaith, Josiah A. Vellegas*, Josie M. Weppeler, Gracie A. Wesson, Devon M. Whitney, Tess A. Wimer, Jasan S. Winship, Heidi M. Winters, Allison J. Wood.

Briefly ...

The **Sedro-Woolley Lions Club** will hold a garage sale on Sat., June 3, from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Bingham Park in Sedro-Woolley. Money collected from sales goes to the purchase of a new dishwasher at the Open Door Community Kitchen.

Woolley Fiber Quilters will hold its annual quilt show July 14–16 at Cascade Middle School in Sedro-Woolley. This year's theme is "Blast of Birds"; the show features more than 250 quilts made by

local quilters, demonstrations, the popular bed turning, vendors, and some surprises. Admission is still only \$3.

The group found it necessary to move away from their traditional June dates to secure a new facility with plenty of room for the large quilt show. Quilt-appreciators from all over Washington and Lower British Columbia typically attend and enjoy the festive event.

To enter quilts, pick up a registration form at Cascade Fabrics in Sedro-Woolley and submit it with a photo of your quilt by June 28. Quilt turn-in day is July 11. Everyone is welcome to enter quilts and be a part of the show.

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Lyman



Baker River Project breaks record for number of young salmon released

More than 1 million migrating juvenile salmon will head to the ocean.

Puget Sound Energy (PSE) announced June 1 that it had collected and transported more than 1 million juvenile sockeye and coho salmon from its downstream trap and haul facilities on the Baker River in and near Concrete. This is only the second time in history that milestone has been reached; it will beat the all-time record set in 2014 with two more months left in the season.

The salmon smolts, which are mostly 1-year-old fish, will make their journey to the ocean, where they will spend the next two years before returning in 2019 as adult salmon. PSE has collected and transported more than 1.1 million smolts so far this year.

"This is an incredible achievement, especially given that in the 1980s the Baker River's sockeye population was nearly extinct," said Matt Blanton, PSE Baker River plant manager. "The milestone is a testament to the hard work and the partnerships built around this project."

Puget Sound Energy works closely with the NOAA Fisheries, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Sauk-Suiattle, Swinomish, and Upper Skagit Indian Tribes to manage this public resource. "This outmigration is worth

celebrating," said Upper Skagit Indian Tribal Board Member Scott Schuyler. "It means a lot to our tribe to be able to fish in traditional areas of our village location, and this record-breaking number brings economic stability to our tribe through the jobs the fishery will provide."

The Baker River Hydroelectric Project, a 215-megawatt facility, is PSE's largest hydropower operation. As part of its Federal Energy Regulatory Commission license, PSE has continued to invest in the fisheries system, which has produced significant gains in the river's fish stocks.

Sockeye and coho salmon are the most abundant fish in the Baker River. Its annual adult-sockeye returns have averaged about 3,500 since the 1920s, but plunged to a low return of just 99 fish in 1985. Fish restoration efforts since then have had a dramatic effect in the recovery of Baker sockeye, with a record 52,243 returning to the Skagit River in 2015.

—Submitted by PSE

SR 20 pass opens

With the rev of some engines and the swing of the gate, State Route 20/North Cascades Highway has reopened for 2017. Opening for the upcoming summer season not only provides drivers another option to cross the Cascades, but reconnects US Bike Route 10 between Skagit and Okanogan counties.

Washington State Department of Transportation crews were able to speed up the projected eight-week reopening with a little help from Mother Nature. Spring rain helped melt some areas of snow, and WSDOT crews worked long days to clear more than 45 feet of snow from below Liberty Bell Mountain and more than 20 feet in many other avalanche chute areas.

The May 16 opening allowed crews to do a final sweep of the highway to remove remaining debris. All travelers should be aware that this route is a scenic byway that features jagged glaciated peaks, high elevations, two lanes, and sharp turns. All travelers should be prepared for quickly changing conditions and limited facilities between Diablo and Mazama.

Other SR 20 construction

Travelers heading to the North Cascades Highway from I-5 should be prepared for weekday daytime work between Sedro-Woolley and Concrete. Contractor crews from Granite Construction are currently working on repairing cracks, potholes, and bridge decks before resurfacing the 20-mile stretch later this summer. This work is expected to last through September.

Drivers and cyclists hoping to use SR 20 between Twisp and Omak will need to add a lengthy detour to their trip via SR 153. SR 20 west of Loup Loup Summit is closed due to washouts, mudslides, and road repair work. Crews are working to repair the area, but there is currently no estimate for reopening.

WSDOT crews will keep the North Cascades Highway open as long as it is safe to do so. The gates will close at mileposts 134 and 171 when snow starts filling up avalanche chutes, making it unsafe for travelers and crews to be on the road. That usually happens around Thanksgiving.

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The Free Library in Lyman
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The new hours are Saturdays
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May in pictures



Left: Tootsie Clark again ceremonially opened the pass on May 16, after feeding dozens of spectators her trademark cinnamon rolls. Family members said this year might be the last time Tootsie does her thing.



Above: Looking not a day over 60, Barb Hoover celebrated her 90th birthday with family and friends on May 21 at the Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Concrete. (Find her thank-you note on p. 38 of this issue.) Photo by Gail Boggs.



Above: A gun salute courtesy of the Sedro-Woolley American Legion Post 43 punctuated the solemn Memorial Day ceremony at Forest Park Cemetery near Concrete on May 29. Photo by Gail Boggs.

Left: KSVU volunteers (from left) Kathy Manzoor, Erma Baude, and Bill Pfeifer smiled for the camera during a KSVU Bake Sale on opening day at Concrete Saturday Market, May 27. Photo by Christie Fairchild.

NAKED SALE!

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Above: Members of Girl Scout Troop 44454, looking damp and proud, paused for a photo after an hour spent scrubbing moss and grime off the Silo Park monolith at Silo Park in Concrete on May 15. Last year troop members cleaned the Safety Monument at the Superior Bldg.



Hamilton



Rockport



From the Mayor

Summer is finally here! Here's a brief reminder of some rules before everyone forgets:

Fires need to be in a fire ring and used for food, heat, or ceremony only. No burning garbage or yard waste. Yes, the rules are different for the county, so just because you see someone burning doesn't mean you can too. Feel free to call Northwest Air if you think something isn't right at 360.428.1617, or 911 if it's an immediate danger.

Hamilton has leash laws. Please keep your critters contained on your own property, or on a leash when traveling.



You are also responsible for any deposits they make. Loose dogs will be sent to the Skagit Humane Society if they don't have a Hamilton dog license.

Hamilton water rates increase as you use more water. Filling a swimming pool, extended sprinkler use, or even just washing multiple vehicles can easily make your bill hundreds of dollars. The more you play, the more you pay.

Speaking of water bills, Town Hall can now take credit cards for payment. We can take the information over the phone if you can't make it in.

Town Hall is open Tuesdays from 1 to 5 p.m., Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Fridays from 10 a.m. to noon. We will have a flag posted on the front porch when someone is inside. We may not have a vehicle there, so look for the flag.

—Mayor Joan Cromley



Birdsview Buzz

Welcome to summer, everyone! The pass is open and there's so much to do on this side and the east side. The road construction is making it a little frustrating with all the delays, and there may be a day where we can't be open if they are chip sealing or whatever right in front of the brewery.

Happy birthday this month to:

2 Short Hurn
21 Julian Voigt
24 Sara Voigt

Coming events at the brewery

June 10, 6–8 p.m.: The music Man, Jeff Peters.

June 17, 6–8 p.m.: Marcia Kester.

June 18: Closed for Father's Day.

June 28: Boundary Bay Brew Cruise out of Bellingham. Join us and two other breweries for a fun trip around Bellingham Bay.

We will soon be getting our produce for our salads from the new Jade Farms in Concrete. Can't wait! And we still serve and sell Cement City Coffee from Sharon Herring. The kitchen expansion is on hold for now, because of issues beyond our control.

New beers coming out in the future include a Blueberry Lager and a Red Ale. Check our Facebook, Instagram, or Web site for more details about what's leaving and what's coming.

Have a great month!

—Kris Voigt

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Marblemount luthier shares violin-making craft

Marblemount luthier (violin maker) Andris Vezis shares his craft with a rapt audience during his Memorial Day presentation. Photo by Don Smith.

Rockport State Park Senior Park Aide Don Smith gave a chunk of a windstorm-downed Douglas fir to Andris Vezis some time ago, and in exchange Vezis offered to do a public presentation on traditional violin making at the park.

The Memorial Day event drew more than 30 people to the park's "Discovery Center." Vezis set up the interior to imitate his violin workshop, including a selection of raw materials, a display of his plan diagrams, a gluing station to "butterfly" join blocks to form violin fronts and backs with mirroring grain patterns, his "alchemy" ingredients for staining colors and varnishes and animal skin glues, a wood-bending iron, carving tools, etc.

Vezis explained how he uses different woods for the various parts of a violin, and how the wood needs to be cured properly to produce the best, most resonant sound. He had several of his finished instruments on display and played a couple lovely tunes to showcase the distinct sound qualities.

