

The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley

Concrete Herald

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50 cents

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The seniors issue



Graduating seniors from Sedro-Woolley, Concrete, and Darrington high schools reflect on the pandemic closure and what lies ahead. *Page 6.*

Concrete Herald

The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley

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From the Concrete High School valedictorian

Close connections a privilege

By Troy Schmidt

I'd like to start by saying congratulations to my fellow graduates! These recent times have been difficult for us all and I am very proud of all of you for continuing to work hard so that you can celebrate this special accomplishment! Nothing about the end of our senior year has been normal, but we have persisted to be here today and we will remember this forever.

I'd also like to thank the staff and our families, as well as our community for always supporting and helping us, especially these last several months. So many traditions and rights of passage that we would usually get to experience are being canceled or changed due to the current virus-related regulations. Our families and small school have worked hard to do everything they can to make the time that's supposed to be very special for us as special as it still can be given the circumstances. We even had community members come together to purchase banners of each senior to be displayed on Main Street in honor of our class. I continue to be amazed at all the things our small community and school district do for us here. We have so many privileges to be thankful for that larger communities and school districts do not have.

In school, it has been a memorable experience to know the majority of my teachers on a personal basis. I can ask questions and get help and the teacher quickly understands what I am talking about and knows how to help me; this connection takes time to achieve and makes for a better connection.

The bonds that we have amongst our class are very special also. There are several students who I met in preschool and remain friends with to this day. I am fortunate enough to know nearly every person in our graduating class on a personal basis. We never were the biggest class, but we always worked hard and as a team to raise class funds and compete well in school events; it was so cool for our class to win the Homecoming trophy this year!

I continue to be amazed at the connection that our school has with previous generations also. There are multiple people in this class whose parents went to high school with my parents as well. These are just some of the great aspects that our small school offers to us. The close ties between the staff, students, and alumni of Concrete High School is something very special that many larger schools do not see.

In the community, during almost every outing to the grocery store, I see someone I recognize and catch up with them about our lives. Having my coworkers, friends, teachers, and family all in the same area has made living in this small upriver community feel so personal and special.

My workplace is another great example that has been a wonderful experience from all the personal connections this small town has. I work as a farm hand at Ovenell's Heritage Inn. When my dad was in high school, he also worked at Ovenell's in the summertime, helping buck hay. His 5th grade teacher, Eleanor Ovenell, began and helped run the ranch at Ovenell's and was his boss when he worked there. Now, Eleanor's daughter is my boss! Hearing stories from the Ovenell family about my dad when he worked there always brings a smile to my face. The close relationships in this

See Editorial, p. 5

Opinion

Letters to the editor

Local heroes

Most people are aware of the high praise everyone is giving to the heroes in the battle against COVID-19: the healthcare givers and first responders. What some might not be aware of are the heroes we have right here in Eastern Skagit County, helping all of us deal with this nightmare in many ways.

Here, in no particular order, are some of the outstanding individuals and groups who, rather than staying safely at home like the rest of us, are providing essential goods and services to all of us, on a daily basis and without complaint:

- Dr. Garcia and Sarah and all the dedicated professionals at Sea Mar Clinic and Pharmacy, making sure we all are getting the health care we need.
- Claudia, Stephanie, and Chandra at the Resource Center, who provide emergency foods, vouchers, and other services to people who have no other source of assistance, and little or no way to get downriver.
- Terra at the Community Center, who serves up a nutritious sack lunch every weekday to 30 or more people, for the only meal many will get for the day.
- Adrienne and Marty Smith, and the staff at the Food Bank, offering healthy foods to folks in the area who might otherwise go without.
- Dan, Connie, and Michael, who deliver Meals on Wheels every Monday to many households in the area—seven frozen dinners in each bag—that for many is their only nutritious meal of the day.
- Mike and Richard Frank, and all the folks at Albert's Red Apple, offering

essential foods and goods to all of us in the area, saving us a trip down the highway.

- Don and Carol Rohan and the crew at Cascade Supply, helping us all out when we have a broken water pipe or need to fix a gate.
- Doreen and the others at our local Post Office, who stand ready every day to help us get our mail and packages to their destinations.
- Fred West of Cinema Septic, who provides an essential environmental service to all of us whenever we request it.

All these dedicated folks, and others not mentioned, are here to help us in these very trying times, and we should remember to thank them when we are the recipients of their generous help.

Bill Pfeifer
Concrete

Kudos to John Boggs

A big thank-you to John Boggs for once again putting up the American flags on Main Street in Concrete Town Center.

We are once again honored to provide these flags to the town free of charge, and we are so grateful to John for his role in this effort.

See Letters, p. 19

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 first and last names 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.

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Wilkins to retire after 34 years

By Chazlyn Lovely
Edited by Katy Tomasulo

Alan Wilkins is a man of few words. If you've attended a Concrete Town Council meeting in the past few years, you've likely seen him sitting in the far back left corner of the room, watching the proceedings with a serious look. If you're lucky, you've seen him chime in with a correction to information given about an ongoing project. More likely, you've seen him almost cheerfully note that he has nothing to report during the individual departments' section toward the end of each meeting. This usually brings a small smile to the faces at the table, less because it means that there's nothing urgent and disastrous going on in the Public Works department and more because everyone gathered at the meeting knows that even if there were something to report, Wilkins is more likely to spend time fixing the problem than talking about it.

Wilkins is the Public Works director for the Town of Concrete, a position he's held since 1999, but he got his start with the town in 1986 "mowing lawns," as he puts it. He admits that he did a bit more than just mowing lawns in his first town job, noting that he did his fair share of installing pipes and repairing water lines under the watch of then Public Works Director David Herring. (Wilkins' official title at that point was part-time Mechanic/Maintenance Assistant.)

Wilkins' hard work paid off quickly for him: He was given the position of full-time maintenance worker a few months after starting, moved to utilities assistant superintendent in 1988, and remained in that position until he became the director himself.

During his 21 years of directorship, Wilkins has taken on the role of not only doing the work of clearing waterlines, repairing streets, and managing the wastewater treatment plant, but managing others in the department and keeping track of the paperwork associated with it all. The reason he's stayed with the town for 34 years? He puts it simply: "I like the town, and I like the job."

One of the highlights of Wilkins' career is the restoration of the Henry Thompson Bridge in 2004, where he worked with a county engineer and contractors to rework the top of the bridge—rebuilding that section and cleaning it, painting

it, and installing new lighting. He also points to the work that he put in over multiple years overseeing a three-phased, multiple-agency-funded project spanning from Main St. to Grasmere, which included improvements to the water sewer infrastructure, as well as streets and sidewalks.

Wilkins also has been involved with the town's beleaguered wastewater treatment plant since its very beginnings in the winter of 2006, spending every day there overseeing its vital functions and ensuring that everything needing to get done gets done. The plant has been a major headache for both Wilkins and the town during the ensuing years for a variety of reasons, ranging from initial design problems to faulty screens (which Wilkins advocated be replaced sooner than they were) to a 2019 fine by the Department of Ecology for diverting wastewater into the nearby lagoon during periods of heavy rainfall. Despite the challenges, Wilkins' efforts helped the plant be one of six Skagit County and 119 statewide wastewater treatment plants to be awarded the annual Wastewater Treatment Plant Outstanding Performance Award by the Department of Ecology in 2015. This recognition is given for compliance with permits, pollution levels, report filing, and operations.

When not serving as Public Works director, Wilkins has contributed to the town in other ways during his years in Concrete. From 1986 to 2012, he was a member of the Concrete Volunteer Fire Department, achieving the rank of captain and then assistant chief. When asked why he joined the volunteer department, his answer is again simple and to the point: "I liked helping people."

Originally from Sacramento, Calif., Wilkins moved to Concrete in 1982 and was happy to raise his three sons in a small community. The pace of life in a place like Concrete is just right for Wilkins, both for his working years and his retirement years. When Wilkins retires on June 30, he plans to stay in Concrete, perhaps helping out with fireworks displays if the town can see its way to reviving that tradition (which he did for 18 years under the watchful eye of the fire department) and working on his stained glass art, which he hopes to turn into a small business.

Andrea Fichter, who became the town's

clerk-treasurer in 2007 and has worked with Wilkins in an administrative capacity since then, notes that while the two have very different personalities, there was a strong mutual respect for each other.

"Alan is a quiet and private person, but after all these years I have learned that he's also intelligent, artistic, and caring, and has a vast knowledge of the town," Fichter said. "It will be very different here without him."

Concrete Mayor Jason Miller echoed many in the town who are grateful for Wilkins' service and hard work. "Alan's dedication to our town is above reproach," Miller said. "His brand of loyalty is in short supply these days; you don't see as many people in the overall workforce who are loyal enough to stay with an employer for multiple decades. We will miss having him on the job."

Wilkins leaves co-workers Terry Coggins, Jesse Babcock, and Dale Angell in Public Works, with Concrete Town Council considering a contract with Water & Wastewater Services for operation of the wastewater treatment plant.

Freelance writer Chazlyn Lovely lives in Corkindale. Freelance editor Katy Tomasulo lives on Bainbridge Island.



Above: Town of Concrete Public Works Director Alan Wilkins in front of the town's wastewater treatment plant.

Below: Wilkins began his tenure with the town in 1986. This photo from Sept. 1987 shows Wilkins (standing) and then-Public Works Dir. Dave Herring digging a trench that would house a new culvert designed to curb Lorenzen Creek flooding. Archive photo by Anne Bussiere.



Graduation ceremonies hit the road, go online

Faced with pandemic closure and state directives that often have seemed like moving targets, school districts in the *Concrete Herald* coverage area are getting creative with their graduation ceremonies and related events. With final direction from the Washington Dept. of Health in mid-March, saying there will be absolutely no in-person graduation ceremonies for the entire state, local school districts are taking to the streets and going virtual instead—or simply waiting until they can do things their way.

Concrete High School

“We’re hoping for Phase 2 by June 5,” said Cheri Van Wagoner, the high school’s senior class advisor, who is organizing

the graduation plan with CHS Principal Christine Tripp. “We’re all hesitant to say anything.”

The day-by-day nature of life with COVID-19 made planning a meaningful graduation ceremony challenging at best, but at press time, Van Wagoner provided the following:

- Friday, June 5: Students enter gym one at a time, with up to two adults, for a 15-minute window during which they can step onto the stage, walk across it, accept their diploma from school officials, and let their parents or guardians snap some photos. Concrete High School art teacher Paul Rider will be on hand

to shoot video. Students will wear masks and maintain 6-foot distancing. Valedictorian Troy Schmidt and Salutatorian Izabela Ramos will record their speeches on this date, as will Tripp and Superintendent Wayne Barrett.

- June 11, 6 p.m.: Seniors and their parents get a final Senior Town Hall meeting with district administration officials, where they’ll learn of any scholarships the student received, as well as celebrate their honor cord achievements. “We’ve put together a slide show that features each senior” for this meeting, said Van Wagoner.
- June 13: The final celebration will be a drive-through parade at 1 p.m., into

Concrete Town Center. Here, seniors will view the banners hanging from the lamp posts, courtesy of Carrie Newby and her team of volunteers and donors. After picking up free popcorn at Concrete Theatre, the seniors will head back to the high school, where they’ll get a basket of goodies and well wishes from their teachers lined up outside.

Rider will compile and edit his video and still photos, and post a video to the district Web site at a date to be determined.

“I’m so happy with what the community has done for these seniors,” said Van Wagoner. “They didn’t get their prom and senior trip this year, but the money for the

See **Graduation**, p. 12

THIS AND THAT

By J. K. M.

Concrete Heritage Museum has decided to stay closed this summer unless conditions dictate otherwise.

But you can still visit the museum virtually at concreteheritagemuseum.org for downloadable tour guides and any notice of change.

The Web site also includes the museum’s list of available publications, audio recordings of the famous Durward Sobek’s Concrete High School Band, the online version of our Historical Walking Tour of Concrete, a tour of the interior of the museum, archives of 100 years of *Concrete Herald*, an extensive historic photo collection, and original plat and insurance maps.

Printed copies of the Walking Tour also are available at 5b’s Bakery, the Lonestar Restaurant, Annie’s Pizza Station, and the museum’s alley-side door.

Want to write to Mike Booker? E-mail him at michael.booker@cvn69.navy.mil.

The amazing quilters who were spotlighted in the April issue of *Concrete Herald* have distributed more than 4,200 face masks as a group and a couple thousand more as individuals. “We’re still doing it,” says organizer Judy Johnson.

Vendors will follow the market’s health and safety plan. The market will enforce rules for vendors and customers.

—Betty Seguin

Concrete Saturday Market announces rules for safe visits

Concrete Saturday Market kicked off its 2020 season on May 23 and continues this month.

Artisan vendors and musicians are missing so far this year because of the pandemic, but fresh produce, plants, honey, and jams are available. As the weather warms, visitors can expect more farmers with berries, cherries, and summer vegetables.

This season the market is a drive-in, farmers-only market—essential businesses—per state and county guidelines. To maintain a healthy, safe environment for all, market organizers are asking shoppers to observe the following shopping rules for everyone:

1. Keep 6 feet of distance between yourself and others.
2. Wear masks. The market has reusable masks if needed, because of a generous donation.
3. Practice good hygiene: Wash your hands with soap and water before visiting, at handwash stations while visiting the market, and at home.
4. Stay home if you’re sick or

experiencing symptoms.

Rules for customers

1. Stay in vehicles, except to access EBT benefits desk.
2. Keep 6 feet of distance between yourself and others when outside of your vehicle.
3. Follow and obey signs, markers, barriers, instructions from market staff, or volunteers.
4. Do not pass other vehicles in the parking lot; wait for them to pull forward for everyone’s safety. Vendors will bring purchases to your vehicle.
5. Don’t linger. Get in, buy products, get out with minimal social contact. Keep traffic moving; there will be cars behind you waiting.
6. No eating or drinking onsite.
7. Pay with card or exact change.
8. Shop 1 person per household.

Council summary

Concrete Town Council met for regular meetings on May 11 and 26. The 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 11 regular meeting

- Discussion ensued regarding Cascade Days and if the town would deny an events application from the Cascade Days Committee. Councilmember Marla Reed stated a majority of the events in the county have been canceled through the summer. Councilmember Rob Thomas asked what the committee’s drop dead date is for knowing if they are going to hold the event or not. He stated that he does not want to discourage this event from happening. Discussion ensued on the governor’s order and how the phases may work for reopening the state. Discussion also ensued that this event may not be allowed under the governor’s order, and there may be a lot of vendors who will not be able or willing to attend. Reed stated that a lot of vendors may be more worried about getting their brick-and-mortar businesses back up and running, and not so worried about the mobile part of their business. Discussion also ensued on what the town’s liability may be if council allowed this event to happen and someone became ill with COVID-19 and claimed they got it at the event.

- It was the consensus of the council to request a drop-dead date by which the Cascade Days Committee would need an answer, and to revisit this item at its July 13 meeting.
- Discussion ensued on the number of residents whose utility accounts are falling into delinquent status. Clerk-Treasurer Andrea Fichter said that there are a number of residents who would have had their utilities disconnected in March, but because of the governor’s order, no shutoffs or charging of delinquent fees have occurred. It was the consensus of the council to research other utility programs and to also send out letters again, emphasizing the need for residents to make some type of an effort to make payments toward their utility bill.

May 26 regular meeting

- Mayor Miller provided an update for ongoing projects. The sewer line dig-up project is almost complete. The water tank replacement project is proceeding, with most of the work scheduled to occur in August. The metering project will start within the next couple of months. Staff is working on some of the items related to the decommissioning of the lagoon. —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.

Editorial, cont. from p. 2

town like my family has with the Ovenells has become something I have really learned to value and appreciate.

As for my fellow graduates, let’s remember and treasure what special opportunities this small town and school has given us. Some of you may not know what you plan on doing after high school yet, but whatever it is, take with you the values that this community has offered to us. This community has taught me many great lessons, but some of the most important are that hard work and working together can bring out a lot of good in people and with these, the possibilities are endless. If you take these concepts with you into adulthood, I believe you will find yourself a lot more competent and motivated in whatever it is you choose to do.

I am proud of you all and look forward to seeing this group of individuals thrive after high school. The close connections, memories, and great people in this area have been a privilege that most kids in larger districts and communities do not get to experience. Let’s always remember that, and take the great lessons this community has offered with us into adulthood. Congratulations to every one of you for working hard, especially in these challenging times and completing high school.

We did it!

Troy Schmidt is valedictorian for the Concrete High School class of 2020.

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Graduating seniors reflect, look to future

Members of this year's graduating class find themselves in an uncertain world. After the COVID-19 virus shut down all schools in Skagit County in March, students had to adapt in many ways, including remote learning.

The class of 2020 won't enjoy a traditional graduation. Instead, a variety of approaches are in play this month, including video and drive-by ceremonies.

Concrete Herald asked the graduating seniors from Sedro-Woolley, Concrete, and Darrington high schools to share their thoughts on the effects of the closure, their plans for the future, and advice for the class of 2021. Here's what they said, in their own words.

Samantha Jo Jewell

Sedro Woolley High School

The COVID-19 virus and shutdown has greatly affected my senior year. I

have been looking forward to this year my entire career as a student. I am the fourth of five children in my family to graduate from SWHS. I have witnessed all of my siblings enjoy their last year of high school with prom, Hootenanny, baccalaureate, senior breakfast, the moving up and awards assemblies, the senior trip, and all the other fun senior events.

"My parents are very involved with everything. It was finally my turn! On March 16 that all changed; it all came to an end. I miss my classmates, my teachers, and the staff. There wasn't really any closure.

"I know our principal and parent group is trying very hard to make us feel special, acknowledged, and important, but it's not the same. I had planned to start training in the fall at the International Air Academy to become a flight attendant so I can

pursue my passion for travel, but I have decided to hold off until December in hopes that life will return to some sort of normal. Also to give my parents a chance to recuperate financially from both having been laid off and also to help with my younger brothers education as I don't see school starting up normally in September.

"My advice to the upcoming 2021 seniors is to enjoy every second, spend time with people, be involved in all the events and sports you can, because you never know when your time may be cut short. Hold your heads high, work hard, get good grades, and keep your eye on the future. Most of all stay connected! Don't isolate yourself; we have all this technology to interact with each other so use it, otherwise the silence and isolation will get to you and you won't be motivated to achieve the goals you have set for yourself.

"I know I will be stronger for having gone through this; I just have to keep reminding myself this isn't the end for the class of 2020, it's only the beginning!"



Alyssa Jean Scherf
Sedro Woolley High School

"The shutdown for this year was hard and life changing for me. I was able to go online to do school work and still see my support team at school on Zoom. Not having in-person things is hard, but it will be good for me.

"[I plan to attend] Skagit Valley College for two years, then work on becoming a teacher.

Advice: "Take it one day at a time, use your support people from school online, e-mail them."

Brandon Tyler Coleman
Sedro-Woolley High School

The virus affected my plans for the school year "negatively."

After graduation, "I plan to move to Alaska and work with my family."

"Don't blow off online homework. It'll come back to bite you."



Iona Werda
Concrete High School
Skagit Valley College

"Because of COVID-19 I will not get to attend my high school or college graduation. I had an internship lined up in Italy right after graduation, but that also got canceled.

"My plan for after graduation is to continue working at my current job, which fortunately I am still able to do. My plan is to help them start their own bakery. I feel very grateful that this plan can continue to move forward, despite the pandemic.

