

The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley

Concrete Herald

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50 cents

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Upper Skagit Library forms foundation

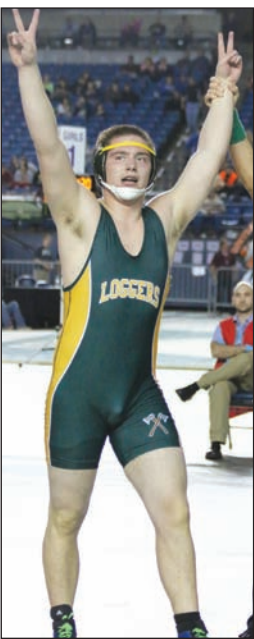
Friends of the Upper Skagit Library (FOUSL) has announced it is now the Upper Skagit Library Foundation. *Page 4.*

Janicki plan for Northern State Hospital picks up steam

A Feb. 27 meeting at Sedro-Woolley City Hall found most attendees enthusiastic about a Janicki Bioenergy plan to convert a portion of the Northern State Hospital property into a research and development campus for its sewage treatment plant. *Page 16.*

River proposal angers Rockport residents

An idea to reroute a portion of the Skagit River through Barnaby Slough is meeting resistance from some Rockport residents who fear it may flood their land. *Page 23.*



McKenzie repeats at Mat Classic 27

He did it again! Darrington 220-lb. champion Mason McKenzie captured the 2B state championship on Feb. 22. *Page 24.*

*Page 11***Tires LES SCHWAB****Pat Rimmer Tire Center****SPRING****TIRE SALE****MARCH 1- APRIL 30**Our **BIGGEST SALE** of the year is happening now!**204 W. Moore St. • Sedro-Woolley****TOYO TIRES ON SALE!**In April, show your statement and get **\$25 OFF** a front or rear brake job!**360.855.1033**

Concrete Herald

The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley



Washington Newspaper Publishers Association

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From the editor

Grizzly bear open house drive a deterrent for most stakeholders

This month a series of open houses will be held to allow the general public to learn more about a proposal to restore the grizzly bear to the North Cascades ecosystem. The meetings are being held by the National Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; those two agencies are trying to determine whether they will take an active role in that restoration (see story, p. 34).

Six open houses are on tap. Four will be held on the east side of the mountains and two on the west side. The west side meetings are in Seattle and Bellingham.

Seattle and Bellingham. Almost as far away as you can get from the communities who would be directly affected from such a plan. The people who live in eastern Skagit Whatcom, and Snohomish counties often work out of town and log 10- to 12-hour work days. Expecting them to drive another two hours or more at the end of a weekday is unreasonable. This is the kind of strategy that makes reasonable people start imagining that treachery is afoot. Have the organizers heard of Sedro-Woolley? Arlington?

Yes, the public is able to submit written comments on the topic. But a midnight e-mail written alone in one's basement can hardly bring the same benefit to a concerned citizens as a realtime conversation with officials and neighbors.

Anyone who knows me understands that I'm the last person to cry conspiracy. But when I see backcountry roads and trails being closed because of "budget shortfalls," followed closely by proposals to introduce a predator species to the same area, or, say, actions that "restore" alpine lakes by killing the planted fish in them (removing a subset of users who once hiked to those lakes), that raises my eyebrows.

In a recent editorial, *Omak-Okanogan Chronicle* Publisher and Editor Roger Harnack made this statement: "Since grizzlies are no longer considered an 'endangered' species, there's no need to take an 'active role' re-establishing grizzly bear populations here or elsewhere. And there is no need for the federal government to usurp the rights of access and use of more land in the region." I agree.

—J. K. M.



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Opinion

Letters to the editor

Good news for a change

Government officials are like teachers; they have a very demanding job attending to an ever-growing number of needs. They are criticized often and rarely do they receive any gratitude for what they do.

So our neighborhood would like to thank the Skagit County commissioners—Lisa Janicki, Ron Wesen, and Ken Dahlstedt—as well as Peter Hurd at our local DNR office for hearing our concerns about the herbicide triclopyr that was scheduled to be sprayed on Public Forest lands just above our homes, the Skagit River, Clear Lake, and the Judy Reservoir, which supplies drinking water to Sedro-Woolley, Burlington, and Mount Vernon.

We did our homework, researched triclopyr, and shared what we found with our local officials.

Triclopyr, a.k.a. Garlon, is produced by Dow Chemical, the company that made Agent Orange. While triclopyr has no dioxin, it does break apart into two other dangerous toxins, TCP and TMP.

Washington State's fact sheet on triclopyr and TCP reports that the triclopyr degradate, TCP, is considered to be persistent in aquatic environments and toxic to fish.

The label for triclopyr has this warning: "This pesticide is toxic to fish. Do not apply directly to drinking water, to areas where surface water is present. Do not contaminate water when disposing of equipment wash water."

Contaminated water has been found near areas where triclopyr is used in agriculture, in forestry, on urban landscapes, and on golf courses.

We all are at risk, but the children, workers, and neighbors applying these chemicals are most at risk for health problems including cancer, infertility,

autism, Parkinson's, and Alzheimer's.

Good news: DNR will not be spraying near us. We have alternatives that are safer to our environment and ourselves that need to be explored. Many communities have adopted risk reduction approaches to toxic pesticides. We have sent letters to our state representatives, state senator, and the commissioner of public land, calling on them to update the laws and management practices with regard to the use of toxic herbicides.

We encourage you to write your representative and to monitor the chemicals being sprayed around your community's water, schools, forest lands, farms, golf courses, and neighborhood yards. The need for clean water unites us all.

Speak up, you can make a difference!

Bonnie Howard
Sedro-Woolley

Water opinions a "logjam"

Abundant as it is, our local water supply is currently caught up in a logjam of conflicting opinions.

As a former member of the now-defunct Skagit River Water Resources Advisory Committee, I believe the blame rests squarely on the Department of Ecology

See Letters, p. 39

Letters policy

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

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Message from the mayor

By Jason Miller

I'm excited about the next **Imagine Concrete townwide workshop**, which will be held this month on Sat., March 14, from 9 a.m. to noon in the Commons room at Concrete High School. These workshops are held every other year; this year we plan to discuss Silo Park: its strengths, challenges, current projects, and potential for greatness. Your town staff will be there, and I've urged the Town Council members to attend also, for this fun, hands-on exercise. We'll give all the feedback from this workshop to Parks Committee Chair Marla Reed for further discussion and analysis.

The **Fire and Life Safety Building** project continues to progress ahead of schedule. In February, drywall was installed, as well as a coat of paint. Outside, you probably noticed the new flag pole, grass and sod, siding, and a



chain-link fence. This month the finish work will continue inside, as well as plumbing and lighting fixtures. You'll see the large bay doors go in around the third week of March. We're still eyeing a late March or early April completion, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony moving into early or mid-May, just so we can make sure the major players for this project can attend.

Those of you who've considered **running for public office** should be aware that four Town Council positions will be on the November ballot this year. Filing week for that election will be sometime this May; I'll make sure this newspaper's publisher includes that information in the next issue.

I'm very happy to see an uptick in **attendance at council meetings** lately. This tells me that our residents and area locals care about Concrete's future! Got a topic you'd like me to address in this column? Let me know.

Concrete Mayor Jason Miller can be reached at goodwords@frontier.com or 360.853.8213.

Librarian draws a crowd in Concrete

Nancy Pearl, an award-winning librarian regularly featured on National Public Radio's Morning Edition and 94.9 KUOW in Seattle, spoke to almost 100 people during a Feb. 18 gathering at Concrete Theatre.

Pearl was on hand for an Upper Skagit Library meeting at the theater and spoke on the topic of "The Pleasures and Perils of a Life of Reading."

Pearl, whom the *New York Times* calls "the talk of librarian circles," is the former executive director of the Washington Center for the Book, star of her own TV show, and the only librarian in history with an action figure modeled in her likeness.

"We are given one life to live, but through books and learning, we can have any number of lives," said Pearl. "That's what a library does for you."

A diminutive dynamo, Pearl then humorously described some of the perils of a life of reading, including:

- "If you learn your vocabulary through reading, you don't know how to



Pearl

- pronounce anything."
- "When you're reading a book and you run across a word you don't know, you can't always figure out its meaning from the context."
- "If you're a reader, you never know if your memories are really yours, or if you've borrowed them from a book."

—J. K. M.

IMAGINE CONCRETE WORKSHOP: THE FUTURE OF SILO PARK

Join Concrete residents in a hands-on exercise to imagine what Silo Park could become

SAT., MARCH 14, FROM 9 A.M. TO NOON

Concrete High School commons room (childcare provided)



Questions? Contact Jason Miller at goodwords@frontier.com or 360.853.8213

Pedestrian improvement project to reform Concrete intersection

By Haley McNealey

Edited by Katy Tomasulo

A pedestrian improvement project, set to begin before the end of March, will take place at the intersection of Superior Avenue and SR 20.

The renovations are designed to improve the usability of the junction to the benefit of pedestrians. "Anytime we can increase accessibility and safety for all of our residents, I'm going to be happy," said Mayor Jason Miller, stressing the importance of meeting the needs of each individual.

One major component will be to better accommodate persons with physical disabilities by improving accessibility to comply with ADA standards, including adding elements that will improve access for individuals using wheelchairs or mobility scooters. Other significant changes include the addition of streetlights to improve visibility, extending the sidewalk to close an existing gap, and installing flashing signs to alert traffic when a person is crossing.

Traffic will likely be impacted during construction, which is expected to take approximately 18 days. Officials expect that at least one lane will be available at all times, with flaggers present to monitor traffic during the construction period.

The overall cost for the project is estimated at slightly more than \$216,000, with \$1,170 to be paid for by the town. Reichhardt & EBE Engineering will provide engineering services for the project, including developing civil drawings, coordinating with various entities to ensure the project complies with all applicable regulations, and arranging for traffic control. Now that design engineering has been completed, construction engineering will begin; this process will include multiple inspections, surveying, DOT oversight, and continued implementation of traffic engineering.

Feb. 9 Town Council meeting

- Public safety reports indicate around

30 calls, mostly malicious mischief. Some areas of concern continue to be monitored consistently to avoid misconduct and ensure safety.

- Work continues on the Fire and Life Safety Building, slightly ahead of schedule. Inspections have been completed.

Feb. 23 Town Council meeting

- Annual cleanup days are expected to take place in mid-June.
- Planning for the annual Concrete Old-Fashioned Fly-In has begun. The event is expected to take place in July.

- The next Imagine Concrete workshop will take place on Sat., March 14, from 9 a.m. to noon in the Commons room at Concrete High School. The next Imagine Concrete regular meeting will be March 17 in the Pilots' Lounge at 6 p.m., and is open to the public.
- The kennel, in accordance with the amended city dog ordinance, is 13 feet by 24 feet, and will hold four to six dogs.

Writer Haley McNealey is a senior at Concrete High School. Editor Katy Tomasulo lives in Seattle.

Grant brings mental health and suicide prevention trainings to Concrete

By Alyssa Pavitt

The Concrete Resource Coalition, in partnership with United General District 304, has received a grant from the Department of Behavioral Health and Recovery to address Mental Health Promotion and Suicide Prevention in East Skagit County. The grant will allow for increased local trainings addressing mental health and suicide prevention, as well as expansion of the Second Step Program, an evidence-based social and emotional skills program that began this school year with all K-6 students in Concrete.

The Concrete Resource Coalition will host a Youth Mental Health First Aid training on Thur., April 2, in the Concrete High School Commons from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The aim of this eight-hour course is to equip participants with the knowledge to help youth in crisis or youth experiencing a mental health challenge. Participants will learn the signs and symptoms of mental illness or crisis, and a core five-step action plan to provide support.

Registration is required for this free training. To register, go to www.concreteresourcecoalition.com and follow the registration link on the homepage, or call 360.854.7173.

Preventing suicide

The coalition also will be implementing the QPR Gatekeeper Suicide Prevention Program. The QPR (Question, Persuade, and Refer) program is a brief educational program designed to teach "gatekeepers" (parents, friends, neighbors, teachers, coaches, caseworkers, police officers, etc.) the warning signs of a suicide crisis and how to respond.

The training highlights the following steps:

- Questioning the individual's desire or intent regarding suicide.
- Persuading the person to seek and accept help.
- Referring the person to appropriate resources.

Up to 10 local facilitators will be trained on March 30, who will then be available to give one- to two-hour presentations in the community. Anyone interested in becoming a local facilitator or hosting a one- to two-hour QPR training may contact Alyssa Pavitt, Concrete Resource Coalition Coordinator, at 360.854.7173.

Alyssa Pavitt is a Concrete Resource Coalition Coordinator.

Upper Skagit Library forms new foundation

There is a new foundation in town, and it is poised for success. The Friends of the Upper Skagit Library (FOUSL) has announced it is now the Upper Skagit Library Foundation, with a newly elected board of directors and officers.

The formal transition occurred at FOUSL's annual meeting on Feb. 18, following unanimous approval of a change in the bylaws and articles of incorporation.

"This sets the organization on more solid footing," said Barb Trask, president of the new foundation. "We're now in a stronger position to raise funds for a new library."

Other officers of the foundation are Valerie Stafford, vice president; Becky Schmidt, secretary; and Kathy Pfeiffer, treasurer. Board members include Sacha Buller, Sheena Daniels, Sharon Dillon, Sherry Hornbeck, Nancy Johnson, Carrie Newby, Kevik Rensink, and Rob Thomas.

With nearly 100 people in attendance, the February meeting was a celebration of several other milestones. The announcement that the capital project fund has grown to more than \$600,000 was met with loud applause and the blowing of party horns. The Upper Skagit Library

Board of Trustees, which oversees the operation of the library, established the fund 10 years ago, earmarking the bulk of the money for a new facility.

"This takes us a long way toward the amount needed," said Trask, estimating that the new building could cost more than \$1.2 million. "The more we raise, the better the new library can be."

It was also announced that the land for the library, in a prime location near Silo Park, has been donated by Glacier Northwest.

Nancy Sparkowich, Steve and Nancy Johnson, and past board members also were recognized for their longtime service and dedication, and Brooke Pederson was thanked for her first year as Upper Skagit Library director.

The festive evening was capped by guest speaker, Nancy Pearl, the award-winning librarian regularly featured on National Public Radio's Morning Edition and 94.9 KUOW in Seattle (see p. 3, this issue). To the delight of the audience, she presented "The Pleasures and Perils of a Life of Reading."

For more information about the Upper Skagit Library Foundation, or to find out how you can help, contact Barb Trask, traskb@me.com or visit www.upperskagitlibraryfoundation.org.

—Valerie Stafford

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The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley

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Spring is Almost Here What North Cascades Vintage Aircraft Museum is Planning

Everyone here at NCVAM is excited for Spring ahead and we are gladly sharing the following news with all of

our supporting fans:

We offer our new Self-Guided tour that allows visitors to explore more of the museum's unique aircraft collection.

*Please keep in mind that the museum is on winter hours until May. We welcome visitors by appointment until then.

The museum will be releasing our first Quarterly Newsletter next month! Please subscribe via our website or email us to get on our mailing list.

The frame-up restoration of NCVAM's iconic 1929 Stinson, Jr. is well on the way and will be featured in next month's Newsletter along with a special video for all of our fans.

The museum is actively looking for student volunteers who are interested in exploring the world of aircraft restoration. For more information please email: info@vintageaircraftmuseum.org

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www.vintageaircraftmuseum.org



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A **Concrete Herald** Publication

Call 360.853.8213

United Arab Emirates adds CAIR to terrorist list

The United Arab Emirates government added the Council on American Islamic Relations to its list of terrorist organizations last November.

CAIR was one of several organizations added to the UAE list of 83 names, which also included a second U.S.-based group, the Muslim American Society (MAS), as well as several al Qaeda-linked groups, the Muslim Brotherhood, and other Western-based Islamic organizations it considers terrorist organizations.

The Seattle office for CAIR—CAIR-WA—called for a Dept. of Justice investigation of the Concrete School District in February 2013, after allegations of religious discrimination were leveled against the district by a former student, who claimed former Concrete Elementary School teacher Mary Janda had made anti-Islam remarks during a classroom discussion on bullying.

CAIR's response to the UAE list was swift. Calling the report "shocking and

bizarre," CAIR posted on Facebook that "there is absolutely no factual basis for the inclusion CAIR (sic) and other American and European civil rights and advocacy groups on this list. Like the rest of the mainstream institutions representing the American Muslim community, CAIR's advocacy model is the antithesis of the narrative of violent extremists."

The UAE did not back down from its decision. In a televised interview, UAE Foreign Affairs Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al-Nahyan was asked about the specific designations of CAIR and MAS as terrorists.

"We cannot accept incitement or [terror] funding when we look at some of these organizations. For many countries, the definition of terror is that you have to carry a weapon and terrorize people. For us, it's far beyond that. We cannot tolerate even the smallest and tiniest amount of terrorism," he said.

—J. K. M.

Basketball, cont. from p. 9

what he is capable of accomplishing.

Freshman wing James Schoolland started every game this season and was a huge surprise for the Lions. Coming from a "basketball family," Schoolland is a determined-to-get-better player who has a huge upside. Schoolland understands the game and knows what it will take for him to have continued success on the court.

Sophomore Solomon Holman stepped in the last few games and showed that he is capable of shutting down other teams' top players. As Holman works on his skills and becomes stronger, the Lions will become a better defensive team.

Junior Tucker Scollard was recruited to play early in the season, because we needed another body at times on the court.

Scollard's hustle and athleticism were an asset to the team and gave Clark a periodic rest. Scollard's goal to improve each practice and his physical presence helped the team throughout the season.

Along with Luttrell, Scollard was voted a "Make Teammates Better" award winner.

Although junior forward James "Bird" Suit did not see as much varsity action, his daily leadership and responsibility in practices and on the bench were an asset to both the coach and team. His "to the point" voice was heard often and clear to

the entire team.

Freshman guard Joe Ramirez brought a lot of defensive energy to the team in several games this season. Ramirez is a true "baller" on the court. As he matures, his game will improve. He can truly become a leader on the floor.

In order to field a Junior Varsity team this year, the Lions brought up four 8th grade students—Dalton Newby, Kaden Becker, Michael Booker, and Jonas Rensink—to fill out the roster. The four joined Kaleb Engler, Taylor Chassional, Austin Herauf, and several of the aforementioned players to compete in the final 10 games. These players brought a lot of fight and determination to the court that will serve them well as future Concrete Lions.

The Lions have a positive outlook for next basketball season. We will return the entire team next season; there were no graduating seniors.

Skills are not learned or perfected during the basketball season. Players get better and gain confidence through their work in the off season. As each player evaluates his effort on the court as well as his skills, each player has an opportunity to make a positive impact on the team's success next season.

THIS AND THAT

By J. K. M.

Challenger Rd. closed indefinitely on Tue., Feb. 17, from its easternmost intersection with SR 20 to milepost .26.

Skagit County Public Works announced the closure because the hillside between Challenger Rd. and SR 20 at that location had begun to slough.

That section of Challenger Rd. will be closed until further notice. The road will be closed to all vehicles, including emergency vehicles.

The detour route will be via SR 20 for both directions.

Electric violinist virtuoso **Geoffrey Castle** will present a St. Patrick's Celebration concert at Concrete Theatre on Thur., March 12, at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for youth under age 17, and can be purchased online at www.concrete-theatre.com. For more information, call 360.941.0403.

The fourth **Imagine Concrete townwide workshop** will be held on Sat., March 14. This year the workshop will focus on Silo Park in Concrete; all park users are welcome to attend and provide feedback regarding how the park may be developed. The event will be held from 9 a.m. to noon in the Commons room at Concrete High School. Childcare will be provided. For more information, contact Jason Miller at goodwords@frontier.com or 360.853.8213.

The Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed **Mt. Baker Ranger District Geothermal Consent to Lease** project is completed and available for review and comment. The EA evaluates whether law, policy, or regulation prohibits or sets limits on geothermal development across an approximate 81,820-acre analysis area surrounding Mt. Baker. The decision will determine the suitability for potential geothermal leases, with stipulations.

A copy of the EA is available at www.fs.usda.gov/goto/mbs/projects under the project title "Mt. Baker Ranger District Geothermal Consent to Lease Project."

Specific written comments on this EA may be submitted by e-mail, letter, office visit, or fax. Written comments may be mailed or delivered in person to: Erin Uloth, District Ranger, Mt. Baker Ranger District, 810 SR 20, Sedro-Woolley, WA 98274. Office hours for those submitting

hand-delivered written comments are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on nonholiday weekdays. Comments may be faxed to 360.856.1934. Electronic comments should be e-mailed to comments-pacificnorthwest-mtbaker-snoqualmie-mtbaker@fs.fed.us.

The Concrete Resource Coalition will host a **Youth Mental Health First Aid training** on Thur., April 2, in the Concrete High School Commons from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. (lunch provided). The aim of the eight-hour course is to equip participants with the knowledge to help youth in crisis or youth experiencing a mental health challenge. Participants will learn the signs and symptoms of mental illness or crisis, plus a five-step action plan to provide support.

Registration is required for this free training. To register, go to www.concreteresourcecoalition.com and follow the registration link on the homepage, or call 360.854.7173.

