

## COMMUNITY-SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE



**Left:** Rebecca Morse and Andrew Cambo grow organic produce at Jericho Farm in Birdsvew. **Right:** Anne Schwartz and Mike Brondi farm more than 35 kinds of vegetables and herbs—plus bamboo—at Blue Heron Farm in Rockport.

Birdsvew, Rockport farms satisfy our appetite for good food, close to home

By Patricia Blauvelt

According to the USDA, approximately 2 percent of our entire population is responsible for the food that reaches our mouths daily. Through mass production, the relationship between consumer and grower dissipates, and the remaining 98 percent of the population has little or no say in what is grown or how it is grown. Add thousands of miles between you and your food, environmentally hazardous pesticides and poorly paid laborers to the mix, and you may not feel comfortable with the phrase “you are what you eat.”

There is an alternative.

Before the construction of supermarkets and chain stores, small communities thrived in their own right, and were

See **Agriculture**, p. 11

## Trouble in paradise

Lake Tyee's Board of Directors ousted, electrical upgrade assessment still undecided.

On Feb. 6, Lake Tyee lot owners cleaned house, voting by more than 2 to 1 to recall four out of five members of their Board of Directors. The vote, initiated by Friends of Lake Tyee, a group of lot owners led by Richard Zeger, recalled the following board members by the following unofficial counts:

- Peter Coates: 168 to retain, 353 to recall
- Janet Walsh: 160 to retain, 360 to recall
- Paula Ratcliff: 152 to retain, 369 to recall
- Allen Ward: 172 to retain, 350 to recall

The fifth board member, Janet Legg, kept her position for a short time with 402 votes to retain and 120 to recall. Legg's interactions with Friends of Lake Tyee soured quickly after the vote, according to Zegers; she

resigned at the end of February. New board members will be voted in at a meeting this June; until then, a remaining

See **Lake Tyee**, p. 31



Friends of Lake Tyee's Richard Zegers (in dark gray jacket) confers with lot owners during a Feb. 6 meeting at Lake Tyee. The day's agenda included a vote petitioned by Zegers on behalf of 200+ lot owners to remove the current Board of Directors.

## Crowd-pleaser Bare Feet keeps on playing

Versatile and a perennial favorite, local band enjoys loyal following

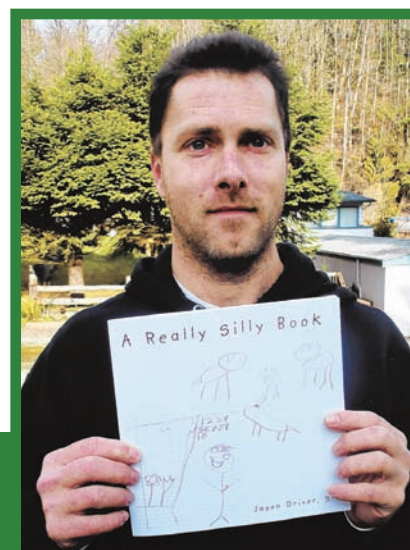
By Sandra Hambleton

Bare Feet has been a fixture of the Skagit Valley for more than ten years.

The band's name and line-up have changed a few times, but core members Ray Hambleton Jr. and Josh Fichter have been making music together since their high school days in the 1990s.



See **Bare Feet**, p. 23



*Published the first  
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# Concrete Herald

The Voice of Eastern Skagit County

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## Editorial

On March 11, the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission will meet in Lakewood. The Commission’s agenda includes one item that will affect all of eastern Skagit County: Whether to adopt the preliminary recommendation for Rockport State Park. This is the recommendation that CAMP Project Lead Derek Gustafson presented to our communities last November.

The preliminary recommendation is the product of months of community interaction and information-gathering. It calls for the park’s boundaries to expand to the north, west, and south, while incorporating a long-term boundary that includes Howard Miller Steelhead Park, which currently adjoins Rockport State Park’s property line. Also in the recommendation is an intent to transform Rockport State Park into a “premier day-use destination,” by improving the day-use area with a modest interpretive center.

Nobody believes these changes will happen overnight if the Commission adopts the recommendation. The plan includes private properties that would need to be purchased, a process that could take many months, even years. And, in our lingering stagnant economy, Parks and Rec’s purse strings likely are to be drawn even tighter, even with a budget earmarked for purchases of private land. But that doesn’t mean the Commission should say no.

Rockport State Park has languished long enough. The overnight camping area closed in May 2007 because the crown of a centuries-old Douglas Fir broke off and crashed to the ground, an event immediately paralleled by eastern Skagit County business owners’ revenues; one citizen told me his revenues dropped by half during precisely the same period. I guess that’s what happens when 11,253 overnight campers (2006 numbers) suddenly are forced to park their trailers elsewhere.

Not one business owner I’ve spoken with disagrees with the initial decision to close the overnight camping area. But they are equally concerned that the plan for Rockport State Park will once again stagnate. The Commission must not let this happen. It must vote to adopt the preliminary recommendation. Doing so will help the plan regain the momentum it lost during the budget crisis.

—J.K.M.

# Opinion

## Letters to the editor

### Leveraging sex

It’s good that once more a playwright, Nicola Pearson, has breathed new life into an old plot: Women band together to withhold sex from husbands and lovers in order to make their men stop being brutal and stupid.

After experiencing Pearson’s “Carried by the Current,” some may want to explore the notion further that men will do anything for sex, even grow up and get smart.

Aristophanes saw that idea as funny and ridicules both men and women in “Lysistrata,” his comedy first produced in 411 B.C. in Athens. It packs a lot of chuckles and heehaws into its satire on politicians, generals, and busybody women who scheme to end the Peloponnesian War. That war went on for 27 years and finally ravaged Athens. Perhaps someday American women may decide to withhold their favors until our military and political worthies end our engagements in Afghanistan and Iraq. If it worked (at least onstage) 2,421 years ago, it might work now.

*John (Jack) de Yonge*  
*Concrete*

### Controversial bill passes; easier now for Legislature to pass new and higher taxes

Despite the stormy economic forecast, majority Democrats in the House voted to overturn the Taxpayer Protection Act (Initiative 960), making it easier to raise taxes. I cast a vote against Senate Bill 6130.

The people in my communities are struggling. A dear lady told me the other day that even a candy tax would be too much for her fixed household income. It seems to me some legislators don’t think a dollar is a lot of money. But for some people, it’s everything. Taking even one more dollar in taxes from citizens who are struggling to make ends meet is not right.

Enough is enough. When I look at the 77 tax and fee proposals introduced just this year, I think of all the dollars that will

be taken from families that need to buy food, plus pay for health care and other necessities.

I did not support repealing the TPA and will not support any new taxes.

### Quick facts

The Taxpayer Protection Act (I-960) passed in 2007 with 57.4 percent of the vote in the 39th Legislative District, and 51.2 percent statewide. Current law requires a two-thirds vote of the Legislature for tax increases, public e-mail notifications for tax increase proposals, and citizen advisory votes on tax increases.

Senate Bill 6130, as passed by the state House, would remove the two-thirds vote requirement of the Legislature for tax increases immediately and notification of legislator votes on tax measures in voters’ pamphlets. The bill will take effect once signed into law by the governor.

There are currently 77 bills in the state House that, when combined, would increase taxes and fees by more than \$3 billion in the state’s next fiscal year.

The 60-day legislative session is scheduled to adjourn March 11.

*Rep. Kirk Pearson is the Republican leader on the House Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Committee. He represents Western Washington’s 39th Legislative District. He can be reached at [pearson.kirk@leg.wa.gov](mailto:pearson.kirk@leg.wa.gov).*

### Letters policy

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

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The Voice of Eastern Skagit County

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## Town hires Corrina Koenig

On Feb. 9, Concrete Public Works added a maintenance worker to its staff.

Corrina Koenig of Rockport stepped in to tackle some of the duties Public Works Director Alan Wilkins has been unable to perform while managing the town’s new wastewater treatment plant.

To help pay Koenig’s wage, the Concrete Town Council agreed to Mayor Judd Wilson’s idea to eliminate a housekeeper position, which was originally budgeted at \$7,902.73 annually. Koenig’s annual wage will be \$14,304.

Koenig will work two to three days per week, part-time, no more than 69 hours per month, for eight months. The remaining four months can be full-time.



## New postmaster comes to town

A new face has taken the reins from former postmaster Naomi Rumpff.

Karla Chaparro became Concrete’s new postmaster on Feb. 13, after applying for the job from her former town of residence, Dufur, Oregon.

“I wanted upward mobility and I like small towns,” said Chaparro. Dufur fits that description, too, with its population of 650 citizens.

Chaparro’s first day behind the counter was Feb. 16. Welcome, Karla!



## Sewing hope for Haitians

Mount Baker Presbyterian members and community volunteers spent February creating “Gift of the Heart Kits” to help provide relief for Haitian earthquake victims.

Two types of kits are being created: a hygiene kit, which includes items like a hand towel, washcloth, soap, and toothbrush; and a school kit for kids, with a spiral-bound notebook, pencils, ruler, crayons, eraser, and more.

Fifty kits of each type will be assembled in the basement reception room at Mount Baker Presbyterian on **Sat., March 6, between 1 and 4 p.m.** All community members are welcome to attend, since many hands make light work. The church is located at 45705 Main St., Concrete.

Donations of kit materials and cash are still very much welcome, said project organizer Sarita McReynolds.

“One hundred percent of what’s



Fred Brand, Anita Weidkamp, Sarita McReynolds, Chris Metzger Black, and Naomi Rumpff gathered after the Feb. 20 bag-sewing frenzy, which brought several volunteers to Mount Baker Presbyterian in Concrete to sew bags for school kits that will be sent to Haitian earthquake victims. Other sewers not shown included Anne Bussiere, Minda Brand, Sher Ross, Emily Schmitt, and Joyce Krause. The fabric was donated by Jean Malbrain and Sher Ross.

donated will go to Haiti. There are no administrative costs, because everyone involved is a volunteer,” she said.

For more details or to donate, call Sarita McReynolds Tues. and Wed. from 10 to 2 at 853.8585; outside those hours, call her at 826.4681.

## Skagit County Historical Museum

-- presents --

### • The Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition Washington’s First World’s Fair

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March 14 at 2 pm**

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### • Enjoy our featured exhibit

**The Way We Played  
Early Skagit Recreation**

### • Don’t miss our upcoming

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Call 360.466.3365 now for info!**



### Skagit County Historical Museum

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# community

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Puget Sound Energy and the Puget Sound Energy Foundation are proud to support the efforts of the **Skagit River Bald Eagle Awareness Team** and its dedicated volunteers.



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Judy Hemenway  
Awareness Team  
President

“Recycled” art a hit

By Anne Bussiere

Making art out of throwaway items was the premise of the first Concrete Recycled Art Contest, sponsored as part of February’s Mardi Gras festivities by Sauk View Gallery and Annie’s Pizza Station.

Winning grand prize for a colorful hummingbird mosaic assembled on an old glass plate was Erma Baude, followed by Danielle Bussiere’s bottle cap curtain, which took first prize in the adult category. Justin Hoss won first place in the youth division with a unique birdhouse constructed of scraps from the firewood pile.

Other winners included a mobile created by Sherrill Coville, a button dragonfly by Athena Hornsby, and a wallhanging using very old fabrics created by Lois Wolf. Barbara Weeks added to the exhibit with a painted cow skull. The artwork is displayed at Matty’s on Main in downtown Concrete.

A bountiful selection of prizes for the winners was donated by Albert’s Red Apple Market, Annie’s Pizza Station, Cascade Supply, Concrete Theatre, Matty’s on Main, Perks Espresso/Deli, Sauk View Gallery, Summit Bank, Two G’s Catering, Young’s Market, and Concrete Herald.

Although the first contest was small, another is planned for this summer’s Cement City Street Fair. Watch for details.



A beaming Justin Hoss stands by his creation: a birdhouse made from firewood scraps. Hoss took first place in the youth division of the Concrete Recycled Art Contest, held in February. A second recycled-art contest is planned for this year’s Cement City Street Fair in July. *Photo by Chuck Bussiere.*

**WOOD FEST**

**Saturday April 10th 9AM - 5PM**  
**Sunday April 11th 10AM - 4PM**

Professional Woodworking Vendors  
Chain Saw Carving Demonstrations  
Area High Schools Competition & Display  
Concessions by SWHS ASB & Senior Parents  
Silent Auction – Saturday Only  
Drawing for Carving – Sunday at 2:30 pm

THIS AND THAT

By J.K.M.

During the week of March 1, you can listen to the La Conner and Darrington State Basketball Tournament games at [www.bsports.org](http://www.bsports.org).

A hearty happy birthday goes to **Annie’s Pizza Station** in Concrete, which celebrated 16 years in business in February!

If you were confused by the **raised-bed dimensions** given in the Community Garden Survey you’ve seen around Concrete, we apologize. They were meant to give the width and length of the beds, in feet: 4x8, 4x10, and 4x12.

By now you’ve probably noticed

Calling all musically inclined younger women!

Community Bible Church of Concrete hopes to form a new ladies singing group. Interested? Call Deb Hedberg at 360.848.8513 for more information.

Planning Commission chair pens “A Really Silly Book”

What started as a whim turned into a 12-page children’s book for Concrete Planning Commission chairman Jason Driver.

Driver self-published his effort after showing drafts to authors and getting their thumbs-ups, he said. “I was able to get some sponsors, then, who helped me fund the cost to get it published,” he said.

The result is a light read that’s perfect for young kids, one that “the whole family will want to sit and read,” said Driver.

How silly is it? Consider one of the first entries: “If a fish could wish a really big wish, how big of a wish could a really big fish wish?”

Perfect.

The book also is unique in that its illustrations—even the cover drawings—were done by nine-year-old Grace Clemons of Concrete. Her involvement helps make the book even more accessible for kids in their single digits.

Driver is selling the book for \$8.49 plus tax. To buy it, call Driver directly at 360.420.5957 or 840.5571, or go online to AuthorHouse.com, Amazon.com, or BarnesandNoble.com.

—J.K.M.



First-time children’s book author Jason Driver (left) sold and signed copies of *A Really Silly Book* at Albert’s Red Apple Market Feb. 27. **Inset:** Grace Clemons, who turns nine this month, drew the illustrations for the book, including the cover artwork.

the comic strip, “**Public Service Announcement,**” in *Concrete Herald*. PSA is written by Danish cartoonist Stig Andersen.

Stig recently got some good ink in the Danish newspaper, *Fyens Stiftstidende* (please don’t ask me to translate that). Its Jan. 24, 2010, issue included a profile piece on him—and mentioned *Concrete Herald* as the only English-language newspaper currently publishing his strip.

Wow. Are we cool or what?

From the Skagit County Treasurer’s Office: Because of the implementation of a new assessment/tax computer system, our **2010 tax statements** will be mailed out later than in the years past. Look for them to show up by March 13. If they don’t, or if you have any questions about your 2010 taxes that can’t be answered at [skagitcounty.net](http://skagitcounty.net), give the Treasurer’s Office a call at 360.336.9350.

Census questionnaire assistance centers

Having trouble navigating the census process? Assistance is available to:

- Complete your census questionnaires
- Provide answers to general questions about the census
- Help those needing questionnaires in a language other than English

The following assistance centers will be open at various locations in eastern Skagit County. Days and times of service may vary, depending upon public response.

**Concrete:** East County Resource Center, 45770 Main Street (opens Feb. 26) Mon., Wed., Fri., 12–3 p.m.; Tue., 11–2 p.m.; Thur., 10–1 p.m.

**Lyman:** Exact location, days, and hours still to be determined (opens Feb. 26)

**Sauk-Suiattle Reservation:** Community Center, 5318 Brown Lane (opens March 1) Mon., 8:30–4:30 p.m., Wed., 9:30–4:30 p.m.

**Sedro-Woolley:** Sedro-Woolley Library, 802 Ball Ave., (opens March 20) Tue., noon–5 p.m., Thur., 3–8 p.m. (will provide English/Spanish service)

**Upper Skagit Reservation:** Upper Skagit Education and Employment Center, 25944 Community Plaza Way (opens March 19) Mon.–Fri., 10:30–1:30 p.m.