"If this pandemic were to affect the class of 2021, this is what I would say to them: Despite all that is going on around you, you must move forward. Your family and community need your help more than ever to get through this difficult time. Learn to adapt and never let your hopes and dreams of the future die. You can still make them become a part of your reality."

Taylor Jade Walker
Sedro-Woolley High School

"I lost the last few months of my senior year, missing out on so many things like my prom or even being able to walk the

Seniors, cont. from p. 6

stage to graduate after working so hard.

"I'm not sure what I want to do after graduation. But I do know that most college walks and offers are canceled due to the virus."

"Words of wisdom: Stay on track with your work. Don't get behind, because it's much harder to make up when you don't have physical time with your teachers. And try not to beat yourself up about it too much; it's a struggle we're all getting used to, but trust me, you'll still be able to do it."



Patrick S. Pittis
Sedro-Woolley High School

"Schooling wasn't bad because I got to be on my own schedule. I missed friends and would have liked to take my girlfriend to prom.

"After graduation I plan to work, probably in construction, until I am 21, and then begin the process of becoming

a police officer. [The pandemic] didn't really affect my plans at all."

Class of 2021 shutdown? "They just have to keep moving. Get your work done and move on to the next thing."



Jacob Neil Collins Howard
Sedro-Woolley High School

"I passed the Military Entrance Processing in June of 2019 and entered the

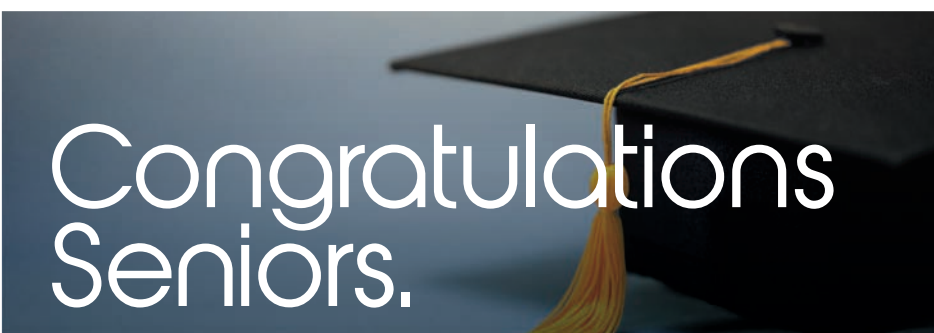
Marine Corps Delayed Entry Program. I took the ASVAB and qualified for over 90 percent of potential military occupational specialties, and ultimately chose to pursue the Infantry field. I have participated all year in weekly Marine Corps pool events, as well as volunteering at the Skagit County Fair Marine Corps booth, and in the recruiting office in Burlington. Through my hard work, I earned the title of Squad Leader for Burlington. I will ship out to Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego on June 15.

"The virus shutdown didn't affect my plans, as my ship date remained the same."

Troy William Schmidt
Concrete High School

"The virus shutdown changed the plans I had for my school year both positively and negatively. I had always thought and looked forward to being able to finish my last few months of high school with my friends on our senior trip, at senior prom, and other fun experiences for the seniors. Unfortunately, this was taken away from us and we are not able to finish high school in a traditional fashion.

See Seniors, p. 8



Now more than ever it's important to support our community. That's why our mission is to bring long-term success to our clients and this community. It's who we are down to the core.

That's why the **2020 Seniors** are such an inspiration.

Because success isn't just measured in dollars and cents, sometimes it's measured in character and perseverance.



Concrete 360.853.8171 45872 Main St SaviBank.com



We're proud of Concrete youth taking action!



Cheyenne and Andrea share their logic model with prevention peers in Dallas, TX.

Concrete Prevention Posse Members

Carissa Cross
Destiny Gilbert
Cheyenne Lewis
Leona Martinez
Jade McAdam
Andrea Rogers
Anna Spangler
Alex Whitford

**Together,
ViV youth
volunteered
over 250
hours!**

Volunteer Superstars

Cheyenne Lewis
Elijah Vialpando

Varsity in Volunteerism (ViV) encourages teens to volunteer in their community, and the Concrete Prevention Posse focuses on substance use prevention.



Building Healthier
Communities



Washington State
Health Care Authority



See Seniors, p. 7

Seniors, cont. from p. 7

“On the brighter side of things, how we finish the school year is now more up to us. We are not bound to physically attending school each day and partaking in many things that normally are mandatory. I have chosen to work full time-plus, while spending time with my friends and family in my free time to still make the best of the situation. Being out of school now has given me the opportunity to earn more money by working, as well as giving me the ability to choose how and who I spend the majority of my free time with. “Immediately after graduation, I will



continue to work full time as a ranch hand at Ovenell’s Heritage Inn for the summer. We have an annual fishing trip scheduled in the first part of July, but at this point, many questions remain as to whether this will be able to happen. In the fall, I will attend Bellingham Technical College for their Instrumentation and Control Technology degree. Hopefully not, but there is a chance there could still be school closures then, which would change my school schedule.

“Hopefully the virus shutdown will be done and through by this time next year, but if we are still dealing with it then, my advice to next year’s seniors would be to take advantage of all the opportunities you can now. If you have ever delayed your goals or wants because you thought ‘I’ll get to do it later’ or ‘I’m too tired right now,’ do everything you can to complete it then because you never know what may happen to keep you from doing those things. One of my favorite sayings is ‘work hard, play hard.’ Don’t push things off. Work hard now and the reward will allow you to play hard later. Live life as full as possible because this virus is just one example of many things that could happen that may keep you from accomplishing your goals, and the hard

work now does pay off.”



Devin Douglas-Wilbur Blankenship
Concrete High School

“The virus affected me negatively since it canceled baseball, senior trip, and graduation.

“I plan to attend Eastern Washington University and the virus is affecting those plans negatively too, since all classes might be online.

“My advice for class of 2021: Make sure you have a good WiFi connection.”



Mariah Lynn Casteel
Twin Cedars High School

“[After graduation] I plan to continue raising my daughter with her father (Gabe

Thompson) and to just take every day at a time. The virus is negatively affecting us due to the lockdown.

“If the virus continues to affect the class of 2021 in a similar fashion, I just want that class to remember that it won’t last forever.”



Levi Hollis Lowry
Concrete High School

“I’d say the virus affected me by not being able to compete in track and field my last year, and I can’t see my family and friends as much as I would like to.

“[After graduation] I plan to move to Walnut, Calif., to attend Mt. San Antonio college to get further education and to play football. I think there is only one effect the virus will have on this and it’s that I’ll have to delay when I move to California.

“My words of wisdom for the class of 2021 would be to stay in a routine, especially if you plan to go to college or work right after high school. Don’t let yourself fall out of a routine just because you don’t have to go to school in the morning.”

Madisun Tobisch
Sedro-Woolley High School

“I was really looking forward to a lot of the end-of-year activities and ceremonies that most seniors have been looking forward to since freshman year. On the bright side, I have had much more time to prepare for college in the fall and put in more hours at work to help me save

See Seniors, p. 9

Seniors, cont. from p. 8



money.

“After graduation I plan to attend Western Washington University with a focus on journalism. I think that COVID-19 will bring a lot of changes to the world and I’ll likely be taking more classes online than in person.

“I think the most important thing to remember is our humanity. In these times it is so easy to point fingers and find someone or something to blame, but kindness, gratitude, and patience is what I believe will get us all through these unprecedented times.”

Concrete Resource Coalition



Hello East County!

The coalition congratulates the graduating class of 2020. We are proud of you and your accomplishments! Keep your goals in mind and keep striving for them. Life is full of many peaks and valleys, and success is seldom a linear process. It’s important to keep moving and growing as an individual; even in challenging times, keep going!

In May the coalition met and approved our 2020–21 action plan. We hope to carry on many of the same programs we have done in the past, but are learning to be more flexible given our current health



Cody. W . Carlson
Concrete High School

How did the virus affect me? “Not going on the senior trip, prom, seeing my friends.”

After graduation: “Join the U.S. Army 11b (11 bravo).”

Words of wisdom for the class of 2021? “Hakuna matata.”

Aunya Kay Carpenter
Darrington High School

“I would say this virus has affected my life only negatively, I’m not even sure I

See Seniors, p. 10

climate.

During the May meeting, the coalition made the difficult discussion to cancel Concrete Youth Activity Day. This was not an easy choice, but the health and safety of all our community members is at the heart of why we do what we do.

Our next meeting is via Zoom on Thur., June 18 at 10 a.m. Please feel free to e-mail or call me for the link: stephanie.morgareidge@unitedgeneral.org or 360.854.7179.

Stay in touch by following our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ConcreteResourceCoalition—like, follow, and share.

Stay healthy!

—Stephanie Morgareidge, coordinator
Concrete Resource Coalition
United General District 304
stephanie.morgareidge@unitedgeneral.org
360.854.7179

BREAKING NEWS:

Concrete teenagers are protecting their developing brains.

MOST* do not use marijuana in a typical month

#OurChoicesOurStory

*71% Data from the 2018 Washington State Healthy Youth Survey

Due to safety precautions around COVID-19

CONCRETE YOUTH ACTIVITY DAY

IS CANCELED FOR 2020

We'll see you in 2021!

Seniors, cont. from p. 9



am going to graduate because of my lack of Internet access at home and the lack of leadership my school provides.

"To the class of 2021, if you were to face this in the upcoming year, I am so very sorry. No one should have to lose something they worked toward for so long. I know that at the moment it may seem like everything you have worked for is falling apart, but just trust me: If you have the willpower, strength, and a great support system, I know you'll get through this."

Izabela Ramos
Concrete High School
Skagit Valley College

"The virus impacted this school year in a lot of ways. We are missing out on



prom, our senior trip, and a traditional graduation. Thankfully, adjusting to online classes has been easy, and we have received a lot of support from teachers, family, and friends.

"I plan to attend Western Washington University in the fall to major in Language, Literacy, and Cultural Studies, and study elementary education. I know currently Western is looking to hold classes in a hybrid style because of the virus, and they are working on what housing will look like for this fall.

"If the class of 2021 has to face a similar shutdown, my advice is to stay positive and continue to be strong. In times of uncertainty, all one can do is control what they can and try to make the best out of every situation."

Christiann J. Barela
Concrete High School

"The virus shutdown greatly affected my plans for this year in both a good way and a bad. It's allowed me to pursue a somewhat easier path to my welding career, allowing me to study all day if I wish, but it has made it much harder to allow my class to graduate, which made us change how we graduate many times and sadly made us miss out on some senior luxuries.

"My plan is to possibly further my welding class on to next year, even waiting to graduate till after next year. This virus, if it continues, could make it difficult to get the practice necessary to complete the class with what I need to get possible jobs in the future.

"Class of 2021, don't underestimate how this will affect you and do as much as you can with what you have. It will always work out in the end."



Ebby Buchta
Concrete High School
Skagit Valley College

"I wasn't able to finish my last sports season ever or celebrate my graduation or have my last prom with the people who I have been friends with since the 6th grade, and I will never get to have those moments with them. On the positive side, because of everything being moved online and not much distractions, academically I am doing the best I ever have been and am more than excited to learn more.

"After graduating I am attending Seattle Pacific University in the fall and will study engineering. I hope the virus doesn't affect fall term, but as of right now I will be living in a single dorm as required by the school to ensure safety while still being in the school environment

and not online. I made the decision to move onto university instead of staying at Skagit Valley College for another 20 credits because of the many more learning opportunities and community at SPU I will be able to experience, and I hope the virus doesn't change those plans.

"My words of wisdom for the Class of 2021 would be not to take any moment that you are living for granted. As cliché as that sounds, it is important to remember the good times you had instead of dwelling on what you might not get in the future. It does suck and you have every right to be a little angry, but don't let the anger and bitterness eat away at you and get the best of you."



Jacquelyn Kay Jackson
Concrete High School
Twin Cedars High School

"The virus didn't really affect my plans for the school year since I finished my

See Seniors, p. 11

Dear Class of 2020 ...

You have always been such a special group. It's difficult not to be able to say congratulations in person.

This is a very memorable year for you in many ways. You made your academic goals even in the middle of a pandemic. You are an amazing group.

Once things open up, please stop by and see us. We are very proud of you! Go forth and change the world!

—Barbara Askland, Principal
State Street High School staff

Seniors, cont. from p. 10

work in January.

"I might move to New Jersey or somewhere else in Skagit County next year.

"My advice to the class of 2021 if something similar happens would be to just have fun and try to make the best out of it."



Peyton Sanchez
Concrete High School

"The virus' effect was kind of negative because I wanted to do track. I'm going to Whitworth University to play football, so hopefully it doesn't get cancelled.

"Stay on top of your schoolwork."



Isabelle Burtenshaw
Darrington High School

"The virus negatively affected my plans for my senior year. I had many plans that will never happen now. But I will try to stay positive about my class getting the graduation we worked so hard for.

"I plan on attending Central Washington

University to study biology. The virus can't really affect this plan; even if schooling is online, it would not be much different from what I am doing now.

"I hope the class of 2021 doesn't have to go through this madness, but if they do, they will have the support of the class of 2020."

Dominic Cassell
Concrete High School

"The virus shutdown affected me positively and negatively.

After graduation, "I plan on going to college for programming. I believe that [the pandemic] will affect me a little bit because the teachers will have a harder time teaching the students what knowledge they will need.

Words of wisdom for the Class of 2021: "Stay focused. Don't give up yet. You're almost there; don't slow down yet."

See Seniors, p. 12

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MOST Concrete teens do NOT use marijuana in a typical month.*

#OurChoicesOurStory

*Data from the 2018 Healthy Youth Survey

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Seniors, cont. from p. 11

Dear Class of 2020 ...

Congratulations to the graduates of Concrete High School and Twin Cedars High School Classes of 2020. We are so proud of you, your accomplishments, and your future successes.

I know that this is not the senior year you had planned for yourselves. It is absolutely not the senior year that I had hoped you would have. One thing is certain: Spring 2020 will now enter its rightful place in the history books, compared to the other pandemics of the last century.

New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees said, "It's not a matter of if you will face adversity in your life, but when. So when adversity knocks on your door, see it as an opportunity."

This is my message for you. Use the adversity you have faced and will face to be a better person. Adversity will try to defeat you. Don't let it. When adversity comes to knock on your door, look to your family and friends for support and then look to your own inner strength. I am confident that this strength and support will create the fine people that I know you are and will continue to be.

Congratulations ... Go Lions!

—Christine Tripp, Principal
Concrete High School

Dear Class of 2020 ..

The COVID-19 pandemic led to wholesale changes in our way of life. Schools, most businesses, and places of worship were closed indefinitely. Spring sports seasons, end of year activities, and many senior events and traditions were lost along the way.

As we approach graduation season, our hearts are with the Class of 2020. Please know that your sacrifices, great and small, have made a tremendous difference in our community. You have demonstrated your resilience by staying engaged and completing the requirements to graduate. Your character shined through as many of you stepped up to help family and friends with childcare, volunteered at the food bank, helped elderly neighbors, or entered the world of work to help out financially. Your spirit was evident in the way that you helped one another keep hope alive, encouraging one another by social media and in classroom meetings.

We look forward to your graduation later this summer as conditions allow, where we will celebrate your accomplishments and anticipate your bright future.

Congratulations to the Class of 2020!

—Dr. Buck Marsh, Superintendent
Cindy Christoferson, Principal
Darrington High School

Graduation, cont. from p. 4

senior trip will be saved, and when it is safe, they will get that trip, maybe even with the Class of 2021; we'll see."

"We have a great bunch of kids. They're working hard and things are coming together."

For more information, call the Concrete School District office at 360.853.4000.

Sedro-Woolley High School

"We're going virtual," said Sedro-Woolley School District Superintendent Phil Brockman of the high school's graduation strategy.

The high school started with a drive-through event on May 12, where seniors picked up their caps and gowns, graduation announcements, goodie bags, and yard signs. Here's where they'll go from here:

- June 4, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.: Seniors will head to the stadium (in the gym if it's raining), with up to two parents or guardians, where they'll walk across the stage, be acknowledged, and pick up their diploma cover. A photo will be taken and video shot of that ceremony.
- June 5, 5 p.m.: "Cubs Cruising to Graduation." High school Principal Kerri Carlton said "the whole idea is to recreate our graduates visiting their elementary schools," a tradition long held during the lead-up to graduation. The seniors will be driven by a family member to their elementary school, then middle school, then through town, then back to the high school. A balloon arch will greet them at the high school — where they'll get a gift from Carlton and Brockman — plus two programs for the virtual ceremony on June 12. "That's the way we'll recreate one of the most special moments for the graduates, while also supporting the teachers who supported them during their K-12 journey," said Carlton.
- Aug. 6, 8:45 p.m.: Everyone will descend on the Blue Fox Drive-In in Anacortes for a private screening of the video that gathers all the virtual graduation events, from the diploma walk to the "Cruise," with baby photos, "favorite high school memories" from each senior, plus "a little surprise for the students," said Brockman.

Graduation, cont. from p. 12

"It's a lot of work and a lot of time, but our students deserve it. We feel bad that we can't do an in-person ceremony," said Brockman.

"Graduation really provides closure, to have that handshake or hug that says 'you did it!'" said Carlton. "It's a beautiful moment. We are, to some extent, grieving not having that moment with each senior. This type of event is the next best way to have that moment."

For more information, go to <https://www.swsd.k12.wa.us>.

State Street High School

May 29 marked the day when caps, gowns, street signs, and other swag was passed out to the high school's graduating seniors. Students were encouraged to send in video messages for their classmates, to be included in a video along with messages from Principal Barb Askland, Superintendent Brockman, and a special speaker.

By June 9, all seniors are expected to have completed the coursework for the final year of their high school careers. The video will be released around the end of June.

"Students who want to walk in a traditional graduation event can do it next year. We'll do a double graduation ceremony," said Askland. "We had really hoped to be able to do something more traditional, but things change so fast, there's a point where we have to just do something."

Darrington High School

No in-person graduation ceremonies statewide? Darrington parents weren't having it. They chose to postpone the pomp and circumstance until they could do it their way, said Darrington School District Superintendent Buck Marsh.

"The virtual and drive-through graduation ideas aren't resonating with the folks here," said Marsh. "Our parents really feel strongly: They want to have a traditional graduation at the bluegrass grounds or the community center, and they're willing to wait until we're in the right phase in order to do that. They don't want to play by the governor's rules."

Marsh said that may mean waiting until July or August, but "the school board and the parents really want to the students to graduate and to have that traditional experience as much as possible."

In the near term, a drive-through parade

have something by which to mark their accomplishments, but their diplomas will wait for the formal ceremony.

And in the meantime, the district's teachers union paid for signs that went up in seniors' yards. Some seniors also put up a banner at the road leading into town by the hardware store. The high school is recording some speeches from students, in case some of them move away after June 6 but before the graduation ceremony.

"We don't want the students to feel like we've forgotten about them, but at the same time we're taking the pandemic threat seriously," said Marsh. "It puts us in a tough position, but we want to do what's right."

—J. K. M.

Dear Class of 2020 ...

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times."

This quote by Charles Dickens has resonated with me during the past several weeks, thinking about you and our nation. Class of 2020, our hearts have broken and mended with you since the time of our school closure; unable to have school in our traditional format, unable to host all of our senior celebrations, unable to hold what is meant to be our culminating event of your 13-plus years of schooling, your Graduation Ceremony "in person."

