

The Voice of Eastern Skagit County Concrete Herald

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March 2011

50 cents



THE LITTLE EASY

Mardi Gras returns to Concrete March 5.

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The house that God (re)built

By Jason Miller

When Lyman Baptist Church burned Nov. 10, 2007, its congregation was faced with a tough question: Was it time to dissolve their 105-year-old church? After all, the structure that had given their worship a home was completely gone, burned to the ground. All that was left was the church bell and a charred Christmas cactus plant, its pot melted, its roots mushy and blackened.

See Lyman Baptist, p. 14

What is Imagine Concrete?

By Eric Archuletta and Jason Miller

Nearing its two-year anniversary, Concrete's town-wide, citizen-driven visioning initiative known as Imagine Concrete continues to gain momentum as it works to transform ideas into reality. The group's steering committee will host a "re-imagining" workshop April 16 from 9 a.m. till noon in the Commons room at Concrete High School, during which it will re-examine the work done to date by the Imagine Concrete task forces.

Imagine Concrete began as a grassroots effort by members of the community to ask citizens to help plan and prioritize our town's choices for years to come. That initial endeavor has grown into a

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Safe Places for teens

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Concrete Herald

The Voice of Eastern Skagit County

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Guest editorial Resilience and sustainability

By Eric N. Archuletta, M.A.



A few days ago, I was having a discussion with a friend of mine regarding Concrete and other eastern Skagit County communities imagining their futures. We touched upon the subject of building resilient, sustainable communities.

Resilience is the ability to recover quickly or to “bounce back” following a negative impact. It is a malleable, dynamic quality within a community, which can be developed and strengthened over time. A resilient community can strengthen the capability of its people, organizations, and processes to respond to and guide or influence the course of needed change.

A resilient and unified community can protect, reestablish, or create its own community assets (the sum total of the intellectual, individual, social, created, natural, and financial resources of that community) in response to undesirable impact(s) from natural or human-caused events. Unity is the basis from which communities build resiliency; however, this does not automatically ensure unified responses to stressors placed upon the community. Other factors that identify more robust resiliency within a community include participation of local institutions, community-centered policies, committed community leaders working in partnership with citizens, and effective networks for the exchange of information.

By definition, sustainable systems are resilient ones. A lesson learned from the Indonesian tsunamis of 2004 was that those villages with a clear and unified goal had the greatest community resilience and consequently were recovering relatively quickly after the disaster.

How resiliency and sustainability interconnect depends upon the breadth of the unified goal or “vision.” They are, in a sense, two sides of the same coin. Resilience is a community’s ability to *sustain* itself through and beyond any type of undesirable impact. Yet all too often, resilience becomes an undervalued aspect of the broader concept of sustainability. In actuality, one doesn’t exist without the other.

Communities are always going to be exposed to some kind of change, and whether the change is favorable or unfavorable, there will always be some type of reaction. Communities should be more than simply sustainable; they also should be regenerative and diverse, relying on their capacity not only to absorb shocks like the popped housing

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Opinion

Letters to the editor



Kudos to Jacob Roy

Our grandson Jacob Roy, 11 (pictured above), is honored to be selected for the Junior National Young Leaders Conference coordinated by the Congressional Youth Leadership Council. Jacob is a straight ‘A’ student in the sixth grade at Kenneth Carberry Intermediate School and was nominated for his leadership in both academics and sports. He will represent Emmett, Idaho, in Washington, D.C., at the Leadership Conference March 26–31.

Jacob is the son of Cal and Kathy (Ovenell) Roy and has two brothers and a sister. Both of his parents were honor graduates from Concrete High School (Kathy was Valedictorian of her class). Cal and Kathy have provided our grandchildren with an abundance of love, spiritual guidance, and a happy home. Both parents are role models for higher education; they instill this ethic in their children and expect the best of them. Jacob reflects those strong values; he is very competitive and pushes himself to be an outstanding student and athlete.

Please join us proud grandmothers in wishing this accomplished young man

good luck on his mission to Washington, D.C., and help us pray for Jacob’s safe journey to our nation’s capital.

*Eleanor Ovenell, Concrete
Myra Roy, Cashmere*

Gratitude for Stand-down efforts

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the many people from our community who came together to stage the recent veterans stand-down. It would not have been possible without them.

Donations came from the following: Abbott family, Concrete Assembly of God, Beta Sigma Phi, Boggs family, CoHo Liquidators, Cotton Tree Inn, Skagit County Community Action Agency, *Concrete Herald*, Concrete Legion Post 132, Concrete Lions Club, Concrete Self-Storage, Friends of the Upper Skagit Library District, Evalyn Goeringer, Hillman family, Hi. Lo. Country Hotel & Cafe, Holiday Inn, Jobs Corps, Jack Mears and the Town of Concrete, Puget Sound Energy, Ron Roe, Skagit Casino, Skagit County, St. Martins-St. Francis Episcopal Church, Summit Bank, Three Rivers Inn, Tulalip Casino,

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Letters policy

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

Corrections

A story in the February issue named Terri Sue Sheehan as the owner of the Country Convenience Texaco store in Clear Lake. Sheehan is the manager of that business; the owner is Kathy Lemon.

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and the miscellaneous service agencies, including health, legal, DSHS, etc.

The volunteers who gave their time and talents toward this effort came from all walks of life and include the following: Mike Abbott, Bill Adamek, Rick Archuletta, Lisa Beaver, Mardi Berkhouse, Murle and Kay Brown, Dave Chapman, Denise DiGrazia, Sharon Dillon, James Dolan, Jill Eelkema, Margaret Eisenhardt, Karen Ganion, Pam Garland, Peter Hallgrimson, Patricia Hamel, Gaylyn Harrington, Pat Hayden, Michael Hayes, Jim and Paula Helton, Charles Hill, Jim and Lou Hillman, Don and Karen Hinds, Chris Kennedy, Bruce Martin, Deanna McDougle, Denise Miller, Dave Mitchell, Kathy Milanuk, Stephanie Morgareidge, Michael Novotny, Angela Oaks, Cal and Jackie Rice, Gene Shabnow, Cathy Smith, Cindy Stears, Bill Sullivan, Jeromy Tintle, Tom Williams, Lois Wolf, and Larry VanDyke. If you helped and were not credited, I apologize, but that omission in no way diminishes what you helped accomplish.

*John Boggs, co-coordinator
Concrete Veterans Stand-down*

Stewart fundraiser thanks

To all those of you who attended or contributed to the Cathaleen Stewart Dinner and Silent Auction held in Marblemount on Feb. 19, THANK YOU!

We had wonderful participation from the upriver community, and the event was a huge success. With your generosity we raised \$3,194 to go toward Cathaleen’s expenses in her battle with cancer, and perhaps even more important, it was a very tangible demonstration of our care and concern for her.

A very special thank-you to these ladies who worked so hard to make this event a reality: Becky Snyder, Sandy Peek, and Helen Ovenell: food; Kathy Lester: tables and decorations; Kay Santosha and Tina Craig: silent auction; Angela Janda: publicity. It was truly a community effort and it wouldn’t have happened without you. I thank you all.

*Brenda Palmer
Marblemount*

Book and bake sale supported

Friends of the Upper Skagit Library thank the following people and organizations for their help during our book and bake sale on Jan. 22: Val Stafford and the Concrete Chamber of Commerce for putting the Eagle Festival activities together, Sara Pritchard at the Concrete Senior Center for all her help during

our organizing and setting up, the many volunteers who helped with the book sale and supplied baked goods, and last but not least, all the people who came by on that Saturday to check out the books, baked goods, activities, and displays. A very special THANKS also goes to John Boggs, who has always willingly and cheerfully lent us a helping hand and a strong back!

*Carol Fabrick
Friends of the Upper Skagit Library*

Community garden progressed with volunteers’ help

The Angele Cupples Community Garden in Concrete took a step toward completion during the weekend of Feb. 18–20, when several dedicated volunteers—some of whom came from as far away as Arlington, Everett, and Coupeville—helped me install 20 raised beds in the garden’s northwest quadrant.

A sincere thank you goes to Concrete Assistant Public Works Director Rich Phillips, Bill and Sally Pfeifer, Eric Archuletta, Jason Driver Sr. and Jason Driver Jr., Beverly Richmond, Stephanie Vogel, Douglas Herauf, and Joseph DiLeo.

Joseph, 16, deserves special recognition for helping me move all 20 beds from my property to the garden site, especially when you consider all the beds were wet and heavy: The 12-footers couldn’t have weighed less than 180 lbs.

Thanks also goes to Ed Rogge for milling the cedar for the beds, and Cascade Supply for providing the hardware.

*Jason Miller
Imagine Concrete*

Affordable Care Act shouldn’t be repealed

I strongly oppose the repeal of the Affordable Care Act. All Americans should be able to have access to affordable and basic health care. No company should ever be in charge of that!

Why have we allowed insurance companies to discriminate against pregnant women, children born with disabilities, children after finishing school, the unemployed, our sick, our seniors, etc.?

We the people—all of us—should be able to have health insurance anytime, without exception.

But Republicans in Congress want to unravel the law that holds insurance companies in check, allowing them to once again deny coverage to children with existing conditions, cancel coverage when people get sick, and limit the amount of care you can get—even if you need it.

And, by rolling back the Affordable

Care Act, Republicans are adding a trillion dollars to the deficit.

Do we want that? No, no, and again, no. Please strongly oppose the repeal of the Affordable Care Act.

*Sandra Klier
Concrete*

Chili Cook-off thanks

A sincere thanks to all of the business owners and friends who made and/or

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donated the wonderful prizes for the Eagle Festival Chili Cook-off Jan. 22. What an amazingly fun and VERY USEFUL assortment of goodies to win! There was a lot of thought put into these very nice prizes, especially with the effort to keep things local.

Thank you to everyone for the time and effort put into sponsoring the Chili Cook-off. It was a lot of fun! Hope we do it again next year!

*Peggy Hatley
Concrete*

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Burpee Hill Rd. fix to come by March 11

By Jason Miller

Concrete Mayor Judd Wilson said a plan is in place to create a short-term, one-lane passage open only to local traffic along a sagging stretch of Burpee Hill Rd. by March 11.

Wilson closed the road Jan. 18 after slides damaged two in-town sections. The larger of the two slides affected a 160-foot section of the road, which connects Superior Ave. North in Concrete and Baker Lake Rd. at the Lake Tyee community.

An analysis of the larger slide began within days of the closure. Bellingham-based GeoEngineers drilled core samples and has consulted with Wilson and town engineer Jim Hobbs of Reichardt & Ebe Engineering to determine a strategy for repairing the road.

On Feb. 25, Wilson told *Concrete Herald* that he has instructed Hobbs to plan a weight-restricted, one-lane passage through the larger slide area, open only to local traffic.

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Postmaster seeks to minimize General Delivery addresses

Area residents using General Delivery to receive their mail at Concrete Post Office may need to change their approach.

General Delivery mail is designed to assist people who are getting settled into a new residence, according to Concrete Postmaster Karla Chaparro. It is not meant to be a long-term method for receiving mail. U.S. Postal Service guidelines dictate that a post office not hold any mail marked General Delivery for longer than 30 days.

“It was getting out of control,” said Chaparro, who recently noticed a long list of General Delivery addressees. “There were a lot of people who didn’t know that it was meant for a short period, and they could get mail at their houses.”

The Concrete Post Office gets credit from the USPS for work hours, number of employees, walk-in revenue, street deliveries, and P.O. box rentals, but no credit for time spent on General Delivery.

“In order to stay solvent, we need to minimize our General Delivery addresses,” said Chaparro.

Envision Skagit reps get answers

By Jason Miller

On Feb. 8, Envision Skagit 2060 Citizen Committee members hosted a community meeting in Concrete to gain public input on the future of Skagit County. The meeting was held in the Commons room at Concrete High School, with upwards of 30 people attending.

One of the meeting’s core objectives was to “hear the community’s thoughts on what they value in the Skagit Valley, what they’re concerned about, and what they would like to see happen over time,” said Kirk Johnson, a Skagit County planner who is the Envision Skagit project manager.

Three questions were posed to attendees, who provided answers and then voted on their responses to achieve consensus.

Question 1: What do you value most about the Skagit Valley that needs to be retained over time?

Top responses: Natural resources; quality of life; safe, small communities; recreation opportunities.

Question 2: What do we need to work

See **Envision Skagit**, p. 31

Smiles and high spirits at first stand-down

By John Boggs

Although the skies were gray and gloomy on Jan. 29, the smiles and spirits of both the veterans and the volunteers serving them were undampened during the Concrete stand-down.

The efforts of the small army of volunteers did not go unnoticed by our local veterans. The service providers were described as “helpful, caring people” and “kind, considerate, and respectful” in feedback submitted by the 32 men and women veterans who attended. Almost the same words were used by volunteers to describe the veterans who came in to receive lunches, medical check-ups, legal assistance, immunizations, haircuts, and cold weather gear. All in all, it was a satisfying day, with one side providing help to appreciative veterans, the other side being reminded that someone cares and appreciates the service they gave for their country.

Concrete, Mount Vernon, and Anacortes all hosted stand-downs that day. All the events were a success, though the Concrete location served proportionately more veterans. That says something special about our community, because proportionately, we also had more volunteers willing to pitch in and help.

A special thanks to all the donors and volunteers who made the day a success. As Mike Abbott, the local veterans service officer, put it, “We touched a lot of people that day.”

As Chairman of Skagit County’s Veterans Assistance Fund (VAF), Abbott also pledged a five-pronged approach to assist veterans this year and next year:

1. Organize another stand down this fall—before the cold weather sets in.
2. Make regular trips to the “boonies” of eastern Skagit County to visit veterans who perhaps wouldn’t otherwise make it into his office.
3. Assist in writing a recurring article for *Concrete Herald* on veteran-related activities and benefits. The benefits available to veterans and the rules for obtaining them change almost constantly. Many benefits last a lifetime and some even longer.
4. Continue to assist veterans as the local service officer operating out of the East County Resource Center on Wednesdays.

See **Stand-down**, p. 31

Live lightly? Transition brings it close to home

By Patricia Sweaney and Janet McKinney

We live in a time that makes us feel uneasy and powerless in the face of changes. With oil prices rising and jobs disappearing, what can we do? The things we’ve been doing don’t seem to be working anymore.

“Along comes the Transition Movement,” said Frances Moore Lappé, author of *Diet for a Small Planet*, “which actually allows us, without having to be experts, without having to know everything, to step into a process that enables us to work together to make a new world.”

According to Trathen Heckman with Dailyacts.org, “It is not our task to fix the whole world at once, but to reach out and mend the part that is within our reach.”

Thinking this way, the job seems doable. Neighbors are invited to find answers to their own particular issues.

Begun in England, the transition initiative is a growing global effort that seeks to encourage positive community responses to environmental, social, and economic instabilities, because the best answers are found through networking, cooperating, growing your own food and economic systems, promoting regional alternative energies, nurturing your area’s unique culture, and deepening interpersonal connections. By building on the wisdom of the past and the ingenuity and skills within our communities, it is believed the solutions will emerge.

Local groups formed

Two transition groups have formed in Skagit County: Chuckanut Transition and Transition Fidalgo & Friends. The two organizations have been invited to be part of the Skagit Human Rights Festival. They will unveil their programs in the presentation “Imagine Skagit in Transition: Local Interdependence—Community Building to Meet Our Challenges,” March 10 at 7 p.m., in the Phillip Tarro Theater at Skagit Valley College.