Beginning March 19, questionnaires will be available for those who have not received one at their home, believe they were not counted at their household, or were without conventional housing on April 1.

—John Boggs

Reminders: Town of Concrete census in March, town cleanup in April

Washington State suggests that towns and cities perform their own census on a regular basis, in addition to the federal census. Concrete hasn’t done so since 1987, so town officials feel it’s long overdue.

Look for census-takers to hit the streets March 15 into early April. The Town of Concrete needs to have its numbers submitted to the state by April 9.

“If our number is more than the federal number, [the feds] will use *our* number, because population counts have a lot to do with funding. If our numbers are lower, they’ll use the *federal* number. So it’s a win/win on our part,” said Town of Concrete Clerk Treasurer Andrea Fichter.

Town of Concrete citizens—renters *and* homeowners—will get a chance to clean up their properties from April 10–11. Keep your eye on *Concrete Herald* for details.

U.S. Census Bureau urges everyone to “Take 10”

Residents around the nation can take action to make sure they receive their fair share of federal dollars and representation in government.

The U.S. Census Bureau’s “Take 10” program is designed to encourage everyone to take 10 minutes to fill out their 2010 Census form in an effort to increase the mail response rates in March and April.

As part of the “Take 10” campaign, elected officials and Complete Count Committees are being asked to issue challenges to their communities to improve their mail response rate from 2000. The challenges can be done a number of ways: by beating their 2000 mail response rate or competing against another community for the higher 2010 mail response rate.

The 2010 Census will illustrate how the nation has changed in the past decade. Because census data determines how more than \$400 billion in federal funds are distributed annually to tribal, state, and local governments, the census will help shape the future of communities around the nation for the next 10 years.

Mailing back the form in the postage-paid envelope ensures an accurate count and lowers the cost of the 2010 Census by reducing the number of census workers who must go door-to-door to collect census data from those who don’t send the

CBC choir to perform at Concrete Theatre

The Concrete Theatre will host a performance by the choir of the Community Bible Church of Concrete on Wed., March 31, at 7:30 p.m.

The 45-minute program, titled “East to West,” is a celebration of Easter. The performance is open to the community and free of charge. Snacks will be available for purchase in the theatre lobby.

For more information, contact choir director, Karen Barnedt, at 360.770.6913; Community Bible Church at 360.853.8511; or the Concrete Theatre at 360.941.0403 or online at [www.concrete-theatre.com](http://www.concrete-theatre.com).

Writer(s) needed!

Concrete Herald needs one or more objective reporters to cover the Concrete Town Council on a volunteer basis.

For more information, contact:

Jason Miller  
360.853.8213  
[editor@concrete-herald.com](mailto:editor@concrete-herald.com)

form back. About \$85 million is saved for every one percent increase in mail participation, according to the Census Bureau. Daily mail participation rate maps and data tables will be available at [2010census.gov](http://2010census.gov) from March 22 through May 3.

Upcoming Key Census Operations

**March 8 to 10**  
Deliver advance letters to households

**March 15 to 17**  
Mail census questionnaires to households

**March 22 to 24**  
Reminder postcards goes out

**April 1**  
Census Day

**April 1 to 10**  
Replacement questionnaires mailed out

SAVE PLENTY OF GREEN!

Shop at Cascade Supply and get ready for spring!

In The Service



“Every day I remind myself that my inner and outer life are based on the labors of other men, living and dead, and that I must exert myself in order to give in the same measure as I have received and am still receiving.”

—Albert Einstein

To share updates on loved ones’ service in the armed forces, e-mail Jason Miller, editor, at [editor@concrete-herald.com](mailto:editor@concrete-herald.com), or call 360.853.8213.

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## Lady Lions close out season 5-15 overall

By Chad Dinkins

The Lady Lions hosted the La Conner Braves on Feb. 2. The Lions stayed with the size and speed of the Braves through the first half, but could not stay in the game during this 56-26 defeat. The Lions had great efforts from Taylor Lee and Martha Schoolland on both sides of the floor.

On Feb. 5 the Hurricanes of Mount Vernon Christian came to visit. The Hurricanes used an aggressive game plan in attacking the middle of the defense of the Lady Lions, which put a lot of pressure on the guard play of the Lady Lions. The size of the Hurricanes became too much for the Lady Lions to overcome as they stormed off to a 56-35 victory over the Lady Lions.

The Lady Lions made the voyage to Friday Harbor on Feb. 9 to see the Wolverines jump out to a 24-9 halftime lead and not let the Lady Lions breathe after that point. The Lady Lions saw the growth of Freshman Kylee Warner against the taller Wolverines.

The Lady Lions wrapped up their season Feb. 12 against the Crusaders of Shoreline on Senior Night. The Lady Lions saw their 21-20 halftime lead balloon to a 35-23 lead after three quarters and never turned back. The Crusaders made a late charge in the fourth quarter, but could not make the final push to hand the Lady Lions a loss. Freshman Frankie Rohweder paced the Lady Lions with 13 points and Seniors Consuela Castenada and Taylor Lee scored 8 and 9 points respectively in their final basketball game.

The Lady Lions finished the season at 5-15 overall and 2-10 in league play.

**Awards**  
The Lady Lions recognized several players at season's end. Included in the list of honorees were:

Taylor Lee: MVP  
Consuelo Castenada: Queen of the Boards  
Jessica Filtz: Miss Hustle  
Kylee Warner: Most Improved



Concrete freshman Jessica Filtz gets a shot past a Shoreline Christian defender on Feb. 12.



Concrete freshman Frankie Rohweder tosses one in from outside during the Lady Lions' game against Shoreline Christian defender on Feb. 12.

## 3 wrestlers go to state

By Jason Miller

This year Concrete wrestlers sent three junior grapplers to the Tacoma Dome to compete in the 1B State Tournament: Dalton Dellinger in the 112-lb. weight class, Jacob Fallis in the 189-lb. class, and Scott Rice in the 285-lb. class.

The wrestlers brought home a mixed bag of success, with Dellinger snagging third place with three wins, plus one loss in the semi-finals. This was Dellinger's third trip to the state tournament, and one that he said taught him a lesson that he'll bring with him if he makes it to state next year.

"I'm going to focus more on wrestling the match I'm in, instead of thinking ahead to the next one," he said. "I think that's why I lost the match I did."

Jacob Fallis went 1-2 at state and didn't place, but Head Coach David Dellinger offered plenty of hope and confidence in his wrestler as he looked ahead to the 2011 season.

"I believe if he improves as much as he did this year, he's going to go a long way," said Dellinger. "He improved a lot this year; a lot of people didn't think it was the same kid on the mat."

Scott Rice faced elimination early with an 0-2 record, said Dellinger, but added that Rice's story closely paralleled Fallis' level of improvement.

"Scotty and the rest of the kids have come so far," said Dellinger. "Remember, this year, my team wasn't expected to do much of anything. We proved a lot of people wrong. Next year, we're going to be a force to reckon with."

**STOP!**

Shouldn't you be covering sports for Concrete Herald?

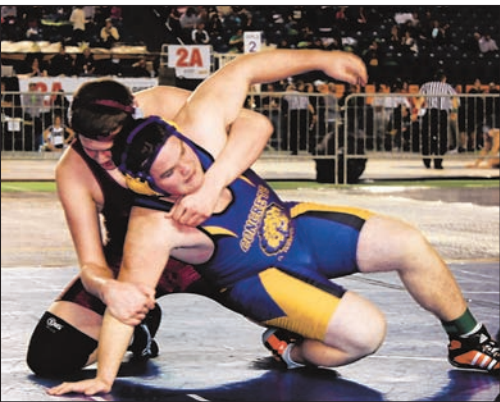
Call 853.8213



Junior Dalton Dellinger took home third place in the 112-lb. weight class.



Junior Jacob Fallis looks for an advantage.



Junior Scott Rice looks for an escape route.

Women's Fastpitch Softball schedule			
Date	Opponent	Event location	Time
3.13	Lummi	Concrete	1
3.16	Coupeville	Coupeville	4
3.17	Highland Christian JV	Concrete	3
3.18	Lynden Christian	Lynden Christian	4
3.19	University Prep	University Prep	3:30
3.23	La Conner	La Conner	4
3.25	Meridian	Concrete	4
3.26	Orcas Island	Concrete	4 (5:30 JV)
4.7	Highland Christian JV	Highland Christian	3

Middle School Track season starts April 5

## Men's basketball team wraps with awards

By Chad Dinkins, head coach

The Concrete men's basketball team ended its season with four games in February against league opponents.

On Feb. 2 the Lions welcomed the Braves to Jack Bradley Court, only to fall to them 93-55. The Braves extended a 7-point first-quarter lead to 22 at the half and never looked back. The Lions were led by Tyler Clark's 29 points. Greg McIntosh chipped in 12 points and Kyler Howell had 8 points.

February 5 featured the Hurricanes of Mount Vernon Christian against the Lions at home. The Lions were in control of the first 20 minutes of the game, only to see their lead become a 6-point deficit entering the fourth quarter. The Hurricanes held on to the lead after a late Lions surge to win 56-49. The Lions were led by Kyler Howell's 21 points and Tyler Clark's 19 points.

The Lions took on the Friday Harbor Wolverines on Feb. 9. The size inside for the Wolverines proved to be too much early in the game, as the Wolverines raced off to an 18-point halftime lead. The Lions came out on fire in the third quarter to cut the Wolverine lead down to single digits, but couldn't get over the hump in the 58-39 defeat. The Lions were led by Tyler Clarks 28 points and 8 rebounds. Kyler Howell pitched in 7 points and 4 rebounds and the Lions' lone senior Greg McIntosh had 6 rebounds.

See Men's Basketball, p. 31



Kyler Howell went vertical and horizontal on his way to the basket when the Lions took on Shoreline Christian on Feb. 12.



Tyler Clark throws it up from outside during the Lions' Feb. 12 game against Shoreline Christian.

## MS girls hoops season ends with hope, pizza

By Jason Miller

As they downed pizza during their end-of-season pizza party at Annie's Pizza Station, Concrete Middle School girls basketball coach Rob Thomas told his charges he couldn't be more proud.

After struggling through the first half of their season, the 7th-graders showed almost exponential improvement, ending with a 5-5 record.

"Their second half of the season far surpassed the first half because they learned to play as a team and the fundamentals became second nature to them," said Thomas. "They beat the teams they lost to during the first half of the season."

With a 1-9 record at season's end, the 8th-grade girls demonstrated "great heart, great character," said Thomas. "They just didn't have the experience or the athleticism the other teams had. That's not a negative, it's just a reality."

Thomas said that even though they won only one game, they never demonstrated a negative attitude.

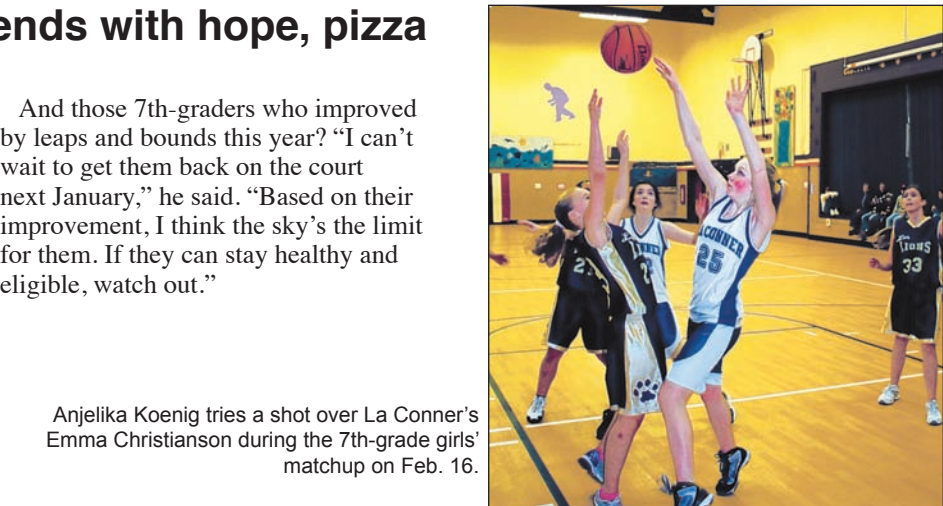
"It's hard to keep kids focused at that age, giving 110 percent, and they did. They never quit," he said.

Next year, Thomas has his eye on "some really experienced 6th-graders coming into the program."

## Athletes of the Month



**Athletes of the Month are Ashley Johnson and Jacob White**  
Ashley Johnson, a senior guard for the Lady Lions basketball team, had great status in January, "but stats aside, I really appreciate the person she's become over the last four years," said Head Coach Kevik Rensink. Jacob White, a junior wrestler in the 215-lb. weight class, is "one of those kids who's there every single day, never complains, always does what's asked of him, and gets good grades," said Head Coach David Dellinger. Johnson and White were selected by Concrete Lions Booster Club members based on their leadership, being team players, and demonstrating sportsmanship and character.



Anjelika Koenig tries a shot over La Conner's Emma Christianson during the 7th-grade girls' matchup on Feb. 16.

Varsity Baseball schedule			
Date	Opponent	Event location	Time
3.13	League Jamboree	Concrete	11 a.m.
3.16	Coupeville	Coupeville	4
3.18	Lynden Christian	Lynden Christian	4
3.23	La Conner	La Conner	4
3.26	Orcas Island	Concrete	4
3.30	Shoreline Christian	Shoreline Christian	2
4.6	Lummi	Lummi	2

Varsity Track schedule			
Date	Opponent	Event location	Time
3.18	Jamboree (possible)	Friday Harbor	4 (TBD)
3.26	Grace, La Conner, et. al.	Marysville	TBD
4.1	MVC, SC, Lopez, et. al.	Friday Harbor	4
4.7	Skagit County Meet	Sedro-Woolley	3:30

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# Academics

## Levies pass across Skagit County

The Concrete and Sedro-Woolley School Districts got what they’d hoped for on Feb. 9, as their maintenance and operations levies passed with flying colors.

Concrete’s was a replacement maintenance and operations levy, designed to provide “a significant portion of the total operating revenues” for Concrete and other districts in Washington. Concrete receives 17 percent of its operating funds from its local maintenance and operations levy.

The present levy request was a “renewal,” coming as the current levy faces an expiration date of December 2010. The new levy dollars would become available Jan. 1, 2011, and continue through Dec. 31, 2013.

## Concrete PTO news

By Debbie Ross, president

**Science Fair is March 18**  
Registration forms were to be turned in by Feb. 26. Mrs. Janda has presentation boards for sale for \$3.00.

The project needs to be completed and dropped off at the school by March 18; judging will take place after school on the 18th. Students must return at 5:30 that evening for the final judging. A Field trip is TBA.

**Assembly with MCT**  
March 10 at 1 p.m. will be another assembly with the Missoula Children’s Theater. The assembly will be called “Where is the Great Outdoors?”

**Walk-a-thon strolls in April 29–30**  
We are working to get donations and prizes for the upcoming walk-a-thon. We will send out pledge forms in early April. The pledge form also will have the time and date that your child will be walking.

**Yearbook**  
The yearbook is coming along. We can

use more pictures and people to help. You have until March 29 to purchase a yearbook at \$12.50; after that date it will be \$15.00. We ordered 175 yearbooks and have already sold 82. Make sure you order your yearbook before they run out. If you need an order form you can get one in the office.

People are welcome to submit photos of elementary and middle school activities, students, and events for the yearbook. You can upload these photos to a secure mailbox accessible to the yearbook organizers by using the link on the PTO Web site. Please include a quick description of the event and names of people pictured.

You also have the option to purchase a yearbook online, for \$13.50, using a credit card. Go here: <http://jostensyearbooks.com?REF=A09896865>.

**Concrete PTO Web site**  
Our Web site URL has changed from [www.concretecougarspto.org](http://www.concretecougarspto.org) to [www.concretepto.org](http://www.concretepto.org).

**Fundraisers**  
Our three main fundraisers have been Box Tops, Albert’s Red Apple receipts, and Campbell’s soup labels. The money we raise from this helps fund our assemblies.

Albert’s will accept cash receipts dated in 2009 until March of this year. So clean out your drawers and cupboards, and bring in those old receipts!

Other fundraisers include registering your Safeway card, Target Red Card, and Office Depot. We are still selling our car magnets for \$ 5.00. Remember to get your magnets from one of the officers or in the office.