Join the good folks at Ovenell's Heritage Inn for their annual **Easter Egg Hunt** on Sat., April 4, at 1:30 p.m. If you are a business that would like to donate a prize or candy, call 360.853.8494 and let them know. The inn is located at 46276 Concrete Sauk Valley Rd.

Mark your calendar for this year's **Cement City Trail Run**, hosted by Concrete Lions Booster Club on Sat., April 18, at 8:30 a.m. For more information and a link to register, find the event on Facebook.

North Cascade Eye Associates has announced its 13th annual North Cascade Eye Associates **PS Excellence in Education Scholarship**. The \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to a senior in high school from the Eye Associates' service area who desires to pursue an education in the medical field. The goal is to encourage students who want to be medical receptionists, coders, or administrators, as well as doctors, nurses, or medical technicians.

Applications are available at the local high schools; at the North Cascade Eye Associates locations in Sedro-Woolley, Stanwood, and Mount Vernon; and online at www.ncascade.com/events.

The completed application is due by May 1. For more information, call 360.416.6735.

Continue the cycle
Recycle this newspaper

Council summary

Concrete Town Council met for regular meetings on Feb. 9 and 23. The following is a summary of those two meetings. Complete and council-approved minutes for every council meeting are posted on the town's Web site at www.townofconcrete.com/cminutes.php.

Feb. 9 regular meeting

- During the Public Participation portion of the meeting, developer George Theodoratus discussed drainage concerns surrounding the proposed crossing improvements project at SR 20 and Superior Ave. After discussion, council decided to continue its present course of action.
- Public safety:** Deputy Steve Dills reported there have been about 30 calls for service, which include malicious mischief on Limestone St. and a felony drug arrest at Loggers Landing after they received a call for trespassing. He also made a warrant arrest on Cedar St. and Superior Ave. He stated most of the people they are making contact with are not from town.

- During the Fire and Life Safety Building report, town engineer Cody Hart stated that he has been able to assist the town in reducing the overall project costs by about \$210,000.
- Public Works:** Director Alan Wilkins reported he and Clerk Treasurer Andrea Fichter will develop a request for proposal for the wastewater treatment plant's (WWTP) needed software upgrade.

Wilkins also reviewed a new technology that is available and could replace the current membranes in the WWTP. He stated these are nonrigid, more flexible plates. The cost would be approximately \$667,000 to change out the current membranes and replace with new technology. The new membranes would be more efficient and would push back the town's need for expansion of the plant in the future. Wilkins stated that he will start researching funding options through DOE and USDA.

Jan. 23 regular meeting

- Public safety:** Mayor Jason Miller asked about a Jan. 7 incident at the Eagles Nest, where a felon purchased a pistol. Deputy Sonnabend reported

that it was his case, and that a pistol was merely returned by a Concrete resident to its original owner, who now lived out of state.

Deputy Sonnabend reported that Nellie Lane had been quiet and that he had put in a few extra patrols up there. He also reported that there were no new leads on the theft of the Veterans Park flag.

Councilmember David Pfeiffer reported that an unknown man was walking on the Mears Field runway while planes were landing. David stated that he yelled at the guy numerous times to get off the runway and finally he did. He was not a local as far as he knew. He described the man to the deputy. Deputy Sonnabend told Pfeiffer to call the Sheriff if he sees him again.

- Fire and Life Safety Building:** Hart explained that there were a couple of change orders that had to be done immediately and could not wait for council approval because work would have stopped for about 10 days. These change orders were signed on by town staff. He stated two of the change orders were Fire Department costs and were signed on by Fire

Chief Rich Philips. Hart stated one of the changes was to accommodate the siren and antennae. He also reported the total for the change was \$1,954. The second change was to accommodate a drop-down video screen for training. Philips is donating the screen, but framing had to be done to accommodate it and the total cost for the change was \$1,825.

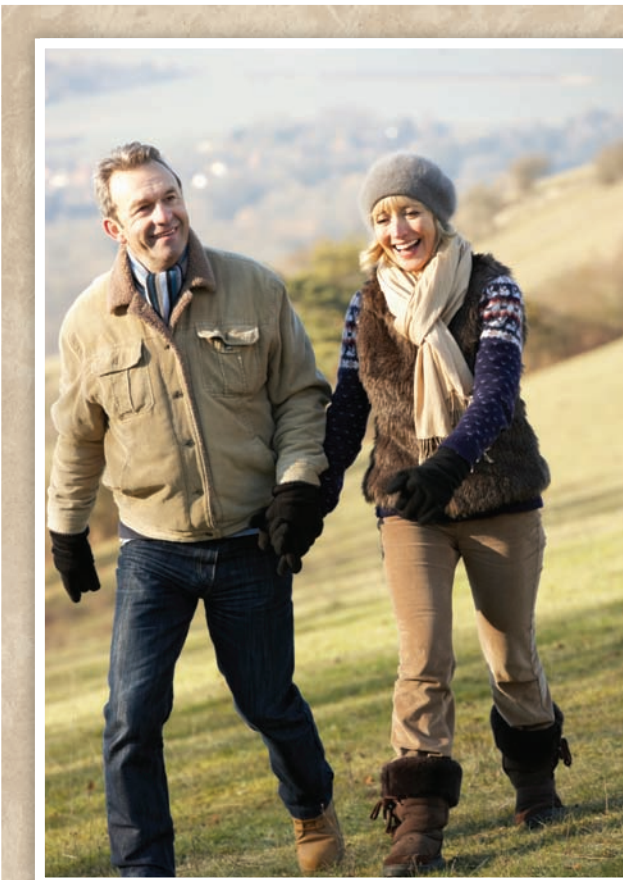
Hart stated the last change will be on a future change order for the rerouting of a compressed air line. The total was \$1,360; there also will be a change for the hot water drain. Hart said the plans had it draining onto the sidewalk outside and it needed to be rerouted.

- Council approved Ordinance No. 737, regarding airport land use.

See Council, p. 33

Keep track of your council

To have Concrete Town Council agendas and meeting minutes e-mailed to you automatically, e-mail your request to andrea@concretewa.gov or call 360.853.8401. Concrete Town Council meets the second and fourth Mondays of each month, at 7 p.m. at Town Hall.



INTRODUCING

HealthyYou

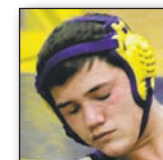
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Sports



Basketball season ends at playoffs

By Paul Bianchini, head coach

The Concrete Lions basketball season came to a close at the district playoffs in mid-February as they lost their final game to district runner-up Friday Harbor 70-28.

The Lions ended their season at 3-18 overall and 2-12 in league play.

Regardless of the score or game outcome, many members of the Concrete community continued to cheer on the players and understood that the team always played as best they could. I was encouraged by our team's willingness to play hard each game regardless of the score, and to continually improve their skills for now and the future.

The Lions were led on the court by junior post player Dylan Clark. Clark ended up being one of the top scorers in the league and played with a toughness matched by few players. Clark used his aggressive style and quick, creative moves to the hoop to keep his team in many games. At 6 feet tall, Clark's quickness neutralizes many taller opponents.

Clark was voted as the team's "Top Defensive Player," "Top Rebounder," and "Top Teammate." During the week of Feb. 4, Clark was named an Athlete of the Week by Washington Interscholastic Activities Association for his play against Orcas Island the previous week, during which he scored 22 points and grabbed 12 rebounds.

Junior point guard Josh Gentry continued to improve each game this season and by season's end started creating scoring opportunities for himself and teammates. Gentry worked hard on his jump shot all year to make that a scoring weapon, and with his quickness and leaping ability, got to the hoop often the last several games.

Sophomore Grayson Luttrell continued to hurt other teams with his outside shooting. Luttrell led the team in 3-point shots; by the end of the season, his ability to drive to the basket and his hustle on defense made him a more complete ballplayer. Luttrell was voted the team's "Make Teammates Better" award winner.

Once sophomore guard Tyler Labrousse got over the injury bug, the team got to see his game (both offensively and



Concrete junior Josh Gentry gets off a jump shot against a La Conner defender on the Braves' home court Feb. 17. Photo courtesy of Amylynn Richards Photography.



Concrete sophomore Grayson Luttrell looks for an open teammate as the Lions took on La Conner Feb. 17. Concrete lost this one 75-32.

defensively) start to take off. A gifted player, Tyler has the potential to be a leader on both sides of the court. His defense in the final game was proof of

See Basketball, p. 6

Koenig brings home state medal

By Jason Miller

Concrete sent nine wrestlers—seven men and two women—to Mat Classic 27 this year, but only one returned victorious, with an 8th place medal around her neck.

Senior Anjelika Koenig endured highs and lows, and came home with a strained shoulder, but she did it: Koenig placed 8th in the state in her weight class of 125 lbs.

Koenig's achievement was especially notable in that Washington state high school women's wrestling does not separate wrestlers by size of school, only weight class. Koenig grappled with

wrestlers from much larger schools and still came out a winner.

"Last year was my first year at state," said Koenig. "This year I had injury issues, but I realized it was my last chance, so I gave it all I had and left everything on the mat."

Another bright spot was Concrete's sole freshman at state. Wrestling at 106 lbs., Riley Fichter went two and out at the Tacoma Dome, but the fact that he made it to the show during his first year in high school was impressive. Look for him next year.

Teammate Louie Ketcham, who last year took second place in state as a 106-lb. freshman, moved into the 120-lb. class and couldn't repeat his earlier performance.

Koenig's teammate Madeline Corn, a fellow senior, was pleased to make it to state during her first year of wrestling. Corn fought valiantly, but went two and out.

Concrete's presence at Mat Classic 27 was rounded out by Donovan Dellinger (145 lbs.), Donnie Olmstead (170), Randall Beacham (182), Jesse Stewart (195), and Brayden Olmstead (220).



Above: Brayden Olmstead wrestles Randy Bohnet from Wilbur-Creston in a tight final match that ended with Bohnet barely besting Olmstead 3-2.

Right: Anjelika Koenig is all smiles after pinning Othello's Nikki Velazquez during the first day of Mat Classic 27. Koenig juggled wins and losses, and crept up the back side of the schedule, eventually capturing an 8th place medal. She was the only Concrete wrestler to place at the state tournament this year.



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Athletes of the Month



Athletes of the Month are Lydia Schoolland and Josh Gentry

Lydia Schoolland is a senior guard for the Concrete High School women's basketball team. This season she led the team in shooting percentage (31 percent), 3-pointers (13), and blocked shots. She was second on the team in scoring, rebounding, and steals. "She is the definition of an awesome teammate," said Head Coach Kevik Rensink. "She's a natural when it comes to people and a natural in basketball. She's a friend—literally—to everyone on the team."

Steady play, outstanding hustle, and continuous improvement while playing a tough position have earned junior point guard Josh Gentry the nod for Athlete of the Month. "A lot of responsibility comes with being a team's primary ball handler," said Head Coach Paul Bianchini. "Josh took the point guard opportunity as a challenge, not once showing any signs of frustration, to help his team learn and grow together. His ability to work hard at his position and play through the adverse times showed up each and every game. As the season progressed, so did Josh's confidence in driving to the basket and getting the ball into his teammates' hands."

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

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL AWARDS

JV Most Improved: Jenna Whorten. **Players' Award:** Iris Nevin. **Queen of the Boards:** Muriel Troka. **Miss Hustle:** Chloe Stidman. **Varsity Most Improved:** Jaycelyn Kuipers. **Most Valuable Player:** Muriel Troka.

Muriel Troka finished the season with 214 rebounds, which ranks 5th most in a season all-time. She had 21 rebounds in a single game, which ranks 3rd all-time. Troka also finished the season with a rebound average of 11.3 per game, which ranks her 5th all-time for highest rebound average/game.

Chloe Stidman finished the season with 100 steals, ranking her 3rd all-time for most steals in a season. She also finished the season with a steal average of 5.26 steals per game, which ranks her 2nd all-time for highest steal average/game.

Lady Lions wrap hoops season

By Kevik Rensink, head coach

I have been told multiple times by multiple people during the last month how they have been inspired by the young women representing the Concrete High School basketball program. I can only nod my head in agreement. I too have been inspired by this group of girls.

I have never coached a team that played as a team and treated each other as a team the way this team did. Xyomara Ramos helped to re-jump-start this "team first" attitude last year, and our seniors this year made it stronger. As a result, we came together, we developed an edge, became relevant and competitive, and found our toughness again.

After starting out the season on a lopsided losing note, the Lady Lions rallied and found themselves within four points in the fourth quarter in 11 of their last 12 games. Although we won only three of those 11 games, we were right there at the end. This is a huge improvement from a season ago and shows encouraging growth. The next step will be closing out games in the fourth quarter. But, like

anything else, these things need to be learned. That is exactly what they are doing, and what they continued to do until the final horn in their final game at Auburn Adventist, losing a tough game 44-38.

We are losing four seniors. "Losing" is an understatement. You can't replace individuals like this. Muriel Troka, Rebecca Torheim, Kelse Cargile, and Lydia Schoolland led us all season, and they will forever be missed. They will also forever be great representatives of the Concrete Lady Lions basketball program, and I hope they take with them some of their fondest high school memories. As for the rest of us, we will be okay, as long as we stay hungry and stick together. "Together" is what our seniors modeled, it is what got us here, and it will continue to motivate us into next season. We became tough and we did it together. A big thank you to all of the players, parents, and fans. Thank you for your support and words of encouragement; it truly means a lot. Thanks to my wife and kids too, for giving up your time for the sake of others.

Girls basketball team closes season with edge-of-seat win

There's a very funny video floating around Facebook. It shows Concrete Middle School girls basketball Head Coach Carrie Newby getting soaked with water from her players' bottles.

They had good reason to celebrate. During their last chance to put an X in the W column for the season, the 8th graders did exactly that, downing the visiting Darrington Lady Loggers 18-16.

The game was tight almost from the beginning, with the teams trading scores throughout. With less than a minute to go in the game, Concrete's Nora Towner broke yet another tie score to put the Lions up 18-16.

Darrington tried every trick in the book to buy time, but the clock ticked down and the game ended after Concrete's Cassie Bridge stole the ball and raced away from Darrington defenders as the last few precious seconds slipped away.

Concrete's 7th grade squad almost accomplished a similar feat, trailing Darrington 22-21 with seconds left. After a long in-bounds pass, 1.6 seconds simply



Concrete Lady Lion Sierra Rensink looks for a clean pass to teammate Jacquelyn Jackson during the team's last game of the season, against Darrington at Concrete. The 7th graders didn't fare quite as well as their 8th grade counterparts, as the Lady Loggers squeaked past the Lions 22-21.

wasn't enough time for Mackenzie Wilson to get a long shot off, and the Lady Lions took that loss.



Concrete's Cassie Bridge tears down the court after stealing the ball and sealing an 18-16 Concrete win during the Feb. 25 home game against the Darrington Lady Loggers. The 8th grade teams traded buckets throughout the game, but a basket by Lady Lion Nora Towner with less than a minute to go gave Concrete the edge it needed to notch its first win of the season.



One year later

By Marla Skaglund and Jentry L. Wright

On March 22, 2014, in the Stillaguamish Valley, the world suddenly and violently changed. An entire neighborhood was completely destroyed in the blink of an eye. Lives lost, lives saved, and close encounters met. In the end, 43 lives were lost to one of the worst disasters in Washington state history.

In a seething rush estimated at 60 miles per hour, Hazel Hill between Darrington and Oso slid, pushing 5 million cubic yards of mud and debris into the North Fork Stillaguamish River and over SR 530. Two large slides happened one after another, followed within minutes by 15 smaller slides.

The slide's fury was complete. It obliterated houses and barns, tore up chunks of SR 530, and even ripped clothes off the humans who survived its onslaught.

Traci Donaldson-Reuwsaat and her family were there, covered in thick gray cold mud during the first three days, searching for survivors. Her daughter, Emmarae, currently a senior at Darrington High School, was only the second car in the lineup that was stopped by the mud covering SR 530, and the photographer who posted the first heavily circulated image of the slide area. Had she been on the road mere minutes earlier, she and her friends would have been swept away and covered by the slide. Reuwsaat's son's classmate Denver Harris was among the missing. Longtime family friends the Kuntzes' house was destroyed and their beloved dog rescued.

Almost a year later, Reuwsaat said she

has learned what is important in life. A Concrete High School graduate married to Darrington graduate Doug Reuwsaat, she said she is "thankful from the bottom of her heart" to the first responders, including the volunteer fire departments of eastern Skagit County, including Rockport, Marblemount, Concrete, Grasmere, and Birdview, who came to the "abnormal scene" quickly and worked tirelessly side by side to search for survivors.

Reuwsaat also spent many hours after day three to obtain and organize supplies for the first responders and affected communities. She was present at meetings with the United Way, and of the Stillaguamish Tribe she said "they just gave and gave."

"No one was prepared for what they saw on site. Everyone just had to keep going on just because we had to."

While locals gathered to recover and repair the damage from the SR 530 slide, side by side with agencies from around the country and the military, small groups of people gathered in separate meetings to make sure this horrific event and everyone lost would never be forgotten. Snohomish County Representative Annique Bennett maintained an office in what was the Bank of America. Those affected by the slide were encouraged to inquire about and seek information on a number of resources available from Snohomish County.

Darrington had seen hard times as the lumber industry had dwindled and slowly businesses had been lost. Only a few had survived. Now, in the wake of the slide,

many agencies were offering services both monetary and supportive. The Red Cross was there. So was FEMA. But once they were done, they left, leaving information about resources available behind. Now came the real work of recovering from the tragedy of the slide.

More than 15 memorial and benefit pages were set up on social network sites such as Facebook, where information and support could be sent and received by those affected by the slide. Many sites still exist today and each continue displaying up-to-date information on events in the valley.

As one drives the length of SR 530, they are reminded daily of the support and unwavering spirit in the signs, ribbons and yellow flowers that are still visibly displayed at intervals along the highway.

Longtime Darrington resident Melinda Hargitt, owner/operator of Embroidered Creations and Melinda's Movies and More, was, like many others in her community the hours and days following the slide, in complete shock.

"I knew there was no way I could mentally or physically go down to help on site," she said. "After my initial shock period, I came up with the idea to design and create T-shirts that I

could sell and donate the proceeds to the victims and volunteers."

Hargitt has lost count of exactly how many T-shirts she created with her "Wings of Hope" design, but she donated a total of \$4,874.

Darrington is rich in talent. A series of projects and meetings, some funded and others driven by volunteers, have led to

See Slide, p. 24



One of 43 memorial trees were planted earlier this year at the entrance to Steelhead Drive, the residential community that was obliterated by the slide. The still-scarred Hazel Hill can be seen in the distance.

Left: A marker stone at the base of the tree pictured above.

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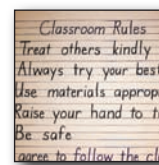
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Academics



Concrete Elementary students were honored Feb. 27 at a "Character Assembly," during which children from each grade level were recognized for their interpretations of what the concept of "integrity" means to them. Front row, from left: Davian Van Bibber, Zach McCall, Taylor Latta, Maxwell Preis, Hunter Throssel, Alexis Houser, James Frame. Back row, from left: Tomas Buchta, Zach Rogers, Devon Howard, McKinley Wilson, Sierra Rensink, Kaitlyn Smith.

PTO update

Concrete PTO has a fun March planned for students and parents.

The carnival returns on March 7 from 1 to 4 p.m., at the elementary school. Continuing the Dr. Seuss theme, the spring event will include a baked potato and chili bar.

Of course, the main draw for the carnival are the games and activities. This year you'll find a bouncy house, a cake walk, miniature golf, a maze, a balloon pop, face painting, balloon animals, and a lot more. Tickets are only 50 cents each!

Our regular monthly meeting will be held on March 11 at 5 p.m.

Our annual Science Fair is slated for March 19. This is always a fun and informative event for students, who get to show our community what they've learned in their science classes.

—Sheena Daniels



Concrete High School senior Sean Geary (left) speaks with Ryan Monahan and Jon Shaffer of Mount Vernon-based Paccar Technical Center during a Feb. 10 Career Fair at the high school. More than a dozen area businesses brought displays and spoke with CHS seniors.

YD update

Marta and I have volunteered as area directors for Concrete Youth Dynamics for more than 15 years. We have been pushed, pulled, beaten down, and picked back up. There have been times when we have thought it would be easier to hand the baton to someone else and go home, and someday we will. In the meantime, I feel we have been handed a challenge to persevere.

The definition of persevere is to persist in or remain constant to a purpose, an idea, or a task in the face of obstacles or discouragement.

It is in these moments, when I am being challenged the most, that I rely on everything that has put us in the position we are in. God has given us a home in Concrete, Wash., for a reason. We want to serve Him by serving this community.

The things we do on Monday evenings are sometimes ridiculous, but the variety of kids we get, the numerous reasons they are there, and the reason they show up are anything but ridiculous. Our high school students are just like any child or adult: They want to be loved. They want to feel accepted. For these reasons we choose to meet the challenge of perseverance.

We are excited about our young people and the events we have planned for them. We are taking a group of 12 students to the Olympic Archery Range the first Saturday in March so they can receive coaching from Olympic trainers in the sport of archery. This is a very cool opportunity, as we have never done something like this before.

Other events that we have planned before Spring Break are "The Amazing Race," as the high school students zigzag across town trying to outsmart and outrun their opponents, and "Just Better Night," where the kids go door to door around town trying to trade up for something better than they got from the previous house.

