

The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley

## Concrete World

Vol. 99, No. 3

March 2016

concreteworld.com

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## IN THIS ISSUE

**Projects to transform west end of Silo Park**

Concrete is working to give life to ideas for developing Silo Park. Three initial projects—a park and ride, a spray park, and a bouldering wall—are in various stages of securing funding and beginning production. *Page 4.*

**Dam safety exercise will test emergency coordination**

Seattle City Light, Puget Sound Energy, the Departments of Emergency Management from Skagit and Whatcom counties, and emergency responders from both counties will participate in a real-time exercise March 16. *Page 6.*

**CHS student wins essay contest**

Patrick Johnson, a student at Concrete High School, won second place and \$500 in last month's Skagit Democrats Essay Contest, for which 60 students countywide submitted essays. *Page 13.*

**Skagit water bill passes senate committee**

Senator Kirk Pearson's plan to give Skagit River Basin landowners a chance at using water on their property cleared its first committee hurdle on Feb. 4. *Page 19.*

**Pearson pens first children's book**

Sauk City playwright and novelist Nicola Pearson has written her first children's book, in which she explores time with style: *The Lost Hour*. *Page 23.*



# McKenzie, Olmstead best in state

Pages 8, 24

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# Concrete Herald

The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley

WNPA  
Washington Newspaper Publishers Association

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

Concrete Herald owes its success to citizen journalists and photographers. Proofreading: Katy Tomasulo; Ad Production: Lynn Jefferson; Bookkeeping: Upriver Bookkeeping Services. Local contributors are welcome; call or e-mail Jason Miller at 360.853.8213 or editor@concrete-herald.com.

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## From the editor

# Out of the mouths of babes

For a six-week period that began last month, I'll be popping in to Renata Mapes' fourth grade class at Concrete Elementary School every Thursday and teaching for 45 minutes, using prepared (thankfully!) curriculum courtesy of Junior Achievement. Our topic? Entrepreneurs and how they interact with their communities and regions.

I'm stumbling along gamely, and Miss Mapes is being very forgiving and kind, but just two weeks in, what strikes me most is how quick and clever these kids are. I don't remember being that sharp when I was in the fourth grade (probably because I spent 80 percent of my time gazing fondly at Miss Burrows). I ask a question, and almost every hand shoots up. They know Concrete and the Upper Valley very well, and already have an impressive grip on the rest of the United States.

They also know what they want to see in Concrete, and I'm pleased that the town's current efforts dovetail nicely with the majority of their wishes.

—J. K. M.

"The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now."  
— Chinese Proverb



Plant trees to improve habitat for salmon and much more!

## Iron Mountain Ranch Planting Party

Saturday, March 12th  
10 AM to 1 PM

For details and directions visit [skagitfisheries.org](http://skagitfisheries.org)

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# Opinion

## Letters to the editor

### Participate in democracy

The Republicans held their caucuses on Feb. 20. The Democrats will have theirs on March 26. As Concrete High School student and essay contest winner Patrick Johnson said in his essay, "If you think democracy and freedom are worth fighting for, then participate, and keep our democracy a democracy."

Please go to [www.skagitdemocrats.org](http://www.skagitdemocrats.org) and see where your caucus will be held for your precinct. Good government is up to you!

Bill Pfeifer  
Concrete

### Thanks for brilliant cartoon

I just wanted to share my thanks to *Concrete Herald* cartoonist Joyce Harris for her brilliant and brave rendition of the mindless and dangerous political insanity raising its ugly head in America today.

Please people, THINK for yourselves—our future is at stake.

Christie Fairchild  
Rockport

### KSVU thanks community

In response to our annual pledge drive, local community radio station KSVU's requests were heard: We are wanted, needed, and appreciated by our upriver communities! On the air for almost five years, KSVU 90.1 FM will expand our broadcast power and our radio show offerings in the near future, thanks to the new and renewing members and underwriters from these communities:

- Darrington: Auburn and John Parent
- Marblemount: Anne Danford, Karen Krauch, Rose Oliver, Marren Yarborough, Debo North, Rick

- Bannerman, and Samantha Reichert
- Rockport: Dana Barton, Art Olson, Christie Fairchild, Terri Wilde, Tara McGown, Kevin Crozier, Katie Philbrick, Richard Lewis, John ("Peace Wizard") Bromet, Don Smith and Cherie Donovan-Smith, and Glenn Good and Kathy Brady-Good.
- Concrete: T. W. Ketchum, Cheri Cook-Blodgett, Sally Pfeifer, Monica Crosson, Wolfe Hair Designs, Northwest Garden Bling, Ray Davis, Renae and Earnest Jackson, Barbara Trask, and Albert's Red Apple Market
- Lyman: Richard Lawry, Cindy Bjorklund
- Sedro-Woolley: James Johnson, Gale Hines
- North Hollywood, California: Bill and Karla Richards Jr.

For those who may have missed the big push during Pledge Drive Week (Feb. 1–7), you may call and pledge anytime at 360.853.8588, or go to our Web site at [www.ksvu.org](http://www.ksvu.org) and follow the directions on the "donate" button.

Thanks again, dear listeners/readers!  
Christie Fairchild  
On behalf of KSVU volunteers

See Letters, p. 39

### Letters policy

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

### Inside

Opinion .....	2	Lyman .....	18	Obituaries .....	30
Sports .....	8	Day Creek .....	19	Sheriff's blotter .....	31
Academics .....	12	Hamilton .....	22	Local columns .....	32
Clear Lake .....	14	Rockport .....	23	Business Directory .....	33
Community Calendar .....	15	Darrington .....	24	Out & About .....	34
Community Meetings .....	15	Marblemount .....	26	Smile .....	36
Sedro-Woolley .....	16	Newhalem .....	27	Classifieds .....	39
		Seniors .....	28		
		Sunday School lesson .....	30		

## Message from the mayor

By Jason Miller

Things are starting to heat up in Silo Park. This month I'm going to push hard to get new equipment installed in the playground (the delay was caused by our Public Works staff dealing with more time-sensitive projects). Now that spring is about to pop, we'll want those pieces in place so the kids have something new to play on.

The park and ride should "go to ad" in mid to late March, meaning we'll begin advertising for a contractor to build that amenity. (See Haley McNeale's article on p. 4 for details on this and the next two items.)

We have a grant application in for funding a proposed bouldering wall that would be installed along the north face of the silos. And we're still holding our breath that our new strategy for funding our proposed water park will—ahem—hold water.



Speaking of holding one's breath, the wastewater treatment plant continues to limp along even as we scramble for funding to upgrade the three major components that are causing 99 percent of the trouble. We're looking at about a \$1.2 to \$1.3 million price tag for all three components, and the most frustrating part is having to wait for the grant funding cycles to arrive. We're ready to apply now!

I'm thankful for our Public Works Director Alan Wilkins, who keeps the plant running and updates me regularly on its performance.

In the meantime, everyone in town will be doing their fellow citizens a favor if they flush only what's meant to be flushed. Enough said? Maybe not: Flush only toilet paper and what comes out of your body naturally. Everything else goes in the garbage can.

This month I also intend to plant the remaining three or four cherry trees along the west edge of Veterans Memorial Park. What a site that row will be when they mature and blossom!

Concrete Mayor Jason Miller can be reached at [goodwords@frontier.com](mailto:goodwords@frontier.com) or 360.853.8213.

## Comprehensive Plan + Shoreline Updates



Skagit County is performing its periodic update of its **Comprehensive Plan** as required by the Growth Management Act, including changes to the policy text, zoning map, development regulations, and Countywide Planning Policies. Adoption is expected by the end of June.

public hearing  
Tuesday, April 5 at 6 p.m.

written comments due  
Thursday, April 14 at 4:30 p.m.

learn more at  
[www.skagitcounty.net/2016update](http://www.skagitcounty.net/2016update)

Skagit County is updating its 1970s-era **Shoreline Master Program** (SMP), which regulates shoreline development in unincorporated areas. Preliminary County adoption is expected by the end of June, with final adoption within 18 months.

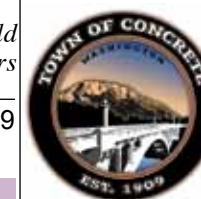
public hearing  
Tuesday, March 15 at 6 p.m.

written comments due  
Monday, April 4 at 4:30 p.m.

learn more at  
[www.skagitcounty.net/smp](http://www.skagitcounty.net/smp)

## How to Submit Comments

1. At the public hearings at 1800 Continental Place in Mount Vernon. Three minutes is allowed per speaker.
2. In writing (preferred) by the deadlines to [pdscomments@co.skagit.wa.us](mailto:pdscomments@co.skagit.wa.us) or 1800 Continental Pl, Mount Vernon WA 98273



## Town of Concrete Volunteer Fire Dept. and Red Cross invite you to protect your family with a FREE smoke alarm!



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To take advantage of this limited time offer, call 360.733.3290, ext. 0, between 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Mon. through Thur. and tell us you're interested in the home fire preparedness campaign.

Installations will occur on the third Saturday of each month. For more information, call Concrete Town Hall at 360.853.8401.



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# Projects to transform west end of Silo Park

Milestones for park and ride, spray park, and bouldering wall anticipated this spring.

By Haley McNealey

Edited by Katy Tomasulo

Concrete Town Council is working to give life to some of the ideas for developing Silo Park that originated from councilmembers and community residents. Three primary projects—a park and ride, a spray park, and a bouldering wall—are in various stages of securing funding and beginning production. “We have a lot happening, and I look forward to seeing everything up and running by this summer,” said Parks Committee Chair Marla Reed.

## Park and Ride

The idea for the park and ride originated with Town Engineer Cody Hart. The town has secured approximately \$476,800 in grant funding from the Dept. of Transportation’s Regional Mobility Program; there are no anticipated expenses to the town directly. In mid-

March, the town will accept bids for the park and ride, from which the council will make its selection.

The proposed design occupies approximately the area enclosed by the existing yellow bollards, and includes about 40 parking stalls and one or two charging stations for electric vehicles. It will also include a SKAT bus stop and two shelters, along with a restroom intended for shared use between the park and ride and the water spray park. Mayor Jason Miller also reports plans for a picnic area immediately east of the park and ride.

## Water Spray Park

Public Works Director Alan Wilkins and Reed first brought forth the concept of the spray park at a Parks Committee meeting about a year ago. The town previously attempted to secure a grant from the

Recreation Conservation Office (RCO), but because the match requirement exceeded the available funds in the town’s budget, the town is now in the process of securing funding through a state budget appropriation. The final day for the current 60-day short legislative session is March 10; the town should know by mid-March if funding for this project will be available.

Town Treasurer Andrea Fichter reports that the town requested around \$199,000 for funding this project, and Mayor Miller stated the cost for the design process is around \$12,000; a preliminary layout has been completed. The spray park will be about 1,500 square feet and will include approximately 18 fixtures that spray water in different ways. The mayor said he has received affirmative feedback from town residents who support the spray park idea, especially the youth population.

is a bouldering wall; this was a popular idea that was discussed at the Imagine Concrete Foundation Workshop held in 2015. “I have wanted to see a climbing wall in this area for several years,” Mayor Miller stated enthusiastically.

A bouldering wall differs from a climbing wall in that the intended direction of travel is horizontal rather than vertical. The proposed bouldering wall would be located on the north face of the silos, 14 feet high, and would cover the length of the silos from east to west. Pea gravel beneath the bouldering wall, approximately 1 foot deep, will help minimize injuries.

From start to finish, the project will cost approximately \$30,000. The town submitted a grant application to RCO in mid-February and expects to find out its status in April.

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

## Bouldering wall

A third project within Silo Park that the town is making an effort to develop



This mockup of the proposed bouldering wall in Silo Park demonstrates the concept of a colored portion on the northern face of the park’s iconic silos, peppered with brightly colored handholds and footholds. The bouldering technique focuses more on horizontal movement than vertical; users would be able to climb up to 14 feet high, then move east or west using the grips, which are bolted in place. Image courtesy of Elevate Climbing Walls.

# Cascade Days organizers seek volunteers, donations

As it enters its 82nd year, Cascade Days remains Concrete’s biggest party. But organizers need help in order to keep the annual favorite going strong.

Concrete Days Committee President John Burmaster and Treasurer Ember LaBounty say the need is greatest in the insurance and volunteer categories.

Insurance for the two-day event should be about \$3,150 this year, said Burmaster. The high premium is a result of one of the Log Show’s most popular events: axe throwing.

Anyone interested in donating should send a check payable to Cascade Days to:

P.O. Box 251  
Concrete, WA 98237

The event is managed by a board of directors. LaBounty said retirements have opened up the vice president, secretary, and two additional board seats, which need to be filled. The board meets on the

third Monday of each month, at 5:30 p.m., in the Pilots’ Lounge at Mears Field.

Volunteers are always needed.

“Hundreds would be nice,” said LaBounty. Volunteer needs include:

- Six to eight needed to help with kids’ activities.
- Someone to head scavenger hunts.
- Garbage pickup and prize pickup.
- Distribute posters and brochures.
- Three to four needed for survey.
- Four to six to sell ducks and buttons prior to weekend of event.

“We like to respond to suggestions for new activities, but those new activities usually need funding and volunteers,” said Burmaster. “We’re always looking for people who want to start a new event and run it.”

To volunteer or join the board, contact LaBounty at 360.853.7867 or ember@cascadedays.com, or Burmaster at info@cascadedays.com.

—J. K. M.

## Smart businesses advertise in the Travelers’ Guide!

Reach visitors to the Upper Skagit Valley by advertising in the 2016 North Cascadian Travelers’ Guide.

The Travelers’ Guide showcases the history and events for visitors to:

Clear Lake, Sedro-Woolley, Lyman, Hamilton, Birdsview, Grasmere, Concrete, Rockport, Darrington, Marblemount, Newhalem, and Diablo.

A Concrete Herald Publication



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May 2016

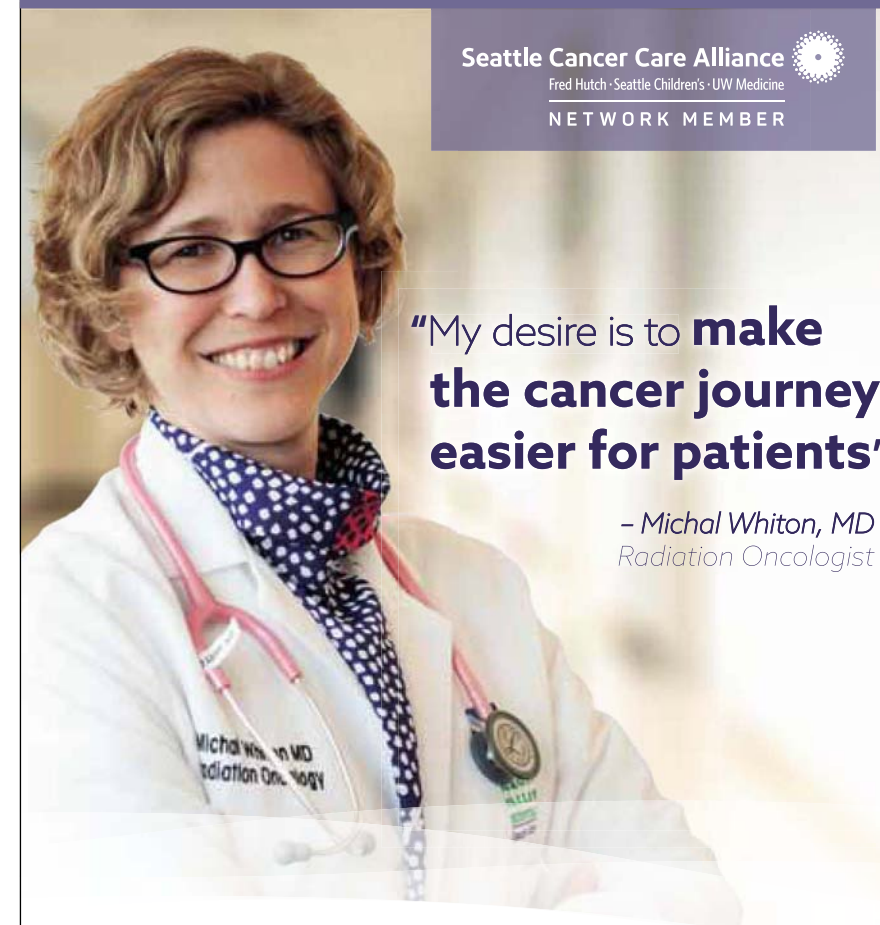
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Pages: 56

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April 18, 2016

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— Michal Whiton, MD  
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Regional Cancer Care Center

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**SATURDAY SUNDAY**  
9 am to 4 pm 10 am to 3 pm

**Cascade Middle School • 905 McGarigle Road**



# City Light, PSE, Skagit, Whatcom counties collaborate on dam safety

## March 16 exercise will test emergency coordination

Seattle City Light, Puget Sound Energy, the Departments of Emergency Management from Skagit and Whatcom counties, and emergency responders from both counties will participate in a dam safety exercise March 16.

"Our goal is to increase efficiency in setting up the emergency coordination center to provide resources to the community in the event a major emergency or disaster occurs," Skagit County Emergency Management Director Mark Anderson said. "By participating in this drill with Seattle City Light and Puget Sound Energy, we are able to evaluate our performance."

Participants will respond in real time to scenarios presented by the exercise, which is designed to practice coordination among the agencies and emergency response, and how to effectively share critical information with the public. The

exercise will run from 7 a.m. until 2 p.m. Participants will use radios and note that their conversations are part of the exercise in case anyone is monitoring on a scanner.

All cities and towns that would be affected by a dam emergency will participate in the exercise. In Concrete, town staff and Mayor Jason Miller will be involved.

Seattle City Light operates three dams at its Skagit Hydroelectric Project on the Skagit River. Puget Sound Energy operates two dams at its Baker River Hydroelectric Project in Concrete. The Baker River is a tributary of the Skagit River.

Federal operating licenses for the dams require City Light and PSE to hold dam safety exercises at least once every five years. By collaborating on a full-scale exercise with nearby emergency management agencies, the utilities are

meeting their regulatory requirements and supporting preparedness efforts throughout the area.

—J. K. M.

## THIS AND THAT

By J. K. M.