## School Board to meet

The Concrete School Board will hold its next regular board meeting on Wed., March 31, at 7 p.m., in the high school commons room. A work session is planned for Mon., March 29, at 6 p.m., in the commons room.

# HONOR STUDENTS ANNOUNCED

## CONCRETE K-8 SCHOOL

The following 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students at Concrete K-8 School received a **3.0 grade point average or greater** for the first semester. An \* before a name denotes a student with a perfect 4.0 GPA.

**Grade 4**  
Juliana Wood, Geneva Scherer, Alyssa Roberts, Sabrina Jansen, Caroline Gregush, Michael Filtz, Heather Warner, \*Emily Schmidt, Cole Meacham, McKenna Kononen, Tyler Hansen, Rey Garibay, Carlee Brigham, Whitney Claybo, Riley Fichter, \*Hailey Johnson, Jillian Guffie, \*Grace Johnson, Sierra Kelley, Erica Knuth, \*Mary Spangler, Jasara Taylor-Temple, Kaleb Engler, Hannah Haskett, James Nelson, Rebeckah Ossowski, Madisyn Renzelman, David Swain, Tanner Tygret.

**Grade 5**  
Riley Pritchard, Emma Riedel, Anna Huppuch, Kayla Anderson, \*Emily Bridge, \*Treyton Howell, \*Kiya Mann, \*Rebecca Ross, Amy Storms, Connor Phillips, \*Kyra Smith, Ashlee Gilbert, Grayson Luttrell, Connor Phillips, Victoria Sheahan, Nickolas Parker, Krista Wahlgren, Tyler Wasson, Kayla Jarmin, Tanner Wilson, Tate Mathis, Diane Bergsma, Chloe Stidman, Tessa Coffell, Thomas Kelly,

Brook Barnedt, Jaycelyn Kuipers, Sidney Hockett, Destiny Vanbibber, Tyler Labrousse.

**Grade 6**  
\*Hannah Kononen, Abigail Martinsen, Dawson Bass, Samuel Holbrook, Katherine Joens, Donald Olmstead, Mindy Sutton, \*Haley McNealy, Joshua Gentry, David Quang, Tye Thompson, Kevin McLaughlin, Adam Adkinson, Donovan Dellinger, Edison Bergsma, Shelby Meacham, Randall Beacham, Katelin Pritchard, Zeeta Thornton, Brayden Drew, Tucker Scollard, Timothy Salters, April Allbritton, Jessica Bridge, Angelica Zapata, Suncirray O’Gwin, Colton August, Seth Shaffer, Ashten Tygret.

The following 7th and 8th grade students at Concrete K-8 School received a **3.2 grade point average or greater** for the first semester. An \* before their name denotes them as receiving a perfect 4.0.

**Grade 7**  
Baylee Robinson-O’Leary, Madeline Corn, Taylor Warner, Renay Miller, Muriel Troka, Sahale Riedel, Anjelika Koenig, Tiffany Forrester, Chris Quang, Emily Stidman, Hailey Brashears, Kathleen Haverstick, Gibson Fichter, Ashlee Kisner, Juanita Castaneda-Guerrero, Shayane Gilbert.

**Grade 8**  
Kristien Mann, Aimee Adkinson, Forest Barnedt, Nathan Butler, Samantha Christensen, Simon Marks-Franks, \*Joshua Rogge, Jonnie Rohweder, \*Dallas Newby, Kate McLaughlin, Pagan Beerbower, Tasha Leone, Morgan Hazel, Javon Thrasher.

## CONCRETE HIGH SCHOOL

The following students at Concrete High School received a 3.20 to 4.00 GPA for the first semester. An asterisk (\*) before a name denotes a student with a perfect 4.0 GPA.

**Grade 12**  
\*Taylor Lee, Cheri Baker, Greg McIntosh, Tanner VanPutten, James Martin, Jared Johnson, Kelsey Barnett, Paulina Stafford, Natasha Zitkovich, Krista Skonord, Emily Holbrook, Jacquelyn Scheer, William Stidman, Constance Johnson, Ashley L. Johnson.

**Grade 11**  
\*Alex Aiken, \*Uriah Kast, \*Shae Van Wagoner, Spencer Duffy, Megan Rogge, Jessica Bauer, Kyler Howell, Cody Mills, August Hanke, Brandon Tarquinio, Kellen Russell, Sherry Pringle, Evan Holm.

**Grade 10**  
\*Emily Ogle, \*Aiden Walsh, Tyler Clark, Blaze Rautanen, Sarah Spaeth, Cassandra Barnedt, Jocelyn Hernandez, Danielle Pringle,

Laura Blasutto, Benjamin Troka, Lonna Lloyd, Dakota Blanton, Bailey Dellinger, Cody Corn, Dennis Dorgan, Arienne Fengler-Nelson.

**Grade 9**  
\*Alex Joens, \*Melia Thompson, Celia Gracey, Olivia Davis, Frankie Rohweder, Hayden Holbrook, Arielle Aiken, Ashlee Evans, Alen Moser, Kylee Warner, Duncan Robertson, Caleb Omstead, Madeline Vogler, Heather Collins, Jessica Filtz.

## PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE

Brittany Shea Howell, a junior economics major from Concrete, was named to the President’s List for the fall 2009 semester at Presbyterian College in Clinton, South Carolina. Only students with a 4.0 GPA are awarded this honor.

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## Robotics team heading to regionals

Concrete High School’s Robotics team is back in action, sporting an upgraded robot, a new name, and continued commitment to having fun while learning valuable life and career skills.

In its second year, the team, which has



dubbed itself “Caution: Static Discharge,” is eight members strong. Returning veterans are Team Captain Cheri Baker; Shae Van Wagoner; Robert DiLeo, Jr.; and Joseph DiLeo. Alex Joens, Drake Jansen, Alen Moser, and Constance Johnson are the newcomers.

All eight students will travel to Portland, Ore., for the Autodesk FIRST Robotics Regional competition, March 4–6.

The competition pits dozens of teams against each other, but the overriding vibe is “gracious professionalism,” for which exists an actual award. Teams are even awarded points for helping other teams troubleshoot their robots.

Robotics Captain Cheri Baker cuts a wood component for the team’s robot while rookie team member Connie Johnson looks on.

Team Advisor Mike Criner said this year’s robot is a step up from last year’s, which was the students’ rookie effort. “It’s not wood this year,” he said. “It’s aluminum and fiberglass. It has four independent motors instead of two. We have an arm to pull us up the tower, and a kicker for the soccer ball.”

They’ll need all of that equipment if they expect to beat the competition this year. “It’s more like a soccer game this year,” said Criner.

Teams will kick a soccer ball into a goal while navigating a playing field that includes two speed bumps 12 inches tall, which run the width of the field. Daunting in scale, the speed bumps are 36 inches wide at the base and 12 inches wide at



Robotics team member Robert DiLeo, Jr. (right), works with team mentor Chris Jansen on the wiring for this year’s robot.

their peaks. That’s a steep slope. There’s a small opening in the middle of each, with a deck covering it. On the deck is a tower. “If a robot can pull itself onto that tower

See **Robotics**, p. 21

# Concrete’s Lions Club ROARS

By Jason Miller

“We help who we can and we give what we can. If people need help, we know how to find it for them.”

That’s how Concrete Lions Club member Barb Withrow summarizes the Concrete institution’s overarching mission. The Concrete club, which belongs to Multiple District 19 of Lions Clubs International, has been helping its community and the county since 1939.



Lions Club members poured cement for a Concrete Skate Park addition and basketball hoop pad in late February.

Withrow has been a member for 10 years, serving as president from 1997–98. These days she’s the club secretary “and photographer, editor, and counselor—you name it!” she added with a laugh.

Founded by Melvin Jones on June 7, 1917, in Chicago, Ill., Lions Clubs International expresses its mission in its motto, “We Serve.” The name itself is an acronym, standing for Liberty Intelligence Our Nation’s Safety.

In Concrete, that service comes in spades. Lions Club members don’t trumpet their accomplishments, but the entire town has felt their influence. You’ll see them throwing Halloween parties and breakfast at the Fly-In. Their bright yellow food booth is a fixture at Cascade Days. They’ll host an Easter egg hunt at Concrete Middle School on April 3. They’ve helped flood victims and those who struggle to hear or see. They’ve built wheelchair ramps. They provide scholarships for high school seniors and college students who don’t have the financial means to push through for a four-year degree. And if you visit Albert’s Red Apple Market in Concrete through March 26, you’ll find a Lions Club Food Drive in full swing.

And that’s just the tip of the proverbial iceberg. In February, Lions Club members were especially visible in Concrete as they expanded the Skate Park with additional sloped pads, jumps, and a basketball hoop.

Major funding for the club flows through Lions Clubs International, which

Lions Club members Cheryl Prior (left) and Barb Withrow accept food and cash donations with a smile at Albert’s Red Apple Market in Concrete. The Food Drive runs till March 26.



is in turn fed by the worldwide multiple districts’ annual dues and other fundraisers. Worldwide, Lions Clubs members number 1.4 million—and all of them have adopted the primary goal of service. It’s not surprising, then, that Lions Clubs International is the only private worldwide organization to have a seat at the United Nations. On March 26, “Lions Day,” the club’s flags will be flown all over the U.N.

For smaller, economically challenged communities like Concrete, it’s good to be

See **Lions Club**, p. 31

**Learn more**

Concrete Lions Club meets the first and third Wednesdays of each month, at Annie’s Pizza.

A social starts at 6 p.m., followed by the meeting at 6:30.

Visitors and anyone interested in joining the club are welcome!



Alishia Chory drops a pair of old eyeglasses in the Concrete Lions’ eyeglasses recycling box at Albert’s Red Apple Market in Concrete.



# Clear Lake



## Sedro-Woolley FFA gets a tri-tip boost

Feb. 20 dinner event the brainchild of Ag Booster group

The Sedro-Woolley High School FFA program got a little funding help via a Tri-Tip Dinner on Sat., Feb. 20, from 4:30 to 7 p.m., at the Sedro-Woolley Community Center. The event raised just over \$950, according to organizers.

Sponsored by the Sedro-Woolley Ag Booster group, the \$20-per-head dinner pulled out all the stops, with full courses that included grilled tri-tip beef, potatoes, salads, and dessert.

A silent auction and raffle included such popular items as a fire ring and a metal sculpture of sunflowers, both created by the high school welding class, which were

so popular they caused a bidding war, reported Sylvia Matterand, one of the event organizers.

“People were sliding in behind others, immediately after they’d written on a bid sheet,” she said.

The fundraiser was a success in large part to the involvement of its organizers and helpers. Sally Carlson prepared most of the dinner, with help from John and Sylvia Matterand, and Mike and Ben Ware. Tracie and Amanda Ostman decorated the tables, with Tracie handling much of the shopping and food-prep work,

too. Deana DeBoer organized the silent auction and sold tickets. Wayne Ramsey



BBQ duties at the dinner were shared by grillmasters John Matterand (left), Mike Ware (in cowboy hat), and Mike's son, Ben Ware. Photo by Amber Lee.



FFA team members team members were on hand to bus tables and serve dessert at the Feb. 20 Tri-Tip fundraising dinner hosted by the Sedro-Woolley Ag Booster group at the Sedro-Woolley Community Center. Left to right: Heather Collier, Sophie Matterand, Ryan Solemslie, Kayla Overby, Jessica DeBoer, Natalie Carlson and Kristin Ramsey. Photo by Amber Lee.

made sure the grilling team got plenty of firewood for the beef. FFA students helped with bussing and serving dessert.

The Sedro-Woolley Ag Booster group exists to help fund the activities of the Sedro-Woolley High School students who are FFA members. This includes the Horticulture team, which competed at the National level this past fall, and the

Logging Rodeo Team, which has been named state champions for at least the last eight years. The SWHS FFA members participate in many other FFA activities, including community clean-up days and other agricultural and educational experiences that prepare them for work in agriculture and their communities in the future. —J.K.M.

## Love INC thanks Community Covenant

I am pleased to announce that Love INC celebrated a very busy holiday season this past year. The need was great and we are thankful for the Lord's provision. We were privileged to serve almost three times the number of clients we served in 2008. We saw need after need being met through some of our local area churches during a very busy time.

I want to especially thank **Clear Lake Community Covenant Church** for its

members' service and dedication to our many clients who utilized their food bank. Without their participation we could not have helped so many. As a result of such a busy season, our warehouse is in need of furniture replenishment. If you have any basic pieces of furniture to donate, please call Love INC at 360.419.7061. We will arrange for pick-up and delivery to a worthy recipient.

—Jodine Bennett

## How to stop a church gossip

Mildred, the church gossip, and self-appointed monitor of the church's morals, kept sticking her nose into other people's business. Several members did not approve of her extracurricular activities, but feared her enough to maintain their silence.

She made a mistake, however, when she accused Frank, a new member, of being an alcoholic after she saw his old pickup parked in front of the town's only bar one afternoon. She emphatically told Frank (and several others) that everyone seeing it there would know what he was doing!

Frank, a man of few words, stared at her for a moment, then turned and walked away. He didn't explain, defend, or deny. He said nothing.

Later that evening, Frank quietly parked his pickup in front of Mildred's house, walked home—and left it there all night.

dependent on local farms for produce, meat, and grain. In a community such as this, your support contributes to the production of your food, you have direct contact with the grower, and it's likely

worse. Benefiting from bounty or risking variable harvests, grower and consumer are in it together. Investing in a share of the crop before the harvest season begins, to cover anticipated costs and salaries, the shareholders receive a portion, usually small or large, of the farm's highly



nutritious, fresh, and usually organic crop. Although farms may vary slightly in form of distribution and produce, pick-up normally is once per week at the farm. Produce typically includes lettuces, carrots, beets, potatoes, tomatoes, cucumbers, peas, berries, and other vegetables and fruits. Some CSAs also offer meat and dairy products. Seasons range from 18 to 23 weeks, depending on weather.

### Jericho Farm

Rebecca Morse, of Jericho Farm in Birdview, believes the benefits of CSAs are numerous—for both grower and shareholder.

“CSAs offer a mutually beneficial relationship between grower and consumer. The grower gains financial support to begin production and the consumer receives a wide variety of nutritious food with peace of mind knowing where, how, and by whom their food is grown.”

Planting their roots, as well as Jericho Farm, in the Upper Skagit in spring 2004, Morse, along with partner, Andrew Cambo, and son, Thalen, have been selling at the Concrete Saturday Market since 2006 and have been offering CSA since 2007. Morse began organic farming in 1998 and has extensive experience with CSAs and markets. She

currently grows on half an acre and plans to expand to a full acre this season, adding blueberries, raspberries, and fruit trees.

Besides selling at Concrete Saturday Market, Morse is opening up five additional CSA shares at Jericho Farm this spring and also is offering informative gardening classes beginning April 1. Classes will cover such topics as tools, fertilizers, cover cropping, companion planting, record keeping, and helpful resources.

Shares at Jericho Farm can be bought as small or large and are distributed from mid-June through October. Small shares can feed 1 to 4 people and cost \$250, while larger shares can feed 2 to 6 people and cost \$375. If paid in full by April 1, a 10 percent discount will be applied, but \$50 will hold a spot until July, when the full amount of a share is due in full. Jericho Farm also accepts weekly EBT payments.

Why is she so committed to CSAs? “Honestly, I can't imagine doing anything else, it just makes sense to me,” said Morse. Although she admits competing with larger farms can be a challenge, the community keeps her going just as she keeps them going. “It's really lovely, the support from the community. I believe every community should have its own farm, and I want to support this community.”

To inquire about CSA shares, classes, or to schedule a visit to Jericho Farm, contact Morse at 360.826.3046 or jericho00@yahoo.com.

### Blue Heron Farm

Anne Schwartz and Michael Brondi of Blue Heron Farm in Rockport, also offer CSA shares. Following organic farming practices since 1980, Schwartz and Brondi tend to an abundance of vegetables and berries, many kinds of bamboo, and trees and shrubs native to the Pacific Northwest.

Serving on the board of Tilth Producers of Washington (an organic farming organization) for more than 30 years and as president for 17 years, Schwartz continues to hold an active voice within many organizations, advocating for change and promoting organic, sustainable and family farming.