The 30-Hour Famine is coming April 10–11, and the students will start fundraising in the next week or two (all proceeds go to feed children in third-world countries). As we serve our youth together, please pray for them and us.

—Kevik and Marta Rensink, directors



Concrete High School students Alia Campbell (left), Kaitlynn Michaud, and Maxwell Hoffmann sample raspberry smoothies during Taste Test Tuesday on Feb. 24. The event is organized by Concrete Farm to School, a collaboration between United General Hospital 304 and Concrete School District that aims to bring healthful, fresh, locally produced foods into the school cafeteria while educating students about nutrition and local agriculture, and encouraging them to try new things. As part of a Harvest of the Month campaign, Farm to School features a different fruit or vegetable each month and offers a taste test during lunch. The February offering was smoothies made with raspberries donated by Cascadian Farms. For more information about the Farm to School program, call 360.854.7171 or e-mail concretefarmtoschool@gmail.com.

Photo by Rachel Sacco.

CONCRETE MIDDLE SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

The following students at Concrete Middle School received a grade point average of 3.2 or higher for the first semester of the 2014–15 school year. An asterisk before a name denotes a student with a perfect 4.0 GPA.

Grade 7 Honor Roll

William Baird, Elizabeth Buchta, *Thalen Cambo, Cody Carlson, Lexi Denley, Jacquelyn Jackson, Jade Kidder, Samantha Mitchell, Khyla Phillips, Izabela Ramos, Peyton Sanchez, *Troy Schmidt, Devin Wilbur-Blankenship.

Grade 8 Honor Roll

Jonathan Akers, Tiana Brookshire, Shanon Clemons, Tyler Coffell, Marissa Huizar, Dalton Newby, Jaidyn Swanson, Nora Towner.

CONCRETE HIGH SCHOOL

The following students at Concrete High School received a grade point average of 3.2 or higher for

the first semester of the 2014–15 school year. An asterisk before a name denotes a student with a perfect 4.0 GPA.

Grade 9

Rebecca Azure, Emma Claybo, Riley Fichter, Hannah Haskett, Erica Knuth, *McKenna Kononen, Rebeckah McClure, Cole Meacham, Madisyn Renzelman, *Emily Schmidt, *Mary Spangler, Jasara Taylor-Temple, Isaac Tiemens.

Grade 10

Brook Barnedt, Emily Bridge, Tessa Coffell, Ashlee Gilbert, Jaycelyn Kuipers, Brenton Lafayette, Riley Pritchard, Hannah Rensink, Chloe Stidman, Destiny VanBibber.

Grade 11

Cassidy Cargile, Joshua Gentry, Emily Greso, Hannah Kononen, *Mary Mauck, *Shelby Meacham, Donald Olmstead III, Hannah Peif, Amanda Perry, Ashten Tygret.

Grade 12

Gibson Fichter, Shayane Gilbert, Erin Hendry, *Haley McNealey, Marissa Weneker.

Where are they now?

William Thompson Jr.

By Jeanna Mae Squires



William "Bill" Thompson Jr. is a 1980 graduate of Concrete High School who has achieved much success since his high school years.

When he graduated from CHS, Thompson went to the University of Washington for his Bachelor of Science, graduating in 1984. He then attended The Johns Hopkins School of Medicine for his medical degree, graduating in 1988.

Thompson has been a practicing physician since 1994, specializing in pulmonary, sleep, and critical care medicine in the intensive care unit.

Thompson splits his time between the Veterans Affairs Hospital and St. Luke's Hospital in Boise, Idaho, where he lives with his wife, Andrea, and their three daughters.

He is an associate professor, teaching resident medical students at the VA Hospital, which is part of the University of Washington Medical School. Thompson teaches third-year students and enjoys watching them grow in their career. "Teaching is one of many parts of the

job that I enjoy," said Thompson.

The other half of Bill's professional time is spent practicing in a private outpatient pulmonary medicine clinic, where he sees patients with lung diseases or sleep problems.

Every week is different and rewarding for Thompson, who appreciates the variety in his job. Rather than working a normal 40-hour week, Bill works close to 50-hour weeks divided between his teaching duties and private practice.

"I knew I wanted to be a physician since I was in junior high," he said. "I really enjoy working with patients, working to make them better, teaching them about their illnesses and how to take care of their chronic problems."

"Even though you are coming from a small town like Concrete, this certainly doesn't close any doors in pursuing your dreams. Coming from Concrete can be an advantage," said Thompson. "I wouldn't change growing up in Concrete for anything."



Clear Lake



HISTORY CORNER

The Boarding House of Clear Lake Lumber Company (above), circa 1912, was a two-story, wood-frame structure. Prior to 1912 it was located next to the employee entrance/office for the Clear Lake Lumber Company. After 1912 the building was moved to the east side of Pringle St. The Clear Lake Mercantile was constructed later at the former boarding

house site. The new building was 100 feet long and 60 feet wide. *Photo courtesy of Clear Lake Historical Association.*

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

—Deanna Ammons, historian
Clear Lake and Day Creek

The window display at the Clear Lake Historical Association (right) looked great last month, with a “Sound of Music” theme and all manner of instruments, posters, records and other accoutrements of days gone by. Even a vintage phonograph put in an appearance.



Community Calendar



MARCH

- 3 Water Rights Discussion, Samish Valley Grange, 4320 Hwy 9, Sedro-Woolley, 6:30 p.m.; free admission; see notice, p. 17
- 4 Heart to Heart Charity Homeless Backpacks work party, 720 Puget Ave., Ste. B, Sedro-Woolley, 2 to 5 p.m.; see notice, p. 17
- 7 Dr. Seuss Carnival, Concrete Elementary School, 1 to 4 p.m.; tickets 50 cents each; see notice, p. 12
- 7–8 Muzzleloading Arms and Pioneer Craft Show, hosted by Cascade Mountain Men, Evergreen State Fairgrounds, Monroe; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday; \$5 admission, ages 12 and under are free; free parking; under 16 must be accompanied by adult; info at www.cascademountainmen.com or 206.300.1481
- 7 Fire Dist. 19 Scholarship Benefit Dinner & Dance, Marblemount Community Hall, 7 p.m. to midnight; see notice, p. 26
- 7 Darrington Community Dance, Mansford Grange, 1265 Railroad Ave., Darrington; dance instruction at 6:30 p.m., dance at 7 p.m.; \$7 admission (suggested donation); info at 206.402.8646
- 11 Grizzly Bear Restoration Proposal Open House, Bellingham Central Library lecture room, 210 Central Ave., Bellingham; see notice, p. 34
- 12 Geoffrey Castle concert at Concrete Theatre; see notice, p. 6
- 14 Imagine Concrete townwide workshop: The future of Silo Park, Concrete High School Commons room, 9 a.m. to noon; childcare provided; see ad, p. 3; info at 360.853.8213 or goodwords@frontier.com
- 14 Saint Paddy's Day Annual Celtic Music Jam with “Scatter in the Mud,” Annie's Pizza Station, Grasmere, 8 p.m.
- 16 Salmon Dinner Auction fundraiser for Cascade Middle School students' trip to the East Coast in April; CMS, 5 to 8 p.m.; \$10 admission, includes silent auction
- 19 Science Fair at Concrete Elementary School
- 19 “Carried by the Current” (written by Sauk City playwright Nicola Pearson) plays at The Conway Muse, Main St., Conway; 7 p.m. (doors open at 6 p.m.); info at 360.445.3000 or www.conwaymuse.com
- 21 Heart to Heart Charity Family Freebies event, 720 Puget Ave., Ste. B, Sedro-Woolley, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; see notice, p. 17
- 28 Skagit Conservation District Native Plant Sale, WACD Plant Material Center, 16564 Bradley Rd., Bow, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; pre-order form at www.skagitcd.org or 360.428.4313

APRIL

- 4 Seed Swap and Children's Easter Egg Hunt, Marblemount Community Hall, Marblemount, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.; see notice, p. 26
- 4 Easter Egg Hunt at Ovenell's Heritage Inn, 46276 Concrete Sauk Valley Rd., 1:30 p.m.; prizes and fun for all ages; info at 360.853.8494
- 11–12 Woodfest, Cascade Middle School, Sedro-Woolley; see article, p. 17
- 12 Chowder for the Children of Lyman Elementary, Lyman Elementary School, Lyman, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; see notice, p. 18
- 18 Cement City Trail Run, 8:30 a.m.; info on Facebook
- 19–25 Earth Week in Concrete (details in April issue)

MAY

- 2 Have a Heart Run (10K and 5K runs, 2K walk), Edgewater Park, Mount Vernon; info at www.haveaheartrun.org
- 16 Community Pancake Feed and Craft & Garden Sale, Day Creek, 7 a.m. to noon; admission \$7 per person suggested donation or \$20 for family of four or more; see notice, p. 19

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

Community meetings

Community Chat, an informal conversation about projects in Darrington, meets the second Fri. of each month at 8 a.m., at Mountain Loop Books and Coffee, 1085 Darrington St., Darrington. 360.436.2167

Concrete American Legion Post and Auxiliary meet the second Tue. of each month, Sept. through May, at 5:30 p.m. in the American Legion Building. 360.853.8940.

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

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

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

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

Concrete School Board will hold a workshop on March 23, at 6 p.m. in the high school Commons. The board will hold its regular monthly meeting on March 26, at 6 p.m., in the Commons. 360.853.8141.

Concrete Town Council meets the second and fourth Monday of each month at Town Hall, 45672 Main St., Concrete, at 7 p.m. 360.853.8401 or andrea@concretewa.gov.

Darrington Area Business Assn (DABA) meets the third Wed. of each month, 7 p.m., at Cascade Senior Center, 1115 Darrington St., Darrington. 360.436.2167.

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

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

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

Imagine Concrete meets the third Tue. of

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

KSVU station info and host training, second Wed. of each month at Portable B behind Concrete K-8 School, 1 to 4 p.m. Call 360.416.7001 to confirm appointment.

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

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

Marblemount Community Hall board and staff meet the second Wed. of each month at the hall, at 6:30 p.m. 360.873.2048 or 360.853.8388.

Paranormal Discussion Group meets the last Wed. of each month at Birdview Brewing Co., at 2 p.m. This month's meeting, however, will be Feb. 21. 360.630.5143.

Saukrates Cafe meets the last Wed. of each month at Annie's Pizza Station in Concrete, at 5 p.m. Conversation topics are posted at Upper Skagit Library and <http://saukratescafe.wordpress.com>.

Sedro-Woolley High School Alumni Association meets the third Wed. of each month, at 1 p.m., at the Sedro-Woolley Senior Center. 360.424.7243

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

Sedro-Woolley School District Board will meet for regular meetings on March 9 at 7 p.m. at the Support Services Bldg. (preceded by a work session at 5:30 p.m., same location), and March 23 at 7 p.m. at Clear Lake Elementary. 360.855.3500 or kcargile@swsd.k12.wa.us.

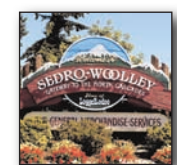
Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center Board meets the second Tue. of each month, 6:30 p.m., at Annie's Pizza Station in Grasmere. Open to the public. sauksister@frontier.com or www.skagiteagle.org.

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

Continue the cycle

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Sedro-Woolley



Woodfest moves to Cascade Middle School

Janicki plan for Northern State campus picks up steam

A Feb. 27 meeting at Sedro-Woolley City Hall found most attendees enthusiastic about a Janicki Bioenergy plan to convert a portion of the Northern State Hospital property into a research and development campus for its sewage treatment plant product.

City of Sedro-Woolley, Port of Skagit commissioners, and Skagit County commissioners voted unanimously to adopt an Interlocal Agreement laying the groundwork for collaborative efforts exploring the adaptive reuse of the site. The same three entities also unanimously approved annexing the 225-acre portion under consideration into the City of

Sedro-Woolley. The remaining 600-plus acres were not annexed and will continue to be classified for recreational use.

Skagit County Commissioner Lisa Janicki recused herself from all discussion and votes.

The meeting set a positive tone for the proposed site reuse. Janicki Bioenergy founders Peter and Susan Janicki want to build a research and development facility for the continued development of the company's OmniProcessor, a multitasking machine that converts sewage sludge to ultra-clean water, electricity, and pathogen-free ash.

"Diseases carried by unsanitary drinking

water kill 700,000 children under five each year, and sicken many, many more," said Peter Janicki, quoted in a Feb. 13 release. "But typical Western-style water sanitation solutions are just too expensive for developing countries to own and operate. And that's where the OmniProcessor can have such an incredible, life-saving impact. In the past month or so, we've been contacted by over 50 countries around the world that are interested in purchasing one or more of our processors. We are very eager to get to work."

During the Feb. 27 meeting, Peter Janicki painted a picture of a future that was both promising and challenging. He described a production schedule with shrinking turnaround times, with a four-month schedule shrinking to one month, building 40 processors in 2017 and more than 200 in 2020.

"We think we'll add 700 employees in five years," he said.

"But it's a difficult industry. We're going into some of the poorest and corrupt countries in the world. Our team is prepared for a difficult journey. It might take seven to 10 years to get there."

During the public comment period, Dick Nord of La Conner called the collaborative efforts a "magic moment." "I'm truly excited," he said. "That magic moment has taken a dramatic leap forward. We have a wonderful site, a product that is absolutely noble in its cause, and people working together."

Sedro-Woolley business owner Elizabeth Fernando was equally positive. "I can't think of anything negative to say about it. It's world-changing and community-changing. I think it's a blessing."

—J. K. M.



Janicki Bioenergy founder Peter Janicki (left), speaks during a Feb. 16 committee hearing for Senate Bill 5887, authored by Senator Kirk Pearson. The bill extends the lease length for the Northern State Hospital property from 20 years to 60 years, to allow for long-term economic development and preservation of the historic nature of the site. Also testifying in support of the bill at the hearing were officials from the state, Port of Skagit, City of Sedro-Woolley, Economic Development Association of Skagit County, and Skagit County Council. *Submitted photo.*

The annual event that spotlights all things wood will shift its location and date this year. Woodfest will be held on April 11–12, at Cascade Middle School in Sedro-Woolley.

A celebration of woodworking and student achievements, Woodfest will mark the kick off of the Skagit Valley Tulip Festival and is a sanctioned event of the festival.

Look for the event at the south gym at Cascade Middle School, 915 McGarigle Rd., Sedro-Woolley. Entry is at the south side of the building.

Woodfest draws a variety of vendors and display booths from chainsaw carvers, wood turners, traditional carvers, wood crafters, artisans, high school woodworking exhibits, and educational exhibits.

Woodfest also invites schools from around Skagit Valley to bring their woodworking crafts for the Student Competition, as well as alumni to show

off previous work.

In addition to the wood-related vendors, visitors may also tour the many carvings and murals in downtown Sedro-Woolley, enjoy and bid on items at the silent auction, or drink espressos and Italian sodas as well as eat food and candy from Sedro-Woolley High School Associated Student Body Concessions.

Traveling exhibit seeks space

The caretakers of a modular wooden railway are seeking an indoor or covered space in which to display their exhibit during Woodfest.

The "children's railway" interactive display offers an immersive, hands-on experience for children ages 5 to 11. A variety of textures, colors, and materials are used in the construction, incorporating details that convey a sense of scale and realism.

For more information, contact Tom Stephenson at 425.314.1561.

Charity will be busy in March

Heart to Heart Charity will host a homeless backpack work party on Wed., March 4, from 2 to 5 p.m., at 720 Puget Ave., Ste. B, in Sedro-Woolley.

Volunteers will sort items and put together homeless backpacks that are distributed throughout the county to those in need. The charity's KIDS Club will join the effort after school as part of their Give Back projects. All children ages 4 and older are welcome to help.

Donations for the homeless backpacks are still being accepted. Items needed include books, puzzle books, travel size hygiene products, soap, and towels.

Family Freebies

Heart to Heart Charity will host a special Family Freebies event on Sat., March 21, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 720

Puget Ave., Ste. B in Sedro-Woolley. The event will offer free items for those in need—like an indoor yard sale, but everything is free. Many items will be available, such as household items, clothes, toys, and more.

Anyone who has items they no longer use or need is encouraged to donate to this event. Only items that are in good working condition can be accepted: no stained or ripped clothing, no items that are broken, missing pieces, or dirty. Furniture must be pre-approved. This is a wonderful way to donate unused or unnecessary items.

For more information or to volunteer for any of the above efforts, contact Tammie Werner at hearttoheartcharity@gmail.com.

—J. K. M.

Woolley Fiber Quilters is planning its annual quilt show for June 5–7, in concert with Sedro-Woolley's Blast from the Past festival. This year's theme is "Blast of Farms," celebrating Skagit County farming and farmers. All local

quilters are invited to enter quilts in the theme category or any of the other categories. Registration deadline will be in mid-May. Volunteers are welcome. For more information, go to www.woolleyfiberquilters.blogspot.com.

Water rights event at Samish Valley Grange

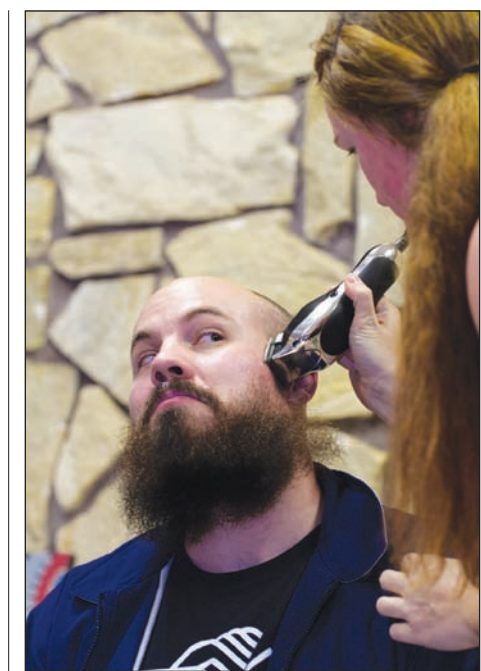
Samish Valley Grange will host an event to discuss current water rights issues in Skagit County.

The discussion will be held on Tue., March 3, at 6:30 p.m. The evening's keynote speaker will be Mike Newman, who will also provide legislative updates.

Admission is free and is open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

Samish Valley Grange is located at 4320 Hwy. 9, Sedro-Woolley, about 1/5 mile south of Samish Elementary School.

—J. K. M.



Sedro-Woolley Boys & Girls Club Director John Garman eyes a hair trimmer with some trepidation during the club's Winter Fundraiser on Feb. 6. Garman and Sedro-Woolley Police Chief Lin Tucker offered their facial hair as auction items for the event, which raised more than \$15,000 for after-school programming at the club. *Photo by Sarah Arquitt.*

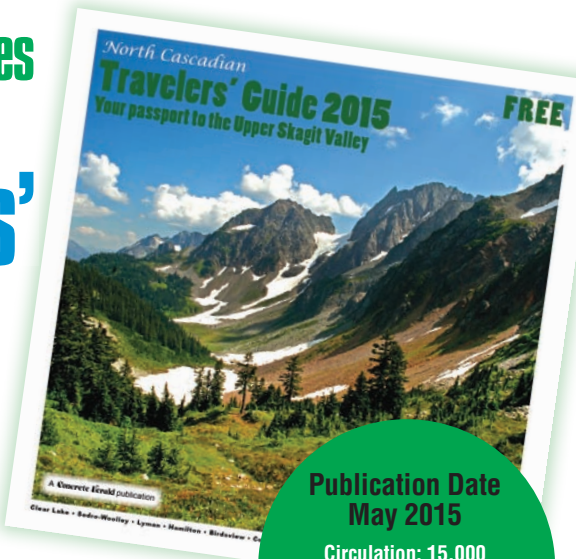
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Publication Date
May 2015

Circulation: 15,000
Pages: 56

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Lyman



Day Creek



Chowder, testing on Lyman Elementary calendar

Lyman Elementary School has a full calendar as it heads into the home stretch for the 2014–15 school year.

This year the testing window for the state starts in March. Administrators will let parents know when their children's class will be testing.

Parents are encouraged to make sure their students get plenty of sleep the night before the test and a nutritious breakfast before coming to school. Please make every effort to have your child in attendance on test days.

Ways to help children do better on tests

- Have your child dress comfortably and arrive on time.

- Send your child with words of praise and support.
- Suggest that your child do deep-breathing exercises to relax before the test begins.
- Tell your child to follow directions carefully.
- Remind your child to check over answers before submitting the test.
- Encourage wanting to do well.

Kindergarten registration

All children who will be five years old by August 31 of this year are eligible to register to enter fall 2015 kindergarten at their neighborhood school in the Sedro-Woolley School District. Parents are encouraged to take advantage of early registration. Lyman Elementary's registration date is April 8 from 5 to 8 p.m.

Parents are asked to bring their child's birth certificate and immunization records

to complete the registration process. Students will not be able to start school in the fall without these items on file.

Parents will receive:

- Information about kindergarten orientation in the fall.
- An appointment for fall kindergarten screening.
- Information about Kinderstart (first week of school).

All families are encouraged to participate in early registration so the school district has time to plan well for the children's arrival.