These missed events and moments have created a loss for all of us and we grieve with you. But in this shadow of sadness, I have seen you rise up. I have seen you smile and greet me with a positive spirit and drive I thought may have been lost. I have seen you believe in all the good around us and seize this opportunity to show us how resilient you are. How in every missed event, you have created ways to connect, to love, to care, and to give back. Many of you are taking care of younger siblings or family friends, many of you are working long hours to help fill a void in your home's finances, many of you are finding ways to help your community in the scarcity of volunteers. And you have never asked, "What's in it for me?" Instead you have shined a light of graciousness and goodness in uncharted moments.

I cannot share how very proud I am of each and every one of you. Your gracious, humble, tenacious heart will lead our nation. The best of times is yet to be because we are witness to your strength and courage during these past few months.

We believe in you, Class of 2020. Rise up and shine on!

—Kerri Carlton, Principal
Sedro-Woolley High School



Congratulations to the Class of 2020

We're Proud of You!



Clear Lake



HISTORY CORNER

The photo at right was taken at the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition in Seattle in July 1909. From left, Margaret Turner and her husband, John, along with Daisy Bell Bokemeier and Daisy's husband.

The primary physical legacy of the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition—which became known as the A-Y-P—is the planning framework from the fair, which continues to shape the University of Washington campus. The Rainier Vista and Drumheller Fountain, the focus of the A-Y-P, are today the central focus of the Science Quadrangle of the university's overall plan. Opening Day, June 1, 1909, was declared a city holiday, and 80,000 people attended. Attendance was even higher—117,013—on "Seattle Day." By the time the fair closed on Oct. 16, more than 3,700,000 had visited. *Photo courtesy of Clear Lake Historical Association.*

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

—Deanna Ammons, historian
Clear Lake and Day Creek



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Community Calendar



JUNE

- 6 Concrete Saturday Market, Concrete Community Center, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; see article, p. 4; info at concretesaturdaymarket.com, concretesaturdaymarket1@gmail.com, and Facebook: Concrete Saturday Market
- 6–7 Concrete Townwide Cleanup, containers located on Main Street, east of Superior Bldg., 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days; in-town residents only; bring flyer and ID; info at 360.853.8401 or andrea@concretewa.gov
- 13 Concrete Saturday Market, Concrete Community Center, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; see article, p. 4; info at concretesaturdaymarket.com, concretesaturdaymarket1@gmail.com, and Facebook: Concrete Saturday Market
- 19 Concrete Elementary School End-of-Year Schoolwide Parade, elementary school parking lot, 1 p.m.; bring the family, wave, and make some noise for the staff at the front of the building
- 20 Concrete Saturday Market, Concrete Community Center, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; see article, p. 4; info at concretesaturdaymarket.com, concretesaturdaymarket1@gmail.com, and Facebook: Concrete Saturday Market
- 21 Father's Day
- 27 Concrete Saturday Market, Concrete Community Center, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; see article, p. 4; info at concretesaturdaymarket.com, concretesaturdaymarket1@gmail.com, and Facebook: Concrete Saturday Market
- 27 Heart to Heart Charity KIDS Club party, 12545 Mill St., Clear Lake, 3 to 4 p.m.; games, snacks, fun—safe and sanitized; event will be postponed if not safe or legal by June 27; info at 360.826.3818 or hearttoheartcharity@gmail.com
- 27–28 Redmond Bicycle Group at Marblemount Community Hall, Marblemount

JULY

- 10–12 Concrete Old-Fashioned Fly-In—**CANCELED**
- 17 Concrete Youth Activity Day—**CANCELED**

AUGUST

- 2 Salmon Bar-B-Que, Marblemount Community Hall, Marblemount, noon to 5 p.m.; see notice, p. 26
- 13–16 Skagit County Fair—**CANCELED**
- 22–23 Cascade Days—**DECISION PENDING**
- 23 Old Timers' Picnic, Marblemount Community Hall, Marblemount, 1 to 4 p.m.

SEPTEMBER

- 5–6 Sasquatch Conference and Festival, Marblemount Community Hall, Marblemount, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days; see notice, p. 26

OCTOBER

- 31 KSVU Harvest Festival and Halloween Dance, Marblemount Community Hall, Marblemount, 6 to 10 p.m.; see notice, p. 26

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

Community meetings

Cascade Days planning meetings are held the third Mon. of every month, at the pilots lounge, Mears Field, 7879 S. Superior Ave., Concrete, at 6 p.m. Meetings are not mandatory for volunteers. Info at pr@cascadedays.com.

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

Coffee Talk with Concrete Mayor Jason Miller meets the third Friday 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 2 p.m., in the conference room of the East County Resource Center. 360.853.8347.

Concrete Chamber of Commerce meets the second Thur. of each month at 11:30 a.m. Meetings are held at Annie's Pizza Station in Grasmere Village. 360.466.8754 or concretechamber@mac.com.

Concrete Economic Development Commission meets quarterly at 6 p.m. at Concrete Town Hall. Call 503.333.2406 for the date of the next meeting.

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

Concrete Heritage Museum Board meets the third Wed. of each month, at 6 p.m. at the museum. Meetings are open to the public. 360.826.3075 or www.concreteheritagemuseum.org.

Concrete Lions Club meets the first and third Wed. of each month, at Annie's Pizza Station, Concrete. Social at 6 p.m.; meeting at 6:30. —**Concrete Resource Coalition** meets the third Thur. of each month, at 2 p.m., in the Concrete High School library.

Concrete School District Board: The board will hold a workshop on June 22 at 6 p.m., in room 111 of the administration bldg. The board will hold its regular monthly meeting on June 25 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 third Tue. of each month at the cemetery office on Compton Lane in Concrete, at 6 p.m. 360.708.3656.

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

Imagine Concrete meets the third Thur. of each month in the Pilots' Lounge at Mears Field in Concrete, at 7 p.m. Open to the public. 360.853.8213 or goodwords@frontier.com.

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

Lyman Town Council meets the second Tue. of each month at Lyman Town Hall (Minkler Mansion), 8405 S. Main St., 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 meets the second Wed. of each month at the hall, at 6:30 p.m. 360.873.2323.

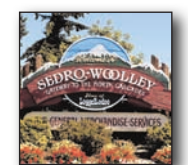
Sedro-Woolley Town Council meets the second and fourth Wed. of each month, at 7 p.m., in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 325 Metcalf St. 360.855.1661.

Sedro-Woolley School District Board: Meets for a regular meeting June 8 at 7 p.m. at the Support Services Building, 317 Yellow Lane, Sedro-Woolley. A second regular meeting is scheduled for June 22 at 7 p.m., at the same location. info at kcargile@swsd.k12.wa.us or 360.855.3500.

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

Upper Skagit Library District (USLD) Board meets the second Thursday of each month, 6 p.m., at the library. Public is welcome. 360.853.7939 or info@upperskagitlibrary.org.





Sedro-Woolley



Sedro-Woolley School District summer meals kick off

The end of the extended school year will bring a change to how Sedro-Woolley School District meals are distributed starting Mon., June 22.

The district will continue to operate the drive-through meal pick-up service at Cascade Middle School and Sedro-Woolley High School between 11 a.m. and 12 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Friday meals will be distributed on Thursdays.

Bus drop-off locations will include:

- Cedar Lane RV and Mobile Home Park: 10:35–10:50 a.m.
- Lyman Baptist Church: 11–11:15 a.m.
- Hamilton Community Food Bank: 11:30–11:45 a.m.
- Hamilton Post Office: 12–12:15 p.m.
- Clear Lake Elementary School: 11–11:30 a.m.

The district will reduce the number of bus drop-off locations, but parents can continue to pick up meals for youth 18 and younger. The brown bags will still include both breakfast and lunch (lunch for that day and breakfast for the following day).

In order to maintain our funding, the school district will send out a new survey to have an updated list of parents or guardians who will pick up meals at each of the locations above.

For more information, contact the Sedro-Woolley School District Food Service Department at 360.855.3515.

—Sedro-Woolley School District

Student journalists Zoom with Superintendent of Public Instruction

By Madisun Tobisch

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Chris Reykdal on May 7 met with 12 Washington student journalists via Zoom to answer questions.

As many aspects of everyday life are continually altered because of the impact of COVID-19, Washington is preparing for a new approach to education, which could mean a new normal in what the average school day looks like for most students.

With Washington State Governor Jay Inslee's April 6 declaration that all schools would remain closed for the duration of the school year, many students, families, and educators now question what the future of education in the state will look like when schools reopen.

In an attempt to answer some of the most pressing questions, the Washington State Journalism Education Association (WJEA) organized the May 7 press conference with Reykdal and the students.

Gov. Inslee's order will end on June 19, so next steps in the field of education and recreational school activities for the summer and early fall will be determined by his updates. Reykdal anticipates school sports returning, but not without social distancing.

"At this point I'm hearing a lot of optimism about sports this fall. What I'm not hearing optimism about is packing the stands with family and friends because they would be too close together," said Reykdal.

Once the governor updates his ordinance, it will be up to the Department of Health to decide what social distancing measures will be taken.

"The Department of Health and the CDC give us the guidelines, the University of Washington's virology lab is telling us Washington State's particular experience with the virus, and among those three groups, they tell us what the restrictions are," said Reykdal.

Future education procedures for Washington likely will be modeled after other states and countries that have already begun amending their school systems for COVID-19 and other future possibilities.

"This task force we're putting together will create a menu of options for districts on how they might open up this fall. We've got a group already looking at what's happening in other countries and other states," said Reykdal, who believes in allowing school districts to get creative when it comes time to reopen under new requirements.

"It might be that we have to cut our class sizes in half or that students stay in cohorts so that if there is an infection, the entire cohort can be isolated and not impact other students," said Reykdal.

As of now, it's a waiting game. "We don't see anything in the budgets that are going to allow us to hire a bunch more staff, so we're all kind of waiting for the Department of Health to say to us, 'you don't get to have 30 students in classes next year, it's 15 or 18,' and if that happens that's going to be a really, really hard thing to plan for," said Reykdal. "It's going to mean less instructional hours for most students."

One suggested option has been the

possibility of operating on a block schedule, with students showing up on alternating days to meet with their teachers while integrating more online instruction to make up for decreased class time. There will be an emphasis on keeping K-8 students in class as much as possible, with limited online work moving forward.

Reykdal also plans to encourage districts to further their professional development across their online learning platforms, such as Skyward and Canvas.

"Lately what we've been hearing is just too much volume. Too many different teachers using too many different platforms, and students and families navigating multiple different platforms to try to engage and connect," said Reykdal, adding that he will encourage districts to have one platform for learning management come fall that the district is focusing on, with professional development for all teachers so that they're prepared to be successful with it and, if possible, professional development and training in online learning for students and parents.

There is more riding on the reopening of schools than just expert opinion. "The health science will guide us and then our planning effort, but then there's another thing that's harder to judge: Will students and parents want to come back?" said Reykdal.

Reykdal predicts that geography will play a role in how schools across the state will choose to operate once reopened.

"The experience in Seattle will be really different than very rural Washington, which hasn't had the same impact."

The grading model likely will also be changed: Reykdal plans to move more school districts across the state to a more standard-based grading scale.

"We're trying to ... get down the volume of worksheets and volume of homework and volume of information to really get at whether students know concepts," said

Reykdal. "This has been a really eye-opening moment for our state and we're going to use it as a springboard to dive into standard-based grading."

Under the current statute, grading policies have been left up to the school districts to be determined on a district-by-district basis. Seattle and Bellingham school districts are offering grades of either A or I (incomplete). Sedro-Woolley School District is operating on a system that gives students either A, B, C, or I.

Reykdal says that despite debate on whether or not an A-I grading system is equitable, grades from this semester will be taken into consideration as the results of a very difficult time.

"For students in the A-I systems, I think there'll be a little blip for one term for some classes where the GPA looks a little healthier. It's exactly the reason why higher ed. and the business community said 'can you please put a notation on transcripts for this period of time,'" said Reykdal.

Superintendent Reykdal has hosted a number of Q&As and other informational videos on the Washington Office of Superintendent of Instruction (waOSPI) YouTube page, where families and students can gather more information.

Madisun Tobisch is a graduating senior at Sedro-Woolley High School and editor-in-chief of The Cub, the school's student newspaper. This article was first published on The Cub Web site and is republished here with permission and edited for style.

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Briefly ...

Woolley Fiber Quilters has canceled its annual July quilt and fiber show this year because of scheduling effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The show's theme and events will be rolled over to July 2021. The group will host an informal virtual quilt show on its Web site beginning July 1 and continuing through the month. Go to www.woolleyfiberquilters.blogspot.com for more information.

Walnut Tree thrift shop in Sedro-Woolley will reopen as allowed, in



A photo wall for graduating seniors at Sedro-Woolley High School sprouted on the fence at James St. in Sedro-Woolley, courtesy of the Sedro-Woolley Class of 2020 Parent Group. Behind the fence, painted on the front of the bleacher seats facing the football field is this year's message: "2020—CAN YOU SEE US NOW?"

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Lyman



Cemetery needs donations

The Lyman Town Cemetery needs funding help. The cemetery is fully funded by donations. Each year the Car Show donates to this fund, but that is mostly for bigger projects. The town needs more support for basic upkeep, gas, equipment, and more. The town used to receive more donations because the older residents understood the need for ongoing donations. Newer residents may not realize that without donations, the town can't support or maintain its cemetery.

Donations to the cemetery fund can be made in memory of loved ones, in honor of families, or just a basic donation.

Donations to the cemetery fund in any amount are tax deductible. Checks should be payable to Town of Lyman and sent to:

Town of Lyman
P.O. Box 1248
Lyman, WA 98263

Donors may also use a debit or credit card to donate by calling Town Hall during regular office hours at 360.826.3033.

Park closed to all but day use
Lyman Town Park is closed at this time

during the Stay Home, Stay Safe order. Restrooms are locked and the park cannot be rented out. Day use is allowed, but remember to keep a safe distance. For more information on the park and when it can be rented, contact Town Clerk Debbie Boyd at 360.826.3033.

Lyman Town Hall remains closed to the public. Utility payments may be made via phone with a debit/credit card, or with a check left in the black box by the front door. Boyd is there to answer calls; in-person services such as notary may be accessed by calling and making an appointment.

Charity plans Poker Run

Heart to Heart Charity's 6th annual motorcycle Poker Run fundraiser will be on Sat., Aug. 1. The event will start at Lyman Tavern, 8328 S. Main St., Lyman, and a free breakfast will be served for paid registrations. Registration is from 9 to 10:45 a.m. at the tavern, with kickstands

up at 11 a.m. Participants will receive one poker hand, a scenic ride, and a free breakfast.

Admission is \$20 for a bike/rider and \$30 for a bike/rider/passenger if paid before July 27; add \$5 to each if after July 27. Registration forms are available by sending an e-mail to hearttoheartcharity@gmail.com. The first 10 prepaid registrations will receive a biker's gift bag full of wonderful items.

Volunteers are needed for this event, as well as businesses that would like to donate prizes. E-mail or call 360.826.3818 for details.

The Poker Run helps the charity support activities for children of low-income families, including homeless bags, assistance, and its Christmas Angel Tree program.

The event is listed on Facebook at www.facebook.com/hearttoheartcharity.

—Tammie Werner

Letters, cont. from p. 2

Things might have changed in our world, but nothing is more important than our American flag and seeing them fly on our Main Street in Concrete.

Carol Rohan

Cascade Supply, Concrete

The world is ripe for change now

What a unique time to be alive. I feel compassion for all those suffering directly and indirectly from this pandemic.

Perhaps we can focus on growing acts of kindness for ourselves and others. This also seems like an opportunity to get outside more and appreciate plants, animals, and the generally radiant Great Outdoors. I think many people care similarly about nature and want to protect it from harm. That's why I ask our federal representatives to support the Great American Outdoors Act, and to encourage leadership to pass this positive bill. It's important to safeguard beloved wild and scenic places for outdoor recreation, public health, and biodiversity conservation purposes.

Our lives are enriched by thriving Nature around us. COVID-19 has elevated the crucial role parks, green spaces, and other natural places play in keeping us emotionally healthy and physically active. I hope my lawmakers and fellow citizens recognize the beauty and solace of nature in this challenging time and will stand in support of the Great American Outdoors Act and other federal, state, and local measures to keep our country as nature-rich as possible. Our well-being, as well as that of our fellow species, depends upon it.

Rebecca Canright
Rockport

A fire proposal

Thankfully, we've had a beautiful spring in the Upper Skagit Valley, with enough rain to keep the scenery green and the fire danger low.

It was a different situation last year at this time, and that drought condition continued into the fall. That our region escaped the calamity of wildfires has been ascribed to a miracle. Let's hope for kindly providence again this year, while also doing our part to keep our homes and the bucolic landscapes safe and serene.

This is to remind the people of Skagit Valley to remain diligent in fire prevention and mitigation. Remember to take necessary action around our homes and gardens that can make the difference between a good defense and disaster. For

when the hot weather comes, it brings with it tinderbox conditions, and just one smoking ember or rogue firework is enough to spark a cataclysm.

If we all exercise due diligence and take action now to "fireproof" our surroundings, we will have done our part to ensure survival.

Because fire prevention takes many forms, it is impossible to cover the various aspects in one letter. I refer the readers to the *Disaster Preparedness Guide* published by *Concrete Herald* every September, which is widely available at places of business and the Upper Skagit Library in Concrete, and also the voluminous information available on our smartphones.

The National Park Service reports that 85 percent of wildfires are caused by human accidents and by arson. Because this is so, public education and awareness of the problem is vital. Remember to educate your youngster about fire safety and remember to report suspicious behavior or unsafe activity by calling 911.

Finally, I'll close this letter with a word about the reality of spontaneous combustion of flammable materials during hot weather. Piles of leaves, compost, and mulch have been known to self-ignite under certain conditions, with or without the presence of accelerants. It is the responsibility of each and every one of us to safeguard our personal property from the threat of fire. By doing so, we are safeguarding our communities, as the flames care not about property lines or borders. Neither do they care for our children, our pets, and our loved ones.

So enjoy every rainy day we are blessed with this spring ... but plan ahead for emergencies. Should the unthinkable occur, know your escape routes and act quickly upon reliable information. When it comes to wildfires, every minute counts. So be safe and have fun this summer, but don't forget to act in the event of danger and always remember to be aware.

Heidi Rausch
Concrete

Class of 2020 banners: Thank you

As I scrolled through Facebook, I saw how other schools were honoring their senior class with banners hanging in town. I thought this would be a great idea to honor the CHS senior class. When I inquired about the price, however, I knew I couldn't do it on my own. So I put a post

See Letters, p. 20

Sheriff's Blotter, cont. from p. 35

An anonymous caller called to advise that two people were going to go out and burglarize houses in Cape Horn, Cedar Grove, and Pressentin. Deputy Wiggins located the residence where the two were staying and observed the residence for several hours, but no one left.

May 8

As he drove south on Concrete Sauk Valley Rd. near Concrete, Deputy Wiggins followed a truck that appeared to have an altered rear license plate tab. He ran the plate on the vehicle and it came back expired. He stopped the truck and contacted the driver. The driver's license was suspended and it required the driver to have an interlock device that would restrict him from driving a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol. The vehicle he was currently driving did not have the interlock device. Deputy Wiggins cited the driver for driving with a suspended license and no interlock device, in addition to failure to transfer the vehicle's title, which the driver had purchased in Feb. 2019.