Upper Skagit Library Foundation presents **"Frozen in Concrete"** on Sat., March 5, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Concrete Theatre. Spend an afternoon with the real-life author of the most beloved companion books to **"FROZEN,"** Barbara Jean Hicks, as she reads from her books. Sing and dance with Anna and Elsa as they come to life with performers from Emerald Kingdom Parties. Dress up as your favorite character, and have your photo taken with Anna and Elsa.

Tickets are \$20 per child and per adult. Children 12 years and under must be accompanied by an adult. Ages 3 and above require a ticket to attend. Buy tickets at [www.frozeninconcrete.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.frozeninconcrete.brownpapertickets.com).

For more information, e-mail [upperskagitlibraryfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:upperskagitlibraryfoundation@gmail.com), go to [upperskagitlibraryfoundation.org](http://upperskagitlibraryfoundation.org), or call 360.853.7939.

An Indiegogo campaign is slated to kick off March 7 for the **North Mountain Fire Tower Restoration Project** near Darrington.

An Internet announcement will kick off the fundraising period, during which time organizers hope to raise \$30,000.

The tower already has undergone the initial phases of restoration, including replaced beams, a new roof, and a rebuilt outhouse. The next phase will require funding for larger, bigger-ticket elements, such as a lightning arrestor, gravel, interior structures, propane lines, and the

acquisition of an Osborne Fire Finder.

This has been all volunteer community effort thus far and will continue to be so. By meeting the monetary goal, organizers will be able to prepare the tower for nightly rentals scheduled to commence in spring 2017.

Anyone who wishes to donate to this cause should go to [www.indiegogo.com](http://www.indiegogo.com). For more information about the project, go to [www.northmountainlookout.com](http://www.northmountainlookout.com) or find the project on Facebook.

On Sun., March 13, from 8 a.m. to noon, an **All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Breakfast** will be served at the Fredonia Grange, located on SR 20 west of Burlington (take a right onto Farm to Market Rd.)

Eggs, ham, juice, and coffee are on the menu. Admission is \$7 for adults and \$3 for children. Profits will benefit Pregnancy Choices.

Also on the grange front, Pomona Grange again will sponsor a **series of contests** this year, including photography, art, crafts, sewing, and needlework.

The contests will be held on April 6 at Fredonia Grange, 14245 McFarland Rd., Mount Vernon. Check-in is from 9 a.m. to noon, with pickup at 9 p.m.

The event is open to grange members and nonmembers (public). Entry categories can be found on the WA State Grange Web site, [www.wa-grange.com](http://www.wa-grange.com).

For more information, contact Susan Cundance at 360.399.7876 or [valleywindow1@hotmail.com](mailto:valleywindow1@hotmail.com), or Tina Champeaux at 425.350.0217 or [tinac21747@aol.com](mailto:tinac21747@aol.com).

Concrete teens can get back to nature this summer by becoming a **Youth Leadership Adventure** participant. The program is offered by North Cascades Institute, and a scholarship will cover your fee! In a group with other teens, mentors, and trip leaders, students head into the North Cascades and paddle on mountain lakes, backpack through old growth forests, sleep under star-filled skies, develop outdoor leadership skills, and complete restoration service projects.

Two courses are available:

1. *Outdoor Leadership: Conservation, leadership, and outdoor skills*, for ages 14–18, runs June 28 to July 5 or Aug. 9–16.
2. *Science & Sustainability: Field Science, Climate Change, and Leadership*, for ages 16 to 18, runs July 19–26 or Aug. 9–16.

Applications are due by March 28. For more information, go to [www.ncascades.org/youth](http://www.ncascades.org/youth).

## Council summary

*Concrete Town Council met for regular meetings on Feb. 8 and 22. 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](http://www.townofconcrete.com/cminutes.php).*

### Feb. 8 regular meeting

- Council revisited the Skagit River Gene Bank Designation topic. Speakers included Bill Reinard, Bill McMillan, John McMillan, and local business owner Harold Holman. Council also reviewed a letter on the subject from Rockport hunting and fishing guide John Koenig. After much discussion, council tabled the item until a workshop on March 28 at 6 p.m., prior to the regular council meeting at 7 p.m.

**Public Safety:** Sgt. Chris Kading reported the Columbia Bank ATM burglars have been apprehended and are now residents of the Skagit County Jail. He also reported on another town resident who is

currently in jail and waiting for Department of Correction transport.

Mayor Jason Miller asked if the thief of the white BMW that led to Dave Chapman's injury was ever apprehended. Sgt. Kading stated that unfortunately there are no suspects and no evidence was left inside the vehicle to determine possible suspects.

Councilmember Corey Ruiz stated that he would like to meet with Mayor Miller and Sgt. Kading about putting together a Community Watch program. He stated he would like to look into more resources for people who suffer from addiction in Concrete. He stated that he believes these people will either seek help or not continue their illegal behavior, or they will leave the area when there are more people or law enforcement watching their every move.

Sgt. Kading stated that if people see something, they need to say something. He stated that right now the Sheriff's Department is almost at full staff and people need to call 911 and report any suspicious activity.

Mayor Miller stated that Stephanie

at the Resource Center has spoken with Sunrise Services, and the building next to the County Shop is intended to be offices only and for use only by the eastern Skagit County community, and they will not be bringing people from Everett or other cities to utilize these services. Councilmember Marla Reed stated that is what the town was told last time too.

### Feb. 22 regular meeting

- Upper Skagit Library Director Brooke Pederson reviewed 2015 and updated the council on its annexation into the county library district. She reported that since Nov. 24, they have issued 93 cards to town residents, and 53 of those were brand-new cards. Of those 53 new cards, 28 of those were children. She reported on the materials provided in the council packets regarding the library's strategic plan, statistics, and items of top circulation. She also reported they are moving forward on the building project. Pederson stated that the Upper Skagit Library District is the only one in Skagit County where

every child is eligible for a library card.

- Council went into executive session to discuss and interview consultants for the Main Street Improvement Project. When the council reconvened, it voted to select CRH Engineering as the consultant for this project.

• Town engineer Cody Hart reported on the Park and Ride public meeting that was held last week. It was sparsely attended, but had gone well. He also reported the SEPA and Cultural Resources process has begun and he is hoping to go to bid by the middle to the end of March.

Hart also reported that he received confirmation from CDGB that the demolition of the Superior Building is eligible for the planning-only grant funding.

### 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](mailto: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.



Show your strength  
at the caucuses!

**MARCH 26**

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Candidate!**

**Submit Resolutions!**

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# Sports

## Wrestlers bring home medals, team trophy

By Jason Miller

The best moment at Mat Classic 28? When Concrete senior Donnie Olmstead beat Alec Bell of Ilwaco for the state championship while fighting a cold, then stood up, pointed at his mother, Darlene Olmstead, in the bleachers, and shouted, "I love you, Mom! That was for you!"

Pretty sweet words for a guy who had just crushed his opponent. With extra hours of conditioning under his singlet, Olmstead was at 100 percent at the end of the match, while Bell visibly struggled.

"Donnie was the most determined kid in the wrestling room, and by far the most dedicated and hardest working," said Head Coach David Dellinger. "He told me when he came into the wrestling room this year, 'I will be on that podium this year, Coach.' All season long he'd ask me what he needed to work on. He'd stay after practice and run some more. That's huge when it comes to matches. And in his mind, he can beat anybody."

Donnie wasn't the only Olmstead on the podium this year. His brother Brayden, also a senior, took third in state at 220 lbs., losing only to Toledo's Dalton Yoder, who then went on to lose to Darrington's Mason McKenzie.

Coach Dellinger calls Brayden his "dark

horse." "He's the kid on the mat who wrestles in the third period better than his opponent. He'd wear them out. I finally quit losing my voice at him, trying to get him to make his move in the second or third period. He'd come off the mat and look at me and say, 'You were nervous, weren't you?'"

Also snagging a third-place medal was junior Louie Ketchum, who at 126 lbs. is no stranger to the bright lights of the Tacoma Dome. Dellinger said Ketchum came to him after winning third and said, "Coach, I'm going to be at the top of that podium next year."

Senior Donovan Dellinger rounded out the medals this year with a fifth place at 145 lbs., hampered by a Friday loss that Coach Dellinger said clearly should have been a Concrete win, had the referee been in position to see Donovan's feet.

Also traveling to State this year were Randall Beacham, Blaine Storms, Jonathan Akers, Riley Fichter, and alternate Robert Nevin. The team's combined efforts earned them a fourth place trophy. The last time that happened was in 2009.

"They make me look good," said Coach Dellinger.



**Top:** Senior Donnie Olmstead cements his state title with a 9–6 win over Ilwaco's Alec Bell during the 195-lb. championship match at Mat Classic 28.

**Above:** Senior Brayden Olmstead wrestles Joe Mintzer from Okanogan on his way to a third place finish at Mat Classic. Trailing by points in the third period, Olmstead got the upper hand on Mintzer and pinned him with seconds left.

**Left:** Senior Donovan Dellinger tasted revenge by beating Reggie Jones of Colfax. Jones knocked Dellinger out of contention at last year's state tournament; this year, Dellinger went on to claim fifth place in the 145 lb. class.



The 2016 Concrete Wrestling Team posed with cheerleaders and fans after capturing fourth place at Mat Classic 28 on Feb. 20. With only nine wrestlers, the small team brought home fourth place for only the third time since 2007.

**Concrete junior Louie Ketchum** presses Joseph Lewis of South Bend into the mat on his way to a 16–1 decision win at Mat Classic 28. Ketchum stumbled along the way, but roared up the back side of his 126-lb. bracket to snag a third-place medal.





# Lion men wrap season

By Paul Bianchini, head coach

The 2015-16 Concrete Lion basketball team's season came to an end this year at the 2B district playoffs.

The Lions lost both district games, first at La Conner on Feb. 10, 75-42, and then again on Feb. 13 to Orcas, 100-58.

The Lions made the playoffs by finishing fourth in the 2B standings. The Lions ended the season with a league record of (5-9). Overall they were (5-17).

On Feb. 1 Mount Vernon Christian took a 28-21 lead into halftime, expanded their lead to 15 at the end of the third quarter, and then finished off the Lions by a score of 63-49. The Lions could not get on track throughout the second half.

The next night saw a totally different Lions squad play perhaps their best game of the year against first place La Conner. Down by 12 at halftime, the Lions outscored the Braves 20-14 in the third quarter to pull within six at the start of the fourth period. Paced by the scoring of Dylan Clark and James Schoolland, the Lions kept within striking distance and were down by only three with one and a half minutes remaining. Clutch foul shooting by the Braves secured

the hard-fought Braves win and tough loss for the Lions.

Playing their third game in three nights on Feb. 3, the Lions again battled down to the wire versus an Auburn Adventist team hopeful of making the playoffs. The Lions' 12-21 free-throw shooting did them in as they fell at home 56-68.

The Lions were led this year by three senior captains: Clark, James Suit, and Tucker Scollard. All three players will be missed next season, but we'll make sure it will be a positive season even in their absence.

In looking ahead to next season, the Lions will return the nucleus of the varsity lineup with players Tyler Labrousse, Grayson Luttrell, Solomon Holman, Joe Ramirez, Rey Garibay, Cole Meacham, David Swain, and James Schoolland.

That group will be pushed by a core of competitive players from the junior varsity squad: Mike Filtz, Tyler Coffell, Dalton Newby, Kaleb Engler, Charles Parent, Kaden Becker, Jonas Rensink, Brian Torheim, Ryan Magee, Michael Booker, and Tyler Nevin.

**Come celebrate Women of Aviation week at the North Cascade Vintage Aircraft Museum!**



March 7th -13th is Women of Aviation week so we are honoring the many achievements in aviation made by women of the past and present for the whole month of March!

Bring your family, see the aircraft that inspired women then and now, and help ensure that women continue to be a vital part of aviation's future!

Winter hours are Tuesdays & Thursdays 10:00am - 3:00pm or weekends by appointment  
vintageaircraftmuseum.org  
360.770.4848



Dylan Clark (top) and Joe Ramirez (above) demonstrate focus during the team's Feb. 3 home court game against the Auburn Adventist Academy Falcons. An at-times-close game ended with the Falcons on top 68-56.



Ava Kuipers won second place in the district championship for the Elks Hoop Shoot free-throw competition on Feb. 6. In January Kuipers (above), won her 8- to 9-year-old division by making 11 out of 25 free throws.

The Elks Hoop Shoot is a free-throw contest for youth ages 8 to 13. The program is free to all contestants and provides youth an opportunity to compete, connect, and succeed through hard work and healthy competition. Winners advance through Lodge, district, state, and regional contests to reach the National Finals in April. In the end, the names of six national champions will be permanently inscribed at the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Mass.

Submitted photo.

**Sports schedules:**  
[nw1a2bathletics.com](http://nw1a2bathletics.com)

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL AWARDS

**Most Valuable Player:** Cassidy Cargile. **Queen of the Boards:** Jaycelyn Kuipers. **Miss Hustle:** Destiny Van Bibber. **Most Improved Player:** Jenna Whorten. **Players' Award:** Diane Bergsma. **JV Most Valuable Player:** Diane Bergsma. **Team Captain:** Cassidy Cargile.

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL STATISTICS

**Scoring:** Jaycelyn Kuipers, 15.1 ppg. **Rebounds:** Jaycelyn Kuipers, 182 season total, 9.1 rpg; Chloe Stidman, 8.1 rpg. **Blocked shots:** Jaycelyn Kuipers, 23. **Three-point shots:** Jaycelyn Kuipers, 21. **Free throws:** Jaycelyn Kuipers, 80. **Assists:** Chloe Stidman, 77. **Steals:** Chloe Stidman, 95. **Three-point Shooting Percentage:** Chloe Stidman, 30 percent. **Drawn Charges:** Chloe Stidman, 17. **Shooting percentage:** Jenna Whorten, 36 percent.

# Women finish season proud

By Kevik Rensink, head coach

The season is officially over for the Concrete Girls Basketball Team, and while other teams forge deep into the playoffs, we can be proud of the season we had and what we accomplished together.

This team had a lot of doubters before the first day of practice, as people pointed out we "had graduated all of our height," and in the process lost 87 percent of our scoring and 91 percent of our rebounding. Those types of numbers don't give many coaches the warm fuzzies, but I know there is more to basketball than height and statistics. Neither one of those attributes has ever kept us from winning in the past, and it wasn't going to prohibit us from being successful this season either.

It seems like our teams play better together every year; I know this type of team effort will continue to pay off for us in the future. The girls not only won more games than last year's team, but they only missed the post-season by one game. So close, and we played in so many games that could have gone either way. However, we are not a team to make excuses. I know this group will come back a little hungrier than they were this year, and they will really push each other in the off-season as well.

Cassidy Cargile is our only senior, and

her leadership and competitive spirit will be greatly missed. She lettered on varsity all four years, a feat accomplished only by a handful of players in the last 17 years. Cargile was our captain, and the qualities she brought to this team will make us all better next season. Cargile was also voted by her teammates as our Most Valuable Player.

Jaycelyn Kuipers finished the season leading the team in scoring (15.1 ppg) and rebounding (9.1 rpg), and will be a big part of our team success next year. She received the Queen of the Boards Award for pulling down 182 rebounds this year. She also led the team in blocked shots (23), 3-pointers made (21), and free-throws made (80), which tied her with assistant coach Tasha Nick for fifth most in a season.

Chloe Stidman continues to lead this team with a never-stop motor, and makes all of her teammates better. She has formed into a nice point guard while leading the team in assists (77), steals (95), 3-point shooting percentage (30 percent), and, probably most impressive, drawn charges (17). She was second on the team in rebounds (8.1 rpg) and overall shooting percentage.

Emily Bridge rounded into a great all-around player by mid-season, and then ended up being our second leading scorer. She led the team in free-throw shooting percentage and smiles.

Destiny Van Bibber was a defensive disrupter for our opponents all season and really owned her position and the tasks she was assigned to by her coaches. She was given the Miss Hustle Award by her teammates.

Tate Mathis is one of our smartest players, doesn't make many mistakes, and blends well with her teammates.

Emily Bridge ponders her free throw during the Lady Lions' home court match against the Auburn Adventist Academy Falcons on Feb. 3.



Coach Kevik is stylin'.

# Athletes of the Month



## Fall Athletes of the Month: Emily Bridge and Blaine Storms

Emily Bridge is a 5'4" junior guard for the Concrete women's basketball team. "Our team needs Emily," said Head Coach Kevik Rensink. "She had a great season, and came on strong in the second half, becoming the team's second-leading scorer. She was putting up shots from all over the floor, but the free-throw line proved to be her most consistent form of scoring, where she has led the team in free-throw shooting percentages the last two years. As good a player as she has become on the court, her best characteristics are still her work ethic, great attitude, quiet leadership, and contagious smile."

Junior Blaine Storms wrestles in the 132-lb. class, demonstrating stamina that few can beat. "That kid can outrun anyone in the room," said Head Coach David Dellinger. "I call him 'Forrest' (Gump). He never gets tired." Storms will wrestle anyone in the room and makes a good wrestling partner during practices. "He's a really easy kid to coach," said Dellinger. "What you ask for is what you get."

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

Madisyn Renzelman has put in a ton of work, and really demands a lot of herself every day. She and Van Bibber really gave us a nice one-two punch at the top of our defense, and they are both coming back.

Jenna Whorten turned out to be our biggest surprise this year. After starting out the season on JV, she earned her way onto varsity, where she led the team in shooting percentage (36 percent) and was a strong post player for us on the interior. Jenna was voted by her teammates as the most improved player on varsity.

Bethany Werda was voted most improved player on JV; after never playing on a team before, she blossomed into a good ball player by the end of the season.

Diane Bergsma was given the Player's Award, which goes to the player who best represents what a Concrete Girls Basketball teammate should be both on and off the court. She was the JV Most Valuable Player.

I am very proud of this group of girls, and I admire their hard work, strength, toughness, and togetherness. I had a "moment" at the end of our awards banquet, and I went home feeling more sure than ever about my role in this community. I have never been more motivated to bettering myself as a husband, father, and coach. I am inspired by the players, encouraged by the parents, and supported by my family. Thank you!





# Academics

## CHS student wins essay contest

### YD update

February was a blast for Concrete Youth Dynamics! We took a van load of kids sledding on Sauk Mountain and enjoyed about four hours of "snow time."