Chowder for the Children of Lyman Elementary

Lyman Elementary Parents will host the school's first annual chowder competition fundraiser on Sun., April 12, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Attendees will taste samples of local food establishments' interpretation of their very best chowder, including traditional clam chowder, hearty steak chowder, vegetarian corn chowder, or anything in between. The possibilities are endless.

One ticket per person will get you a small sample of each entry. Once you have tasted every sample and narrowed the field down to your top pick, simply give your ticket to the chef who made your favorite, and receive a bowl of their chowder. The chef with the most tickets at the end of the day will be the day's winner.

Proceeds go toward new outdoor playground equipment, a ball wall for the school's covered play area, and Camp Orkila.

For more information, join the Chowder for the Children of Lyman Elementary event page on Facebook.

—Kristi Johnson

5 tax-saving strategies

By Reid Abedeen

Millions of Americans face a challenge in meeting their budgets every month—not just financially, but also in their time budgets.

The following strategies may be relevant for your family this tax season.

- Take tax deductions for capital loss. If your capital losses exceed your capital gains, the excess can be deducted on your tax return and used to reduce other income, such as wages, up to an annual limit of \$3,000, or \$1,500 if you are married filing separately. However, you may deduct capital losses only on investment property, not on property held for personal use.
- Fund your retirement to the max. You can contribute up to \$5,500 to an IRA in tax-year 2014, or \$6,500 if you are age 50 or older. Workers in the 25 percent tax bracket who contributed \$5,500 to an IRA would save \$1,375 on their 2014 tax bills. You'll want to check your eligibility and understand the deadline for the 2014 deduction. If you make a deposit between Jan. 1 and April 15, you need to tell the financial institution for which year the contribution is intended.
- Be very vigilant regarding the details of these deductions. For any questions, consult a professional.

- Advisory fees are tax-deductible. Before closing the door on the possibility, inquire with a financial expert. Most are happy to give a free initial consultation, and you don't have to be a millionaire to make it worth your while.
- Gift assets to children. You don't even have to file a gift tax return on an asset that's valued at less than \$12,000, which is not taxable. If the fair market value of the gifted asset is more than \$12,000 per person per year, but less than \$1 million, there is the requirement of filing a gift tax return, but you won't be taxed. The gift still is not income taxable to the recipient.
- Deduct a home-based office when used for your employer. If space in your home is used exclusively and regularly for a trade, you can count that as a deductible. Calculate the square footage of your home office and divide the area of your office by the area of your house. If the percentage is 14 percent, for example, that represents the percentage of your total home expenses that can be allocated toward the home office deduction. For further questions, consult a professional.

Be very vigilant regarding the details of these deductions. For any questions, consult a professional.

Reid Abedeen is a partner at Safeguard Investment Advisory Group, LLC.

Community notes

Appreciation Dinner

The Day Creek Community Club will host an Annual Appreciation Dinner in honor of our Firefighters of Day Creek Fire District No. 16. The dinner will be held on Thur., March 19, at 6:30 p.m. Bring the family and join the fun. For more information, call 360.826.3003.

Movie Night

Day Creek Chapel will host a Movie Night every third Saturday starting at 6:30 p.m. Popcorn and drinks provided. Come early to get your favorite spot to nest for the movie. A kid-friendly movie also will be shown. For more information or to check on the monthly movie name, call Kristine Van Notric at 360.840.2576.

AA meeting

A weekly AA meeting is held at Day Creek Chapel on Thursdays from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Contact Diane at 360.770.3984 for more info.

WOMEN HAND in hand

WOMEN HAND in hand will present another great speaker in 2015. Ruth Graham, the youngest daughter of Dr. Billy Graham, will be with us in Darrington on Thur., April 23, and

Sedro-Woolley on Friday and Saturday, April 24–25. We are excited to have her come for our HOPE LOVES women's conference. Plan now to attend with all your friends and family. Cost is \$20 for the two-day event. Follow WOMEN HAND in hand on our Facebook page or Web site.

To join WOMEN HAND in hand, call Sylvia Miles at 360.826.3067.

Pancake feed and craft/garden sale

Join our community fundraiser, the annual Community Pancake Feed and Craft & Garden Sale, coming May 16. Breakfast starts at 7 a.m. and will end by noon. Menu includes pancakes, ham, fruit, toast or rolls, juice, milk, and tea or coffee. Admission is a suggested \$7 donation per person or \$20 for a family of four or more.

Craft tables, raffle baskets, and plant baskets will round out the event. Those who want to rent a craft table may call 360.770.1765. Those interested in being a Day Creek helper may call 360.391.1709.

Kingdom Builders

Donna Pulver and Kathy Henderson, co-directors of Kingdom Builders, are reaching out to those in the Day Creek community who need help with trips to the doctor, hospital visits, store runs, and more. If you would like to become available to be a community helper, call 360.826.3003, 360.826.3581, or 360.826.3822.

Walkie Talkies walking group

The Day Creek Walkie Talkies are up and at 'em. Every day around 7 a.m., there is a group walking the streets of Day Creek. For more information, call 360.826.4375.

Day Creek Book Club

The club meets at Cedar Springs Lodge on Barben Rd. on the third Monday of each month. New members are welcome. All members are welcome to host a club meeting at their favorite hangout spot. The February book is *The Kin of Ata* by Dorothy Bryan. For more information, call 360.661.0247.

—Compiled by Kathy Henderson

Open for business: Rustic Rooster

Have you noticed the fun little new shop tucked behind the coffee kiosk on SR 20 in Lyman?

Rustic Rooster quietly opened its doors last November, bringing an eclectic mix of gifts and items for the home to shoppers in the Upper Valley and beyond.

Co-owners Val Berg and Candi Lee sell all manner of objects on consignment at Rustic Rooster. So far, 18 vendors are represented inside the diminutive shop, which is much larger inside than you'd expect.

A walk through the store reveals an array of items, much of it handcrafted by locals from Lyman, Hamilton, Concrete, Birdview, and Sedro-Woolley. You'll find postcards, handbuilt furniture, jewelry, dolls, home appointments, signs, whimsical toys, eagles carved from wood, Seahawk paraphernalia, camo shirts, antiques, and more.

"We always welcome new people," said Berg of the vendors whose wares fill her shelves. But already, Rustic Rooster has a waiting list for vendors.

Rustic Rooster is located at 31411 SR

20 in Lyman. Hours of operation are from noon to 4 p.m., seven days a week, but Berg said she and Lee intend to extend their hours during the summer months.

For more information, call 360.420.7619.

—J. K. M.



Above: Val Berg, co-owner with Candi Lee, has opened Rustic Rooster, an eclectic shop that offers almost anything you can imagine. The Lyman store opened last November.

Left: A vintage Lone Ranger lunchbox, one of many unique items at Rustic Rooster.

At a glance: Rustic Rooster

Where: 31411 SR 20, Lyman

Phone: 360.420.7619

Hours: 7 days/week, noon to 4 p.m.
(will extend hours in summer)

Be coyote wise

It's good to be wise about wildlife year-round to avoid problems, but it's especially important at this time of year to be "coyote wise."

Coyotes, which are abundant throughout Washington's rural and urban areas, are pairing up and breeding now to produce pups in April and early May. And coyotes that were born eight or nine months ago are striking out on their own at this time. That means there's lots of coyotes moving about. To minimize unpleasant

confrontations, follow these tips:

- Never intentionally feed coyotes. Think about how you might be unintentionally providing access to food, like unsecured garbage, uncovered compost piles, spilled seed from backyard bird feeders, or pet food left outdoors.
- Don't feed feral cats.
- Avoid running dogs off-leash in areas where you have heard or seen coyotes, especially now through May.
- Keep dogs current on vaccinations.

—WDFW

2015 Community Potluck dates

March 17, 6:30 p.m.

April 21, 6:30 p.m.

May 19, 6:30 p.m.

June 16, 6:30 p.m.

July 21, 6:30 p.m.

August 18, 6:30 p.m.

September 15, 6:30 p.m.

October 20, 6:30 p.m.

November 17, 6:30 p.m.

December 15, 6:30 p.m.



Left: Strapped down for a long ride, the Sockeye Express left Concrete for Kalispell, Mont., in late January. Concrete Heritage Museum sold the tourist attraction to Montana Trolley Co. for \$3,000, and used the money to help fund the museum roof replacement project. Photo by John Boggs.



Left: The Fire and Life Safety Building in Concrete received drywall and interior paint during February, as well as additional exterior site items, including siding, fencing, sod, and a flag pole (bottom corner), complete with a flag donated by project contractor Interwest Construction Foreman Milo Sligar.

Below left: Assistant Public Works Dir. Rich Philips repaints the lines on the runway at Mears Field in late February.



Above: Cindy Kleinhuizen of Double O Ranch near Concrete submitted this photo of a brand-new spring calf—one of many new arrivals.



Below: Concrete Assistant Public Works Dir. Rich Philips teams up with co-workers Dale Angell and Jimmy Luttrell (in shadow at left—sorry, guys) during a concrete pour at the site of the town's new dog kennel.

February in pictures



Above: Natalie Lahr, 9, of Concrete, rides a tandem bike with her father, Bob, during the ninth annual Mardi Gras parade in Concrete on Feb. 14. Natalie captured the "Best Costume" prize in the children's category for her festive getup. Photo by Hannah Kononen.

Right: A surprise visit from members of a Seattle pub crawl krewe made this year's Mardi Gras parade in Concrete even more colorful. Near photo by Hannah Kononen. Far right photo by Chuck Bussiere.



Right: Well on his way to winning the "Best Costume" prize in the adult category, Larry "Tall Guy" Olson cavorts in his chicken suit in Concrete Town Center during Mardi Gras. **Far right:** Concrete Mayor Jason Miller wore a crown for the day as Mardi Gras King. Miller turned 48 on the day of the parade. Photos by Hannah Kononen.



Left: Cracker Jack Raisin Maker, a goat owned by Kathy Manzoor of Sauk City, was quite photogenic during Mardi Gras. He won the "Best Costume" prize in the pet category.

Right: Luther Galbraith looked downright royal in his Mardi Gras finery. Photos by Hannah Kononen.





Hamilton



Rockport



Council summary

The Hamilton Town Council held a regular meeting Jan. 13. Following is a summary of that meeting.

- Mayor Joan Cromley announced that the town needed to elect a SCOG representative and alternate. Mayor Cromley asked if anyone would be willing to be the alternate. Council voted for Mayor Cromley to remain the representative and Councilmember Betlem to be the alternate.
- Mayor Cromley mentioned that there was some information given to the council regarding 615 Skagit Ave. We had someone approach us about purchasing that property, but we already have a lien against it and money owed, so the town can't turn the water on until it's been paid and brought current.

- Mayor Cromley discussed the Shoreline, the Hazard Mitigation, and the Comprehensive Plan updates.
- Water Department:** Mayor Cromley stated that this month we have a 17 percent unaccounted-for water loss and we averaged 3 percent for the year. Dave Mitchell announced that the well was functioning properly.
- Fire Department:** Fire Chief Bates stated that he has the pole for the siren. Councilmember Scott Bates announced that on Feb. 4 at 7 p.m., we will get our new Automated External Defibrillators. The department also has gained another member.
- Street Department:** Tom Selin reported there was a roof leak at the food bank. Discussion ensued regarding a response.
- Councilmember Christina Kasner resigned her position.

—Compiled from staff minutes

From the Mayor

There are currently two open Town Council seats. The council will interview interested persons and hopefully appoint someone to each position at the council meeting on March 10 at 7 p.m. Please come if you are interested in the position and bring a letter of interest giving some personal background and why you want to be on the council. Because of regular term elections and appointments, every elected official in Hamilton will be up for election in November. Please get registered to vote if you are a resident and have an opinion about how your town is run. Anyone interested in running for council or mayor is welcome to let Town Hall know and we will add you to the list of people receiving council packets and meeting notices. Almost all the meetings we attend are open to the public, so anyone who is interested can go and see for themselves what we do. Our neighborhoods depend on each of us to make them safe. If you see anything illegal happening, please call 911 and let the Sheriff's Office know. They can't do anything if they don't know about it, especially if it's a repeat problem.

—Mayor Joan Cromley



Heart to Heart Charity's KIDS Club will meet on Wed., March 25, at the Hamilton Town Hall, from 4 to 5 p.m. Kids may ride the school bus to the meeting with a signed note from their parents. We will make fun crafts and of course we will have snacks! This

is a free event for children 4 years and older (younger with a parent/guardian present) and all are welcome. Our KIDS Club leader Tammy Roberts is happy to welcome all children, so invite your friends. For more info, e-mail hearttoheartcharity@gmail.com.

Birdsview Buzz

Starting this month off with sad news from Birdsview. Floyd Hintz, or Uncle Floyd as he was known to most, passed away last month. He was well known and often officiated at weddings (two at the brewery) and funerals, as well as other occasions. When he wore his bright pink shirt, he was "Pink Floyd." His laugh and sense of humor will be missed. Our thoughts are with Deanna and his large extended family and friends.

On a happier note, spring really looks like it's already here. And Daylight Saving time comes early on March 8. All the bulbs are coming up, and cherry trees and rhodies are blooming downvalley. Hope the tulips hold off for the annual tulip festival. Robins are back, and I had two hummingbirds that never left this winter. That's never happened before in the 33 years we've lived here.

10 Eric Warner
13 Mark McKibbin
21 Bob Lahr
25 Favorite 11-year-old grandson Jaydon Voigt

Coming events

March 19: The Upriver Hookers and Needle Pushers (knitting, crocheting, quilting) group, 1 p.m.

March 21: Back Porch Apostles

March 25: Forest Moon Paranormal group

March 28: Jumbled Pie

Keith (our Franz bread guy) would like to mention that if you are driving on SR 20 and someone is slowing down or flashing their lights at you, it's probably to try and warn you about an elk either on the road or about to be. Several have been hit lately—not good for your car or the elk.

Happy spring, everyone. Have a great month!

—Kris Voigt
Melissa K. Norris is a Christian fiction novelist who lives in Rockport.

PIONEERING TODAY Heirloom seeds

By Melissa K. Norris

We have an all-heirloom seed garden. Heirloom seeds aren't always as easy to find, but are quickly growing in popularity and are beginning to be found in more stores. Here are five reasons you should be using heirloom seeds:

1. Frugal. Buy once, harvest for life. Heirloom seeds need only be given or purchased once. You can save the seed every year (unlike hybrid or GMO seeds), making heirloom seeds the ultimate in self-sufficiency. Heirloom seeds are the ultimate preparedness plan and a self-sufficiency must.
2. A stronger plant. Because you are selecting the best-producing and strongest plants from which to save seed each year, your saved heirloom seeds will become stronger plants because of your natural selection. They also will acclimate to your climate, making them the best choice for your region.
3. Taste. Heirloom seeds haven't been selected and bred for uniform shape in order to sell better on a grocery store shelf. They have a depth of flavor rarely found in hybrid seeds. Check out our Pioneering Today Podcast on Benefits of Heirloom Seeds at www.melissaknorris.com/podcast-2.
4. Variety. There are more varieties and colors in heirloom and open-pollinated plants. From purple potatoes to blue tomatoes, there is beauty in the varieties you'll likely find only in specialty stores and farmers' markets. Gardening should be as colorful as a painting and just as beautiful as it is delicious.
5. The stories. Heirloom seeds are a living connection to our ancestors. They're just as God made them when He created this world and nature.

River proposal angers Rockport residents

A proposal that includes an option to redirect up to 30 percent of the Skagit River's flow into Barnaby Slough near Rockport has some residents more than a little concerned that the project's proponents are putting fish before people.

The "Barnaby Reach Alternatives Assessment" was unveiled to the public during an open house and information session in Sedro-Woolley on Feb. 23. The assessment lays out four alternatives for restoring and improving fish and wildlife habitat at the 1950s hatchery site upstream from Rockport, each one building upon the previous alternatives:

1. Restore fish passage by upgrading fishways and culverts and other structures that are currently blocking fish passage at the site.
2. Option 1, plus remove all infrastructure at Barnaby Slough, such as dikes. Remove fish passage barriers in Harrison Pond.
3. Remove all infrastructure for Barnaby Slough, Harrison Pond, an existing roadway into the former hatchery at the site, fishways, flow control structures, and wells.
4. All of the above, plus actively divert a portion of the Skagit River flow through Barnaby Slough and back out into the main river channel.

The fourth alternative is of particular concern for residents and landowners along Martin Rd., which skirts the project site.

"Our major concern is what happens if there's any flooding back there," said Lee Fenley, whose family lives on Stafford Lane. "They're trying to divert the water, and once they leave this project, what will they do about it? That water could come back into an entire community. You can't control it. Protective measures? What are they going to do? Nothing. They have nothing planned. The main deal is for the fish. I don't think they're concerned with what will affect the community; I think their main concern is spending money for the fish. You can't control the river. That river is going to do what it wants."

"You say 30 percent, but you don't get to control that percentage if nature decides otherwise," said Lisa Fenley.

Tommie Mathis lives on Martin Rd. and said she had already researched the additional cost flood insurance would add to her financial burden. "I'll pay four times what I'm paying now," said Mathis. If Martin Rd. floods, it will cut off every EMT who works for the Rockport Fire Dept., preventing them from responding to emergencies, Lee Fenley added.

But most years, the Martin Rd. area already gets a substantial amount of flooding from the Skagit River, said Devin Smith, Senior Restoration Ecologist for Skagit River System Cooperative, which provides fisheries and environmental services for the Sauk-Suiattle and Swinomish tribes.

"If we do nothing, there are houses that have flood risk now, and the river already is migrating toward Martin Rd.," said Smith. "Our models show that we're not going to change the flood plain at all.

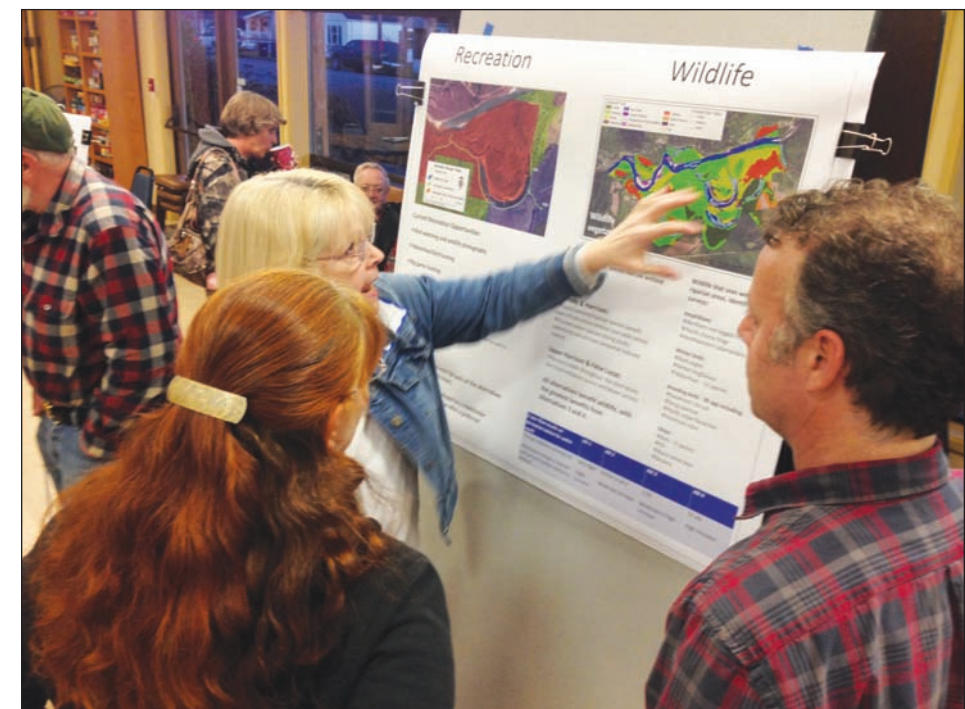
That would be a determination made by FEMA, and they haven't changed the flood plain since the 1970s. The houses that are of concern are already in a flood plain. Our project would make no difference to them."

Smith said the project shows a benefit to a range of fish and wildlife species using any of the alternatives. Chinook smolt in particular would benefit; their numbers would increase by 12,239 (Alt. 1) to 89,465 (Alt. 4). The Alt. 4 number would swell to 170,264 in 10 to 15 years, according to Smith.

That's small comfort for Dave Hallock, who wrote in a letter to Smith, "though your posters and images represent minimal risk as a consequence of your more aggressive ideas, the fact is that constructing a channel from the Skagit into the Barnaby Slough is a set up for disaster ..."

Project information can be found at <https://barnabystudy.wordpress.com>.

—J. K. M.



East county resident Sherry Hornbeck (pointing to map) discusses the Barnaby Reach Alternatives Assessment with Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Watershed Steward Bob Warinner during an open house and information session in Sedro-Woolley on Feb. 23.

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March birthdays

6 Dustin Claybo



Darrington



Slide, cont. from p. 24

Fire Department will hold an open house at the fire hall that same day, from noon to 4 p.m.

Still haunted

But the thunderous catastrophe continues to reverberate throughout the community. The Cory and Julie Kuntz home was destroyed by the slide. They lost their cat, but their dog was extracted from the rubble. The couple lives with their son, Quinton, a junior at Darrington High School, in a rental in Darrington. They're still paying their first mortgage, but were fortunate to have their second mortgage forgiven.