The suspect in an assault was arrested by Deputies Arndt and Ayala for 2nd degree assault domestic violence. The victim in the assault said that he had been asleep at his girlfriend's house, and when he woke up he discovered that someone had attempted to log into his phone unsuccessfully. When he confronted his girlfriend, she became upset and started hitting him. While she was hitting him, he realized that she was holding a pair of scissors and appeared to actually be trying to stab him. He had minor cuts on his chest and head, which was bleeding. When confronted by deputies, the suspect said that the victim had shown up with a rifle and threatened people at the house. The suspect's story was not supported by evidence or witnesses.

May 9

Deputy Wiggins contacted three subjects who were walking on Baker River Rd., which leads into the property belonging to PSE. The three were warned that the road they were on is private and posted "No Trespassing." They were advised not to trespass and allowed to leave.

Deputy Wiggins took a call regarding a neighbor in Lyman possibly using a drone to spy on his neighbor. Deputy Wiggins explained the lack of laws pertaining to the use of aerial drones and advised the caller to look into getting a restraining order if the issue continues.

May 10

Ovenell's Heritage Inn called to request that several people who had been staying

at the inn be removed. The employee said that they had observed suspicious behavior that they believed was drug-related and did not want the subjects on the property. The inn advised that they will not tolerate drug activity on their premises. Deputies Wiggins and Mueller contacted the subjects. They were uncooperative until they were advised that they would be arrested. One of the subjects was a suspect in an earlier hit and run a couple of days before on the South Skagit Hwy. After locating all the subjects believed to be involved in the drug activities, they were all escorted off the premises and told not to return.

Deputies responded to the 31000 block of East Main St. in Lyman to investigate a possible domestic assault. When Deputies Kitchens and Montgomery, and Sgt. Hagglund arrived, they were advised by the reporting party that her husband had head-butted their 7-year-old child. When the suspect was confronted by deputies, the suspect was very hostile. He was arrested and taken to jail. While being transported to the jail, the suspect continued threatening to assault the deputies.

Possible reckless shooting was reported in the 29900 block of the Lyman Hamilton Hwy. Deputy Mueller responded to investigate, but was called away to a priority call. A few days later, he re-contacted the reporting party to gather more information regarding the possible location of where the shooting was occurring since it seemed to be a frequent issue. Deputy Mueller was able to locate a residence nearby whose owner admitted to target shooting quite often. The resident said that he and his friends were shooting in a safe manner and showed Deputy Mueller the area where the shooting occurred. The area had a safe backstop and Deputy Mueller determined that there were no issues with shooting at the location.

May 11

An owner of a residence on Colony Lane near Rockport called to advise that a 90-gallon propane tank that he rents from Vanderyacht Propane was missing. The tank was about half full of propane. He also located a half burned candle and some syringes on the property, and believed that drug users had been staying on the property while he was gone. The total loss of property was estimated at close to \$1,000.

At approximately 1:45 p.m. a caller reported to have seen a newer red

See Sheriff's Blotter, p. 21

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May in pictures



Clockwise from top left: May 8 saw something unusual leaving Rockport, headed for Mears Field in Concrete: Dave Adams' 1947 Piper PA-12 airplane (sans wings for transport purposes). The short parade was led by Greta Movassaghi, Adams' wife, with Artie Olson bringing up the rear. Adams, of course, drove his precious cargo to town. Adams said he bought the "basket case" airplane and rebuilt large portions of it in his home shop. *Photo by Dana Barton.*

TRICO Companies workers spent the better part of May digging up the most damaged sewer lines in Concrete and replacing them entirely. Town officials hope the project will drastically reduce the amount of stormwater that finds its way into the sewer infrastructure—and threatens to overwhelm the wastewater treatment plant—during Concrete's rainy winters.

Sedro-Woolley High School graduating senior **Josseline Aguirre** picks up her cap and gown from Jostens rep. Justin Osborne during a drive-through event at the high school on May 12. Seniors were treated that day to several stations that provided them with caps and gowns, graduation announcements, a goodie bag, a yard sign, and snow cones.

Sheriff's Blotter, cont. from p. 19

Mazda hatchback driving into multiple driveways. The vehicle was full of packages and the caller was concerned that the driver may have taken a package from his neighbor. The caller followed the vehicle on Pinelli Rd., but lost sight of him. Deputy Passovoy called the reporting party. He said that the neighbor had seen him following the car and flagged him down. The neighbor said the vehicle was carrying several packages and thought that it may have taken one, but he did not see the person in the car take one. The Sheriff's office did not receive any information about theft from this area of Pinelli Rd. It is believed that the car may have been making deliveries.

May 12

A motor vehicle accident was reported by a resident in the 33000 block of Lyman Hamilton Hwy. The caller advised that a car ran into his fence and it looked like the driver was intoxicated. The caller was concerned because the driver looked like he was trying to flee. Deputies Clark and Passovoy arrived and contacted the driver. He was arrested for DUI and the vehicle was towed. The driver advised Deputy Clark that he did not want to talk to him and wanted to be taken home. Deputy Clark took the suspect to the hospital, where Deputy Clark applied for and was granted a warrant for a blood draw. After getting the blood draw, Deputy Grant transported the suspect to his home in Concrete. As he was being transported, the suspect stated that he had been clean from drugs for more than 7 years, but had relapsed recently and started taking drugs again. He said it was hard for him to stay away from drugs and was always looking for a fix.

In the 400 block of Maple St. in Hamilton, a male was reported to be walking back and forth and was now lying in the middle of the road. Deputy Clark checked the area and was told that the suspect had gotten onto a SKAT bus and left prior to Deputy Clark's arrival.

May 13

A suspicious male was reported in the area of Cedar Grove Ave. and Baker Loop Rd. in Cedar Grove. The caller advised that the suspect was walking near the bus stop, looking into mailboxes. Deputy Passovoy contacted the suspect at the bus stop. He denied looking into any mailboxes and said he was only waiting on the bus. A neighbor nearby said he hadn't seen the suspect looking into any mailboxes, but said he was definitely

*Carrie Newby
Concrete*

acting strangely.

A small pickup frame that had been converted into a trailer was left in the middle of the road near the Dalles Bridge near Concrete. Deputy Brannon towed the trailer from the roadway.

Deputy Clark investigated a report of graffiti in the 700 block of Cumberland St. in Hamilton. The resident found someone had painted "LGF" on the floor in front of her apartment. Deputy Clark and Deputy Passovoy responded and located the suspect. He was advised not to go back to the apartment or he would be arrested for trespass.

Another caller from the 700 block of Cumberland St. in Hamilton called to advise that he had also found graffiti written on his front door. Deputy Clark investigated this call. He was shown the front door, where he saw just above the door handle written in red the initials L.G. F. The caller was able to take a photo of the suspect, who they said appeared to be on drugs or was intoxicated. Neighbors identified the suspect from the photo. Deputy Clark contacted the suspect, who denied writing his initials on the door. He was trespassed from the address and told that if he returned, he would be arrested.

May 14

Deputy Brannon investigated an assault in the 46000 block of Baker Loop in Cedar Grove. The victim said that she had been sitting with her ex-husband watching TV when her son came in and asked if he could watch the smaller TV that was in her room. Her ex-husband told him playfully no, that if he took the TV he would kick him. When he said that, the young boy picked up a small tin and tossed it at the suspect, hitting him in the groin. This caused the suspect to become upset and the suspect punched the boy twice in the arm. An argument began between the suspect and his ex-wife, leading to the suspect grabbing her by the throat and punching her in the head. The suspect then fled in his car. Later, while patrolling the area, Deputy Brannon observed the suspect's car driving on Concrete Sauk Valley Rd. He stopped the car and arrested the suspect for two counts of 4th degree assault domestic violence. The suspect admitted to hitting the boy and his ex-wife.

At approximately 8:20 p.m., a motor vehicle accident was reported in front of a residence in the 46200 block of Concrete Sauk Valley Rd. The vehicle involved was reported earlier as being parked in the middle of the Government Bridge just off Hwy 530 on the Concrete Sauk Valley Rd. The female driver had been standing

in the middle of the bridge, drinking from a bottle of alcohol. When she saw the reporting party, she got into the truck and left westbound on Concrete Sauk Valley Rd. The caller advised that the vehicle was swerving all over the road and was last seen turning onto the Upper Finney Rd. When Deputy Holmes arrived, he was advised that the driver had stopped to take pictures, then got back into her vehicle, drove about 30 feet down the road, and then drove off the road. Upon contacting the suspect, it was obvious she was intoxicated. After failing the standard field sobriety tests, she was arrested for DUI. She was taken to the Skagit County Jail, where she refused the breath test. A warrant for her blood was requested and approved. She was taken to the hospital, where her blood was drawn. She was then returned to jail and booked.

May 15

An employee at the Concrete Resource Center asked for deputies to check on a motor home parked across from the Concrete Resource Center on Main St. in Concrete. Deputy Montgomery contacted the occupant of the motor home, who said he had parked there to use the Internet and would be moving along soon. He planned to drive to California, where he was going to sell the motor home and get back to a normal life.

Two vandals were located on the PSE property at the Lake Shannon Quarry. A male and female were found hiding near the north gate of the property and both were carrying large amounts of spray paint. They admitted to Deputy Wiggins that they had put graffiti on the building located on the property. Deputy Wiggins issued citations to both of them for trespass and malicious mischief.

A transient person was reported to be on the lawn at the Lyman Baptist Church drinking a beer. Deputy Moore responded to find a person drinking an energy drink, waiting on the SKAT bus at the stop next to the church.

A caller reported a female on his property in the 500 block of Noble Ave. in Hamilton refusing to leave. Deputy Moore contacted the property owner, who said the female came onto his property yelling and cussing at him over an issue with horses on a neighboring property. The female suspect refused to leave until he called 911. He requested that Deputy Moore contact the suspect and trespass her from his property. Deputy Moore went to the suspect's home, but could not locate her. He believed she had either left or was refusing to answer the door.

Sergeant Ben Hagglund and Deputy

Dalton investigated a domestic disturbance in the 14000 block of Hwy. 530. The 36-year-old victim said that his 19-year-old brother had hit him for taking one of his Hot Pockets out of the freezer and eating it. The suspect was arrested and taken to jail.

May 16

Deputy Wiggins investigated a possible violation of a court order near the 46000 block of Baker Loop Rd. in Cedar Grove. The reporting party advised that the suspect was near the residence from which the order restricted him being within 500 feet. After investigating, Deputy Wiggins determined that the suspect had driven to the house next door to pick up his mail, violating the order. The suspect had already left. Deputy Wiggins will follow up.

May 17

Three males were observed walking on the road leading from the Lake Shannon boat launch onto the PSE property south of the launch. Deputy Wiggins contacted the three suspects. They said they knew it was private property and had seen the "No Trespassing" signs, but thought it was OK to go onto the property since they had seen others go onto the property. One of suspects appeared very nervous. He admitted he had a pistol in his backpack and he was only 19 years old. Deputy located a revolver in the backpack. He cited the 19-year-old for unlawful possession of a firearm and trespassing. The other two suspects were referred since they were only 16.

May 18

Dispatch advised that CPR was in progress at a residence in the 8500 block of Cedar Grove Ave. near Concrete. Deputy Passovoy responded to the residence. When she arrived, she located the victim lying on the floor with a person kneeling over him performing CPR. Deputy Passovoy placed the pads from her automatic heart defibrillator onto the victim. She then took over CPR and advised the other person to go out and direct the aid units when they arrived on scene. Deputy Passovoy then began to administer CPR. After a few moments, the AED administered a shock, and then she resumed CPR. As she was performing CPR, the victim appeared to start breathing again and his color returned. The victim was transported to the hospital by the ambulance.

Deputy Hill investigated an ATV accident in the 500 block of Division St. in Hamilton. They driver of the ATV had

See Sheriff's Blotter, p. 38

Letters, cont. from p. 19

on Facebook asking community members to help cover the cost of the banners. My heart was full when I saw the outpouring of support from community members, CHS alumni, and friends. I had to turn people away because of the amount I collected. We were able to purchase the banners and help purchase t-shirts for all of the seniors.

I would like to thank the following people who made sure Concrete honored the senior class of 2020:

Levi and Sarah Stewart, Don and Lisa Beazizo, James and Shelley Ferguson, Jeff and Jaci Gallagher, Renata Mapes, Torry Bruce, Andy and Lesha Zitkovich, Faith Daniels, Jennifer Collins, Hilde Parker, Amber Rooks—Class of 1990,

Katie Frank, Will and Wendy Shields, Monette Bauer, Jim Earley and Valerie Moody, Randall and Brenda Colwell, Katie Colwell, Mercedes Ramos, John and Kayla Ludwig, Ken and Liz Stewart, Les and Becki Hoover, John and Shelley Shepherd, Lee and Lisa Fenley, Randy Sweeney and Marilee Schrader, Colin and Kathy Howell, Angela Olsen, Sally

Straathof, Johnny and Janine Frizzell, Steve and Lisa Dills, Dave and Lori Corn, Jim and Carrie Newby.

We truly live in an incredible community that gives back when needed. I am so proud to say I am from Concrete.

*Carrie Newby
Concrete*



Hamilton



Rockport



Anglers can fish for free June 6–7

Anglers can forget the fishing license June 6–7, but the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is still asking everyone to remember to recreate responsibly for this year’s “Free Fishing Weekend” to keep their communities safe during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Anglers will need to follow state guidelines and health advice for the COVID-19 pandemic by continuing to recreate in their local communities, traveling only with family or other members of their immediate household, and practicing physical distancing by keeping six feet apart.

Anglers should check ahead of time if their preferred destination or launch is open. Some local marinas or facilities—including some tribal lands—remain closed, and anglers should be prepared to change plans if their first choice is closed or too congested.

Before heading out, anglers should also check the current fishing regulations valid June 6 and 7 at <https://fortress.wa.gov/dfw/erules/efishrules/>. While no licenses are required on Free Fishing Weekend, rules such as size limits, bag limits, catch record card requirements (a fee is required for a halibut catch record card) and area closures will still be in effect.

Halibut and razor clam harvest on the coast and intertidal shellfish in Puget Sound will remain closed because of

continued port closures and concerns about the spread of coronavirus in local communities.

While nonresident license sales are still suspended, nonresidents can participate in Free Fishing Weekend since no license is needed.

Anglers who take part in Free Fishing Weekend can also participate in the department’s 2020 Trout Fishing Derby and redeem blue tags from trout caught during the weekend. Interested anglers should check for details online at <https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/contests/trout-derby>.

Anglers will not need a two-pole endorsement to fish with two poles in selected waters where two-pole fishing is permitted. Also, no vehicle access pass or Discover Pass will be required during Free Fishing Weekend to park at water-access sites maintained by WDFW or Washington State Parks.

A Discover Pass will be required on Washington State Department of Natural Resources’ lands both days.

In addition, the free “Fish Washington” app, available on Google Play, Apple’s App store and WDFW’s Web site (<https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/regulations/app>) is designed to convey up-to-the-minute fishing regulations for every lake, river, stream, and marine area in the state.

Catch record cards, required for some species, are available free (except halibut will still cost \$5.50) at hundreds of sporting goods stores and other license dealers throughout the state. See <https://wdfw.wa.gov/licenses/dealers> on the WDFW Web site to locate a license dealer.

Camping, cont. from p. 23

reopen on a rolling basis. Whether or not a campsite is open depends on the location of the site and any maintenance needed. Most campsites on DNR land are on a first-come, first-served basis and do not have running water. Visitors should make sure campsites are open before heading out and have multiple backup options if a desired campsite is full. Campers should also be prepared to take care of all their personal hygiene needs. Always practice Leave No Trace principles as garbage services aren’t available.

Residents also are reminded to help to prevent wildfires by never leaving a campfire unattended. If it is too hot to touch, it is too hot to leave. Always check for burn bans before lighting a campfire. Only use DNR-approved fire rings (circular metal rings with grates) found in many DNR campgrounds. No dispersed camping fires are allowed.

Go to dnr.wa.gov/open for more details on what day-use areas and campsites are open.

Guidelines for responsible camping

To minimize staff and visitor interactions, land managers recommend the following guidelines when camping this summer:

- Know before you go: Check to see if your destination is open for camping.
- Stay local: Choose destinations close to home. This will reduce the need to stop along the way.

- Follow the rules: Rule enforcement puts visitors and staff at risk. Please follow all rules to reduce the need for interaction with rangers and other park staff. Never leave a campfire unattended.
- Come prepared: Bring all the supplies you need—including firewood—to reduce the need to stop along the way. Campsites may not have running water available, so always plan to be self-sufficient and have all the items you need with you to take care of your personal hygiene needs.
- Keep groups small: limit the number of people in your party to five, unless you’re all within the same household.

All visitors, including day use, should also follow the guidelines to recreate responsibly when visiting any public lands this summer. More information about those guidelines is at www.recreateresponsibly.org.

Camping closed on March 23 to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. The two-week closure was extended as a result of Gov. Inslee’s Stay Home, Stay Healthy order.

—Submitted by DNR, WDFW, Washington State Parks

State public lands campgrounds reopen in 22 counties

Rockport and Rasar are among a list of dozens of state parks reopened to day use (Rockport) and day use and camping (Rasar) on June 1 by the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission.

Camping on State Parks, DNR, and WDFW lands reopened in 22 counties on June 1. Counties reopening for camping are all actively in Phase 2 of Gov. Inslee’s “Safe Start” plan and have also been approved for camping by county officials.

The public should check state agency websites for the status of individual campgrounds and dispersed camping.

State Parks campgrounds

The reopening applies to campgrounds and various marine facilities. A list of open campgrounds and marinas can be found on the State Parks Web site: <https://parks.state.wa.us/1181/Parks-opening>.

Cabins, yurts, and other overnight accommodations remain closed until further notice. Group campsites will remain closed as well.

Campers are advised to make reservations for camping at a state park. This ensures they will have a camping spot when they reach their destination and reduces interactions with staff.

WDFW campgrounds

WDFW campgrounds will reopen, as well as dispersed camping at wildlife areas for counties that have approved camping. A list of open campgrounds is available on WDFW’s Web site: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/about/covid-19-updates>.

Campers and recreational vehicles should be self-contained, as WDFW lands do not offer draining or dumping facilities. Campers are advised to bring their own supplies, including water, soap, hand sanitizer, and toilet paper.

Washington State Dept. of Natural Resources

Most DNR-managed campsites will

See Camping, p. 22

State Parks offers three free days in June

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission has announced three days in June during which the public can visit state parks at no charge. On “free days,” visitors don’t need a Discover Pass for day-use visits by vehicle.

The first free day is Sat., June 6, in recognition of National Trails Day.

The next free day is Sun., June 7, which is the WDFW Free Fishing Weekend. A Discover Pass will not be required on WDFW or Washington State Park lands throughout the Free Fishing Weekend, but will be required both days on lands managed by Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

The third free day, Sat., June 13, celebrates National Get Outdoors Day.

The free days are in keeping with legislation that created the Discover Pass. The pass costs \$30 annually or \$10 for a one-day permit, and is required for vehicle access to state recreation lands managed by Washington State Parks, WDFW, and DNR. The Discover Pass legislation provided that State Parks could designate up to 12 free days when the pass would not be required for day-use visits to state parks. The free days apply only at state parks; the Discover Pass is still required on WDFW and DNR lands.

The remaining 2020 State Parks free days are as follows:

- Aug. 25
- Sept. 26
- Nov. 11
- Nov. 27

In addition, State Parks plans to reschedule the two free days in April lost to COVID-19-related closures.

WDFW invites public comment on proposed rules to set salmon fishing seasons

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is seeking public comments on proposed rules for this year’s recreational and commercial salmon fishing seasons.