The following Monday we played a huge game of capture the flag; we always get a lot of students who show up for that. I pulled my hamstring chasing someone much younger than I, and was reminded of how old I am getting. Paul Rider spoke that night on the issues of anger and forgiveness. I love it when Paul shares his heart, and I think his words had a very lasting impact on all of the students that night.

I am thankful for all of our staff, all the hours they volunteer every month, and their commitment to our local teens. If you see them, it wouldn't hurt to thank them for helping to make a difference in the lives of our young people in the Upper Skagit Valley. They don't need to hear that, but I know it helps.

After a game of flag football in the pouring rain and some other fun activities coming up in the next few weeks, we are preparing for a crazy March: The 30-Hour Famine has been moved to March 18–19 this year. We hope you will get involved by helping to sponsor one of our teens. The high school students will go without food for 30 hours to help raise awareness

and funds that will help in the fight against poverty in third world countries. Last year our Concrete students raised more than \$2,500 dollars for World Vision, which helps bring life to children around the world. If you see one of our young people raising support, please encourage them.

Other major items coming up include a day of rock climbing on Mount Erie in Anacortes and a road trip to Redding, Calif., to eat some In-and-Out burgers. Details and sign-ups for these retreats can be found at our weekly Monday night meetings, so if your son or daughter is interested in getting involved in our in-town activities, or just wants to get out of town, send them our way. We want to be a positive light in this community and make a difference in the lives of our young people. Thanks for your support and encouragement!

—Kevik and Marta Rensink

Patrick Johnson, a student at Concrete High School, won second place and \$500 in last month's Skagit Democrats Essay Contest, for which 60 students countywide submitted essays on the topic, "Citizen Participation Is Vital to American Democracy." Johnson collected his money and certificate at a Feb. 20 ceremony. Here is Johnson's winning essay:

#### Citizen Participation Is Vital to American Democracy

As it stands, our government is not trusted by many of the very people it was made to serve. This is partly due to election campaigns becoming more and more like reality television, and less based on fact. Some of this can be blamed on the campaigners, but most of the blame falls on the American public, who are gullible and compulsive enough to fall for personality contests and mud flinging.

If a democracy does not have a public that is active in political affairs, our government will naturally become more and more like an aristocracy. A few privileged people will rule the nation, and the worst part about it is that the blame can only fall onto the general public, because they just didn't care enough to stop it.

But it isn't too late. We as a nation can still turn this around. All you need to do is start voting, petitioning, and participating in protests. All you need to do is everything you as a citizen of the United States have the right to do.

Our forefathers dreamed of a nation where the people had a say. They wanted for the people to speak, and for the government to listen, but the people of today don't speak. They are content to do nothing and allow themselves to be ruled. It may seem so easy to just not vote, to not do research, to not go out and change this country into the nation we want to see, but these are powers that we all have as United States citizens.

By refusing to use them, we are refusing democracy. A democracy needs an informed and active citizenry to function properly. Without this, a democracy is simply an aristocracy with the crudest kind of illusion: the illusion of freedom.

If you want your freedom to be real, then you must go out and exercise every power that is invested in you as a United States citizen. This is the way our forefathers saw this country.

There are some threats to our freedom that cannot be dealt with without violence, but our own government is not one of them. We as citizens of the United States must do whatever we can to preserve what our forefathers fought and died to give us. It is the place of the military to preserve freedom where violence is needed. It is the place of the citizen to preserve freedom where violence is not needed. It may at times seem ludicrous to fight for an ideology, but that ideology is what our country is based on. If you do not do everything you can to preserve this ideology, then you may not notice anything wrong in your lifetime, but your children or your grandchildren, will not live in the same great and free United States that you did.

As the great Thomas Paine said in his revolutionary pamphlet, Common Sense: "If there must be trouble let it be in my day, that my child may have peace."

If you want to make a change, then participate, because a democracy without a willing public is just an aristocracy with a cruel illusion. If you don't know where to start, start at the ballot box. Every vote does count. Maybe you feel that you know for certain that the candidate you want will not win. Even if that is the case, you should still vote for them. The narrower the margin that the president wins, the more careful they feel they have to be in their decision making. If they want a second term, they have to win you over, because if they make any more people angry, or if they come up against a more popular opponent during their next campaign, then they will lose if the margin was narrow to begin with.

If you think democracy and freedom are worth fighting for, then participate, and keep our democracy a democracy. You must vote for what you think is right. You must petition for the change that you want to see. You must protest against the policy you don't agree with. All you have to do is everything you as a citizen of the United States have the right to do.



Concrete High School student Patrick Johnson accepted a \$500 check and a certificate of award for his essay, which earned him second place in the Skagit Democrats Essay Contest. Standing with Johnson during the Feb. 20 ceremony are Skagit County Democratic chair Robert Doll and Concrete High School teacher Janis Schweitzer. Sixty students from six Skagit County schools wrote essays on the topic "Citizen Participation Is Vital for American Democracy." Other winners were from Mt. Vernon and La Conner high schools. Photo by Bill Pfeifer.

### 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 2015–16 school year. An asterisk after a name denotes a student with a perfect 4.0 GPA.

#### Grade 7 Honor Roll

Echo Cyr, Jasmine Daub, Amanda Fetters, Collin Martin, Leona Martinez, Andrea Rogers, Anna Spangler, Rachel Ulchak, Mackenzie Wilson.

#### Grade 8 Honor Roll

Elizabeth Buchta, Cody Carlson, Jacquelyn Jackson, Khyla Phillips, Haley Pressley, Izabela Ramos, Peyton Sanchez, Troy Schmidt.

### 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 2015–16 school year. An asterisk after a name denotes a student with a perfect 4.0 GPA.

#### Grade 9

Josabet Acevedo-Lara, Jonathan Akers,

Tiana Brookshire, Thalen Cambo, Shanon Clemons, Tyler Coffell, Dalton Newby, Charles Parent\*, Madelynn Pritchard, Unity Reynolds, Jaidyn Swanson\*.

#### Grade 10

Rebecca Azure, Emma Claybo, Riley Fichter, Asusena Fregoso, Caroline Gregush, Chace Harris, Hannah Haskett, McKenna Kononen\*, Rebeckah McClure, Madisyn Renzelman, Emily Schmidt\*, Mary Spangler, Robert Thompson Jr.

#### Grade 11

Brook Barnedt, Emily Bridge, Tessa Coffell, Ashlee Gilbert, Jaycelyn Kuipers, Nickolas Parker, Riley Pritchard, Qwinton Shuman, Michelle Ulchak, Destiny Vanbibber, Tanner Wilson.

#### Grade 12

Jessica Bridge, Cassidy Cargile\*, Dylan Clark, Joshua Gentry, Jonathan Goodwin, Ellie Grass, Emily Greso, Erika Holm, Jasmine Hopfield, Hannah Konoen, Mary Mauck\*, Kevin McLaughlin, Shelby Meacham, Brayden Olmstead, Hannah Peif\*, Amanda Perry\*, Tucker Scollard, Ashten Tygret.

### Concrete Summer Learning

Adventure day camp is recruiting five motivated Concrete High School students to be culinary and camp interns this summer. Interns should be able to commit from June 20 to Aug 11. The internship includes an eight-day outdoor leadership

course through North Cascades Institute's Youth Leadership Adventures Program and is a \$2,000 value, including a \$350 stipend.

For application details, send an e-mail to katie\_bunge@ncascades.org.



Above: A dozen hardworking Concrete High School students were inducted into the National Honor Society during a Feb. 17 ceremony at the high school. From left, Emily Schmidt, Mary Spangler, Madisyn Renzelman, McKenna Kononen, Emma Claybo, Caroline Jo Gregush, Rebeckah McClure, Hannah Peif, Hannah Haskett, Rebecca Azure, Riley Fichter, Robert Thompson, Adviser Cheri VanWagoner. Photo by Claus Joens.

Right: Concrete Elementary students were honored Feb. 26 at a "Character Assembly" that celebrated the ways they demonstrated honesty. Front row, from left, Alexis Houser, Jacy Evans, Madison Flaton, Tyler Dickinson, Keira Hertel, Hayden Maloy. Back row, from left, Alex Ramos, Levi Newman, Audrey Ottow, James Lockrem, Michael Bartel, Mike Clark.



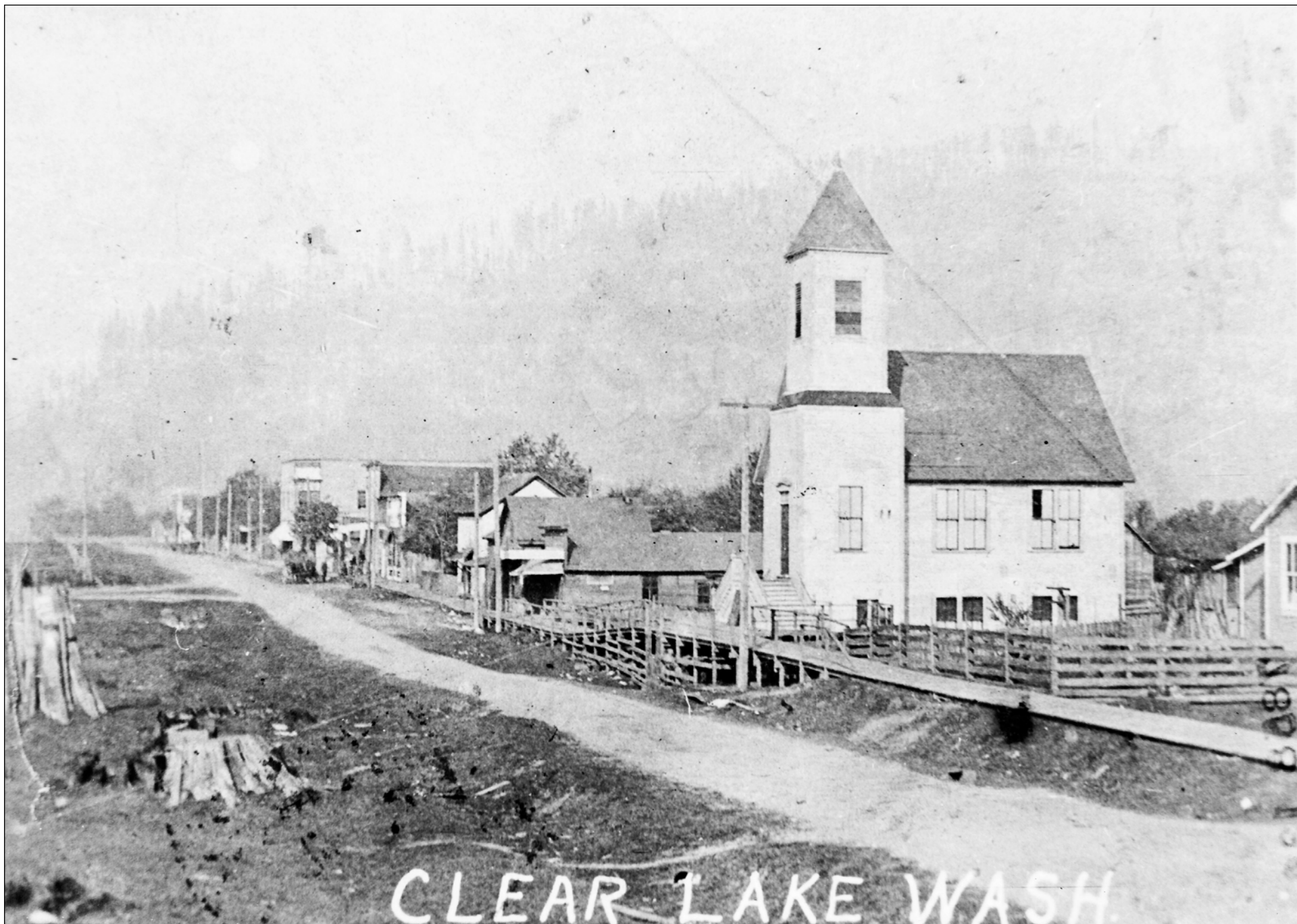
Left: Concrete Elementary School students gathered for a Feb. 23 Recognition Breakfast in honor of their special academic efforts. Front row, from left, Zach Hendry-Conrad, classroom participation; Breanna Coggins, hard work and love of learning; Allison Voss, academic achievement in class; Maxwell Preis, academic achievement in class; Kyliannah Selin, excellence in academics; Leo Toscano, positive PAX behavior. Back row, from left, Michael Bartel, creativity and craftsmanship in art; Patrick Wallin, exceptional growth in self-management; Ava Kuipers, outstanding homework; Lilly Landweer, being responsible; Tylah Goines, helping in the classroom and taking ownership of herself; Georgia Gregush, hardworking and honest; Hunter Throssel, outstanding job in reading and math. Not pictured: Sawyer Pulice, creativity and craftsmanship in art.







# Clear Lake



## HISTORY CORNER

The Clear Lake Congregational Church (above) was built in 1904. It is located on Hwy. 9 south of the Clear Lake Market and is still standing. The name was changed to Clear Lake Covenant Church in December 1947 to affiliate with the Mission Covenant Church. Note the boardwalk in front of the church,

which shows how much fill was brought in to raise the grade to that of the boardwalk before paving Hwy. 9. The congregation dedicated a new church on June 17, 1973. The old church then began a new life as a private residence. 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



## Community Calendar



### MARCH

- 2 Read Across America, Concrete Elementary School gym, 6 to 7:30 p.m.; info at 360.853.8145 or concretetek6pto@gmail.com
- 5 "Frozen in Concrete" Benefit Gala (Upper Skagit Library Building Fundraiser), Concrete Theatre, 1 to 3 p.m.; tickets are \$20; tickets and info at [www.frozeninconcrete.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.frozeninconcrete.brownpapertickets.com); see notice, p. 6; info at 360.853.7939
- 5 "Community Coffee" with Congressman Rick Larsen, The Woolley Market, 829 Metcalf St., Sedro-Woolley, 2 to 3 p.m.
- 6 Upper Skagit Library Foundation annual members' meeting, Concrete Theatre, 1 to 3 p.m.; free admission; new members and public welcome
- 12 Annual Auction and Community Potluck, Darrington Community Center, 570 Sauk Ave., Darrington, lunch at noon, auction to follow; bring your favorite dish; info at 360.436.1239
- 12 Darrington Community Dance, Mansford Grange, Darrington; potluck at 5:30 p.m., dance from 7 to 9:30 p.m.; admission by suggested \$7 donation; info at 206.402.8646
- 12-13 Muzzleloading Arms and Pioneer Craft Show, Evergreen State Fairgrounds, Monroe; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Sat.), 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (Sun.); admission \$8 per day, ages 12 and under free, under 16 must be accompanied by adult; info at [www.cascademountainmen.com](http://www.cascademountainmen.com) or 206.300.1481
- 13 Daylight Saving Time begins at 2 a.m. (set clocks forward one hour)
- 16 Dam Safety Exercise, various Upper Valley locations, 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.; see article, p. 6
- 16 Boys & Girls Clubs of Skagit County 2016 Breakfast for GREAT Kids, McIntyre Hall, 2501 E. College Way, Mount Vernon, 7 to 8:30 a.m.; free admission; info at 360.419.3723, ext. 7, [ifaley@skagitclubs.org](mailto:ifaley@skagitclubs.org), or [www.skagitclubs.org](http://www.skagitclubs.org)
- 19 The Lost Hour children's book launch, reading, and book signing at Upper Skagit Library, Concrete, 3:30 to 5 p.m.; see article, p. 23
- 19 State Parks Free Day (no Discover Pass needed for day-use visits)
- 25 Concrete Heritage Museum Pre-Easter Bake Sale, Albert's Red Apple Market, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.; see notice, p. 32
- 25 "Nourishing All Kids" Spring Forum, Concrete High School Commons, 2 to 4 p.m.; info at [tessa.bryant@wsu.edu](mailto:tessa.bryant@wsu.edu)
- 26 Skagit County Democrat Caucus, 10 a.m. to noon; see ad, p. 6
- 26 Annual Easter Egg Hunt with Concrete Lions Club, Concrete Elementary School, 1 p.m.
- 26 Annual Easter Egg Hunt at Ovenell's Heritage Inn & Log Cabins, 2 p.m.
- 26 State Parks Free Day (no Discover Pass needed for day-use visits)
- 28 Barnaby Slough Stakeholder Advisory Committee meeting, Concrete Center (senior center), 6 to 8 p.m.; info at 206.661.2110 or [cynthia@carlstadconsulting.com](mailto:cynthia@carlstadconsulting.com)
- 30 Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day, George Baldrige American Legion Post #43, 701 Murdock St., Sedro-Woolley, 7 to 9 p.m.; info at 360.856.2762
- 31 Science Fair, Concrete Elementary School library, 6 p.m.; info at 360.853.8145 or concretetek6pto@gmail.com

### APRIL

- 2 WoodFest, Cascade Middle School, 905 McGarigle Rd., Sedro-Woolley, Sat. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.;
- 2 Whatcom County Dahlia Society Tuber Sale, Bloedel-Donovan Park, Bellingham, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; info at 360.354.4346

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

## Community meetings

**Cascade Days Committee Board of Directors** meets the third Mon. of each month at 5:30 p.m., in the Pilots' Lounge at Mears Field, Concrete. 360.853.7867, [ember@cascaadedays.com](mailto:ember@cascaadedays.com), [cascaadedays.com](http://cascaadedays.com), [info@cascaadedays.com](mailto:info@cascaadedays.com).

**Cedar Grove and Skagit Upriver C.E.R.T. Group** meets the first Mon. of each month at 6:30 p.m., Concrete Center in Concrete. 360.853.7420 or [emergencyresponsecomm@cedargrove-concrete.org](mailto:emergencyresponsecomm@cedargrove-concrete.org).

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

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

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

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

**Concrete Chamber of Commerce** meets the second Thur. of each month at 8 a.m. Meetings usually are held at Concrete Center in Concrete. 360.466.8754 or [concretechamber@mac.com](mailto: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](mailto: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 District Board** will hold its next work session on March 28, at 6 p.m. in the high school Commons. That work session will be immediately followed by the regular monthly meeting. 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 [andreaf@concretewa.gov](mailto:andreaf@concretewa.gov).