"We are still waiting to hear if the FEMA/state/county property buyout will take place," said Julie Kuntz. "The hope is this will cover at least the cost of the mortgage. If it doesn't, we will likely face defaulting on the mortgage or bankruptcy. We remain in limbo."

The Kuntzes lost aunt and neighbor Linda McPherson.

"Cory, Quinton, and I feel fortunate that we were together that fateful day. As a result, we don't let anything get us down for too long because of that. After the slide, I struggled with feelings of survivor's guilt and still find it difficult to share intimate moments with those who lost a mother, father, or child. It's the part that still haunts me. Most days I remain in awe of the family, friends, and volunteers who sacrificed and gave so much. It felt like the whole town and its neighbors came together in such a beautiful way. I am still so proud of that. Then there are the strangers and out-of-state volunteers who were there for us and I feel even more humbled. We are grateful."

"We still face some financial uncertainty and get frustrated with the processes. For all the agencies helping, there is a lot the survivors are left to grapple with and figure out, and most of us face slightly different issues, so there is no one answer to get us back to where we need to be. Some days you feel completely supported and other days you feel deserted and distrustful."

A crash course in community

A year before the slide, Roxanne Fisher-Chance and her husband moved from Seattle to a beautiful area four miles west of Darrington. After hearing of the disaster from a friend, they were uncertain of the magnitude and of what to do. They drove into Darrington to find out what was taking place, and if they could help.

"My husband volunteered his time, every day, at the food distribution center for approximately a month. He helped unload truck after truck, stack shelves, and put together boxes of food, toiletries, and cleaning products for those who no longer had an easy way out of town."

"Within the first few days, I was providing massage therapy for the rescue workers when they returned from the debris field. I was set up at the fire hall, but soon realized there were so many goings on in that building, that it would be difficult for anyone to relax. And if they were able to do so, may experience some surfacing emotions from that day's events. I knew everyone was doing their best to put on a brave face, but when people relax after traumatic events, they can experience a great deal of grief, so I knew that privacy was in order. I happened to see Darrington Mayor Dan Rankin in the fire hall as these thoughts were going through my head, so I asked him if I could provide treatments for anyone who wants one, free of charge, in the vacant building (in his mother's estate) in front of his mill on Seeman St.? He thought it was a great idea, and I had the key the next day."

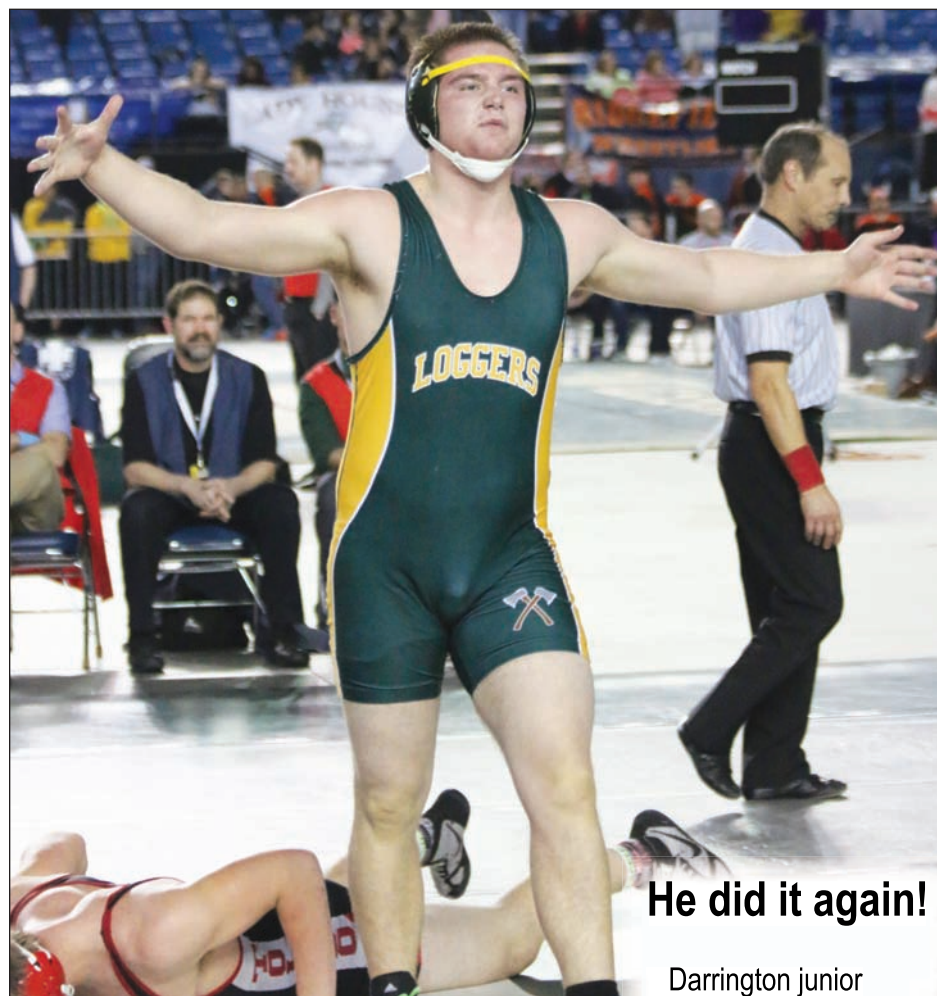
What began as a volunteer effort transformed into a small business by June: Healing Wind Massage/MFR Therapy.

"My husband was also able to familiarize himself with so many members of Darrington by working at the food distribution center," said Fisher-Chance. "Since we were fairly new to this community, this tragedy gave us a crash course on this lovely community."

Pearson gets involved

During the current legislative session, Sen. Kirk Pearson, R-Monroe, introduced a bill to help the state identify future geological hazards like the SR 530 slide. On Feb. 25, the Senate unanimously approved Senate Bill 5088, which would establish the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) as the official depository for a library of LiDAR mapping, which would be accessible to municipalities, disaster-relief workers, builders, and the general public.

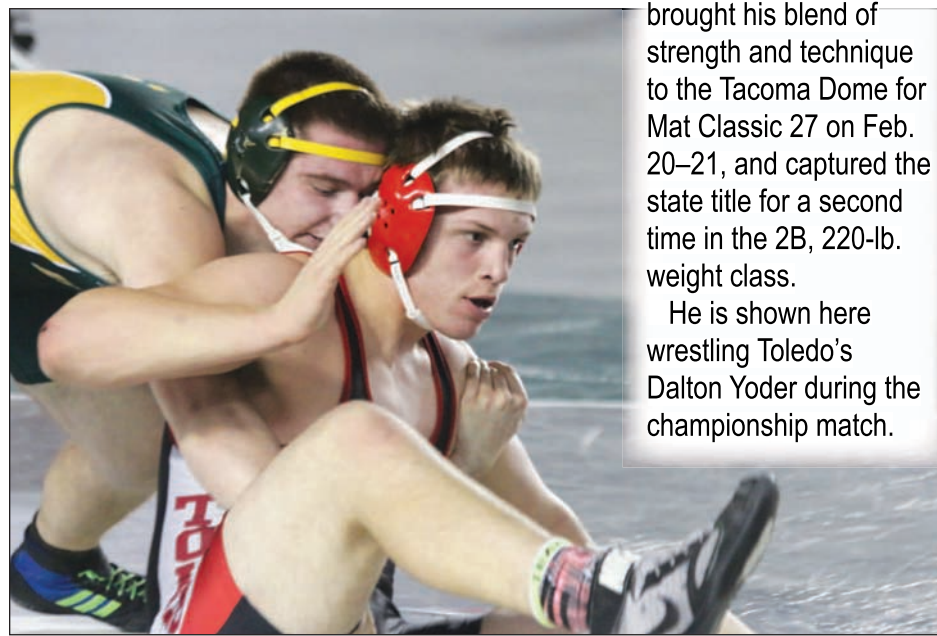
"After the Oso landslide, we needed to find new ways to provide the best information about geological hazards to the public," said Pearson. "By centralizing geological information, we can give local governments, developers, and the public the tools they need to help protect lives and property against another major disaster."



He did it again!

Darrington junior Mason McKenzie brought his blend of strength and technique to the Tacoma Dome for Mat Classic 27 on Feb. 20-21, and captured the state title for a second time in the 2B, 220-lb. weight class.

He is shown here wrestling Toledo's Dalton Yoder during the championship match.



Slide, cont. from p. 11

the building of the Whitehorse Farmers' Market next to Hometown Pizza. The project, sponsored by World Feast, is chaired by Val Peppinger, who also brought the musical group The Fabulous Kingpins to Darrington last July. The Fabulous Kingpins will once again play their music this summer. Val also chairs the Darrington Renewal Project, which advocates self-sufficiency, strengthening the community, and renewing hope, and was instrumental in bringing Peter Amar Ali to Darrington's first Eagle Festival.

Washington State University Community and Economic Development Coordinator Judy Pendergrass hosted a meeting that brought representatives from the United States Department of Agriculture to present Development Programs designed to assist rural communities.

Shari Brewer, advocate for the local contractors who worked at the slide, is coordinating an "oral history" of their experiences.

Several members of the community have been working on the tourism aspect of Darrington by hosting several events, including Darrington Day, held at the end of May. Martha Rasmussen still continues to work on various projects, including a documentary focusing on the resilience of a small town cut off from the world by a devastating natural disaster. The Darrington Historical Society is also preparing a documentary.

Kevin Ashe, co-owner of the IGA, and Walt Dortch, both of Darrington Area

Resource Advocates (DARA), had already started the effort to pave the remaining 14 miles of the Mountain Loop Highway. When the slide hit, residents were left to drive the long way around for work and appointments. It became important to make sure Darrington residents had more than one way out, and finishing the Mountain Loop Highway is viewed as a viable strategy. Meetings have since been held with Washington State Department of Transportation, Snohomish County, and others to discuss completing the project.

Other projects have begun as a result of donations and services Darrington has received since the slide occurred. The Science, Technology, Engineering and Math program (STEM), is being considered. Flowers For Darrington, Student Letter Volunteers, creating a forest road master plan, the future Darrington Community Garden, and a restaurant that will open soon are just a few of the positive projects that have germinated.

In March the communities of Oso and Darrington will gather for a three-day remembrance. On March 20 at 7 p.m., Darrington residents will meet at the Community Center for a Gathering in Hope. Rhodes River Ranch Restaurant, instrumental in providing food and staging events during the slide, will host music, a buffet, and an auction on March 21, beginning at 1 p.m. On Sun., March 22, a section of SR 530 in the slide area will be closed from 8:30 a.m. to noon. The Oso

See Slide, p. 25



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Jail to implement new inmate visitation process

EVERETT — Beginning Feb. 24, family and friends of inmates booked at the Snohomish County Jail are able to schedule to visit inmates.

The new system also applies to professional visits, which could include attorneys, social workers, or health care professionals. Previously, inmates were responsible for having corrections deputies schedule their visits.

Under the new system, all visitors must be registered, using a valid e-mail address, in order to schedule visits, which are done online at <http://snohomishwa.gtlvisitme.com>. Social visits must be scheduled at least 24 hours in advance; professional visits must be scheduled at least four hours in advance. Visits cannot be scheduled more than 14 days in advance.

As with the past system, there are no in-person social visits; these still will be conducted via video conferencing. Only professional visits will be conducted in person.

Briefly ...

This season of **Darrington Community Dance** events continues in March.

Evenings typically begin with dance instruction at 6:30 p.m., with the dance following at 7 p.m. The dances are held at Mansford Grange, 1265 Railroad Ave. in Darrington. Admission is a suggested donation of \$7.

The remaining 2015 season dances are as follows:

- Sat., March 7: Cobbler
- Sat., April 4: La Famille Leger

For more information, call 206.402.8646.

Local artists **Holly Cannell, Gordy Beil, and Ron Wolff** will open their art studio to the public on Sat., March 28, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Handmade ornaments, refrigerator magnets, and new works on paper, canvas, and in fabric will be available at reasonable prices.

The studio is located at 605 S. Emens Ave. (corner of S. Emens Ave. and Fir St.), in Darrington.

For more information, call 360.436.0711.

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Marblemount



Newhalem



Spring sprouts Marblemount events

Once again, the Marblemount Community Hall will host a variety of events this spring.

The annual **District 19 Firefighters' Dinner and Dance** will be held Sat., March 7, at 7 p.m. The event is a scholarship benefit for some lucky graduating senior from Rockport or Marblemount. Dinner is potluck and the dance will be with a live band. In addition, a raffle of locally donated items and services will take place.

For more information or to donate to the raffle, call Jim Mullen at 425.870.5452 or Denton Moore at 360.853.7699.

On Sat., April 4, the hall's annual **Seed Swap and Easter Egg Hunt** runs from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Egg dying and decorating takes place in the hall kitchen from 11 a.m. to noon, then the actual hunt, and

finally the decoration contest winners, follow at 3 p.m. The Seed Swap will run throughout the day and also will include plant starts and any other garden goods, tools, etc., you may wish to swap or trade.

For more information, call Amanda Martin at 360.941.5485.

The annual KSVU **"Blast Open the Pass"** dance is scheduled for May 2. Stay tuned for more information in the April issue of *Concrete Herald*.

WOMEN HAND in hand will sponsor a **"Get To Know You" brunch** on Sat., March 14, from 9 to 11 a.m. at the hall. Area women are invited to join the faith-based group for breakfast and a time of worship. Team Captain Sylvia Miles will speak. Meet the WOMEN HAND in hand team and hear about their future plans.

—Christie Fairchild

New column will debut next month

Marblemount residents Sasa and Starwalker will debut their new monthly column in the pages of *Concrete Herald* beginning with the April 2015 issue.

Titled "The Good News is," the column will aim "to inspire, inspirit, embrace, and empower the human family through the joy and love in our hearts," according to Sasa. "Our quest is to journey and find the beauty in our world and share it with our human family," said Sasa.

Anyone who wants to contribute to Sasa and Starwalker's efforts may contact them at cascadiaeffect@gmail.com. Experiences also may be shared at the accompanying blog at <http://cascadiaeffect.weebly.com> and on Facebook: Cascadia Effect

—J. K. M.



Above: Linda Jordan of Marblemount was just one of many musicians who make up the band Jumbled Pie. The group took home the "Best Krewe" prize during the ninth annual Mardi Gras parade in Concrete on Feb. 14. Photo by Hannah Kononen.

Below: Andris Vezis of Marblemount warms up his strings before the start of the Mardi Gras parade. Photo by Chuck Bussiere.



Hunters have until March 31 to apply for multiple-season permits

OLYMPIA — Deer and elk hunters have until March 31 to enter their name in a drawing for a 2015 multiple-season permit, which can greatly increase their opportunities for success in the field.

In mid-April the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) will randomly draw names for 8,500 multiple-season deer permits and 1,000 multiple-season elk permits.

Winners of the drawing will be eligible to purchase a special tag allowing them to participate in archery, muzzleloader, and modern firearm general hunting seasons for deer or elk in 2015. Winners who purchase the multiple-season elk

tag by Aug. 31 can participate in general elk-hunting season in both eastern and western Washington.

Winners also may choose any weapon type when applying for a special permit to hunt deer or elk.

Also, hunters can apply only once for each species and are limited to harvesting one deer or elk.

Hunters may purchase a multiple-season permit application at an authorized license dealer, listed at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/vendors> or by calling 866.246.9453. The permit application is \$7.10 for residents and \$110.50 for nonresidents.

Hunting licenses and multiple-season tags can be purchased from local license dealers, online at <http://fishhunt.dfw.wa.gov>, or by calling 866.246.9453. Multiple-season deer tags cost \$139.10 for residents or nonresidents, while elk tags cost \$182.00 for residents and nonresidents.

WDFW seeks public comments on proposed 2015–17 hunting seasons

OLYMPIA — The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is seeking public input on proposed recommendations for the 2015–17 hunting seasons.

Through Feb. 24, WDFW accepted written comments from the public to help finalize proposed hunting rules and regulations for 2015–17 hunting seasons.

The Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission, which sets policy for WDFW, also will take public comment on the proposed recommendations at its March 20–21 meeting at the Civic Center in Moses Lake. Final commission action is scheduled to take place at the April

9–10 meeting.

To review and comment on the proposals, visit the department's Web site at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/regulations/seasonsetting>.

The hunting season proposals, which were developed after extensive public involvement, are also based on the objectives and strategies contained in the new 2015–21 Game Management Plan, said Mick Cope, WDFW game manager. That plan is available on the department's Web site at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/publications/01676/>.

"We appreciate the input we've received over the past months and encourage everyone interested in the 2015–17 hunting seasons to review and comment on the proposed rules before final action is taken," Cope said.

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Seniors

Coffee Break

Thinking about retirement

By Patrick Kennedy

Throughout history, thinkers and wannabe thinkers have had so many thoughts about retirement, it's hard to decide who is right.

"Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is not to stop questioning," said Albert Einstein.

Now that's a good start. Many of my retiree friends complain that they are bored because there is nothing to do. That follows what Abe Lemons said: "The trouble with retirement is that you never get a day off." But isn't that the whole idea after working every day over a lifetime?

Mark Twain said, "To succeed in life, you need two things: ignorance and confidence." That is a very noble thought, because most of us can't be smart and bold, too.

George Foreman has the best advice about retirement: "The question isn't at what age I want to retire, it's at what income."

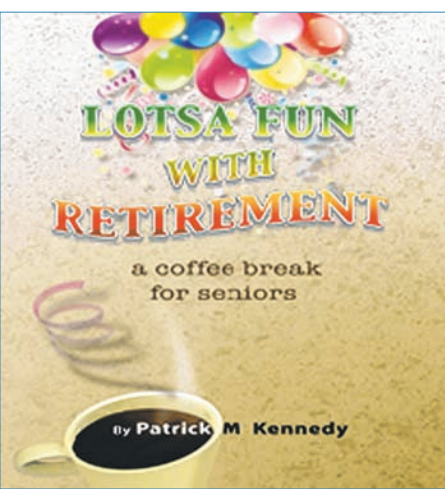
Money is a very important and possibly the most vital element of retirement; that is a hard fact.

Money is on the mind of retirees most of the time.

"Don't go around saying the world owes you a living. The world owes you nothing. It was here first," said Twain. Again he is right. We are each on our own, and the world helps those who help themselves.

The best thing to do about retirement is to quit spending all your time worrying about all the things you can't do anything about. Maybe your biggest need in retirement is a calendar because you have so many retirement activities to pursue. To borrow from a quote from Francis Bacon, "may your retirement be best in four things: old wood best to burn, old wine best to drink, old friends best to trust, and old authors best to read." In other words, grab a book, settle in that chair either in the living room or on the sun deck, and get lost in someone else's problems in your imagination. "Imagination often will carry us to worlds that never were. But without it we go nowhere," said Carl Sagan.

Patrick M. Kennedy is the author of *Lotsa Fun with Retirement*. Find it at Amazon.com.



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Way Back When

80 years ago

March 28, 1935: Representative Fred J. Martin of Rockport returned from the legislative session in Olympia the latter part of last week, bringing with him grim news for Upper Valley communities.

Martin stated that hope of anything on the Cascade Highway for the next two years would have to be abandoned unless it can be shown that the road will actually increase employment in mines of the Cascade district.

He was of the opinion that Lacey Murrow, head of the highway department, was absolutely opposed to the spending of any more on this road, and that Gov. Martin, although sympathetic, would do nothing to change the highway department's attitude.

60 years ago

March 17, 1955: Jimmy Chamness, 13, of Concrete Grade School climaxed his 1955 Hoop Shoot competition last Saturday by taking first place in the statewide championship shoot at the University of Washington pavilion in Seattle. Jimmy's 23 out of 25 topped all other contestants.

Twenty-one district winners competed Saturday, the best from around 75,000 boys from all parts of the state who entered in the contests this year.

A small rooting section of young Chamness' grade school pals was present to give him moral support,

but failed to help much when they found the tension too much for them. While Jimmy dropped the ball into the hoop, they peeked through their fingers, afraid to look for fear he would miss.

Young Chamness is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Chamness of Concrete—about the proudest parents in the nation this week.

50 years ago

March 18, 1965: Rockport took on a new look this week as the result of a community effort cleanup party last weekend. What started as a tidying up of the river bank below the town caught the rest of the community in the spirit, and a general overhaul of the town's appearance is now a matter of civic pride.

The Rockport Community Club planned the cleanup party. The Rockport Fire Dept. and farmers and loggers responded to the call for volunteers.

By Sunday the crews had leveled the river bank area from the bridge west to the old Sharick mill. Remains of the mill were removed so that the area is now a clean, wide field.

At the bridge road intersection, the little county park was cleaned up by the ladies and readied for summer use.

Work crews cleaned away the debris from the old ferry landing, and cut and burned underbrush and berry vines. Another crew worked with the big Cat in clearing away old stumps and debris from the bank along the road. A third crew of younger folks picked up loose material left by the clearing.

See **Way Back**, p. 29

Concrete Center

March 2015

Activities

Mon. - Fri., 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Lunch served Tue. - Fri., noon

Mondays

10 a.m.
Noon
12:30 p.m.

Jigsaw puzzles
Coffee Bar
Skip Bo, Cribbage,
Yahtzee

Tuesdays

10 a.m.
10:30 a.m.
Noon
12:15 p.m.