Both transition initiatives are working to increase resilience of the local economy by developing positive, everyday solutions to the challenges. By supporting renewable energy, rebuilding skills, strengthening interpersonal relationships, and fostering the local production of food, energy, and goods, we look forward to a way of life more fulfilling, more

See **Transition**, p. 31

Rain or shine, Mardi Gras returns to Concrete March 5

CONCRETE — The Concrete Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce the 4th annual Mardi Gras celebration in Concrete on Sat., March 5.

The fun takes place on Main Street and includes a colorful parade, New Orleans-style crayfish boil, children’s activities, demonstrations, and contests. The event is topped off with a nighttime masquerade ball.

“We never really thought this would be an annual event,” said Valerie Stafford, president of the Concrete Chamber, in a press release. “But it’s taken on a life of its own and each year gets a little bigger. It’s the most fun you can have west of New Orleans.”

Everyone is invited to be part of the free, “rain or shine” parade, with line-up near the Concrete Post Office at 9:30 a.m. and the parade starting at 11 a.m., traveling from west to east on Main Street. Each parade entry must include the official Mardi Gras colors of purple, green, and gold.

Parade entry forms are available at the Chamber office in the Skagit County Community Resource Center and online at www.concrete-wa.com. Prizes will be awarded in four categories:

- Best Krewe (group, organization, or business)
 - Best-dressed Adult
 - Best-dressed Youth
 - Best-dressed Pet
- The 2011 Mardi Gras King and Queen, Harold and Cheryl Pitts, will reign over the parade. The Pittses own the Hi. Lo. Country Bar & Grill and the Hi. Lo. Country Hotel, both of which were renovated and reopened by the couple in the last year, much to the delight of the community.
- “We think it’s fitting to crown Harold and Cheryl as this year’s royalty,” said Stafford, “to recognize them for their hard work and community spirit.”
- Before, during, and after the parade, revelers can enjoy an authentic Louisiana meal-in-a-bag: A crayfish boil will be featured near the town’s Bear Square (dubbed the French Quarter for this event), featuring crayfish (small fresh-water lobsters), okra, and cornbread for \$10. The special feast is being prepared by Chef Brad Whaley of Café Burlington.
- Another food-related activity is the King Cupcake Contest, where participants who purchase a cupcake with a token inside will win a prize. Cupcakes will be sold

Combat flag presented in special ceremony

By Jason Miller

A U.S. flag flown in a combat mission over Afghanistan was honored during a presentation ceremony Feb. 17 at Concrete Elementary School.

Dedicated to Sedro-Woolley Community Troop Support, the flag flew during an operation over Tera Zayi District, Khowst Province, near Salerno, Afghanistan. It accompanied members of B. Co. 168th Aviation Regiment, on board a CH-47D Chinook helicopter.

Sgt. Charlie Ross, a 1981 Concrete High



Members of Boy Scout Troop Nos. 74 and 79; Sgt. Charlie Ross’ father, Don Ross Sr.; and Sedro-Woolley Community Troop Support Coordinator Marilyn Pineda led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance while saluting the combat flag during a special presentation ceremony Feb. 17.

on the street during the parade; tokens can be redeemed at the Concrete Theatre. Proceeds from the cupcake sale benefit the Concrete Heritage Museum.

Children are invited to have their own food fun with the Oreo-Stacking Contest in front of the Hi. Lo. Country Hotel, with prizes awarded for the highest tower of cookies. Face-painting and ceramic painting also will be available for kids.

Encore Fitness will present a free sample of Zumba, the popular dance workout set to international music, at 12:30 p.m. in the Concrete Theatre.

Other businesses around town will be in the Mardi Gras spirit, with special Cajun menu items: Annie’s Pizza Station will feature Andouille Sausage Pizza and Louisiana Gumbo, and Cascade Burgers will offer a special Cajun Burger Combo. The celebration will culminate with the 2011 Masquerade Ball starting at 8 p.m. at the Hi. Lo. Country Bar & Grill, where the person who wears the most beads will win a prize.

For more information, please contact the Concrete Chamber of Commerce at chamber@concrete-wa.com or 360.853.8767.

—Concrete Chamber of Commerce

School graduate, was on board the aircraft during the flag flight, as were other members of his flight crew, including CW2 Heidi Rota, CW2 Nathaniel Thompson, SSG Daniel Alvarez, SPC Jeffery Wilmor, and Sgt. Shohei Shima. The presentation ceremony included a dedication to the flag, acknowledgement



Mardi Gras documentary to screen at Concrete Theatre

Concrete Theatre, located at 45920 Main Street in Concrete, will show “By Invitation Only” on Thur., March 3 at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free. “By Invitation Only” is a documentary that provides an unprecedented look at the inner workings of the Mardi Gras Carnival society. The documentary is one hour in length and for adults only. For more information, call 360.941.0403 or go to www.concrete-theatre.com.

Letter read by Don Ross Sr. at the Combat Flag Presentation Ceremony, Feb. 17:

“On behalf of B. Co. 168th Aviation Regiment, I would like to thank each and every one of you for all your support here in Afghanistan. It is you, the American people, who are truly the reason we are fighting here and for generations to come in America. Your letters and gifts are very much appreciated. We are working 24-hour, around-the-clock operations, and even though we don’t have time to write back to everyone, we all want you to know that you are very, very much appreciated by all of us over here. “We are doing some amazing things. We are all civilians in the Washington State National Guard, we are all very much like you and your moms and dads, we have families we have to leave for a year, but that price we are willing to pay so we can help the fight against terrorism in the world. One thing that I would like to express is that taking care of the enemy here in Afghanistan—although a tough choice for our president—is a necessary thing to do. It’s better to fight them here in their land so they don’t come to America and try fighting us in our land like they did on 9/11/2001. Each and every thought and prayer from you for us over here helps in the fight and keeps us safe as we can be. Thank you very, very much from the bottoms of our hearts, and I would like to have you give yourselves a big round of applause for that! “In closing, our team over here is halfway through our deployment, and we are one day closer to coming home. It is our honor and our pleasure to fight and serve our country! Take care and God bless each and every one of you!”

—Sgt. Charlie Ross



Sports

Wrestlers go to State!

Dellinger captures second; Evans brings home fourth place

By Jason Miller

Concrete wrestlers' march to Mat Classic XXIII began with the subregional tournament in Concrete Feb. 5, with Colton Maloney, Dalton Dellinger, and Nate Long all taking first place in their weight classes. Kyle Nushart, Johnny Evans, and Cody Corn all took second in their classes, with Justin Medlock and Jordan Clontz capturing third. Concrete placed second in the tournament, with Tacoma Baptist taking home the win. At regionals Feb. 12, Dalton Dellinger and Colton Maloney again took firsts,

with Kyle Nushart, Nate Long, and Johnny Evans bringing home the silver. Concrete sent six wrestlers and two alternates to Mat Classic this year, with

Dalton Dellinger bringing home a second-place medal and Johnny Evans taking a fourth-place spot. Dellinger lost his final match to J. P. Martinez of Warden. "He was really strong for 119 (lbs.)," said Dellinger. Head Coach Dave Dellinger is optimistic about next year's prospects: "We'll have everyone back next year except for Dalton and Colton. I think we'll keep it going."



Above: Senior Dalton Dellinger wrestles Noel Espinoza of Kittitas the first day of Mat Classic XXIII Feb. 18 at the Tacoma Dome. With this match, Dellinger captured his second win of the tournament and went on to face Warden's J. P. Martinez Feb. 19.

Left: Jayden Hopefield wrestles a Tacoma Baptist opponent during the subregionals competition at Concrete Feb. 5.

Lady Lions close strong season

By Kevik Rensink, head coach

What an exciting ending to an incredible season for the Concrete High School Girls Basketball team! With four of their last five games on the road, and a playoff spot hanging in the balance, the Concrete girls gave a tremendous effort to grab a chance at the post season. The Concrete Lions lost 40–33 to the Orcas Island Vikings, who avenged a loss earlier in the season. This was a must-win game for Orcas Island in order to stay in the playoff hunt with Concrete, La Conner, and Mount Vernon Christian. The Lady Lions defeated Cedar Park Christian 58–39 a few nights later to stay in strong contention. On Feb. 4, Concrete lost to the eventual No. 2 seed, Mount Vernon Christian, and would play La Conner at home for an

automatic bid to the District Tournament on Feb. 8. The Lady Lions lost another close one 56–51 in the closing seconds to a powerful La Conner squad. La Conner ended up clinching the No. 3 seed in the tournament as a result of their effort. After battling their tough league opponents down the stretch, the girls ended up earning a post season game with none other than Orcas Island. This was a single-elimination game held at Mount Vernon Christian High School. The winner would move on to play Friday, while the loser would have to go home. After splitting their games earlier in the season, everyone knew this would be a classic showdown. It was. After trailing by nine points at halftime, the Concrete girls came roaring back to take a 35–31 lead heading into the final quarter. It came down to the final shot, but the Vikings proved to be better on this night, winning

See Lady Lions, p. 31



Sophomore post/guard Tamara Schoolland leaps out of bounds and slaps the ball back into play before landing during the Lady Lions' game against Mount Vernon Christian, Feb. 4.

Varsity hoops ends season, Clark just misses record

By Brooke Howell

The Lions boys basketball team ended the season even, going three and three in their last six games. The boys reeled off three straight victories and held out hope of making the playoffs, but couldn't quite keep the momentum going. In the win column, the Lions beat Bush 53–39, Darrington 61–52, and Orcas 79–42. Concrete was able to take advantage of Orcas and dominated from beginning to end. Tyler Clark set a new school record in that contest, scoring 50 points. The Lions' last three contests were all nail-biters until the last half game of the season. The Lions lost to Cedar Park Christian 55–62 and Mt. Vernon Christian 51–62. The boys managed to trail La Conner only by 29–28 going into the half, but they weren't able to hold off a strong, even Braves team as they fell 36–68. On the season, Tyler Clark kept his scoring going with a blazing 31.7 average and finished second in the county in scoring for the season.



Senior Spencer Duffy drives past a Mount Vernon Christian defender during a match-up Feb. 4.

The Lions lose two key starters in DJ Mitchell and Kyler Howell, but return many young players for next season.

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MS girls hoops closes successful season

By Rob Thomas, assistant coach

Success. On the athletic field or court, success is often defined by the final score. As a basketball, volleyball, and soccer coach, I have too often looked at the final score or the final tally of wins and losses at season's end to determine whether or not the season was a success. If the final score or record was the criteria for determining success, as the head coach of the Concrete Middle School girls basketball teams (Rachel Harris, assistant coach), I would have to look into the faces of 15 committed girls and tell them that their season was not a success. But ... the American Heritage Dictionary defines success as "The achievement of something desired, planned, or attempted." As stated in last month's issue, after the second week of practice, we had 14 committed girls (an additional player joined midway through the season). Our plan was three-fold: 1. Teach the fundamentals of the game. 2. Learn to work together as a team. 3. Improve each and every week. Though the seventh grade team only won one game and the eighth grade

team won four, I can honestly say that the season was a success. Though outnumbered by every team in our league, the girls never quit playing with great intensity and a positive attitude. Not only did the girls show up each and every day ready to play (and run a lot), they also learned about sportsmanship from other players and coaches. For instance: A Darrington coach who taped injured ankles at half-time for two Concrete players. A Conway player going out of her way after the game to check on an injured Concrete player. A Mount Vernon Christian coach who altered his second-half strategy to prevent a lopsided score. These are all lessons that go beyond the final score or the final record. Quite honestly, as a player and coach, I hate to lose. But, through the great attitude and effort of 15 girls, as well as the specific examples previously mentioned, I believe the 2011 season of middle school girls basketball was ultimately a success. As the girls continue to build (in middle school and high school) upon the foundation that was established this year, I firmly believe that they will be rewarded with wins in the coming years. But, in the

Athletes of the Month



Athletes of the Month are Brooke Lee and Cody Corn Brooke Lee, a junior all-around player for the Lady Lions, "deserves the recognition as a team leader and major contributor," said Head Coach Kevik Rensink. "Most players get accolades for the stats that they put up on the offensive side of the court. Brooke does her dirty work on the defensive side. She is arguably the best defender in the league and always guards the opponent's best player," he said. Cody Corn, a junior wrestler in the 171-lb. weight class, "is the hardest-working kid in the room," said Head Coach Dave Dellinger. "He wanted to go to State so badly, he was coming up in the mornings, running before school. He was determined, and went to State as an alternate." Lee and Corn were selected by Concrete Lions Booster Club members based on their leadership, being team players, and demonstrating sportsmanship and character.

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Seventh grader Kaitlin Pritchard puts the moves on a Mount Vernon Christian opponent and heads for the hoop Feb. 17.



Academics



HONOR STUDENTS ANNOUNCED

CONCRETE K-8 SCHOOL

The following 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students at Concrete K-8 School received honors for high marks for the first semester. An asterisk before a name denotes a student with a perfect 4.0 GPA.

Grade 4 A Honor Roll

*Jon Akers, Kaden Becker, Tiana Brookshire, Grace Clemons, Tyler Coffell, *Mikayla Johnson, Jasmine Lloyd, *Dalton Newby, *Dakota Ross, Danielle Ross, Nora Towner.

Grade 4 B Honor Roll

Kendall Bass, Michael Booker, Cassie Bridge, Evan Cleland, Dylan Darsch, Michael Denny, Shayne Luttrell, Ryan Magee, Clayton Myers, Savannah Nelson, Tyler Nevin, David O'Neil, Hayden O'Neil, Bailey Pavao, Jaidyn Swanson, Shawnee Sydes.

Grade 5 A Honor Roll

Sabrina Jansen, *Grace Johnson, Erica Knuth, McKenna Kononen, *Emily Schmidt, *Mary Spangler.

Grade 5 B Honor Roll

Emma Claybo, Whitney Claybo, Riley Fichter, Conner French, Caroline Gregush, Tyler Hansen, Hannah Haskett, Hailey Johnson, Cole Meacham, James Nelson, Brandon Pratt, Madisyn Renzelman, Kassiopla

Roberts, Alan Smith, Jasara Taylor-Temple, Heather Warner.

Grade 6 A Honor Roll

*Kayla Anderson, *Treyton Howell, Anna Huppuch, Sean Pratt, *Riley Pritchard, Rebecca Ross.

Grade 6 B Honor Roll

Brook Barnedt, Tessa Coffell, Ashlee Gilbert, Sidney Hockett, Kayla Jarmin, Jaycelyn Kuipers, Grayson Luttrell, Kiya Mann, Tate Mathis, Iris Nevin, Kyra Smith, Chloe Stidman, Amy Storms, Destiny VanBibber, Krista Wahlgren, Tanner Wilson, Kiana Wright.

Grade 7 A Honor Roll

*Hannah Kononen, Abigail Martinesen, *Cole McLaughlin, Amanda Perry, David Quang, Tye Thompson.

Grade 7 B Honor Roll

Jessica Bridge, Josh Gentry, Haley McNealey, Shelby Meacham, Seth Shaffer, Ashten Tygret, Josiah Werda, Angelica Zapata.

Grade 8 A Honor Roll

Chris Quang.

