

The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley

Concrete Herald

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50 cents

Clear Lake • Sedro-Woolley • Lyman • Day Creek • Punkin Center • Hamilton • Birdsvie • Grasmere • Concrete • Cape Horn • Sauk City • Sauk Valley • Rockport • Van Horn • Darrington • Corkindale • Marblemount • Bullerville • Newhalem • Diablo

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Bigfoot again eludes state recognition

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Logger wrestlers bring home state medals

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In a down-to-the-wire decision, Governor Jay Inslee vetoed a controversial bill that would have immediately exempted the state Legislature from public disclosure law three hours before the bill would have been enacted into law. *Page 34.*



Boiling point

A centerpiece of the Legislature's 2018 agenda addressed Washington state's water crisis. When a fix finally came, one county was left out. *Page 11.*



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The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley

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From the editor

Plenty of shameful behavior

Shame. It's a reaction that's downplayed in our culture. Hey, we're just being ourselves, right? If you don't like it, there's the door. I gotta be me.

The majority of our state legislators should be ashamed of voting for Senate Bill 6617, which would have immediately exempted the state Legislature from public disclosure law, as well as retroactively exempted lawmakers from the state Public Records Act. The bill was rushed through the Legislature in less than 48 hours with no public hearings. It passed both the state House and Senate with supermajority margins and no floor debate. Thankfully, our Senator Keith Wagoner and a handful of others voted against the bill, and our governor vetoed it (see p. 34). Hopefully the other senators' constituents have paid attention to their elected officials' actions.

Atomwaffen (see p. 3): If that hate group ever tries to gain a foothold in the Upper Valley, we true citizens must unite our voices: Never here. Never here. Never here.

—J. K. M.

Not Just for Kids:
How Children's Literature Inspires Bold Conversations.

Sun., March 25 • 1 p.m.
Concrete Theatre
45920 Main St. • Concrete

Anu Taranath

Hear from UW lecturer Anu Taranath at the **Upper Skagit Library Foundation's** annual meeting how kids — and adults — can use children's books from around the globe to navigate our complicated world.

FREE admission!
Everyone welcome.

The event will also include library updates and a brief business meeting.

Co-sponsored by Concrete Theatre and Humanities Washington.
For more information, e-mail info@upperskagitlibraryfoundation.org

Opinion

Letters to the editor

Concrete deserves better than this

Few people stop and think how marvelous the human body is, or, for that matter, how we are designed to be a balanced system. Our two eyes not only allow us to see, but they provide us depth and distance perception. Our two ears provide us with distance and direction to the sounds around us. These attributes are widely recognized.

A recent incident has made me aware that someone in our community is unaware why humans have two butt cheeks. They were graciously given to us to remind us not to do things half-assed — like telling half-truths. The local incident I refer to is an anonymous letter that made the rounds this past month.

Whether that letter was about me or about my neighbor is irrelevant. I took offense to it because although it was essentially a clipping from an old newspaper, it portrayed an extremely small snippet of an incident that is clearly very old news.

Everyone has things in both their present and past that we can report on. How we do that can be honest or dishonest; it can also be harmless or hurtful. I give most obituaries as a common example of a limited portrayal of a person's life. Rarely do they include the negatives we all know exist, but they are harmless.

Exclusively negative portrayals without any attempt to examine the other factors involved can only be described as not only dishonest, but harmful. Such efforts say so much more about the person who has a limited ability or willingness to see the whole picture than they do about the person being attacked. The person who sent such letters out certainly missed the

irony of their own statement that they scrawled in the margin. It said, "Concrete deserves better than this."

I couldn't agree more.

John Boggs
Concrete

Who is running our local government?

The Skagit Valley, despite having the third largest watershed on the West Coast and being in one of the wettest areas in the country, is now the most difficult place in the United States for a rural landowner to access water.

In a recent *Skagit Valley Herald* article, all of the quoted legislators except Dan Kristiansen, R-39, pointed their fingers at the Swinomish Tribe as being the reason why the Skagit was not included in the "legislative fix" to our state's "water wars." Rep. Kristiansen had 10,000 reasons not to point at the tribe (dollars in tribal campaign contributions), but what about the others? Republicans and Democrats, they all blamed the Swinomish Tribe for denying the rural residents of Skagit County access to water.

Were they telling us that one man, living on a federally owned, racially

See Letters, p. 27

Letters policy

Letters of 200 words or fewer may be e-mailed to letters@concrete-herald.com or sent to Concrete Herald, P.O. Box 682, Concrete, WA 98237. Writers must include their 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.