The public can submit comments online at <https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/management/north-falcon/public-input>. WDFW also is accepting comments by e-mail to rules.coordinator@dfw.wa.gov or by mail to WDFW Rules Coordinator: P.O. Box 43200, Olympia, WA 98504-3200.

WDFW also will take public comment at 9 a.m. on Tue., June 9, during a public

hearing. To support continuing COVID-19 social distancing guidelines, the hearing will be available to the public through webinar or conference call.

The fishing rules are the culmination of a multi-month effort as part of the annual “North of Falcon” process, which gathers state, federal, and tribal fishery managers to plan the Northwest’s recreational and commercial salmon fisheries, with input from the public. This year’s process included more than a dozen public meetings, originally scheduled throughout the state, that occurred virtually to support public health during the COVID-19 pandemic.

To see the full rule-making package, visit <https://wdfw.wa.gov/about/regulations/development#pending>

—WDFW

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Glacier Peak Institute fundraiser streams live

STrEaMing the Future of Outdoor Education, the 4th annual fundraiser for Glacier Peak Institute (GPI), went online this year because of the pandemic shutdown.

On May 12, Glacier Peak Institute Executive Director Oak Rankin led the fundraiser via a livestream. Using props from the surrounding woods, Rankin explained how Glacier Peak Institute works side by side with local schools to incorporate outdoor education into their daily education plan.

Glacier Peak Institute—along with support from Washington State University–Snohomish Extension and many other partners—has established programs for underserved youth in Snohomish and Skagit counties to access the outdoors through its innovative STrEaMs (Science, Technology, Recreation, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics, Skills) programs.

During the hour-plus fundraiser, Brennan Muchmore, program coordinator for GPI and AmeriCorps member, provided video support, including Skye Schillhammers' "From Slide to Ride."

The first item offered was a \$35 gift card from the Burger Barn, followed by discounts on Growlers from River Time Brewing. Other items up for bidding and

support included a ticket to the future GPI fundraiser, raft trips on the Sauk River, hiking and backpacking trips, mountain bike trips, Forest Fridays, a romantic dinner package from Rhodes River Ranch in Oso, the continued development of the STrEaMs curriculum, a "coffee lovers" package, and the support of the Greenhouse and Horticulture Program.

At the end of the fundraiser, \$36,100 was raised for outdoor recreation and education. GPI is now more than three quarters of the way to its \$86,000 goal for 2020–21 funding.

"We are so humbled by the countless ways volunteers and donors support youth in building knowledge, confidence, and well-being through the transformative potential of the outdoors," said Rankin.

Anyone interested in donating to continue the interactive programs, which combine nature-based curriculum with learner-led research and problem solving, can find information on the GPI Web site, www.glacierpeakinstitute.org, and on Facebook.

—Marla Skaglund

Read
Concrete Herald
The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley

Snohomish County Sheriff's Report

May 8

The body of a 17-year-old boy who was cliff diving near Cedar Ponds during the evening of May 3 was recovered on May 8. Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue (SAR) deputies and Snohomish County Volunteer Search and Rescue (SCVSAR), as well as local fire departments, responded to the Cedar Ponds area just before 6 p.m. on May 3 to reports of a 17-year-old boy who dove into the water and did not resurface. SAR deputies and volunteers on scene searched from May 3 through 7, but were unable to recover the body because of dangerous conditions. Around 3:30 p.m. on May 8, SCVSAR Swiftwater Rescue Team recovered the boy's body from the water.

The Snohomish County Medical Examiner will provide positive identification, as well as determine the cause and manner of death. More than 10 Swiftwater Rescue Team volunteers participated in the search and recovery.

Last year, a 28-year-old Everett woman drowned at this same location. In 2018 a 22-year-old Monroe woman drowned at this location.

Currents are swift in Snohomish County creeks, and rivers and water temperatures are around 50 degrees. Consider the following safety tips before exploring our county's waterways:

- Always wear a life jacket when you are on the water. Never go near moving water without one.
- Beach logs, river banks, and rocks near the shore are usually slippery. A fall can knock you unconscious and prevent you from being able to save yourself.
- Consider bringing a whistle. If you are in trouble, it could help alert nearby people.
- Keep kids within arm's reach. Drowning is the second leading cause of unintentional injury-related death among children ages 14 and under.
- Don't dive in. Two-thirds of catastrophic neck injuries occur in open water and the sea.

May 14

For the past several weeks, Washington State Patrol (WSP) troopers in Snohomish and Skagit Counties have been working to track down a known criminal enterprise happening in the area. WSP has received several 911 calls regarding people stopping traffic on freeway interchange ramps, as well as following people into parking lots, begging for money in exchange for gold jewelry. This is a nationwide issue that has trickled into our area.

WSP has been in contact with victims who have been scammed out of money by this criminal enterprise, and has begun an ongoing investigation.

WSP asks that anyone who has more information, including dash-cam video of these incidents, to come forward so that its investigation can bring justice to those who have fallen victim.

If you or someone you know has information regarding this investigation, please e-mail WSP Trooper Heather Axtman at heather.axtman@wsp.wa.gov or call her at 425.583.9978.

May 12

Around 5:30 p.m., the Snohomish Regional Drug Task Force, the Snohomish County Violent Offender Task Force, Sheriff's Office Corrections Bureau staff, and the Lake Stevens, Marysville, and Mukilteo police departments responded to the Snohomish County Jail and arrested a 44-year-old employee and eight inmates in connection with introducing contraband into the jail.

Corrections staff became aware of possible narcotics coming into the jail on May 3 and contacted the Drug Task Force for assistance with the investigation. More than 10 Drug Task Force detectives began gathering information and working to identify the source of the narcotics entering the facility.

During their investigation, detectives identified a 44-year-old female employee as a possible suspect. She was contacted and interviewed by Drug Task Force detectives on May 5 and admitted that she was in possession of a controlled substance at her residence in Everett. Detectives accompanied her to her

Briefly ...

"Growing a Vegetable Garden in a Pot" is one of six free **vegetable gardening classes** being offered online by WSU–Snohomish County Extension Master Gardeners this June.

The class lineup includes:

- "Grow Your Own Salad Greens"
- "Growing Vegetable Basics"
- "Western Washington Vegetable Gardeners' Calendar"
- "Growing Vegetables in Raised Beds"
- "Growing Heat Loving Vegetables in the Chilly Northwest"

Each Zoom online class lasts no more than 45 minutes and includes time for questions. Classes will start promptly at 7 p.m. and will be held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings beginning June 2 and ending on June 18.

Advance registration is required for these free classes, which will be recorded, so that those who register but are not able to attend should be able to watch them later.

For more information and to register, go to <https://tinyurl.com/y9qw9ok8>.

Both directions of SR 530 are open.

Contractor crews placed temporary striping at the site of the WSDOT SR 530 emergency repairs, and reopened both lanes of travel. This is the stretch of highway about nine miles south of the SR 20 junction that had one lane wiped out during the winter storms earlier this year. WSDOT says permanent striping will be put down when the weather cooperates.

Work to build a one-lane bypass on SR 530

will mark the beginning of a major summer project to improve fish passage under the highway between Arlington and Darrington.

Contractor crews for WSDOT in mid-May began building a roughly 2,000-foot-long bypass lane just east of Arnot Rd. near Trafton Creek. When it is complete in mid-June, traffic will shift onto the bypass for about 16 weeks. Temporary traffic signals will control vehicle use of the bypass.

Crews then will replace the old culvert, which stops salmon and other fish from continuing upstream in Trafton Creek. The work is a continuation of last summer's project in the same area, when crews replaced a culvert under the highway at Schoolyard Creek.

Council summary

Darrington Town Council met for a regular meeting on April 8, 2020. (Town Council suspended its March 18 regular meeting.) The following is a summary of the April 8 meeting. Complete and council-approved minutes for every council meeting are available at darrington.com and online at townofdarrington.com.

April 8 regular meeting

- Town of Darrington has water rights off of Toby Creek, and the town has proposed leasing a portion of the water rights by acre foot for a 25-year lease. Golden Eagle and Tom McDonald are setting up a water bank. The rest of the water rights will be eligible for sale. The City of Burlington would like to lease some of the water rights on a yearly basis. Discussion ensued. Council directed Mayor Dan Rankin to speak with Burlington Mayor Steve Sexton about this.
- Mayor Rankin discussed his calendar. Because of COVID-19, he has not attended any meetings "down below." He calls daily to discuss the situation with the county executives, the health district, economic development, and the disaster response team from Snohomish County.

—Compiled from staff minutes

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

Sheriff, cont. from p. 24

residence, where she gave consent to search and provided an oval package wrapped in a nitrile glove. This packaging is commonly used for smuggling illegal substances internally.

Inside the package, detectives found 3.8 grams of heroin, 4 grams of buprenorphine, and multiple unidentified pills.

The employee was arrested and booked into the Snohomish County Jail that night.

The individual arrested was a Corrections Classification Specialist who had been employed since 2014. Upon her arrest, she was immediately placed on administrative leave.

This is an active investigation.

—Submitted by SCSO and WSP

Treasures of the night sky

By Stephen Somsen

On a few clear nights in May, we had the pleasure of viewing the brilliant planet Venus as it worked its way closer to the sun each evening in the western sky.

Now, with Venus lost from view for a few weeks until its return as a Morning Star in the east, we turn our attention to the northern sky.

The Big Dipper is easily one of the most recognizable asterisms in the night sky, the most prominent part of the much larger constellation Ursa Major or The Big Bear. If you are not certain what to look for, please consider an Internet image search for "Big Dipper June" to get a view of the seven stars high in the northern sky. You should find four stars in an outline of the cup of the dipper, with the remaining three stars in an arc for the handle.

On board a ship at sea in our latitude, the Big Dipper is easily viewed nightly all year long as it is "circumpolar"—making a daily counterclockwise circuit around Polaris, the North Star. However, here in the Pacific Northwest mountains, our view of the Big Dipper is best when it is highest in the sky, above the mountains and seen

upside down or nearly so. Because the daily circle of the Big Dipper around Polaris takes a few minutes less than 24 hours, its position at a given time of night, say 10 p.m., will be slightly different each night throughout the year until it returns to the same position exactly one year later.

The Big Dipper serves as a means of locating a number of other stars, with the North Star being one of the most often sought out as it is within one degree of True North and the angular height of Polaris above the ocean horizon is equal to one's latitude, which has been used by navigators of many cultures for centuries.

The two stars that make up the leading edge of the cup of the dipper are named Merak and Dubhe. The line formed by those two stars points directly at the North Star, which lies at a distance roughly equal to five times the distance between Merak and Dubhe.

Fun fact: Viewing the Dipper is a bit of time travel, as the light from those seven stars has been headed our way for about 100 years.

Amateur astronomer Stephen Somsen is a volunteer for the North Mountain Lookout project and a member of Darrington Strong. He lives in Darrington. Reach him at ssomsen@aol.com.

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Marblemount



Newhalem



Community hall remains closed

Marblemount Community Hall remains closed for the time being; however, as soon as we can, it will open up to some exciting functions.

May was the Annual Membership Drive, although we could not have a meeting because of COVID-19. Information will be mailed out, and membership will be available by mail. For members, dues are due this month. What is still open from the convenience of your vehicle is Wi-Fi, thanks to the Upper Skagit Library.

Memorial Day was somber, but we had a small number of visitors. A few restaurants were open for take-out only, as well as the Shell and Chevron with their small convenience stores. The private campsites were full, yet the State Parks gates were still closed. For the most part, everyone obeyed the CDC guidelines, and I noticed some very interesting masks.

Plans are still being made for the upcoming hall lineup, with KSVU Blast Open the Pass, Salmon Bar-B-Que, Sasquatch Conference, and KSVU Harvest Festival still on the 2020 calendar. As Marblemount continues to look ahead to better days and fun things happening here, we want everyone to be safe.

A big shout out to the Washington National Guard for all the assistance at the Marblemount Helping Hands Food Bank. The food bank will be open every week, on Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. until further notice, or assuming all goes well to the end of June. The food bank is drive-up, or, if you ride a bicycle or walk,

you must keep a 6-foot distance between you and the next customer. A volunteer will bring a box to you.

2020 calendar lineup

- June 27–28: Redmond Bicycle Group
- Aug. 1: Private party
- Aug. 2: Salmon Bar-B-Que, noon to 5 p.m.
- Aug. 23: Old Timers' Picnic, 1 to 4 p.m.
- Sept. 5–6: Sasquatch Conference and Festival 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days
- Oct. 31: KSVU Harvest Festival and Halloween Dance, 6 to 10 p.m.
- Nov. 21: Community event, 6 to 9 p.m.
- Dec. 6: Holiday Bazar, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

—Syvella Kalil



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North Cascades National Park increases access to day use areas

North Cascades National Park Service Complex announced May 28 that it would increase recreational access for day use.

The National Park Service (NPS) is working Servicewide with federal, state, and local public health authorities to closely monitor the COVID-19 pandemic and using a phased approach to increase access on a park-by-park basis.

Beginning May 29, North Cascades National Park Service Complex will reopen access to:

- Diablo Overlook.
- Ross Lake Overlook.
- Gorge Creek Falls Overlook.
- Trails for day use only. Many trails have not yet been assessed or cleared; downed trees, washouts, and other hazards may be encountered.
- Hozomeen (U.S. side) for nonvehicle, day use only. The international border gate will remain closed.
- All boat ramps and associated water on Diablo Lake, Gorge Lake, and the Skagit River.
- Stehekin marina and public docks for day use only.

With public health and safety in mind, the following facilities remain closed at this time:

- All campgrounds.
- All backcountry campsites.
- All visitor and wilderness information centers.
- Cascade River Road remains seasonally closed. It will reopen after snow is removed and winter road damage has been repaired.

“We will be glad to welcome visitors back to the North Cascades,” said Superintendent Karen Taylor-Goodrich, “but there are challenges in doing so. Due to the current public health emergency, our essential seasonal staff arrived later than usual, and many of the spring activities to get ready for the summer season have been delayed.”

“We urge visitors to bring all of their own supplies, including hand sanitizer, face coverings, toilet paper, food, and beverages,” said Taylor-Goodrich. “Once you arrive, please park only in designated areas, pack out everything you bring, and if you encounter a crowded trailhead or overlook, seek another location to recreate.”

While day use areas are accessible for visitors to enjoy, a return to full operations will continue to be phased in and services may be limited. Park visitors should follow local area public health orders, practice Leave No Trace principles, avoid crowding, and avoid high-risk outdoor activities.

The CDC has offered guidance to help people recreating in parks and open spaces prevent the spread of infectious diseases. For more information, go to <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/visitors.html>.

—National Park Service

Portion of Cascade River to close three days per week

WDFW has announced it will close a portion of the Cascade River to fishing for all species from the mouth to Rockport-Cascade Rd. bridge. The closure will be in effect Monday through Wednesday each week, from June 1 through July 15.

The closure is intended to avoid gear

conflicts with treaty fisheries scheduled weekly on those days, according to WDFW.

This section of the Cascade River will be open Thursdays through Sundays under the gear and harvest rules outlined in the Washington Sport Fishing Rules pamphlet.

For more information, contact the WDFW Mill Creek Regional Office at 425.775.1311.

—Submitted by WDFW

Motorcycle fatality increase a cause for concern

For a motorcycle rider, what could be better than warm spring weather, sunny days, and open roads? Yet, for too many riders in Washington, recent lower traffic volumes have led to higher speeds and tragically, to an increase in rider deaths.

In 2020, 12 of the 17 motorcycle fatalities on Washington roads occurred in April. Speeding was a common factor in these almost always preventable collisions.

There has been a significant increase in high speed violations by cars and motorcycles. Speeds in the mid to upper 100s have been observed, with one vehicle traveling 192 mph. At these speeds, the chances of being involved in a collision increase dramatically, and the severity of the collision is often deadly.

In 2019 there were 92 motorcycle fatalities, the most since 1982. Leading factors contributing to these numbers were speed, inexperience as demonstrated by a lack of a proper license endorsement, and driving while impaired. Driving while impaired is always dangerous, but when the impaired person makes a choice to operate a motorcycle, the danger rises significantly. The operation of a motorcycle takes more mental focus and physical coordination than driving a car. Focus and coordination are severely diminished by intoxicants and drugs. Motorcycles also lack many of a car's safety devices, such as seatbelts and airbags, to protect a rider in a collision. Even “minor” motorcycle collisions can have major consequences.

Unfortunately, another dangerous decision that some riders have made is

failing to stop for police for a speeding violation. The rapid acceleration and top speeds of modern motorcycles leads some riders to think that running from the police is possible. That is always a bad decision often leading to dire consequences, including serious legal troubles, injury, or being the victim or cause of a fatal collision.

Washington State Patrol too often sees individuals turn what would have been a traffic infraction into a serious felony offense leading to prison time and changed life trajectories. Very often, riders who think they are getting away are actually being followed by aircraft operated by WSP troopers. The plane follows the rider and safely coordinates pursuing and awaiting troopers to a final location, where the rider is arrested and taken into custody.

Washington State Patrol reminds all motorcyclists that open roads do not mean you are free to open the throttle. Enjoy your ride, but stay safe, obey speed limits, wear safety gear, be visible to other drivers, pay attention, and always ride sober.

No matter how busy or vacant the roadways are, speed is the number one factor in traffic fatalities. Slow down. The life you save may be your own.

—Washington State Patrol



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Pass opens with zero fanfare

After clearing resumed on April 13 with no media notification, WSDOT quietly swung open the gates east of Newhalem at 10:15 a.m. on May 12, clearing the way for east-west vehicular traffic over Washington Pass for the season.

The opening was a bittersweet moment for Upper Valley businesses and citizens. The highway is more than a scenic drive; it provides freight access, serves as an

alternative emergency route in the case of natural disaster, and allows tourism in the smaller communities along the highway to increase during the months in which it is open.

On the other hand, some east- and west-side residents worried that the opening would increase contact with COVID-19 carriers.

—J. K. M.

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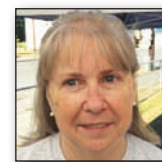
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Seniors



Verna's Kitchen

By Verna McClure

Scalloped Corn



- 2 cans cream-style corn
- 3 eggs
- 1 cup milk
- 3 Tablespoons melted butter
- 1 Tablespoon sugar
- 1 Tablespoon chopped onion
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 cup crushed soda crackers

1. Grease casserole dish. Mix the first 7 ingredients together and put in casserole dish. Sprinkle soda cracker crumbs evenly over the top.
2. Bake uncovered in a 325-degree oven for 1 hour or until a knife comes out clean.

Makes 6 servings.

Editor's note: In memory of our dear Verna, this column will continue until her recipe inventory has been exhausted.

Way Back When

80 years ago

June 13, 1940: The Washington State Planning Council, which has for the past year been making a study of the Cascade range in regard to proposals that a huge section of this country be made into a national park, reported this week upon its findings.

The report stated that the many resources of the area are too valuable to be tied up as a park, and that the administration of the national forests under the U.S. Forest Service had proved very efficient and effective in preserving and at the same time allowing use of the many resources. The report recommended that no change be made and no further lands be designated for park purposes.

The Washington Cascades embrace approximately 8,350,000 acres, or almost one-fifth of the state. The principal resources are forests, minerals, water, wildlife, grazing, and recreational and scenic areas. Under control of

the park system, all commercial use of the area would be checked, including road-building, hydro-electric development, and large-scale mining.