Grade 8 B Honor Roll

Madeline Corn, Anjelika Koenig, Taylor Mathis, Renay Miller, Baylee Robinson-O'Leary, Muriel Troka, Cassandra Williams.

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 9

Aimee Adkinson, Forest Barnedt, Alegria Canales, Jacquelynn Frizzell, Morgan Hazel, Sara Jenkins, Simon Marks-Franks, Kate McLaughlin, *Dallas Newby, Jonnie Rohweder, Joshua Rogge, Javon Thrasher.

Grade 10

Arielle Aiken, Olivia Davis, Maryka Gentry, Hayden Holbrook, Drake Jansen, Alex Joens, Angie McLaughlin, Frankie Rohweder, Claire Saludo, Melia Thompson, Kylee Warner.

Grade 11

Kassandra Barnedt, Tyler Clark, Dennis Dorgan, Danielle Dolan, Samantha Miller-Jack, Thea O'Brien, Emily Ogle, Danielle Pringle, Blaze Rautanen, Sarah Spaeth, Ben Troka, *Aiden Walsh.

Grade 12

Alex Aiken, Jessica Bauer, Spencer Duffy, August Hanke, *Daniel Herrera, Kyler Howell, *Uriah Kast, Cody Mills, Heather Mitchell, Megan Rogge, Kellen Russell, Seantel Shope, Jose Torres, *Shae VanWagoner, Miranda Wallen.

WWU Summer Youth Programs offering early registration discount

BELLINGHAM — Western Washington University is offering an early registration discount for two summer Youth Programs—Odyssey of Science & Arts and College Quest—that provide a unique academic experience in a university setting using state-of-the-art labs and classrooms.

Enroll before May 15 to take advantage of the early registration discount.

The Odyssey of Science & Arts program is a hands-on educational enrichment program for students entering grades 4-9. The programs offer a variety of topics in a weeklong half-day or full-day format. The courses build upon skills learned during the school year, while providing a fun environment and camaraderie.

During the weeklong College Quest program, high school students receive a full college experience, from living in a college dorm and eating in a campus dining hall, to completing a college course taught by WWU faculty and earning a college credit. College Quest builds confidence and skills, which help to ease the transition from high school to college and enrich the student's college application.

Go to the WWU Youth Programs Web site for details and registration information on the Odyssey of Science and Arts (grades 4-9) and College Quest (grades 10-12) programs, www.wwu.edu/youth, or contact the Youth Programs office at youth@wwu.edu or 360.650.3308.

Additional WWU Youth Programs offerings are listed on the Web site.

Exercise is magic at Encore Fitness

Encore Fitness in Concrete Theatre will offer "Exercise is Magic," a free fitness event for women on Tue., March 22 at 5:30 p.m. Samples of class formats and a discussion on designing your own workout at home will be featured, as well as tips on fitting exercise into your life. Everyone will enjoy free, healthful snacks and be eligible for fitness-related door prizes, with one winner being awarded a free month of classes at Encore Fitness.

For more information, contact Valerie Stafford, owner of Encore Fitness, at EncoreFitness@concrete-theatre.com or 360.941.0403.

School Board meeting

The Concrete School Board will hold its next regular board meeting on Wed., March 30, at 7 p.m. in the high school Commons. The board will hold a workshop on March 28 at 6 p.m., also in the high school Commons.

Pregnancy Choices trims square feet to stay in town

Submitted by Mary Bron

Four years ago, the board of directors of Mt. Vernon Pregnancy Choices dreamed of a satellite center in Concrete. That dream became reality in spring 2008, although we realized that community services are difficult to maintain in rural towns.

Since that time, Upper Skagit Pregnancy Choices has been embraced by this wonderful community. We are happy to be here! We love the people we serve, and we want to remain in their lives, providing a safety net for those touched by an unplanned pregnancy. We offer options and resources that promote life, and our services are available to men and women of all ages.

But "budget cuts" are familiar words these days, and Pregnancy Choices is not immune to this threat. We do not receive any government funding; instead, our sole support comes from individual and church donations, plus any grants that we are awarded. We are so thankful for those of you who support us!

We have had to cut corners like

everyone else, and when it came to our satellite center in Concrete, the board of directors was faced with a tough decision: Do we stay or go in this tough economy?

The decision was unanimous: We decided to stay. In an effort to conserve our resources, however, Pregnancy Choices has moved its operation into its large store, renovating accordingly to ensure we will continue to offer all the same great services, totally free and confidential, including an upscale baby boutique for our clients who take our parenting classes.

A huge thank-you goes to Community Bible Church for spearheading the renovation and giving so much time and effort to make the project cost-effective for us. We also had several individuals give of their time, talents, and resources.

We thank these businesses, which donated most of the materials to make this project possible:

- Cascade Lumber of Camano Island
- Mount Vernon Building Supply of Mt. Vernon
- Kaptiens Ace Hardware of Mt. Vernon
- Cascade Supply of Concrete

We are excited for you to see what we are up to. Please join us as we celebrate

our newly renovated office in our easy-to-find location, next to Concrete Self Storage on Fir St., in Concrete. An open house will be held at the Concrete office Thurs., March 17, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

Mary Bron is executive director of Pregnancy Choices.



Above: Tim Bridge (left) and Doyle Woods install trim around a door in the new office for Pregnancy Choices. Faced with budget cuts, the organization had to choose between closing its Concrete satellite office or shrinking its square footage to save money. Its board of directors chose the latter and will stay in town. **Left:** Mary Jane Rensink shows a ladder who's boss during the renovation. Photos by Mary Bron.

Concrete PTO news

By Debbie Ross, president

Your PTO has a full schedule of events for you during March and April.

We are having an **all-color yearbook** this year. Books are on sale now for \$15 till March 25, when the price increases to

\$18. Buy a yearbook and see your kids and all the after-school activities.

This year's **Science Fair** is slated for March 3, with an open house from 6 to 7 p.m. The students' displays will be judged throughout that day.

Family Fitness Night activities resume in March, with two assemblies planned: an all-school assembly at 1 p.m., and a Family Fitness assembly from 6 to 8 p.m. in the gym.

Don't miss the 6th-12th grade band, which will present a **spring concert** March 10 at 7 p.m. in the high school gym.

The **Chinese Acrobats** will perform April 15 at 1 p.m. in the gym.

A **St. Patrick's Day Dance** for K-8 students will be held March 11.

Popcorn will be available for sale March 18 during recess. Only 50 cents gets you a bag!

The next **PTO meeting** is March 14, 2:45 p.m. in the library. Please plan to attend. For more information, send an e-mail to concretek6pto@yahoo.com.

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Do it Best

Finding a Safe Place

By Bill Mueller

Where does a young person go when life gets overwhelming or when home is not an option? Who is there for them? Often, they find themselves on the street, trying to find food, shelter, and a way out of their potentially dangerous situation.

In 1983 a YMCA in Louisville, Ky., created a shelter for youth who fit this description. The program spread across the U.S. and became known as "Safe Place." It took root in the Skagit Valley in 2008. Mount Vernon, Burlington, La Conner, Sedro-Woolley, and Concrete all have Safe Places where teens can go for help.

Administered by the Skagit Valley Family YMCA, Safe Place is an outreach program that connects youth with the Oasis Teen Shelter program, another YMCA program, which offers shelter for youth ages 13-17 for up to 21 days. Each teen is offered a bed, three meals a day, clothing, mental health counseling, and help to get back into school if needed. The program helps connect them with longer-term housing too, while seeking to meet their immediate needs.

Getting help is simple

If young people find themselves in need, they can walk into a business that is



The Safe Place program is administered by the Skagit Valley Family YMCA. Any store displaying the program's bright yellow sign is a designated Safe Place where youth can go to start getting short- and long-term help.

designated as a Safe Place and say, "I'm here for a safe place." A trained employee will call the Oasis Teen Shelter program hotline and ask for a volunteer to come and meet with the youth, assess his or her need, and connect them with the program. The hotline, which employees or teens in need can call, is 360.708.6450.

"Our goal is to be there in 30 minutes," said outgoing program director Camille Danon, who was replaced by Justin Krupa March 1.

There are 20 Safe Place volunteers in Skagit County. Training is given to each employee who volunteers to be a part of the program, in every business that steps forward to be a Safe Place for teens.

In Concrete the "Safe Places" are the high school, East County Resource

Center, and Albert's Red Apple Market. Each place has trained employees who will make sure the young person is linked with someone from Oasis. In Sedro-Woolley this program can be found at the Fire Hall, Boys & Girls Club, United General Hospital, and the library.

Danon worked with the Oasis Teen Shelter program since 2004; it and the Safe Place program became a passion for her. That passion is shared by people such as Krupa and those who volunteer for the program. They are dedicated to help kids in crisis.

For more information about the Safe Place program, contact Felicia Ninto-Rodman at 360.419.9058.

Safe Places in eastern Skagit County

Sedro-Woolley

Sedro-Woolley Fire Dept.: 325 Metcalf St.
Sedro-Woolley Boys & Girls Club: 201 N. Township
United General Hospital: 2000 Hospital Dr.
Sedro-Woolley Public Library: 802 Ball St.

Concrete

Concrete High School: 7830 S. Superior Ave.
East County Resource Center/Library: 45770 Main St.
Albert's Red Apple: 44546 SR 20

WOOD FEST

SEDRO-WOOLLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Saturday April 2nd 9AM - 4PM
Sunday April 3rd 10AM - 3PM

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

SEDRO-WOOLLEY TULIP FESTIVAL
APRIL 2-3

SEDRO-WOOLLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT



Clear Lake



Social connects previous and current firefighters



Active and previous Clear Lake Fire Dept. firefighters gathered at the Clear Lake Fire Hall Feb. 20 for a social. **Above:** Jeff Jansma, Larry Nelson, James Lanning, Dale Lovett, and Jamie Lanning (seated). **Below:** Past and present blend in the department's equipment. The 1947 fire engine in the foreground was restored to include the original suction hose and brass fittings. The truck was used in the 1970s and '80s, and was available at the hall if needed, until the restoration began. The new truck behind it is worth more than \$500,000. Its ladder has hydraulic arms that lift the ladder to the firefighters' chest height so they can more easily lift it off. The truck also includes a pike pole, according to firefighter Jamie Lanning. About 20 firefighters attended the event. *Photos by Barb Rumsey.*



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sure United isn't forced out of the picture by a larger health care system.

Get the whole picture.

Health care can be confusing enough without hospitals fighting over patients. If you have questions or concerns about how United General Hospital fits in the picture, we'd welcome the chance to talk with you. Please call (360) 856-7112 or send an email to communications@unitedgeneral.org.

Small Wonder

United General Hospital, despite its small size, is recognized as one of the top hospitals in Washington state. In fact, we've scored higher than the state and national averages on important quality measures like infection control.





Thank you, Sedro-Woolley

By Mark Venn, superintendent, Sedro-Woolley School District

It has been more than two weeks since the final voting results for our 2011 School District Cascade Middle School Renovation & Remodel Bond was tallied and now are validated. We were very pleased with the results (64.45 percent yes vote), and the efforts of our campaign committee and community in promoting the bond and supporting our students’ education.

Bonds must be approved by a super majority (60 percent) through an all-mail-in ballot system. Many phone calls, signs, advertisements, letters to the editor, Facebook pages, YouTube videos, informational meetings, and efforts by our students, staff, and citizens produced this positive result. They say it takes a whole community to raise a child—this certainly applies to our community and its support of our schools and students.

This year in the Sedro-Woolley School District, we already have a lot to be proud of. Besides the passage of our bond, the district’s foundation during the past 10 years has raised and given more than \$160,000, going directly to students and teachers in the classrooms. With an outstanding senior class, we are hoping to match or exceed the nearly \$3 million in scholarships provided to our graduates last year. Many outstanding team and individual performances continue to make us one of the most successful AAA schools in the state.

Accomplishments include national placing and state championships in Nursery and Landscape, Loggerodeo, Academic Champions, and Girls Wrestling and Fastpitch. We also have had state, district, and league success, and champions in Forensics, Band, Choir, Orchestra Bowl, and Drama. Good students, good parents, good staff, and a community with high expectations for our students combine to bring out the best Sedro-Woolley has to offer.

On behalf of our 4,000 students, 500 staff members, and many parents and school board members, thank you for your support.

Your support goes beyond passing the bond. We are fortunate to have such a community where people invest in our students and their futures. People realize that a quality education is the way for our youth to lead positive and productive lives in our modern world. Our community support of students through scholarships, internships, mentorship, and many hours of volunteering in our schools help make Sedro-Woolley a very special place.

Communities that support their students and schools, through involvement, high expectations, and funding, reap the benefits. Please continue to have high expectations of your schools and continue to see our school system as a valuable commodity in a healthy community.



Soroptimists donate to food banks, museum; award student, Lyman teen

SEDRO-WOOLLEY — Soroptimist International of Sedro-Woolley (SISW) presented checks to area food banks, the Sedro-Woolley Museum, and a Skagit County student who will use the monies to fund her education during its semi-monthly meeting at the town’s Community Center on February 22.

SISW President Carolyn Freeman gave \$1,000 checks to representatives from Skagit County food banks, Bread of Life Food Bank in Marblemount, Concrete Food Bank, Hamilton Food Bank, Shepherd’s Heart Food Bank in Lyman, and Community Covenant Food Bank in Clear Lake. Monies for these contributions were generated by proceeds from the club’s thrift shop, The Walnut Tree, in Sedro-Woolley.

Museum garners President’s Award

Freeman also awarded the Sedro-Woolley Museum a \$1,000 check for

the club’s annual “President’s Award.” Museum official Brian Backman called the award “an honor.”

Women’s Opportunity Award

The last award, the Women’s Opportunity Award, went to Kathie Peterson, a student at Skagit Valley College who will continue her education at Western Washington University. Toni Ruhl, the club’s Scholarship Committee Chair, told the meeting’s attendees that Peterson received the \$1,600 college scholarship for her academic endeavors and her goals to work with homeless and abused women and children.

The Women’s Opportunity Award lets women who serve as the primary source of income for their families receive financial support that allows them to improve their skills—and job prospects—through college programs.

Lyman teen awarded

SISW also selected Katie Swanson of Lyman as the winner of its 2011 Violet Richardson Award. Swanson was selected for her volunteer work with, and long-term commitment to, the Open Door Community Kitchen operated at Central

See **Soroptimists**, p. 31

Student serves in the House

Ayla Bowen-LeBlanc of Sedro-Woolley served as legislative page for the state House of Representatives in January. An eighth-grader at Cascade Middle School, Ayla is the daughter of Jody Bowen and David LeBlanc. She and her family live on the Upper Skagit Reservation. She was sponsored by 39th District State Rep. Kirk Pearson.

“Serving as a page was something I thought would be fun, and it would look good on my resume,” Ayla said of her week-long job in the House of Representatives. “It was really fun meeting other students from around the state and learning more about what the Legislature does.”

As part of her duties, Ayla delivered messages and documents to legislators in their offices and on the House floor. Her work also included climbing hundreds of stairs each day and navigating the many buildings on the capitol campus.

Students ages 14 through 16 can participate in the week-long program in Olympia.



Ayla Bowen-LeBlanc, 14, of Sedro-Woolley, served as a legislative page for the state House of Representatives in January. She was sponsored by 39th District State Rep. Kirk Pearson. Submitted photo.