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

**Darrington Town Council** meets the second Wed. of each month at 7 p.m. at Town Hall, 1005 Cascade St. 360.436.1131 or [darrcityhall@frontier.com](mailto:darrcityhall@frontier.com).

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

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

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

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

**Lyman Town Council** meets the second Tue. of each month at Lyman Town Hall (Minkler Mansion), 8405 S. Main St., Lyman, at 7 p.m. 360.826.3033 or [clerk\\_lyman@msn.com](mailto: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 Sunday of each month at Concrete Center, 45821 Railroad St., Concrete, at 7 p.m. 360.630.5143.

**Saukrates Cafe** meets the last Wed. of each month at Annie's Pizza Station in Concrete, at 6 p.m. Conversation topics are posted at Upper Skagit Library and <http://saukratescafe.wordpress.com>.

**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 hold a regular meeting on March 14 at 7 p.m. at the Support Services Bldg. The board will hold a second regular meeting on March 28 at 7 p.m. at Clear Lake Elementary. 360.855.3500 or [kcargile@swsd.k12.wa.us](mailto: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](mailto:sauksister@frontier.com) or [www.skagiteagle.org](http://www.skagiteagle.org).

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

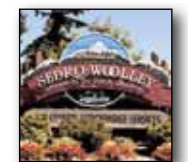
Upper Skagit Writers meets the fourth Mon. of each month at 7 p.m., at 5b's Bakery, Concrete. Open to the public and all skill levels. [corat0413@gmail.com](mailto:corat0413@gmail.com).

Parents! Get involved in your PTO!

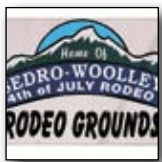
Concrete Elementary PTO meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month, at 5 p.m., in the Concrete Elementary School library.

For more information, call 425.350.5988.





# Sedro-Woolley



## S-W grapplers earn medals at Mat Classic

By Jason Miller

Sedro-Woolley High School wrestlers again brought their talents to the Tacoma Dome last month, wrestling their way to several personal medals at Mat Classic 28, Feb. 19-20.

At the top of the pile, Leah Olsen dominated her 100-lb. bracket all the way to the championship match, where she claimed second place after falling to Esmeralda Roman of Granger. Olsen, a junior, wrestled well this year and should be a formidable force for the team next year.

Senior Teracita Shanes took seventh place at the tournament, wrestling at 110

lbs.

High school women wrestlers have a unique challenge in that their numbers prevent them from wrestling with opponents from similarly sized schools; all Washington schools are lumped together for the women, who then wrestle within their weight classes.

On the men's mats, SWHS junior Michael Leger claimed third place at 132 lbs. Senior 120-pounder Adam Adkinson again medaled at the statewide contest, earning fourth place. The team's heavyweight, senior Erik Lukner, grabbed sixth place at 285 lbs.



**Above:** Sedro-Woolley senior Adam Adkinson wrestles on his way to a fourth place medal in the 120-lb. weight class at Mat Classic 28 in the Tacoma Dome Feb. 19-20.

**Below:** Sedro-Woolley junior Leah Olsen grapples with Esmeralda Roman of Granger during the women's championship match at 100 lbs. Olsen lost the match to a heartbreaking 5-3 decision, but brought home a second place medal, the highest on her team. Olsen's teammate, Teracita Shanes, snapped up a seventh place medal at State, wrestling at 110 lbs.



## CASCADE MIDDLE SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

The following 7th and 8th grade students at Cascade Middle School received honors for high marks for the first semester of the 2015-16 school year. An asterisk denotes a student with a perfect 4.0 GPA.

### Grade 7 Honor Roll

Elizabeth L. Abhold, Kalin J. Adkerson, Matthew Aguilar-Sanchez, Jacob G. Anderson, Megan R. Andrews, Magali Antonio Salgado, Gabrielle M. Ashton, Lane P. Aungst, Heidy Z. Avila-Cruz, Katie L. Backstrom\*, Mykola Baidak, Paula C. Banda, Alexa J. Becerra Torres, Kian Beisler, Noelle G. Belanger, Camryn A. Benham\*, Lauren A. Benham\*, Brady O. Biggs\*, Christian J. Bowers, Adam J. Bryson, Diego Bueno, Alicia Cardenas, Jayda M. Carter, Megan E. Christensen\*, Kaysiah Clark, Ashton C. Constantine\*, Colby W. Constantine, Dalton J. Cook, Wyatt J. Covert, James A. Cukierski, Victoria D'Arienzo\*, Erin R. Davis, Brandon Deleon, Olivia L. Dillard, Kylee N. Dobson, Beau G. Elder, Jessica R. Eldridge, Harmony L. Fetterly, Damien L. Field\*, Nathaly Flores, Dakota R. Fox\*, Johnathon R. Francisco, Colsen J. Friedrichs, Alexis Frizzell, Shawn Froneberger, Lillian M. Fulford, Parker S. Garcia, Bryan Garcia Cervantes, Kylie R. Gibson, Kailar K. Greenough, Mackenzie E. Grimm, Savannah K. Halverson\*, Ethan J. Hasenoehr\*, Leslie C. Hastings, Joshua E. Heath, Claire Hindman, Jacenda M. Hoagland, Arrora L. Hoelzle, Christopher J. Hoffman, Melissa A. Howry, Meghan N. Hudson\*, Seth W. Humerickhouse, Savannah G. Hupp\*, Olivia M. Isakson\*, Emily C. Johnson, Madilyn C. Johnson\*, Hannah K. Jutte, Adin M. Kilcup, Sommer A. King, Curtis M. Klaus, Evan C. Kolb, Kailo J. Lampkin, Olivia A. Leas, Brynna K. Lee, Gavyn C. Lewellen, Max A. Lloyd, Kelton R. Marshall, Emma C. Martinson, Zayler R. Mauck, Gabriel Z. Maxson, Deja S. McGrue, Noelan T. Melton, Isabella M. Moore, Leonel W. Morales, Alexander S. Morgan, Owen S. Murdock, Ty A. Neal, Annalee R. Nersten\*, Kendra L. Neumann, Camree L. Nilsen\*, Alexis M. Noyes, Karlee M. Nurmi\*, Liliana D. Ortiz, Troy L. Peterson, Kaden J. Plymale, Mallory C. Poppe, Jeffrey C. Prestmo, Anjelica Prisyazhnyuk, Logan R. Purdy, Cameron Queen, Emily M. Redling\*, Xander M. Renkema, Madelyn A. Requa, Dustin L. Rhodes, Isabella G. Rinne\*, Devin J. Roberts, London A. Roberts\*, Lyric P. Robinette, Cameron D. Russell, Isaak E. Sanders, Connor J. Schneider, Bianca J. Serrano,

Jeffrey Z. Sheridan, Keaton Skiles\*, Madesyn C. Skinner, Katelyn S. Snodgrass\*, Meghan C. Snyder, Christopher A. Solberg, Vanessa Soto Lopez\*, Vincent R. Spagnolo, Seth Sternhill-Tift\*, Jenna R. Stevens, Jakob E. Storm, Olivia A. Stormo, Bode J. Stout, Lila Suchsland\*, Pedro I. Tamayo, Keyairra L. Taylor, Keely A. Thibodeau, Abigail H. Thomas, Cassie G. Thomas, Elizabeth N. Thramer, Gabriella M. Timblin, Mikayla R. Townsend, Layne A. Tucker, Carmen E. Ugalde, Kaylynn E. Vahovick, Amelia R. Vaith\*, Josiah A. Vellegas\*, Jessica C. Wahlgren, Josie M. Weppeler, Gracie A. Wesson, Devon M. Whitney, Douglas D. Wilton, Tess A. Wimer\*, Jasan S. Winship, Heidi M. Winters, Allison J. Wood, Rileigh D. Yorke, Gabriel W. Zarate.

### Grade 8 Honor Roll

Emma C. Adams, Jonathan R. Adams, Josseline D. Aguirre, Anahy Alcazar Salinas, Maryna Baidak, Courtney M. Bawden, Angelina J. Benitez, Keegan A. Blaine, Lexani B. Brown, Kylee N. Bryan, Peyton X. Burrell, Lorianna V. Castellanos, Elijah F. Choat, Emma L. Cook\*, Colby J. Dills, Camden J. Dowhaniuk, Jasmine J. Evans, Eleanor R. Fair, Madelyn R. Farnham, Kaleb C. Ferris, Shauna C. Flores, Megan Friend\*, Elliott G. Gahan, Elise C. Gamson, Tommy Giang, Amy J. Graber, Isaiah M. Guerrero\*, Jared C. Gunderson, Mackenzie L. Hamilton, Crista J. Harris, Amber T. Helinski, Karin A. Henderson, Fatima Hernandez-Lara, Madisyn R. Hill, Caleb R. Hoogendam, Scott B. Hulse, Chloe N. Hynds, Jaiden M. Jenkins, Joseph L. Jennings, Morgan B. Johnson, Cameron M. Kapan, Dascha L. Larm, Alyssa J. Lecca La Cruz, Jacob N. Lennox\*, Mark S. Leus, Ryan L. Litke, Kelsey N. Loop, Emma N. Lootens, Israel Lopez Martinez, Marcelino Lopez Martinez, Denise Lopez Nolasco, Trinity R. Luchi, Alexa D. Lynn\*, Asia A. McDermott, Kaitlyn M. McKibbin, Harleigh K. McSpadden, Mauricio Medina Mondragon, Jennifer Morales, Rachel M. Neeld, Jacob B. Norris, Mitchel A. Pepper, Makenna A. Peterson\*, Jerzee Pigford, Patrick S. Pittis, Grace M. Pohl, Elijah I. Price\*, Ariel A. Resnik, Karsyn T. Rooks, Romel A. Saragena, Dylan J. Scheib, Alyssa J. Scherf, Natalya A. Schwetz\*, Hallie J. Simpson, Zoe K. Slabodnik, Piper R. Smith, Tessa C. Smith, Jared J. Snodgrass, Shelly L. Staples, Brandi E. Stewart\*, Natalia R. Taylor\*, Kaylee M. Thomas, Madisun R. Tobisch\*, Ian A. Valdivinos, Brent J. VanderVeen\*, Avery E. Wagner, Roweann A. Wagner, David R. West Jr, Serina E. Wilson, Samantha R. Wise, Mitchell T. Wolkenhauer\*.



**Skagit Valley Herald Publisher Heather Hernandez** hands Quinten Nelson a new backpack filled with school supplies last month. Hernandez and Boys & Girls Clubs of Skagit County CEO Ron McHenry distributed 450 backpacks at six locations throughout Skagit County in February, just in time for students to start their second semester of the 2015-16 school year. An investment from the Argus Fund paid for the giveaway, which was facilitated by Boys & Girls Clubs of Skagit County. "When Heather and I first sat to talk about ways we could impact individual youth and bring the most amount of normalcy to their lives, this idea organically came about, and to see it to fruition is a wonderful thing," said McHenry. *Submitted photo.*

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## Briefly ...

Because of the high price of turkeys and the overwhelming number of free home delivery meals, organizers of last year's **Community Thanksgiving Dinner** are facing a \$900 shortfall. Some suppliers still need to be paid, so organizers are reaching out to the community for follow-up donations. To arrange a donation, send an e-mail [toslokkebo@yahoo.com](mailto:toslokkebo@yahoo.com).

**April 2nd & 3rd**  
**SATURDAY** 9 am to 4 pm  
**SUNDAY** 10 am to 3 pm

Cascade Middle School • 905 McGarigle Road





# Lyman



# Day Creek



## Public records bill still alive in legislature

By LaVendrick Smith  
WNPA Olympia News Bureau

OLYMPIA — A bill that would allow local agencies to prioritize or delay some public records requests based on their size or cost remains alive, even after failing to get a floor vote in the Washington State

House by Wednesday's cutoff.

House Bill 2567 has been designated as "necessary to implement the budget," and still has a chance of passing this session, even though it didn't receive a vote in the

House by the Legislature's deadline for bills to pass their house of origin.

Rep. Joan McBride, D-Kirkland, the bill's primary sponsor, said the legislation would allow local agencies to prioritize records requests they fulfill and limit the time they spend on requests based on what is reasonable.

Requests from news media, requests that concern safety, and requests that can be fulfilled quickly are just some of the requests that will remain a priority, McBride noted.

"What we're really wanting to do is craft a bill that doesn't impede our citizens and organizations to get the records that they need, while trying to address things like management and prioritization of requests," McBride said.

McBride proposed the legislation as a way to deflect overly broad and extensive requests made to local city and county agencies. State agencies would not be affected by this legislation.

Since its first hearing in front of the House Committee on Local Government, the legislation has undergone changes.

Earlier versions of the bill established a commission to mediate issues that arise between requesters and local agencies before they go to court, and required requesters who seek records for commercial purposes to cover the costs of fulfilling the request. Both provisions have since been removed from the bill.

In its current version, the measure creates a 16-member task force of lawmakers, open-government advocates, media members, local government representatives, and the public, among others. The group would issue recommendations on how to protect access to records while helping local agencies cope with requests and attendant costs.

McBride's amendments direct the task force to prepare and deliver its recommendations to the Legislature before the 2017 session, which includes debating weighing the merits of establishing the commission, but could provide other means to resolve disputes besides court actions.

Many city officials and local agencies, especially those with small staffs, support the bill because they say they are harassed

by people who make large requests that are both time consuming and expensive with no chance to recover costs under current law.

Jason Thompson, executive director of human resources at the Marysville School District, said many school districts have seen an increase in overly broad requests. The school district was hit with a request last year that he said would have cost the district \$300,000 to fulfill. That request was for records of every instance of bullying in the school district over the past decade.

"The amount of tax dollars that are being used [to respond to this type of request], that instead could be used for the good of everyone, is really frustrating," Thompson said. "The average person doesn't understand the amount of money school districts are spending" on fulfilling records requests.

Proponents of open government oppose the bill because they fear it undermines the integrity of the Public Records Act.

In an email, Toby Nixon, president of the Washington Coalition for Open Government, expressed the organization's disapproval of the bill staying alive without a floor vote as is required by legislative cutoff dates for bills that aren't designated as necessary to implement the budget.

"We respectfully disagree, because we believe this to be a policy bill and not a budget bill even though it would require a small expenditure of funds for the task force it creates," Nixon said. "We encourage the Senate to disagree with the House characterization of the bill as necessary to implement the budget."

Should McBride's amended measure find traction among legislators, it could re-emerge as some form of an appropriation bill to qualify for committee consideration. Cutoff for those bills to be considered this session is early March.

*This story is part of a series of news reports from the Washington State Legislature provided through a reporting internship sponsored by the Washington Newspaper Publishers Association Foundation. Reach reporter LaVendrick Smith at lavendricksmith@gmail.com; follow him on Twitter: @LaVendrickS.*

## Community notes

### Firefighters Appreciation Dinner

Honor our firefighters and their commitment to the Day Creek Community by bringing your family to this year's Appreciation Dinner. The dinner is scheduled for Tue., March 15, 6:30 p.m. at the fire hall. A stuffed potato dinner with all the toppings will be provided; please bring a dessert.

### Save these dates

Mark your calendar for the following events this year:

- March 15: Firefighters Appreciation Dinner
- May 14: Day Creek Annual Pancake Feed and Crafts
- July 19: Barbecue Potluck at Pulvers
- Nov. 15: Progressive Dinner

### Community Movie Night

A Movie Night is planned for the Day Creek community on Sat., Feb. 13, at 6:30 p.m. at Day Creek Chapel. For movie choices and information, call Kristine at 360.826.3522.

## Pearson's Skagit water bill passes Senate committee

A plan to give Skagit River Basin landowners a chance at using water on their property cleared its first committee hurdle on Feb. 4. The bill by Sen. Kirk Pearson, R-Monroe, would allow landowners to prove that water access on their land would not affect water levels for fish habitat.

"There are people that stand to lose everything if we don't find a way to restore the use of water on their land," said Pearson, chair of the Senate Natural Resources and Parks Committee. "This simply gives some of these families who staked their life savings on property they were told they would be able to use a

### Community Block Watch planned

Day Creek plans to organize a Community Block Watch after reading about similar efforts in Marblemount and Darrington in the *Concrete Herald*.

A planning meeting will be scheduled soon. Stay tuned for more information and opportunities to join the planning efforts.

### WOMEN HAND in hand

WOMEN HAND in hand will welcome Isik Abila in April. Born in Turkey, Abila was raised in a devout Muslim home. More information about Abila and her ministry is at [www.isikabla.com](http://www.isikabla.com).

The event will be held April 21 at Darrington High School and April 22 and 23 at Sedro-Woolley High School. For ticket information, go to [www.womenhandinhand.com](http://www.womenhandinhand.com) or follow Eventbrite to purchase tickets. For more information, call 360.853.3066.

WOMEN HAND in hand can be followed on its Facebook page or on its Web site. To join WOMEN HAND in hand, call 360.826.3067.

### Kingdom Builders

If you know anyone in need this year, please call the numbers below. Kingdom Builders can put together food baskets and

chance to make something of the land."

Senate Bill 6584 passed the Senate Agriculture, Water and Rural Economic Development Committee, chaired by Sen. Judy Warnick, R-Moses Lake, a co-sponsor of the legislation and collaborator on finding a solution for Skagit landowners. The bill creates a process for landowners to acquire proof of water reliance from the Department of Ecology on lands where water resources were not allowed to be accessed due to judicial action.

"The rug was pulled out from under a lot of families in our community," said Pearson. "Hopefully this will give some of them a way out. This is another important step toward relief for these property owners."

In 2013, the state Supreme Court ruled that use of water resources on property along the Skagit River Basin would negatively affect instream-flow levels,

gather other needs for kids and families.

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.

### Day Creek Book Club

The book club is open to new members. Members are welcome to host a book club meeting at their favorite "hang out" spot. Meetings are held on the third Monday of each month at Cedar Springs Lodge on Barben Road. For more information, call 360.661.0247.

### Garden Dirt

Waiting for spring to arrive? Get your rubber gloves on and get started!

- The raspberries need to be cleaned up and cut.
- Plant fruit trees, dahlias, gladiolus, potatoes, and onions.
- Toward the middle and end of March, plant perennials and hardy annuals. Sow peas and sweet peas.

effectively barring access to water on properties across the Skagit River Basin.