After answering questions of the interested audience, Vezis and a small group of musicians set up outside for an impromptu concert and jam session.

—Don Smith

Skagit Land Trust to host annual potluck

Skagit Land Trust will hold its annual Volunteer Appreciation Potluck and New Volunteer Outreach event on Sat., June 17, from noon to 4 p.m. in the clubhouse at Howard Miller Steelhead Park.

Celebrate the accomplishments of Skagit Land Trust volunteers while catching up with old friends and making new ones. Skagit Land Trust will have the main dish for the barbecue and requests that guests bring a side to share.

Anyone interested in becoming a new Land Steward may attend a short orientation from 3 to 4 p.m.

Details and RSVP info are at www.skagitlandtrust.org/events.

Native Plant Walk planned for June 10

Local naturalist Marlee Mountain will host a Native Plant Walk in the old growth forest of Rockport State Park on Sat., June 10, from 2 to 4 p.m.

Participants will meet at the picnic shelter for the walk, which is free of charge, although donations for Mountain will be accepted.

A Discover Pass or day pass is required for vehicle parking at Rockport State Park.

—J. K. M.



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Darrington



Summer events in Darrington

By Marla Skaglund

Darrington is the place to be this summer for fun and adventure.

Glacier Peak Institute will host many outdoor fun and educational events for young and old throughout the summer. Check their Facebook page for dates and times.

The Darrington Horse Owners Association will host its annual Summer Series Playday at the rodeo. A free saddle raffle will be held at the end of the summer. Every time you enter a playday, you will receive a free raffle ticket.

Come to all four weekends, June through September, and have eight chances to win. Dates are June 10 and 11, July 8 and 9, Aug. 5 and 6, and Sept. 9 and 10.

The Darrington Library will host several events throughout the summer, including Isaac Peterson and his reptiles on June 17 and Edith Farrell presenting "Learning the trails of the Mountain Loop" on June 21.

The Spur Festival opens the annual Darrington music season on June 23–25.

July will be a very busy month, starting with the parade on Darrington St. for the Fourth of July, followed by the Community Fair at Old School Park, sponsored by the Mansford Grange. A municipal fireworks display will be held at dusk at the Darrington High School

football field.

Darrington Archery will host Ralphies' Run What You Brung and Pig Roast at the Archery Range, July 15 and 16. Mansford Grange will host the Darrington Rock and Gem Show and Sale, July 15 and 16. The annual Darrington Day Celebration and Street Fair will be held July 15, corresponding with the date Darrington was founded. The 41st annual Darrington Bluegrass Festival, featuring many national and local artists, will be held July 21–23.

August proves to be a busy month, including the annual Summer Meltdown at the Darrington Music Park, Aug. 10–13. Browse and buy art pieces from local artists at the 7th Annual Big Hoobajoo Art Show, Aug. 19 and 20.

Darrington rock climbing features granite domes in scenic mountain valleys. The climbing is not sport climbing, though generally moderate in steepness. Mattsea.com is an excellent Web site featuring information on the best areas around Darrington for climbing.

If hiking, horseback riding, or other outdoor activities are your passion, www.discoverdarrington.com has a long list. The Web site has all the resources needed to enjoy every season in Darrington.

Council summary

Darrington Town Council met for a regular meeting on March 8. The following is a summary of that meeting. Complete and council-approved minutes for every council meeting are available at Darrington Town Hall.

March 8 regular meeting

- Peter Forbes gave an update for the Ranger District and projects they are working on: Mountain Loop Highway, November flood damage, road maintenance, Circle Creek Rd., Darrington Collaborative, Stilly South Fork, North Mountain Lookout, Sulfur Creek Campground, guard station, and Whitechuck Bench Trail. He indicated that the timeline for these projects would be started around August. Councilmember Kevin Ashe asked about the S. Stilly timber sale, if there are any timber sales on this side of the Mountain Loop, and what the quota is for this year. Forbes said around 17 million board feet. He hopes to see sales out of the S. Stilly timber sales. Councilmember Gary Willis asked how many roads were destroyed in the November flood. Forbes said that Darrington had around 20 sites. Mountain Loop took a big hit and will be fixed. Any other roads scheduled for decommissioning? None at this time.
- Town of Darrington has nominated Paul Franke for the AWC Center for Quality Communities Scholarship. His application and letter will be sent to AWC to be potentially chosen to win the scholarship.
- Water rights discussion points were presented as FYI material by Jason Hatch with Washington Water Trust. The Stillaguamish Tribe plans to have an informational meeting at an as-yet-undetermined date.
- Clarification made: The 3 percent cost-of-living raise for Town of Darrington employees pertains to regular full-time employees only.
- T-Mobile tower construction will start in March, weather permitting. The town will be able to lease parts of the pole to other carriers.

- America's Best Communities Competition: An outline is being developed between Arlington-Darrington. If Arlington-Darrington wins, the money will go to a board to distribute according to the outline. Mayor Dan Rankin said that EASC will be the fund holders, along with a board from Arlington and Darrington. There will be an emphasis on the North Stillaguamish Economic Development Plan with the funding.
- Old School Park: The hope was to go to bid by March 13.
- This year is the 100th year for the Darrington Cemetery. The Cemetery Board would like to do a walking memorial, along with a binder of all of the names for people to locate loved ones. They would like to have the celebration on Memorial Day and open it after the Memorial Day Ceremonies. Council voted unanimously to provide \$300 in town funds toward the 100-year celebration.

Dimensions for upright monuments were discussed, including minimum size. Council approved Appendix B for the Cemetery Rules and Regulations.

- Kevin Ashe discussed the meeting for the grizzly bear proposal. The meeting did not go as he had initially thought because of an abnormal format. A decision will be made March 14.
- Kelli Smith attended to answer questions about the Old School Park project. A bid package has not yet been received. The town was hoping to go out to bid by March 13, but cannot do so without the bid package.
- North Counties Family Services has "adopted" the Harold Engles Park and is willing to assist with the cost of its maintenance. They would like to put basketball hoops at the back end of their parking lot next to the park. Trimming the trees/chipping would cost about \$1,800, which would be split with the NCFS and the Town. Council voted to allow \$900 of town funds to help pay for the maintenance.

—Compiled from staff minutes



Search and Rescue staff worked with volunteers from Snohomish County Volunteer Search and Rescue to rescue an injured hiker on the Lime Kiln Trail on May 25. According to a release from the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office, the hiker was a man in his 50s who had dislocated his ankle while hiking the trail. More than 20 volunteers assisted SAR and fire personnel in packaging the patient into a wheeled litter and packing him out to a logging road. From there, the patient was transported to an aid car, which took him to Providence Regional Medical Center. The operation took about four hours and ended around 5 p.m. that day. *Photo courtesy of Snohomish County Sheriff's Office.*

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Snohomish County Sheriff's Report

May 15

The Snohomish County Sheriff's Office was selected as the 2017 recipient of the Officer Traffic Safety Award by Destination Zero, an officer safety initiative sponsored by the National Law Enforcement Officer Memorial Fund. Sheriff Ty Trenary and Undersheriff Rob Beidler received the award on behalf of the Sheriff's Office on May 14 during a ceremony in Washington, D.C.

"We are honored and humbled to have been selected for this award," said Sheriff Trenary. "The initiatives implemented by the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office to improve driving and traffic safety are unprecedented and unique for our nation's law enforcement. Our top priority is employee and community safety and we are going to do everything we can to ensure everyone gets home safely every night."

Nationwide, traffic-related deaths continue to be one of the leading causes of line-of-duty deaths for law enforcement. In 2016, 53 officers were killed in traffic-related incidents, which accounted for almost 40 percent of all U.S. police line-of-duty deaths that year, a 10 percent increase from 2015.

In 2016, the Sheriff's Office made driving and traffic safety a top priority after the agency experienced 11 on-duty collisions in 2015 that resulted in major injury for employees and civilians. The cost of these collisions included \$151,000 in medical, legal, and wage/time loss; three totaled patrol cars; and \$2.3 million in litigation costs.

The Sheriff's Office incorporated the tenets and testimonials of Below 100, a national program designed to eliminate preventable line-of-duty deaths and injuries, into agency-wide communications and mandatory training. In addition, all Sheriff's Office-commissioned employees—deputies and supervisors alike—were required to attend and/or watch a presentation by Kim Schlau, the mother of two daughters killed by a speeding Illinois state trooper.

The Sheriff's Office also instituted a monthly Driving Review Board and changed policies to eliminate unauthorized pursuits. In 2017, "telematics" were installed into every patrol car, designed to improve safety and training.

At the end of 2016, the Sheriff's Office saw a significant reduction in traffic-

pursuit-, and collision-related injuries and damages, decreasing major injury collisions by 32 percent and pursuits by 38 percent.

"It is my hope that the best practices put forth by the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office, as well as our lessons learned, will serve as a model for other law enforcement agencies across the country," said Sheriff Trenary.

May 27

Vehicle assault and DUI charges are pending after an Arlington man struck another vehicle on I-5.

Joseph Spinks, 38, was traveling in the far right lane of northbound I-5 near the Smokey Point Rest Stop when his vehicle, a 2014 Ford Focus, crossed the middle lane into the left lane and struck the rear of a 2003 Harley Davidson motorcycle driven by Thomas Snyder, 54, of Camano Island.