CONCRETE HERITAGE MUSEUM NEWS

After almost 11 years, the 1% Cash Back Program at **Albert’s Red Apple** has ended. During this time, we have received about \$1,000 per year though December 2010. We wish to extend a grateful “thank-you” to **Mike and Richard Frank** for allowing the museum to participate in this program since May 2000. Also, a big thank-you for all those receipts you customers turned in. We couldn’t have done it without you and your steady support.

We can still use receipts dated up to and including Feb. 28, 2011. Please drop them off in our collection boxes at the Concrete Liquor Store or the Upriver Services Office. Or you can give them to me, Gail, while shopping at Albert’s. I need to have them turned in to me *no later than March 15, 2011*, so that I have time to meet my deadline.

During the past decade, the Red Apple money has been used to keep our building heated and the lights on. We also have

used it for other things, including our current bathroom installation project.

Mardi Gras will be celebrated in Concrete on Sat., March 5. Watch for museum members before and after the 11 a.m. parade, selling cupcakes for \$1 each. A few special cupcakes will have a special token in the center, which may be redeemed for a prize.

Just a reminder: The museum is still closed for the season. However, if you would like to **visit or do research** in our library, you may call Robin at 360.826.3075 to make an appointment.

If you aren’t a member yet, **please consider joining**. Local support is extremely helpful to the upkeep of the building and contents. Contrary to popular belief, being a member doesn’t mean you have to go to meetings, although we would love to see you. We meet the second Thursday of each month at the museum, at 7 p.m.

—Gail Boggs

At the Upper Skagit Library

Two new trustees are welcomed to the library board: Heather Haj and Ingeborg Hightower. Being replaced are longtime board member Jack McCormick, whose term expired, and two-year veteran Dottie Anthony, who reluctantly resigned for personal reasons.

For the statistics lovers out there: during 2010, more than 25,000 items were checked out (7,100 of which were children’s items), 22,300 people came into the library, and 7,000 used the computers. That’s 15 books getting checked out during each hour we were open, 13 people coming in every hour, and all four computers in constant use during all hours open. Wow!

Upper Skagit Library is switching to a different computer system, with plans to be finished by the end of March. The public-access computers for Internet use won’t be affected. Those computers that help locate library materials, and help the library manage those materials, will be affected. We are changing to Evergreen and everyone knows that when you switch computer systems, things do not always go smoothly. We’re hoping to keep glitches to a minimum and that you won’t notice anything different during the transition. Evergreen is an Open Source system used by 544 libraries of every type—public, academic, special, school, and even tribal and home libraries—in more than a dozen countries worldwide.

Library staff will receive training from March 16–17, so the library will be closed an extra day that week. Please be patient while we get used to the new system.

We recently posted a live feed on our Web site and Facebook for eagle watchers. We also post covers of the new arrivals. If you haven’t checked out the library Web site, try it: www.upperskagit.lib.wa.us.

The next library board meeting will be March 10 at 5 p.m., in the library. The library will be closed March 16–17.

—Aimee Hirschel

Looking for Concrete Herald?

A complete list of distribution points is posted online at www.concrete-herald.com/about-the-herald/distribution-points

Community Calendar

MARCH	
3	Saukrates Cafe meeting, Annie’s Pizza Station, 6 p.m.; conversation topic posted at Upper Skagit Library and http://saukratescafe.wordpress.com
3	Concrete Elementary School Science Fair open house, Concrete Elementary School, 6 to 7 p.m.
5	Mardi Gras in Concrete, parade line-up at 9:30 a.m. (at post office), parade at 11 a.m.; see article, p. 5; info at www.concrete-wa.com
5	Soroptimist International of Sedro-Woolley “Community Baby Shower,” Walnut Tree Thrift Shop, 713 Puget St., Sedro-Woolley, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; info at www.sisedro-woolley.blogspot.com
6	Lyman Baptist Church Open House, 31441 W. Main St., Lyman, 1 p.m.; info at 360.826.3287
9	Imagine Concrete meeting, Mears Field Pilots’ Lounge, 6 p.m.; info at goodwords@frontier.com or 360.853.8213
10	Concrete Chamber of Commerce meeting, Hi. Lo. Country Bar & Grill, 8 a.m.; info at 360.466.8754 or www.concrete-wa.com
10	Revival documentary <i>An Appalachian Dawn</i> plays at Concrete Theatre, 7 p.m.; free admission
11	Sauk City playwright Nicola Pearson directs “Geography Club,” Mount Vernon High School cafeteria, 7 p.m.; free admission
12	Eagles In Flight First Anniversary Celebration, 7489 S. Dillard, Concrete; info at 360.853.7000
12–13	Skagit Valley Dahlia Society Annual Tuber Sale, Skagit Valley Gardens, 18923 Peter Johnson Rd., Mt. Vernon, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; 360.629.4439
15	Deadline for Red Apple receipts dated on or before Feb. 28, 2011, turned in to Gail Boggs at Albert’s, Concrete Liquor Store, or Upriver Services
16–17	Upper Skagit Library closed for staff training
17	Pregnancy Choices Open House, 45080 Fir St., Ste. B, Concrete, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., refreshments served; info at 360.853.7700
18	Skagit County Offices and Departments closed, including Sauk Transfer Station and Clear Lake Compactor Site
18–20	SICBA Home & Garden Show, see article and schedule, p. 21
19	Live Music for St. Patrick’s Day, Annie’s Pizza Station, Concrete, 7 p.m.
19–20	Spring Faire, hosted by Sauk View Plaza; see classified ad, p. 31; info and schedules at 360.853.8209 or www.nwgardenbling.com
APRIL	
1	Bed rental year begins at Angele Cupples Community Garden, Concrete; see p. 21 for details; info at goodwords@frontier.com or 360.853.8213
16	Imagine Concrete Workshop, Concrete High School Commons room, 9 a.m. to noon; info at goodwords@frontier.com or 360.853.8213
*Community Calendar is updated daily at www.concrete-herald.com/calendar	



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Lyman



Lyman Baptist, cont. from p. 1

But the members of Lyman Baptist are not shrinking violets; they could just as easily have named their church “Bootstrap Baptist.” They are mostly volunteer-run, and they have no pastor: Church members do the preaching. So, even though they were down to 20 members, the congregation began holding services in the old Town Hall in Lyman, while they planned and prayed their way to a new building.

Using insurance money and donations of money and labor, church members rebuilt on the same property as the old church, although not on the same footprint. The new building encloses 5,700 square feet and includes a sanctuary, kitchen, foyer, small meeting room, office, restrooms, storage/electrical room, nursery, and a Sunday School room.

A common theme throughout the rebuilding process was donation of labor as materials were purchased—sometimes at a reduced rate or even for free. Several church members know their way around wood, for example, and used their skills to create a stunning ceiling in the sanctuary made of old-growth Douglas fir.



Lyman Baptist Church elders Ed Otto (left) and Jim Cook stand in front of the newly built church, located on the same property—but not the same footprint—as the original church. On Feb. 6, the congregation met for the first time in its new building.

Lyman Baptist Church Open House

Where: Lyman Baptist Church
31441 W. Main St., Lyman

When: Sun., March 6, 1 p.m.

Info: 360.826.3287

“Almost everything was ‘free labor, paid materials,’” said church elder Jim Cook. “Somebody always figured out how to do it or make it happen.”

Behind the church, a patio area is planned, complete with tables and seating. A gravel road leads down to an overflow parking area and a future recreation area.

Church members gathered in their new building for the first time on Feb. 6. The church is located at 31441 W. Main St., in Lyman. Sunday School is held every Sunday at 9:30 a.m., followed by an 11 a.m. worship service.

The work of rebuilding is not yet complete, said Cook’s wife, Terri, who is working with other members to put the finishing touches on the interior and encountering surprisingly few roadblocks along the way when it comes to conflicting opinions. “We’ve been praying to be like-minded with decisions along the way, and it’s been incredible,” she said. “We’re praying our way through it: which styles of windows, curtains, curtain rods, chairs—everything. We all like the same thing.”

The salvaged church bell sits near the front entrance and still works. And remember that Christmas cactus? The church’s second elder, Ed Otto, took it home, thinking, he said, “I’ll give it a try and see what happens, because God can do anything.”

Message from the mayor

By Mayor Debra Heinzman



The concerns outlined in the State Auditor’s Findings for 2008 and 2009 have, in large part, been addressed by the town management in the fiscal year 2010. Due to the changes which were adopted in 2010 (but are not in the Auditor’s Findings), the Town appears to be in good financial position.

The Town’s current good financial standing is evidenced by (a) the legal opinion of the Town’s Bond Counsel K&L Gates, who was retained to assess the Town’s financial condition and issued a positive finding in July 2010; and (b) the subsequent bond issued to the Town by Summit Bank, based on the bank’s review

Otto repotted the plant and watered it well, but a year later, nothing had happened. He set it out on his porch and a couple weeks later, his daughter noticed new growth.

The plant now sits on a small stand just inside the front entrance, reminding everyone from where they’ve come and what is possible.

“It survived,” said Otto. “Just like our church, it survived. We’re building out of the ashes. God is good.”



The new sanctuary at Lyman Baptist Church includes cleverly shaped storage spaces that flank the platform and help to guide the sound from musical instruments. “We’re a musical bunch,” said church elder Jim Cook. Donated old-growth Douglas fir was milled by church members and local mills, and was used to line the vaulted ceiling and create crown and base molding. Some 1x6 pieces are 20 feet long, with no knots.

of the Town’s financial condition.

During the audit period prior to 2008, the town’s expenditures were caused by several factors. The town had an inefficient, malfunctioning, and costly water distribution system. The Town also experienced turnover in the positions of mayor, three councilmembers, the clerk-treasurer, and the water distribution manager. The town has since repaired its water distribution and monitoring system, and hired and trained a reliable water distribution manager to supervise the operations of the town’s water utilities. These improvements have led to a considerable increase in revenues in the Water Operating Fund, which is now able to make significant payments on its inter-fund loan from the General Operating Fund. In addition, the Town has increased its revenue by a rent increase on the fire department facility.

Lyman Library tales

By Elaine Kohler

We had our work day Sat., Feb. 19 at the library. Sadly, several of my regular helpers were sick that week, but with Marge Conard’s help, the two Romance bookcases were cleaned, sorted, and restocked. We have several bags of paperbacks and boxes of hardbacks to go to the storage for this year’s book sale. Now that the church is in their own new building, the community hall will be open for more renting. This means we need to streamline the books and puzzles to make it more attractive, and that means more work days. If you are willing to spend a few hours on some Saturdays, please let me know.

Thanks to a recent donation, I have met a new author: Donna Andrews. Her books are mysteries, but hilarious. The stars of the books are Meg Langslow and her outlandish relatives. So far my favorite is *The Penguin Who Knew Too Much*. I don’t usually laugh out loud while reading a book, but I did with this one. I can see this as a movie, and it would be great. If you want a way to spend a few enjoyable hours, pick up one of her books.

Some of my friends are already out working in their yards. I told them as long as there is snow on the mountains, I’m staying indoors!



Day Creek



Imagine Concrete, cont. from p. 1

community-wide outpouring of support and interest in Concrete’s future.

The initial Imagine Concrete community visioning workshops—held in April and June of 2009—were designed to be a first step in developing a community revitalization strategy. The future direction of the town was discussed by members of the community and surrounding area.

This wasn’t the first time Concrete citizens had gathered to imagine what their future could look like. In 1996 a similar visioning process helped lead the way to the Sockeye Express, a mural on the fire/police station, a promotional video, and history signs on businesses and other buildings around town.

The 2009 workshops brought together all sectors of the community in roundtable discussions to identify problems, evaluate changing conditions, and build collective approaches to improve the quality of life and build a sustainable community.

Led by a steering committee of 10 representative members of the Concrete community, the April 2009 workshop posed five questions to attendees:

1. What do we want to create?
2. What do we want to preserve?
3. What should our community look like in the future?
4. What do we want to change?
5. How fast should change occur?

After the collected data from the first workshop and student surveys had been analyzed, a second workshop was held in June 2009. During this workshop, the steering committee briefed the community on the outcomes of the first workshop. Five initiatives were identified and discussed. The initiatives were:

- Create a sustainable community/destination
- Clean up public and private areas
- Historic preservation
- Promote and support local businesses
- Zoning and planning

The ideas from the April 2009 workshop were categorized and prioritized within each of the five initiatives, and task forces were created for each initiative. During the June 2009 workshop, community members were encouraged to join one or more of these task forces, which were designed to execute the ideas within each initiative.

Executing the ideas

Several ideas from the April 2009 workshop were more popular than others. With the approval of Concrete Town Council, task forces moved ahead with efforts to transform the dreams of community members into reality. The approved projects included:

- A fence to partially enclose the Silo Park playground, protecting smaller children from the faster pace of the Skate Park
- Restoration of the Superior Building on Main Street, with the intention of moving Town Hall into the main floor and converting the existing Town Hall into a youth center
- Creation of a community garden, with rental beds, areas to grow food for the Concrete Food Bank, an accessible garden, children’s garden, sitting areas, and education opportunities
- A community-wide clean-up project to allow homeowners and renters to get rid of junk for free

The playground fence and clean-up projects were completed during summer 2009. The Superior Building restoration and community garden build-out are ongoing projects.

Award-winner

In 2010, Imagine Concrete captured an Association of Washington Cities Municipal Excellence Award in its Small Town Successes category. It also took home an Honorable Mention for Citizen Involvement in the 2010 APA/PAW Planning Awards.

Want to learn more about Imagine Concrete or get involved? Come to the next town-wide workshop, scheduled for April 16 (see box below).

SAVE THE DATE
Imagine Concrete Workshop

Where: Concrete High School Commons room

When: Sat., April 16, 9 a.m.–noon

Info: 360.853.8213
goodwords@frontier.com

News bits from Day Creek

Sixty-four people attended Day Creek Chapel’s Sweetheart Dinner on Feb. 11 and were treated to food and fellowship.

Girl Scout Katie Edelson will travel with her family to Cambodia for a very special cause. Katie has collected donations from the Day Creek community, which she will use to buy school supplies and vitamins for a village there. When Katie returns, she will present a video program to share her family’s efforts. There will be two showings: one at Day Creek Chapel and one at the Day Creek Fire Hall. For more information, including the dates, contact Kathy Henderson at 360.826.3581.

Karen McCoy of Way Out Ranch is giving a reining and pro-cutter instruction class at the ranch’s barn, every Saturday at 3 p.m., weather permitting. Lessons are \$35 per session, which includes the arena fee. The instructors are Travis

Dickenson and Kari Williams. Spectators are welcome! If you’re interested, contact Karen McCoy at 425.760.7860.

“Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage,” by Mark Gungor, is coming to Day Creek Chapel March 12, 19, and 26, at 6 p.m. Refreshments and nursery will be provided. Call Sylvia Miles for details, at 360.826.3067.

Also at Day Creek Chapel: “Kingdom Builders,” Wednesdays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. This is a group forming to reach out to others in the community. Call Kathy Henderson for details: 360.826.3581.

Skagit County Fire District #16 will meet next on Mon., March 14, at 7 p.m. at the Day Creek Fire Hall.

Finally, we welcome David Patrick MacAdam to the Day Creek community, born Feb. 11, weighing 3.9 lbs.