The bill has proceeded to the Rules Committee, from which it can be pulled to a vote on the Senate floor. Pearson is a member of the Rules Committee.

- Start seeds indoors, and this will really make you feel great, watching them come to life.
- If you have not already cleaned your tools and garden pots, now is a good time to get that project done.
- Start thinking about slugs and getting their elimination under way.
- If you have flowers that you want to relocate, now is a great time to do that.

News and tips should be sent via e-mail to [winningcircularchapel@gmail.com](mailto:winningcircularchapel@gmail.com).

—Compiled by Kathy Henderson

## 2016 Community Potluck dates

March 15, 6:30 p.m.  
April 19, 6:30 p.m.  
May 17, 6:30 p.m.  
June 21, 6:30 p.m.  
July 19, 6:30 p.m.  
August 16, 6:30 p.m.  
September 20, 6:30 p.m.  
October 18, 6:30 p.m.  
November 15, 6:30 p.m.  
December 20, 6:30 p.m.

The Sedro-Woolley School District Food Service Department invites parents, grandparents and guardians to enjoy an indoor picnic lunch with their student.

DATE: THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2016  
TIME: VARIES BY SCHOOL. PLEASE CHECK WITH THE BUILDING SECRETARY FOR SPECIFIC TIME.  
COST: \$4.00

**LUNCH MENU**  
Cheeseburger on Whole Grain Bun with all the fixings  
Chips  
Fresh Fruit  
Potato Wedges  
Dessert  
Choice of Milk (Plain or Chocolate)

**Family Day**

THIS INSTITUTION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER. PLEASE CONTACT THE FOOD SERVICE DEPARTMENT WITH QUESTIONS AT (360) 855-3515.

Please remove this section and RSVP to the teacher by Friday, March 4th if you plan to attend the lunch with your student.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of Adults Planning to Attend: \_\_\_\_\_

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# February in pictures



**Above:** Mardi Gras Queen and King Sharon Feller and Tim Cooley smile for the camera during the annual Mardi Gras parade in Concrete on Feb. 6. Cooley started the family-friendly celebration in Concrete about 10 years ago. Feller is Concrete's town dentist.

**Below:** Farm to School Coordinator Rachel Sacco of Concrete donned the pea pod costume and marched in the Mardi Gras parade with colleague Mitchell Metcalf.



**Above:** A giant dragonfly graced Main St. in Concrete during the Feb. 6 Mardi Gras parade.

**Below:** Alden Meyer of Rockport won a Best Costume award in his age group for his colorful armor, made entirely of duct tape. Meyer accessorized with a striking foam battle axe.



**Above:** The cast of "Peter and Wendy," a Missoula Children's Theatre production populated entirely by Concrete Elementary School students, pose for a group shot after their performance on Feb. 6. The students practiced after school during the preceding week, in time for the Saturday show.



**Above:** Back Porch Apostles perform during a Feb. 6 fundraiser in support of Concrete tow truck driver Dave Chapman, who was injured on the job in January and remains in Harborview Medical Center, mostly paralyzed. The fundraiser pulled in \$1,200 to help cover Chapman's medical bills.



**Above, far left:** What's a parade without music? Jumbled Pie again filled Concrete Town Center with rollicking, dance-able tunes.  
**Far left:** Valerie and Jarrod Lee dressed up as stylish skeletons and brought Jarrod's new business venture, "Topless Grills" to Bear Square, serving up barbecued pulled pork, chips, and a drink for donations of any size.  
**Left, above, and right:** Revelers of all ages joined in the Mardi Gras spirit.







# Hamilton



# Rockport



## Council summary

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

- All elected officials took their oaths of office to begin their new terms of service.
- Mayor Cromley talked about the designation of Skagit River as a Steelhead Gene Bank and introduced attendees (Bob McClury, Corey Ruiz, Bill McMillan, Bill Reinard, and Mike Crewson) to present their information before the council. Councilmember Kirkpatrick motioned to table the decision until next month.
- Mayor Cromley briefly talked about the water rates.
- Council voted to adopt Ordinance 317, the Critical Areas Ordinance.
- Mayor Cromley talked about the Comprehensive Plan Update Grant.

- Council voted to give authority to sign the contract.
- **Water Dept.:** Mayor Cromley talked about Gary Johnson's water bill, regarding the leak. The council agreed to table until next month. Mayor Cromley announced the 1 percent unaccounted-for water loss for December.
- **Fire Dept.:** Mayor Cromley talked about the water pressure issue this month. Mayor Cromley announced that 20 to 25 kids attended the Christmas party.
- **Street Dept.:** Mayor Cromley announced that there was work being done cutting the drainage across Pettit St.

—Compiled from staff minutes

## From the Mayor

Spring is here, and it's a good time to open up the windows and clean! If you are cleaning up your yard and have a small amount of woody items that can be chipped, Tom may be able to chip them for you. They will need to be at the edge of the property. If you have a large amount, please be prepared to either volunteer some time around town in exchange or take it to a place like Skagit Soils out by the Skagit Airport. They will take any kind of yard waste, including blackberries. Burning is NOT allowed. Fires need to be in a fire ring; and for heat, food, or ceremonial purposes ONLY. Dealing with garbage and yard waste are part of being responsible for your property; please dispose of them properly.

Another problem being cleaned up is an issue with our water system and the state taxes. When Hamilton's water system started using meters and charging by water consumption instead of a flat

rate, it qualified to pay taxes on water revenues to the state. No one realized that until last year, and we've spent a year trying to get the proper paperwork back in order. We've paid the tax for 2015, and thankfully will only owe a few years in back taxes. Unfortunately, that means the water rates need to increase by 20 percent to both base fees and consumption rates to cover the cost of the new added tax, and to pay for the back tax. We've reduced the amount of money transferred to pay for street maintenance, and reduced labor costs for the water system. We're paying the state as soon as we get the bill to reduce fees and interest as much as possible, but figuring three years (maximum allowed) to pay back the fund. Water rates are reviewed every year, and hopefully we can wait a few years before we need to raise rates again, but we need to be able to pay for the costs of the system. Water bills pay for the water system. We can't use any other source of income to pay for it.

The snowdrops and crocuses around Town Hall are lovely, and I see tulips coming up. The Fire Dept. is starting to plan its annual Easter Egg Hunt on March 20, the week before Easter. Let's hope they have great weather!

—Mayor Joan Cromley



## Birdsview Buzz

Happy March! Spring is definitely here. Hope everyone is getting out and enjoying it.

### March birthdays

- 6 Dustin Claybo
- 10 Eric Warner
- 13 Mark McKibbin
- 21 Bob Lahr
- 25 Grandson Jaydon Voigt

We held a fundraiser last month for Concrete tow truck driver Dave Chapman. Through donations, 50/50 raffles, and

a silent auction, we managed to raise \$1,200! Thanks to everyone who came out to help support this great cause. We hope it helps out even just a little.

We have changed to spring/summer hours, so we are now open Tue. to Thur. from noon to 7 p.m., Fri. from noon to 9 p.m., Sat. from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Sun. from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Looking way ahead, we will be closed Fri. through Sun. on Mother's Day weekend.

Don't forget to spring ahead this month. Daylight Saving Time begins at 2 a.m. on March 13. We'll be setting our clocks ahead one hour before we go to bed the night before.

—Kris Voigt



Pearson



Keegan

## Book Review

### The Lost Hour: A Grand Globetrotting Adventure with Six O'clock & Friends

Author: Nicola Pearson; Illustrator: Maya Keegan

Review by Cora Thomas

Sauk City playwright and novelist Nicola Pearson has written her first children's book, in which she explores time with style: *The Lost Hour*.

You've read Pearson's work before here in the *Concrete Herald*. Her most recent serialized crime novel, *The Man in the Mud Room*, will wrap up next month with its 16th and final installment.

Pearson's new venture is a story the whole family will enjoy. *The Lost Hour* takes young readers and parents around the globe in an adventurous and informative story about the hour lost to Daylight Saving Time.

The story is a dynamic collaboration between Pearson and 13-year-old first-time illustrator Maya Keegan of Seattle (whose grandparents live in Marblemount), and makes for a home run in children's book writing.

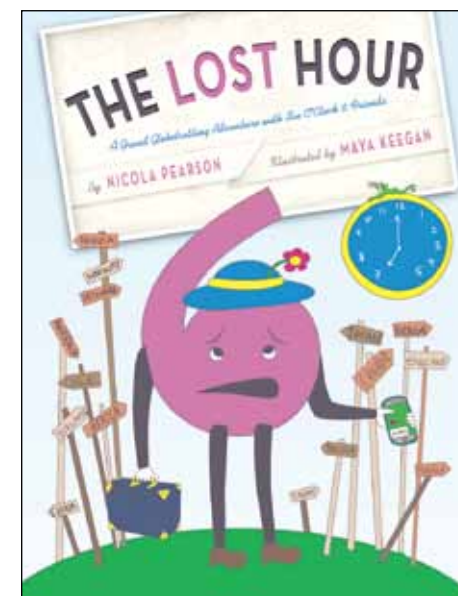
The story begins with the reset of Grandfather Clock on Daylight Saving Time. Six O'clock has been skipped and suddenly has to find another purpose. He sets off on a quest, flying around

the world to find himself in amusing situations. He helps out in keeping time in a music hall, and even gets tangled up in a mathematics notebook. The amusing rivalry between 6 and 7 will make readers chuckle.

Finally, 6 O'clock lands back where he began and rejoins his friends on the wise old Grandfather Clock as the seasons change and time is reset once again.

Aside from showing young readers why we follow Daylight Saving Time, the story teaches readers to try new things. In 6 O'clock's world, traveling is exciting and positive, and stepping outside your comfort zone allows you to grow.

Pearson is an award-winning playwright and novelist, but teamed up with Keegan for a new adventure of their own to write a humorous and educational tale. Pearson said she got the idea for the book's premise from her niece, who was curious about the hour lost during Daylight Saving Time. Keegan's colorful and bold artwork fuels this adventure and is an inspiration to all young artists and readers.



*The Lost Hour* is the latest from Sauk City writer Nicola Pearson, who teamed with illustrator Maya Keegan for her first children's book.

## Meet the author and illustrator

Meet *The Lost Hour* author Nicola Pearson and illustrator Maya Keegan during two book launch events in March.

### March 13

**Where:** University Bookstore  
4326 University Way NE, Seattle  
**When:** 3 to 5 p.m.

### March 19

**Where:** Upper Skagit Library  
45770 Main St., Concrete  
**When:** 3:30 to 5 p.m.

Autographed copies of the book will be available at both events. *The Lost Hour* also is available at Amazon.com.

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# Darrington



## Wrestlers bring home State medals

McKenzie, Anderson take 1st and 4th, respectively

Story and photos by Jason Miller

Threepeats may be rare, but not in Mason McKenzie's world. The 220-lb. senior wrestler brought home his third state title from Mat Classic 28 in February.

It would have been four, but as a freshman, McKenzie had to settle for second place, losing in the championship match to a senior who had pinned every one of his opponents that season.

Except for McKenzie.

On Feb. 20, McKenzie rose from the high school mat for the last time, with a 7-2 decision win over his opponent, Dalton Yoder from Toledo. McKenzie might have wanted the pin—at one point it looked like he would get it—but it still was a win.

Wrestling at 138 lbs., fellow senior Colton Anderson did his hometown proud by landing a fourth place medal.

"Colton surprised us by picking it up at the end and getting himself a medal," said Darrington School District Athletic Director Cory Ross. "We always want more to make it and more to medal, but I'm pretty happy with what we were able to accomplish."

True, the team suffered nasty luck, when sophomore Gage Burtenshaw broke his ankle during the state competition. Junior William Woodward also failed to make it into the top eight. But Darrington High School has two medalists, and they're rightly proud of them.



Above: Darrington senior Mason McKenzie squeezes Dalton Yoder of Toledo into submission during the 220-lb. championship match at Mat Classic 28 on Feb. 20. McKenzie won the match by decision, earning him his third state championship in a row. Below: Senior Colton Anderson wrestles Carlos Cruz of Pateros on Feb. 19, on his way to a fourth place finish.



## Council summary

Darrington Town Council met for its regular meeting on Jan. 13. The following is a summary of that meeting. Complete and council-approved minutes for every council meeting are available at Darrington Town Hall.

- Oaths of office:** Dianne Davis swore in Dan Rankin, mayor; Mary Requa, council position 5; Judy O'Connor, council position 3; and Kevin Ashe, council position 4.
- Guest speakers:** Sally Hintz presented regarding economic development. Council approved a two-month contract with Hintz, during which she'll hold four community meetings and take other steps to develop an "economic road map" for the town. Her fee will be funded by the Greater Everett Snohomish County Community Foundation.
- Students from Darrington School District discussed the playground equipment for Old School Park. Maggie, an 8th grader, introduced herself and two other students, and shared a letter regarding the list of proposed equipment. Discussion on funding and specs ensued. The cost for the equipment would be around \$95,000.
- There was discussion regarding the Community Center and its need for new board members. After the town hires new staff, it will take over the center's bookkeeping.
- Council identified a need for a second monthly council meeting, a "nonaction" meeting during which no action would be taken. This would give councilmembers a chance to read about and discuss topics. Council voted to schedule a nonaction council meeting for the fourth Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m.
- Council voted to approve the following portions of a proposed Hazard Mitigation Plan Annex with Snohomish County: Vol. 1; Vol. 2, Part 1; Vol. 2 appendices; Appendix E.
- Council voted to approve updated policies and definitions for the Cemetery Rules and Regulations.
- Numerous agreements, ordinances, and resolutions were approved.
- A visitor stated he was grateful that 1145 Alvord had been purchased and that the new owner is cleaning up the property.

—Compiled from staff minutes

## Community stays focused on economic redevelopment

By Marla Skaglund

Since the beginning of the year, Darrington community members have attended informal gatherings at the Community Center to discuss ways to make Darrington a more viable, self-sustainable community. A continuation of the community forums that were held immediately following the 2014 Hazel Hill Slide, this year's gatherings are being led by Mayor Dan Rankin and Sally Hintz, consultant and Northwest Washington director for Sen. Maria Cantwell.

During the early forums, community members were asked to share their ideas for what could be done to improve their quality of life in the Darrington area. Out of those meetings came a 152-page report, the North Stillaguamish Economic Redevelopment Plan, developed by a team that included the Economic Alliance of

Snohomish County, the Office of Senator Maria Cantwell, Snohomish County, City of Arlington, and Town of Darrington, including Rankin.

The report addresses long-term socio-economic challenges and the economic disruption caused by the slide. Redevelopment goals include developing infrastructure, attracting and creating sustainable industry, community and workforce development, developing and protecting natural resources, attracting visitors, and strengthening business.

The document includes an economic profile, goals, strategies, action steps being taken, and an implementation matrix with details for action planning. The plan also may be used to solicit funding for future projects.

The Economic Redevelopment Plan includes plans and policies already in place, some of which have been completed. A history of the valley describes the time before and after the arrival of European settlers, the mining and timber industries, and the industrial economy. Charts show housing, employment, manufacturing, growth, and recreation. Enhancing

public transportation, completing the Whitehorse Trail, and developing pedestrian and bicycle networks are just a few of the strategies discussed. Also discussed in the report is encouraging youth entrepreneurship and strengthening sustainable tourism assets.

Many of the goals in the report are designed for and about Darrington and the specific needs of the area, while others speak to the needs of the entire N. Stillaguamish Valley.

A form is available at Darrington Town Hall for residents and those not living in town to volunteer their services and experience on several community boards, including the Cemetery Board, the Community Center Board, Planning Commission, Airport, and Parks and Rec.

The Economic Redevelopment report has been carefully laid out in a format that is easy to understand and addresses the immediate and long-range needs that the valley, especially Darrington, has faced for decades.

The complete North Stillaguamish Economic Redevelopment Plan can be found at [www.economicalliancesc.org/nstillyvalleyerpr](http://www.economicalliancesc.org/nstillyvalleyerpr).

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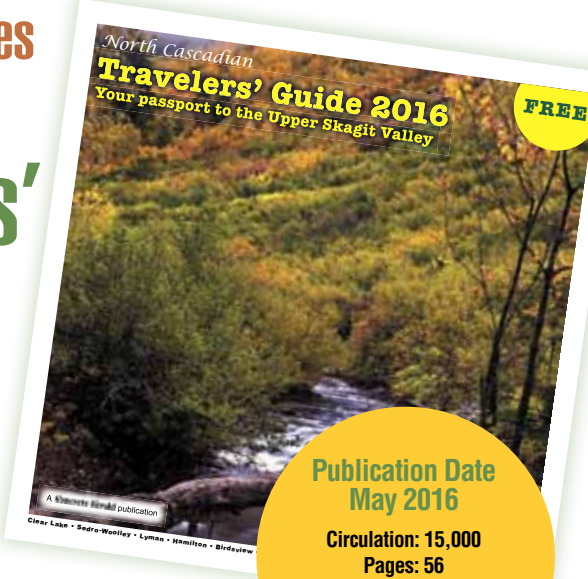
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# Marblemount



## Nature Notes

### It's baby season

By Laura Busby

# Grub 'n' Groove relieves Cabin Fever

Story and photos by Christie Fairchild

"It was a dark and stormy night"—so the old story goes—"and everyone was sitting around the fire, when somebody said, 'Grandfather, tell us a story.' And this is the story he told: 'It was a dark and stormy night ...'"

Three or four years ago (on a dark and stormy night), south Rockport neighbors Terri Wilde and Richard Lewis dreamed up an even better story: a cabin fever cure known as "Grub 'n' Groove."

The brainstorm of these two friends has become a welcome and joyous occasion during the dark, cold, wet Upper Skagit winters, and includes (of course) a potluck supper (that's the "grub" part), and a cabaret of local and varied entertainment (that's the "groove" part). It has become so popular that no venue in Rockport is large enough anymore, so now it has moved to the more spacious Marblemount Community Hall.

The Jan. 29 event saw well over 20 talents shared, including live music, singing, drama, and stand-up comedy, with performers ranging from age 4 to senior citizens.