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Message from the mayor

By Jason Miller

My Grandpa Miller was a bit of a wit. From time to time, my dad likes to crack wise with some of Grandpa's sayings. I've been thinking of one in particular lately: "There's nothing wrong with being poor, but it can be awfully inconvenient."

You said it, Grandpa. In our personal and professional lives, lack of funds can be frustrating and maddening. Your town staff and Town Council are faced with this reality on an almost daily basis, and are left with little choice but to make lists, prioritize the items on them, and start nibbling away to make the necessary additions and improvements to our town, year by year.

Right now we're trying to figure out the purchase of right-of-way land that borders land in east Concrete, where we'd like to put a pocket park for the citizens in that neighborhood. We think we see the light at the end of the tunnel, but the cost will delay the park's construction.

We're adding two light posts per year to the Park & Ride and the parking lot south of the Fire & Life Safety Building — posts that were left out of the original plan simply so we could get that project built within budget.

We're nibbling away at other projects in town, too. This year I have my eye on replacing the fence along the south side of Main St. as you travel eastbound and enter the Town Center. I'd like to see repairs made to the chain link fence that surrounds the tennis court at Veterans Memorial Park. And more trees are planned for Silo Park, bordering the Park & Ride and the spray park, which should be complete by July.

Like most small towns, Concrete relies on volunteer efforts from citizens of all ages. If you'd like to help us improve our town by donating your time, contact me!

Concrete Mayor Jason Miller can be reached at goodwords@frontier.com or 360.853.8213, or by sending correspondence to P.O. Box 39, Concrete, WA 98237.



Concrete mentioned in article about covert neo-Nazi group

Concrete and Upper Valley residents were surprised to see the town mentioned in an article about a secretive neo-Nazi hate group, Atomwaffen Division, posted to the ProPublica Web site on Feb. 23.

The lengthy article, titled "Inside Atomwaffen As It Celebrates a Member for Allegedly Killing a Gay Jewish College Student," was broad in its national analysis, but included a brief reference to Concrete and the so-called "Devil's Tower," a remnant of the town's cement-producing past, northeast of town.

The article states, "In the Pacific Northwest, cell members had converged on an abandoned cement factory, known as 'Devil's Tower' near the small town of Concrete, Washington, where they had screamed 'gas the kikes, race war now!' while firing off round after round from any array of weapons, including an AR-15 assault rifle with a high capacity drum magazine."

The alleged event near Concrete was bookended by reporting on a three-day "Hate Camp" in Nevada, a Hate Camp in the Shawnee National Forest in southern Illinois in fall 2017, and an event in Texas. The events were referred to collectively as "training sessions" that were allegedly documented in Atomwaffen propaganda videos.

Concrete Herald reached out to local law enforcement and Facebook groups to corroborate the ProPublica report, which was written after the online publication obtained encrypted chat logs — upwards of 250,000 messages sent during a period of more than six months.

Admins for Facebook groups Concrete, WA and Upriver Community and Skagit Breaking reported no scanner or Facebook chatter about gunfire at the alleged location near Concrete during the time period noted in the ProPublica article.

Concrete Town Council discussed the article during its Feb. 26 meeting, with Skagit County Sheriff's Office Sgt. Chris Kading on hand to answer questions.

Kading reported that the FBI had reached out to SCSO in summer 2017, stating they were watching Kaleb Cole, 22, who lives in Blaine and is purportedly Atomwaffen's Washington chapter leader. Cole was known to have come down to the Concrete area "with a handful of others," said Kading.

The land near Concrete where the

Concrete wrestlers injured in accident

Four Concrete Middle School wrestlers and their coach were injured in a motor vehicle accident on Feb. 27.

Coach Don Olmstead and five wrestlers were returning home from a match in the school district's Suburban. According to a Washington State Patrol report, at approximately 7 p.m., as Olmstead was eastbound on SR 20, Justin Rodgers, 47, of Sedro-Woolley, failed to stop at the Pinelli Rd. stop sign, entered SR 20, and collided with Olmstead's vehicle.

Olmstead and four of the five juvenile wrestlers were injured and transported to Skagit Valley Hospital. The fifth juvenile wrestler was not injured. All occupants of Olmstead's vehicle were wearing seatbelts.

Rodgers and his juvenile passenger were injured and transported to Harborview Medical Center.

The Suburban was totaled and impounded. Rodgers' vehicle, a Silverado pickup, also was totaled and impounded.