If you have information to be passed along to the community, contact Kathy Henderson via e-mail at winningcircularchapel@gmail.com.

—Kathy Henderson

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Above: Friends and supporters gathered Feb. 2 in the Burlington Fred Meyer parking lot for a candlelight "Vigil of Hope" in support of Patti Krieger, who went missing while hiking Sauk Mountain in October 2010. A \$25,000 reward is being offered for information that will bring Patti home. For more information on search efforts and updates, go to www.findpattikrieger.com. *Photo by Frank Knight.*



Left: T's Treasures celebrated its Grand Opening Feb. 17 with a ribbon cutting and plenty of fanfare. Pictured at the event are (left to right): Marcus McCoy, Skagit Publishing; Irene Millay, North Coast Credit Union; Kirk Blankenship, Birchview Memory Care; Sue Walden, Louis Auto Glass; Toni Nurmi, owner; Anissa Hall, Wells Fargo Bank; Rick Lemley, City Councilman; and Jina Williams, Sedro-Woolley Chamber of Commerce. T's Treasures is located at 629 Metcalf Street in Sedro-Woolley. *Submitted photo.*



Left: K-3 members of Catherine Coggins' ballet class show their skills during a ballet performance Feb. 11. The event also displayed the talents of 4th–6th graders and 6th–8th graders.

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Above: Josh Thomas (left) and Dennis Dorgan of Concrete pose in front of Thomas' snow fort Feb. 23 before spending the night in it. "It was pretty great and we stayed pretty warm," said Thomas. About 10 people worked to build the fort earlier that day. *Submitted photo.*



Right: When life hands you snow, drag your kid around in it! Charlie Dickinson of Concrete did right by his daughter, Payton, 7, Feb. 23 by giving her a motorcycle-assisted ride in the white stuff.



Below: On two legs and four, runners begin the Challenger Ridge Valentine's 5K Fun Run/Walk Feb. 12. Prize-winners were chosen in four categories: "Fanciest Fido" went to Motley, "Sassiest Single" went to Bill Arnette of Hamilton, Gabe Ensley captured the "Coolest Kid" title, and the Ensleys won "Cutest Couple."



February in pictures



Left: Concrete students and Sedro-Woolley Community Troop Support Coordinator Marilyn Pineda (at podium) display posters and a banner during a combat flag presentation at Concrete Elementary School Feb. 17. See the article on p. 5 for more about the event.

Preparing for spring

Volunteers descended on the Angele Cupples Community Garden Feb. 17–20 to install 20 raised beds that will be available for rent beginning April 1. **Above:** Concrete Assistant Public Works Director Rich Philips used his tractor to cut through thick sod and dig out the bed sites. **Right:** John Shepherd, a.k.a. "Johnny Rock," from 3DH Aggregates dumps the last of three 14-yard loads of topsoil the company donated to the garden. **Below:** Future bed-renter Bill Pfeifer prepares a 4x8 bed for topsoil after leveling it. The beds will be available for rent beginning April 1. See p. 21 for details.



Left: Sporting a cruelly unfair head of hair, Challenger Ridge co-owner Doug Spady poses with his Chesapeake, Babe, before the start of the vineyard's Valentine's 5K Fun Run/Walk Feb. 12.

Right: Doug Herauf from Everett (left), Eric Archuletta from Arlington (middle), and Jason Miller from Concrete take a break from raised bed installation at the Angele Cupples Community Garden in Concrete Feb. 19. *Photo by Mary Bron.*



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Hamilton



Council summary

The Hamilton Town Council held a regular meeting on Jan. 11. The following is a summary of the minutes from that meeting.

- Mayor Bates asked for the council's ideas on Street Fund funding. The Town has never charged the Water Fund the 6 percent B & O Utility Tax. The Council discussed charging the Water Fund the 6 percent and putting it in the Street Fund. This would give the Street Fund the needed revenue to cover all expenditures for maintenance and upkeep. This tax could be charged to each water customer or not, and the amount would be taken from the Water Fund to the Street Fund. The Clerk would check to see if this was allowed and present a Resolution for both (charge customer or not) at the next council meeting. If this was allowed, at the

- next meeting the council would decide which Resolution to vote on.
- Debbie Chance addressed the council with a complaint about a motor home parked at the property on Bella Street. The motor home has a stove pipe coming out of the window from a stove used to heat the vehicle. This is a fire code violation. There were also questions regarding where the waste water was going. Mayor Bates requested a letter be sent to the property owners, Mack and Linda Mani, to remove the motor home. A notice also would be posted on the motor home, directing it to be removed within 72 hours.
- Richard Moore introduced himself to the council as the new owner of property at 214 South Street. He requested a lot line adjustment for the vacant lot to the right of his property (Railroad Avenue). The county has advised him he is entitled to half of

it, and needed to speak with the Town of Hamilton regarding the other half. Mr. Moore inquired about purchasing that property. Mayor Bates stated that the property was plotted out and vacated in 1925. Claude Wilson developed it and the town at that time did not take the street back. Therefore, it became vacated again. Mayor Bates told Mr. Moore he did not need to purchase the other half. He needed to contact Skagit Surveyors and request a Boundary Line Adjustment. He did not need any approval from the council.

- Mayor Bates stated that Tom Selin and Cas Hancock were going over everything at the well. A plastic pipe was replaced with a cast iron pipe. A meeting has been scheduled for this morning with a technician to proceed with shutting off the sand filters. Tom Selin reported the meeting was cancelled and rescheduled for

Thursday. He reported he had the chlorine pump back in line and he spoke to Ryan from Water and Wastewater regarding the pump. Council Bonner questioned how long before the sand filters will be out of the system. Tom Selin explained that should be done this week. They did not want to completely remove the filters. There needs to be a system to shut them off and if necessary in the future, to be able to turn them on.

Birdsview buzz

By Kris Voigt

Happy spring and St. Patrick's Day! Already we've been seeing hummingbirds; it's the earliest we've ever seen them here. I know in the big cities like Seattle, they have them year-round. Wish we did.

Birthdays	
6	Dustin Claybo
7	Sally Straathof
12	Zeke Ross
15	Jackie Johnson
18	Rodleen Getsic
19	Tom Claybo
21	Bob Lahr
22	Damon Graybill
25	Jaydon Voigt
29	Adam Moser
	Kevin Adkinson
30	Sonny Taylor
	Andrea Fichter

Anniversaries

30	Uncle Floyd and Deanna
31	Ed and Pam Giecek

Not much else new or exciting. Well, we did finally put up the super-cool Birdsview sign that once stood on the railroad track on Russell Road. Thank you Ashley and James for donating it to us. Now everyone will know where Birdsview is.

And, by the time you read this, Bill should be on his way to recovering from his hip replacement. It's going to be hard to keep him down, but I'm going to do my best so that he can properly heal and get back to making beer! The surgery took longer than we expected (five hours instead of two and a half, and almost seven hours in the recovery room), but he had plenty of family support and he'll be good as new soon.

Have a great month, everyone.

Business Spotlight: Donald K. Moore Construction

By Cora Thomas

Don Moore is a Skagit Valley native, growing up in Sedro-Woolley, then moving to Rockport with his wife, Sue, in 1971.

In 1970, at 19, Moore worked on Lillian, Panther, and Granite Creek bridges on the North Cascade Highway. The experience inspired Moore to work in construction, but he started with logging because "I didn't care for how they were logging; I thought I could do better. It made more sense to take the bad timber out first and then the marketable timber would be left, practice sustainable forestry," he says.

He originally worked for Scott Paper in 1972 and then he changed his business name to Donald K. Moore Construction in 1993, basically providing the same services, but under a different name. This company is far more than just construction. Moore's long list of services includes: logging; site preparation; fish habitat; clearing; road building; building new homes; hazard tree removal; road abandonment; bridge installation; campground renovation; and storm drains/French drains. Moore is licensed, bonded, and insured. "I can't just specialize in one thing, I have to provide many services to



survive." A lot of his work comes from the North Cascades National Park and Forest Service. In 2009, his company finished a bridge for the National Park, at mile marker 20 on Cascade River Road.

Moore's equipment includes one excavator, two CATs, three dump trucks, and one backhoe, "And then we rent equipment if we need it," Moore says. He employs four people in the field, including his oldest son, Brandon. "It's a family-oriented business," he explains. His wife, Sue, is the "backbone" of the company, keeping everything organized, working in the office, and answering the phone. Moore's daughter, Cecily, helps with the

bookkeeping. "And (son) Denton fixes anything I need," Moore says.

"Business has been busy since September, but we felt a crunch last year. I've been around for 40 years and word of mouth is the best way customers find me.

"I won't leave a job until the customer is happy, that's my business philosophy, and I always stand behind my work," Moore says, emphasizing that communication with his customers is key. "If I can't be there, I will always call ahead of time. There's no reason for miscommunication

nowadays, when everyone has a cell phone."

Over the years, Moore has had a few dangerous incidents on the job, which comes with the territory. He injured himself three times cutting timber. He broke his back twice: in 1976 and 1982. He was knocked off a logging truck by a log that swung his way and knocked him into a ravine.

"I have about five more years left and then I'll retire," Moore says. "I look forward to spending more time with my four grandkids."

His business' longevity in the Upper Skagit Valley and determination over the years says it all: You'll get more with Donald K. Moore Construction, in Rockport.

At a glance: Donald K. Moore Construction

Where: 11993 Martin Rd., Rockport
Phone: 360.853.8525 (office)
360.770.6225 (cell)
Fax: 360.853.7556
E-mail: donald@donaldkmooreconstruction.com
Web: www.donaldkmooreconstruction.com



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Free tax assistance and preparation for taxpayers with low and moderate income, with special attention to those age 60 and older, is available from AARP Tax-Aide from Feb. 1 through April 15.

You do not need to be a member of AARP or a retiree to use this service. AARP Tax-Aide volunteers, trained in cooperation with the Internal Revenue Service, will offer help with personal income tax returns in Concrete at the Concrete Senior Center on Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Last year, AARP Tax-Aide volunteers helped more than 270,000 people file their federal, state, and local tax returns, 1,500 of which resided in Skagit and San Juan Counties.

To schedule an appointment, call 360.853.8400. AARP Tax-Aide is a program of the AARP Foundation, offered in conjunction with the IRS.

Concrete Herald
The Voice of Eastern Skagit County

Eagles In Flight enters second year

March 13 marks the first anniversary for Eagles In Flight Sales & Service, a motorcycle dealer located in Concrete that specializes in the sales and service of Harley-Davidson and other V-Twin motorcycles.

Eagles In Flight offers motorcycle sales, parts access to any product, hard parts, and clothing associated with the motorcycle and power-sports industry. They offer skilled mechanic service, routine maintenance, extended warranty repairs, and insurance claim handling and repairs, as well as performance or cosmetic upgrades.

With its motorcycle shop situated on State Route 20, Eagles In Flight has been able to cater to motorcyclists riding through town on their way to Eastern Washington and beyond.

"We are here to provide a pit stop for all motorcyclists as they ride our part of the scenic North Cascade Loop," said Rob Tygret, one of the owners and daily operators of the motorcycle shop.

"This past season it was evident that the motorcycling community in northwest Washington has been looking for a nice little destination to include as part of their planned rides, as a meeting place for group rides, and a real welcomed helping hand if their motorcycles are in need of some repairs while on their ride, or if they have a mechanical issue while on the pass," he said.

John Tygret, Rob's dad and business partner, maintains the storefront and vehicle showroom. "I've sold several motorcycles over this past year to folks just coming inside to buy one of our T-shirts, next thing you know we are rolling a bike off the floor and sending it down the road to a new home.

"People are shocked when they make it into the store for the first time. I think they are surprised to see a showroom full of nice Harleys in the little town of Concrete," said John. "We are just trying

See **Motorcycles**, p. 29



Above: Eagles In Flight Sales & Service co-owner Rob Tygret in the bike shop building. **Inset:** The "Sissy Bar" (ice cream bar) logo. March 13 marks the Concrete business' first year of operation.



Rockport



MUSIC MAN

Singer/songwriter/musician Michael McLaskey of Rockport finds inspiration in the natural world.

By Sandra Hambleton

If you have been to the Sauk Transfer Station in the last few years, chances are you’ve seen or talked to its affable manager, Michael McLaskey. Maybe you know he’s an outgoing guy and a committed champion of recycling. You might even be aware that he is also a singer, songwriter, and musician.

What you might not know is the extent of training and the prolific talent Michael possesses. As we cart our unwanted items and refuse to the station on chore day, we are received by a musical treasure. Michael McLaskey has serious chops.

Some might call Michael a natural-born musician. That’s true, but Michael has worked hard to hone his gift. His grandfather was a guest conductor at the Chicago Symphony. His grandmother sang. His father was a professional musician and hoofer on Chicago’s South Side. Michael grew up loving and living rhythm. He started out playing percussion instruments and guitar by ear. More formal training came later in school. As a young teen, he was introduced to Renaissance and Baroque music, and

studied early masters. He was touring by the age of 14 and wanted to compose music.

At 17, he happened upon a lute with four sets of double strings in a music store in Glenwood Springs, Colo., and knew he’d found the tool with which to begin. Since then, he has written about 150 songs. He now plays a handmade German Baroque lute with 13 sets of double strings. It was crafted by luthier John Rollins of Bellingham.

One of less than 12 North American musicians chosen annually, Michael spent seven years in Switzerland studying early music with renowned lute master, Eugene Dombois. He has worked and studied with a variety of other professionals, including Afro-Caribbean and traditional African musician Said Abbas.

Michael remains multi-instrumental, having played hand drums for more than 20 years, as well as singing, playing Classical and Jazz guitar and Early Music on the lute. He plays what he terms “happy feet music” with the popular local ensemble Rivertalk, and also Jazz



Worldbeat with The Clouds. Michael has solo gigs too. He’s also doing the Afro and Caribbean thing with Shedaa. Look for Shedaa on July 23 at the Anacortes Arts Dash, among other appearances this summer.

When asked about his creative process, Michael says he is always writing new songs and that his inspiration most often comes from the natural world. He spends a lot of time in and near water. A fly-fisherman who enjoys tying his own flies, he says that rivers and waterfalls are inspiring. Michael is also fascinated by our planet’s natural history and its future. He likes to absorb the experiences he has in nature and bring that feeling with him to the shows he plays and to the song-writing he does.

It is clear that these are not the only inspirations for his songs, but also the tenets of his whole life. He has worked 19 years for Skagit County and participated in the start of recycling programs. He spent 15 years at the Clear Lake facility and has spent the last five at the Sauk Transfer Station.

Writing and performing for most of his life has taught Michael to be unfettered and unrestrained in his expression. He is comfortable and open when performing.

He also practices Kung Fu, Tai Chi, and meditation, studying with Master Joe Liau. He’s been learning to draw in his spare time. He has performed all over our

region from Seattle to Bellingham, in everything from the county fair to Sea to Ski. Look for him next at the Muse on April 30. CDs are available at shows.

Michael is currently recording with Rivertalk and with guitarist Jim Davis of The Clouds. Rivertalk will release a new CD later this year.

He doesn’t have a large Web presence, but is developing that. Soon you should be able to see Rivertalk on YouTube.

Anyone interested in booking a performance by Michael or any of the bands he plays in should call him at 360.853.7631.