Snyder's motorcycle ended up in the middle lane, with Spinks' vehicle 300 yards north of the incident, on the left shoulder.

Snyder was seriously injured and transported to Providence Hospital. Spinks was not injured. Drugs or alcohol was involved in the accident; an investigation is under way.

May 29

Two missing canoeists were located after having gone missing near Gold Bar earlier in the day. The canoeists, both males, were able to self-rescue downstream and walk to a nearby residence. Neither was injured.

Earlier that day, the Sheriff's Office Dive Team and helicopter, SnoHawk 1, responded to the area downstream of the Big Eddy on the Skykomish River, searching for the two men, whose canoe had overturned. A witness called 911 after seeing the canoe overturn and reported that it was believed the two men were not wearing life jackets. The canoe was recovered, but there was no reported sign of the missing men at the time.

—Compiled from SCSO and WSP releases

Briefly ...

A Meet & Greet event for County Councilman Nate Nerhing will be held Wed., June 7, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Darrington Community Center. The event will include a Q & A session. All residents are invited to attend this free event.



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Darrington IGA

Randy Ashe, Kevin and Sheila Ashe, owners.

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360.436.0141
d.iga@frontier.com





Marblemount



Newhalem



Community Market opens

Goatmilk soap, organic produce, and fresh library books are all on tap for the first Marblemount Community Market of the season. Held on the second Sunday of each summer month, June 11 will mark the start of its fifth year of operation.

Situated on the grassy grounds outside the community hall, the open-air market sports a festive feel with the addition of local musicians playing live and radio KSVU 90.1 FM on board.

Shopping to the swing tunes of the Upriver band "Undecided," the day should prove to be a fun one. Vendors include Blue Heron Farm, Taproot Farm, Doggone Good, Hattie Lucretia Creations, Cindy Lou's Artisan Jams, Greenheart Gardens, Marblemount Homestead, Maiden Lorian/Foxglove Forestry, Pat Buller Photography, and the Upper Skagit Library, to name a few.

For those interested in vending this summer, go to www.marblemountcommunitymarket.org/ events to complete an application. There will also be paper copies in the mailbox at the front door of the hall; just fill it in, write your check, and mail according to the directions. In addition, there is still a need for a dedicated "food vendor" to sell sandwiches, etc. A Skagit County food handlers permit would be required, but is easily obtained at the East County Resource Center in Concrete.

This summer's monthly markets will be held the second Sunday of each month from noon to 4 p.m. on June 11, July 9, Aug. 13, and Sept. 10.

For more information, contact market managers Mike Sheasly at 360.873.2312 or Christie Fairchild at 360.853.8388.

—Christie Fairchild

PHOENIX MOBILE SYRINGE EXCHANGE BUS

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



FREE SYRINGE EXCHANGE, COTTONS, COOKERS, TOURNIQUETS, CONDOMS, WOUND CARE, WATER, DISPOSAL CONTAINERS, AND INFORMATION AND REFERRAL. FREE NARCAN OVERDOSE KITS WITH TRAINING

CONCRETE: 1st and 3rd Mondays: 2-4 PM at Concrete Community Center, 45821 Railroad Ave.

MARBLEMOUNT: 1st Monday each month: 10 AM to Noon; call to schedule, 360-848-8437, ext. 318

ANACORTES: 3rd Monday each month: 10 AM to Noon at the Salvation Army, 3001 R Ave.

BURLINGTON: Thursdays 12-2 PM at Tierra Nueva, 701 E. Fairhaven Ave.

SEDRO-WOOLLEY: Tuesdays 1-4 PM at PeaceHealth United General Medical Center, 2000 Hospital Dr., AND Thursdays 9-11 AM at the Senior Center, 715 Pacific St.

MOUNT VERNON: Tuesdays 9 AM to Noon at Christ the King, 2111 Riverside Dr., AND Thursdays 3-5 PM at the Senior Center, 1401 Cleveland St.



Above: Revelers gather around the May Pole in the field adjoining Marblemount Community Hall to wrap ribbons around it during the annual tradition on May 6.

Honoring the fallen

Seattle City Light complex hosts annual Memorial Day ceremony on May 22.

On May 22, beneath the flag pole at Seattle City Light's administration building in Newhalem, a small group gathered for the utility's annual Memorial Day ceremony.

On hand were representatives from Concrete's American Legion Post 132 and Post 43 in Sedro-Woolley, as well as City Light employees and other guests.

The ceremony opened with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by various personal remarks, a reading of "In Flanders Field" by John McCrae, presentation of colors and a gun salute by members of the Sedro-Woolley Legion, the somber tone of "Taps" being played, Memorial Day Reflections from Concrete American Legion member John Boggs, and a reading of "We Shall Keep the Faith."

The annual ceremony is held in Newhalem and every other City Light base of operations. It was held earlier this year to accommodate the number of ceremonies that were held throughout Western Washington.

—J. K. M.



Above: Seattle City Light employees and guests gathered at the utility's Skagit Hydroelectric Project in Newhalem May 22 for a Memorial Day ceremony that included personal thoughts, a reading of "In Flanders Fields," and a gun salute.

Above left: Bruce Watson shares opening remarks during the ceremony.



Facing page, bottom left: Following the May Pole wrapping, attendees streamed into the hall for another tradition, the Blast Open the Pass potluck dinner and dance, a fundraiser for the Upper Valley's community radio station, KSVU 90.1 FM. Photos by Christie Fairchild.



Skagit County Public Health and Community Services
Phoenix Recovery Services LLC. 360-848-8437



Seniors

Coffee Break

Pets: A second heartbeat

By Patrick M. Kennedy

I have noticed that a furry, a feathered, or even a scaled friend is something senior citizens often consider after a lifetime of toil and stress. You've probably noticed that when you pet a soft, warm cat or play chase the stick with a dog whose tail won't stop wagging, you relax and your heart feels a little warmer.

Many studies have shown that owning and handling animals significantly benefits health, and not just for the young. In fact, pets may help senior citizens live longer, healthier, and more enjoyable lives. Now that's something to think about.

A friend of about our age recently advised that I needed another heartbeat. I immediately threw my hand to my chest groping for that familiar pounding.

"But the doctor says I'm in great shape," I noted with irritation.

"Not a transplant, idiot," he said. "A second heartbeat, a companion."

Because I am a single senior citizen and tired of eating TV dinners and take-out food, my mind immediately flashed with the brilliant colors of Las Vegas ladies and gala parties, but I knew with all that going on I may need a third or fourth heartbeat to keep up the pace.

"A pet, dodo," he clarified. "A second heartbeat, a cuddle buddy, someone to talk to rather than your impassive walls ... a pet."

My friend probably had a point. I had to give it some sober thought and thorough research, so I started analyzing my way through animals, starting with the most common heartbeats: dogs and cats.

Dogs seem to be slow on the uptake, but lovable and active, and they come in a variety of sizes and colors, almost like humans. I figured size related directly to food consumption and dumption (if there is such a word), and a color related to shedding hair on my carpet and sofa.

Cats are too mysterious, and I am positive any one of them will stare at me with the intention of trying to possess my soul. That scares me. I have enough trouble keeping my soul pointed in the right direction without it being attached to a cat. But cats do have a lot of fun and are fun to watch from a distance. They run around the neighborhood, unleashed, and chase birds and an array of imaginary wildlife.

A visit to a local pet store might reveal a menagerie of fun second heartbeats.

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

Way Back When

100 years ago

June 23, 1917: Owing to the heavy rains this spring, a landslide occurred on the Baker River and did considerable damage to the Shuksan Railway track, which is owned and operated by the Superior Portland Cement Co. The hill caved away below the track near where the steam shovel took its plunge into the river, and another came down from above the track, carrying it completely away for some distance. It is thought that it will take about two months to repair the damage, which will have to be done before the plant can resume operation.

70 years ago

June 26, 1947: Six new cases of polio were reported to the state health department during the past week, bringing the year's total to 22 cases so far. The six new cases were all in the northwest counties: two for Skagit and four in Whatcom.

The department states that the polio season is not yet at its height and that more cases may be expected this summer.

Rules for polio prevention:

- Do not get overtired.
- Avoid chilling.
- Keep clean.
- Help keep your community clean.
- Do not swim in polluted waters.
- Avoid removal of tonsils during polio season.

Concrete Community Center

June 2017 Activities

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

East County Veterans Center meets Mon.,
Tue., Wed., from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
at the East County Resource Center

Monday through Friday

Jigsaw puzzles, walking group, games, more

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

Monday
6/19 6 p.m. Boys & Girls Club
presentation/dinner

Wednesday
6/14 6 p.m. Water Bath Canning:
jams, jellies, tomatoes, etc.
6/21 6 p.m. Fermentation: pickles, etc.