Jigsaw puzzles
Tai Chi
Lunch
Irish Entertainment &
Sing Along, 3/17
Leap of Faith, 3/24
Skip Bo, Cribbage

Wednesdays

10 a.m.
10:30 a.m.

Noon
12:30 p.m.
12:30 p.m.

Jigsaw puzzles
Advisory Board mtg.,
3/11
Lunch
Skip Bo, Cribbage
White Elephant Bingo,
3/11, 3/25

Thursdays

10 a.m.
Noon
12:30 p.m.
12:30 p.m.

Jigsaw puzzles
Lunch
Skip Bo, Cribbage
Pinocle, 3/5, 3/19

Fridays

10 a.m.

Noon
1 p.m.

Jigsaw puzzles,
watercolor painting
Lunch
Coffee Hour with
Comm. Lisa Janicki
3/6
Dominoes, Skip Bo,
Cribbage



30 years ago. Representing the Concrete Police Dept., Concrete Lions Club, Concrete Chamber of Commerce, and *Concrete Herald*, Wayne White, Leonard Simpson, Bob Fader, and Lloyd Peterson display new booklets purchased to help educate area youth on the dangers of drug abuse. Donations from the sponsoring groups helped to buy enough booklets for many years of students to study, evaluate, and take home to parents. This year the program will be given in 5th through 12th grades, with 5th graders as the largest group for the program in future years. The four men above were photographed for the March 7, 1985, issue of *Concrete Herald*. Archive photo by Anne Bussiere.



30 years ago. The March 7, 1985, issue of *Concrete Herald* carried news of the Concrete High School basketball team traveling to the State B tournament in Spokane. The team's journey included two wins and two losses, and culminated in a 6th place trophy. Archive photo by Patty Moore.

Way Back, cont. from p. 28

Picnic dinners on Saturday and Sunday helped make the project into an old-time get-together.

40 years ago

March 27, 1975: Fire destroyed the Staton Bakery building just southwest of Concrete Friday. A heater is the probable cause of the fire, which leveled the building.



30 years ago. The March 7, 1985, issue of *Concrete Herald* included this photo series of proud mom and loyal Concrete Lions fan Phyllis Beazizo, thoroughly enjoying every moment as the Concrete basketball team played in the State B finals in Spokane. The Lions brought home a 6th place trophy that year. Archive photos by Patty Moore.

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Concrete Herald
The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley

Obituaries

Sidney Charles "Chuck" Jenkins

Mule packer, musician, homesteader, husband, hound hunter, historian, and friend. Sidney Charles "Chuck" Jenkins was all that and more.

When he suddenly left this world on Jan. 7, the Upper Skagit and all of the Pacific Northwest lost a beloved treasure.

Born Feb. 13, 1932, in Whatcom County, Chuck grew up along the shores of Lake Whatcom, attending the Geneva School and relishing the freedom of a Huck Finn life. Raised by his pioneering parents, Will D. and Mildred Hunley Jenkins, he was given the skills and tools to go on to become a highly respected man of commitment, dedication, and honesty.

A veteran of the Korean War, Chuck married Wilma Rose Olsen of Lummi on Oct. 14, 1956, and they soon settled in Glacier, where he had begun work for the Mount Baker National Forest. By 1966 they had transferred to the Marblemount District. After North Cascades National Park was established there from former U.S. Forest Service lands, they moved down to the Darrington District to continue packing their mules with supplies, food, and equipment needed for work in the back country.

Chuck and Wilma hand-built their log home south of Rockport and lived there most of their lives. Bookshelves overflowing with local history tomes; antler racks, skins, and pelts adorning the walls; and stacks of photo albums always welcomed visitors to travel back in time as they shared stories with anyone wishing to listen.

Chuck lost his beloved Wilma in 2007, and now we have lost Chuck.

Please help honor our friend by attending the Memorial Service at the Darrington Community Center on March 14. And don't forget to bring a story.

Those wishing to donate may send contributions in Chuck's memory to the Darrington Community Center's Memorial Dinner Fund: P.O. Box 698, Darrington, WA 98241, and/or Concrete Heritage Museum: P.O. Box 445, Concrete, WA 98237.



Obituaries published in Concrete Herald

from May 2009 to present are posted online at:

www.concrete-herald.com/obituaries
For more information, call 360.853.8213
or e-mail editor@concrete-herald.com.

Sunday School lesson The King of Comedy

By Bill Mueller

"Get a sense of humor!"

That's a phrase that some, if not all of us, have heard. It is usually offered in a moment when we are in a nasty mood and expressing it. When we hear that line, we are being encouraged, strongly, to lighten up, and not take ourselves so seriously. The unfortunate reality is that we don't often listen to such advice.

Humor is key in navigating through life. Yet, if someone would ask the question, "What do Christians do in church," the

response might be, "They have a lot of meetings and they are against things."

That hurts! Unfortunately to the outsider, that may be the picture that has been created. If you don't believe that, ask someone you know who doesn't believe or attend church on a regular basis. Humor has not been one of the most notable characteristics of church gatherings or even individual Christians for that matter.

Humor runs all through the Bible. Sure, it's Middle Eastern humor, but it is still humor. Notice Philippians 4:22, as Paul brings his letter to the church to an end. His second-to-last line is a joyful and humorous one. Remember, he is in prison in Rome. His cell is located in the emperor's basement, where all significant prisoners are kept. It is not a pleasant place. There are no movies to watch or free time out of the cell to roam around and get some exercise. For Paul it is being chained to a guard for several hours at a time. Maybe he gets some horrid food to eat or maybe he doesn't.

What do you think the topic of conversation might be if you were chained to the Apostle Paul for any length of time? Notice what he writes: "All the saints send you greetings, especially those who belong to Caesar's household." Now that is funny. Here Nero has thrown him in prison to shut him up. What happens? He simply shares his story with everyone who is chained to him. He doesn't tell us how many conversions there have been. He simply gives his readers, in an unexpected way, the assurance that ministry goes on no matter what.

Most of the time, humor deals with

incongruity—something is out of place or absurd. A more sophisticated definition is "A paradoxical state of affairs." So Paul being in prison and yet still carrying on ministry is out of place. It is unexpected. When his initial readers came to that line in his letter, a big smile would cross their face, and joy would be their emotion.

Earlier in that letter (4:4–5), Paul tells us to rejoice in the Lord. Then he gives one example of how one might do that. "Let your gentleness be evident to all."

That word, "gentleness," can be translated "mellowness." He is saying that as we rejoice in the Lord, we become more unflappable by the conditions of the world around us. We don't get rattled, or anxious, or "lose it," where most folks would. One man put it this way: "Humor is an affirmation of dignity, a declaration of man's superiority to all that befalls him." We are able to rise above our situation because we travel in the joy of our walk with Jesus. That's what enabled Paul to write the Philippian letter from prison, which has come to be known as the Letter of Joy.

Humor isn't negative. Our culture has taken something we are to enjoy and turned it into a negative. Most humor today is often at someone else's expense. Flippancy is what is passed off as humor in our day. That's not the intent of humor. As believers, we need to get a sense of humor. God has one. Look around, go to the zoo, go to the mall; there is great incongruity all around us. As one friend stated it, sure people need the gospel, but

See Sunday School, p. 33

Skagit County Sheriff's Office Blotter

Feb. 4

A Lyman resident reported a horrible smell coming from a box dumped near the park on Robinson Rd. A deputy investigated and determined the box contained dead duck carcasses; hence the "fowl" smell.

Feb. 5

While visiting the Hamilton Food Bank, a gentleman was a victim of a theft. Someone stole a chainsaw from the back of his pickup truck. There were no witnesses and deputies have little to go on. If you happened to be near the food bank and witnessed this theft, please contact Deputy Backstrom.

Feb. 6

An employee at Loggers Landing in

Level 3 Sex Offender NOTIFICATION

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

Mansanerez, Damien James

Age: 22
Race: W Sex: M
Height: 5' 5"
Weight: 147
Hair: Brown
Eyes: Brown
Address: 266xx
Old Day Creek Rd.,
Clear Lake



Mansanerez was convicted of second-degree child molestation in Skagit County against a 13-year-old female victim who was known to him. He also has a prior juvenile conviction of a sexual offense against a known 7-year-old male when Mansanerez was 15.

Mansanerez 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.

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

Source: Skagit County Sheriff

Concrete called to report a trespasser. A male subject had just left the store, having been previously trespassed for stealing. The man also had several warrants for his arrest. A deputy caught up to him a short distance away, and the foot chase was on. The deputy caught up to the man, who was carrying a backpack. The deputy could see a machete protruding from the backpack. After a few tense seconds, the man did the right thing and allowed himself to be arrested. The deputy later found brass knuckles, a machete, heroin, and additional drug paraphernalia inside the backpack. The man was booked on several felony charges. Unfortunately, heroin use has increased nationwide, and we see this type of fallout all too often.

Feb. 9

A caller from Hamilton Ave. in Hamilton reported a suspicious-looking person in the area of the park with a flashlight. She was contacted by deputies and said she was looking for her phone charger. She also had warrants, but the jail was full, so she was processed and released.

Feb. 10

A deputy responded to the Elk Run Dr. area near Lyman for a report of mail theft. Several mailboxes had been gone through and mail was strewn about the roadway. The deputy was able to identify and return some of the mail. There are no suspects at this time.

Deputies took a report of a missing 29-year-old Rockport man. Family members had been searching for him for several days and were very concerned for his well-being. The search came to a tragic end when family members located his vehicle near Caskey Lake. The man was found deceased. A deputy investigated the scene and it appeared the subject had taken his own life.

Feb. 11

Deputies responded to the area of South St. in Hamilton to a report of a prowler. The caller reported seeing a person with a flashlight lurking in the area. After scouring the area and speaking to several residents, a deputy spotted a female running in the area of Shangri-La Dr. She had a flashlight—and felony warrants for her arrest. She said she'd been in the area looking for her purse. She was booked into jail without a purse.

A deputy stopped a vehicle for a traffic infraction on SR 20 in Concrete. The driver had a valid license; however, the passenger had several warrants for his arrest. One of the warrants was for the theft of the U.S. flag from the Veterans Park in Concrete. The jail said there was room this time, and the subject was

Sergeant's corner Spring safety

By Chris Kading



With the return of warmer weather, spring is a great time to give your home security arrangements a fresh look. Burglars tend to increase their criminal activity as the weather gets nicer. The evenings aren't quite so cold, and they prefer to lurk in the shadows. Here are a few tips to help deter criminal activity.

Prior to leaving the house, do a walk-around and ensure all your doors and windows are locked. Many of the newer style windows have opening limiters, which allow the window to open only a few inches. Only unlock a door or window when you need access, and immediately resecure it. Think of it like walking through a gate in a fence. Your tendency is to ensure the gate is closed behind you. That's a great habit to get into around your property. Anyone who has livestock will tell you that.

booked.

Deputies responded to an assault complaint near Okie Joe Ln. in Rockport. A 51-year-old man reported his girlfriend's 22-year-old son punched him and was wanting to fight him. After being punched and given a split lip, the man left the residence. As he left, the suspect threw pieces of firewood at his vehicle. Despite the assault, the man was unsure he wanted to pursue charges. The suspect is known to deputies and may be facing assault charges.

Feb. 14

A resident of Shangri-La Dr. in Hamilton suspected someone had stolen the license plate tabs off his vehicle. A deputy ran the license plate and discovered that the tabs had been stolen. The vehicle owner had no idea who may have taken them. A report will be filed with DOL to replace the stolen tabs.

A deputy took a report of a prepaid credit card theft. A Rockport man reported his girlfriend may have taken his card and left the area on foot. After several hours she returned home and miraculously, the card reappeared. No crime occurred, but it probably ruined their Valentine's Day.

Feb. 16

A resident on Maple St. in Hamilton called 911 after hearing a woman yelling

Winter can be harsh on your outside lighting. Ensure all exterior lights are operating. Crooks hate being seen.

Speaking of being seen, I encourage property owners to invest in a set of trail cameras. These types of cameras often are used by hunters. They are easily hidden on your property and can be your silent surveillance when you're away from home. I recommend installing them in an area where you can monitor the obvious entry points to your property. Often, crooks will simply come to the main door and see if anyone answers. That's a great area to cover with the cameras. The Sheriff's Office has received several good tips from victims of crime that caught crooks on camera.

Another area to check is your garage access. If your garage is attached to your home, make sure that access door is secured. Prohibit crooks from simply lifting the door and entering the garage. Once inside they can work undisturbed, while trying to enter your home.

Chris Kading is sergeant for the Skagit County Sheriff's Office East County Detachment in Concrete.

for someone to call 911. Deputies arrived and determined there had been an argument that had become physical. A 26-year-old man was arrested for domestic assault after he allegedly assaulted his 21-year-old girlfriend.

A Marblemount caller reported her husband overdue. He was scheduled to ride his motorcycle to Everett and back. Just as the deputy was about to initiate a report, the husband arrived home unharmed.

Feb. 17

A resident of Cape Horn Rd. near Hamilton reported a burglary. An unidentified crook kicked in the door to the man's shop. The crook stole a full gas can, cigarettes, and a small amount of cash from a vehicle. There are no suspects at this time.

Feb. 18

A Concrete resident found an air compressor on Cascade Trail at the west end of town. It belonged to a neighbor. There are no suspects, but an old tent was also located nearby. It had been unoccupied for quite some time and it's believed the person who was staying there is now long gone.

Worship directory

Assembly of God

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

North Cascade Community Church
59850 SR 20, Marblemount
360.873.2504 // www.mmag.net
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Sun. worship: 10:30 a.m.
Thur.: Men's meeting, 8 a.m.
Thur.: Bible Study, 7 p.m.
Dave Nichols, pastor
E-mail: pastordave@fastmail.fm

Baptist

First Baptist Church
12732 Hemlock St., Clear Lake
360.856.2767

Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
Sun. worship: 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.
Wed.: 7 p.m.
John Batts, pastor
E-mail: pastorjohn@firstbaptistclearlake.com
Hamilton First Baptist Church
797 Hamilton Cemetery Rd. at SR 20
Office: 360.826.3307
Sunday School: 9:40 a.m.
Sun. worship: 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.
Ron Edwards, pastor

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

Catholic

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

Covenant

Community Covenant Church
12605 Highway 9, Clear Lake
360.856.1023 // covenant@wavecable.com
www.clearlakecov.org
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Sun. worship: 11 a.m.
Call for weekly youth group/Bible studies
Tim Hedberg, pastor

Free Methodist

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

Methodist

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

Presbyterian

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

Lutheran

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

Nondenominational

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

Community Bible Church
45672 Limestone, Concrete; 360.853.8511

Sun. worship: 11 a.m.
Marilyn Kallshian, pastor

E-mail: cbcofconcrete@earthlink.net
Sun. School: 9 a.m.; Worship Svc: 10 a.m.
Childcare/Children's Ministries at both
Contact church for other ministries
Rob Thomas, pastor

The RIVER Gathering

720 Puget Ave., Sedro-Woolley
Sun. worship: 10:30 a.m.
Wed. potluck/study: 6 p.m.
Thur. ladies group: 6:30 p.m.
Last Fri./mo. potluck/games: 6 p.m.
www.facebook.com/therivergathering
360.853.6676 // Pastor Larry Weston

Rockport Christ the King Comm. Church

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

CONCRETE HERITAGE MUSEUM NEWS

The Concrete Heritage Museum is closed for the season. Until Memorial Day weekend, you can **make an appointment to visit the museum** or do research in our library; just call Robin at 360.826.3075.

Monthly meetings are held year-round on the third Wednesday of each month, at 7 p.m., at the museum. All meetings are open to the public.

We received the check that was promised from **Sierra Pacific** for \$1,500, and the **Sockeye Express** has been sold to a company in Montana. The Sockeye has been picked up and has found its way to a new home. That means we reached our goal of raising \$20,000 to fully pay for the roof. That's pretty remarkable for such a small group.

The presentation by **Sandy Wells** on paranormal investigations in Concrete went well, especially considering the Seahawks playoff game was on at the same time.

Our **Mardi Gras bake sale** netted \$217.55. That's a bunch of cupcakes! Thanks to the many museum members who supplied lots of tasty treats, and the Concrete Theatre for placing our tables right in the middle of the parade action. Val put some great video on Facebook showing the costumed paraders.

Museum Web site: Our new home on the Internet can be found at www.concreteheritagemuseum.org.

Our new e-mail address is concreteheritagemuseum@gmail.com.

—Dan Royal

March at the Darrington Library

Wed., March 4

- Family Storytime, 10–10:45 a.m.
- LEGO Club: Robotics, 1–2 p.m.
- Darrington Friends of the Library Meeting, 5:30–6:30 p.m.
- Darrington Bibliophiles discuss *Sacred Sea: A Journey to Lake Baikal* by Peter Thomson, 6:30–8 p.m.

Sat., March 7

- Darrington Friends of the Library Annual Book Sale, 11 a.m.–3 p.m.

Wed., March 11

- Family Storytime, 10–10:45 a.m.

Wed., March 18

- Family Storytime, 10–10:45 a.m.
- LEGO Club: Free Play, 1–2 p.m.

Sat., March 21

- Linda McPherson Community Room Dedication, 11 a.m.–12 p.m.

Wed., March 25

- Family Storytime, 10–10:45 a.m.
- “Have You Played It?” 1–2 p.m.

For more information, go to www.sno-isle.org?ID=1194 or call 360.436.1600.

—Bryan Stratton, branch manager

Nick VanJaarsveld
Financial Advisor

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING



913 Metcalf Street
Sedro Woolley, WA 98284
Bus. 360-855-0239 Fax 866-816-2219
Cell 360-333-4849
nick.vanjaarsveld@edwardjones.com
www.edwardjones.com

At the Upper Skagit Library

Award-winning librarian **Nancy Pearl** brought spunk, comedy, and words of wisdom to our crowd of library supporters at the Concrete Theatre last month during our annual Friends meeting. Pearl helped us celebrate our future of building a new library. Thank you, Nancy.

It was a milestone for the Upper Skagit Library as we transformed the Friends group into the **Upper Skagit Library Foundation** in order to kick off our capital campaign for the new building project. Before the event, Nancy Pearl toured our library and met the staff. Check out Nancy Pearl's books here at our library, *Book Lust* and *Book Crush*, filled with book recommendations on topics from A to Z. Learn ways to support us or join the Foundation by visiting the new Web site at www.upperskagitlibraryfoundation.org. For questions, contact Barb Trask at 360.399.1403 or upperskagitlibraryfoundation@gmail.com.

Our library services are expanding. The **new book drop** in Marblemount has arrived, and we will install it soon. We will let you know where it will be placed and when you can begin using it. We will continue to update you on this exciting new service to the Marblemount area, as well as a WiFi Hotspot.

Tutoring at the library occurs on the first and third Fridays of each month. Sit down with a library staff member and focus on basic computer skills, resumes, and cover letters, or completing job applications. Scheduled appointments

are held from 10 to 11 a.m. Call the library or visit us in person to schedule an appointment: 360.853.7939.

Our new **audiobooks and music CDs** will satisfy your auditory desires. In audiobooks, science fiction fans will delight in *The Worthing Saga*, Philipp Meyer's western *The Son*, and bestseller *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown. In music, check out the “Frozen” soundtrack, the newest from Carrie Underwood, and “Grammy Nominees 2015.”

We invite families with young children to join us for *Storytime* on Sat., March 7, from 11 to 11:45 a.m. This month we will read about *Ouch!* Join us for stories, songs, and a simple craft.

April is **National Poetry Month** and the library will sponsor a poetry contest! So take out your writing caps, pen, and paper. If you haven't tried writing poetry or prose before, it's not too late to start. We will have adult, teen, and children's categories. More information about the contest will appear in the April issue of *Concrete Herald*, on the library Web site, and e-newsletter soon, including due dates, submission guidelines, and events.

We're open now on Tuesday and Wednesday, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., on Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. We are closed Sunday, Monday, and Thursday. The next Upper Skagit Library Board meeting will be at the library March 12 at 5 p.m.

—Cora Thomas, library associate

Lions ROAR

February has been another busy month for the Concrete Lions Club. Members have been building a wheelchair ramp, planting Christmas trees, and arranging for eyeglasses and a hearing aid for those in need within our community.

There will be one regular meeting this month, on Wed., March 4, at 6:30 p.m., in the front dining room at Annie's Pizza Station. There is always a group of members who show up around 6 p.m. to eat and socialize before the meeting is called to order. Existing members,

remember to mark your calendar.

The meeting on March 18 will be the annual Corned Beef and Cabbage Feed for members and their families, along with visitors from other local Lions Clubs.

The Lions Club has access to medical equipment such as wheelchairs, walkers, shower chairs, and portable commodes to be loaned out to help those in need. Contact any Lions Club member to make a request if you know of someone who has a need for such equipment; we will do our best to help you out.

We are still looking for new Lions Club members. Please plan to attend one of our meetings to see what we are about and how you can fit in.

—Connie Smithhart

Sheriff's Blotter, cont. from p. 31

Feb. 19

An alert resident near the storage units in Concrete called in a suspicious-acting person. It appeared the man was messing with a lock on a unit and lingering in the area much longer than usual. A deputy checked out the situation and determined all was okay. The man was a paid renter who was having issues with his lock. I applaud the caller for reporting what they felt was suspicious. Good. Honest folks who have nothing to hide don't mind being talked to by deputies. Crooks hate it. Please continue making those suspicious calls. We need the community's involvement to prevent criminal activity.