With its line-up of more than 35 kinds of vegetables and herbs,

and more than 70 varieties among them, Blue Heron offers large shares (2 adults plus 1 to 2 kids) for \$400 and small shares (for 1 to 2 adults) for \$325, from mid- to late-June until October.

Shares can be picked up on Wednesdays at Blue Heron Farm, Rockport, or the Sedro-Woolley Farmers' Market.

A minimum payment of \$50 is required at registration, but payment in full is preferred. Blue Heron also can work out a payment plan for the first of every month,



with the final payment due August 1. A limited number of work trades also is offered for those interested in working for part or all of their share.

Occasional bamboo crafts, plus harvesting and preparing bamboo shoots, are available at Blue Heron, as well as U-pick raspberries and blueberries.

Schwartz fell into farming shortly after earning her B.S. in Animal Science from WSU.

“It seemed like a lifetime of learning wouldn't be enough, there would always be more to learn. This is definitely true, and the notion of bringing this abundance of high quality, great tasting food into the world is good work.”

For more information on how to purchase a CSA share at Blue Heron, or make an appointment to visit the farm, contact Anne Schwartz at 360.853.8449 or als@fidalgo.net. Extensive information about crops, bamboo, and native plants at Blue Heron is posted on the farm's Web site: [www.marblemount.com/blueheron](http://www.marblemount.com/blueheron).

## Find the right farm

### Jericho Farm

7606 NE Cape Horn Rd., Birdview  
(Turn south on NE Cape Horn Rd. just west of milepost 84)  
360.826.3046  
[jericho00@yahoo.com](mailto:jericho00@yahoo.com)

### Blue Heron Farm

12179 State Route 530, Rockport  
360.853.8449  
[als@fidalgo.net](mailto:als@fidalgo.net)

Web site: [www.marblemount.com/blueheron](http://www.marblemount.com/blueheron)

Rick Lemley
Chuck Ruhl

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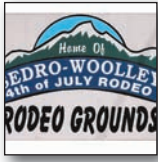
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# Sedro-Woolley



## Wrestlers loom large at state tournament

Sedro-Woolley wrestlers stomped the competition and made history at the WIAA Mat Classic XXII in the Tacoma Dome, Feb. 19. The Cubs’ girls team repeated their 2009 triumph by taking home the state championship. Standouts were Jalyse Garcia at 125 lbs., who pinned Shay Workman of Kelso for first place; and Alysia Pohren at 145 lbs., who pinned Skyline’s Alexis Willcher for first. Teammate Sarah Moquin captured the second-place berth in the 140-lb. weight class. Jalyse Garcia’s brother, Derek Garcia (shown at left), carved an entry into state record books by becoming only the seventh wrestler in Washington history to win four state championships. The 171-lb. grappler took down North Central’s Ben Carter and walked away with the title. Garcia’s fast-and-furious style, combined with overwhelming strength, made him a formidable opponent during the past four years. Congratulations to the entire Sedro-Woolley wrestling team.

—J.K.M.

## High School students accepted for Washington Aerospace Scholars program

Sedro-Woolley High School students Garrett Dressor and Joseph Janicki have been accepted to participate in the first phase of the Washington Aerospace Scholars program. The program offers 247 selected high school juniors from across the state the ability to explore science, technology, engineering and math, and apply their talents to the field of aerospace.

The program is offered in two phases. In phase one, students complete a series of online lessons designed by NASA that are due every two weeks through May. The lessons include items such as the math equations used to designate the correct timing for the re-entry of the space shuttle into the earth’s atmosphere so it can successfully land at one of the three designated landing strips in the United States. Another lesson explores the calculations engineers would use to send a spacecraft to Mars. Students also are asked to design an innovation that would be able to assist astronauts to construct a space station in outer space.

At the end of phase one, up to 160 of the top-performing students who meet the program’s qualifications will be chosen to participate in the next phase. Phase two is a six-day summer residency program. Under this program, students will work with professional engineers and scientists at the Museum of Flight in Seattle, where they will participate in various activities and challenges. Some of the activities include discussions of space flight, designing an interplanetary mission to Mars, building and launching model rockets, design and testing of payload lofting systems, landing devices, and robotic rovers. The program is funded entirely by private donations and commercial sponsors. “I’m very proud of our young people who are participating in this worthwhile program. I think it will open up a world of opportunities for them and eventually provide the ability for the aerospace industry to benefit from fresh new minds and new ideas,” said Rep. Dan

## A newspaper to call their own

### Central Elementary students publish *Cougar Times* with help from volunteer advisor, librarian

In a classic case of the old saying, “When life hands you lemons, make lemonade,” Central Elementary School in Sedro-Woolley has solved one problem resulting from budget cuts. Principal Kevin Loomis asked a local editor to volunteer to be advisor to the *Cougar Times* newspaper. Noel V. Bourasaw, editor of the online Skagit history site, skagitriverjournal.com, answered the call and aided librarian Gloria Rhoades with the volunteer reporters from 4th, 5th, and 6th grades.

Students have published two issues of the *Times* so far. Parents and the public can see the latest results at the school Web site: [www.swsd.k12.wa.us](http://www.swsd.k12.wa.us), then follow the links to Central School and the library. “We are all very proud of the student reporters,” Advisor Bourasaw noted. “We will continue publishing issues through the end of the school year and we hope to hand over a template to subsequent classes. I look forward to encouraging future journalists and history lovers.”



Central Elementary School volunteer student reporters have an advisor again. Shown are: Back row, left to right: volunteer advisor Noel V. Bourasaw, Deana Perkins, Kyla Felton, librarian Gloria Rhoades, library assistant Betty Heisler. Front row, left to right: Jalen Rantschler-Lucas, Nick Wahlgren, Taylor Wight. Not shown: reporter Ellie Stratton. *Submitted photo.*

Kristiansen, R-Snohomish. “Each generation brings a unique view of what can be accomplished through technology. I am looking forward to seeing the new discoveries and inventions these bright young students bring forward in the future,” said Rep. Kirk Pearson, R-Monroe. Kristiansen and Pearson added that the program is a wonderful way to encourage young people to consider entering a career that involves the aerospace industry.

**Concrete Herald**  
*The Voice of Eastern Skagit County*

## Wood Fest to return

Sedro-Woolley’s popular event for all things wood is back for a 2010 run. Wood Fest 2010 will be held on Sat., April 10 and Sun., April 11, in the Sedro-Woolley High School gymnasium. This year’s event features vendors and display booths from chainsaw carvers, wood turners, traditional carvers, wood crafters, artisans, high school woodworking exhibits, and more. *Much* more. Want to display at Wood Fest 2010? Applications are due by Friday, March 26. Download your application online at [www.sedro-woolley.com](http://www.sedro-woolley.com). Questions? Call 360.855.1841.

## Concrete Heritage Museum News

The Concrete Heritage Museum is closed for the season. Until next Memorial Day weekend, you can make an appointment to visit the museum or do research in our library by calling Robin Wood at 360.826.3075 or e-mailing us at [concreteheritagemuseum@stumpranchonline.com](mailto:concreteheritagemuseum@stumpranchonline.com). Monthly meetings are held year-round at the museum, on the second Thursday of each month, at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome. Julie Bruger has made a wonderful donation to the museum for its participation in her “Communities in the Mountain” project. Thank you Julie. New signs for the town are being mounted while Cheri Cook-Blodgett

works on another grant to create the remaining signs. Congratulations to the Concrete Theatre and its successful re-opening. The Centennial reprint of *So They Called the Town Concrete* is still available. The new edition features enhanced photographs and a more readable font. New cover graphics were done by Philip Johnson. Copies are available at Albert’s Red Apple (at the lottery counter; remember to pay for it separately at that counter) and the museum; an order form also can be printed at our Web site at [www.stumpranchonline.com/concreteheritagemuseum](http://www.stumpranchonline.com/concreteheritagemuseum). —Dan Royal

## Upper Skagit Library news

By Aimee Hirschel

“Edible Forest Gardening,” a digital slide show by Dave Sansone, will be the next presentation in the Upper Skagit Library’s “Our Upriver Home” lecture series. The presentation will be Wed., March 12, at 7 p.m., at the Concrete Senior Center. Dave Sansone returns to show the latest updates to his popular digital slide show. His show details the cultivation method that mimics nature using a mix of fruit and nut trees, berry-producing shrubs, edible ground covers, and vines to yield a system that can produce more food in a sustainable way while reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The slideshow will explain how you can convert your lawn into an edible paradise and will highlight the cultivation of low-input perennial vegetables that can provide salad greens year-round with minimal effort and without the use of a greenhouse. There also will be a focus on

low-tech propagation of trees and shrubs. Whether you have a brown thumb or are a Master Gardener, you are sure to go home informed and inspired. While the presentation is free, donations are welcome to defray costs, but please do not let that stop you from attending. Dave Sansone is an edible landscape designer and research gardener, growing more than 350 species of edible and useful plants in a multicrop setting. He also is the Director of Perennial Harvest, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to the research, development, and advocacy of sustainable cultivation systems suited to the Pacific Northwest. For more information about edible forest gardening, go to [www.perennialharvest.org](http://www.perennialharvest.org). There will be two library board meetings in March: the regular meeting on March 11 at 7 p.m., and a board retreat on March 14 from 2–4 p.m. Both meetings are at the library.

## Wanna jam with John?

Are you a singer or a musician? John Denver tribute artist Ted Vigil wants YOU. Vigil and musician Steve Weisberg plan to perform a John Denver Tribute Show on Sat., April 17, from 7 to 10 p.m., and they’re looking for western Washington talent to join them on stage at the Lincoln Theatre in Mount Vernon for a couple songs. If you’re a John Denver fan, Vigil wants you to throw your hat in the ring. For more information, contact Donna Backman at [backmanmarketing@comcast.net](mailto:backmanmarketing@comcast.net).



John Denver tribute artist Ted Vigil is looking for local musicians to sing or play “a couple of tunes” with him and Steve Weisberg on April 17.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- MARCH**
- 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 FREE community dinner at Day Creek Chapel, 31438 S. Skagit Hwy., come anytime between 5 and 7 p.m.; info at 360.826.3696
- 10 Imagine Concrete meeting, Mears Field Pilots Lounge, 6 p.m.; info at 360.853.8213
- 11 Concrete Chamber of Commerce meeting, Red Cedar Inn, Concrete, 8 a.m.
- 11 Upper Skagit Library Board meeting at the library, 7 p.m.
- 12 “Our Upriver Home” lecture series presents: “Edible Forest Gardening,” Concrete Senior Center, 7 p.m.
- 14 Upper Skagit Library Board retreat at the library, 2 to 4 p.m.
- 14 Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition presentation, Skagit County Historical Museum, 501 S. 4th St., La Conner, 2 p.m.; info at 360.466.3365 or [www.skagitcounty.net/museum](http://www.skagitcounty.net/museum)
- 19–21 Home & Garden Show, Skagit County Fairgrounds, \$4/person or \$6/family; info at [www.sicba.org/sicba-events-home-show.php](http://www.sicba.org/sicba-events-home-show.php)
- 20 Birdsvew Fire Department Fundraiser Dance, Lake Tyee; tickets are presale only: Find a fireman and buy a ticket
- 21 NW History Detectives meet, Moe’s Steak & Spirits, Metcalf St., Sedro-Woolley, 2-4 p.m., info at [www.skagitriverjournal.com](http://www.skagitriverjournal.com)
- 26 Lions Day, Concrete and worldwide; Lions Club Food Drive ends
- 30 Sedro-Woolley Community Troop Support meeting, Coconut Kenny’s, 714-A Metcalf, Sedro-Woolley, 5 p.m.; info at [swctsgroup@gmail.com](mailto:swctsgroup@gmail.com)
- 31 “East to West” Easter performance by Community Bible Church choir, Concrete Theatre, 7:30 p.m., FREE and open to the public; info at 360.853.8511, 770.6913, 941.0403, or [www.concrete-theatre.com](http://www.concrete-theatre.com)
- APRIL**
- 3 Lyman Community Easter Egg Hunt, Lyman Elementary School field, 10 a.m.; info at 360.826.4039 or [rooks5@wildblue.net](mailto:rooks5@wildblue.net)
- 3 Concrete Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt, Concrete Middle School, 1 p.m.
- 3 Ovenell’s Easter Egg Hunt, 2 p.m.; info at 360.853.8494
- 10–11 Concrete townwide cleanup weekend; details to follow
- 10–11 Wood Fest, Sedro-Woolley; info at [www.sedro-woolley.com](http://www.sedro-woolley.com) and see ad, p. 4

\*Community Calendar is updated daily at [www.concrete-herald.com/calendar](http://www.concrete-herald.com/calendar)

## Ms. Thompson goes to Olympia

### CHS freshman served as a page for Rep. Deb Eddy

Concrete High School freshman Melia Thompson got a taste of state government in February when she spent the week of Feb. 7 in Olympia, serving as a legislative page for Representative Deb Eddy (D-Kirkland). Thompson said she enjoyed the job, which found her delivering letters, paperwork, and messages to lawmakers on the House floor, and learning first-hand the democratic process. “It was interesting to see the huge process for passing bills, everything



Page Melia Thompson (right) and Rep. Eddy.

that needs to be accomplished,” said Thompson. “I can do it again next year, if I want to. It’s a possibility,” she added.



# Lyman



## For Easter fun, hop into Lyman!

By Tammie Werner

The annual Lyman Community Easter Egg hunt for children ages 11 and under will take place on Sat., April 3, at 10 a.m., at the Lyman Elementary School field. Children are asked to bring their own baskets to hold the eggs they find.

Between 1,200 and 1,500 eggs will be filled with candy and toys. Every child will leave with a small prize and the goodies from their eggs. Complimentary cookies and juice will be served.

Organizer Amber Rooks of Lyman is accepting cash donations for the event, which is funded entirely by donations. Donations can be sent to Amber Rooks at P.O. Box 1336, Lyman, WA 98263. Amber also is accepting donations of individually wrapped candy, safe and age-appropriate toys, stickers/tattoos, etc., for the eggs, as well as store-bought cookies and juice.

Volunteers are needed to help stuff eggs and help with the event. For more information, contact Amber at 360.826.4039 or rooks5@wildblue.net. No donation is too small!



## A word from the Mayor

By Mayor Debra Heinzman  
Town of Lyman

As spring returns, everyone in town will notice Mark Kitchen out and about town mowing, trimming, and cleaning, getting the town ready for the summer. In June we'll again hold our all-town Garage Sale, and July 10 will find our streets filled with beautiful automobiles during our Annual

Car Show. All proceeds from the Car Show go to the cemetery and park. So far, some of the money has been used to clear the northeast corner of the cemetery and install a niche wall, which is now in place and ready for spaces to be purchased. Thanks, Mark, for all your hard work.

**Concrete Herald**

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## Lyman Library tales

By Elaine Kohler

A sneaky footstep in the hall, a raspy voice on the phone, a bloody knife, and—gasp—a dead body!

It's up to you to collect the clues and solve the crime. The shelves are full of all kinds of mysteries for you to read and see if you can figure out who the killer is. Recently we have had several donations of books and many of them will be just what all our budding detectives are looking for. I love the old whodunnits and we have several of them, too. Ellery Queen, Rex Stout and good old Jessica. So come pick up a few and turn down the lights when you read them.

Our supply of puzzles was recently increased, thanks to Karen Griffith, who donated more than 20 to our collection. Some of them are real doozies. There is one that has all straight edges and one that is mostly very dark blue water. We also have some for the younger set, or those of you who like the smaller sizes. Tim and I are working on one that is all squiggly

## Lyman second-graders pile up pennies for Haiti victims

In early February, Lyman Elementary second-grade teacher Ms. Jillian and her students accepted the challenge of raising money for the Red Cross, to be used for relief work in Haiti after the devastating earthquake of Jan. 12.

Their goal was to raise \$500 through a two-week "penny drive." The penny drive quickly turned into a "money" drive, with many denominations of coins and dollar bills appearing in their jar.

By the end of the second week, the second-graders had reached and exceeded their goal, with \$538 collected to help the earthquake victims.