So, when's the next one, you ask? Appropriately (and tentatively) scheduled for April 1. For more information, tune to



**Locals poured into Marblemount Community Hall** on Jan. 29 for a "Grub 'n' Groove party that included live music, singing, drama, and stand-up comedy, with performers' ages ranging from 4 to 80-something. Above, left to right: Julie Jane Weaver and son Moses, 4, from Marblemount, take a turn at the microphone. Terri Wilde from Rockport shows off her "hosting" duds. Katie Bunge from Marblemount plays her "zhongruan," an instrument from China.

KSVU 90.1 FM, local bulletin boards, and this newspaper.

Hope to see you there.

## Baby Season, cont. from p. 27

- (or for a few days if it is a fawn); the mother is probably in the vicinity and will collect it when she feels safe or feed it when you are not around.
- Resist the temptation to touch the baby or the nest/den area. Your scent could cause a mother to abandon her babies. Some mothers spend very little time with their young. Mother rabbits only visit for a few minutes in the morning and evening.
- If the baby is in an unsafe spot, handle it as little as possible (avoid

touching) and put it in a safe spot near the original location.

- This time of year, keep your cat inside at all times and your dog supervised when outside.

### Bird baby tips

- It is a common misconception that a bird will abandon a baby if you touch it. Most birds have a poor sense of smell and will not be affected by your odor on their chick. This does not mean you should handle any baby

birds unnecessarily!

- If you can see the nest and safely reach it, return the baby to it (do not do this for a hawk, owl, eagle, etc.). If you can't and the nestling is in an unsafe location, you can put it in a makeshift nest on the nearest safe branch. Stay away; it may be a few hours before parents begin taking care of the chick.
- Leave baby birds that have feathers and are jumping around alone in bushes. Baby robins, and others,

- leave the nest before they are able to fly. The parents are nearby and will continue to feed these new fledglings.
- If a cat or other predator is present, you may need to intervene and remove the cat. Please keep your cat inside at all times.

Enjoy your wild Upper Skagit during baby season!

*Laura Busby is an Interpretive Specialist for Washington State Parks.*

March is an important month for many wild animals. Babies are here or soon on the way. Many amphibians (salamanders, frogs, toads) need the rainy spring to reproduce. Birds are returning to their nesting territories or already have eggs or young. Mammals also are preparing for parenthood. These first months are critical for the survival of the next generation.

Why do so many animals breed, nest, or den in the spring? This is when food becomes abundant, and babies require significant calories. It also gives the young time to become self-sustaining before the next winter arrives.

Here is a little background on some common Upper Skagit and Rockport State Park "neighbors."

### Spring arrivals

Tree frogs begin chorusing (calling for mates) in March and April. This behavior is weather dependent; they like warm, wet spring (sometimes fall) nights. Females lay up to 750 eggs in ponds, lakes, and puddles in batches of 10 to 75 eggs that are surrounded by a jelly-like substance for protection. These egg masses can be attached to vegetation and are often covered with algae or sediment, making them hard to see. The hatch is also dependent on temperature; eggs hatch faster in warm water. The adult frogs emerge onto land in their air-breathing form after five or six weeks of life as a tadpole.

Try using binoculars to find frogs. They may be under a leaf or branch in the water with their eyes poking up. You may also be able to find them by their choruses. Approach very slowly and quietly to get close. Please don't handle frogs or any other amphibians; they "breathe" through their skin and are therefore very sensitive to chemicals (hand lotion, bug repellent, etc.) and can lose protective secretions from contact with human hands.

**Fun tree frog fact:** Some scientists have observed tadpoles sitting with their dark backs facing the sun to absorb heat. Warmer tadpoles have a higher metabolism and therefore grow into adults faster. What an advantage to use solar heating to grow up fast!

### Smart birds

Crows are quite common, but finding their nests can be difficult. They are very

secretive about where they have their young. They may begin building their nests in the crotch of a tree as early as mid-March. They may even build extra "dummy" nests to fool potential predators. Nesting can occur as late as July at higher elevations.

Watch for crows spending time in dead limbs during the next several weeks; they may break off branches to use in their nest. The pair builds the nest, but only the female sits on the four or five eggs she lays for 18 days. The male will bring her food during incubation.

**Fun crow fact:** Young crows from the previous year may assist their mother by feeding her while she is incubating eggs. Crows are amazingly smart and spend a long time with their parents learning important survival skills. Scientists have discovered that crows can identify individual people, and babies can learn from their parents that a particular person is dangerous!

### Fishers of the air

Ospreys are large-winged birds of prey that specialize in catching fish. Courtship can begin in March, so watch for this in the next few weeks. Their nests are often built in trees that have lost their tops; a pair has nested in a Rockport State Park tree in recent years. These birds have adapted to a loss of tree sites by nesting on power poles or other human-made structures. The female lays one to four eggs in May and does most of the incubation over the next 36 to 42 days. The male helps to incubate the eggs and brings food to the female.

**Fun osprey fact:** One pair of osprey raising two chicks will all consume about 375 pounds of fish in each breeding season.

### Denizens of old growth

Flying squirrels are quite common in forests, especially in old growth like Rockport State Park. They are the most widely distributed squirrel in the state. Since they are primarily nocturnal (active at night), we often don't realize they are here. They generally nest in a woodpecker tree hole, but sometimes make leaf nests or nest underground. Breeding occurs from March through May, and nesting occurs April through July. A mother has



**A young black bear** munches on foliage. Photo by Steve Philbrick, <http://philby.com>. Inset: Pacific tree frog. Photo by Pat Buller.

two to five babies.

**Fun flying squirrel fact:** These squirrels don't fly; they actually glide using extra skin between their front and hind legs. A flying squirrel can go up to 150 feet in one jump. Males travel widely in the spring to visit different females.

### Long-tailed weasel

At this time of year, long-tailed weasel mothers prepare a den using a hole made by another animal. These small mammals mate in July or August, but they and other species in the weasel family have an amazing ability to delay the development of the fertilized egg until the following March! The babies, called kits, are born in April or May. Mom averages six kits, but can have four to eight. They are born undeveloped, but grow fast. Kits start eating meat at three weeks old and can eat up to half of their body weight a day.

**Fun long-tailed weasel fact:** Baby weasels learn how to kill prey from their mothers. They are effective at this by two months old and become independent soon after that time.

### Black bear

Black bears also have delayed implantation of their fertilized eggs. Bears breed in the summer, but the embryos don't begin developing until the mother dens in the late fall. She births one or two cubs in January or February. While cubs can find food by six months old, they stay with their mothers about a year and a half, often denning together the second year.

Females, called sows, begin having babies at 3 to 5 years old but only every other year or so.

**Fun black bear fact:** While in the den, bears do not eat, drink, urinate, or defecate. This accumulation of wastes and lack of food would kill us, but bears are able to recycle and reabsorb the nutrients. Bear heart rates drop, but their temperature does not, allowing them to awaken and become active quickly if necessary.

### Survival of the wild

Animals' strategies for breeding and producing young are fascinating. Survival is the goal, but young animals are vulnerable. Death rates are highest in these first critical weeks. Humans often unwittingly cause young wildlife mortality. Outdoor cats, including pet cats, kill millions of birds every year. Keeping cats inside is one of the best things people can do to lessen their impact on wild babies.

To assist injured wildlife, contact local wildlife officials or a wildlife rehabilitation organization for information. Some wildlife can transmit diseases to humans. Never handle wildlife.

People can also help uninjured wild babies by following a few simple guidelines.

### Mammal baby tips

- Leave the baby alone, even overnight





# Seniors



## Coffee Break

### Itchy ways

By Patrick M. Kennedy

No place like this home  
Known ground and beaten halls  
Floors and doors under my dome  
Friends and family adorn the walls  
The air and smell of familiarity  
I grumble just the same  
I've seen it all, no new game  
These could be replaced by variety  
Faraway places not here  
Hills, rivers, shores and a trip  
My car, airfare, a tour on a ship  
Anywhere under my stratosphere  
Antsy feelings and itchy ways  
Old age or a rejuvenated teen  
I want to leave this boring scene  
I'll turn to stone if I stay  
Go Go time is slipping  
Bones and muscles are growing  
stiff  
Rather go down the road off a cliff  
Contentment means moving and  
tripping

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

### Buckin' wood

He sits on a round of wood under a large tarp, surrounded by stacks of wood. A second-hand electric-hydraulic wood splitter moans, then sighs as it mercilessly rips the piece of wood in two. The wood splitter is relatively new. Not that long ago he was splitting his wood with a maul, but his back and arthritis don't agree with that anymore. He's bucked his share of firewood in his day. Rain, mud, snow—when one heats with wood, one doesn't have the luxury of waiting for nice weather. Most of the time he was armed with a chainsaw, driving his old Chevy half-ton ("Fords just couldn't handle it"), but for a while he gathered wood in a Buick station wagon with no reverse. Some of you understand. You do what you have to do to stay warm.

Now he has his wood delivered partially split. He burns about seven cords a year, and it is getting harder to afford on his retirement income. Sometimes he will receive free wood from a friend of a friend but only if they fall a tree and that isn't often. To this day, when he sees the piles of logging scraps and downed trees his instincts are to grab a chainsaw and throw some wood in the car, but now the ol' back says, "fat chance."

He still enjoys the peaceful labor of working with wood. The moan and sigh of the splitter adds a little extra noise to the process, but otherwise it is a quiet, meditative time for him. I smile as I watch an honest man, who has worked hard all his life, quietly sitting under a tarp splitting wood.

Jenifer Allison

## Way Back When

### 79 years ago

*March 4, 1937:* Six and a half feet of snow, packed so hard that it was almost ice, brought the heaviest damage to the Upper Baker District that has been experienced in years. Ranger Thornton reports that in spite of efforts to save all the buildings at Baker Lake, the hatchery building and tool house at the hatchery, and Bagnell's boat house, went down under the weight of the snow last week. Other buildings were saved by hard work with snow shovels.

At Koma Kulshan the Bureau of Roads warehouse caved in and the ranger station barely escaped a similar fate, while at Morovitz Ranch the barn and house also failed to stand up under their loads.

The cause of the trouble was not because of the depth of the snow, which has many times been greater, but because of the fact that it froze to the roofs instead of sliding off and melting away.

*March 11, 1937:* An old trapper named Mathew Thomas is feared dead along his trap line in the hills east of Rockport this week after H. A. Martin of Rockport visited the trapper's cabin and found it deserted.

Thomas came to this district a few months ago and established his trap line and cabin about 11 miles above Rockport. He was in Rockport about the first of the year and stated that he would be out again for supplies around mid-January. When Thomas did not

come out and heavy snow covered the district, Martin decided to make the trip in to the cabin to find him.

Last week, Martin, who is 78, made the trip on homemade skis and found no trace of Thomas at the cabin or along the trail. He had the county Sheriff's Office notified upon his return and yesterday two deputies left to visit the cabin and search the hills for the missing man. There also are other cabins in the vicinity that will be visited in hopes of finding Thomas alive.

### 70 years ago

*March 28, 1946:* A capacity house awaited the curtain of the Concrete High School operetta, "And It Rained" last Friday night, and when the final song ended, the generous applause attested that it had been a very enjoyable evening.

The play was about a group of people stranded by a bridge washout in the summer hotel of Mr. and Mrs. Wise (played by Lloyd Hooper and Geraldine Days). The romantic interest was carried on by Rosemary Elkins as Maibelle Rich and Tike Dwelley as Dennis Black, and by Marilyn Miller as Dennis' young sister Maizie and her boyfriend, "Curly" Rich, played by Richard Armstrong. The fathers of the young folks were John Rich, played by Dave Wright, and Norman Hornbeck as Steele Black. Black also had a romantic interest in Mlle. Marie Caray, formerly plain Irish Mary Carey, but now manager of a group of French dancers. Mlle. Caray was played by Lois Miller.

The tuneful score was well presented by the young singers, and not a few parents were

See **Way Back**, p. 29

## Concrete Center

### March 2016 Activities

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

Lunch served Tue. - Fri., noon

#### Mondays

10 a.m. Jigsaw puzzles  
Noon Lunch  
12:30 p.m. Skip Bo

#### Tuesdays

10 a.m. Jigsaw puzzles  
Noon Lunch  
12:30 p.m. Skip Bo

#### Wednesdays

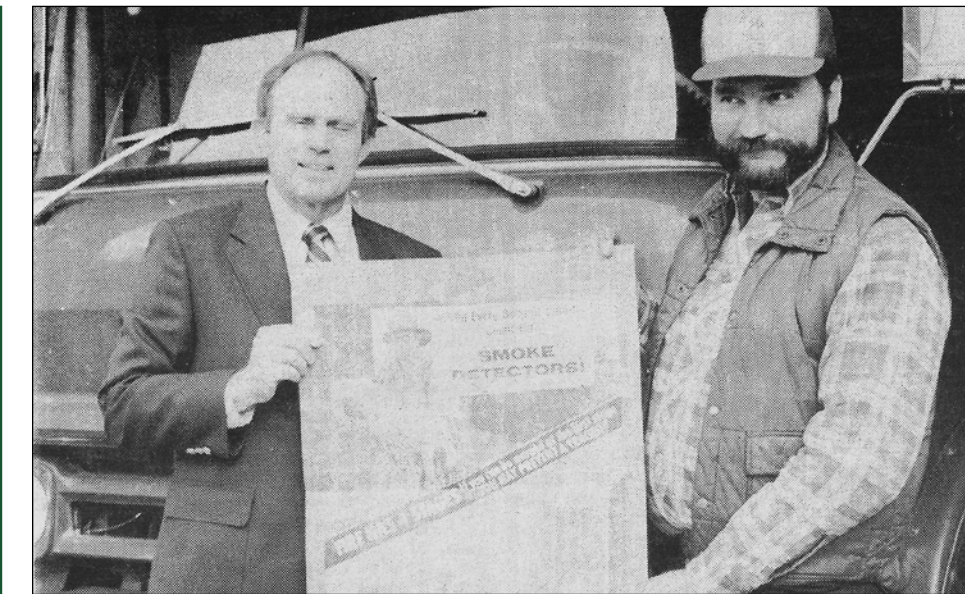
10 a.m. Jigsaw puzzles  
10:30 a.m. Advisory Board mtg., 3/9  
Noon Lunch  
12:30 p.m. Skip Bo  
12:30 p.m. Bingo, 3/9, 3/30

#### Thursdays

10 a.m. Jigsaw puzzles  
10:15-2:30 Income tax assistance by appointment: 360.416.1376 3/3, 3/10, 3/17, 3/24, 3/31  
Noon Lunch  
12:30 p.m. Skip Bo  
12:30 p.m. Pinochle, 3/3, 3/17, 3/31

#### Fridays

10 a.m. Jigsaw puzzles  
Noon Lunch  
12:30 p.m. Dominoes  
1 p.m. Coffee with Commissioner Janicki, 3/11  
1 p.m. Watercolor painting



**30 years ago, March 13, 1986:** Dave Ligon, Western Washington coordinator of National Fire Safety Council (left) and Concrete Volunteer Fire Dept. Chief Rich Philips prepare for an upcoming fire safety program planned for Concrete Elementary School. The program for kindergarten through 6th grade was to be held soon, according to Philips. *Archive photo by Anne Bussiere.*

### Way Back, cont. from p. 28

agreeably surprised at their offspring's first solo appearances.

As interludes during the play, dance choruses were presented. A tap and ballet chorus was composed of Norma Holyfield, Kay Spurling, Nola Clark, Glenrose Bust, Frances Cugini, Nancy Ash, Lavone Stone, and Barbara Williams. A tango was portrayed by Norma Holyfield and Glen Martin, Kay Spurling and Jimmy Wright, Nancy Ash and Neil Middleton, and Barbara Williams and Don Ross.

This year's operetta was presented under the direction of Jean Farmer, music instructor at the Concrete schools.

### 60 years ago

*March 22, 1956:* Tragedy marred the beautiful spring day in the Upper Valley last Sunday when two men died in a boat accident on the Skagit River above Hooper's bar, five miles east of Rockport.

Fishing guide Cecil Jordan of Lyman was drowned, and a fisherman, Lester Underwood of Seattle, succumbed from a heart attack because of the shock and excitement.

R. B. Renny and Harry Hewitt, the other passengers in the boat, managed to swim ashore safely.

The four men were coming down the river at the upper end of Hooper's bar, easing into the log jam eddy at that point, when the boat struck an underwater obstruction, swinging it sideways and out of control for a moment. Before Jordan could straighten it out, the back of the boat hit a log and the bow swung around, dipping water. As the water poured in, the large boat capsized.

Hewitt and Renny were thrown out the back of the boat. Hewitt came up near a snag and was able to hold on until he got his bearings. He then swam to the south shore and waited there until he was picked up by the rescue boat

## Verna's Kitchen

By Verna McClure

### Easy Clam Chowder



This recipe is from my niece, Nancy Hall. She would add muffins and brownies to make a good lunch. This is very good on a cold, wet day. It warms me up inside and out. The chowder is better yet if you've gone out and dug the clams yourself.

- 2 stalks celery, cut up
- ½ onion, chopped up
- Some butter to sauté the above in
- 2 medium potatoes, cubed
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 2 cups water or enough to cover the potatoes

Boil the potatoes, but don't let them get too soft or mushy. Saute the celery and onion and add to the potatoes. Mix together. Add:

- 1 can evaporated milk
- 3 cans minced clams
- 1 can cream style corn

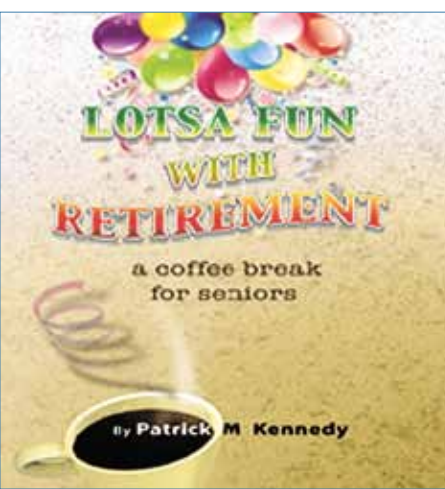
Simmer until hot.

operated by Merv Peterson and Bud Buller.

Renny went down deep and reported that he opened his eyes and saw the boat pass over him. He then swam clear of the snags and reached the north bank; from there he made his way to the highway.

Jordan, who could not swim, apparently never surfaced after he went down with the boat. The accident occurred about 11:45 a.m.