A deputy received a call from a concerned relative of some folks on Concrete Sauk Valley Rd. near Rockport. The caller lived out of state and hadn't

heard from these people in a few days. The deputy was able to make contact and determined they were having phone issues, but otherwise okay.

Feb. 22

A deputy took a complaint from a horseback rider near the Harry Osborne riding area near Lyman. They were concerned about hearing a lot of gunshots in the area. The deputy explained that there was a gravel pit in the area, which is maintained by DNR. DNR has allowed shooting in a safe manner in the past, and this was likely shots coming from that same gravel pit. This area is closed to the riding trails and all parties need to use common sense and respect safe boundaries.

—Compiled by Sgt. Chris Kading

Sunday School, cont. from p. 30

maybe they need to have a fun game night at your house first. Why not be fun—or funny, if you can? If you're not naturally funny, then find funny things to share. Remember Paul's strong encouragement: “Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice!” Doesn't that way of living draw folks to a person?

May we be the ones who listen and get a sense of humor. Why not? We belong to the King of Comedy.

Bill Mueller preaches at Martha Lake Covenant Church in Lynnwood.

Read Concrete Herald
The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley

Council, cont. from p. 7

The revised ordinance clarifies new parking requirements and is consistent with new fire code information given to the town by the county Fire Marshal.

- Council and the mayor discussed this year's Concrete Fly-In, to be held July 24–26. Planning for the event will be led by Councilmember Jack Mears, along with airport residents Larry Mitchell and Jim Jenkins. Logistics for food vendors, garbage cans, and Sani-Cans were discussed.
- Mayor Miller reported that Imagine Concrete Foundation would present a document to council at its March 23 meeting, outlining options for the Superior Building prior to the Dec. 31, 2015 deadline.

—Compiled by J. K. M.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Bookkeeping

UpRiver Bookkeeping Services

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

Brew pubs

Birdsview Brewing Co.

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

Construction

Don Payne's Backhoe Services

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

Donald K. Moore Construction

Dump truck / Sand / Gravel / Topsoil
Complete excavation and lots, to acreage cleared / log loads, underground utilities available.
Licensed, bonded, and insured
360.853.8525 / Reg. #DONALKMO15KE

Gifts

All Valley Storage & Gifts

31687 SR 20, Ste. 102, Lyman/Sedro-Woolley
Our prices can't be beat! Beanpod candles, home/garden items, decorating ideas, more!
360.826.6001 / allvalleystorageinc@live.com
Online: www.allvalleystorageinc.com

Matty's on Main

45726 Main Street, Concrete
UNIQUE & ANTIQUE / JEWELRY & PAWN
Inventory Clearance: 20 – 50% off!
NEW INVENTORY WEEKLY
360.333.8851

Hair salons

Hair Fitness

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

Liquor stores

Concrete Liquor Store & Convenience Store

45895 Main Street, Concrete // 360.853.7149
Monday thru Saturday 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Sundays Noon to 5 p.m.
Gifts, Rocks, Tobacco, Cigars, and more!

Pawn shops

Gold Nugget Jewelry & Loan

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

Ranches

Double O Ranch, LLC

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

Restaurants

Cascade Burgers

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

Perks Espresso & Deli

Full breakfast, espresso, sub sandwiches, drive-thru and take-out. Find us on Facebook.
M–F, 5 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Sa.–Su. 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.
44586 SR 20, Concrete
360.853.9006

RV Repair

Goldner RV Repair, Concrete

Mobile RV Maintenance & Repair
LP gas systems, water, heating systems, AC/DC electrical
360.826.3303 // rvrepair@frontier.com

Self-storage

Concrete Self-storage

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

Septic services

Cinema Septic

Inspection, troubleshooting and pumping
Serving all of Skagit County
Fred West, owner. 360.466.8753
fred@cinemaseptic.com
www.cinemaseptic.com

Thrift stores

Second Floor Thrift Store

Antiques, Vintage, Collectibles, Thrift
Inside & upstairs at Gold Nugget Pawn Shop
Corner of Hwy 530 & Mt. Loop Hwy, Darrington
Tue. - Fri. 10–6, Sat. 10–5
360.436.1029 www.goldnuggetpawnshop.com

Towing services

Cascades Towing

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Out & About



Home & Garden



Bellingham

Public invited to weigh in on options for Grizzly bear restoration in North Cascades

The public is invited to participate in a series of informational open houses regarding restoration of Grizzly bears in the North Cascades ecosystem. The meetings are being held by the National Park Service (NPS) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) as part of the Grizzly Bear Restoration Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process for the North Cascades ecosystem.

This is the first opportunity for public involvement in the EIS. The purpose of the EIS is to determine whether or not the agencies will take an active role in

restoring the Grizzly bear to the North Cascades Ecosystem.

The public open houses in western Washington will be held at these locations and times:

- Seattle: March 10, 5-7:30 p.m.
Seattle Pacific University
Bertona Classroom 1
103 West Bertona
Seattle, WA 98119
- Bellingham: March 11, 5-7:30 p.m.
Bellingham Central Library
Lecture Room
210 Central Ave.
Bellingham, WA 98227

In addition to these open houses, the public is invited to submit written comments at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/NCEG>. Comments also may be submitted

through March 26, via regular mail or hand delivery, to:

Superintendent's Office
North Cascades National Park Service
Complex
810 SR 20
Sedro Woolley, WA 98284

"This is an important phase in the process of assessing environmental impacts," said NPS Pacific West Regional Director Chris Lehnertz. "Public comment at this stage is critical to ensure that all issues are considered."

The FWS listed the grizzly bear as a threatened species in the lower 48 United States in 1975. The species was listed as endangered by Washington state in 1980.

"The Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan calls on us to fully consider the restoration of the grizzly bear in the North Cascades, and this process will ensure we solicit the public for their input before putting any plan into action," said FWS Pacific Regional Director Robyn Thorson.

The North Cascades ecosystem encompasses 9,800 square miles in the United States and another 3,800 square miles in British Columbia, Canada.

A few grizzly bears have recently been sighted in the Canadian part of the ecosystem, but no grizzly bears have been sighted in the United States portion for several years.

Olympia

WSDOT files lawsuit for bridge collision, collapse

OLYMPIA — The Washington State Department of Transportation on Feb. 2 filed a \$17 million lawsuit to recoup the costs of response and repair after the 2013 collision that caused a portion of the Skagit River Bridge on I-5 to collapse.

On May 23, 2013, a tractor trailer combination with an over-height load struck multiple overhead braces of the I-5 Skagit River Bridge. The force of those strikes severely damaged the bridge and forced its collapse into the river. Two vehicles also fell into the water.

The suit, filed in Skagit County Superior

Court, names four responsible parties: the truck driver; his employer, Mullen Trucking LP; the pilot-car driver; and the owner of the metal shed being transported, Saxon Energy Services, Inc.

The Washington State Patrol Major Accident Investigative Team cited the truck driver for negligent driving, stating the bridge collapse resulted from a series of miscalculations, mistakes, and errors by the truck driver and his employer, including:

- The truck driver did not know the accurate height of his oversized load, and received a permit for a load two inches lower than the one he carried.
- The truck driver failed to research the route to ensure it could accommodate his over-height load. Had he taken the advanced safety steps required of all drivers who haul oversized loads, he would have known the left southbound lane of the bridge provided adequate clearance.
- The pilot car driver was on the phone as she crossed the bridge and did not notify the truck driver of the height clearance pole striking the bridge.
- The truck driver was following the pilot car too closely and would not have been able to stop in time even if the pilot car driver had notified him of the pole strikes.

As owner of the shed that struck the bridge, Saxon Energy Services, Inc. also is financially responsible for the catastrophic damage caused by this collision, according to state law.

Mount Vernon

Search begins for new EDASC executive director

The Economic Development Association of Skagit County (EDASC) has announced that it is conducting a search for an Executive Director in conjunction with Corporate Strategies Search (CSS) in response to Don Wick's recent retirement announcement. Wick has served the communities in Skagit County for nearly three decades at the helm of EDASC, and will retire in July.

Garden Patch

By Gladys Silrus

First, a followup to my trial from last month: I tried starting squash seeds in avocado skins. It worked great, but the seeds are now about 4 inches tall and it's too cold out to plant them in the ground. I will put them in 4-inch pots and see what happens.

This month I want to talk about potatoes. They are one of the easiest and fun root crops. They can be grown in a small area and provide a nice yield. Early spring after last frost (May 10) is the best time to plant them. Here are a few hints on how to grow potatoes in the garden.

Selecting potatoes: Choose only certified seed potatoes, which are free of insect or diseases and have not been treated with a growth retardant. Garden center, nurseries, and hardware stores are a few places to look for them.

Soil preparation: Potatoes grow in average soil, so a great deal of soil preparation is not needed. However, adding some compost or a little peat moss, and either a 5-10-10 or 10-20-20 fertilizer is beneficial. Mix into soil prior to planting. Avoid using fresh manure or offlime in the soil; it tends to cause scab on the potatoes.

Cutting potatoes: If the seed potatoes are small to medium in size, plant the whole potato. If they are large, you can cut them in half, or quarter them. Each section should have two or three "growth eyes." After cutting, wait three to four hours to let the cut callous over before planting.

Planting: Potatoes can be grown in many ways.

1. Field growing: If you have a lot of room, space plants about a foot apart in rows that are spaced two to three feet apart. Cover with about an inch of soil. Pull in additional soil as the plants develop. Make sure surface tubers are covered with soil.
2. Hilling or mounding: Three or four pieces of potatoes are planted on a mound of soil, pulling soil up as the potatoes develop.
3. Straw: For centuries, Scandinavians have grown potatoes in stacks of straw or other mulching material.

Potatoes are planted above ground in the straw, and as the vines grow, more straw or mulch is mounted up around the base of the plant. This method results in a cleaner potato, and new potatoes can be harvested easily, even before the vines mature completely.

4. Under plastic or in plastic garbage bags: Garden soil or a commercial potting soil can be used in the bags. Fold over top half of bag, fill with soil, plant prepared potato seeds. Place the bags where you want them and punch holes in the bottom for drainage before you fill with soil; they will be too heavy to move around. A nice sunny place is ideal.

5. You can plant under black plastic too: Prepare the soil and place black plastic over the soil. Cut a hole in the plastic and plant the potato pieces. They will develop as they would in the open ground. However, the tubers close to the surface of the soil are shaded by the plastic and shouldn't develop the green inedible portion that are found on other surface tubers. The black plastic will aid in controlling weeds too.
6. Garbage cans or containers: Old garbage cans or wooden or fiberboard-type containers work great if you have a small space. Create drainage by drilling holes on the bottom and along the sides from top to bottom. Place about 4 to 5 inches of soil in the bottom; place pieces on top; cover with more soil. As the plant grows, cover with more soil up to the top of the vine until you can't get any more soil in the can. Let vines die back, then harvest.

Caution: Plants tend to dry rapidly when grown in containers, so more watering will be needed. Lack of water will lead to misshapen tubers.

This is my favorite way of growing potatoes. You can move it around if they need more sun and when it is time to harvest, take the container to the compost pile, dump it, and bam, you have potatoes!

6. Watering: Black or hollow centers on potatoes is often caused by over watering. Irregular watering causes irregular shaped or knobby potatoes. Water (thoroughly) weekly during

Spring has sprung

By Christie Fairchild

"Spring has sprung, the grass has riz', I wonder where the robins is?"

This little ditty, one that I attribute to my mom's humorous talent for words, is forever engraved in my memory, especially this time of year. She and I share our birthdays at the end of March, and even her name, Verna, means spring. So I dedicate this article to her, as she celebrates her 95th spring!

This changing of the seasons is an exciting time. During spring (also known as the Vernal Equinox), Earth's axis is increasing its tilt relative to the sun, and the day length rapidly increases for the relevant hemisphere. Days and nights are both approximately 12 hours long each, hence the term "equinox," meaning equal night. The northern hemisphere begins to warm significantly, causing new plant growth to "spring forth," giving the season its common name.

While spring is a result of the warmth caused by the changing orientation of the earth's axis relative to the sun, the weather in many parts of the world is overlain by events that appear very erratic, taken on a year-to-year basis. Rainfall in spring or any other season is related more

to cycles created by ocean currents and temperatures. Well-researched examples include the El Nino effect, the Southern Oscillation Index, and of course, climate change.

The beginning of spring is not always determined by fixed calendar dates. The phenological or ecological definition of spring relates to biological indicators: blossoming of plant species, certain activities of animals, the special rich smell of soil that has warmed enough for micro flora to flourish. In the Upper Skagit, the croaking of the first frog, the cheeps of the first returning robins, and the chattering of awakening squirrels are all welcome sounds, as are the sights of emerging stinging nettles and budding Indian plum bushes.

Spring is seen as a time of growth and renewal, of new life being born. The term is also used more generally as a metaphor for the start of better times, after the long, dark, cold winter.

Let spring find you rejoicing in yet another new season, planning your garden, and shedding a few outer layers as you soak up some Vitamin D when the sun comes out!

warmer summer weather. If it is a real rainy season, put a lid on top to help with too much water.

7. Harvesting: New young potatoes are harvested when peas are ripe or as the plants begin to flower. For full size, harvest them when the vines turn yellow or have died back.
8. Storage: Keep harvested potatoes in the dark, with temperatures about 40 degrees.
9. Varieties: White Rose is the best-known variety. They are nice for boiling and potato salad, but not for baking. Fair for storing.

Netted Gem: a popular variety. One of the best for baking, this late russet Burbank stores well.

Kennebec: a late-maturing white, excellent for fries, chips, baking, and hashbrowns.

Norgold Russet: an excellent early variety for baking or boiling. Doesn't store too well.

Yellow Finn: a smaller potato with a yellow interior of excellent flavor. Great for baking in the microwave and stores moderately well.

Red Pontiac: red-skinned variety of average quality. Stores quite well.

Red Norland: well-rounded red variety that has good qualities for baking or boiling.

These are just a few varieties; there are many more for the home gardener. Until next month, happy gardening!

Send gardening questions to Gladys. Call her at 360.826.4848, or write to her at gsilrus@frontier.com or 42002 Pine St., Concrete, WA 98237.

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Dwelleysms

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

“The go-getter and the tearer-downer differ by a single word in their approach. The first one stands up and says, ‘I think ...’ The other guy waits until all the others are through and says, ‘I don’t think ...’”

“Despite demands from this group or that, we think the state needs a respite from any new taxes at all. If the boys in Olympia would hold firm just one time, it would give all state agencies two years to show just how good they can be at operating efficiently without being spoon-fed. Any lack of ability would be bound to reveal itself, and we might even find some spending practices that would not even be missed.”

“Getting off the moon is a problem to which scientists will now direct their attention. History has shown that entering a new frontier may present difficulty, but nothing to compare with getting back alive to tell about it.”

“Ever notice how the role of horse and automobile have been completely reversed? The horse used to be the necessity and is now the luxury. The car started out as the rich man’s toy.”

“Middle age is that time of life when your ambition at breakfast time never quite checks out with your accomplishments by supper time.”

—April 1, 1965

“In spite of the fact that everyone can do it, work has become a spectator sport. We’d rather watch.”

—April 8, 1965

“Rumors of a gold rush at Rockport are just what we want to hear. Nothing sparks an area like a good dose of enthusiasm, be it what it may. More money is spent in looking for mines than has ever been dug from them. Offhand, a gold strike sounds like just what our economy doctor would order.”

—April 22, 1965

“As it always has been, the first thing to do when there is public money to be given

away is to establish a line between the needy and the greedy.”

“Anyone who tells you all people are alike and one is just as good as another has his specs smoked on the inside. There are all stages of difference in being what could be termed ‘good.’ Some people use soap; others do not. That is enough of proof in itself. Then take the people who build parks, playgrounds, public and private beauty spots for all to enjoy, and see how all their efforts can be cancelled by those who feel their task on earth is to destroy them. All people are good, we may say, but it’s what they are good at that bothers.”

—April 29, 1965

“The earthquake last week served notice that at any given moment, the Lord has means of getting your undivided attention.”

“Our new hospital is an electronic marvel. Now if only it can be fitted with a painless billing system.”

“The earthquake will cost the state \$15 million. At that price, we’d hate to offer the citizens a choice between having a quake or a legislative session. We’d bet they would prefer the quake.”

“Even if you were placed here by the accident of birth, there is no reason to accidentally leave the scene.”

—May 6, 1965

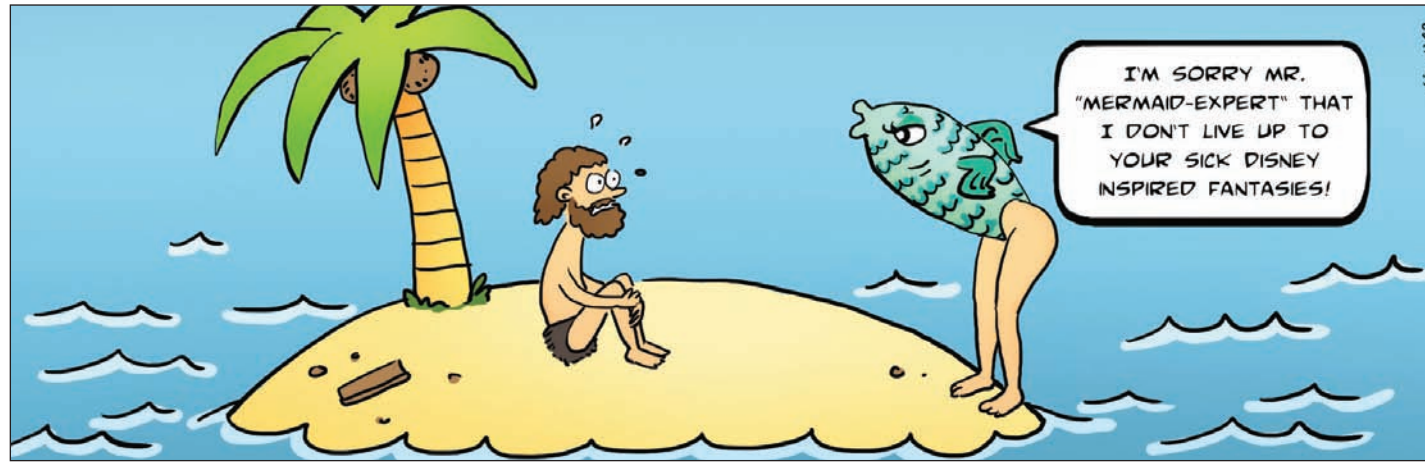
“Readers often remark that newspapers should print only the unvarnished truth. We small-town editors prefer to apply a tactful gloss. We’d rather be read than dead.”

—May 27, 1965

“You have to give credit where credit is due. TV has certainly made bad taste popular.”