"I'm proud that not only are our students able to recognize the misfortune of others, but to act upon that misfortune by demonstrating the best of American traditions: generosity," said Lyman Elementary Principal Mark Nilson.

—J.K.M.

**Left:** Selfless second-graders from Lyman Elementary set a goal of \$500, then surpassed it by \$38, collected to help earthquake victims of Haiti. From left to right: Elijah Price, Caleb Cook, Levi Shelby, Melody Blevins, and, of course, Ms. Jillian. *Photo by Mark Nilson.*

shapes. So for those of you who really like a challenge, come in and check out the new ones.

We are starting to get more donations. If you have books or puzzles to give us, please give me a call at 360.826.3929 so I can set up a time to be there to receive them. We share the building with several other groups and the church, so we cannot have the bags and boxes sitting around. All donations are welcome, since we will have the book sale again this year, during which time we will sell the duplicates.

As the nice weather increases, the community building is often rented out for private functions. I try to post these in the post office when they are on days that the library is usually open, so keep an eye out for the yellow sign. If it is not there, check the bulletin board in the post office.

Until next month, clean out the book-cases for any books you are ready to give up and give me a call.

**Concrete Herald**  
The Voice of Eastern Skagit County



# Day Creek



## A place for peace and healing

Cedar Springs Renewal Center offers a serene spot to tune up the body, mind, and soul.

By Jason Miller

The world is full of hurting people. Some are fighting diseases or depression. Some are overweight. Some battle feelings of hopelessness, mental burnout, or spiritual emptiness. Often, they don't feel they can change their situation on their own and are about to succumb to a perceived fate.



Cedar Springs Renewal Center includes a decades-old barn overlooking 40 acres of pasture land. The fully remodeled barn includes 5 guest rooms and a huge exercise room.

Cedar Springs Renewal Center beckons to these people. Co-founded by Michael Mahaffey and Nan Monk, the Day Creek center exists to "help people come alive in every cell of their being, while discovering their spirituality," according to Monk.

"We do it through body and mind; we help people refresh and renew, physically, mentally, and emotionally," she said.

The center's methods are noninvasive yet penetrating, treating the mind, body, and spirit as a single, connected entity. Guests usually stay from one to two weeks, and are treated with numerous therapies to cleanse them to the core. Most guests experience the following:

- Hands-on, interactive classes on the preparation of whole, raw, organic foods
- Exercise, including yoga
- Dialogue that encourages self-discovery

For Michael, a person's spirituality is

the most important component in the quest for renewal. If you're not spiritually alive, the rest of it is a struggle, he said.

"For me, it's about helping a person awaken the spirit that's in them. We help people find and embrace that unique spirit, make it come alive. This isn't to be confused with religion, however," he said.

### The Socratic method

To help guests delve into their minds and rethink "the way they've always done it," Michael and Nan use the Socratic method of inquiry, which was developed by Socrates 2,500 years ago. Conversations are held in a group setting and are designed to help people rediscover themselves.

"It's very focused on the person, not giving them answers or ideas—no leading questions," said Mahaffey. "It's all about following the speaker's mind. If you can listen to that person inside, it will lead itself out to freedom."

The process can sound foreign to anyone steeped in Western culture.

"We're not a listening society; we're a talking society, a 'tell you how it is' society," said Mahaffey. "This method of inquiry is very inspirational for the person who is exploring himself, being given the freedom to come to his own conclusions."

See **Cedar Springs**, p. 31

## Cedar Springs Renewal Center

31459 Barben Rd.  
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284  
mohappy@cedarsprings.org  
360.826.3599  
www.cedarsprings.org



Mike Mahaffey and Nan Monk are co-founders of Cedar Springs Renewal Center in Day Creek. The center combines nutrition, exercise, education, and the Socratic method of dialogue to help guests refresh and renew themselves physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually.

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Call for more information & schedules or visit: [www.concrete-wa.com](http://www.concrete-wa.com).



Clothes on Wheels came to Community Bible Church in Concrete on Feb. 13, and proved to be wildly popular. Visiting from Mount Vernon were Nataasha James (left) and her sister, Patty Hamblin; and Nataasha's little darlin's, Corbin (left), 4, and Zaria, 2.



Photo by Amber Lee.



**Above:** A fish elevator was lowered into place at PSE's Baker River project. When construction is complete, the elevator will transport fish after they enter the trap. The fish will be raised to the top of the cylinder, then released individually after being sorted by species. From there they'll be put into trucks and hauled upstream.



**Above:** Concrete Theatre reopened with fanfare on Feb. 12, boasting a new sound system, luxurious wall coverings, and more legroom. "Some Like It Hot" played. *Photo by David Rosen.*

**Right:** Smiles from the Concrete Theatre concessions staff, Megan Rogge (left) and Shelby Lloyd. *Photo by Amber Lee.*



**Above:** Acme citizens Gabe, Sarah, and Sierra, who declined to give their last name, enjoy Valentine's Day breakfast at Blue Mountain Grill in Acme. The popular local restaurant added Saturday and Sunday breakfasts to its line-up on Feb. 13. *Photo by Kevin Osborne.*

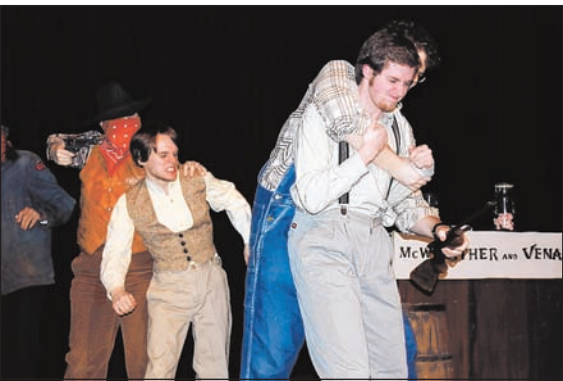


**Above:** Dalton Dellinger and his father/coach, Dave Dellinger, wait for Dalton's turn on the mat during the State Wrestling Tournament, Feb. 19.

# February in pictures



**Above:** Lions Club members teamed with Concrete Public Works employees to install a basketball hoop and more square footage at Skateboard Park.



**Above:** Sauk City playwright Nicola Pearson's play, "Carried By the Current," graced the Phillip Tarro Theatre stage at Skagit Valley College.



Lane Lloyd, 3, is too cool for school. He rode in the Summit Bank "float," a little red wagon.



CHS senior Cheri Baker played her heart out with the band.



Photo by Amber Lee.



And the band played on . . .



Photo by David Rosen.



Photo by Amber Lee.

## MARDI GRAS IN CONCRETE!



Photo by Amber Lee.



317 pairs of shoes were collected to be transported to Haiti. The drive was begun in honor of Mollie Hightower, a Port Orchard missionary killed during the earthquake, and is being coordinated by Q13 Fox News in Seattle.



The New Orleans Cake Walk boasted 38 donated cakes and dozens of participants who competed to win this "musical chairs"-type game. Almost \$150 was raised through entry fees; the funds will be shared by the Concrete Heritage Museum and the Friends of the Library. Look for this crowd-pleaser to return to the line-up next year!

Happy Mardi Gras!  
See you next year!



Vallaree O'Leary and Ken.



Photo by Amber Lee.



# Hamilton



## From the mayor’s desk

By Mayor Tim Bates

Often I use this space to thank people who have made a difference in Hamilton. This time, I’d like to make sure our volunteers receive a special word of thanks.

Volunteers have helped make Hamilton a better place and I am very grateful to them all. The town of Hamilton could not make it without its wonderful volunteers. So, to all who have given their time, effort, and ideas, I sincerely thank you.

## Birdsview buzz

By Kris Voigt

Well, spring was definitely in the air last month and now this month, it officially arrives!

I apologize for all the birthdays and anniversaries I missed last month. But if no one lets me know so I can I write them on my calendar, I don’t know! For sure I

missed Dan and Jon Royal’s . . . But, on to this month:

- 3: Lelly Siebecke
- 6: Dustin Claybo
- 17: Greg White
- 20: Bob Lahr
- 25: Jaydon Voigt
- 29: Adam Moser, Kevin Adkinson
- 30: Andrea Fichter

### Anniversaries

- 30: Floyd and Deanna
  - 31: Ed and Pam Giecek
- Bare Feet rocked the house last month and will again this month, on March 20. We also had a petition signing/rally informational meeting at the brewery on the 26th about I-1068. Stop by and sign it anytime and even register to vote.

The annual Birdsview Fire Department Fundraiser Dance will be held at Lake Tyee on March 20. Tickets are by presale only so make sure and find a fireman and buy a ticket. It’s for a great cause.

Have a wonderful month!



Don Skakie of Sensible Washington spoke at Birdsview Brewing Co. Feb. 26. Sensible Washington’s Web site says it is “a political committee dedicated to ending marijuana prohibition in Washington State and to enacting sensible civil regulation of marijuana in Washington State. Sensible Washington is [a] sponsor of a proposed initiative for the November 2010 General Election that would remove criminal penalties from the adult use, possession and cultivation of marijuana in Washington State.” Skakie was collecting signatures for a petition in support of I-1068.

## Town Council summary

The Hamilton Town Council held a regular monthly meeting on Jan. 12. The meeting was filmed for a documentary by students Jennifer and Scott from Washington University as a school project. Major topics included:

- Jennifer Benjamin was selected by the County Commissioners for Council Position No. 2. She took the oath of office and was seated as part of the Council this meeting.
- Ordinance 287 amending Council’s and Mayor’s salaries was discussed. Council Cromley stated she thought the council was waiting until April to pass an ordinance regarding salary raises. Council Bonner stated he thought we would wait until monies were received before it was spent. Council decided to table Ordinance 287.
- Re-zoning and Conditional Use Permit for 414 Noble Avenue, owned by Richard Roetcisoender, was opened for discussion. Margaret Fleek, Town Planner, presented the Staff Report and recommendations. This report recommended denying the rezone and Conditional Use Permit. Margaret Fleek noted that seven letters were received from Hamilton residents, six of which were opposed. The one letter of recommendation of acceptance was from Mr. Roetcisoender himself. A letter from Charles L. Steele, Floodplain Management Specialist, from the Department of Ecology also presented concerns for accepting this re-zoning and conditional use permit. The meeting was opened to the public for their comments; most were opposed. Council then discussed. Mayor Bates asked for a vote and the council was unanimous in denying the re-zoning and conditional use permit. Council Bonner then made a motion to deny the contract re-zone and conditional use permit. Council again was unanimous: five aye votes.

## Savvy Businesses Targeted

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## Business Spotlight: Oliver-Hammer Clothes Shop

By Cora Thomas

If you appreciate a business that has a story behind the storefront, then you’ll be impressed with Oliver-Hammer Clothes Shop in downtown Sedro-Woolley, which has served the town and surrounding area since 1921. Now, that’s history!

Oliver-Hammer was originally owned by Joe Oliver, a renowned tailor, and George Hammer, a retailer, when Model Ts could be seen bumping down Metcalf Street. Fourteen years ago, Dyrk Meyers took the opportunity to become co-owner of Oliver-Hammer, joining David and Greer Drummond in the business. The Drummonds also own True Value Hardware in Sedro-Woolley.

Meyers has his own history with Oliver-Hammer. He started working at the shop when he was still in high school, in 1965.



Carhartt clothing such as these women’s jackets is a popular offering at Oliver-Hammer.



Oliver-Hammer’s boot selection is the stuff of legend, serving men and women whether they’re hard at work or recreating outdoors.

After college and serving in the Army he returned to retail, working for the Oliver-Hammer partners in their Stanwood store, Hartney’s, building on his now 38 years of retail experience.

Oliver-Hammer is where you go to find quality work and outdoor wear for men and women.

“We have a niche, we specialize in work clothes and outdoor wear,” Meyers says.

You’ll find rows of work boots, socks, suspenders, hickory shirts, sweatshirts, hiking boots, everyday wear, and don’t forget hats. Oliver-Hammer carries many brand names, such as Carhartt, Levi, Wrangler, Russell, Hi Tech, Red Wing, and Columbia Sports Wear. Many styles of Romeo shoes are in stock, but their number one seller is the Georgia Romeo.

“We sell all sorts of jeans: work jeans, utility jeans, denim, Western style,” says Meyers.

In spring they sell a lot of t-shirts, shorts, lightweight shoes, and rubber

footwear.

Even though Meyers says sales have decreased a small percentage because of the economy, Oliver-Hammer continues to be in good standing. When asked how big box retailers affect this smaller business, he says, “We don’t try to compete with the big boys.

We pay close attention to what we’re doing, and we don’t worry about them.”

They pay close attention to their customers, too. Oliver-Hammer’s business philosophy is “keeping customer service #1!” Meyers exclaims proudly.

Oliver and Hammer understood the importance of quality customer service and that level of excellence is carried on within the current staff. Meyers also explains they provide special ordering. “If we don’t have what you want, we’ll order it for you.”

To call Oliver-Hammer simply a dependable business would be an understatement, when they’ve been operating successfully for about 90 years. That’s longevity! You know



Oliver-Hammer Clothes Shop Co-owner Dyrk Meyers focuses on customer service to keep the local business humming along in a down economy.

where to find your next pair of work pants or rubber footwear for the approaching gardening season. For hometown flavor that has deep roots in the Skagit Valley, visit Oliver-Hammer Clothes Shop.

### AT A GLANCE:

## Oliver-Hammer Clothes Shop

**Where:** 817 Metcalf St., Sedro-Woolley  
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**Phone:** 360.855.0395

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## A different reason to participate in the 2010 census

By Dan Royal

Most people understand why they should participate in the 2010 U.S. Census. For starters, it’s the law: The Constitution of the United States mandates that every ten years, a census of every living person in the U.S. be counted. Additional reasons include the reapportioning of the U.S. House of Representatives based on population, determination of school locations, and more.

Here’s another reason: Your descendants may try to track you down a century from now, and your participation in the 2010 U.S. Census may play a role in their success.

The census officially began in 1790 and until 1850 only enumerated the head of household, with a simple numbering of males and females in the home. From 1850 on, we have a full return of the

household; in other words, anyone living in a house at the time of the census was listed and accounted for.

### Consistent, reliable data source

I have been fortunate in that I’ve had handed down to me countless family stories and histories, poems, county history, biographies and autobiographies. Complications arose, however, when several versions of the same family stories came with numerous and varying dates for events, deaths, or births in the family. Birth certificates are the best source for birth dates, but in the early days, those returns didn’t always get filed with the local government. Not everyone listed these items in their family Bible, either; if they did, that Bible often is long lost.

Since my great grandmother was the 12th of 14 children when she was born in Birdsview in 1891, very little was known to me about the majority of her siblings, except for a few to whom she was close. This became my goal: Track their full names, married names for the women,

birth dates, death dates, and their children and descendants.

The easiest place to start on my grandmother’s sibling’s names and birth dates was the U.S. Census records, which are currently available to the public up to census year 1930. (The 1940 Census becomes available in two years.) There was a time when these records were available only on microfilm in very limited places, such as the National Archives & Records Administration’s Pacific Alaska Region in Seattle or your local LDS Family History Center, where copies of these microfilms could be ordered from Salt Lake City.

Nowadays, these census records can be viewed very quickly and name searched on such subscription-based Web sites as Ancestry.com; they also can be viewed at numerous local libraries for free if the library has a subscription to Ancestry or ProQuest, for example.

For me, the 1900 U.S. Census turned out to be the best place to start and as close

to accurate on birth dates as I could find because it included the month and year of birth. Typically you will find only the name and age of the individual you seek at the time of enumeration in the other census years.

The U.S. Census is not the only place to track down prime source material, and while there is much to be found now on the Internet, this is not the only place to look, either. Legwork to your county government is a must if the family member was in Skagit County, for instance.

U.S. Census data was a great starting point for me as I worked to gather a full accounting of the 14 siblings of my great grandparents. Now I have them and their descendants—my cousins—listed on the family tree.

A century from now, your grandchildren or great grandchildren may be trying to find you. Give them some help.

Dan Royal is Archivist for the Skagit Valley Genealogical Society.



# Rockport



## What’s next for Rockport State Park?

Parks and Recreation Commission to decide March 11

By Jason Miller

If you’re interested in the future of Rockport State Park, you might want to make the drive down to Lakewood on March 11.