Thursday
Till 6/15 1 p.m. GED prep
6/15 12:30 p.m. Pinochle
6/15 7 p.m. Concrete Community Choir
concert
6/29 12:30 p.m. Pinochle

Friday
Till 6/16 1 p.m. GED prep
6/9 12:30 p.m. Commissioner Janicki
6/16 11 a.m. Health Fair

Saturday
All 9 a.m. Saturday Market
All 7 p.m. AA meeting
6/10 10 a.m. Community Hwy Cleanup
6/24 10 a.m. Community Garage Sale



30 years ago, above: The engagement of Brooke

Lisa-Nichole Sharp and Kelly Icem Howell was announced in the June 18, 1987 issue of *Concrete Herald* by Sharp's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Sharp of Newhalem. A 1986 graduate of Concrete High School, Sharp was to attend the University of Washington. Her fiancé graduated from CHS in 1982 and Skagit Valley College in 1985. The son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Howell of Concrete, he was employed at the time as a deputy sheriff for Skagit County (from which he recently retired). A Sept. 12 wedding was planned at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Sedro-Woolley.

30 years ago, right: Girls on the Cement City Sweethearts softball team in the Skagit Valley Youth League brought home hardware from the league finals the previous Saturday and also were featured in the June 18, 1987 issue of *Concrete Herald*. The team placed first in the county. The team had placed second in 1986 and in 1985 finished first. They also were tops in the American League three years in a row, losing only three games in three years as a team. Coached by John Rantschler with assistance from Debbie Robbins, the team included Amy Wilson, Tina Robbins, Reana Petter, Tiffany Lee, Wendy Evans, Tinze McNealey, Kristin Shephard, Anita Conard, Cathie Rose, Carrie Moody, Stephanie "Tinker" Ashe, Emma Wilson, Melinda Evans, Jenny Martin, Traci Donaldson, Carrie Rantschler, Brandee Hurley, Michelle Bellanger, Dori Weschler, and Sarah Hornbeck. *Archive photo by Anne Bussiere.*

Verna's Kitchen

By Verna McClure

Chocolate Chip Oatmeal Cookies

2 cups flour
1 teaspoon baking soda
½ teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon baking powder
1 cup sugar
1 cup brown sugar
1 cup shortening (Crisco)
2 eggs
2 cups rolled oatmeal
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 cup chocolate chips

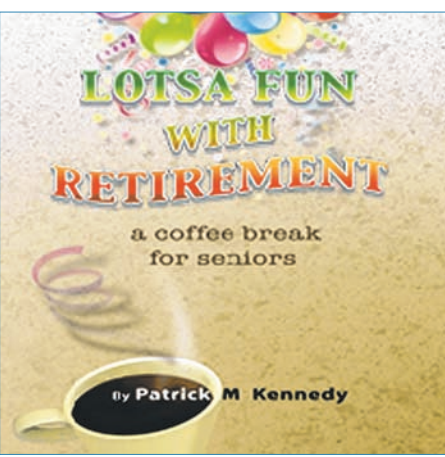
1. Combine flour, baking soda, salt, and baking powder.
2. Combine shortening and sugars.
3. Add eggs and vanilla and mix well.
4. Combine shortening mixture with flour mixture and stir well.
5. Add oatmeal and chocolate chips. Mix well.
6. Drop dough on greased cookie sheets by small spoons full.
7. Bake 8 to 10 minutes, then place on rack to cool.
8. This recipe makes around 5 dozen cookies.

Enjoy!



Area businesses bring you Concrete Herald each month.

Please support them!



Obituaries

Loving husband, father, and avid outdoorsman **John Lance Hightower** died unexpectedly on March 22, 2017, of heart failure, in Seattle.



Lance was born Jan. 28, 1943, in San Francisco, to Stan and Marge Steele Hightower. Following Stan's death soon after, in WWII, Marge married Syd Kraabel, and together with siblings Mary, Karla, and John began a new life in Missoula, Mont. Lance graduated from Missoula County High School in 1961 and married Jacqueline (Jackie) Gordon. They had two sons, Dennis and Tim. He then graduated from University of Montana in 1968.

Lance, ever the adventurer, earned his private pilot's license, flew for Northwest Airlines, and later for the U.S. Air Force. The family moved to Seattle after Lance left the service in 1974. Following his sons' departures for college, Lance enjoyed several years working as a bush pilot in Alaska. In 1988 Lance returned to Washington and married Ingeborg Haugen, with whom his adventurous life continued on their farm in Corkindale, between Rockport and Marblemount. From skiing and camping in his youth to his passion for running whitewater, Lance loved wild places and the natural world. He was an engaged citizen who valued and contributed to a strong community. An avid reader, he created a library of books that he shared with family and friends, so they could read and discuss together.

Lance is survived by his wife Ingeborg; previous

wife Jackie; son Dennis (Su) Hightower in Seattle; son Tim (Kelly) in Benton City; sister Karla in Missoula; nieces and nephews; his best four-legged friend, black Lab "Jewels"; many beloved two-legged friends; and an ever-growing list of the next rivers he had planned to explore.

Lance was preceded in death by his parents, sister Mary, brother John, and many dearly loved dogs. A joyful celebration of his life will be held on Sat., June 24, in Marblemount.

For more information and directions, please call 360.873.2409.

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

Sunday School lesson A thought on believing

By Matt Del Bosque

Actions speak louder than words. Many of us have heard that statement time and time again. There is a lot of truth behind those five words. As a follower of Jesus, I have seen that it's not so much the words that you speak, as it is the actions that you show.

In Matthew 22 Jesus was approached by an overly religious man known as a Pharisee. This man wanted to know

what Jesus thought was the greatest commandment (referring to the original Ten Commandments and all of the 600-plus commands given to Moses). Jesus' answer shocked the man because he simply answered, "You must love the Lord your God with all of your heart, all of your soul, and all of your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" Or a more simple way to sum it up, love God and love others.

As a pastor I have personally learned it's not the words that I say that touch a person's heart (although that is a small part), but more importantly it's the actions that I show. People can question the validity of the Bible and whether or not God is actually real. People can deny our words that we speak. But they cannot deny love in action. Telling people that Jesus loves them is good. But actually showing that Jesus loves them through your actions goes so much further!

My encouragement to you is to find practical ways to show others that Jesus loves them and that you truly care about them. All around you are people that you can help, support, encourage, and serve. You can make a difference in the lives of others. Little bits of kindness and generosity can completely change an individual's life! After all, actions speak louder than words.

Matt Del Bosque is pastor for Citipoint Church North Cascade in Marblemount.

Vacation Bible School Skagit County Sheriff's Office planned in Concrete Blotter

Community Bible Church in Concrete will host Vacation Bible School in July with the theme "Maker Fun Factory."

The program runs from July 16 through July 21 and is open to children who are preschool age through 6th grade. It will be held from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. each day at Community Bible Church, located at 45672 Limestone St. in Concrete.

Registration is requested at the church or during Concrete Youth Activity Day on July 14 (see ad for Youth Activity Day on p. 12 of this issue).

For more information about Vacation Bible School at Community Bible Church, call 360.853.8511.

Worth repeating

"Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

—Isaiah 40:28–31

May 13

Deputies are investigating a report of a small marijuana growing operation in the area of Cockreham Island near Lyman. A subject reported seeing approximately a dozen growing plants. Deputies are looking to contact the owner. This may be a legal growing operation if the proper documentation is provided. It's more likely a "plant and release"-type operation where folks will simply abandon the plants and check back in a few months, hoping for success. Oftentimes they'll find my business card where the plants used to be.

May 15

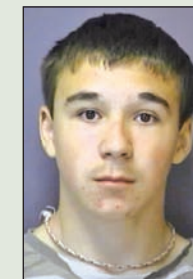
A deputy responded to an alarm at the Clinker Club in Concrete. The alarm indicated glass breakage on the

Level 2 Sex Offender NOTIFICATION

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

Greathouse, Austin Michael

Age: 19
Race: W
Sex: M
Height: 5' 5"
Weight: 116
Hair: Brown
Eyes: Brown
Address: 246xx Marlene Way, Sedro-Woolley



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

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

Source: Skagit County Sheriff

Worship directory

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

front window. Upon arrival the deputy discovered a lawn maintenance company had likely bounced a rock off the window, tripping the alarm. Extra points to the readers who know where the Clinker Club is.

May 19

A chicken-chasing dog was taken from Hamilton to dog jail by the SCSO Animal Control officer. It seems the friendly dog likes chasing chickens, but the chickens, not so much. The white dog with two collars can be claimed at the Humane Society.

May 20

A deputy responded to a motor vehicle accident in the parking lot of a local Lyman restaurant. There were no injuries, but there was significant damage to one of the vehicles. One of the drivers didn't have valid insurance or a valid driver's license.

May 23

A 35-year-old Hamilton man was involved in a felony assault in Concrete. It appears this man accused the other of stealing some of his climbing gear used for tree work. The accuser was riding an ATV and pinned the man in his vehicle. When the man escaped out his passenger door, the rider hit him with the ATV. Witnesses described the man and his ATV. It took only a short time before the man was tracked down to his residence on Hamilton Cemetery Rd. near Hamilton. A deputy caught him there as he tried to sneak out the back of his residence. Yes, this is the same guy who ran from deputies a few months back. He's now in jail facing several felony charges.