70 years ago

June 1, 1950: A private plane flown to Ross Lake Monday for a fishing trip crashed on taking off there that afternoon, carrying to death Mr. and Mrs. M. N. Yanick of Lake City, while their two sons managed to crawl clear of the wreckage and escape without injury.

The plane was attempting to take off from the lake behind Ross dam, flying toward the dam from Ruby Creek. The pilot saw that he was not gaining enough altitude to clear

the dam, attempted to turn, and in doing so he side-slipped into the lake.

Hank Moore, state game protector, witnessed the crash and was on the scene in his boat a few seconds later. While approaching the plane, he heard a cry for help and found the two boys swimming in the water. The oldest boy shouted for him to pick up his brother, and then started swimming for shore. Moore got the boy out of the water, then tried to get close to the plane to rescue the other occupants.

Moore said he believed they were unconscious, as no sound came from the plane. It was sinking

See **Way Back**, p. 29

Way Back, cont. from p. 28

rapidly at the time and nearly caught the boat when the nose went down, throwing the tail over in an arc that almost hooked the boat rail as Moore gunned it out of the way.

Miles, 14, was credited with saving his brother, 12, by unhooking the safety belt as the plane crashed and dragging him out the door.

The plane was located that evening with grappling hooks, but no effort was made to try to raise it until divers arrived. It was in 80 feet of water.

—Compiled from archives

East County

June 2020 activities

Concrete Community Center Meal Program

Mon.-Fri., 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

Take-out only.

Must be present to pick up a meal.

Donations always appreciated.

East County Resource Center

Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

360-416-1733

We are open and providing critical need services, information, and referrals to individuals, one person at a time.

For more information, please visit the Community Action Web site link, "COVID-19 Response," or call 360-416-1733.

Saturdays

All 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Concrete Sat. Mkt.



50 years ago, June 24, 1970: The big fir recently pictured in *Concrete Herald* calls for equal publicity for the big cedar now being trucked through Concrete. This log, taken from the Sulphur Creek area at Baker Lake last Wednesday, measured 8 feet at the small end and 11 feet at the butt. It was cut by W. J. Coffell Logging Co. Bob Coffell and his helper pose by his truck load. *Archive photo.*



40 years ago, June 26, 1980: Construction work at the new Concrete Elementary School is on schedule, Project Superintendent Bob Beck reports. The contractor hopes to complete the classroom sections ahead of schedule, in time for school opening in September, but said too many variables remain to be able to make a commitment on that date. Brickwork is nearly completed, roofing is to be finished this week, and crews are hanging drywall in the classroom sections. *Archive photo.*



40 years ago, June 12, 1980: Enjoying the traditional end-of-year "play day" at Concrete Grade School, Karen Stevens' 3rd grade class joins in the excitement of a wheelbarrow race. The afternoon of sports and competition celebrated this Friday's close of the school year. *Archive photo.*



LEMLEY CHAPEL

Funeral Directors

Rick Lemley
Doug Hutter
Tobi Stidman

360-855-1288
1008 Third St. • Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284
www.lemleychapel.com info@lemleychapel.com

Obituaries

George James Theodoratus

Feb. 18, 1931 – May 3, 2020

George was born at the Rockcut west of Concrete on Feb. 18, 1932, to Harry James and Ethel (House) Theodoratus. Harry had immigrated from Sianna, Rhodes Island, Greece, in 1906 with two brothers.



George, along with his siblings Robert, Alice, and Dorothea, all grew up in Van Horn, east of Concrete. The Concrete High School principal said George was "smarter than a fox," but was sadly disinterested in his studies, and one of the smartest students he ever knew.

After school George joined the Navy to see the world, but he ended up on the USS Hancock stationed in San Diego, where he ran an aircraft elevator. The elevator was rarely used, so out of boredom George bought some haircutting tools and set up a barber shop in the elevator, cutting hair between planes. He owned a speedboat with several buddies to cruise around the harbor and had many fun adventures in San Diego.

George returned to Concrete, where he met his future wife, Lois Pinelli, known as "hotrod Pinelli" to her friends. Lois worked at the U.S. Forest Service office in Concrete. They both loved convertibles and car adventures, and were soon married. A few years later, daughter Lisa was born.

George worked a short time at the Lone Star cement plant in Concrete, then for Puget Power. He was in the Lower Baker power house when it was hit by a slide that carried him into the Baker River, where he and another worker

were rescued by boat. George decided to end that career! With \$50 in his pocket, he started over as a developer. His first project was River Lane in Concrete. He then became a real estate broker and started Valleys West Realty, followed by Wilderness Village, a housing development on the south side of the Skagit River near Concrete, and Skagit Sunset in Birdview. George designed and built the Puget Power lodge at the upper Baker Dam and many houses around Concrete. He later built and operated the Concrete Self Storage. After selling the storage business to "retire" and becoming bored, he decided to start a new construction company and the Concrete Swap Meet, where he enjoyed conversation with vendors and shoppers.

George and Lois loved to cruise to exotic locations, which they did several times each year. He owned six tuxedos and was often thought to be the most dapper man on board, although at home he wore jeans and was well known for his suspenders.

George passed away at home after a short illness, surrounded by family and friends. Special thanks go to Roger Chapman and Patrick Wilder for their assistance.

He is survived by his daughter, Lisa Theodoratus of Sausalito, Calif.; two sisters, Alice Parker (Jim) of Concrete and Dorothea Theodoratus of Sacramento, Calif.; special niece, Ruby Haner, who was very close to George, and her companion, Mark Challenger of Bellingham; four nieces; and one nephew. He was preceded in death by his wife, Lois, and brother, Robert.

Due to coronavirus restrictions, the family held a private committal service at the Hamilton Cemetery in May and will hold a celebration of life later in the summer.

Memorial donations in George's honor can be made to the Concrete Food Bank or to a charity of your choice.

Committal services were under the direction of Lemley Chapel, Sedro-Woolley. Share memories of George and sign the online guest register at www.lemleychapel.com.

Sunday School lesson

Church and the pandemic

By Cindy Myatt

Wearing something red (maybe your favorite PJs), you Zoom into church. It is Pentecost, the celebration of the Holy Spirit descending upon the apostles. Where are you? Wherever a Wi-Fi signal is strong enough to connect you to the Zoom meeting. (Oh, yeah, and in isolation.) Who would have thought that the Holy Spirit could continue to move and inspire while you sit on your couch in your PJs and not in a church pew?

And wait, there is more. It doesn't stop there because we have virtual communion, too. What? Really, all who Zoom into the meeting are welcome at the table? Yup, have some crackers and wine, bread and juice, or tea and a biscuit, and we will bless it and consume it together virtually.

So, how do we do church during a pandemic? If we have learned anything in the last couple of months, it isn't easy. Clusters of COVID-19 cases have spread significantly due to church gatherings from rural Arkansas to New York and beyond. So the question is, how do we do church safely? Certainly, we can't stand at the door with a clicker and allow the first 20 folks in and say sorry to the rest.

Many churches had been thinking of unique ways to worship before the pandemic, and they had found that it works. Echoes in Bellingham is a (RE)

defining church and Emmaus Table at 7400 Woodlawn in Seattle's Green Lake area is a Repurposing church. Both are ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Churches of America), and both are redefining and repurposing what they believe church is. Not wanting to be defined by their buildings, both churches focus on their community. They are helping to promote the well-being of their communities by getting to know the community's needs. How are they doing this in the time of COVID-19? By being innovative: meeting by Zoom, reaching out by phone, texting, tweeting, and using other social media formats. Sunday services and Bible studies, cooking classes and poetry classes, even a Memorial Day virtual potluck. All of this is how both churches are finding ways to continue to contribute to their community.

Even the Quakers are going virtual by connecting using the digital platform Zoom to make their homes a meetinghouse to remember as they sit in silence and look at their faith community. The Holy Spirit is busy inspiring all to sit quietly and listen to what the universe has to say.

The number of people checking out these different ways of worship seems rather large. Is it because church really isn't about the building, or is it because people really do want to have some kind of spiritual connection and find streaming less stressful and kind of easy? This is a challenging time, and it can also be a time

See Sunday School, p. 34

Skagit County Sheriff's Office Blotter

April 29

An abandoned vehicle was reported to be parked near the bus stop on South Skagit Hwy. and Concrete Sauk Valley Rd. The reporting party said the vehicle had been parked there for about a week. Deputy Passovoy checked the area and located the vehicle with two occupants who appeared to be sleeping inside the car. Deputy Passovoy contacted the occupants and identified them. There was a no-contact order between the male and female occupants that restricted the male from contacting the female. The male suspect was arrested and taken to jail.

Level 3 Sex Offender NOTIFICATION

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

Martinez, Angel

Age: 31
Race: H
Sex: M
Height: 5' 4"
Weight: 150
Hair: Black
Eyes: Brown
Address: 2xx Gibson St., Sedro-Woolley



Martinez was convicted of 3rd degree rape of a child, violating a no-contact order, bail jumping, 3rd degree assault on a law enforcement officer, and 3rd degree assault in 2011, in Skagit County. His victim was a 14-year-old female who was known to him. Martinez was 19 at the time of his conviction.

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

Source: Skagit County Sheriff

Earlier in the day, Deputy Passovoy had contacted a citizen on Thunderbird Lane, who said that his neighbor was harassing him. He told her that the neighbor came over to his property and told the citizen that he had been exposed to COVID-19. The citizen took that as a threat. He was also upset because he felt his neighbor speeds through the neighborhood and puts his puppy at risk. Deputy Passovoy explained how to protect himself from COVID-19 by social distancing and wearing a mask. She advised him that if the neighbor comes back over, to separate from him by going into the house and to call the Sheriff's Office.

At approximately 4 p.m., Deputy Passovoy was dispatched to a vehicle prowl at the "trailhead" at Baker Lake. The victim said he returned to find his vehicle's tires slashed, multiple windows smashed, and several items stolen. When Deputy Passovoy called the victim, he told her that a Whatcom County Deputy contacted him already since the incident had occurred in Whatcom County, and he was able to report it to the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office.

Deputy Wolfe responded to a burglary in progress in the 8300 block of Cedar Grove Ave. in Cedar Grove. The reporting party said that a short female and a tall male were in her sewing room. As he was responding, Deputy Wolfe was advised that the caller was now saying that she was seeing red eyes bouncing around with what appeared to be a howling mask. She said that there could be three to four people now. Deputy Wolfe arrived and checked the property, but did not find anything. He checked the sewing room but it appeared to be in order. The reporting party said that she was missing a wheelchair from the room, but didn't believe anything else was missing. Deputy Wolfe documented the missing wheelchair.

The victim of an assault called to report that her boyfriend had assaulted her while she was lying on the couch in his home. Deputy Hill, Deputy Brannon, and Officer Howell from the Upper Skagit Tribal police responded to the residence on East Cascade Dr. near Marblemount. The victim and the suspect said that the suspect came home upset and found his girlfriend lying on his couch. He grabbed her by the ankles and pulled her off the couch onto the floor where she struck her head. The boyfriend was arrested for assault and transported to jail.

April 30

The rider of an ATV allegedly pushed

his neighbor after a confrontation over him riding his ATV on the roadway in Lake Tyee. The reporting party requested a deputy contact him to discuss the incident. Deputy Passovoy called the victim, who said that he observed his neighbor riding his ATV on the roadway in Lake Tyee and felt that this was illegal. When he confronted the neighbor, they got into a heated exchange and his neighbor pushed him. After speaking with Deputy Passovoy, the reporting party said he did not wish to pursue assault charges, but would like the incident documented in case there were further problems.

A neighbor in the 32000 block of Carpenter Rd. in Lyman complained about a neighbor who plays loud music at all hours of the day and night. Deputy Eichman told the reporting party that he would enter a patrol check into the SCSO system for deputies to be aware of the issue and to patrol the area.

Another citizen reported the same problem, along with a high amount of traffic, at a residence on Glenn Lane in Lyman. Deputy Wolfe advised the caller to call in when the issue was occurring so deputies could respond and contact the residence.

May 1

Possible drug activity was reported in the 46000 block of Baker Loop Rd. in Cedar Grove. The caller advised that there is a very high amount of cars coming and going from her neighbor's house at all hours of the day. The vehicles only stay a short time before leaving. Deputy Wiggins documented the activity and advised the East Detachment deputies.

While checking the boat launch area of Lake Shannon, Deputy Wiggins observed several cars parked at the launch. He contacted several people who were nearby and advised them that the boat launch was closed during the hours of darkness. The subjects left the area, leaving two cars still at the launch. As Deputy Wiggins left, he located several subjects walking out of the Lake Shannon Quarry. They admitted that the two vehicles parked at the launch belonged to them. Deputy Wiggins advised them of the rules concerning the boat launch and trespassed them from the quarry.

A possible attempted burglary was reported on Sobek Lane near Concrete. Deputy Wiggins contacted the

See Sheriff's Blotter, p. 35

Worship directory

Assembly of God

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

Citipoint Church North Cascade

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

Baptist

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

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

Lyman Church

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

Catholic

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

Covenant

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

Lutheran

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
46372 Main St., Concrete / 360.853.3714
www.uprivergrace.com
Sun. worship: 10 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.

Mormon

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
Concrete Group Meeting
7879 S. Superior Ave., Concrete (Pilots Lounge at Mears Field), 360.853.5417
Meeting Every Sunday, 1:30–4 p.m.
Potluck after services

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

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.

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

Rockport Christ the King Comm. Church

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

Wildwood Chapel

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

Concrete Volunteer Fire Dept. needs firefighters!

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



Chief Darrel Reed

Interested?

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



Applicants may live inside or outside town limits.

CONCRETE HERITAGE MUSEUM NEWS

Blast Open the Pass

The pass has reopened for the season and with it, hordes of travelers for the next five or six months. But did you realize this phenomenon is a relatively new invasion?

On Sept. 2, 1972, the North Cascades Highway, also known as State Route 20, was opened, joining by road for the first time the west and east portions of our corner of northwest Washington. More than three years after landing on the moon, modern humans had not yet seen or touched parts of the North Cascades mountain range, which stretch unbridged from Hope, B.C., south to Stevens Pass, Wash.—a full 100 miles.

Although indigenous peoples made this vast wilderness their home, trade routes, and hunting grounds for thousands of years, the early Anglo-Americans began to probe it in 1814 when Alexandre Ross, a fur trapper, survived the first known crossing, aided by three Okanagan guides.

Extreme topography, weather, and lack of any transportation to markets hobbled early efforts to seek furs, minerals, and other resources. One only needs to read the English names of prominent peaks to guess why: Desolation, Triumph, Challenger, Fury, Diablo, Devil's-thist-and-that, and more.

Native boatman in expertly crafted cedar canoes plied the rivers for a millennia, and as immigrants began to arrive, this became their transportation along the "liquid highways." As the deep, dark, old growth forests were gradually cleared, newcomers set up homesteading and some land-based trails were carved from the virgin land.

Steamers made their way upriver once the enormous logjams were removed near Mount Vernon from 1879 to 1900. By the early 1900s, the railroad made its way up the Skagit to Rockport, and with it many more people arriving to make their claims and seek the area's unknown riches.

Rumors of gold in Ruby Creek, silver up Thunder Creek, and the "green gold" of the forests enticed more settlers; eventually a few rugged roads made their arrival and survival less treacherous.

By the late 1890s, Okanagan farmers, ranchers, and fur traders were exploring possible passage from east to west, and eyed the well-known Cascade Pass route, used for trading between east-side and west-side tribes. The efforts failed. The costs of building and—after numerous

floods and avalanches—rebuilding became prohibitive. Other routes were surveyed.

By 1903 the state legislature had created a Highway Commission. By then many mines were in operation on both sides of the range. There was enough activity to justify a few crude hotels for the travelers, and by 1905, miners' voices were heard in Olympia and a bill was introduced proposing funding a road from Marblemount to Slate Creek, above the Methow. However, financial and logistical problems mounted up, effectively stopping any progress time after time.

Fast forward a few more decades. Seattle engineers discovered the "wet gold" of hydropower potential from the Skagit River. This brought more people, more resource extraction, more development ... and more need for cross-state access. The trail over Rainy Pass had been enlarged to a "truck trail," wide enough for a rugged jeep to cross. Dams were being built and with them, elaborate tours for wealthy funders who clamored for a road.

Promoters organized and the North Cascades Highway Association was born. The project became political, especially with the North Cascades National Park being established in 1968. The road was built and opened with much fanfare in 1972, 100 years after the first proposal!

To learn more of this story, be sure to visit the library once it has been reopened, and your Concrete Heritage Museum—next year. The museum will remain closed this year because of the pandemic, unless conditions dictate otherwise.

For more information, go to the museum Web site, www.concreteheritagemuseum.org for downloadable tour guides or notices of any changes. Our Web site includes our list of available publications, audio recordings of the famous Durward Sobek's Concrete High School Band, the online version of our Historical Walking Tour of Concrete, a tour of the interior of our Museum, archives of 100 years of the *Concrete Herald* newspaper, an extensive historic photo collection, and original plat and insurance maps. Printed copies of the Walking Tour also are available at 5b's Bakery, the Lonestar Restaurant, Annie's Pizza Station, and the museum's alley-side door.

—Christie Fairchild

At the Upper Skagit Library

Happy Summer!

We want to thank everyone who joined us for our #VirtualAuthorEvents last month; we had so much fun speaking with and learning from Karina Yan Glaser and Rebecca Serle and it seems that they enjoyed speaking with us too! Be on the lookout for more events like this in the future.

In the meantime, the winner of The Vanderbecker's #1-3 giveaway for our library is **Rebecca McAdam**—congrats! Huge thanks to the Friends of the Skagit Libraries for funding the event with Karina and the giveaway.

Normally, June is when our **Summer Reading Program** begins. This year, SRP won't begin until July 1. During June we'll finalize the planning for the program. We'll ready craft, art, STEM, and writing kits; design a Web site just for the SRP program; and explore options for virtual Dungeons & Dragons games with teen book/movie discussion clubs, virtual crafting groups, and more. If you have any requests for things we can do virtually, let us know via e-mail! This year's Collaborative Summer Library

Program theme is "Imagine Your Story: Folklore and Fairytales," so bonus points if your ideas tie into the theme. There's a possibility that some of our previous in-library programs could transition into the virtual space; let us know if that's something you're interested in.

I would like to remind everyone to hold on to all materials. As always, there will be no late fees. The library has a phased plan for resuming services that is based on Gov. Inslee's staged re-opening plan for the rest of the state. We don't have dates yet, but as the library enters Phase 2, we'll start opening up dropboxes again and start limited curbside service. If you have any questions or concerns, please e-mail info@upperskagitlibrary.org.

For the most up-to-date information, visit our Web site, upperskagitlibrary.org, or follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. (We have a Pinterest and YouTube channel as well, but these are not main information sources, just good fun.) Also, don't forget about our e-mail newsletter: Sign up on our Web site.

—Chazlyn Lovely
Library Assistant - Marketing



Concrete Chamber of Commerce News

By Valerie Stafford

From conversations at the Concrete Chamber meeting in May (held virtually), it's clear that local leaders are anxious to reopen eastern Skagit County as soon as possible. While some are taking advantage of the downtime to finish back-burner projects, others are reinventing their business models. It's been a challenge and a learning process, but we are optimistic and excited about our future.

What are you doing for fun this summer? With so many regular events being postponed or canceled, some of us are feeling a little unmoored. That's why the Concrete Chamber of Commerce is planning something special for the Fourth of July.