—June 3, 1965

Public Service Announcement



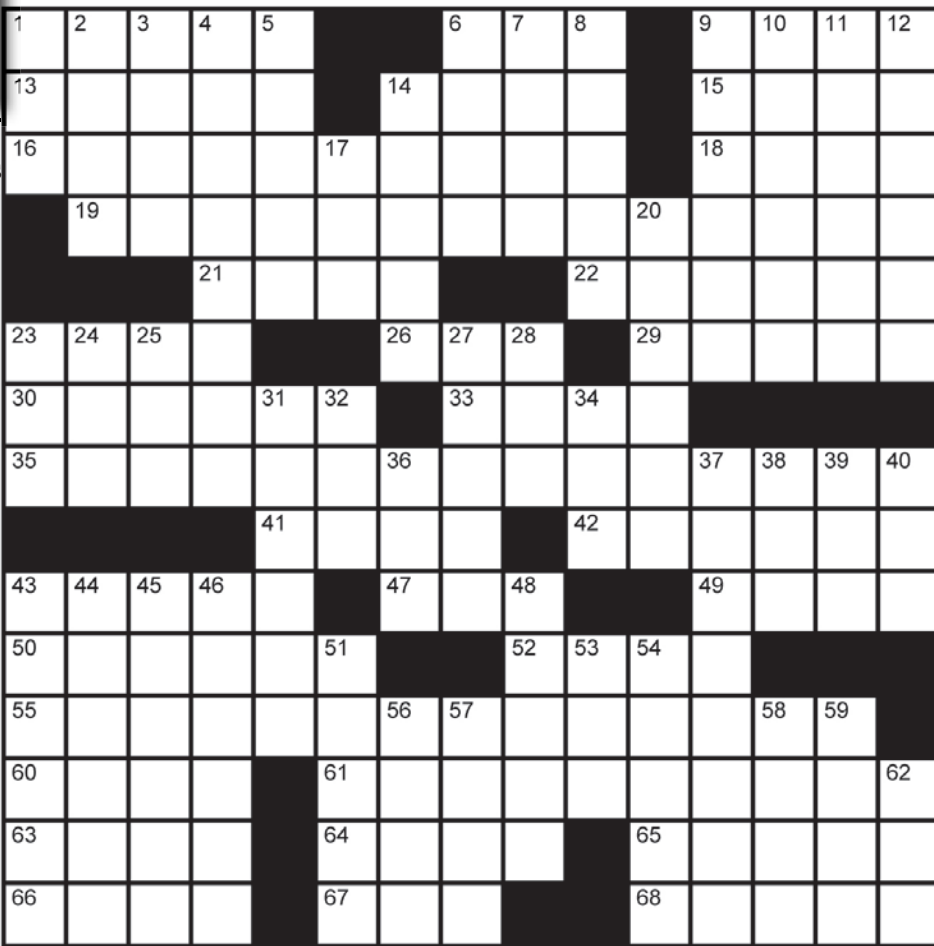
Concrete Harold

By Joyce Harris



By Stig Kristensen

Crossword: “Going crazy”



Across

- 1. Island nation east of Fiji
- 6. Stubborn one
- 9. Aerobic bit
- 13. Milky gems
- 14. Mine entrance
- 15. Drive_____
- 16. Justice
- 18. Viva-voce
- 19. Needs to tighten a bolt?
- 21. Use a keyboard
- 22. Food tray
- 23. “_____ Christianity” (Lewis title)
- 26. Confer knighthood
- 29. Facebook members
- 30. _____ Bowl
- 33. Try, as a case
- 35. Pests in the steeple?
- 41. Bridges of Los Angeles County
- 42. Woman’s hat
- 43. Highlanders, e.g.
- 47. First name?
- 49. Symbol
- 50. Breath sweetener
- 52. Heave

- 55. In a baseball position?
- 60. Carbon monoxide’s lack
- 61. Like Brutus
- 63. Last call?
- 64. Microprocessor type
- 65. Ecru
- 66. Open, as an envelope
- 67. Army member
- 68. Pioneer in Surrealism

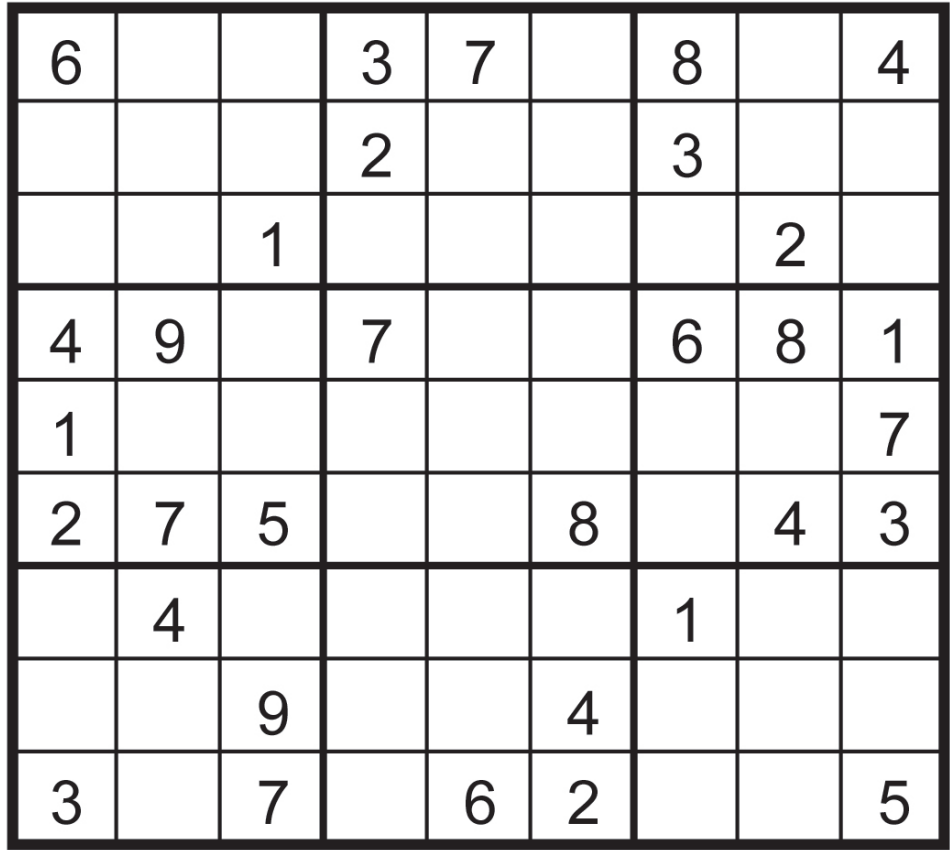
Down

- 1. Arnold or Jones
- 2. Brilliantly colored fish
- 3. Kashmir clan
- 4. Shines
- 5. Test
- 6. Month before Nisan
- 7. Net-surfer’s stop
- 8. Burgoos, e.g.
- 9. Places to sit
- 10. Flourished
- 11. Magical Mr. Clean product?
- 12. Whining ones
- 14. Like a rainbow
- 17. Medicinal amt.
- 20. Mediterranean evergreen

- 23. Kind of rule
- 24. Bygone polit. cause
- 25. Blackguard
- 27. “Yeah”
- 28. Drone, e.g.
- 31. Guitar brand
- 32. Compass reading
- 34. 2, on an ATM
- 36. Playing marble
- 37. Laggard
- 38. TV monitor?
- 39. Density symbol
- 40. It’s made in Japan
- 43. Darts
- 44. Posterior
- 45. Marine mollusks
- 46. Dryness
- 48. Some nerve
- 51. The “U” in UHF
- 53. Astern
- 54. Weeper of myth
- 56. Actress Gray
- 57. Certain protest
- 58. Beef buy
- 59. Udders
- 62. Collector’s goal

Sudoku

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



*Solutions to both puzzles are on p. 39.

Funny as Facebook

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

- “I think the only commercials that need to be shown between Supernanny breaks are birth control commercials.”
- “Good news! I just took one of those totally legit, highly scientific and tested online quizzes and I am not a sociopath. You all can rest easy now that I have official proof.”
- “I saw an interview with a couple who was married for a long time (like, 80 years). When asked their secret to a long marriage, the woman said, ‘I always let him have my way.’”
- “To the guy who just had to pass me so you could get two minutes ahead of me: It was nice to give you the friendly hello wave at the red light we were at together.”
- “Amtrak runs two trains between D.C. and Raleigh: the Carolinian (to Charlotte) and the Silver Star (to Miami). Alas, I chose incorrectly, and thus will spend six hours stuck in a metal tube with scores of people who are going to Florida.”
- “Goodness, having your eyes dilated sucks! Why have they not invented drops to reverse this after they’re done with the exam? I want to go outside and ride [my horse], but I can’t see! Yes, this was my first real eye exam. Yes, I turn 40 this year. No, I don’t need glasses! 20/20, baby!”
- “So I’m sitting here, reading my library book, when I start the next chapter and nothing makes sense; it’s like I missed something. It’s then I realize that I’ve gone from page 186 to 219—and then I realize that there are three chapters missing from my book!”
- “Dear Monkey Children: Thou shall not take pictures of your junk. It never ends well. Especially if your mother—this mother—finds out.”
- “A Nigerian scammer has called more than 400 times with promises to give me \$2.2 million if I send him \$400. I’ve strung this guy along for days with excuses why I haven’t sent him the money. Tonight I’m playing Woody Woodpecker cartoons while he thinks I’m driving to the bank at 8 p.m. ...”

The Man in the Mud Room

By Nicola Pearson

Editor's note: This is the third installment of a monthly serialized story by award-winning author and playwright Nicola Pearson of Sauk City. Future installments will appear on this page each month during 2015 until the story is complete. Previous installments are posted at www.concrete-herald.com.

Lange kept a utility flashlight sitting on a shelf next to the door, which he grabbed on his way out. As soon as he'd cleared the threshold, he felt the cold of the October evening again and tugged the zipper on his fleece back up under his chin.

He trotted down the steps and turned to the right, intending to head for the gate to his property, where he knew he could get cell phone reception, but after just a few strides he remembered the spot between his firewood pile and his yurt, where he'd received the call from Suleka. Why go all the way out to the gate if he didn't need to, he asked himself.

Lange abruptly turned to the right again and took a dozen steps toward his firewood. He switched the flashlight from his right hand to his left and pulled his cell phone out of his pocket. He looked for bars; nothing. He walked a few more paces; still nothing. He took his eyes off the phone and shone the flashlight over the ground to see if he could find the tracks from the wheelbarrow and stumbled on some bracken underfoot. He pitched clumsily sideways two steps, his right arm extending out reflexively as a counterbalance, and heard his cell phone chime, meaning he had a voicemail. He bounced immediately to the place where his hand had been and spied the bars of service. He ignored the two voicemails indicated on the screen and dialed Deller's number from memory. She picked up instantly.

"Are you on your way?"
"On my way where?"
"Didn't you get my voicemails?"
Lange paused. "I just found service on my property."
"Meaning you didn't listen to them, right?"

He imagined she was giving him a piercing look with her dark brown eyes and squaring off her shoulders to disinvite backtalk. "I thought it would be quicker

just to call you."

There was a pause. Deller's tone was softer when she spoke again and Lange knew that she'd remembered he was just a helper here, not one of her deputies. "I was hoping you'd come and take a look around the Breckenridge property." Lange didn't say anything. "I assume you've heard about this?"

He hadn't said anything because he was wondering how much he could do at this hour. "Suleka gave me the basics but ... it's dark."

"Not inside the house it isn't."
"But she didn't go missing inside the house."

"You sure about that?"

Lange's adrenaline spiked. "You're thinking something happened inside the house?"

"Well I'm not...."

"Why? What did you find?"

"It's not exactly what we found ..."

"Are you there now? Can I come over?"

"I was hoping you would." Frankie

Deller's tone was pointed and Lange ran quickly through all the possibilities why. "Is the husband there right now?"

"Uh huh."

"And you think he's involved?"

"Mmmmmmm," murmured Deller, in a high enough pitch to indicate it was a possibility.

Lange didn't need to know more. He was feeling the signs of the hunt and wanted to get started as soon as possible. "Can you text me the address?" he said striding once more toward the door to his yurt. Then he remembered the spotty service on his property and pulled the phone away from his ear. Damn—call failed! He rushed back to where he'd been standing and looked at his phone, but the service indicator gave him no bars. He lifted the phone high above his head and moved it around. Still nothing. He reached the other way, down toward the ground, and it rang. He thrust his right ear down to the phone, eager not to miss the call, and answered with his butt up in the air. "Yes?" he shouted, as if the level of his voice might make a difference to whether he kept the person on the line or not.

"You don't have to yell," said Deller. "I can hear you."
"Well I lost you there ..."
"I gathered that."

Lange was irked that she wasn't picking up on his sense of urgency. "And I'm in kind of an awkward position ..."

"Me too!" responded Deller and Lange knew she meant with the husband being there. "I'll text you the address, but—"

"I'll ride my bike over."

"If you'll let me finish," insisted Deller and Lange bit down on his urge to tell her to hurry up before he got a crick in his back. "Suleka's on her way over to get you."

"She is?"

Almost as soon as he said it, Lange heard Suleka's Nissan chugging down his driveway toward him. He swiveled around to face her in his forward bend and instantly lost Deller again. He snapped himself upright, but Suleka had already seen him with his butt in the air and called out the open window of her truck, "Well I'm not surprised you bark when you answer the telephone if you do it cramped over like that!"

Callum Lange twitched his lips, searching for a pithy reply, but when nothing came to mind, he huffed, "Let me close the wood stove down and then we can leave."

Suleka was already halfway out the Nissan however. "We're not going anywhere till I've had a chance to look at that Pirateer board."

Lange was already on the move and flapped his hand dismissively. "We don't have time for that!"

"You don't, maybe. But I do. I'm assuming you made your move."

"I did. But Deller made it sound urgent."

"That's okay. It won't take me but a second."

"You can't know that!" She'd caught up with him at the door to his yurt and he stood back, letting her pass in front of him.

"S' nice and warm in here," she said, making straight for the game board. "What time did you get home?"

"I don't know. Ten minutes ago maybe." He strode across to his woodstove and threw another piece of wood on the small fire.

"Your woodstove is pretty efficient to have got this place so toasty in 10 minutes."

"It is, but I also have the electric heaters running off the hydro." He tightened down the last of the drafts on the stove, straightened back up and turned around to find Suleka standing right behind him. "You made your move already?!"

She just smiled as he rushed back to the board. "Do you have groceries in this backpack?" She was pointing at the blue

and grey daypack he'd deposited on the footstool.

"My ice cream!" Lange wailed.

"Don't worry, I'll get it." She flapped her hand at him as if he should go back to what he was doing. "Just don't spend too long looking at the board."

But the 60-year-old ex-detective from NYC had already seen the move she'd made; she'd taken his thistle ship, got back the gold and was heading for her harbor unimpeded. Damn! He took a big breath in, extending every inch of his 6-foot-1 frame and ballooning his chest, then deflated instantly, with a noisy huff of frustration. He glanced at the clock across the yurt, next to his bed, and marked down the time on their score sheet. Now he was back to having 24 hours. "I wish I knew what makes you so good at this," he grumbled.

Suleka closed the door to the freezer, flipped her long, dark braid over her shoulder and slipped her hands inside the front of her denim overalls to rest on her plump belly. "You've got to think like a pirate to catch a pirate."

"Whatever that means," he grumbled, crossing the yurt to head out the door again.

Suleka ran her eyes around the circle of the yurt. "I don't see any electric heaters."

"They're under the floor."

"That's where the heat's coming from?"

She stepped out of one of her muck boots and put her foot directly on the plywood floor. She giggled as she felt the warmth radiate through her green and yellow striped sock. "This is delicious," she told Lange.

He rolled his eyes although truly, he was pleased. He'd always wanted to live in a place with radiant floor heat and even though the yurt was only temporary, he'd decided to try it out. Especially since he'd found a way to have free electricity. "We really should get going," he told her. She slipped her boot back on. "You know, the creek on my property is pretty steep."

He stepped past her and opened the door. "Maybe you could show me how to make hydro-electricity."

"Maybe." He motioned for her to step outside and when she did, he closed the door behind her. Then he looked up at the sky. There were stars everywhere, shimmering in the night sky like sequins on a country singer's dress. He wondered whether the missing woman was somewhere in these mountains, looking up at these same stars.

"You coming?" Suleka asked.

See **Mud Room**, p. 39

Mud Room, cont. from p. 38

He flipped around and saw her standing halfway between his yurt and her truck. He crossed the small platform outside his door in two strides and trotted down the steps. "This missing woman," he remarked as he came up alongside Suleka. "Why does Deller think the husband is involved?"

"Margi's husband?" They walked together the last few feet to the Nissan and broke apart to go to their respective doors. Suleka took hold of the handle on the driver's side and shrugged at Lange over the top of the cab. "Maybe because he's dating a 23-year-old?"

Lange pushed his lips tighter together; that would explain it.

Continued next month ...

Letters, cont. from p. 2

and, by extension, current and past governors of our state.

Created by pseudo-scientists, enterprising bureaucrats, and self-serving politicians, Ecology's "instream flow rules" are the epitome of government incompetence, corruption, and contempt. Legal battles costing taxpayers millions of dollars have had no effect on agency management and staff who, to this day, continue to brag about imagined achievements while ignoring the financial suffering of well-owners.

Crafters of the original Skagit River "Rule" included local governments, municipal water purveyors, and tribal interests who focused their attentions largely on personal and/or professional goals. Documents later provided to the local Advisory Committee indicated

Sudoku solution, from p. 37

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

that domestic wells were discussed, yet impacts of "permit exempt" well withdrawals were apparently not significant enough to warrant scientific analyses. Consequently, the language intended to protect these wells was set aside, thereby spawning a nightmare for rural landowners in Skagit County.

Key players responsible for the original Skagit Rule are now engaged in other pursuits and are either unwilling or unable to comment on the results of their actions. Meanwhile, the State Supreme Court decision, which brought Ecology to its knees in 2013, has had unintended consequences of immeasurable proportion.

As the public's disbelief and disgust continues to grow, residents from Kennewick to Port Angeles are taking action. Meanwhile, Senator Kirk Pearson (39th District) has introduced a bill to the Legislature claiming a "critical need to establish" a new water agency that will be "accountable to the voters." In order to terminate Ecology's authority over our water, citizen support of Senate Bill 5801 is imperative.

*Diane Freethy
Sedro-Woolley*

Kudos for Concrete

Please know that I read your publication with total pleasure. Thank you for the good work.

I moved to Skagit County (Mount Vernon area) in 1958 and have watched a lot of change. Concrete was a backwoods town then; now it has become a lovely place for folks to build a life, raise a family, and enjoy a fine community. I'm too old to make the move, but I surely enjoy reading about Concrete.

*Patricia Brakke
Burlington*

Crossword solution, from p. 37

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
T	O	N	G	A		A	S	S		S	T
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Happy note from a goat

Hello. This is my first letter, but I'm a goat (she calls me her lawn mower and weed eater).

For the afternoon of Mardi Gras in Concrete, I was dressed up in purple and green bows. I was fed treats repeatedly. I persevered. Everyone seemed happy with my presence! Just standing there, people were eager to meet me! Walking alongside Christie (Fairchild's) float with Jumbled Pie was great. Music, laughter, and happiness with everyone (mostly humans). The music was exhilarating! At Bear Square we danced, laughed, and talked with our mayor, Jason.

Lo and behold, my owner and I were awarded the "Best-Dressed Pet" prize! (I didn't know I was a "pet.")

Thank you, Concrete! Center of our universe, for sure.

*Cracker Jack
"pet" goat, Sauk City*

Interpretive Center thanks partners and visitors

The Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center (SRBEIC) at Howard Miller Steelhead Park had a successful 2014–2015 season! The staff and board of the Skagit River Bald Eagle Awareness Team wish to acknowledge those individuals who contributed funds, time, and effort to the functioning of the Interpretive Center. Thank you for your commitment to our mission of environmental education and honoring the eagles in our midst.

Through valuable partnerships, a dedicated board and volunteers, critical donors and participating public, we are enhancing an understanding of the Skagit River watershed with its visiting salmon and eagles. Numerous sponsors and partners provided the funds and support to operate the Interpretive Center this season. We could not fly without you. Thank you!

The SRBEIC had more than 2,800 regional, national, and international visitors during a two-month period. Many people attended our 11 special presentations covering various environmental topics. Our school program, senior groups, and guided nature walks were well attended. We appreciate the public's significant donations, wonderful votes for our advocacy work.

The SRBEIC will reopen next winter season during weekends in December 2015 through January 2016. For more information, go to www.skagiteagle.org.

Cora Thomas

Skagit River Bald Eagle Awareness Team

2014–15

Classifieds

MOVIES & EVENTS AT THE HISTORIC CONCRETE THEATRE

WEEKEND MOVIE SCHEDULE:

Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Sat., 5 and 7:30 p.m.;

Sun., 4 and 6:30 p.m.

TIX: \$8 general admission, \$7 for 65

and over/12 and under

24-hour MovieLine: 360.941.0403

www.concrete-theatre.com

EMPLOYMENT

Drivers wanted. Dave's Towing. 360.853.7433.

Deputy Clerk. Town of Concrete is accepting applications for the position of Deputy Clerk.

Applications must be received no later than 12:00 p.m., Friday, March 13, 2015.

Requirements: The successful applicant must have graduated from a standard high school, vocational school or equivalent, and be able to keep accurate and legible records; type accurately; use calculator, duplicating machines, and computer; and maintain a courteous, cooperative relationship with the public and co-workers. Must be proficient in computer-based programs and software. Must be able to take notes, prepare final documents from notes, speak and write clearly, communicate ideas clearly, and make arithmetical calculations accurately. Applicant must be organized and able to multi-task. Duties include daily receipting and banking, business license and dog license issuance and tracking, utility billing, and accounts payable.

For an application, full job description, or for more information, contact Town of Concrete at 360-853-8401, P.O. Box 39, 45672 Main St., Concrete, WA 98237, e-mail andrea@concretewa.gov, or go to www.townofconcrete.com.

Town of Concrete reserves the right to cancel this notice at any time prior to or after the date that applications are due.

Town of Concrete is an equal opportunity employer.

Published in the March 2015 issue of *Concrete Herald*.

PROPERTIES FOR LEASE

Model Building. 45908 Main St., Concrete Town Center. 35 cents per square ft., all or part. Will build to suit. 509.477.9072 or 509.322.8938. Or call Eldon Massingale in Concrete: 360.770.8164.

SERVICES

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

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

Concrete Herald
The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley

We Accept Your Rx Insurance *and we know you by name.*

At Skagit Regional Clinics Pharmacies, we know you by name. We know your physician by name, and we work directly with them to make sure you get accurate, dependable service. We still accept all forms of prescription insurance at each of our three convenient locations, so you can be confident you'll get the personal, professional attention you deserve.



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Pharmacist

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Jackie Diercks, Pharm.D.
Pharmacist

RIVERBEND
2320 Freeway Drive
Mount Vernon
360-814-6840
Monday to Friday
9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.



Chris Schaffner, Pharm.D.
Pharmacist

SEDRO-WOOLLEY
1990 Hospital Drive
360-854-2760
Monday to Friday
9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.



For more information, please call **360-428-2500** or visit

srclinics.org

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**24" Poly
Leaf Rake**

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**Special
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Your Choice

While Supplies Last!

3⁹⁹ Each

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**1 Cu. Ft.
Flower & Garden
or Tree & Shrub Soil**

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**\$2
Mail-in
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Spring is coming!

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Sale ends 3/31/15

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