May 24

Deputies are investigating an alleged assault between adult siblings in Marblemount. It seems a 26-year-old female was struck in the mouth with a barbecue grate by her 28-year-old brother. The alleged altercation caused injuries that required a trip to the emergency room. Wow, I argued with my sister, but never to this extent.

Deputies checked the Martin Rd. area near Rockport for a beat-up, brown van. The sergeant was in the area and located the van. He recognized the man trying to hide under the trash in the back of the van. He arrested a wanted felon and a licensed driver took the van away.

May 25

As crews work on SR 20, traffic has been diverted onto Lyman Hamilton Hwy. in and near Lyman, where the speed limit is 35. Many drivers are apparently driving in excess of that. The SCSO has received

complaints and has begun working speed enforcement in the area. Please watch your speed.

May 27

A deputy took a report in Concrete of a threat involving a new tattoo. It appears the tattoo receiver failed to make good on the debt to the tattoo artist. The artist apparently has friends and they may be on their way to remove the tattoo if the debt is not paid. Hopefully the patron can pay the artist and keep the artwork.

May 29

A deputy took a missing persons report involving a 54-year-old female. The former resident of the Concrete area hadn't been heard from in more than a month. Deputies began checking the Upper Valley area and were directed to a residence near Hamilton. A deputy located the female safe and sound. Her family has been notified.

As the North Cascades pass opened up, Concrete and the Upper Valley community have seen a significant increase in traffic. Several complaints have pointed out the motorcycles apparently racing. Deputies and Washington State Patrol troopers are stepping up enforcement and will try to apprehend some of these dangerous riders.

—Compiled by Sgt. Chris Kading



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[Chief Darrel Reed]

Concrete Volunteer Fire Dept. needs firefighters!

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

Interested?

Call Town Hall at **360.853.8213**
or drop in to fill out a quick application.



Applicants may live inside or outside town limits.

CONCRETE HERITAGE MUSEUM NEWS

We had a quick meeting in May and we're gearing up for the tourist season now that the pass is open. The only new development is that we've been working on creating a recording and handout for **self-guided museum tours**. All the volunteers work hard to make your museum experience memorable, so by all means stop in.

Since it's been a quiet month, let me stray off the topic of what the Museum Association has been doing and, once again, try to impress upon you the importance of your **feedback on how we're doing**. After writing this column for quite a few years, I've found that we don't get many comments or suggestions regarding this article or about the museum in general. The museum board and volunteers strive to showcase the history of Concrete and the Upper Skagit Valley, but most of us are not originally from here, which puts us at some disadvantage. Thus, our interpretation of your history is based upon our own backgrounds and not through the eyes of the people who've lived it. This makes a huge difference in the way we view the local history we

have knowledge of through our research projects. We try to keep that in mind, but we need input from you to stay on track.

One suggestion we've had about this article is to focus on a **local historical event** instead of boring people with what we're planning to do. I'm open to suggestions to try something different. As boring as this article may be for you to read, it is also sometimes a real chore trying to make it sound interesting. What would you like?

Our next **Bake Sale** will be on July 1 at the Concrete Saturday Market, starting at 9 a.m.

We hope you'll **stop by the museum** any Saturday from noon to 4 p.m. until the end of September to enjoy what we have to offer. While you're there, let us know how we're doing; we'd appreciate the feedback.

You may also **visit our Web site** at www.concreteheritagemuseum.org. **Special tours** can always be arranged, with enough advance notice, by contacting John Lloyd at autohistory.com or John Boggs at jboggs@aol.com.

—John Boggs

June at the Darrington Library

Children and family programs

- Family Storytime, Wed., June 7, 14, 21, 28; 11 to 11:45 a.m.; all ages welcome, caregiver required.
- Explore Summer Kickoff: Reptile Zoo, Sat., Jun 17, 10 a.m.

Tweens and Teens programs

- Read, Review, & Win. Anytime between June 1 and Aug 12, submit your book review in typed or video form to ryocum@sno-isle.org or drop it by the library.

All ages programs

- Father-Daughter Fairy Tale Tea, Sat., June 24, 10 to 11:30 a.m.
- Explore Summer: 20 Years of Magic (celebrating the 20th anniversary of *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*). All ages, Mon., June 26, 1 to 2:45 p.m.
- Writers Ink, Fri., June 16, 3:30; a

group for any age writer to improve their skill.

Adults

- Learning the Trails of the Mountain Loop, with Edith Farrell, Wed., June 21, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
- Summer of Authors Features: Doctor Betsy MacGregor, at Mountain Loop Books & Coffee, discussing *In Awe of Being Human*, Sat., June 24, 6 to 8 p.m.

Closures

The library will be closed on July 4 in observance of Independence Day.

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

—Asheley Bryson, branch manager

At the Upper Skagit Library

"Build a Better World" and join our **Summer Reading Program**, beginning June 20. Kids up to 17 years old are invited to participate in our reading challenges, science- and math-themed activities, and free special events. Pick up a reading log and event calendar at the library or download the materials from our Web site. Read to earn free books and enter to win a Kindle—our Grand Prize! Library card not required. See special events in the Community Calendar on p. 15 of this issue of *Concrete Herald*.

The library welcomes local author **H. M. Bowker** (Marie Phillips—former Concrete School Administrator) for a reading and book signing of her newest mystery novel *I Can't Breathe!* on June 10 at 3:30 p.m. The story depicts residents of Libby, Mont., in 1958 as they face the impact of asbestos mining on their community. Meet the author, purchase signed copies, and participate in our Q&A. Free and open to all.

Cache in Concrete returns this summer. A walkable treasure hunt for all ages; spend an afternoon discovering the rich history of our town. Plus, take the Concrete Church Walk and learn about the historical church buildings in our community. Bring your completed Cache entry form to the Upper Skagit Library,

5b's Bakery, or Annie's Pizza Station by Sept. 4 to be entered to win raffle prizes sponsored by local businesses. Cache brochures can be found at the library and participating businesses.

Visit the library at the **Marblemount Market** on Sun., June 11, from noon to 4 p.m. Visit our booth to check out books, buy used books, apply for a card, and learn more about our services and programs.

Kids, get ready for **Silly Saturdays** from June 24 through August 5. Find five silly things in the library and win a small prize.

Craft Friday, July 7, 5b's Bakery, 6 p.m. Make a Clay Planter or Coasters. Supplies provided. Open to all ages.

New on our shelves

In adult fiction, *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine* by Gail Honeyman.

In adult nonfiction, *The Case Against Sugar* by Gary Taubes.

In young adult, *Between Shades of Gray* by Ruta Sepetys.

In children's, *A Perfect Day* by Lane Smith.

Upper Skagit Library Board of Trustees meeting will be held June 8 at 5 p.m.

—Cora Thomas, Library Associate

Lions R-O-A-R



This month's Concrete Lions Club **regular meeting** will be on June 7 at Annie's Pizza Station. (This is the last meeting till September.) The meeting starts at 6:30 p.m.; however, there is always a group that gathers around 6 p.m. to eat and socialize before the meeting starts. All existing members, mark your calendars. Anyone interested in becoming a member or learning more about your local Lions Club, feel free to stop by.

The Concrete Lions Club thanks the community for the great turnout and donations during **White Cane Days**.

We will serve hot dogs and hamburgers at 12:30 p.m. on July 14, during **Youth Activity Day** at Silo Park in Concrete.

The Concrete Lions Club has access to **medical equipment**, such as wheelchairs, walkers, shower chairs, and commodes,

which can be lent to help those in need. Contact any Lions Club member and we will do our best to help you.

I encourage members of our community to think about and **join your local Lions Club**. Our club is your club. We are a club to serve you and our community. Our hope for 2017 is to double our membership numbers. We all have friends and family who have seen the outreach of your local Lions Club, so now is the time to give great thought about being a member!

Thanks to **Jason Miller and Concrete Herald** for honoring the International Lions Club 100th Anniversary and our local Lions Club.

Thank you for your prayers for the healing of our Lions Club members.

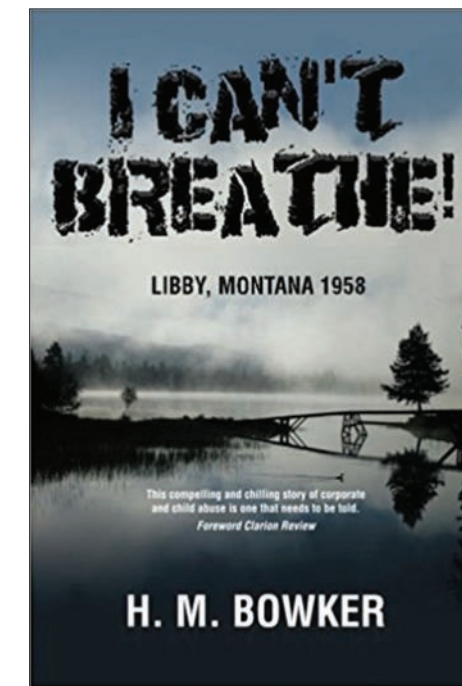
—Connie Smithhart

Upper Skagit Library hosts local mystery novelist

Upper Skagit Library will welcome former Concrete School District administrator Marie Phillips (H.M. Bowker) for a reading and book signing of her newest mystery novel on Sat., June 10 at 3:30 p.m. at the library.