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission will meet at 8 a.m. on Thurs., March 11, at the Lakewood Community Center, 9112 Lakewood Drive SW, Lakewood, Washington.

At the meeting, the Commission will consider adopting or approving a Rockport Area (CAMP) Classification & Management Planning – Action Item; namely, the preliminary recommendation that was presented to eastern Skagit County community members on Nov. 17, 2009, by Project Lead Derek Gustafson.

The product of public input and brainpower from numerous state and nonprofit agencies, the preliminary recommendation puts “all our eggs in the Rockport State Park basket,” said Gustafson at last year’s meeting.

The plan would expand the park’s boundaries to the north, west, and south.

To the north and stretching south to connect with State Route 20 lies the so-called “Trillium property,” hundreds of acres of undeveloped land that is owned by four different entities—a potential hurdle, Gustafson admitted.

“Private owners may not want to sell, and funding could run into the millions of dollars and take several years.

“We recognize that we can’t act fast,” he said with regard to the Trillium property.

The other major element of the recommendation is a long-term boundary that includes Howard Miller Steelhead Park, which currently adjoins Rockport State Park’s property line.

Also in the recommendation is an intent to transform Rockport State Park into a “premier day-use destination,” requiring capital investment to ramp up the day-use area with a modest interpretive center. This is not a far-flung idea, according to Rockport State Park Ranger Al Nickerson, who attended the meeting and reported that day-use visitors have numbered more than 30,000 so far this year.

Significant hurdles lie in Rockport State Park’s future, but, after budget-induced delays, the preliminary recommendation moves the process forward.

“This is a living solution, with refinements possible and likely,” said Gustafson.

A Commission decision can’t come too soon for eastern Skagit County communities whose already fragile economies were dealt a serious blow by the closure of the park’s overnight camping area in May 2007. According to 2006 figures provided by Rockport State Park Ranger Al Nickerson, 11,253 overnight visitors stopped using the park, taking their tourism dollars with them.

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Barriers beyond its welcome sign prevent guests from using the overnight camping area in Rockport State Park. The park has been open for daytime use since May 2007, when the overnight camping area was closed, and has seen an encouraging number of visitors on day trips.

## SAVE THE DATE

Mark your calendars  
for March 11.

The Parks and Recreation Commission will meet in Lakewood to vote on the preliminary recommendation for Rockport State Park.

The public is encouraged to testify or provide written comments prior to the meeting.

Comments may be sent to:

Derek Gustafson, CAMP project lead  
Washington State Parks & Rec Comm.  
220 N. Walnut St.

Burlington, WA 98233

360.755.9231

rockport.planning@parks.wa.gov

Rockport State Park’s status may be followed

online at:

www.parks.wa.gov/plans/rockport

Can’t attend?

E-mail your comments to Concrete Herald  
Publisher Jason Miller and he’ll read them in

person during the meeting:

editor@concrete-herald.com

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# Home & Garden



## Community garden gets \$4,000

Imagine Concrete initiative lands grant for initial infrastructure

Concrete’s community garden project took a major step toward reality in late February when it was awarded a \$4,000 Healthy Youth, Healthy Futures Washington mini grant from School’s Out Washington.

A popular idea that germinated during the Imagine Concrete visioning process in April 2009, the community garden had been making strides in its planning and organization phases, but had yet to generate the startup capital necessary to begin building its initial infrastructure.

The grant should cover the cost of fence posts, stringers, about one-third of the pickets, and lumber and hardware to build two 4x8 raised beds from salvaged cedar.

The grant application was submitted through the Upper Valley Awareness Task Force (UVATF), a member of the Skagit Prevention Council (SPC). Concrete Town

Council member Marla Reed, vice president of the SPC and a member of UVATF, made Imagine Concrete task force members aware of the grant opportunity in January. Written by Marjorie Bell of SPC, the grant application included letters of support from Concrete School District, Town of Concrete, Imagine Concrete, First Bloom, and Concrete Chamber of Commerce.

“It’s a great way to get kids off couches,” said Reed of the grant, which is designed to help kids engage with their communities by providing after-school activities. The First Bloom program was a necessary component in the application and will be instrumental in involving kids in the planning, building, planting, maintenance, and harvesting phases in one corner of the fledgling garden.

Reed said the grant money should be available in about one month.

Robotics, cont. from p. 9

in the last 20 seconds of play, it’s worth two points,” said Criner. “If it can pull itself up and hang from a robot that’s already hanging from the tower in the last 20 seconds of play, it’s worth three points.”

Keep in mind that these are unmanned robots, controlled remotely by students like Shae Van Wagoner, a junior at CHS who piloted last year’s robot and seems poised to resume his role again this year.

Van Wagoner says he’s in it for the knowledge and long-term benefits.

“I want to learn,” he said during a late February work session at the high school. “Initially I wanted to learn more about what it would be like if I became a programmer. I was thinking about my future and I wanted to figure out if it was right for me—and it’s supposed to look really, really good on a resume. It’s a lot of fun; it’s really hard, but I like to solve problems.”

The team has more advantages this year, adding Chris Jansen and Cheri Van Wagoner as mentors joining Bob and Lillian DiLeo, returning mentors from last year. The team also is benefiting from Janicki Industries, which is providing materials and the services of engineer

Jimmy Diedesch. Funding has flowed via grants from the Murdoch Family, Boeing, the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction), the Beazos Family, and the PSE Foundation (*Concrete Herald*, Feb. 2010).

As Portland looms, Criner plans. “We’ll pull an all-nighter before the competition,” he said with a grin. “But [the students] will be fine. It’s really a good group, the way they work together and come up with designs together—it’s fun to watch them.”

Team Captain Cheri Baker, a senior, tries to keep everyone engaged during the lead-up to competition: “I watch to see what people are good at, then get them involved.”

Baker was the sole female team member last year; this year, Connie Johnson makes it two, but Baker believes there’s room for more.

“We’re going to try to get some more girls on the team next year,” she said. “This year we’re twice as good—we doubled the team’s IQ!”

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**Blank slate.** A community garden is planned for the large, grassy area that borders Silo Park playground to the north. A search for grants also is under way to fund a complete renovation of the Lone Star Building and the former tennis courts, which currently is being used as a stockpile site. All three projects were Imagine Concrete initiatives.



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# Marblemount



## Seattle comedian J. L. Green brings the funny to Marblemount Chapel

As promised, the Marblemount Chapel heard plenty of laughter the evening of Feb. 13, when Seattle comedian J. L. Green came to town with a stand-up comedy routine for everyone.

The special Valentine's weekend show found everyone laughing at Green's wisecracks, which were delivered with a bemused attitude.

On an "If It Feels Good, Do It" bumper sticker: "I broke their window."

On licking toads for their hallucinatory effect: "Somebody had to discover that. How many animals did they go through before they figured out it was the *toad*? You know things are bad when all the pet shops are having after-school sales."

On tests for spiritual gifts: "What happens if I take that test and it says my gift is 'nursery worker'? I'm not gonna do that. If that's my gift, I'm returning it."

On Christians who act like they're perfect: "We need a Christian 'Cops' show to follow them around and see how they really act."

On relationships: "In the church, if you get past a certain age and you're not married, they stop praying *with* you and start praying *for* you. Is there a date by which I have to be married? Do I have a 'sell by' date on me?"

On the book, *How Not to Marry a Jerk*: "Apparently, there's a picture of me on page 41."



Seattle comedian J. L. Green delivered a family-friendly stand-up comedy show at Marblemount Chapel on Feb. 13.



## Dancin' the night away...



The 26 Annual Valentine's Dinner and Dance was the most successful ever—and that's not empty praise.

Sponsored by the District 19 Volunteer Fire Departments (Rockport and Marblemount), the event pulled in a whopping \$3,339.00, of which \$2,000.00 will be awarded in the form of scholarships to selected applicants from Concrete High School's graduating class of 2010.

Because of strong community support, this year's event

gathered the most money in 10 years, reported Rockport Chief Denton Moore and Marblemount Chief Larry Schroder. "We were delighted and pleased with the community's turnout and support, but are aware that this event would not have been possible without your and others' help and donations," they wrote in a thank-you to the businesses that supported the event.

The bulk of that support came from donations of products and services, which were auctioned and raffled off during the evening. One of the more popular auction items was an all-day fishing trip, courtesy of Ackerlund Guide Service, which ignited a bidding war to the delight of all.

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# Newhalem



## Crews to start clearing SR 20 North Cascades Highway in March

WENATCHEE — WSDOT crews found lower-than-normal snow levels during a late-February field trip up the North Cascades Highway to assess snow conditions. Based on the findings, crews now plan to start the annual snow-clearing effort on March 22.

The assessment team and observers arrived at the Silver Star gate eight miles east of 5,477-foot Washington Pass about 8 a.m. on Feb. 22. It was 14 degrees with beautiful, clear skies, but nothing approaching "normal" snow conditions.

In the words of avalanche control supervisor Mike Stanford, "Right now, snow and debris amounts are down compared to previous years. We dug a snow pit near the summit and found a relatively shallow and stable snow pack."

Surprisingly, crews also found huge hoarfrost crystals as big as playing cards. "The crystals could pose a safety problem for us when we return in March, depending on how much new snow we get in the next month," Stanford said. "New snow on top of the crystals would turn the frost into a 'slip plane,' increasing the avalanche danger."

If there is no significant new snow fall between now and the spring opening, most of the avalanche zones should melt back without dumping any more snow or debris on the road.

Despite the lower-than-normal snow totals, the March 22 start date isn't any earlier than the previous four years' start dates.

"We really can't start any earlier,"

Maintenance Assistant Regional Administrator Dave Bierschbach said. "Our mountain pass maintenance crews and equipment are on a round-the-clock winter schedule until March 15. That's the soonest we can release any of the snowblowers and crews from the other mountain passes and bring them here."

Bierschbach also said that the lower-than-normal snow amounts should make for a faster-than-usual opening, and that it could take as few as three weeks instead of the usual six.

The assessment team took snow-depth measurements from Silver Star Gate (milepost 171) all the way to the bare pavement they found about nine miles above the west side closure gate (milepost 134).

Crews on the west side of 4,855-foot Rainy Pass already have been at work shaping ditches and cleaning culverts above the closure gate where snow has

already melted.

The highway was closed for the season on Nov. 17, 2009. Last spring, the highway reopened April 24.

For more information, visit the SR 20 North Cascades Highway Web page: [www.wsdot.wa.gov/Traffic/Passes/NorthCascades](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Traffic/Passes/NorthCascades).

### Skagit General Store winter hours

The Skagit General Store in Newhalem has adjusted its hours of operation to accommodate the slower winter season.

The store is open 7 days a week all winter:  
Monday – Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Saturday – Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### Bare Feet, cont. from p. 1

The band formed in 2001, mostly consisting of jam sessions in local garages. In winter 2002, Fichter and Hambleton collaborated to write the first few songs that eventually became the album, "Short Street Sessions."

Their sound has evolved into an engaging mixture of rock, bluegrass, roots music and reggae, though none of those genres alone could describe it. While that has always been the best description of Bare Feet's sound, there have been times when one or another genre had a heavier influence.

Fichter sings and plays guitar most often as the front man; other times he provides back-up harmonies and rhythm guitar for his bandmates.

Hambleton is a versatile 12-string and Dobro player, a back up singer who can belt it out, and an energetic drummer during electrified sets.

Hambleton says of their years of rehearsals, "If we don't know it by now, we'll never know it!"

The current incarnation of Bare Feet also includes Josh's dad, Jim Fichter, with his mandolin and vocals adding rich layers to each song.

Zach Michaud, an East Coast transplant

and former Seattle street musician, and Jesse Eldridge, a Concrete graduate and local car salesman, are the newest members of the band.

Both notable solo acts from the Birdsvew Brewing Company's Birdstock Festival in years past, Michaud plays electric guitar and Eldridge plays bass guitar.

Bare Feet is a consistent crowd-pleaser in eastern Skagit County, packing in scores of fans at local venues. They occasionally travel outside our beautiful valley to play throughout the state. This writer especially enjoyed the infamous trip to Conconully a few years back, which produced the band's hit "Tamarack."

Hear their music and check for upcoming shows at [www.thebarefeetband.com](http://www.thebarefeetband.com), which also has a link to their Myspace and Facebook pages. The band thanks all its members past and present, as well as its fans, for more than a decade of good music and good times.

*Sandra Hambleton is married to Ray Hambleton of Bare Feet, and also is a local artist. She is the author of "Dark 80s," a collection of short stories. Check out the book and much more at [www.upriverstories.com](http://www.upriverstories.com).*



Bare Feet is (left to right) Zach Michaud, Jim Fichter, Jesse Eldridge, Josh Fichter, and Ray Hambleton, shown here in front of Birdsvew Brewing Company, a popular venue for the band.

### Take off your shoes and enjoy Bare Feet

**March 5, 9 p.m.**  
Moe's Tavern  
Sedro-Woolley

**March 19, 9 p.m.**  
Dusty's  
Sedro-Woolley

**March 20, 6 p.m.**  
Birdsvew Brewing Co.  
Birdsvew

**April 17, 6 p.m.**  
Birdsvew Brewing Co.  
Birdsvew



# Seniors



## Coffee Break

Words of wisdom

By Patrick Kennedy

As well-seasoned seniors we’ve said and heard it all before:

“I’ll never drink again.”

“When I was a boy/girl...”

“What does this button do?”

“If I’d only known.”

Or, the most famous nonword, “oops.”

Words are the gatekeepers to the brain and the keys that unlock inspiration and stupidity. Then there are those little words of wisdom or warning that are made by commoners, usually found on signs behind bars:

“Men are like coolers, load them with beer and you can take them anywhere.”

“Beer has been helping ugly people have sex since 1862.”

“If you drink to forget, pay in advance.”

“Wisdom is what’s left after we’ve run out of personal opinions,” said Bertrand Russell. Bertrand may have meant the human animal, but he couldn’t have meant seniors who never

run out of judgments and attitudes.

Many people have understood the problem of wisdom.

“The older I grow, the more I distrust the familiar doctrine that age brings wisdom.” So said the famous linguist H. L. Mencken, probably just before he was lost under a pile of hate mail.

Mahatma Gandhi put it a different way: “We don’t receive wisdom; we must discover it for ourselves after a journey that no one can take for us or spare us.”

Step by step, all seniors discover the positives and negatives of an eventful life. The positives we enjoy and put in our memory banks with a smile and warmth. The negatives are placed in that bank with a snarl and a warning light. That light reminds us that some words of wisdom, such as “famous last words,” are no-no’s.

“I should never have switched from scotch to martinis,” said Humphrey Bogart on his deathbed, never slipping out of character.

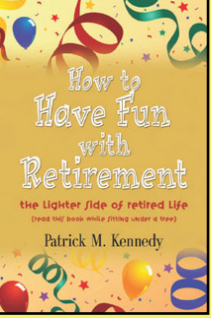
“Go on, get out—last words are for fools who haven’t said enough,” said Karl Marx, also in character.

“Don’t let it end like this. Tell them I said something,” said the Mexican revolutionary Pancho Villa, Mexican revolutionary.

Perhaps a simple “AAAAH!” will suffice.

*Patrick M. Kennedy is the author of How to Have Fun with Retirement, a sneak peek for which is available online at [www.funwithretirement.com](http://www.funwithretirement.com).*

How to Have Fun with Retirement



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## Way Back When

80 years ago

March 6, 1930: Another old landmark of the early days of Concrete will soon be a thing of the past. The old saloon building on the northeast corner of Main and Baker streets has been sold by G. Ross to A. T. Jennings of Marblemount, who is dismantling the structure for the lumber. The work of tearing down the building was started this week and will be completed in another week or so.

Mr. Jennings also purchased the remains of the adjoining old Concrete Theatre building, and has completed the dismantling of this building. As soon as the tearing down is finished, the lumber will be hauled away and the rubbish burned, which will add greatly to the appearance of the corner.

70 years ago

March 28, 1940: A campaign to interest the people of the upper valley in civic improvement is being inaugurated this week by the Upper Skagit Garden Club, which plans to conduct “before and after” contests on improvement of yards, vacant lots, and parking strips.