The River Runs

The river runs and the river walks,
The river sings and the river talks.
Takes the mountain in her hand,
Dances down to the ocean sand.
Water babies hear her call (hear the curtain call)
And take a bow in the waterfall.
The river’s wide
And the river’s deep;
Sings her songs
As you fall asleep.
The fish will rise
When the moon is right;
Takes a walk in the sweet starlight.

© Michael McLaskey



Home & Garden



Home & Garden Show returns March 18–20

The SICBA Home & Garden Show will return to the Skagit County Fairgrounds March 18–20.

With more than 100 booths, the show is one of the largest of its kind north of Seattle. Builders and vendors of home products from northwest Washington will exhibit their goods again this year, as well as provide answers to home and garden challenges. Visitors also can arrange to hire a registered contractor for any house-hold building, remodeling, or repair project.

Special events within the three-day show include:

- Half off entry fee for all attendees on Fri., March 18
- Surplus Materials Sale in the Pavilion on Sat., March 19, at 1 p.m.
- Ciscoe Morris will offer gardening tips on Sun., March 20, at 2 p.m.

SICBA Home & Garden Show

When: Fri., March 18, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sat., March 19, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sun., March 20, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Where: Skagit County Fairgrounds
1410 Virginia St., Mount Vernon

Cost: \$4/person; \$6/family

Info: 360.757.6916
info@sicba.org

The 2nd Annual SICBA Playhouse Competition returns this year, with attendees given a chance to win a playhouse that was built and donated by SICBA members.

Community garden gets rental raised beds

The Angele Cupples Community Garden in Concrete took a big step forward from Feb. 17–20, when 20 raised beds were installed (see photo, below). The beds are intended for Concrete citizens to rent on a yearly basis and are available on a first-come, first-served basis, beginning immediately. The garden’s annual rental period begins April 1.

Concrete’s Assistant Public Works Director Rich Philips worked in the snow Feb. 17 to dig out the sod where each bed would be placed. Volunteers and more help from Philips and Public Works employee Dale Angell worked to place the beds, level them, and fill them with dirt. More photos can be found on p. 17.

—J. K. M.



Community garden beds open for rental

The Angele Cupples Community Garden in Concrete now includes 20 raised beds that are available for rent. Water lines and yard hydrants will be installed in March.

Ranging in size from 4x8 feet to 4x12 feet, the beds will be rented beginning April 1 for the following rates:

- 4x8 \$25 per year
- 4x10 \$35 per year
- 4x12 \$45 per year

All renters will be asked to sign an agreement, as well as provide their own gardening tools, fertilizer, and hoses. Renters also will be expected to donate 10 hours per year toward working in parts of the garden other than their bed.

All questions and reservation requests should be directed to Jason Miller at 360.853.8213 or goodwords@frontier.com; or Marla Reed at marla.mr@frontier.com or 360.391.2589.

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726801, 759860 Sale ends 3/31/11



Marblemount



Fundraiser for Cathaleen

By all accounts, the Feb. 19 fundraising dinner and silent auction for Cathaleen Stewart was a big success. The event brought in \$3,914, all of which went toward Cathaleen’s medical expenses as she fights Large B Cell Lymphoma. Guests packed the Marblemount Community Hall to eat and bid on an eclectic mix of auction items, including a telescope, a kilt and bagpipes, a doll collection, and local wines.



Cathaleen Stewart holds a pinata and listens while event organizer Brenda Palmer says a few words during the fundraiser dinner and silent auction on Stewart’s behalf Feb. 19.



Funds for students

Marblemount Community Hall rocked on Feb. 12, as the Marblemount/Rockport Fire Department hosted its annual Valentine’s Dance/Scholarship Fundraiser for Concrete High School. The time-tested formula included a potluck dinner, raffle, and dancing. Live music was provided by Out of the Ashes. The event raised about \$2,500 for the scholarship fund.

Left: John Scott Lee of Marblemount cuts a rug during the Valentine’s Dance/Scholarship Fundraiser Feb. 12. **Above:** Vickie Martin and Marblemount Fire Chief Larry Schroder pose with Martin’s handmade, Harley-themed quilt.

Postal news

National Consumer Protection Week is March 6–12
By Kathy Watson

The Office of Consumer Affairs and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service are working to educate consumers about identity theft and fraudulent schemes, and provide them with the information needed to combat these illegal activities. **Typical schemes** Mystery shopper scam: A letter invites you to become a mystery shopper and you receive a large check, you deposit it into your checking account, wire them a large amount, keeping, say, \$300 for your pay, \$200 for wiring the fees, and \$100 for purchases. Then you contact the person in the letter for further instructions. But if you deposit the check, it will bounce and you are left holding the bag for the full amount of the check.

Reshipping scam: Criminals use a variety of methods to trick people into reshipping fraud. They may even send counterfeit mailing labels to their recruits as part of the scheme.

- Work-at-home scam: Criminal posts a phony job announcement on an Internet career site; the job description might be “package processing assistant” or something similar. Job duties include receiving packages and reshipping them to a foreign address; criminal may even send a postage-paid label for shipping. In reality the merchandise and even postage is purchased with a stolen credit card, and you are committing a felony for helping them smuggle goods out of the country.
- Postage-paid label scams: Scammers buy merchandise on Internet auctions, often using counterfeit checks or stolen credit cards, then request that they provide a pre-paid shipping label instead of paying for postage. They then e-mail you a label that looks legitimate. In truth the label is either counterfeit or paid for with a stolen credit card. When the postal inspector tracks the package back to you, you find you are a victim of the



Newhalem



Skagit General Store winter hours

The Skagit General Store in Newhalem is open weekdays only during the winter, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 206.386.4489.

Pass closed for season

WENATCHEE — The North Cascades Highway (SR 20) is officially closed for the season after a December storm dumped two feet of new snow and significantly increased avalanche danger. The highway is closed between milepost 134, seven miles east of Diablo Dam on the west side of Rainy Pass, and milepost 171 on the east side of Washington Pass. For more information, go to www.wsdot.wa.gov/traffic/passes/northcascades.

Concrete Herald
The Voice of Eastern Skagit County

Skagit County Public Health announces new Septics 101 schedule

SKAGIT COUNTY — The Skagit County Public Health Department will provide six new Septics 101 classes from March 24 to July 12, 2011. The purpose of the free Septics 101 classes is to inform and educate homeowners on septic system operations and maintenance, monitoring, cost-saving operations, public health concerns surrounding their use, and financial resources available for homeowners needing repairs or replacements for failing systems. The upcoming class schedule is as follows:
March 24, 6 – 7:30 p.m. Location: Big Lake Elementary School Library, 16802 Lakeview Blvd., Mount Vernon
April 2, 10 – 11:30 a.m. Location: Skagit County Administration

Building, Hearing Room A
700 S. 2nd Street, Mount Vernon
April 7, 2 – 3:30 p.m. Location: Commissioners Hearing Room, 1800 Continental Place, Mount Vernon
April 25, 6:30 – 8 p.m. Location: Padilla Bay Research Center 10441 Bayview-Edison Rd., Mount Vernon
May 17, 2 – 3:30 p.m. Location: Sedro-Woolley City Hall 325 Metcalf Street, Sedro-Woolley
July 12, 6:30 – 8 p.m. Location: Alger Community Hall 18735 Parkview Lane, Burlington
More classes will be scheduled from August to December 2011. Everyone is welcome to attend a Septics 101 class. Past attendees include homeowners, business owners, and renters. Pre-registration is recommended for Septics 101 classes. To register, or for more information, contact the Skagit County Health Department at 360.336.9380.

PSE bolsters Interpretive Center with \$2,500 donation

The Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center in Rockport has completed its 14th season of operation thanks in part to \$2,500 in contributions from Puget Sound Energy. The SRBEAT team of volunteers supports the Concrete Chamber of Commerce in recreating the Bald Eagle Festival and devoting its resources to maintain winter-time operation of the Interpretive Center. The support from PSE helps SRBEAT keep the center open and provide staff and volunteer support for its education and information services to the public. SRBEAT’s Web site, www.skagiteagle.org, will be under construction for a few months. The doors to the Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center will open again Dec. 2, 2011.

—Judy Hemenway, president, SRBEAT

Postal, cont. from p. 22

scam. Often the payment for the item also bounces. USPS Click-N-Ship customers will want to be aware of this scam.

- Sweetheart scams: These criminals lurk on dating Web sites and may even send a photo or flowers. Once you are “hooked,” they ask for help shipping packages to a foreign country and may even claim to be

part of a charity or mission. What you will be doing is a crime by smuggling goods out of the country. They are often stolen goods. Research the charity and contact them as to their procedures.

- Six tips on how to avoid scams**
1. If it sounds too good to be true, it is.
 2. Remember that foreign lotteries are illegal in the U.S.
 3. Always check your monthly bank statement.
 4. Annually order and review your credit report from the three credit bureaus: Experian, Equifax, and TransUnion.
 5. Never deposit a check if you don’t know who sent it to you.
 6. Remember that your bank will never e-mail or call asking for your account number, password, credit card number, or other private information. I have some very informative pamphlets on Identity Theft on hand at the Marblemount Post Office; please stop by and pick one up. Don’t be a victim!

Kathy Watson is Postmaster of Marblemount.

Burpee Hill, cont. from p. 4

“Right now, we’re hoping to have the one lane open by no later than March 11, weather permitting,” said Wilson. Town of Concrete and Skagit County would work together to build the one-lane passage, and would share the cost, said Wilson. Hobbs stated during the Feb. 14 Concrete Town Council meeting that a short-term fix such as the one-lane strategy would probably cost around \$12,000. His plan at the time was to remove the damaged roadway and fill any sinkholes beneath it with quarry spall before spreading gravel to create a temporary roadway. **Economic toll** The road closure was a hot topic during the Concrete Chamber of Commerce monthly meeting Feb. 10. Several Concrete business owners reported an immediate and sustained dip in sales that began within days after the road closure. Lake Tyee residents in attendance, and later via e-mail correspondence, have stated that they’ve begun bringing their own food and other supplies with them, rather than make the longer run to

Concrete forced by the closure. That’s exactly what worried Concrete business owners. “Once you reach Highway 20 at Baker Lake Road, are you going to turn left or right?” one business owner told *Concrete Herald* after the meeting. Mayor Wilson acknowledged business owners’ concerns while stating his position on the closure. “We’re going to lose business until we get that road open,” he said. “Right now, my first priority is to keep our citizens safe. And when I closed that road, I removed a liability from the town.” **Long-term fix** Wilson and Hobbs currently are investigating the possibility of FEMA funding to finance a long-term fix, which would restore the road to its condition before the larger slide. That slide is deeper seated, according to Hobbs, “with saturated sand layers butting up against stiffer silt layers,” he said. Fixing such a slide would require digging down to the stiffer layers, then building up the hillside with compacted gravel. Concrete Town Council will address the road closure on the second and fourth Mondays of each month until it is resolved.



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See **Postal**, p. 23



Seniors



Coffee Break

Scratch the travel itch

By Patrick Kennedy

We are senior citizens with time on our hands, and naturally, traveling comes to mind. Trains, planes, cars, RVs, motorcycles, or walking—oh, the choices we have!

Whether we travel alone or with a friend or pet, the open spaces, rolling hills, and oceans beckon to us to scratch the itch in our feet. It's usually not long until we're surrounding ourselves with maps of the country, the world, and even the universe.

This month, some citizens are waiting for winter's freezing temperatures to end, while others are dreaming of a romantic weekend at the beach, soaking in the sun. Some are thinking of white snow, steep hills, and boards strapped to their feet as they slide down a mountainside using all the survival techniques they have learned over the years.

Or maybe they're dreaming of a long drive cross-country to cruise the galleries of a new town like San Francisco or Taos, or maybe even simply driving through the Rocky Mountain Gallery and viewing the monumental

sculptures of Colorado, Utah, and the Southwest.

Perhaps the man-made mountains of a big city are a temptation to those who have never ridden an elevator up hundreds of feet, and stood at the edge of a canyon of windows flickering in the sun, and over the valleys filled with hundreds of ant-like cars creeping along like flowing rivers.

Kayaking down a roaring river is a death wish lure to some; perhaps a cruise on a larger, safer vessel to Alaska or the Caribbean would be more to their liking. But for both the adventure-seekers and those who just want to relax and recharge, a long cruise to the islands of Hawaii offers a myriad of activities and relaxation on both land and sea. When you arrive, there's snorkeling, scuba-diving, swimming, whale-watching, horseback riding, helicopter tours, hiking, golfing, big-game fishing, and surfing if you are up for it.

The common definition of travel is to move or undergo transmission from one place to another, to withstand relocation successfully, to move in a given direction or path or through a given distance, to move rapidly, or, in most cases, as fast as we can.

"The world is a book, and those who do not travel read only a page," said St. Augustine well before there were airplanes, cars, and motorcycles. Travel light, but bring your imagination along for the ride.

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

Way Back When

80 years ago

March 12, 1931: Skagit County Superior Court has been busy this week trying the damage suit of Robert Wiseman of Rockport against Fred Shular and an association. Wiseman is asking \$23,335 in damages for the loss of an arm in a collision between his car and an association milk truck driven by Shular.

The accident occurred on Van Horn Hill, where Wiseman lost his arm when he waved at the truck driver as the cars were passing on the narrow road. His arm was caught in the frame of the truck and practically torn off.



60 years ago: The Concrete High School Debate Team returned home with a second-place win in cross-question debate, division C, from the tournament held at College of Puget Sound, Tacoma, March 8–10, 1951. Local debaters were (back, left to right) Marian Shelver and Dick Harris, and (front, left to right) Coach E. F. Morrison, Dona Eldridge, and Irma Beck. *Archive photo.*

70 years ago

March 27, 1941: Grand Coulee Dam, the largest man-made structure on earth (sic), and whose construction kept the local cement plant busy for the past few years, produced its first electric power Saturday.

With elaborate ceremony the first two 10,000-kilowatt generators started turning, and the first power from the \$157 million dam was available. The ultimate horsepower to be generated by the dam will be 2.7 million—1,000 times that produced Saturday. The dam will be working at full capacity next year.

Of interest locally is the fact that 22,250,000 tons of concrete was used to build the dam, and more than half of the cement used in making this amount was made in Concrete. The base of the dam covers 35 acres. It is nearly two city blocks thick at the base and is 15 blocks long at the crest. It is as high as a 46-story building.

The lake behind the dam will be 151 miles long when water is at its highest point, and it will be the world's largest artificial lake.

50 years ago

March 2, 1961: The Concrete Theatre will close its doors this coming weekend. The final decision was made last week by owner Art Golofon of Seattle, who has come to the conclusion that under present circumstances, there is no chance of putting the once-prosperous showhouse back on a paying basis.

See **Way back**, p. 25

Concrete Senior Center March 2011 Activities

Lunch served
Mon. – Fri., 12:30 p.m.