I Can't Breathe! depicts residents of Libby, Montana in 1958 as they face the impact of asbestos mining on their community. Meet the local author and purchase signed copies of her book. The book is available for check-out at the library. The event is free and open to the public.

To learn more about the book, go to www.icantbreathehenovel.com. Contact the library with other questions: www.upterskagit.lib.wa.us or 360.853.7939.



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Out & About



Burlington

Strategic planning sessions set port's future

A strategic plan summary adopted by the Port of Skagit Commissioners at a regular meeting on May 9 allows the Port to continue leading efforts to build a strong economy in Skagit County. The Port's Strategic Planning sessions were held April 12 and 19.

Port strategies for the coming year include working toward building a community-wide dark fiber-optic backbone from Anacortes to Concrete, moving forward with plans to develop an innovation and clean technology campus in Sedro-Woolley, and improving several Port facilities. Port staff also provided an overview of the Port's long-term finance plan.

Major outcomes of the strategic planning sessions include:

- Build a community fiber-optic backbone. A Community Fiber-Optic Network Strategic Plan has been completed by a partnership of the Port of Skagit, Skagit County, and Economic Development Alliance of Skagit County (EDASC). The commission authorized Port staff to continue efforts to work collaboratively with local municipalities to construct the backbone. For more information about the county-wide effort, go to www.portofskagit.com/about-the-port/port-meeting-notes.
- Sedro-Woolley Innovation for Tomorrow (SWIFT) Center property transfer. In December 2016, the State of Washington reached an agreement with the Port of Skagit to transfer real property known as the North

Cascades Gateway Center—formerly the Northern State Hospital—to begin development of an innovation and clean technology campus in Sedro-Woolley.

The \$5 million, 225-acre acquisition is needed to begin redevelopment of the site, now called the Sedro-Woolley Innovation for Tomorrow (SWIFT) Center. The Port estimates redeveloping the property could create between 600 and 1,000 new sustainable, community-wage jobs in the region during the next 10 to 20 years.

The Port Commission took an important procedural step toward making the plan a reality this week when it formally gave direction to Port staff to continue to move forward with June 30, 2018, as the date to transfer the entire property. The Port will continue to work closely with the state Department of Enterprise

Services and other government partners to ensure a smooth transition as part of the ongoing collaborative process.

"Here at the Port, we are just getting started," said Port of Skagit Commission President Steven Omdal. "Building successful public-private partnerships is key to our success, and I look forward to what we will accomplish together in the coming months."

"This is an important step in the process," said Omdal. "And as a result of our Strategic Planning session and recent collaborations with the State, we found that transferring the property at one point in time will allow for a more streamlined process and create operational efficiencies for both entities."

For a complete summary of the Port's Strategic Planning sessions, go to www.portofskagit.com/about-the-port/port-meeting-notes.

Young athletes: Cheer them on to safety

By Tabitha Nenninger, MD

When it comes to playing sports, every kid's a winner. Game time can boost a child's social skills and provide plenty of healthful exercise that also is a lot of fun. But every sport can pose at least some risks, especially during intense summer sport camps. As a parent, you can work together with coaches and your young athlete to help reduce these risks.

What goes wrong?

Most often, young athletes are sidelined by:

- Sprains and strains. These involve injuries to ligaments or muscles and tendons.
- Growth-plate injuries. These occur when the developing tissues at the ends of children's long bones get hurt.
- Overuse injuries. These are the result of repetitive motions—pitching in baseball, for instance—that stress and strain bones and soft tissues. Overuse injuries are especially common when eager athletes don't take time off from a sport.

Stay off the injured list

Luckily, sports injuries usually aren't severe; often, they are avoidable. To help your child score in safety, consider the following advice:

- Ask questions. Learn what your child's sports program is doing to prevent and respond to injuries, such as ensuring conditioning for players and safety training for coaches.
- Schedule a physical. A preseason exam from a doctor will help confirm that your child is healthy enough to play.
- Get equipped. Depending on the sport, a helmet, body padding, mouth guards or shin guards, eye protection, and proper shoes may be needed.
- Play by the rules. From football to soccer, many sports have rules designed to prevent injuries. Make sure your child knows and follows them.
- Beat the summer heat. Give your child a water bottle and encourage

frequent intake.

- Warm up. Encourage warm-up exercises before and cool-down exercises after both practices and games.
- Don't downplay concussions. In general, players with a concussion shouldn't get back in the game until medically evaluated and cleared to play.
- Encourage rest. Athletes need breaks in between seasons and during practices and games.
- Speak up. Teach your child to speak up if he or she is sick or hurt. And remember to check with your child's doctor should you suspect an injury.

Most importantly, encourage your child to put down the electronic gadgets, get outdoors, and move!

Tabitha Nenninger, MD, practices at PeaceHealth Medical Group – Family Medicine in Burlington.

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Issaquah

Mountain Bike Festival enters 8th year

The eighth annual Evergreen Mountain Bike Festival is slated for June 10–11 at Duthie Hill Park in Issaquah.

Billed as the largest mountain bike festival in the Pacific Northwest, the event celebrates mountain biking with bike demos, activities for kids, skills clinics, and more, with more than 3,500 mountain bikers expected to attend.

The festival runs Sat., June 10 and Sun., June 11 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at King County's Duthie Hill Park in Issaquah.

Featuring more than 50 vendors and over 18 bike fleets, Evergreen's festival again promises to deliver more top-brand demo opportunities to new and veteran riders than ever before.

This is a family- and first-time-rider-friendly event. Record numbers of families and first-time riders took to the trails at the 2016 Bike Festival—and this

year organizers hope to break that record again. Anyone interested in mountain biking is encouraged to attend and participate in a weekend of community riding, games, and fun.

Activities include timed pump track runs, guided rides, trail riding for all abilities, jump show demonstrations, mini skills clinics, events for kids, food and beverage concessions, raffles (including passes to Sun Peaks Resort), and more.

The Evergreen Bike Festival is free and open to the public. For \$10 (Evergreen members) or \$20 (nonmembers), attendees can demo bikes all day, join skills clinics, enjoy guided rides, or take part in the pump track challenge.

In 2016, more than 3,500 people attended the festival to test new bikes and gear, or try mountain biking for the first time. All proceeds raised go to Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance's ongoing nonprofit mission to protect, build, and maintain trails statewide.

King County's 130-acre Duthie Hill Park is located at 27101 SE Duthie Hill Rd., on the Sammamish Plateau, in Issaquah.

For more information, go to www.evergreenmtbfestival.com.

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CONCRETE: 1st and 3rd Mondays: 2-4 PM at Concrete Community Center, 45821 Railroad Ave.

MARBLEMOUNT: 1st Monday each month: 10 AM to Noon; call to schedule, 360-848-8437, ext. 318

ANACORTES: 3rd Monday each month: 10 AM to Noon at the Salvation Army, 3001 R Ave.

BURLINGTON: Thursdays 12-2 PM at Tierra Nueva, 701 E. Fairhaven Ave.

SEDRO-WOOLLEY: Tuesdays 1-4 PM at PeaceHealth United General Medical Center, 2000 Hospital Dr., AND Thursdays 9-11 AM at the Senior Center, 715 Pacific St.

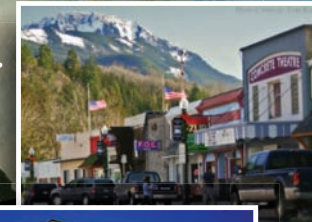
MOUNT VERNON: Tuesdays 9 AM to Noon at Christ the King, 2111 Riverside Dr., AND Thursdays 3-5 PM at the Senior Center, 1401 Cleveland St.

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Concrete's historic Town Center offers a variety of buildings and flexible spaces that can be used to develop your unique business. Our housing stock is waiting for people with vision and dedication to help us continue our path toward a vibrant economy and great quality of life.



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Smile



When The Good Days Come

A bike ride we'd been planning occurred on 20 May
In the morning we had bagels to set the tone of day
We ate one right away along with dark brewed beans
We needed proper nutrients to board our steel machines

The bikes were older things from times that once had been
My wifey steered a Raleigh while I piloted a Schwinn
Just west of Concrete town we pulled into park Rasar
Pronouncing it eludes me but it's where we parked our car

The morning was delightful the sun was coming through
We mounted our two wheelers as our adventure grew
Down the pavement we did glide through forested provinces
Near pastured country houses with gaily painted fences

The Skagit River to our left glinted like cold sheet metal
Prompting us that travel can be done without paired pedals

But I'd rather be on two wheels than one or just a rower
The finest pace for travel is near 10 miles per hour

We finally got to Sedro a town once wild and Woolley
Filled once upon a time with loggers priests and bullies
There is a market there that serves good drink and food
To wheel right by without a halt would be considered rude

We stayed over an hour just could not cease our eating
And when the time drew near once more I felt my thumper
beating
This drum inside my chest such music in my ears
We climbed into the saddle and range tested our gears

There is something about a bike that always makes me smile
Something about cruising and ticking off those miles
All I'm saying here my friend is when the good days come
The light should slip behind the hills before you're finally done

—Tom Pi

Public Service Announcement

By Stig Kristensen



Dwelleysms

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

"Ever notice how the guy with the hole
in his head is the one who never closes it
during conversation?"