For the last nine years, the Chamber has hosted an informal, family-friendly event to mark Independence Day. It's been held in Town Center or at Veterans Memorial Park, and has featured a traditional parade, kids' games, and barbecue/potluck.

While none of those activities are acceptable during this public health crisis, we believe there are creative ways to celebrate safely.

On Sat., July 4, between 2 and 4 p.m., a "reverse parade" will take place on Main Street. Participants will stay safely in their cars while traveling the route from the Angele Cupples Community Garden to Concrete Town Center. Who knows what you might see along the way? There could be famous characters—including Uncle Sam—local fire trucks and volunteers, decorated storefronts, and other attractions along the way.

In our Town Center, you can treat yourself to popcorn or other treats at curbside, and then cruise around Bear Square to enjoy live music provided by Marcia Kester, a popular musician known for her upbeat personality.

Everyone can be part of the fun. Will you fire up your community spirit and help with this event? If you have a business or residence along Main Street, anywhere

between North Superior Ave. and North Dillard Ave., will you decorate a "stay-in-place float" or be out front with a flag? Can you and your kids sing, dance, and wave as the parade goes by?

If you'd like to be included, please send a message to Chamber@Concrete-WA.com and let us know what you part you want to play in our first-ever 4th of July Reverse Parade.

The next meeting of the Concrete Chamber will be held on Thur., June 11, at 11:30 a.m., online via Zoom (free videoconference application). Check our Web site at www.Concrete-WA.com for details or call/text Valerie Stafford at 360.466.8754.

Valerie Stafford is president of the Concrete Chamber of Commerce.

Sedro-Woolley, Concrete, and Darrington merchants bring Concrete Herald to you each month.

Please support them!



Lynette Gentry
Vice President
Branch Manager
NMLS# 1394475



45872 Main Street, Concrete, WA 98237
PO Box 2017, Concrete, WA 98237
P 360.853.8171 F 360.853.7740
lgentry@savibank.com



Bookkeeping

UpRiver Bookkeeping Services
360.853.7667 or 360.708.9761
upriver21@hotmail.com
Reasonable rates
Payroll services to full-charge bookkeeping

Brew pubs

Birdsview Brewing Co.
Fresh micro beer brewed on our premises
Great food! Family friendly!
Open Tuesdays through Sundays
38302 SR 20, Birdsview // 360.826.3406
www.birdsviewbrewingcompany.com

Construction

Don Payne's Backhoe Services
Extensive experience, reasonable rates
Trenching for electrical and plumbing lines, site preparation, road- and lot-clearing
360.853.7838 / 770.0178 / #PAYNE*066BC
dpaynes2001@yahoo.com

Hair salons

Hair Fitness
Complete family hair care, specializing in:
PERMS / COLOR & CUTS / WAXING
More than 25 years' experience!
Call Kathy Monrad and Becki Hoover for appt
360.853.8684

Liquor stores

Concrete Liquor Store & Convenience Store
45895 Main Street, Concrete // 360.853.7149
Monday thru Saturday 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Gifts, Rocks, Tobacco, Cigars, and more!

Pawn shops

Gold Nugget Jewelry & Loan
New & Used guns, ammo, sporting goods
We Buy, Sell, & Loan Guns, gold, coins
Corner of Hwy 530 & Mt. Loop Hwy,
Darrington
Mon.-Fri. 10–6, Sat. 10–5
360.436.1029 www.goldnuggetpawnshop.com

Ranches

Double O Ranch, LLC
46276 Concrete Sauk Valley Rd., Concrete
360.770.5380, 9-5 M-F, by appt. weekends.
All natural, grass-fed, USDA inspected beef by the package, ¼ and ½ beef orders.
Burger available at Albert's Red Apple.

Restaurants

Cascade Burgers
45292 State Route 20, Concrete
Featuring great burgers, fries, and milkshakes in a 1950s, family-style atmosphere!
OPEN DAILY: Mon.-Sat. 11–7, Sun. 11–6
Ask about our daily specials! 360.853.7580

Self-storage

Concrete Self-storage
Located on Fir Street, Concrete
Heated and nonheated, security surveillance, coded entry, 4x5 to 15x32 units, locks for sale.
Customer service is our top priority!
360.853.8100/concreteselfstorageinc@live.com

Septic services

Cinema Septic
Inspection, troubleshooting and pumping
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Out & About



County

Inslee denies county officials' request for Phase 2 variance

The Skagit County Board of Health on May 22 sent a letter to Gov. Inslee asking that he consider a Phase 2 variance for Skagit County.

Skagit County Unified Command, mayors of all eight Skagit County cities and towns, and first responders also sent letters in support of the Board of Health's request. The text of all the letters can be found online at www.skagitcounty.net/countycommissioners.

Inslee denied the request.

On May 19, Inslee announced eligibility requirements for counties with

populations greater than 75,000 to apply for variance under the Safe Start plan and move to Phase 2 ahead of the rest of the state. A key requirement to apply is that a county must have fewer than 10 new cases per 100,000 residents during a 14-day period. For Skagit County, this means no more than 13 new cases during 14 days.

"Governor Inslee has made a lot of tough decisions during the COVID-19 pandemic, and we're thankful for his leadership," said Chair Ron Wesen in a press release, "but his eligibility requirements to be able to apply for a variance should not be weighed more heavily than public health readiness. We're asking he reconsider this eligibility requirement. We are preparing an application for review now."

"We don't contest that Governor Inslee has the authority to put these restrictions in place, and we appreciate that he swiftly exercised his authority when the crisis

became apparent, but now is the time to begin thinking about the long-term sustainability of these restrictions," said Commissioner Ken Dahlstedt. "Skagit County businesses and residents can't survive under these prolonged closures. If the Public Health Department feels that we can safely move to Phase 2, then I fully support that. They're the experts in our local situation."

"Our Public Health Department is one of the best in the state," said Commissioner Lisa Janicki. "We are so proud of the work they've done to slow the spread of COVID-19 and how they've kept the county on the forefront of response efforts. I am completely confident in Public Health and Dr. Howard Leibrand's evaluation that Skagit County is ready to safely move to Phase 2."

According to the release, Skagit County has led the state in contact tracing, disease investigation, and response efforts. On March 10, Skagit County Public Health Officer Dr. Howard Leibrand was one of the first to issue a recommendation urging that residents practice considerable social distancing to slow the spread of COVID-19. This recommendation came ahead of a similar recommendation later made by the state. Since the beginning of the pandemic, Skagit County Public Health has been able to provide contact tracing and disease investigation to every identified case of COVID-19 in Skagit County, without outside assistance.

"We are doing far better than certain state Department of Health metrics would suggest," said Dr. Leibrand. "For example, we have been and will continue to do robust contact tracing and case investigation. We also have the testing capacity and hospital availability in place to safely move to Phase 2. Continued progress toward this goal requires us to wear masks wherever we go—this would substantially reduce transmission."

Moving forward to Phase 2 would allow for some additional nonessential activities to resume, including reopening the remaining manufacturers, in-store retail, hair and nail salons, and restaurants and taverns at 50 percent capacity. Phase 2 also would allow for outdoor recreation or gatherings with five or fewer people who

are not part of one's immediate household.

"Our Public Health team is already proactively connecting with businesses to ensure they understand and have what they need to reopen safely using good physical distancing and hygiene," said Public Health Director Jennifer Johnson. "We're ready to move to Phase 2 which allows for additional limited activities. But please remember, this holiday weekend, we must continue to resist the urge to gather in groups and do everything we can to protect ourselves and our loved ones from COVID-19. A resumption of regular activity is still not safe."

Phase 2 does not mean a total lifting of restrictions. Many portions of Stay Home, Stay Healthy must remain in place. You should still practice good physical distancing, wear a mask in public and wash your hands frequently with soap and water.

Members of the Skagit County Board of Health include Chair Ron Wesen, Commissioner Ken Dahlstedt, Commissioner Lisa Janicki, and Dr. Connie Davis.

Continue the cycle

Please recycle
this newspaper



Sunday School, cont. from p. 30

when one may find himself at a technical disadvantage for sure, but it is also a time to get creative, to think outside of the box.

Perhaps there is a need for the physical church, as well as the more creative church. I don't know for sure, but I hope people realize this is a perfect opportunity for change—a healthy change, change that can promote ... All are welcome and all ways are welcome.

Cindy Myatt holds an MDiv. from Wartburg Theological Seminary. She lives in Marblemount.

Sheriff's Blotter, cont. from p. 31

homeowner. After checking the property, he located several footprints in the wet grass, but was unable to locate anyone on the property.

The property owner at a residence in the 33000 block of Hamilton Cemetery Rd. called to advise there was a car parked near her garage with a male sitting inside. Deputy Montgomery responded and contacted the male inside the car. The male told Deputy Montgomery that he had been driving home last night when he became tired so he pulled over and slept. He apparently was unaware that he had pulled into someone's driveway. He denied drinking any alcohol or ingesting any drugs. About two weeks later, the male would be arrested for DUI on the Lyman Hamilton Road after he drove through a fence. He would later admit that he had relapsed and had been taking drugs.

May 2

An alarm was reported at the Concrete Middle School around 8:10 p.m. At approximately 8:20 p.m., an alarm was reported at Valley West Realty on Concrete Sauk Valley Rd., a few blocks north of the school. Deputy Beisler checked both alarms, but did not find any problems. The timing and close proximity was suspicious.

At 11:55 p.m. an alarm was reported at the PSE fish traps on East Main St. in Concrete. Deputy Arndt checked and found the gate into the fish trap open. There was a lock on the gate, but it had not been secured properly. No one was located in the area. PSE was notified.

Deputy Wiggins received a request for a welfare check on a female who lives in an apartment in the 700 block of Cumberland St. in Hamilton. He was advised that the female's ex-husband had to go up to a logging road near Grandy Lake yesterday to give the female and her boyfriend a ride home. Apparently their truck had broken down while they had been up at that location cutting wood. Deputy Wiggins was told the female and her boyfriend had an order that restricted them from being together. The caller was also concerned that the female was taking her small children to the area where they were cutting wood. Both the caller and the ex-husband described the boyfriend as a dangerous person who has assaulted the female several times in the past. Deputies Wiggins and Koback drove to the logging road that was described by the caller. They located the female and her boyfriend. They also confirmed that there was a valid

no-contact order restricting the boyfriend from contacting the female. They arrested the suspect for felony violation of a no-contact order since the suspect had two prior convictions of violations of no-contact orders. Both the female and her boyfriend were also arrested for theft for stealing firewood and for trespassing on closed property.

May 3

An apparent dispute over a sold vehicle led to a report of a malicious mischief in the 45000 block of Main St. in Concrete. The reporting party said that he had purchased a vehicle from a guy he only knew as "James." He discovered that the registered owner of the vehicle had smashed the windows and spray painted "THIEF" on the side of the car, which was parked at the reporting party's residence. Deputy Moore explained to him that it is illegal to purchase a car from someone who doesn't own it and that it was a civil issue. The reporting party requested that Deputy Moore trespass the registered owner of the vehicle from his property.

After several complaints during the last few months, Deputy Wiggins responded to yet another call of noise coming from a residence in the area of Martin Rd. in Rockport. The caller advised that the suspect turned the music down when deputies arrived, but after they leave he turned the music back up. When the neighbor contacted the suspect this time and asked that he turn the music down, the suspect yelled obscenities at the caller. Deputy Wiggins went to the area and discreetly pulled into a location near the suspect's property. He was able to hear the music from about 75 yards away, an obvious violation of the noise ordinance. The suspect has been contacted numerous times in the past about violating the noise ordinance. When Deputy Wiggins pulled into the suspect's driveway, the suspect turned the music down and tried to tell Deputy Wiggins that he had not been playing loud music. When confronted with the fact that Deputy Wiggins had heard the music, the suspect told Deputy Wiggins that there was not a noise ordinance in the county. The suspect was cited for violating the noise ordinance and given a court date.

May 4

Dispatch requested a welfare check on an unknown male after they received a 911 call where they heard the male say, "Oh, no ... oh sh**." Deputy Passovoy contacted the male, who said that he must have pocket dialed his phone accidentally

and there was no problem. His wife confirmed that there were no issues.

The town of Hamilton called to advise that a former employee had logged into the town computer system without permission and changed all the passwords and information back to herself. Town employees were now unable to access the town computers. The mayor advised that the town IT department was working on their investigation and would update Deputy Passovoy once their investigation was completed.

The victim in an assault called to report that the suspect had hit her twice with a hammer. Deputy Brannon and Deputy Devero investigated the incident. The victim said that she was at a residence on Ranger Station Road when she must have said something the suspect didn't like. The suspect picked up a hammer and hit the victim in the back and then tried to hit her again when the victim turned around. The victim felt that the suspect was trying to hit her in the head but she was able to block the blow with her arm. Deputies checked the area, but the suspect had fled. Deputy Brannon referred the suspect for 2nd degree assault.

May 5

Deputy Passovoy was dispatched to an unconscious male on Limestone St. in Concrete. When she arrived, she found the male conscious and sitting in a car. She stood by with him until aid arrived.

With Deputy Wiggins on his days off, Deputy Clark took it upon himself to patrol the Lake Shannon Quarry for trespassers. As Deputy Clark approached the quarry, he immediately noticed a car parked in front of the gate. As he was checking the property, he located two males hiding in one of the sheds on the property. The suspects said that they had seen online that it was a cool place to come and knew that they were trespassing. Deputy Clark issued trespass warnings to both suspects and advised them that if they were caught on the property again they would be arrested.

Deputy Brannon responded to a death complaint on Benjamin St. in Concrete. Upon arrival, Deputy Brannon determined that the death was suspicious, possibly a result from an earlier fight that had occurred several days before. Detectives are investigating the incident.

A female called and advised that she and her boyfriend had gotten into a shoving match at their residence on Robertson Court in Concrete, and requested a deputy respond. As Deputy Holmes drove to the residence, the boyfriend called in and said that he had been placed into a

headlock by his girlfriend. When Deputy Holmes arrived, the boyfriend had left. The girlfriend told Deputy Holmes that she and her boyfriend had gotten into an argument because she was upset and tried to take her boyfriend's dinner from him before he was finished. This led to a heated argument and some "chest bumping," but no assault. Later Deputy Holmes was able to contact the boyfriend who corroborated the story. No arrest was made.

May 6

As she was trying to drive down Sauk Mountain Rd., a driver started going too fast and failed to negotiate the road, driving over an embankment and rolling her car. Deputy Clark responded and found the vehicle about 3 miles up the road from SR 20. He determined that the cause of the accident was too much speed and the driver being unfamiliar with driving on logging roads. Apparently the driver had decided to put her car into neutral and coast down the mountain. When she attempted to brake, she discovered that her brakes had overheated, leading her to lose control of the vehicle. A tow was called and Deputy Clark cleared the scene.

May 7

Deputy Mullen contacted a citizen in the 7700 block of Rietze Ave. in Concrete. The citizen said that her neighbor called last night and told her that someone was walking around his property last night. When she went out today, she found that her car door had been damaged and believed it may have been by the prowler her neighbor told her about last night. At this time there is no other suspect information.

In his relentless pursuit of justice, Deputy Wiggins contacted three individuals at the Lake Shannon Quarry who were trespassing on the property. One of the suspects was carrying a case of beer and appeared intoxicated. The other two suspects, who were both minors, did not appear to have been drinking. Deputy Wiggins escorted the suspects off the property. The older suspect was the one who had driven up to the property. She also did not have a valid license. Deputy Wiggins allowed her to use his phone to call someone to drive her home. The parents of the other two were called and advised Deputy Wiggins that they were OK with the two getting rides back home, but were to go directly home. All three were given trespass warnings and allowed to leave.

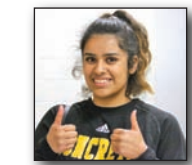


**FARMSTAND
OPEN DAILY
MAY-OCTOBER**

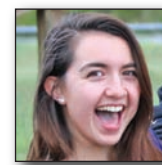
Organic berries
Espresso
Homemade
ice cream
Wholesome
snacks



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Smile



Collin's realm of truly awful jokes

I want to introduce you to a friend of mine. She's a botanist; you probably haven't heard of herbavore.



The curse of strong drink, says Dad Gummit, is getting stuck with the check.

— § —

All you read about King Solomon is that he was wise and had 1,000 wives. But nobody ever mentions all his mothers-in-law.

— § —

Little Johnny told his friends that his family was going to move soon. He said he had just broken one of the windows, and his mother didn't scold him.

Dwelleysms:

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

"Politics is now beginning to raise its sleepy head in anticipation of the fall elections. One thing about it these days: It's better to be on that side of the governmental financial ledger than to be the voting taxpayer. A lot of candidates are expected for every office, and soon you'll be seeing their eager little faces appearing everywhere. With a great many of them, it will not only be a choice of 'Is he qualified?' but 'Does he need the job?'"

"You will notice that to qualify as a Best Man, you are not the one with whom the bride has chosen to live."

"Keep an open eye for the gentleman who has something that will make you happy, healthy, or wealthy. Whatever he is selling is first designed to do the same thing for him, but only if you buy the deal."

"There are two ways of looking at life. You know it is going to kill you eventually, so it is a choice of enjoying it while it lasts or worrying it to a quick conclusion."

—July 22, 1970

"The boys in Washington, D.C., seem to feel that if they keep the heat on the taxpayers, they won't need their shirts."

"Movie censorship having given up on even a protest tolerance policy, all the studios are trying to reach the bottom of the muck barrel. Won't be long before the winner of an Oscar will be the actor or actress who had the courage to wear clothes."