The contest is open to all residents of the valley from Birdsvew to Rockport, and prizes will be given in three divisions: one for the most improvement in a yard, the second for the most improvement in a parking strip, and the third for the most

improvement in a vacant lot.

The idea behind the contest is to promote civic interest and pride in the appearance of the communities of the upper valley. During the campaign, clean-up weeks and similar events will be featured to create interest in the plan.

60 years ago

March 2, 1950: Concrete Lions Club members are selling tickets this week for a Smoker, to be held at the school gym on Sat., March 18. This will be something new in the way of entertainment for this community, as it has been many years since boxing events have been put on here.

The committee has lined up seven bouts by the Burlington boxing team, which recently won three county championships. These boys are all trained, well-coached boxers who have been drawing big crowds at the school smokers in the lower valley.

The card will be filled out with seven or more boxing and wrestling events by boys from the Concrete school. No attempt has been made to match the two schools, since our boys are not prepared to meet experienced boxers at this time.

50 years ago

March 3, 1960: The new Lower Baker River Powerhouse project moves along at a good pace in spite of the bitter cold weather of the past week. The project is now about 60 percent complete and it is expected that the job will be finished late this fall. The new powerhouse is an extension from the original building built in 1925.

March 10, 1960: Ed V. Pressentin, chairman for the March of Dimes drive for the upper valley in the Rockport and Marblemount areas, reports that the total received was \$225.77. The Rockport ladies

collected \$109.66; the Marble-mount ladies collected the sum of \$116.11.

40 years ago

March 4, 1970: County Commissioner Howard Miller

## Concrete Senior Center March 2010 Activities

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

**Mondays**

9 a.m.

1 p.m.

1 p.m.

Gray Ladies Hoop Quilting

Skip Bo

Mexican Train Dominos

**Tuesdays**

11:30 a.m.

1 p.m.

Jigsaw Puzzle

Skip Bo

**Wednesdays**

8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

11:30 a.m.

1 p.m.

Quilting

Income tax assistance by appointment

Jigsaw puzzle

Skip Bo

**Thursdays**

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

11:30 a.m.

Wii Sports play

Jigsaw puzzle

**Fridays**

8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

11:30 a.m.

Noon

Quilting

Jigsaw puzzle

Mexican Train Dominos

**Special Events**

3/9 1 p.m.

3/10 11 a.m.

3/10 1 p.m.

3/12 Noon

3/17 12:30 p.m.

3/19 TBD

Rebekah’s Meeting

Advisory Board meeting

Bingo

Salmon BBQ, \$5/person, reservations req. at 853.8400

St. Patrick’s Day lunch

March for Meals Pasta Dinner, Burlington Senior Center, call for more info

March for Meals Bowling Bash; call for more info

Leap of Faith

Birthday lunch

Bingo

**Holiday Closures**

3/19 Furlough Day: all Skagit County offices closed

reported this week that the engineering and plans for a new bridge at Illabot Creek on the South Skagit Highway are now complete, and that bids have been called for the steel that will be needed for the span.

The creek is now bridged with a one-way, temporary logger’s job built of logs. It has been serving the traffic for the past several years, since the highway on both sides has been built and brought up to standard specifications.

The new bridge will be north of the temporary span and will be directly aligned with the ends of the highway on each side.

30 years ago

March 6, 1980: Some 91,784 visitors made use of Rockport State Park facilities during the 1978–79 fiscal year, Park Manager Ken Loft said Thursday in a talk to members of the Concrete Chamber of Commerce.

Facilities in the 457-acre park include 50 trailer campsites, eight tent sites, four shelters, and five miles of hiking trails.

Loft said he hopes to prepare an interpretive display. A name-change also was suggested by the manager, who said, “‘Rockport State Park’ doesn’t exactly hit you. We need something to get the tourists’ attention and make them want to stop.”

No action has yet been taken by the state on the proposed name change; Loft asked for community opinion on the question.

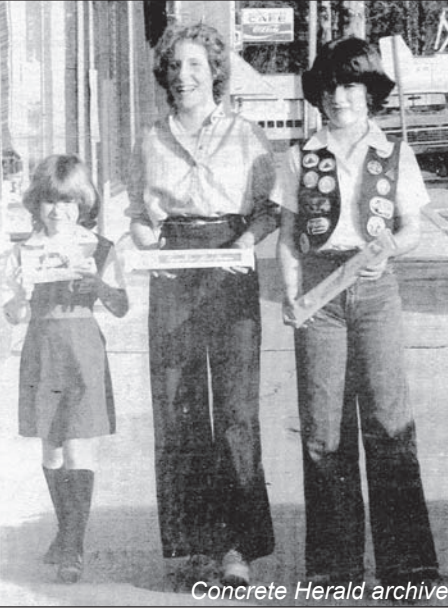
30 years ago

March 1, 1990: Students across the state are polishing their rope-jumping techniques and getting ready for one of the nation’s most popular fitness events, Jump Rope For Heart. Students from Concrete Elementary, Concrete

High, and Lyman Elementary are participating in the event.

The event has grown by leaps and bounds, raising nearly \$800,000 in 1989. Now in its 11th year, it involves more than 560 schools and 25,000 students in Washington alone. Jump Rope For Heart raises funds for the American Heart Association while teaching students how exercise keeps a heart healthy.

During the event, students jump rope in teams of six. Team members take turns jumping for up to three hours. Students help the fight against cardiovascular disease by soliciting pledges from family and friends for each minute their team jumps.



Concrete Herald archive

⬆️ Blast from the past

The above snapshot appeared on the front page of the Feb. 7, 1980, *Concrete Herald*. The caption read, “Upper Valley Camp Fire Girls, represented here by Dani Frank, Maria Ross and Dianne Frank, from left, are out selling the traditional Camp Fire Mints to aid in financing the organization’s activities. The sale continues through Feb. 18 and the girls’ slogan this year is “Buy Camp Fire Candy—the smiles are free!”

# Sunday School lesson

## Hearing the right voice

By Bill Mueller

In the 1960s our country experienced major changes. Many voices were speaking out. People such as Robert Kennedy, Malcolm X, Timothy Leary, Martin Luther King, Jr., and many others made their voices heard.

In the midst of all this rhetoric, one comment caused a big response in our land. It was an off-handed remark made by one of the members of the most popular music group of the time, The Beatles. John Lennon during an interview made the statement, “We are more popular than Jesus.”

There was an immediate reaction to those words. Beatles music was taken off the air on many radio stations. Some towns organized to burn Beatle albums. The emotions ran high at such a remark. Yet, the question must be asked, was he wrong? How many teens and



20-somethings in that generation were touched by Beatles music as opposed to being touched by the message of Jesus Christ? If that statement were made today, would there be an outcry like the one 40-plus years ago?

A look at history will reveal that what Jesus offers wasn’t always that popular. Martin Luther’s message of “Grace Alone” was met with an outcry for his head and that came from the church of his day. George Whitfield, preaching before thousands, with no amplification, endured hecklers interrupting his sermons in the 1700s. In the New Testament, the Apostle Paul addressed the situation this way, “There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves...” (II Timothy 3:1).

Sounds like a perspective on our present day. This is the world Christians live in.

We have to ask, is the presence of the Church really making a difference today? Are we creatively infiltrating the enemy ranks with the Good News?

A dear friend of mine put it this way: “Your neighbors may need to hear the Gospel, but they may need to come to your house first for a game of charades.” It’s all about making connections. Moving out of our comfort zones to touch others with kindness and care.

How does one begin to build bridges into others’ lives for God’s glory? If you’re not up for a game of charades, here are a few ideas that may help.

- Show a need: Ask for advice from a neighbor
- Borrow something and remember to bring it back
- Share rides.
- Hospitality: dinners, coffee times, ball games, barbecues
- Share a book you’ve read that meant something to you

There are many other ideas that will connect us with people all around who need to know the joy of Jesus. Therefore, it is key that they *see* our joy before they *hear* about it.

So what if Mr. Lennon was right that the Beatles were more popular than Jesus? Popularity wasn’t Jesus’ goal; it was to bring people into a loving and living relationship with Himself. We are a part of that process (John 13:34–35). Let’s not worry about a popularity issue; let’s focus on the reality of allowing our joy to spill out and touch the lives of those around us.

*Pastor Bill Mueller has been involved in ministry for the past 30 years, serving several churches on the West Coast as a senior and teaching pastor.*

## Obituaries

**Norman Lewis Ovenell**, age 87, a lifetime resident and pioneer of the Skagit Valley and Concrete for the past 70 years, passed away Wed., Feb. 10, 2010, at St. Joseph Hospital in Bellingham, Wash., after a long and courageous battle with lung, heart, and kidney disease.

He was born Sept. 20, 1922, in Burlington, Wash., to James and Mary (Dannenmiller) Ovenell. After graduating from Burlington High School, he purchased his own herd



www.concrete-herald.com

of milk cows and crop farmed on the family farm in Burlington. In the early 1940s, Norm, his cousins, and Harold Pierson cleared the P & O Ranch, which later became the Double O Ranch in Concrete.

He was married to Eleanor Jungbluth on June 12, 1965, at St. Catherine’s Catholic Church in Concrete. They raised five daughters who continue his legacy. Dad is remembered as a devoted husband and father, one in a million!

Norman, a longtime rancher, operated Double O Ranch in Concrete, raised and showed Maine-Anjou Cattle, and taught his daughters a strong work ethic and sense of family. Along with his wife and daughters, they began Ovenell’s Heritage Inn in 1997. He was one of the first Port Commissioners for Skagit County, was actively involved with conservation practices on his ranch and Skagit County Cattleman’s Assoc., and was involved as a 4-H leader and as a 4-H beef superintendent at the Skagit County Fair. Norman was an active member of St. Catherine’s Catholic Church and was instrumental in the construction of the CCD Center in Concrete. He played the accordion and banjo, and was known for his ability to work with his hands. Norman also owned an airplane and was known as “Stormin’ Norman” for obvious reasons!

Norman is survived by his wife of 44 years, Eleanor Ovenell of Concrete; five daughters, Katherine Ovenell Roy and her husband Calvin of Emmett, Id., Kristin Ovenell Hansen and her husband Anthony of Concrete, Cynthia Ovenell Kleinhuizen and her husband Jason of Concrete, Karin Ovenell Carter and her husband Terry of Sedro-Woolley, and Helen Ovenell of Concrete; six grandchildren, Norman Scott Hansen, Tyler James Hansen, Zachary James Roy, Jacob Norman Roy, Serena Noel Roy, and Matthew Calvin Roy; his brother, Lyle Ovenell of Burlington; and numerous cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents and an infant sister.

Upon reflection on reading his father’s obituary, our family feels this describes Norm better than we can say; he evidenced his father’s characteristics perfectly:

“The passing of Norm was to him the end of much suffering, but to us who knew him well it marked the loss of one of those rare individuals who gain respect and friendship by the old-fashioned and outmoded adherence to the concept of a true gentleman. He spoke ill of no one, softly when he felt wronged. His word was better than a written contract and his first concern was one of consideration of others. When he talked, others listened because the words were plain and full of wisdom.”

A Rosary was recited Tues., Feb. 16, 2010, at 9:30 a.m., followed by a Funeral Mass at 10 a.m., at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church in Sedro-Woolley with Father Martin Bourke as Celebrant. Memorials are suggested to St. Catherine’s Catholic Church or Skagit County Catholic Church building funds and Aero Skagit Ambulance Service in Concrete.

Special thanks are extended to Dr. MaryAnn Hink, Dr. Kendregan, United General Hospital, St. Joseph Intensive Care unit, Skagit Valley Hospital, Option Care, Lincare, and Tracy and Hope Woods.

Arrangements and services are under the care of Lemley Chapel, Sedro-Woolley. Please share your memories of Norman and sign the online guestbook at www.lemleychapel.com.

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**Lewis Pettengill**, 77, passed away at the Clearwater Valley Hospital in Orofino, Id., on Feb. 19, 2010, after a brave battle with cancer.

He was born Jan. 16, 1933, in Mountain Burg, Ark., to Charles and Nellie Pettengill. He graduated from Concrete High School in Concrete, Wash., in 1952. He then attended Arizona State University for a short time before entering the Air Force. He was honorably discharged in 1956.

He then moved to California where he met his future wife in 1962. Three months later they caught a bus to Las Vegas and were married on Jan. 11, 1963. They then moved to Riddle, Ore., where he worked at Green Valley Lumber. In 1982 they moved to Rock Springs, Wyo., where he worked for Pacific Power until his retirement in 1996. They then moved to Peck, Id., so he could pursue his love of hunting and fishing.

When he was 72 years old, he decided to finish what he started 54 years earlier, and that was get his degree. He graduated from Lewis and Clark State College last May with a bachelor’s degree in Political Science. He and his family couldn’t have been more proud.

Lewis had many varying interests. He had a love of photography that ended with countless albums and movie slides. He wanted to pass on his love and knowledge of the outdoors, which resulted in him being very active in Royal Rangers, Boy Scouts, and Explorers throughout his life.

He was a member of the Assembly of God Church in Orofino. He had a true love of what God built: the outdoors. He is survived by his loving wife, Norma; his son, Randy; daughter-in-law, Sarah; five grandsons; two granddaughters; four great-grandchildren; brothers Charles and Wesley; and countless true friends.

A visitation was held Wed., Feb. 24, at Pine Hills Funeral Chapel in Orofino, Id., from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Funeral Services were held Thurs., Feb. 25, at 1 p.m., at the funeral chapel with burial following at Orofino Riverside Cemetery. Pine Hills Funeral Chapel & Crematory is in care of arrangements.

## Sheriff’s blotter

February 9

A Lyman caller reported finding a rifle and said it did not work. Caller wanted a deputy to take it. Deputy checked and found the caller was not supposed to have firearms anyway. Gun was disposed of.

February 8

A Grasmere caller reported a man came onto her property and asked to buy things. Caller told him to leave. After arguing, he left. Deputy contacted man, who said he only wanted to buy the woman’s lawn mower. Deputy warned the man he is not welcome on the woman’s property.

February 7

A Day Creek caller reported a blue and black Ford Explorer driving through yards, knocking over a sign, and spinning around in a parking lot. Deputy located the vehicle nearby; investigation determined the driver was a 22-year-old Burlington man. Charges are pending for malicious mischief.



February 6

A Lake Tyee caller reported a vacation home broken into. Deputy arrived and saw the house had been rummaged through and the owners were not aware of all that was missing yet. Owners will compile a list of missing property. Deputy checked the area and found two other homes that had been entered but had not been reported. No suspects at this time.

February 5

A Marblemount caller reported a domestic argument between a 14-year-old boy and his mother. Argument did not turn physical; it was about what clothes the minor could wear to school. Deputy kept the peace.

February 4

A Cedar Grove caller reported her son was bitten by a dog and had more than 50 stitches in his face. Animal Control Officer contacted the bite victim and learned that the man was punched by another man, and when the first man fell down, the suspect’s pit bull bit him in the face and neck. The dog had reportedly been euthanized, but that information was unconfirmed. The investigation continues.

February 3

A Day Creek caller reported a gray-colored compressor stolen It had been sitting outside his garage and taken within the preceding few hours. No suspect information or better description of the compressor was available.

January 31

A Cape Horn caller reported getting harassing phone calls from an ex-friend. Caller said the ex-friend kept accusing the caller of giving the ex-friend an STD. Caller wanted the harassment to stop. Deputy warned the subject; no more calls were received.

January 30

In Concrete a deputy stopped a 60-year-old Sedro-Woolley man for not wearing a seatbelt. The man was intoxicated and processed for DUI since his blood alcohol level was twice the legal limit. He also was cited for the seatbelt infraction and driving with a suspended license.

January 29

A Cape Horn caller reported a 54-year-old neighbor was beating on her windows in the middle of the night. Deputy arrived and contacted the suspect, who was very intoxicated. Suspect said she was just checking on her neighbor because she knows she has not been feeling well. Deputy warned the suspect to check on the woman at a more reasonable hour of the day.

January 28

A Grasmere caller reported someone went through her car and pick-up. Both

vehicles’ doors were open in the morning, but nothing was taken. No suspects.

January 27

A deputy stopped a car in the Concrete area and determined that the 55-year-old Sedro-Woolley male driver had a bench warrant for driving without a license. The bench warrant had been issued three times previously. The Skagit County Jail refused to take the man because it was too crowded. The man was released.