"To be unloved is one thing, but to be
a salesman in a recession seems like the
bottom of the ladder."

—April 19, 1967

"The thing has happened we were afraid
of: We've let the legislature stay in session
so long, they're getting used to it."

"We know all the world loves a lover,
but do the films have to be so explicit?"

"There are discoveries yet to be made.
No one has come up with a suitable
substitute for fried chicken at a picnic."

"Apparently the new math is being
used in the school financing problems
in Olympia. Nobody can write it out so
we common folks of early education can
understand it."

—April 26, 1967

"Bears have begun to come out of
hibernation. Maybe they know something
we don't."

—May 17, 1967

"The only difference between the way
a congressman thinks he should be able
to live and the way his constituents think
he should live is the evaluation of who is
getting and who is giving."

"If World War III should suddenly
develop, we are certain that all 'official
sources' will maintain that somebody
misquoted all past remarks."

"For the one man who succeeds, there

are a hundred who helped him along by
having tried and failed. They also serve
who fall behind."

"The surest way to make a friend
is to immediately forgive him for not
recognizing your hidden genius."

"Pride has a way of confusing the truth
in the best of us. The first one to confirm
the bragging of a self-made man will be
his mother."

"Wonder if a thousand years from now,
somebody will dig our city out of the
cement dust and wonder about what kind
of people lived there?"

"A lot of our college students seem to
get confused these days in regard to the
way they should accept life and the world
outside. It's an open mind that is the goal,
not an empty one."

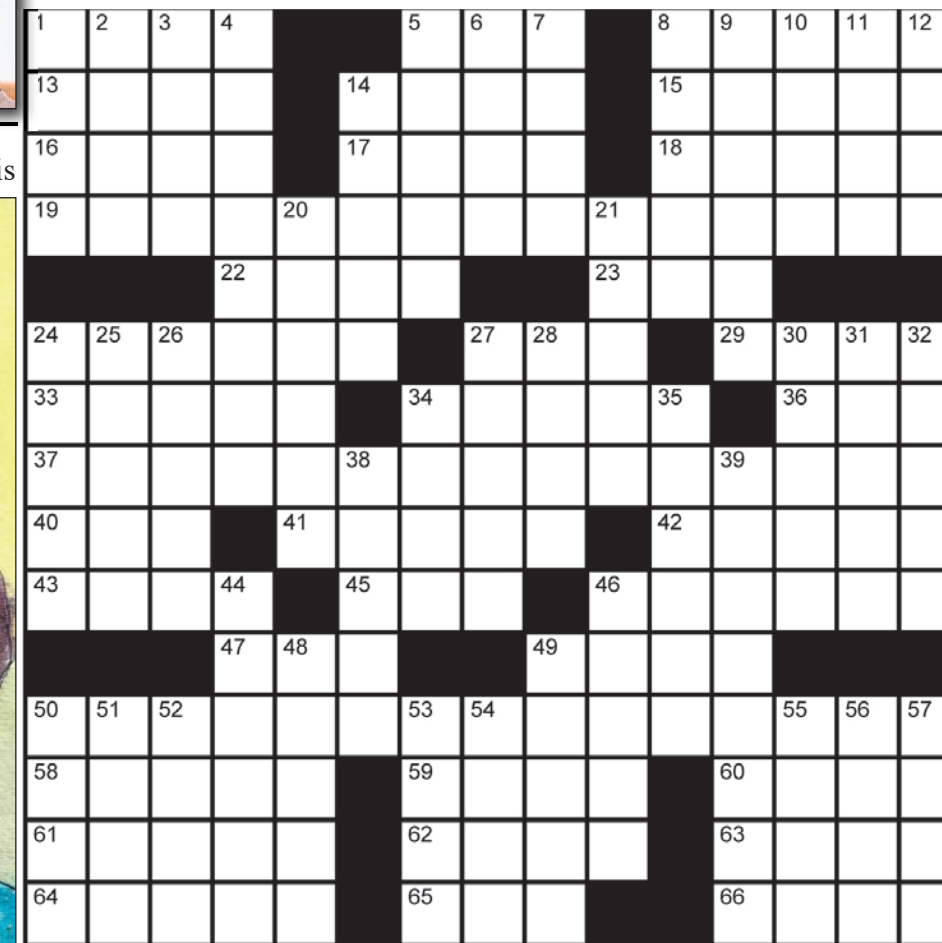
—May 24, 1967

Concrete Harold

By Joyce Harris



Crossword: "Careers"



Across

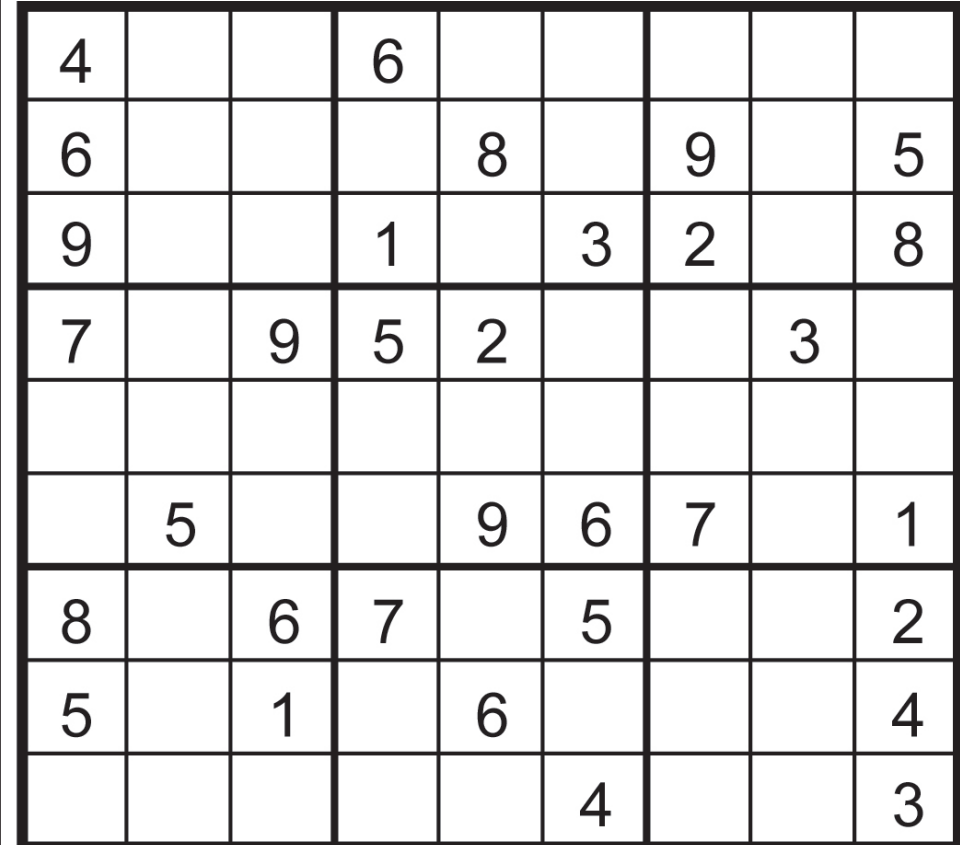
- 1. Embargoes
- 5. Paw
- 8. Nautical pole
- 13. On the safe side
- 14. Vice president under Jefferson
- 15. 747, e.g.
- 16. High time?
- 17. Crowning point
- 18. Hockey sites
- 19. Chopper cleaner
- 22. Offensive
- 23. Jump into a pool?
- 24. Drools over
- 27. Simpleton
- 29. Handle
- 33. Drupelets
- 34. Drive
- 36. Mud
- 37. Media snapper
- 40. Aquatic shocker
- 41. Informatory
- 42. Billiards move
- 43. "Nerts!"
- 45. Freelancer's enc.
- 46. Hip hop's Souljah
- 47. Cousin of an ostrich

Down

- 1. Boston or Chicago, e.g.
- 2. Frostbite treater
- 3. Brightly colored
- 4. Subjective
- 5. Fief
- 6. General assembly?
- 7. Wine sediment
- 8. Jag
- 9. Statue base
- 10. Eastern royal
- 11. Signs, as a contract
- 12. Makeup, e.g.
- 14. Makes an illegal move on the mound
- 20. Film genre
- 21. "A Doll's House" playwright
- 24. Dressed like Superman
- 25. Earthy pigment
- 26. "Twelfth Night" role
- 27. Charm
- 28. Light on one's feet
- 30. Old pay-to-graze arrangement
- 31. "All That Jazz" director
- 32. Schlepper
- 34. Hawkeye's home
- 35. Veneer
- 38. ____ Camp
- 39. Comics publisher
- 44. Penn's partner
- 46. Down at the heels
- 48. Chaotic
- 49. Knight mare?
- 50. Omani moolah
- 51. Sharpness
- 52. Top drawer
- 53. Bickering
- 54. One to grow on?
- 55. River to Donegal Bay
- 56. ____ East
- 57. Sticky fixer

Sudoku

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



*Solutions to both puzzles are on p. 38.