—Compiled from archives



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See Sheriff's Blotter, p. 33



# CONCRETE HERITAGE MUSEUM NEWS

**Dave Tucker's** presentation about the Mt. Baker Volcano Research Center and its work in our area was well attended last month. The Q&A period afterward satisfied the audience's thirst for information on the mountain and the field of extinct volcanoes in our backyard.

What surprised many people was that even though we don't always see Mt. Baker venting, it is. The noise from that release of volcanic gases in the Sherman Crater sounds like a jet engine continually running. Dave also explained what could happen to this area if and when there's an eruption. We suggest you check out the Center's Web site at [www.mbvrc.wordpress.com](http://www.mbvrc.wordpress.com). Our thanks also go to the Concrete Theater for making this presentation possible.

Be sure to look for our table at Albert's Red Apple on Good Friday, March 25, when we have our annual **Easter Bake Sale**. We know you'll find the treats, goodies, and baked goods that will make your Easter dinner special. We'll be there from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., or until we sell out,

whichever comes first. We hope to see you there.

Need a birthday or Easter gift? The museum has several books for sale, including our latest, *The Concrete Heritage Museum Association Cookbook*. Some are for sale at Red Apple and 5b's Bakery, or check our Web site at [www.concreteheritagemuseum.org](http://www.concreteheritagemuseum.org) for the complete publication list and ordering information.

Although the museum is still closed for the season, **special tours** can still be arranged. If you'd like a tour, please contact any of the officers listed on our Web site. We will open for the season on May 28, which isn't far away. If you have friends or family coming for a visit this summer, we'd love to have you stop by.

**For more information** about the museum, contact John Lloyd, president, at 484.575.6374, or John Boggs at 360.853.8347. Our Web site is [www.concreteheritagemuseum.org](http://www.concreteheritagemuseum.org).

—Gail Boggs

## At the Upper Skagit Library

Join the party and contribute to the construction of the new library building by attending **"Frozen in Concrete"** on Sat., March 5, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Concrete Theatre. Storytelling and book signing with Barbara Jean Hicks, sing and dance with Anna and Elsa, have your photo taken with Anna and Elsa. Fun for kids and adults. Buy tickets online: [www.frozeninconcrete.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.frozeninconcrete.brownpapertickets.com).

The **Upper Skagit Library Foundation Annual Meeting** will be held on Sun., March 6, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Concrete Theatre. President Barbara Trask will report on the new library building project. Author Barbara Jean Hicks discusses children's book publishing. Free admission and open to the public.

Children's Book Launch: *The Lost Hour*, March 19, 3:30 to 5 p.m. at the library. A humorous and informative story about the hour lost to daylight savings time. Reading and book signing by the author, Nicola Pearson, and 13-year-old illustrator Maya Keegan.

Spring cleaning is around the corner. A

**book discussion** of *The Life Changing Magic of Tidying Up* by Marie Kondo will occur March 31, 7 p.m. at the library.

Our staff has selected three finalists for the **Library Art Design Contest**. The public can now vote for their favorite at the library. The winner will be announced April 2. The winning art will be featured on our new library card.

**Storytime with Miss Brooke** is March 5, 11 a.m. Families with young children may join us for stories, songs, and a simple craft.

### New arrivals

In adult fiction, *Find Her* by Lisa Gardner.

In adult nonfiction, *Midnight in Broad Daylight* by Pamela Sakamoto.

In Children's, *The Lost Hour* by Nicola Pearson, illustrated by Maya Keegan.

This month's Upper Skagit Library Board of Trustees meeting is Thur., March 10, at 5 p.m.

—Cora Thomas, library associate

## Lions ROAR



Our **monthly meeting** will be held on March 2 at Annie's Pizza. The meeting starts at 6:30 p.m.; however, there is always a group that gathers around 6 p.m. to eat and socialize before the meeting starts. All existing members mark your calendar. Those interested in becoming a member, submitting a request, or just wanting to see what we are about, please feel free to stop in.

On Wed., March 16 we'll host our annual **Corned Beef and Cabbage Feed**. The meal will be held in the Concrete High School Commons Room. The feed starts at 5:30 p.m., with a social time and dinner at 6:30 p.m. This event is open to the community, and the price is \$15 per person. Please let any of the Concrete Lions know by March 6 if you plan to attend, so enough food can be ordered.

The other big event is the **Annual**

**Easter Egg Hunt** on March 26 at 1 p.m. at the Concrete Elementary School. Please plan to bring all the kids to have a great time collecting eggs.

The Lions Club has access to **medical equipment**, such as wheelchairs, walkers, shower chairs, and commodes, that can be lent to help those in need. Contact any Lions Club member and we will do our best to help you out.

As spring begins it is the time to think about our commitment to ourselves and others. I encourage members of our community to think about and **join your local Lions Club**. Our club is your club; we serve you and our community. Our hope for 2016 is to increase our membership number times two. We all have friends and family who have seen the outreach of your local Lions Club, so now is the time to give great thought about being a member!

Thank you for your continued prayers for the healing of our Lion's Club members.

—Connie Smithhart

### Sheriff's Blotter, cont. from p. 31

through contact. Used heroin syringes are truly hazards to the community.

On a similar note, deputies have been stepping up patrols of the park on the south end of Robinson Rd. Many used syringes, along with an increasing amount of trash, have been found there.

### Feb. 17

After numerous complaints of drug paraphernalia and garbage at the park on Robinson Rd. in Lyman, a deputy made an arrest. Two known drug offenders were contacted there and one had a warrant for her arrest. Unfortunately, the jail was unable to accept her for booking and so she was given a new court date. Pretty frustrating. She smiled as the deputy drove away. She'll likely continue not seeking the treatment she desperately needs.

### Feb. 18

A man was observed trying to flag down

vehicles near Healy Rd. near Lyman. A deputy responded and discovered the man wanted an ambulance for a rapid heartbeat. Aid arrived and the man refused treatment by the medics. He was released and walked away, rapidly.

### Feb. 19

A person called 911 while pumping gas in Lyman, complaining of another subject parked too close. There was also an accusation that one vehicle had struck the other. A deputy responded and contacted all persons involved. No damage had occurred to any vehicle and all parties were counseled on how to have a civil conversation.

Deputies served a search warrant on a residence in Cape Horn near Concrete. A variety of drugs and stolen property were located. Deputies booked one man on several felony charges.

A domestic assault on E. Main St. in Concrete got a 32-year-old male taken

to jail. The drunken man got into an altercation at the house involving several subjects. He was booked in to jail on a felony assault.

### Feb. 21

A deputy responded to an address on Cockreham Island near Lyman to check the welfare of a child. Thankfully the child was not there. A referral has been sent to the Health Department for an excessive amount of trash and garbage located on a property there. The county road crew has also been advised. I alerted the residents that any items of trash left on the road may be placed back in their yard with a snow plow, and fines will accrue.

A caller from the Leckin Ln. area in Cape Horn near Concrete reported a missing person. A man said his wife had apparently left out the back door at about 2 p.m. The man searched until 8 p.m., then called the deputy. A short time later, a K9 team from the U.S. Border

Patrol in Blaine arrived to assist. After an exhaustive track, the woman was not located. A few hours later at sunrise, the woman was found walking on the South Skagit Hwy. She was unharmed, but will seek help.

### Feb. 24

The Howard Miller Steelhead Park ranger called for deputy's assistance with a drunken driver in Rockport. The man and his passenger were observed driving recklessly through the park. The man nearly hit several pedestrians and headed toward the boat launch. The ranger pulled up behind him with emergency lights flashing, trying to get the man to stay put. As to be expected, the drunk put it in reverse and rammed the ranger's truck, then fled the area. The park ranger was able to follow him to a house nearby as deputies arrived. The deputies told the

See Sheriff's Blotter, p. 35

# 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](http://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 avail.  
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](mailto:allvalleystorageinc@live.com)  
Online: [www.allvalleystorageinc.com](http://www.allvalleystorageinc.com)

### Hair salons

#### Hair Fitness

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

### Liquor stores

#### Concrete Liquor Store & Convenience Store

45895 Main Street, Concrete // 360.853.7149  
Monday thru Saturday 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.  
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](http://www.goldnuggetpawnshop.com)

### Ranches

#### Double O Ranch, LLC

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

### Restaurants

#### Cascade Burgers

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

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:fred@cinemaseptic.com)  
[www.cinemaseptic.com](http://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. noon–6, Sat. 10–5  
360.436.1029 [www.goldnuggetpawnshop.com](http://www.goldnuggetpawnshop.com)

### Towing services

#### Cascades Towing

Professional roadside assistance. Flatbed  
towing and winch-outs. Lockouts, jumpstarts,  
fuel delivery, and motorcycle towing. Licensed  
and insured. Lowest prices around!  
360.853.8599 // [www.cascadestowing.com](http://www.cascadestowing.com)

### Dave's Towing 360.853.7433, Concrete, WA

For all your roadside service needs.  
Call Dave's towing for fast, courteous response.  
**10 years' experience can get any job done.**  
We tow all motorcycles, RVs, and trailers.  
Storage, cash for clunkers, remove junk autos.  
Registered, insured, bonded. 360.853.7433

## March at the Darrington Library

### Children and family programs

- Family Storytime, Wed., March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; 11 to 11:45 a.m.
- LEGO Robotics, Wed., March 2; 1 to 2 p.m.
- LEGO Club free play, Wed., March 9; 1 to 2 p.m.
- Minecraft Build Challenge, Thur., March 24, 3 to 4 p.m.; first come, first served. Ages 9–12.
- Family Coloring Time, Thur., March 17, 31; 3 to 4 p.m.; all ages welcome.
- Art Day at the Library, Wed., March 23; 1 to 2 p.m. All ages welcome.

### Adult programs

- Darrington Friends of the Library Annual Book Sale, Sat., March 19; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. All ages welcome.
- Darrington Friends of the Library meeting, Wed., March 2; 5:30 to 7 p.m.
- Darrington Writers Group, Fri., March 18; 3 to 5 p.m.
- 3C Book Group: Coffee, Cookies, & Classics, Fri., March 25, 4 to 5:30 p.m. March's classic: *Little Women*.

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

—Asheley Bryson, branch manager

### Teen programs

- Afternoon Matinee in the library: "Tomorrowland," Wed., March 16; 1 to 3:15 p.m.

To add your business  
to this directory, call  
360.853.8213

or e-mail

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





# Out & About



## Mount Vernon

### Judge Cook retires

**MOUNT VERNON** — After serving 20 years as Superior Court Judge for Skagit County, Judge Susan K. Cook retired on March 1.

Cook graduated from the University of Washington Law School in 1985 with highest honors. She subsequently joined the law office of Paul N. Luvera Jr. in Mount Vernon, where she practiced until 1992.

In 1992 Cook was selected to serve as Superior Court Commissioner. During the next four years, she was primarily responsible for hearing cases involving family law disputes and juvenile matters.

In 1996 Cook ran unopposed for the judicial position vacated by the retirement

of Judge George McIntosh. She became the first female judge for Skagit County.

Cook frequently contributes to legal publications and lectures on topics pertaining to the law. She has served on the Board of Directors for Skagit Pre-School and Resource Center (SPARC) and on the Woman's Alliance and Network Board (SWAN), and was named as the 2000 Skagit County Business and Professional Woman of the Year. She also served as secretary of the Skagit County Pioneer Association from 1995 to 2010.

In 2015 she was named Judge of the Year by the Washington State Association for Justice. This award is given to a judge



Cook

who promotes the justice system through "exercise of outstanding judicial ruling or leadership."

Additionally she was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Washington State Bar Association. This award is in recognition of the many years of service to attorneys and people of Skagit County by promoting fairness, demeanor, community service, and mentoring, leaving a lasting legacy and ideal to uphold for future lawyers and judges.

An open house celebration honoring Judge Cook was held on Feb. 29 in the Skagit County Courthouse.

appreciation for their participation."

Participants do not need to know anything about alcohol, tobacco, or drug use to answer survey questions, and interviews with people who do not use these substances are just as important to the study as interviews with people who do.

The federal survey will be conducted by RTI International, a not-for-profit organization located in North Carolina. For information about the company and agencies involved in the study, go to [www.samhsa.gov](http://www.samhsa.gov) or [www.rti.org](http://www.rti.org).

## Skagit County

### County Health Department notes pending federal drug use and mental health survey

Skagit County Health officials advise the public that they might be contacted regarding a national drug use and health survey being conducted by the federal government in 2016.

"We understand that those who receive letters from the contractor conducting this survey might call us regarding the question of whether the survey is legitimate," said Health Department official Rebecca Clark. "Although this survey does not originate with our department, we encourage participation."

In 2016 about 186,000 randomly selected households in all 50 states will be sent letters describing the survey hosted by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The letter will inform them that a professional field interviewer will visit for a brief screening interview to determine if someone in that household (12 years of age or older) is eligible for participation in the study. About 70,000 individuals will ultimately be selected to participate, with a \$30 cash payment "as a token of

## Ellensburg

### Fly Fishing Fair April 29–30

The Washington State Council of the International Federation of Fly Fishers (WSCIFFF) will host its 10th Annual Fly Fishing Fair in Ellensburg on April 29–30. The fair will be held at the Kittitas Valley Event Center on the Kittitas County Fairgrounds in Ellensburg.

The event includes a variety of seminars and workshops, a nine-hole casting course, private casting lessons, and about 100 fly tyers with whom attendees are welcome to speak.

Attendees may bring their own equipment or borrow equipment for the casting course.

Vendors will offer tying materials, rods, reels, lines, and other items needed for fly fishing.

The fair will be open on Fri., April 29, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Sat., April 30, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Admission is free for FFF members, children, and students with student ID; nonmember admission is \$5.

**Obituaries published in Concrete Herald** from May 2009 to present are posted online at: [www.concrete-herald.com/obituaries](http://www.concrete-herald.com/obituaries). For more information, call 360.853.8213 or e-mail [editor@concrete-herald.com](mailto:editor@concrete-herald.com).

### Sheriff's Blotter, cont. from p. 33

man he was under arrest and the fight was on. Deputies had to physically place the man in the back of a patrol truck and process him for DUI. Luckily no pedestrians were hurt.

#### Feb. 25

A Lyman resident called to report something odd. The caller said their neighbor was throwing spearlike objects over a fence at his dogs. The caller also smelled an odd odor as if the suspected spear-hurling neighbors were burning items. The deputy who responded found no evidence to support any of these claims.

—Compiled by Sgt. Chris Kading

## Continue the cycle

Please recycle this newspaper

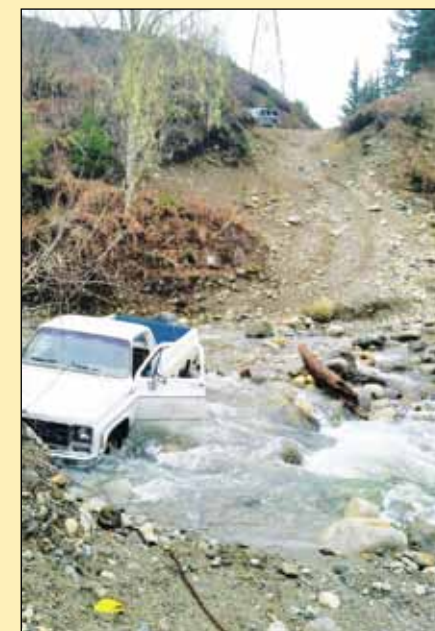


#### Feb. 17

Deputies located three wanted subjects cutting firewood on Upper Finney Rd. The three were wanted on several outstanding felony warrants. The driver had a history of fleeing from law enforcement, and today was no different. The deputy attempted to stop the beat-up old pickup truck full of firewood, but the driver and his two passengers quickly accelerated away. The two passengers climbed into the bed of the truck and began throwing blocks of cedar onto the road. These blocks weighed over 50 lbs. and easily would have disabled the pursuing patrol cars. The suspects also threw axes, a toolbox, and other items on the road in attempts to slow the deputies' pursuit.

The deputies continued to follow the suspects as they headed toward Caskey Lake. Once on the backroads, they didn't slow down. The reckless driver eventually drove into a washed-out section of road under the powerlines and crashed into a creek. All three subjects fled the truck with deputies in foot pursuit. The SCSO K9 was just minutes behind them.

Deputies tracked two of the subjects along the river and a helicopter was called in to assist. After a couple hours of tracking, the Snohomish County K9 team relieved the SCSO team. Shortly after that, the two suspects were located: 23-year-old James Joseph Kelly and his current girlfriend, Crystal VanDyk.



Both subjects were booked into jail for their several outstanding warrants, along with new charges involving the pursuit. The third subject was found the next day by deputies and booked into jail on several charges.

## AREA FOOD BANKS

### Clear Lake

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

### Concrete

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

### Darrington

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

### Hamilton

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

360.826.4090

### Lyman

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

### Marblemount

**Bread of Life Food Bank**  
59850 State Route 20, Marblemount  
First and third Wed. each month  
11 a.m.–4 p.m.  
360.873.2504

### Sedro-Woolley

**Helping Hands Food Bank**  
601 Cook Rd., Sedro-Woolley  
Wed., 10–11:30 a.m. and 12:30–4 p.m.  
Open every Wednesday  
360.856.2211

\*Changes? Call 360.853.8213.

## Smart businesses advertise in the

## Travelers' Guide!

Reach visitors to the Upper Skagit Valley by advertising in the 2016 North Cascadian Travelers' Guide.



Publication Date  
May 2016

Circulation: 15,000  
Pages: 56

Deadline for ads  
and payment:  
April 18, 2016

The Travelers' Guide showcases the history and events for visitors to:

Clear Lake, Sedro-Woolley, Lyman, Hamilton, Birdview, Grasmere, Concrete, Rockport, Darrington, Marblemount, Newhalem, and Diablo.

A **Concrete Herald** Publication

For more information or to request an advertising rate card, send an e-mail to [editor@concrete-herald.com](mailto:editor@concrete-herald.com).

**Call 360.853.8213**

## Comprehensive Plan + Shoreline Updates



Skagit County is performing its periodic update of its **Comprehensive Plan** as required by the Growth Management Act, including changes to the policy text, zoning map, development regulations, and Countywide Planning Policies. Adoption is expected by the end of June.