January 26

A Concrete caller reported seeing a number of young adults near the Lake Shannon pit. Caller believed they were taking drugs and could hear them shooting a gun. Deputy checked and located several people, who said they were making a movie. Deputy discovered a sawed-off shotgun, which was confiscated. Brass knuckles also were taken from another person. Possible charges for possession of dangerous weapons are pending. All of the people contacted were in their 20s or 30s, and were from out of the area.

January 26

A Sedro-Woolley caller reported a white, 1999 Pontiac Montana parked in the caller’s driveway with the key in the ignition. In the morning, the car was gone. No suspects; the car is now listed as stolen.



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### He is risen indeed!

Easter is April 4. Concrete churches will combine for Easter sunrise at 6 a.m. at St. Martin’s St. Francis Episcopal at milepost 100. A light breakfast potluck of hot cross buns, coffee cake, hard boiled eggs, fruit, coffee, and juice follow the service.

Mt. Baker Presbyterian will have a potluck brunch at 9 a.m. and an Easter celebration at 10 a.m. Rev. Ted Schuldt will preach, since Rev. Tom Ross will be recovering from kidney surgery he will have had on March 17. Consult your local church for additional Easter services information.



# Health



## Don't let "portion distortion" sneak up on you

By Valerie Stafford

Everything is getting bigger. Twenty years ago, a bagel was three inches around and contained 150 calories. Now, the typical bagel is twice that size and has 350 calories. In the 1980s a cheeseburger was just 330 calories; today it packs a whopping 580 calories.

Unfortunately, it is not just our food that is increasing in size: our waistlines are expanding right along with it. Recent studies show that the average American waist size for men has gone from 35 inches to 39 inches in the last 40 years. For women, it has increased from 30 inches to 37 inches. The National Institutes of Health reports that 39 percent of men and 60 percent of women are carrying too much fat around their middle.

There are health risks associated with a

larger waist size. If you tend to carry your weight in your stomach, you are at greater risk for heart disease than someone who carries their excess weight around the hips. So while being overweight is never good, being "pear" shaped is healthier than being shaped like an apple.

The increase in our girth could be due to "portion distortion," a term coined by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute for their National High Blood Pressure Education Program. "Portion distortion" can sneak up on you, as you gradually start eating more and more at each meal.

**For good measure**

How do you measure a healthy portion of food? The U.S. Department of Agriculture has created a chart that relates portion sizes to common objects:

- 1/2 a cup of fruit, vegetables, pasta or rice = a small fist
  - 3 ounces of cooked meat, poultry or fish = a deck of cards
  - 1 tortilla = a small salad plate
  - 1 bagel = a hockey puck
  - 1 muffin = a large egg
  - 1 baked potato = a computer mouse
  - 1.5 ounces of cheese = 6 dice
  - 1 teaspoon of margarine or butter = a thumb tip
  - 1 serving of peanut butter = a golf ball
- Downsize for health**
- When eating out, ask for the smallest sizes. A child's plate might be all you really need, but most restaurants have started super-sizing everything. In fact, have you noticed how large all of our dishes have gotten? If you put a normal, healthy amount of food on an oversized plate, it almost looks forlorn. The solution? Eat out less often, and at home, replace

your big dishes with smaller ones.

**Make it hard to overeat**

Another way to control portions is to not serve from the table. Instead, dish up your plate in the kitchen, with an eye on healthy portion sizes. Then do not go for seconds. The same tactic can be used when snacking while reading or watching TV (not a very good idea to begin with): measure out a reasonable amount of food and put the rest out of sight.

March is National Nutrition Month—an ideal time to take a good look at the size of your food portions. For more information on reducing "portion distortion," go to [www.unitedgeneral.org](http://www.unitedgeneral.org).

*Valerie Stafford is the director of communications and community education at United General Hospital and the owner of Encore Fitness in the Concrete Theatre.*

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## Take vitamin D to heart

By Karl Mincin

Vitamin D is strongly associated with heart health, just as certain as the hip bone is connected to the knee bone. The hugely expanded role that vitamin D plays, well beyond bone health into nearly every body system, is attributed to the findings from the National Institute of Health's Human Genome Project. It is now well established that insufficient vitamin D is related to almost all degenerative diseases, including chronic inflammation, cancer, and cardiovascular disease.

Aware that people who live in northern climates experience more heart attacks, scientists began investigating the relationship between vitamin D and heart disease. Growing evidence now suggests that low levels of vitamin D may represent a significant but little-known contributor to heart disease.

Since the outcome of the Genome project in 2003, many studies have demonstrated a clear correlation between vitamin D deficiency and multiple risk factors for heart disease well beyond high cholesterol and hypertension.

Researchers at the University of Warwick, UK, reviewed 28 studies on the link between cardio-metabolic disease and vitamin D involving nearly 100,000 middle-age and elderly people. The authors concluded that those with the higher levels of vitamin D

were associated with a substantial decrease in cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes, and (pre-diabetic) metabolic syndrome. The authors concluded that interventions targeting vitamin D deficiency in adult populations could potentially slow the current epidemics of cardiometabolic disorders.

A revealing finding from a recent report by the Life Extension Foundation found that of the more than 13,000 members who had their blood vitamin D levels tested, nearly 40 percent were very low and 70 percent were borderline low. Interestingly, it is estimated that the majority of these individuals were supplementing approximately 1,000 IU of vitamin D. The current (arbitrary) Recommended Dietary Intake for adults for 400 IU. This amount is considered insufficient by most authorities and long overdue to be revised.

I recently tested my own levels of vitamin D this past fall. Being a health-conscious eater, vitamin supplement user, and bit of a sun worshipper, I expected to find above-average levels. I was surprised to learn that I was at the very low end of so-called "normal," or borderline deficient.

As a clinical nutritionist for 25 years, I've never been quick to join the "Vitamin of the Month Club," nor jump unreservedly onto any vitamin bandwagon, but I believe a higher recommended intake of vitamin D is here to stay. Yet, until we have a longer history of higher intakes, moderation is the wise course. Even today

there is research showing that 10,000 IU is safe and nontoxic. In our region I'm advising most of my adult patients to take 4,000 to 5,000 during winter and spring, and 2,000 to 3,000 IU in summer and fall.

To ensure safety and long-term effectiveness, it's important to note that along with this newly increased amount, I also advise annual testing in the spring, when body levels tend to be the lowest. Recommended intakes include vitamin D from all sources, not just supplements. Ensuring optimal blood levels of vitamin D may represent a key component of a strategy to prevent and treat heart disease.

*Karl Mincin is a clinical nutritionist in practice locally for 25 years. He specializes in nutrition assessment testing and may be reached at 360.336.2616 or online at [www.Nutrition-Testing.com](http://www.Nutrition-Testing.com).*

## Nutrition screening & vitamin tune-up

March 8-31, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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## Open for Business: Two Broads and a Broomstick

If you've ever been told, "you know, you really should clean that," you might want to get to know Dawn Johnson and Shelly Sanford.

The Lyman and Sedro-Woolley women have started Two Broads and a Broomstick, a cleaning service that can tackle anything you can throw at it. The pair say they can accommodate residential, offices and businesses, new

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construction, foreclosure deep-cleans, and apartment move-ins and move-outs.

"We do windows, too—both sides!" Johnson laughs.

The women "needed to get jobs," said Johnson, who had worked for Volunteers for America since 2005 and was starting to feel impending burn-out.

They sat down for a chat, brainstormed a little, and ended up getting their business license—all over the course of a few short weeks. They landed their first job in

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February and they're ready to pick up the pace in the coming months.

"We bought an awesome vacuum," says Johnson. "It's a backpack-style with a cord that goes forever."

## Two Broads and a Broomstick

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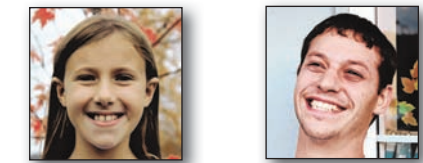
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Dawn Johnson (right) and Shelly Sanford have opened Two Broads and a Broomstick cleaning service, based in Lyman.



# Smile



## Dwelleysms

**Wit from the Herald's former editor**

“The facts of life are getting so confused that the simplest way to learn what you need to know is to go back to granddad’s method of personal research.”

—Sept. 29, 1960

“DeSoto cars are going off the market. Antique car buyers have a bright new field to explore. Buy a few now to stash away as investments.”

—Nov. 24, 1960

“Every man may not be a hero to the world, but if he can convince his wife, the world can go hang.”

“Success is often a result of bad breaks overcome.”

—Oct. 6, 1960

“It may be a long time before we need another such miracle as Christmas on earth. But we certainly could do with a few wise men in-between.”

—Dec. 15, 1960

“A scientist says that porpoises are so intelligent, they might be taught to talk. We have too many talkers now. We need somebody who can listen.”

—Sept. 15, 1960

## Concrete Harold



By Joyce Harris

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

—Jan. 17, 1968

“The curse of contemplation is that you have to think about it awhile.”

“Good thing lie detectors are not like Geiger counters. If we used them in a political year, they’d hear the buzzing on Venus.”

“Man’s urge to leave his name written boldly in some public space is for the most part futile. There not even neatness counts—he’s advertised himself as a prize idiot before he finishes the last letter.”

“Once a parent used to look forward to their youngsters growing up. Now they wait anxiously to see if they are ever going to show signs of it.”

—Jan. 24, 1968

## Old Farmers Advice

- Your fences need to be horse-high, pig-tight, and bull-strong
- A bumblebee is considerably faster than a John Deere tractor
- Do not corner something that you know is meaner than you
- It doesn't take a very big person to carry a grudge
- Timing has a lot to do with the outcome of a rain dance
- Most of the stuff people worry about isn't ever going to happen anyway
- Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer
- Live a good, honorable life. Then, when you get older and think back, you'll enjoy it a second time

## Public Service Announcement



By Stig Andersen

## An Elf's Life



By Jonathan Carter

## Lions Club, cont. from p. 9

plugged into that level of organizational strength—even a little heady, one might think. But Withrow is quick to add no one’s in it for personal glory.

“We don’t need pats on our backs,” she said. “But, when people tell you that they couldn’t have done what they did without the club’s help, when people say we’ve made their lives better, that makes you feel good.”

## Concrete Lions Club officers 2009-10

President: Andy Anderson  
1st Vice: Barbara Hawkings  
2nd Vice: Conrad Claybo  
Secretary: Barbara Withrow  
Treasurer: Larry Mosbey  
Lion Tamer: Emma Rogge  
Tail Twister: Dave Wright  
Board: Short Hurn, Bill Newby, Jim Parker

## Men's Basketball, cont. from p. 7

The Lions closed the season on Feb. 12 against Shoreline Christian. The Lions didn’t disappoint any fans in this game that saw many lead changes, plenty of action, and great basketball played by both teams. The big three of Tyler Clark, Kyler Howell, and Greg McIntosh combined for 60 points as Shoreline fell 74-64. Kyler Howell added 5 assists, Tyler Clark had 10 rebounds, and Aiden Walsh had 6 rebounds and 3 assists in his best game of the year. Cody Jarmin scored the remaining 4 points for the Lions in a great outing for the freshman. The Lions finished the season 5-15 and 2-10 in league.

On March 1 the Lions held their annual basketball banquet to recognize the players for their achievements this season.

### Varsity Letter winners:

Greg McIntosh  
Kyler Howell  
Tyler Clark  
Aiden Walsh  
Jake Massingale  
Cody Jarmin  
James Luttrell  
Andrew Black  
Hayden Holbrook

### Junior Varsity Award:

Dallas Newby  
Josh Rogge  
Andy Freeman  
Joe Solomon

Joseph DiLeo

Nathan Butler

### Team Awards:

King of the Jungle (MVP): Tyler Clark

Hustle Award: Andrew Black

Most Improved: Cody Jarmin

Most Inspirational: Greg McIntosh

Coaches’ Award: Greg McIntosh

## Cedar Springs, cont. from p. 15

Mahaffey is a passionate proponent of the Cedar Springs approach to wholeness, having gone through his own physical trial 27 years ago. In 1983 he was diagnosed with acute myleocytic leukemia (AML) and given months to live.

“[My doctors] were clear that if I were to be healed, it would have to come from within me,” he said.

Mahaffey changed how he thought, what he ate, what he did. He turned his life inside out and examined everything from his food to his belief system. And he came out a survivor: He experienced spontaneous remission of his cancer and has remained healthy to this day.

### A peaceful place

Mahaffey and Monk bought the 50-acre Day Creek farm in June 2002, and renovated the barn from top to bottom, even adding a small, third level. The barn hosts most activities and includes 5 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, a 3,000-square-foot exercise room, a 700-square-foot living room, office space, kitchen, sauna, and a huge deck overlooking 40 acres of pasture. It’s an idyllic, serene place that lends itself to renewal.

“Just walking through the fields is healing for some people,” said Monk. “Just the ‘letting go’ is good.”

Some might call the Cedar Springs approach “complementary wellness,” said Monk, because it benefits the regular medical model: It strengthens the immune system and gets the toxins out, so people who are fighting disease or trying to recover from treatment have a better chance.

“We’re trying to reverse the cycle of poor nutrition leading to cancer, heart disease, obesity, depression. We want to help people think, act, and feel young again,” said Monk.

The people who show up at Cedar Springs’ doorstep are taking responsibility for their own health; they’re not coming for a quick fix, said Nan.

“It’s a lifestyle change. Most people realize that after they’ve been here for a week or two. They realize that they’ll have to surrender a lot of things—mostly their old ideas, such as comfort foods and comfort habits—and start over again when

they go back to their lives. In that way, we’re kind of a start-up center to help people refresh, renew.”

Guests come from all over the country: Alaska, California, the East Coast—they’ve even had visitors from North Korea and England. They come seeking, motivated to make the changes necessary to find the path back to the life they desire.

Monk and Mahaffey start them off on the right foot. “We tell them, ‘You’re bringing the answer with you; we’re just going to help you find it.’ People like that,” said Monk. “Their life becomes something they look forward to.”

## Lake Tyee, cont. from p. 1

member, Michael Banzimer, will have the authority to appoint two new members during the week of March 1.

The upheaval comes as the recreational community struggles to reach an agreement on how it should proceed with a necessary upgrade to its obsolete electrical system, some parts of which still contain aluminum wire.

The recalled board members brought one approach to lot owners on Dec. 12, 2009: a one-time special assessment of \$4,470 per owner. That idea was defeated soundly.

Since then, an electrical committee has been formed to further study the community’s options. Zegers told Concrete Herald that the committee brought its ideas to the board, which then neglected—Zegers would say refused—to bring all of them to a vote. Fed up with the board’s perceived unwillingness to fulfill their duty of community representation, Friends of Lake Tyee circulated a petition for the special meeting to vote on their removal.

The ousted board members have declined to speak with *Concrete Herald* on the matter.

One strategy for dealing with the electrical upgrade was put to a vote on Feb. 6, prior to the board-recall vote. The measure failed in spectacular fashion, with 95 votes for, and 462 votes against.

The second strategy failed because “they didn’t change much,” said Zegers. “The price per lot owner increased by several hundred dollars. They had options with interest rates that ranged up to 38 percent. And they missed another option that would have made the project half the cost.”

The Friends of Lake Tyee group was created because of the electrical upgrade project and, Zegers said, the actions of the board with regard to it. “Friends” is a powerful group, with a core of 10 people

# Classifieds

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and voting proxy rights given to them by about 300 lot owners. An additional 100 to 150 lot owners have pledged their support without turning in a proxy. Together, they number more than half the total number of voting lot owners, which is 814.

Zegers, a lot owner since 1983, said Friends of Lake Tyee called for the removal vote because board members were perceived to “pick and choose what issues they wanted to listen to.”

“I think we all have the same goals in mind, we just had different ways of getting there,” he said.

The community still must address the electrical upgrade issue. Zegers said the electrical committee is calling for new bids and proposals to fix only the primary cable, which comes in from the main road, through the park, and runs along Lake Tyee streets. “That’s where the problem mostly lies,” he said.

According to Petelco, the cost for this portion of this project would be about \$2 million, roughly half of the \$4.4 million projected to complete the entire upgrade.

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