—July 29, 1970

Funny as Facebook

The following funnies were pulled verbatim from Facebook status updates in April:

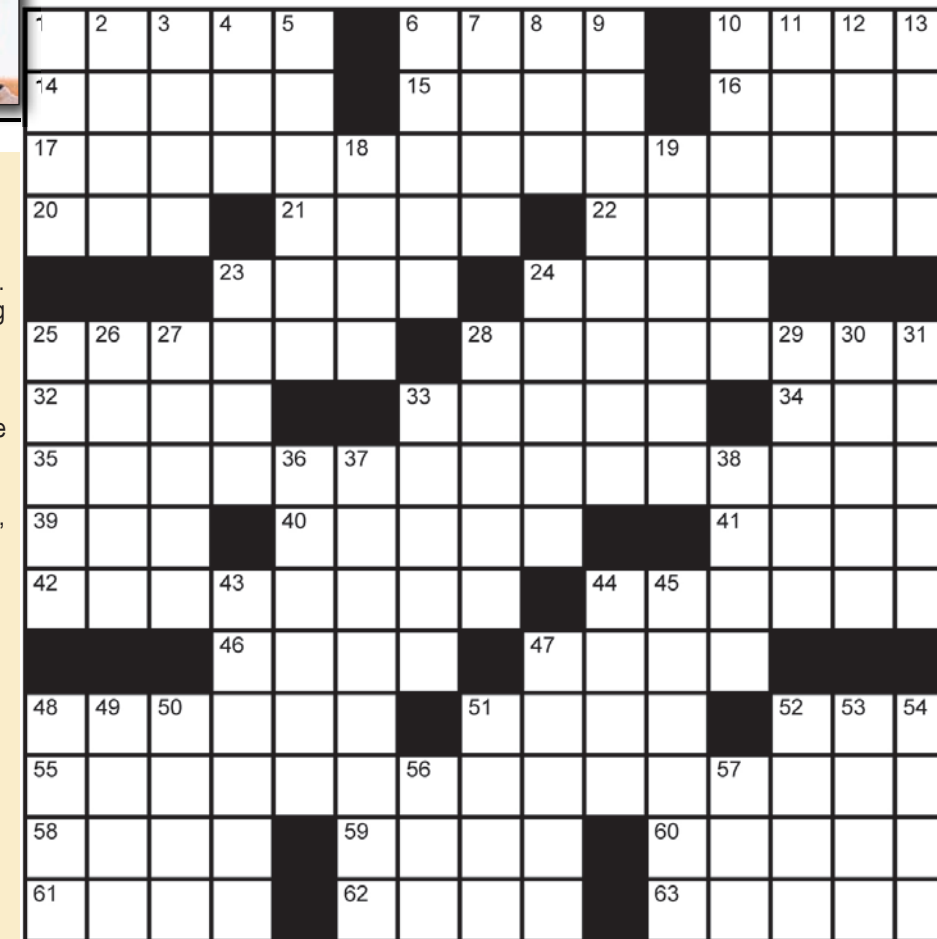
- "Tuesday morning, I'm doing laundry. The kids are asleep in the yard in a tent. My husband and I have Spongebob on the TV. I can hear my husband singing the theme song as he sweeps the floors. Life is good."
- "Am I the only person who tries to read the titles on people's bookshelves when they are doing Zoom interviews on TV?"
- "Lesson for the day: Don't let your aggressive dog poop on a wet hillside while neighbors are out walking and you've been having back spasms. Just don't."
- "If you don't believe in vaccines, you don't believe in science. If you don't believe in science, you don't believe in physics. If you don't believe in physics, you don't believe in gravity. If you don't believe in gravity, then you shouldn't have a problem jumping out of an airplane without a parachute. Give it a try."
- "I told Michael I wanted to have a date night and eat dinner on the boat. He heard, 'blah blah boat, let's go fishing.'"
- "I can't seem to create an avatar on Facebook which is FINE because WHATEVER I didn't want one anyway ZUCKERBERG because they're stupid and if I was allowed to make one I WOULDN'T because I'm too cool for that. Not even jealous of y'all. Honestly I feel bad for you and your totally yawnsville avatars."
- "OK Go videos absolutely kill with the three-year-old demographic."
- "Just met a giant June bug on my stairs and told it 'I just don't even have the energy to deal with you right now.' (It didn't seem offended.) So apparently I now not only talk to humans and dogs, but I also talk to insects. Terrific."
- "When your wife starts cutting your hair and then stops to read the directions ..."
- "In case anyone is unclear as to whether or not I want to hear your subwoofer as I'm sitting on my porch, I do not. Thank you for your prompt attention."
- "Show the word 'hyperbole' to your child. Ask your child how they think it's pronounced."
- "People who actually enjoy running confuse me. But you know what doesn't confuse me? Apple blueberry dump cake topped with ice cream and apple caramel sauce."
- "Lady, if you don't ask me what dipping sauce I want with my order, I'm not paying your 'sauce fee' when I get to the window and ask for sauce. I'll fight you about it."

By Stig Kristensen



THE QUARTET TRIED TO APPEAL TO A YOUNGER AUDIENCE BY SHOWING IRRESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOUR

Crossword: "Time after Time"



Across

- Under
- Priestly garb
- Adroit
- Caribbean cruise stop
- _____ tide
- Dwarf buffalo
- As fast as possible
- Small amount
- Crew members
- Lassie, for one
- Area
- Fast feline
- Temporary
- Guiding light
- Oil source
- Coffee break snack
- Genetic material
- Turning right continually
- Upholstery problem
- Carries on
- Believed
- Ethanoates
- Spooks
- Hawaiian strings
- Draped dress
- Food tray

- High school breakout
- Dance step
- Defeats soundly
- First family member
- Hate group
- Ado
- Capital on the Caspian
- Like some threats
- "Snowy" bird

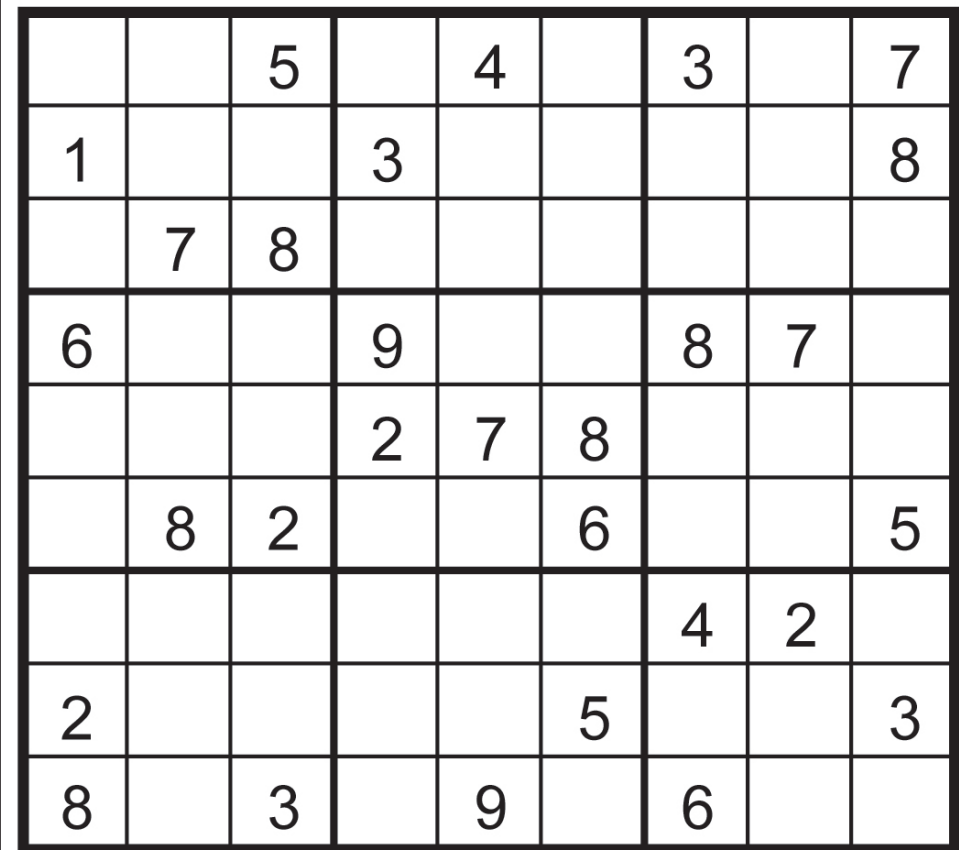
Down

- Bleats
- Hence
- Hilo feast
- Oriental tie
- Malicious
- Cavern, in poetry
- Leases
- Dickensian cry
- Medical tool
- Second-largest city in Texas
- Organic compound
- Central points
- Profits
- Told all
- Total
- Brass component

- Johnnycakes
- African capital
- Infant's illness
- Figure of speech
- Presents
- Judge
- New World lizard
- South African dollars
- Plunges
- Legendary sea monster
- Engage in a summer sport
- Bangkok native
- Island nation north of Fiji
- _____ souci
- Foundling hospital
- Display
- Union foe
- Jessica of "Dark Angel"
- Soup ingredient
- _____ retentive
- "D"
- Flu symptom
- 32-card game
- Antiquated
- Account

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. 39.

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A history of the Upper Skagit Valley

By Paul C. Pitzer

Retyped by John Boggs; edited for style

Republished from Concrete Herald archives, 1966–67

Chapter 1 THE SKAGIT MINES

Access into the mining area also was considered in Seattle, where businessmen hurried to capitalize on the rush. They feared that Victoria merchants would take the advantage before Seattle could act. A meeting was held in Seattle at Yesler's Hall in December 1879. Judge Orange Jacobs, territorial delegate and advocate of public ownership, spoke to the group: "Suppose, said the judge, that 5,000 men fit out in Seattle: It is safe to estimate that each one will spend at least \$50 for an outfit, tools, provisions, etc.: This would put from \$200,000 to half a million dollars in circulation in a short time, and the consequences of such an amount, added to the usual spring business, would make things in Seattle fairly boom."

After Judge Jacobs spoke, N. E. Goodell was introduced. Goodell, who came from Portland, traveled to the Skagit area in 1879. Goodell's Landing, at the present site of the town of Newhalem, was named for him, and Goodell later build a road

house at the site. At this time he was trying to encourage interest in the Ruby mines. *The Mail* commented: "Goodell has been on the Skagit River all summer had taken in \$1,000 worth of goods, and had come home broke, as many others would undoubtedly do, but he had not lost faith in the richness of the mines. He had every reason to believe them extensive and rich, and hoped the people would come out liberally to build the trail."

Three hundred and sixty dollars were raised at the meeting and a committee was appointed to canvas Seattle for more during the next week. In all, over \$2,000 was contributed toward building the Ruby Trail.

Goodell returned to La Conner and continued to raise money for the trail. He and others still feared that Canadian interests would build the trail first, despite the Seattle effort. In January 1880, Day Brothers & Cochrane of Mount Vernon estimated that they could build the trail for \$1,650. They got the job. Steamboat routes from various points were planned to carry prospectors to the Skagit. Even

Port Townsend advertised itself as a principal stopping place where provisions could be purchased for those en route to Ruby Creek.

During the winter an unusually heavy snow fell in the Cascades, and drifts piled up at Ruby Creek. In February men were already on their way up the valley, and those who rushed in early found the Upper Valley covered by 12 feet of snow. Nevertheless, others came. Steamers traveled up the river, carrying more prospectors. As the snow melted, the Skagit rose, and on each trip the boat could reach points farther up the river. The ultimate goal was the Portage, a place seven miles below Goodell's Landing, where rapids prohibited farther travel.

Some miners traveled to Ruby Creek through Canada, along the Fraser River to Fort Hope, and then south, following the Skagit. This caused a minor international problem, which was solved in March. The British Columbia customs authorities signified their intentions to allow American goods to pass over their territory in bond to the Skagit miners, via Fort Hope or Chilliwack; that is to say, allow goods to pass over free of duty. This was quite a concession and convenience to those going in from northern routes.

Improvements on the trail were slowly made. It crossed the river three times and at one point a Jacob's Ladder about forty feet high was built to traverse a rock cliff. When warm weather came, snow slides were frequent.

One man so narrowly escaped an avalanche that he was actually thrown into the river by the force of the wind caused by the slide, which alone saved him from being crushed by the mighty mass of rocks, snow, and debris.

Although little gold was found in March or April, mining districts were organized. Thunder Creek had 30 claims, Granite Creek had 96. During April, 40 men passed through Goodell's for the mines. A camp was planned and built at the mouth of Granite Creek as building was done throughout the district. On March 27 the first of the Day Brothers and Cochrane trail crew arrived on the river and looked over the land. They then offered to pay off the contract as their bid was far too

low for the trail proposed. *The Mail* commented: "They are willing to pay to get rid of the contract. We see no sense in holding to it, as the public will lose by it as well as these men, and be no good to anyone. Let the public build the trail by paying for work done, many will work in this way who would not work for a contractor: And then pay for prospecting the country, which will be of more benefit to the public."

This was the first of many proposed trails to the Skagit mines. Plans for trails or roads have been developed and redeveloped ever since 1880 and as yet, no satisfactory trail has been built to Ruby Creek.

In April *The Mail* mentioned the mine and stated: "That the most sanguine expectations of these hardy men who undergo such terrible dangers may be realized is the wish of all interested in the future of the Territory. With the augmentation of population a successful strike would bring, a general lightening of the burthens of taxation would be felt in this country. There would be plenty of work, a better demand for farm products and our people generally would obtain a better idea of what is ment (sic) by the phrase, "filthy lucure.""

Although some mining started in mid-April, because of poor weather and high water it was August before intensive work began. As the snow melted, the creeks rose and little digging was possible. Eight or nine dollars per day per man in the better sections was high. While news from the mines was not encouraging, interest in the lower valley was sustained through August.

G. M. Johnson of Ship Harbor wrote the following letter to *The Mail* concerning his trip to the mines: "We left Mount Vernon on the 22nd of March and arrived at Goodell's (head of navigation) on the 29th in about 44 travelling hours, having laid over two days on account of storm. The cost of transportation from Mt.

Vernon to Goodell's is \$40 for two Indians and one canoe with carrying capacity for 4 men and 1,000 to 1,200 pounds of freight, or \$10 each to the man: Besides this the boatman must be fed by the passengers on the rip, and the principal part of the propelling power is with pole and paddle which must come from the passengers. Every man should furnish himself a pair of long gum boots; then there is no occasion for wet feet. On the morning of the 30th we started with 50-pound packs; passed over Skedadle Mountain and

History, cont. from p. 38

camped for the night at Tunnel Bar, foot of Sour Dough Mountain. On the 31st we passed over Sour Dough arriving about noon at Ruby. We came to this point in company with men who have travelled over the worse trails in the world, and the unanimous verdict of all is that this trail or track from Goodell's to the mouth of Ruby Creek is the worst ever known. My opinion—and 'tis the general opinion of the miners—that a better route must be opened than this—else but few claims will pay for working. You may judge when it costs 25 cent a pound to transport goods from Goodell's to the mouth of Ruby (20 miles) and 10 cents more to the mouth of Granite Creek (Ruby City) 10 miles further up. But Fort Hope will undoubtedly be the first route opened up for supplies as parties already offer to deliver goods at Ruby by that route for 12½ cents a pound. Hence, I would advise any one coming by way of the Skagit to bring but little freight. We passed up the entire length of Ruby and Canyon Creeks as far as the falls and found every foot of the way taken up."

Johnson marked his claim and returned to La Conner.

In May the Skagit Mining Company was organized in Portland, Ore., with a stock of \$1,500,000. They intended to locate, purchase, hold, develop, sell, and transfer mining claims. They hoped to locate water rights, import hydraulic machinery, build ditches, and erect mills. *The Mail* expressed the feeling that the existence of the big company would insure (sic) the success of the rush. Despite this optimism, the company operated actively for only a month. It went out of business at the end of the year.

Crossword solution

1	B	E	L	O	W	6	F	L	B	9		10	D	E	F	12	13
14	A	R	U	B	A		15	N	E	A	P		16	A	N	O	A
17	A	G	A	I	N	18	S	T	H	E	19	C	L	O	C	K	
20	S	O	U		21	T	A	R	S		22	C	O	L	L	I	E
				23	Z	O	N	E		24	P	U	M	A			
25	A	C	T	26	I	N	G		28	P	O	L	E	S	29	T	A
30	C	O	R	31	N			33	D	O	N	U	L	34	R	N	A
35	C	L	O	C	36	37	W	I	S	E	M	O	T	38	I	O	N
39	R	I	P		40	R	A	V	E	S		41	H	E	L	D	
42	A	C	E	43	T	A	T	E	S		44	S	C	A	R	E	S
				46	U	K	E	S		47	S	A	R	I			
48	S	A	L	49	V	E	R		51	A	C	N	E	52	P	A	S
53	C	L	E	54	A	N	S	55	O	N	E	S	C	L	O	C	K
56	A	B	E	L		58	K	L	A	N		60	H	O	O	H	A
61	B	A	K	U		62	I	D	L	E		63	E	G	R	E	T

See History, p. 39

In June, the *Seattle Post Intelligencer* proposed that Whatcom County commissioners appropriate \$1,600 to build the Ruby Trail. This amount was to be matched by the Territorial Government. The Territorial legislature did not approve the idea and the county did not have the money anyway. Second plans for the Skagit Trail made less progress than the first, but the use of the route through Hope reduced worries over action by Victoria interests.

In August, the level of the streams dropped enough to allow concentrated work, and bad rock was all too quickly reached. What placer gold existed was removed. It was hardly enough to pay for the time and money invested in the Ruby Mines. On Oct. 30, 1880, the *Puget Sound Mail* stated bluntly that the Ruby gold rush was over and that it had been a failure.

Another item in the same issue concerned Mr. Goodell:

"Mr. N. E. Goodell, the pioneer trader of the Skagit mining district, and who thus far has stood by the "boom," abandoned his post this week and returned to town. He looks as stout, hearty and jolly as ever but his faith appears to be quite shaken in the richness of the mines. He says that he lost heavily by their failure to prove as rich as they had at first reason to expect. His many friends in and about La Conner were glad to see him, and regret that fortune had not smiled upon his genial countenance."

To be continued next month.

To place a Classified ad, call 360.853.8213 or e-mail ads@concrete-herald.com. Cost is \$5 per every 10 words, rounded up to the nearest 10. Deadline for the July 2020 issue is June 22.

Sudoku solution

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

Classifieds

Movies & Events at the Historic Concrete Theatre

in Town Center, Concrete, WA
24-hour PhoneLine: (360) 941-0403
Office: (360) 466-8754

www.Concrete-Theatre.com

Owners: Valerie Stafford, Fred West

FOR SALE

Khrown Royal Khron Private Kolektion. All antique and vintage items sold. The purchaser will receive a document stating both value and certificate of authenticity. Call Khron Estate & Sale at 360.395.8078.

NOTICES

Contact information for elk-related issues:

Report elk-related issues to private property, damages, intrusions, and safety issues at home: WDFW Mill Creek office 425-775-1311. Director: Brendan Brokes. Conflict specialist: 360-466-4345, ext. 247.

Report Collisions with elk including near misses, school bus, and emergency vehicle safety issues with elk in or crossing roadways: WSDOT Habitat Connectivity Biologist, (360) 705-6963 Glen Kalisz.

Volunteer Needed—Upper Skagit Library

Would you like to help the Upper Skagit Library expand and blossom into this year and beyond? The Concrete Library is looking for a person with good communication skills to fill the Secretary position on the Board of Trustees. For more information, email the library at: libraryboard@upperskagit.lib.wa.us.



Northwest
Garden
Bling

- Gift shop
- Stained glass & glass supplies
- Souvenirs

360-708-3279

nwgardenbling@frontier.com

44574 Highway 20 – Concrete, WA 98237

SERVICES

Gladys' Upholstery Shop. Quality work, reasonable prices. 360.826.4848.

Headstones. Traditional & One-Of-A-Kind. TODD'S MONUMENTS, 360.708.0403. www.toddsmonuments.com.

Hydronic Heating Design: Energy Consultation and System Design. 360-929-2502 www.hydronic-heating.com

Lovely Content. Advertising and social media consulting, copywriting, proofreading, graphic design, photography, and videography. I can write or edit words for you, design flyers, book covers, and other things you print or share on the internet, take photos of people, products, and places, and help you set up your social media accounts or basic websites. Marketing, especially online marketing, is increasingly vital to small businesses, even in rural areas. I want to help you get the word out about that thing you sell or that thing you do! www.lovely-content.com chazlynlovely@gmail.com.

Help Wanted for berry harvest. Part-time in July and August for raspberries and blueberries. You pick and we pick fruit available. Blue Heron Farm, Rockport, 360-853-8449.



Monument marker stolen

A metal monument marker for the historic Baker River Bridge in Concrete—a.k.a. the Henry Thompson Bridge—was illegally pried from its concrete base sometime during the past few months.

The bridge was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on May 12, 1976. The marker announces this. Removing it breaks any number of federal and state laws.

Town of Concrete asks that the marker be returned. Call Town Hall at 360.853.8401 to arrange for dropoff—anonymously, if necessary.



We are here. We are ready.
**Welcome
 back.**

Your health is essential. This includes medical visits for check-ups, routine care, screenings and emergencies. We have increased our already strict safety and cleanliness standards and our team is ready to provide safe, expert care for you. Welcome back.

Skagit  Regional Health
[SkagitRegionalHealth.org](https://www.SkagitRegionalHealth.org)