Skagit County is updating its 1970s-era **Shoreline Master Program** (SMP), which regulates shoreline development in unincorporated areas. Preliminary County adoption is expected by the end of June, with final adoption within 18 months.

public hearing  
Tuesday, April 5 at 6 p.m.

public hearing  
Tuesday, March 15 at 6 p.m.

written comments due  
Thursday, April 14 at 4:30 p.m.

written comments due  
Monday, April 4 at 4:30 p.m.

learn more at  
[www.skagitcounty.net/2016update](http://www.skagitcounty.net/2016update)

learn more at  
[www.skagitcounty.net/smp](http://www.skagitcounty.net/smp)

## How to Submit Comments

- At the public hearings at 1800 Continental Place in Mount Vernon. Three minutes is allowed per speaker.
- In writing (preferred) by the deadlines to [pdscomments@co.skagit.wa.us](mailto:pdscomments@co.skagit.wa.us) or 1800 Continental Pl, Mount Vernon WA 98273





# Smile



## Dwelleysms

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

"It is not quite true that glamour and personality can be purchased at the corner drug store. That stuff is just gilt. You have to provide something in the way of framework upon which to display it."  
"When it was learned that people couldn't handle 100-mile-an-hour cars, the manufacturers thought up safety belts so the body could be found in the wreckage."  
"Rental of cars is booming. The big feature is that you don't have to make payments when you're not going anywhere."  
"There are just a few basic laws of existence. What complicates life now are the political amendments."  
—March 29, 1956

"This is a trying life, especially with every ambitious politician looking for dangers for the country to be fraught with. We're suffering from too rich a diet of fraught. In fact, it's spoiling the appetite for anything mild."  
"An investor is a guy with a dollar. The promoter is the fellow who knows where it can be spent."  
—April 12, 1956

"The president threw the first ball to open baseball season, and it was nice to note that it wasn't a curve."  
"Nothing improves too much with age; it's just that it seems better if you have to wait for it."  
"Facts used to be facts. Now they are statistics and nobody has the time to try to prove them."  
—April 19, 1956

"Latest hospital gadget is a recording of the baby's first yell for proud papa. A thoughtful gift that can be played in later years, when all the child can say is 'gimme.'"  
"A few complaints on our newspaper lately, but we promise better reading as soon as our proof reeder get's back rfrom CalIFornia."  
—April 26, 1956

"The taxpayer is always wrong. If he fails to pay up on time, there are threats, penalties, interest, and confiscation. Now that the county owes us money due to no error of the poor taxpayer, they can find no law anywhere that allows them to give it back, or even fail to make an effort to collect the illegal difference. A one-way street. The pocket lined with fishhooks."  
"In a speech in Sedro-Woolley, our state senator is quoted as saying, 'I am going to be your senator for the next four years and you might as well make up your minds to it.' The last time a candidate showed modesty of this type, he sat at home for four years."  
"Too many jokes are being passed around about popular comedians, and too few by them."  
—May 3, 1956

"This is Armed Forces Week, during which, as a former member, we suggest that all veterans pay fitting tribute in remembrance of their service by not standing in line for anything."  
"There is no truth to the rumor that on the pearly gates is a sign: 'Drive in.'"  
—May 17, 1956

"Horoscope reading is becoming a popular breakfast-time sport. See what the stars have in store for you before circumstances take over and really louse up your day."  
"Flying saucers have been reported over Japan. Once our problem, but now too far off course to be a simple case of slipped discs."  
—May 24, 1956

"Praise is one thing that is most enjoyed by those who have done nothing to deserve it."  
—June 7, 1956

## Concrete Harold

By Joyce Harris



## Public Service Announcement

By Stig Kristensen



## Crossword: "Food for thought"

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
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69					70						71			
72					73						74			

### Across

- Bohemian, e.g.
- Foreshadow
- Beat
- Calcite rock
- Kind of force
- Deplaned
- Hoagie, e.g.
- "What's Happening!!" character
- Grand
- 1965 Ursula Andress film
- Delineate
- Fertilizer ingredient
- Common contraction
- Some deer
- B & B
- Creamy dessert
- The "B" in N.B.
- "Arabian Nights" menace
- "\_\_\_ cost you!"
- Basic
- Blinking light, maybe
- Jewish month
- Cow, maybe
- Zoroastrian
- Nile wader
- \_\_\_ system
- Hot
- Didn't walk

- Cooking style
- As a result
- Ore remover
- Dance
- Dither
- Mesh
- With understanding

### Down

- Busile
- Vermeer's "Woman With a \_\_\_"
- A long way off
- Care for
- Dr. J's first pro league
- Mantel piece
- Surge
- Bryce Canyon locale
- City near Sparks
- Aviary sound
- Elite
- Corner
- Aromatic solvent
- Foreword
- "Beats me!"
- Rank above maj.
- Got wind of
- Indigenous Canadian
- Part of a nuclear arsenal, for short

- Biblical pronoun
- Lady of Lisbon
- Ore remover
- "\_\_\_ Not There," 2007 film
- Sea monster of myth
- Dangerous bacteria
- Greek promenade
- Knocked off, in a way
- If not
- All excited
- \_\_\_ Doubt, rock band
- It has a certain ring to it
- Excuse
- Glazier's items
- Scrub
- Cheek cosmetic
- Bar offering
- Skin products maker
- Swift fly
- Oenologist's interest
- Municipality in France
- Organic compound
- Buck
- Word
- Nod, maybe
- Adaptable truck, for short

## 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.

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

\*Solutions to both puzzles are on p. 39.

## Funny as Facebook

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

- "I just got sandbagged by a 5-year old. Rowan asked me to play a game, I told her I would teach her Uno. After sitting patiently through the rules explanation, her first play was a skip, a card I hadn't explained to her yet, because her being five meant I didn't want her to get bogged down with rules out of the gate. She told ME I was skipped, then fired off a 5 card combo and went out, pausing to say Uno before the last card, another rule I had not worried about mentioning to her. She must've noticed my jaw being agape, because she then dropped the little piece of info, that Eric taught her how to play earlier today. I swim with the sharks."
- "There are some moments working at Real Change that just feel the Real Changiest. Like trying to write a headline for a column that talks about gravitational waves, tacos, homeless people and the Super Bowl."
- "Sign that Spring is coming.....This evening a frog was hopping across the street, the first I've seen this season."
- "So this conversation just happened: Cody (yelling from his room down the hall) Mom! I need your help! My stereo won't turn on and I know that I have new batteries in my remote. Me - Did you try to push the ON button on your stereo? Cody - Ugh....Ok, I'll try that. A minute later... Cody - Nevermind Mom, that worked!"
- So how long is CBS gonna wait before they reboot Nash Bridges? It's not like Cheech is getting any younger.
- Creature built a pyramid out of Tootsie Rolls, then stuck a gummy eyeball in her mouth. Mom, can you guess what I am? Cyclops? Nope, the Illuminati. There really should be a screening process for having children."
- "Umami." Probably the most annoying buzzword food people are using right now."



# The Man in the Mud Room

By Nicola Pearson

*Editor's note: This is the 15th 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 until the story is complete. Previous installments are posted at [www.concrete-herald.com](http://www.concrete-herald.com).*

But they didn't get as far as Lange's yurt. Partway up Sauk Mountain Road, Lange caught sight of a longhaired shashadow pacing through the woods, heading toward his property. For the second time that morning, he leapt out of the Nissan and gave chase. After he was under the trees and moving through the brush, he realized he didn't have to move so fast. He could hear the man kicking the fallen autumn leaves and see his shape threading left and right through the trees, but he wasn't moving very fast, almost as though he didn't expect Lange to keep chasing him. He was short, maybe five foot six, squarely built, wearing old jeans and a drab, olive green parka that looked too thin to have any warmth left in it. His dark hair straggled down his back, to just below his shoulders and as Lange followed him through the woods, gaining on him, he could smell marijuana as if it were being expelled through his pores, like sweat.

He came within a dozen steps of the man and called out, "I just want to talk to you."

Seconds later the man glanced back over his shoulder, then dodged behind a tree and stopped, as if he were hiding. Lange stopped too. He was panting from pushing hard over the uneven ground and he could hear his breath filling the silence in the forest around him as he observed the frayed tops of the man's worn sneakers poking out from the base of the tree and the blackened fingers pulling nervously at the cord around the bottom of the parka. His mind raced with his breathing, wondering what he was going to say to this fellow. He didn't want to reprimand him for stealing his milk and he didn't care about the other petty thievery either, but if he'd hurt Margi, well, that was something different.

He waited for his breathing to calm down, then took one slow step to the left. The profile of the man's face came into

view. Lange saw a receding hairline, a pug nose, and a salt-and-pepper beard that curled up at the end. He also saw a beady eye staring off into the distance as the man worried his lips back and forth and up and down.

"You're on my property," Lange said finally, thinking he might lull the man into believing he just wanted to talk trespassing. But he got no reaction. He waited, wondering what to do next, then decided he had no choice; he stepped forward. The man's face spun toward him, filled with fear, and almost as quickly he was off again, hustling easily through the woods.

"No, wait!" Lange called out and sprinted after him, left and right, through some second-growth cedar trees, then headlong into a small stand of alders. It was obvious this was a trail the fellow had followed before by the surety of his movements and the break in the brush. Lange pushed the pace behind him and was almost within touching distance when they broke out onto the road on his property and found Suleka, leaning against the driver's side door of the Nissan.

"Why, Joe!" she declared, at the sight of the bearded man suddenly in front of her. "It's you!"

He pivoted 180 degrees to end up on her left and edged in tight against her, like a child looking for protection. "It's okay," she said to the right side of his face. She pointed at Lange. "He's not going to hurt you."

Lange looked at her expectantly. "This is Joe," she explained. She touched the other man on his shoulder. "Joe, this is Cal Lange. But maybe you knew that."

Joe nodded, a short, curt nod, then sneaked a glance over at Lange. Suleka leaned toward Lange and dropped her voice. "He used to live up the Cascade, but his lady friend died a year ago and he hasn't been seen there for a while." She looked at the man standing next to her again and raised her voice. "Did you move away from your place, Joe?"

"Had to," the little man said, his speech nasal, exaggerated. "There were people in the woods behind me, spying."

"Spying?"

"Uh huh. With those listening devices. You know. Look like snakes?"

Suleka scrunched her face up, skeptical. "You sure?"

Joe nodded vigorously. "I saw them. In my firewood piles."

A quick glance from Suleka to Lange, which he answered with a widening of his eyes. She focused on Joe again. "So where are you living now?"

He waved off to her right. "Over there." "The Rockport-Cascade Road?" Lange asked. Joe looked at him, then at Suleka.

"The Rockport-Cascade Road?" she repeated. Joe shrugged and nodded at the same time. She glanced at Lange. "He doesn't hear so well, so you either have to talk into his right ear, which is his better ear, or make sure he can read your lips." She focused once more on the man standing up against her and spoke slowly, clearly. "You could've told me you needed milk."

Joe looked anxiously at Lange. "I don't care about the milk," Lange stated clearly, now that he had Joe's attention. "I just want to know about the woman."

Joe's eyes narrowed, appraising. "You know the one I mean?" "Bicycle woman?" Joe ventured. "Margi," Suleka corrected with an edge of irritation in her tone as if she'd really expected Joe to remember this. "You know, the one who lives over by Ilabot Creek with Sam."

"I didn't hurt her," Joe countered. "Is she hurt?" Lange asked.

Joe watched him for a second then shook his head slowly, no.

Lange could tell that he knew something and as long as he didn't push it, he might tell him what he knew. But he had to tread cautiously. "We need help finding her." "I didn't do it."

Suleka's eyebrows shot up, like she hadn't been expecting this.

But Lange went with the flow. "We don't think you did," he said. "We just need to know where she is." He waited while Joe assessed him warily, then tried again. "Do you know where she is?"

Joe nodded, yes. "I saw where that woman put her."

"Which woman?" pressed Suleka.

Joe frowned, lifting his shoulders up to his ears, and opened his eyes wide, like he didn't know.

"What did she look like?" Lange asked. Joe's eyes became unfocused, as he contemplated his answer. "Like a scarecrow."

"Shelby," whispered Suleka, and Lange could tell she was visualizing the mop of untamed dark hair on the girlfriend's head.

For a moment there was nothing but

stillness, like someone had hit pause and locked them all in place. The noontime sun was bearing down on their scene and Lange felt way too hot dressed the way he was. He sucked on his retainer and wanted to lower his eyelids and drift away, but a chattering of angry birds chasing away a bigger bird above their heads brought him back to the scene at hand. "Were they on foot or in a car?" he asked.

"Car." Callum Lange felt a thrum of excitement inside his chest. "What kind of car?" Joe looked sure of himself for the first time. "Ford Taurus," he declared. "Grandma's—"

"—Taxi!" Lange and Suleka joined in. They beamed at each other as if figuring it out had been a challenge that they'd mastered together and now they were proud of themselves. But then Lange saw Suleka's smile fade and her brows moved slowly together as she realized that this meant her friend had done something wrong. Maybe very wrong. Her features changed again, becoming more confused, indicating her mind was questioning what she was thinking. "But why would Mary Lynn ...?" she wondered, to no one in particular.

"Let's not assume anything," Lange told her, stretching a hand out in her direction. "Let's find out." He made sure Joe could see his lips again. "Where did they go in Grandma's Taxi?"

"Power lines road." "The one that crosses Rockport-Cascade?" Suleka asked.

Joe nodded. "I can show you."

"Please do." Lange didn't waste any time. He strode around the back of the Nissan and threw open the passenger door for Joe, but when he looked back, he saw the little man was climbing into the bed of the pick-up. He didn't argue. "May not be legal," he told Suleka as they got in the front at the same time, "but I suspect he's more comfortable back there."

She was still too dazed by the situation to be worrying about where Joe rode in the truck. "I thought for sure he was talking about Shelby," she said, backing down Lange's driveway. "Mary Lynn's kind of tidy to be described as a scarecrow."

"Maybe not if she's been wrestling a dead body around."

Suleka shot him a horrified look. "You think Margi's dead?"

"He said she wasn't hurt."

"That doesn't mean she's dead! Maybe Mary Lynn just drove Margi somewhere

**Mud Room, cont. from p. 38**

to hide while she figured out what she wanted to do about Sam and Shelby." "Then why didn't she tell us that?" Suleka's frustration became evident. "I don't know! I'm not a detective. Why don't you tell me what you think?"

"I think I should call Detective Deller, have her get a search warrant for Mary Lynn McCracken's car."

But he didn't need to. Because as soon as they reached Highway 20 again, his phone rang.

It was Deller.

*Continued next month ...*

**Letters, cont. from p. 3**

**Interpretive Center celebrates a great season**

The Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center at Howard Miller Steelhead Park in Rockport had an outstanding 2015–16 season! Even though eagle counts were down, visitor count was up: We welcomed 3,486 visitors in a two-month period.

The Skagit River Bald Eagle Awareness Team, the nonprofit that operates the Center, acknowledges those individuals who contributed funds, time, and effort to the operation of the Interpretive Center. Howard Miller Steelhead Park, Skagit County Parks and Rec, and Concrete Chamber of Commerce, thank you for your long-time partnership. Volunteers are the heart of our organization and worked 454 hours to keep the center operating smoothly.

Numerous organizations generously provided the needed funds to operate the Interpretive Center this season, with

**Crossword solution, from p. 37**

1	S	L	A	V	5	A	U	G	U	R	10	C	A	N	E
14	T	U	F	A	15	B	R	U	T	E	18	A	L	I	T
17	I	T	A	L	19	A	N	S	A	N	D	W	I	C	H
20	R	E	R	U	21	T	H	O	U	22	S	H	E		
23	E	T	C	H	24	R	O	E	S	25	I	N	T	E	R
26	I	T	D	27	R	O	E	S	28	I	N	N			
34	C	H	O	35	C	O	L	A	T	E	M	O	U	S	S
40	B	E	N	E	41	R	O	C	42	I	T	L	L		
43	M	E	A	T	44	A	D	P	O	45	T	A	T	O	E
46	U	F	O	47	E	L	U	L	48	A	W	E			
51	P	A	R	S	52	I			53	I	B	I	S		
56	A	B	O	57	R	A	C	58	B	U	S	E	E		
60	N	O	U	61	E	A	L	L	62	E	S	I	N	E	
69	E	R	G	O	70	B	E	A	U	T	71	H	O	O	F
72	S	T	E	W	73	A	G	R	E	E	74	I	N	L	Y

See **Mud Room**, p. 39

additional local artisans contributing items to our Nature Store, with revenue supporting our mission.

A special thank-you to Erica Keene and Matt Riggen from the U.S. Forest Service for leading the Guided Hikes.

The Interpretive Center thanks its presenters, who offered eight environmental presentations. We are also grateful to *Concrete Herald's* support as January's featured article.

We appreciate the public's significant donations, a vote of confidence in our advocacy work.

Thank you all; with your help we continue to educate the public about bald eagles and their fragile habitat.

*Cora Thomas, president*

*Skagit River Bald Eagle*

*Interpretive Center*

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**Sudoku solution, from p. 37**

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

## Classifieds

**MOVIES & EVENTS AT THE HISTORIC CONCRETE THEATRE**

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**GARAGE SALES**

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church**, 1006 Wicker Rd., Sedro-Woolley. April 8–9, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Indoors! Fundraiser to support church maintenance.

**NOTICES**

**NOTICE OF WORKSHOP**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** the Concrete Town Council will hold a workshop on March 28, 2016,

at 6:00 PM at the Town of Concrete Town Hall. The purpose of this workshop is to discuss the possible Gene Bank designation of the Skagit River.

The Concrete Town Council chambers are handicap accessible. Arrangements to reasonably accommodate the needs of special classes of citizens, including handicap accessibility or interpreter, will be made upon receiving twenty-four (24) hour advance notice. Contact Andrea Fichter at the Concrete Town Hall, 360.853.8401.

Andrea Fichter, Clerk-Treasurer  
TOWN OF CONCRETE  
email: [andrea@concretewa.gov](mailto:andrea@concretewa.gov)  
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## PHOENIX MOBILE NEEDLE EXCHANGE BUS

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Concrete Center, 45821 Railroad St., Concrete, first and third Monday each month, 2–4 p.m.

Citipoint Church North Cascade, 59850 SR 20, Marblemount, first Monday each month, 10 a.m.–noon

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