Mondays

9 a.m. Gray Ladies
Hoop Quilting
1 p.m. Skip Bo

Tuesdays

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

Wednesdays

8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. Quilting
9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Income tax assistance
by appointment
11:30 a.m. Jigsaw puzzle
1 p.m. Skip Bo

Thursdays

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

Fridays

10 a.m. – Noon Open studio water-
color painting
11:30 a.m. Jigsaw puzzle
Noon Mexican Train
Dominoes

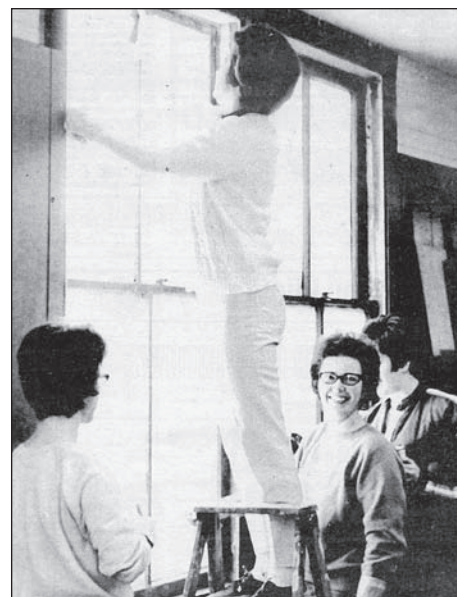
Special Events

3/4 March for Meals Olive Garden
Pasta Dinner and Celebration
3/9 11 a.m. Advisory Board mtg.
3/9 1 p.m. Bingo
3/10 8 a.m. Foot care by appt.
3/25 12:30 p.m. Birthday Lunch
3/27 March for Meals Bowling Bash
3/29 12:45 p.m. Leap of Faith
3/30 1 p.m. Bingo

Holiday Closures

3/18 Furlough Day:
All Skagit County offices closed

Way back, cont. from p. 24



40 years ago: Members of the Cascade Junior Women's Club put in long volunteer hours scraping, sanding, and painting woodwork in the large meeting room of the Concrete City Library. This photo, which ran in the March 4, 1971, issue of *Concrete Herald*, caught a group of clubwomen hard at work. Shown from left to right are Carolyn Kuipers, Barbara Rathvon, Bonnie Drake, and Kathy Hurn. *Archive photo.*

30 years ago

March 19, 1981: The Skagit River Railway is ready to roll this spring.

Old Number 6, the 1928 Baldwin 2-6-2 steam locomotive, has been inspected, certified, and licensed, according to Dick Duffy, president of the nonprofit corporation's board of directors. Excursion train trips are scheduled to start Memorial Day weekend.

Commemorating this event, and as an aid in financing this nostalgic return to the golden age of rail-roading, Skagit River Railway is offering to the public for a limited time an exquisite silver medallion.

The present excursion schedule calls for daily trips, starting from Sedro-Woolley every Wednesday through Sunday, beginning May 23. "The purpose of the steam

excursion railway is twofold," backers explained. "To preserve that part of regional history associated with steam railroading in the Skagit Valley and the Northwest, and to assist the economic base of the area."

"The railroad is potentially a major recreational and historic attraction, resulting in a sense of community pride."

Through the medallion sale, the board of directors is appealing to everyone interested in economic growth. The Skagit River Railway is directed by leaders in the community who serve without expectation of personal gain.

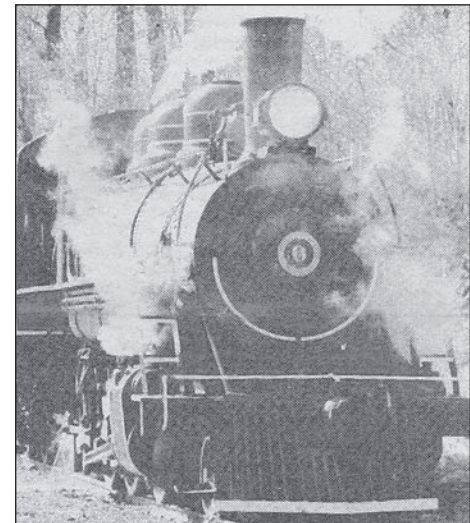
Senior driver refresher sessions announced

SKAGIT COUNTY — The next scheduled sessions of "Getting There Safely," a senior driver refresher course, will occur through April 2011 on the following dates:

- Thurs., March 10, and Fri., March 11
- Thurs., April 7, and Fri., April 8

The classes will be held at the Mount Vernon Senior Center, 1401 Cleveland Ave., Mount Vernon.

The eight-hour class, divided into two four-hour sessions, is specifically designed for the senior driver. The sessions will run from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. both days. People 55 years of age and older who complete the program will qualify



30 years ago: The March 19, 1981, issue of *Concrete Herald* carried this photo of the 1928 Baldwin 2-6-2 steam locomotive that was set to provide excursion trips between Sedro-Woolley and Concrete beginning Memorial Day weekend of that year. *Archive photo.*

for a modest reduction in their automobile insurance.

There is a \$10 fee per person for this class.

For more information or to enroll, contact Kathryn Bowen at 360.336.9333, ext. 13140#, or through the Skagit County Public Works Department at 360.336.9400, ext. 3140. All participants must pre-register.

Concrete Herald
The Voice of Eastern Skagit County

Women's Arcadia™ Rain Jacket

Columbia's popular Kona jacket gets a new name and a new look for spring. All the same weather-ready elements remain, like waterproof construction, an adjustable storm hood, and drawcord adjustable hem to block wind and rain.

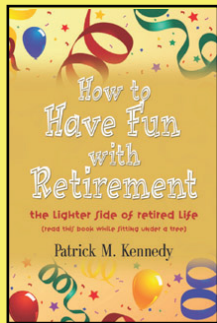
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Sunday School lesson

A season of subtracting and adding

By Rob Thomas



“What’s that black smudge on your forehead?” As a young boy growing up in the Catholic Church, once a year I would face the questions as the school day began on yet another Ash Wednesday. Earlier that particular morning, I attended Mass, and part of the service included all in attendance walking forward and the priest marking the forehead (with burnt ashes from the previous Palm Sunday service) of each individual in the shape of a cross, thus signifying the beginning of Lent. In biblical times, ashes were used to express mourning and sorrow for one’s sins and faults.

Ash Wednesday? Mass? Lent? Foreign terms to many, but to those Christians who remain sensitive to church history, as well as to those who hold fast to a traditional church calendar, these terms represent a period of preparation (known as The Lenten Season) beginning this year on Wed., March 9 (Ash Wednesday), and continuing until Sun., April 24 (Easter Sunday).

Historically, the 40-day period (not including Sundays) before Easter is seen as a season of repentance and anticipation: repentance from personal sin and the anticipation of the celebration of Christ’s resurrection from the dead, confirming once and for all Jesus’ victory over sin and death.

As a child, what I remember most about Lent was meatless Fridays and giving up something important to me (usually candy) as a way to demonstrate my personal sorrow and repentance for my sins. Though I have grown to adulthood and am ministering in a church tradition that doesn’t practice adherence to the Lenten Season, I am saddened that many Christians today have lost a sense of need or desire in preparing oneself for celebrating the greatest day in all of human history.

Since the Bible reveals specially called periods of repentance and reflection, may I be so bold as to suggest something? March 9 officially marks the beginning of Lent. As I stated earlier, it is to be a time of repentance and anticipation. Why not consider subtracting (giving up) something that is hindering your spiritual journey, as well as adding something that will enhance your spiritual journey? Whether or not you choose to share your commitments with someone else is up to you (though I strongly believe

See **Sunday School**, p. 31

Worship directory

Assembly of God	Lutheran
Concrete Assembly of God 45734 Main St., Concrete; 853.8042 Sun. worship: 10 a.m. Tue.: Men’s meeting, 8:30 a.m. Wed.: Adult Bible study, 6 p.m. Thur.: Women’s Bible study, 6:30 p.m. Bruce Martin, pastor	Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church 46372 Main St., Concrete / 853.8814 Sun. worship: 10 a.m. Marcus Stroud, pastor
Catholic	Nondenominational
St. Catherine Mission Church 45603 Limestone St., Concrete Sun. Mass: 8:30 a.m. Office: 855.0077 Weekday hours: 9:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. Father Martin Bourke, pastor	Community Bible Church 45672 Limestone, Concrete; 853.8511 E-mail: cbcofconcrete@earthlink.net Sun. School: 9 a.m.; Worship Svc: 10 a.m. Childcare/Children’s Ministries at both Contact church for other available ministries Rob Thomas, pastor
Presbyterian	
Mount Baker Presbyterian Church 45705 Main St., P.O. Box 246, Concrete Sun. worship: 8 a.m.; Wed.: 7 p.m. Church 853.8585; office 595.0446 www.mtbakerpresbyterian.synodnw.org Tom Ross, pastor	Rockport Christ the King Community Church 11982 Martin Rd., Rockport, WA 98283 Pre-service fellowship: 9:30 a.m. Sun. service: 10 a.m. Sun. eve. Bible study: 5 p.m. Church office contact: 853.8746
To add your place of worship to this directory, call 360.853.8213 or e-mail editor@concrete-herald.com.	

Obituaries

Florence Marie (Gilbert) Pressentin, retired United States postmaster and 50-year resident of the Skagit Valley, died on Jan. 22, 2011, in Seattle, just two weeks short of her 90th birthday.

Florence was born to Theodore F. and Marie (Gang) Gilbert on Feb. 6, 1921, in Mineral, Wash. Florence grew up in Chehalis, Wash., and graduated from Chehalis High School in 1939. She attended Seattle University and graduated with a BSN in Nursing in 1947.

In 1948 she married Martin A. Pressentin, son of Edward V. and Elizabeth (Martin) Pressentin, two prominent Upper Skagit Valley pioneer families. They settled in Rockport to run the family store, where they built a home and raised their three daughters: Denise, Lea, and Marce.

Florence was a devoted daughter, a cherished wife, and a loving mother. She served the community in various roles as a nurse, a U.S. postmaster in both Rockport and Concrete, a president of the San Juan Girl Scout Council, a co-founder of Aero-Skagit Emergency Services, and a dedicated volunteer and parishioner of St. Catherine’s Mission Catholic Church.

As a Registered Nurse, she worked at Providence Hospital in Seattle, United General Hospital in Sedro-Woolley, and at the Concrete Clinic. Logging accidents and emergency health care situations found their way to Florence’s doorstep, as well as the garden-variety scrapes and cuts of banged-up kids who found her at the post office.

Florence worked for the U.S. Postal Service for 27 years beginning in Rockport in 1962 as a postal clerk. She served a total of 23 years as a U.S. postmaster, with 14 years in Rockport from 1966 to 1980, then nine years in Concrete where she retired in 1989 at age 68. She loved working in the heart center of both communities and made lasting friendships, not only in the community, but also with staff and other postmasters.

Florence was an advocate for young girls and women, encouraging them to explore and follow their dreams. She started the Girl Scouts in Rockport, helped grow the organization in the valley, and served as president of the San Juan Girl Scout Council. She was a role model to women and was proud that through her mentoring, three women moved ahead in their careers to become U.S. postmasters.

Florence and the late William G. Monzingo, M.D. co-founded Aero-Skagit Emergency services in 1974, answering the Upper Valley’s need for emergency care. Aero-Skagit Emergency Services is flourishing as a vital emergency resource for the Upper Skagit community.

Her Catholic faith and St. Catherine’s Mission were of paramount importance to her. She was actively involved in the life of St. Catherine’s as a parishioner, volunteer, and leader. She collaborated with the building and design of the CCD Center in Concrete, and was instrumental in saving its stately pine tree. She served as Altar Society President and was in charge of catered events at St. Catherine’s CCD Center.

Florence was a vibrant beauty with an engaging smile that she shared easily with everyone. With her style, sharp intellect, and quick wit, she left a lasting impression with those she met. She was a force to be reckoned with who exuded confidence and charisma with a passion and energy for life.



www.concrete-herald.com

Through her leadership, hard work, and sharing of her talents, Florence contributed to the betterment of life in the Upper Skagit Valley. Her legacy and footprint in the Upper Skagit Valley continues to be felt.

Florence is survived by daughters Denise von Pressentin, Seattle; Lea von Pressentin, Seattle; and Marce von Pressentin, Bow, Wash.; her “kissing cousin” Richard Gilbert, Marysville, Wash.; her cousin, Rene DelRe, Kellogg, Idaho; and nieces, nephews, cousins, sisters-in-law, and treasured friends. She will be greatly missed.

Florence was preceded in death by her parents, Ted and Marie Gilbert; her husband, Martin Pressentin; and her sister, Elizabeth (Betty) Botch.

A Rosary Service was said at 7 p.m. on Fri., Feb. 4, 2011, at Lemley Chapel, Sedro-Woolley. Visitation at Lemley Chapel was available during that week and at the Rosary. Mass of Christian Burial was held at 11 a.m. on Sat., Feb. 5, 2011, at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, 719 Ferry Street, Sedro-Woolley.

A Celebration of Life Luncheon Reception followed the Mass in the Parish Hall. Burial at the Concrete Forest Park Cemetery, Concrete, followed the luncheon at 3 p.m.

Memorials may be given in her honor to Aero-Skagit Emergency Services, Inc., P.O. Box 705, Concrete, WA 98273; St. Catherine’s Mission Catholic Church, 719 Ferry St., Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284; Seattle University School of Nursing, 901 12th Ave., Seattle, WA 98122; or a charity of your choice.

Arrangements and Services under the direction of Lemley Chapel, Sedro-Woolley. Please share your memories of Florence and sign the online guestbook at www.lemleychapel.com.

Free screening of revival documentary at Concrete Theatre

Revival documentary *An Appalachian Dawn* will be shown free of charge at Concrete Theatre, March 10 at 7 p.m.

Sponsored by Pray!Skagit and produced by The Sentinel Group, the film follows the struggles of the city of Manchester, Ky. By the early 2000s, overdoses and drug-related accidents were claiming so many young lives that roadside memorial crosses began to resemble picket fences. In the words of one local pastor, “At the rate we were going, there wasn’t going to be a next generation.”

In May 2004, nearly 4,000 Christians from 63 churches marched through the streets against drugs and corruption. As TV host John Becknell put it, “something broke,” and the Manchester City Council renamed their community “The City of Hope.”

The film will be shown a second time at the Lincoln Theatre in Mount Vernon on March 16 at 7 p.m.

www.concrete-herald.com

Sheriff’s blotter

Jan. 22
A Rockport caller reported that her 18-year-old grandson was upset and throwing things around. Deputy responded and resolved the situation. No crime occurred.

Jan. 23
A report came from Lyman of a “huge fight” in the area. Deputies responded and located a small party. No issues.

Jan. 24
A Grasmere caller reported receiving multiple calls from Ukraine. Investigation found this to be an out-of-country phone scam.

Jan. 25
A Concrete father called to report that his son and friend had come home earlier in the day and found a burglar in the house. They beat the burglar up and he fled. Burglar described as a white male, 18–19 years of age, with bright dyed orange hair.

Jan. 26
A Lyman caller reported two children left in a vehicle while their attending adult was in a tavern. Vehicle was gone on deputy arrival.

Jan. 27
A Clear Lake caller reported two Rottweilers running loose in the area. Investigation located owner, who said that they had recently moved, and the dogs kept trying to go back to their old house.

Jan. 28
A Concrete caller reported a vehicle driving erratically, crossing the center line. Deputies contacted driver, who was not impaired, only having difficulty driving in the rain.

Jan. 29
A Concrete caller reported that he had received a call from someone stating “you’re dead tonight.”

Jan. 30
A Concrete caller reported that her neighbor’s dog came over and attacked her dog.