Funny as Facebook

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

- "Spring: The season during which whatever you put on in the morning will be wrong."
- "Hun, I know you don't wear glasses but could you just pretend to wear them for me? Also, could you pick up this issue of *The Economist* and pretend to read it? Thanks!"
- "The President's weave and spray tan are on point this afternoon."
- "I don't have a Twitter account, so I just carry around a megaphone to announce what I'm doing at random times. So far I have three followers, but I think two of them are cops."
- "My helper is paid 4 oz. of cheesy poofs per hour."

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that the membership fee for Mar-A-Lago doubled to \$200,000 since Mr. Trump became president?

To add insult to injury, he and the Republican House—including all of the Republican representatives from South Carolina and one from Washington—voted for the disastrous health care bill that would wreak havoc on people with pre-existing conditions and on the elderly. Remember the scarlet letter in the classic by that title that Hester Prynne was forced to wear when disgraced? Let such be engraved on their foreheads—assuming, of course, that they can understand disgrace.

Nancy A. Larsen
Anacortes

KSVU thanks all y'all

Maypole and potluck and raffle, oh my! What a wonderful evening of great music and dancing, eating good food, and visiting with friends—all for the sake of helping to keep KSVU 90.1 FM, our Upriver radio station, on the air.

Our humble thanks to all who made our annual "Blast Open the Pass" event the most successful ever:

KSVU volunteers Erma Baude, Bill and Sally Pfeifer, Kathy Manzoar, Katie Philbrick, Rodney Bain, Marren Avery, Robert McWilliams, Carol Montieth, Linden Jordan, Rick Bannerman, Donna Rae Brockman, and Nick Benske.

Many thanks to the donors of raffle and silent auction items: Greg Hochmuht, Mary Lester, Gail and Wanda Hinds, Ingeborg Hightower, Justin Prescott, Terri Wilde, Ray Hambleton, Steve Philbrick, Corina Sahlin, Sasa Bella and sons Wilf and Jessie, John Bromet, Northwest Garden Bling, Wolf Hair Designs, Rustic

Heart Desires, Glacier Peak Resort & Winery, Annie's Pizza Station, Cascade Burgers, Outdoor Ventures, and Perk's (my apologies for any omissions).

Of course, eternal thanks to our fantastic musicians, "Undecided" (Richard Lewis, Jeff Maher, Jim Fichter, and Andris Vezis) and "Jumbled Pie" (Linden Jordan, Debo North, Rob Coffee, Rich Cross, John Boyd, and Andris Vezis).

To our greater community, your generosity is something to behold! May independent, community radio survive to be your voice yet another day. Join us: Call 360.853.8588 and leave a message.

Gratefully...

Christie Fairchild (Rockport)
and the KSVU family

Barb Hoover thanks you

Thank you to my family for the wonderful 90th birthday party at the Lutheran church, May 21, at 11:30 a.m., and to all my friends who shared my birthday with me, and for all the gifts and cards.

Barbara Hoover
Concrete

Proud of American flags

Please give a big thank you to John Boggs for putting up the American flags on Main Street.

They are so pretty, and do the Town of Concrete proud.

Thank you to Val Stafford from the Concrete Chamber of Commerce and to Cascade Supply for donating the flags!

Carol Rohan
Cascade Supply

Flags, cont. from p. 3

"coopted" by the current crop of racists to mean something other than its original meaning. My father would have agreed with that sentiment because he steadfastly refused to admit he was racist, even though he clearly did not believe in equal rights. And yet, through his words and his actions it was clear what that flag meant to him. It brought back fond memories of a time when those who held power over others didn't have to relinquish it. I can't say that's what the battle flag means to everyone, but I can't fathom how people who choose to fly it say they don't recognize all the negative baggage it comes with.

There are always many shades of right and wrong, but consider this before you decide whether flying the Confederate flag is the "right" thing to do: Many people, including myself, have German roots to their family tree. And for those who do, you must realize that some of our distant relatives surely fought against us during WWII. Do you respect that heritage by flying a Nazi flag emblazoned with a swastika, or would you consider that a hateful act because of what that symbol has come to mean? These two flags carry an awful lot of unseemly baggage, and flying either one is just a different degree of the same act.

Yes, flags are full of symbolism. Soon, the Town of Concrete will launch a contest to develop a flag of its own. What message do you want to give the world regarding your community? Will it be one that dwells on the mistakes of our past or our glossed over view of it, or will it be one that welcomes everyone into our collective future? The choice will be yours.



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MOVIES & EVENTS AT THE HISTORIC CONCRETE THEATRE

WEEKEND MOVIE SCHEDULE:

Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Sat., 5 and 7:30 p.m.;
Sun., 5 p.m. (Dollar off Sun. @ 5 p.m.)
TIX: \$8 general admission, \$7 for 65
and over/12 and under
24-hour MovieLine: 360.941.0403
www.concrete-theatre.com

EMPLOYMENT

Berry pickers needed for July and August. Blue Heron Farm, Rockport. 360.853.8449.

FOR SALE

Bamboo Plants and Poles. Many varieties and sizes. Call Blue Heron Farm for information and/or appointment. 360.853.8449.

GARAGE SALES

Grassmere Village Garage Sale. 44574 SR 20, Grassmere. June 23–25, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

NOTICES

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that in accordance with Skagit County Resolution R20170089, and in compliance with RCW 36.34.080 through RCW 36.34.110, Skagit County real property, legally described below, will be sold at Public Auction by the Skagit County Treasurer on June 30, 2017 at 10:00 A.M. Public Auction will be held at 45942 Main Street, Concrete WA.

Property to be sold is commonly known as: 45942 Main Street, Concrete WA (Occupied by Concrete Food Bank).

Property is subject to Skagit County Lease agreement C20100316, Amendment A20170050. Tax Parcel #: P70523, 4048-004-007-0001

Legal Description: Lot 7, Block 4, "BAKER", as per plat recorded in Volume 3 of Plats, page 63, records of Skagit County, Washington; EXCEPT the North 6 feet thereof dedicated for street purposes by instrument recorded June 24, 1910, in Volume 6 of Miscellaneous records, page 422, records of Skagit County, Washington.

Situate in the Town of Concrete, County of Skagit, State of Washington.

Minimum Bid: \$2,500.00

Auction Location: 45942 Main Street, Concrete, WA.

Payment: Cash or certified check is due within two hours of the conclusion of the auction, in the Office of the Treasurer at 700 S. 2nd Street, Room 205, Mount Vernon, WA.

Terms of Sale: Skagit County reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids and to waive irregularities. Property is offered As-is/Where-is without representation, warranty, or guaranty as to the quantity, quality, title, character, condition, size, or kind, or that the same is in condition or fit to be used for the purpose for which intended.

The successful bidder agrees to assume possession of the property as of the date of conveyance.

Witness my hand and official seal of this May 25, 2017.

Katie Jungquist
Skagit County Treasurer

TOWN OF CONCRETE SMALL WORKS ROSTER

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

Published in *Concrete Herald* June 7, 2017
Andrea R. Fichter, Clerk-Treasurer
Town of Concrete
P.O. Box 39
Concrete, WA 98237
(360)853-8401
(360)853-8002 Fax
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AREA FOOD BANKS

Clear Lake

Community Covenant Food Bank

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

360.826.4090

Concrete

Concrete Food Bank

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

Darrington

Darrington Food Bank

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

Hamilton

Hamilton Community Food Bank

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

Lyman

Shepherd's Heart Food Bank

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

Marblemount

Bread of Life Food Bank

59850 State Route 20, Marblemount
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11 a.m.–4 p.m.
360.873.2504

Sedro-Woolley

Helping Hands Food Bank

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

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Sudoku solution, from p. 37

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

Crossword solution, from p. 37

1	B	A	N	S	4	5	D	A	D	7	8	S	P	R	I	12
13	A	L	E	E	14	B	U	R	R	15	P	L	A	N	E	
16	N	O	O	N	17	A	C	M	E	18	R	I	N	K	S	
19	D	E	N	T	20	A	L	H	Y	G	21	I	E	N	I	S
22	I	C	K	Y	23	B	E	T								
24	C	O	V	E	T	25	A	S	S	26	H	A	L	I	31	32
33	A	C	I	N	I	34	I	M	P	E	L	35	G	O	O	
37	P	H	O	T	O	38	J	O	U	R	N	A	L	I	S	T
40	E	E	L	41	N	E	W	S	Y	42	M	A	S	S	E	
43	D	R	A	T	44	S	A	E	45	S	I	S	T	E	R	
47	E	M	U	48	S	E	N	T								
50	R	E	A	L	E	S	T	A	T	E	A	G	E	N	T	
58	I	D	O	L	S	59	I	C	E	D	60	A	R	E	A	
61	A	G	N	E	S	62	F	R	E	Y	63	S	N	A	P	
64	L	E	E	R	Y	65	F	E	D	66	P	E	R	E		

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