Jan. 31
A Concrete caller reported that a friend was suicidal and had taken 60 Ambien. Deputy contacted the subject, who denied this and appeared fine.

An 86-year-old Cape Horn resident called 911 to report that a young female had come to his residence and appeared to be intoxicated and acting irrationally. He reported that the female entered his residence and began yelling. Within a few minutes a commotion was heard by the 911 operator and the line was disconnected. Calls of gunshots were immediately reported in the area by neighboring residents. Another caller reported that the 86-year-old man had been shot. Skagit County Sheriff’s

Office deputies responded and discovered that there were two gunshot victims: the 86-year-old homeowner and a 22-year-old male. Further investigation has led to 1st degree Burglary and 1st degree Assault charges against the 22-year-old suspect.

Feb. 1
A Concrete caller reported that he was arguing with a friend and wanted her removed from his residence.

Feb. 2
An intoxicated Hamilton caller said that they fell off the couch and hit their head.

Feb. 3
A Sedro-Woolley caller reported a subject called her and said that she had run a red light in Mt. Vernon and that she needed to send him money. Investigation determined that this was a legitimate collection agency.

A Concrete caller reported a dead dog in front of the Concrete library. Deputy was unable to locate.

Feb. 4
A Concrete caller reported that an intoxicated friend was at their residence and would not leave. Subject left prior to deputy arrival.

Level 2 Sex Offender NOTIFICATION

The Skagit County Sheriff has released the following information pursuant to RCW 4.24.550 and the Washington State Supreme Court decision in State v. Ward, which authorizes law enforcement agencies to inform the public of a sex or kidnap offender’s presence when, in the discretion of the agency, the release of information will enhance public safety and protection.

Salas, Narciso Jesse
Age: 54
Race: H
Sex: M
Height: 5’ 8”
Weight: 215
Hair: Black
Eyes: Brown
Address: 256xx Minkler Rd., Sedro-Woolley

Salas was convicted of seven counts of First Degree Incest in Skagit County, and three counts of Sexual Assault in Nevada. His victims were young, familial females between 5 and 15 years old.

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



Source: Skagit County Sheriff

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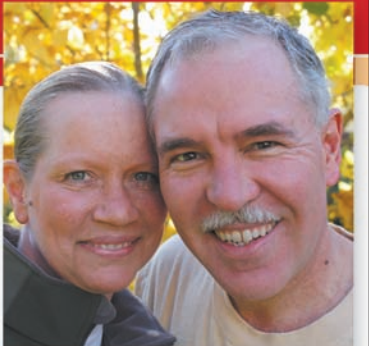
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Health



Thoughts on health care, pt. 2

By Nicola Pearson

If you're not compelled by how much cheaper it might be to have a national health service in this country, then consider the following: As a masters degree student in economics, I learned in my economic development class that the definition of a developed nation is "literacy and health care for all."

The United States of America is, quite possibly, the greatest developed nation in the world and yet we have ... well, neither. Our low rankings on developed nations' test score charts tell us what it means not to have literacy, but what does it mean to our country not to have health care for all?

First, it means people die. Unnecessarily. And I'm not talking about the uninsured; I'm talking about people with insurance who can't get their private carriers to

cover what it is they need for them to keep living. We've all heard the stories: A child with a fever of 104 who is obliged to be taken from one hospital to another because her parent's health insurance will not cover procedures at the first, and the child dies en route. Or, the man with a progressive infection who is sent home from the hospital because his insurance company declares they will no longer pay for his treatment, and he goes home and dies. Or, the people who die from eminently treatable illnesses because their insurance won't cover the right medication.

Where do we live again? Did you say the United States of America? We live in a land of plenty, in a country whose Declaration of Independence is built on the truth that "all men are created equal" and, as such, have the unalienable right to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." Life. Not, "life if you have the right health insurance." How can we let this happen?

Second, not having "health care for all" means that there are many people in this country, millions probably, who do not go and see doctors when they need to because they do not have good health insurance. I know, because I'm one of them. And, of course, I'm terrified that I might need more than just a doctor's visit one day. I have visions of being taken to the emergency room and telling then to patch me up the cheapest way possible. I'll sign whatever release they want, just don't bankrupt my family.

What's it going to take for us to see that this money-over-health kind of decision is wrong? Particularly in a country that can afford to put health first. Do we have to wait until people are segregated in the ER according to their insurance coverage? "Okay, take this one to the curtain with restraints and duct tape; she has catastrophic coverage only, so no pain meds."

Given that the United States is not a third-world country, shouldn't it be a point of pride for us to have a health care system that is available to everyone, no matter what their income? And, since this is actually the No. 1 developed nation in the world, shouldn't we want the "best" health care for everyone? So why don't we just demand that?

According to Tony Benn, a former cabinet minister in England, people who are shackled by debt live in fear, people who live in fear are oppressed, and oppressed people won't rise up against the government (as quoted in "Sicko" by

Michael Moore).

If that's true, then not having "health care for all" means something very sad for the state of democracy in this great land of ours. It also means that even though we have the right to bear arms, we won't use them, as proponents of this right claim, to protect our homes against a threat because in this country the threat comes from those who hold our health in their hands. And they already have our homes.

When my family's health insurance premiums went up again this year while our coverage decreased, I decided to shop around for a better deal. This is, after all, a free-market economy, one of the arguments some people use against having a national health service in the U.S. Shopping around was not an option for me, however, when it came to health insurance. Not because there weren't other companies out there, not because their prices weren't a viable alternative to our current policy, but because we have a 15-year-old daughter. The health insurance companies in the State of Washington are refusing to sign any new policies for insureds under 19 because they cannot check for preexisting conditions.

This is the greatest developed nation in the world and we allow health insurance companies to refuse to cover our children? Shame on us. Shame. On. Us.

Nicola Pearson is an award-winning playwright from Sauk City. This is the second in a three-part commentary.

Overfed yet undernourished

By Karl Mincin

While Americans are overfed, we also are dangerously undernourished. Malnutrition always has been associated with images of thin, emaciated souls, but it is now apparent that both overweight and non-overweight Americans are also often malnourished because of the lack of good carbohydrates such as whole vegetables and fruits in their diets, as well as the near-absence of the healthy fats like omega-3 oils.

This is particularly true for children, whose diets too often are based predominantly on refined starches, simple sugars, and trans fats, which are the worst kind of fats. I believe that much

of the alarming increase in childhood asthma and Attention Deficit Disorder, as well as numerous other maladies, is nutritionally based. Because we have not yet learned to effectively extract the nutrients and vitamins from fruits and vegetables, supplements cannot be counted on to replace nutritious whole foods. What this means is that even for those of ideal weight, following proper dietary principles is fundamental for general health. Healthful eating is not complicated, nor costly.

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.

Motorcycles, cont. from p. 19

to provide riders with a comfortable alternative to the large, franchised dealerships. Here, you don't take a number; instead, you get a cup of hot coffee and nice conversation."

This second year of business marks more exciting things to come for the shop. "We're working on a remodel of the upstairs portion of our building," said

Rob, whose wife, Tesha, will operate an ice cream and cappuccino parlor the Tygrets call "The Sissy Bar."

"We plan to evolve this into a biker-themed cafe setting, offering 13 flavors of ice cream, along with some soups and sandwiches," said Rob. "We came up with the idea for the name based on a combination of what riders call the passenger backrest ("sissy bar"); the fact that it will be situated atop the back of

our store building, just like a sissy bar; and that we will not be serving alcoholic beverages there, just ice cream, coffee, and some baked goodies," he said.

Make sure you stop in and say hi to the guys at Eagles In Flight next time you are in town, looking for a new Harley-Davidson, or if you are searching for a reputable mechanic for your ride.

If it's the ice cream and coffee that has you excited, The Sissy Bar will open soon.

Eagles In Flight will have its First Anniversary celebration on March 12, with a live band and lunch service. If you don't already have plans for Sat., March 12, make sure you get out to check it all out in person during the celebration, meet the Tygrets if you haven't had a chance to, and have a good time.

For more information, call Eagles In Flight at 360.853.7000.

—Rob Tygret

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Smile



Dwelleysms

Wit from the Herald's former editor

“Wouldn’t it be wonderful if those childhood Christmas lists could be as much desired when our bank account has grown enough to make them a reality?”
“Isn’t it funny that just when we are having so much fun giving to other people, Uncle Sam sends us our income tax blank and spoils it all?”
“You never get the full impact of winter until the first snowball catches you behind the ear.”
“After the age of 25, snow is for mountains.”

—Dec. 9, 1948

“Love is a wonderful thing in this country. Without it, think of all the songwriters, movie stars, advertising writers, and perfume salesmen who would be starving to death.”
“This is the time of year when wives wish their husbands were not quite so handsome, and just a bit richer.”
“You know that youth has flown when Christmas spirit warms only after removal of the cork.”

—Dec. 23, 1948

“Sending money to Europe is like buying liquor for the town drunk. Lord knows they need it, but they won’t ever be worth a thing until they learn to get along without it.”

—Dec. 18, 1947

An Elf’s Life



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By Jonathan Carter

Marblemount fish hatchery bears a bronze plaque carrying the names of the various professional politicians who had a hand in its promotion. And in the customary manner, it fails to say one word about the taxpayers who put up all the money.”

—Sept. 4, 1947

“Study lesson for today: No one ever became financially independent by working just 40 hours a week for wages.”

—Sept. 18, 1947

“Honesty: to admit past mistakes and make every effort to see that they do not happen again.”

“Remember when you could get a premium by sending a reasonable facsimile of a box top? Now folks are happy if they can buy a reasonable facsimile of the product.”

—Jan. 7, 1943

Concrete Harold

By Joyce Harris



By Stig Kristensen

Public Service Announcement



Editorial, cont. from p. 2

bubble, economic shifts, or natural disasters, but to evolve with them and become, in a word, “resilient.”

From my own professional perspective, I can see the need for rural communities to actively engage in discussion regarding their unified goals for becoming and maintaining its resiliency and sustainability, but the larger question is: What do *you* think?

Sunday School, cont. from p. 26

in the benefits of receiving positive encouragement from others).
The Apostle Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 13:5, “Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves.”
Maybe this would be a good time to do exactly that. This could be a season of subtracting and adding in which your personal spiritual journey is forever changed.

Rob Thomas is pastor of Community Bible Church in Concrete.

Lady Lions, cont. from p. 6

53–50. Both teams put forth tremendous effort, and both teams played a great game of basketball on that night. Nobody wanted to see the season end, but after losing back-to-back heartbreakers, it finally did.
The Concrete girls accomplished more this season than anyone expected. They have a lot to be proud of, and I am sure they will all look back on this season as one of the best. Every one of these girls put the team first, always. They had great attitudes, a hard work ethic, and are an absolute joy to coach.

I am so proud of what these girls stand for and for what they have accomplished. I am honored to be their coach. Thanks to all of you who came out and supported us throughout the season, and we look forward to making another great run next year.

What a season we all had!

Transition, cont. from p. 4

connected, and more caring of each other and the earth.
Chuckanut Transition, focused on those living within the Samish Watershed (in Blanchard, Edison, Bow, Allen, Belfast, and Alger), created Bow Little Market last year for small farmers and crafters. This

year, classes and projects are planned, such as taking advantage of the simplicity of passive solar. They hope to establish seed exchanges, cooperative gardening and food processing, and buying groups. By increasing communication between neighbors and neighborhoods, cities and rural areas, we are less dependent on global corporations. More information is available at <http://chuckanuttransition.wordpress.com>.

Transition Fidalgo & Friends (formerly Skagit Beat the Heat) created Anacortes’ first community garden and published the guide to a low-carbon life *Living Well, Living Green in Skagit and Whatcom Counties*, and the cookbook *Serving the Skagit Harvest* (available at Albert’s Red Apple in Concrete and other east county locations). They offer the Eat Your Yard series of gardening classes, as well as sponsor a Transition Talks and Flicks series, skill-share classes, and monthly Seventh Generation Suppers. See <http://transitionfidalgo.org> for more information.
You have exactly what it takes. All you have to do is show up.

Patricia Sweaney and Janet McKinney are members of Chuckanut Transition.

Stand-down, cont. from p. 4

5. Continue to administer the VAF funds for emergency vouchers for indigent veterans. More info on the VAF may be obtained from Abbott at the East County Resource Center (853.7009).
Some people have asked why the stand-downs are needed. All the veterans served have their own stories in response. Many veterans, upon being discharged, desire the open spaces and serenity this area can provide. Those same qualities also brought veterans of previous wars to this area. Even though this area doesn’t have much in the way of employment opportunities, many people, including veterans, gravitate here for some of the things money simply can’t buy. Unfortunately, that quest for peace of mind comes without a lot of economic benefits. In many ways, the economic slump that started years ago has grown worse. Many people are unemployed and most agencies that provide assistance have cut back or eliminated programs. Factoring in the sobering statistic that the unemployment rate for veterans of the Iraq/Afghanistan conflicts is almost twice that of the state average, according to the latest figures from the Department of Labor. Stand-downs are just a time to both give thanks for what the rest of us have attained and to give a hand to a fellow veteran.

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EVENTS

Sauk View Plaza’s Spring Faire. March 19, 10–5; March 20, noon–5. Free artisan presentations of secrets for everyday living. Call 360.853.8209 or visit www.nwsgardenblng.com for a complete schedule of artists. Basic flute playing: 4 p.m. Sat. Sauk View Plaza, Hwy 20 & South Dillard, Concrete. **Bead Sale:** If you are into beads, you need to get in here.

Soroptimists, cont. from p. 12

United Methodist Church in Sedro-Woolley. This program provides meals for disadvantaged local people during the last full week of each month. Katie has been a regular volunteer with the program since she was a toddler. She credits her grandmother, Vivian Russell of Sedro-Woolley, with starting the program and being her inspiration.
The Violet Richardson award is named after the first president of the first Soroptimist Club in 1921. It recognizes girls between the ages of 14 and 17 for volunteer service to their communities. Soroptimist International of Sedro-Woolley provided a cash award of \$200 to the awardee and \$200 to her program of choice, the Open Door Community Kitchen. Swanson is a sophomore at Sedro-Woolley High School; her parents are Mike and Renee Swanson of Lyman.
Soroptimist International of Sedro-Woolley is a nonprofit organization that works to improve the lives of women and girls.

—Stephanie Dufner

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Cupcakes for a cause. As a fundraiser for Concrete Heritage Museum, volunteers will be selling \$1 cupcakes on Main Street and at Concrete Theatre during the Mardi Gras parade on Sat., March 5. If you find a special token inside, bring it to the Concrete Theatre and claim a prize!

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Envision Skagit, cont. from p. 4

harder on in the future? What would improve the quality of life for Skagit residents?
Top responses: Efficient, frequent public transportation throughout county, especially rural areas; avoiding dead end projects (incinerator); access to local, organic food.
Question 3: Where should the (projected increase in) population go?
Top responses: Near infrastructure, growth in cities; livable, walkable communities; mixed-use (residential/commercial).
Envision Skagit 2060 is a cooperative community effort designed to help shape Skagit Valley for the next 50 years. The project’s Citizen Committee will develop and recommend a broadly supported, 50-year plan for Skagit Valley by drawing on community input and public recommendations.
For information on the Envision Skagit 2060 project, go to www.skagitcounty.net/envisionskagit or contact Emma Whitfield at emmaw@co.skagit.wa.us.

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