The WSP report lists the cause of the accident as failure to yield at a stop sign and driving under the influence. DUI and vehicular assault charges are pending for Rodgers.

—J. K. M.

Community Action of Skagit County
Helping People. Changing Lives.

What should you know about Community Action's work in Skagit County?

Community Action of Skagit County is a community-based, 501(c)(3) private nonprofit. Established in 1979, our services grew as community needs and resources were identified. Currently, we support 18 inter-related core services that stabilize lives and equip people for success from rental assistance to financial education workshops. We also work in collaboration with the community to create ongoing pathways to prosperity.

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Atomwaffen members allegedly gathered is owned by CalPortland. Town of Concrete and SCSO have reached out to CalPortland representatives in an effort to stiffen access to the site and surveillance of it. Currently, trespassers simply park their cars at a gate and walk in.

"They're going to change the locks up there," said Kading. "The gate is often checked by deputies, but not as often as it should be. I've been a proponent of having cameras up there for years."

Kading downplayed ProPublica's characterization of the alleged gathering. "We have more problems with drinking during the summer than we did this one snippet of a neo-Nazi thing. It does get my blood boiling, but I don't think there's much to it. We don't see any recruitment around here, we don't see anybody that's talked about it. And Facebook has been quiet about it. Not to discredit it, but I just don't think there's a whole lot more to it."

—J. K. M.

Vintage aircraft museum closes

By Chazlyn Lovely
Edited by Katy Tomasulo

After 16 years, the North Cascades Vintage Aircraft Museum in Concrete has closed its hangar doors. The nonprofit tourist attraction cited income strains as the chief factor in the decision.

Harold Hanson founded the Vintage Aircraft Museum in 2002 as a way to share his love of aviation with others, and the museum was one of Concrete's biggest tourist destinations. A monument to the Golden Age of Aviation, at its peak the museum displayed at least 21 planes from the '30s, '40s, and '50s spread across six hangars. Aircraft from the 1910s to 1940s are considered vintage, and the hangar in Concrete was home not only to some rare models, but also planes that had been restored to a condition good enough to fly—an unusual characteristic for a museum plane.

In charge of that process was Jim Jenkins, who served as the director of

restorations and museum operations manager, and as a pilot. The museum was staffed by two other mechanics, as well as executive director Julie Hubner.

A foundation, set up by Hanson and managed by a board made up of his family members, provided the museum with the money to fund its operational costs. Unfortunately, that income was not enough to keep the doors open. While Hubner emphasizes that there were many factors that went into the recommendation to the board that the museum cease operations, she admits that money is probably the largest. "It's very difficult for small nonprofit museums, in whatever field they are, to actually survive, and that's the same with us," she said.

The museum's location didn't help. "The road is closed in the winter—that's hard," Hubner said. "That makes it difficult because we don't have the people passing by for a lot of the year. And then logistics, in the sense that we are farther out in the Upper Skagit Valley; if we had been closer to I-5, it might have made it

easier to survive."

Add to that the cost of restoring and making older planes fly, and it's easy to see how difficult it was to make the attraction sustainable.

Hubner lamented the timing of the closure. "One of the sad things is that Concrete is starting to really look at how it can become a tourist center, and we were working with the town to help them because we're probably one of the biggest tourist assets," she said. "But then we couldn't; unfortunately, we had to close before they really took off. I think if the town was further along with its plans, then maybe we could have found ourselves being able to survive."

Concrete Mayor Jason Miller echoed Hubner's sentiments. "I'm disappointed and saddened by the decision [to close the museum]," he said. "The Vintage Aircraft Museum and its inventory would have dovetailed perfectly with our fledgling economic development efforts."

The museum space will not sit empty following its closure. As it began to disperse its assets, the museum sold a 60x90 hangar and a 2,000-gallon fuel station to the Town of Concrete for \$2. The takeover should occur close to May, and the town will use the hangar to store its larger equipment, such as a snow plow truck, street sweeper, backhoe, and vacuum/jet truck.

While Mayor Miller is pleased to have a place to keep this equipment out of the elements, he is less thrilled with the circumstances. "The acquisition of the hangar and fuel station are bittersweet wins for the town, since they come at the cost of the museum itself," Miller said. "It's not the trade I would have chosen, but there's no question that both will be

crucial additions for town operations."

Another bright spot is that the Concrete Old-Fashioned Fly-In—a staple event for more than three decades—will continue in the museum's absence. This year's fly-in is slated for July 13–15.

The rest of the museum's assets will be pared down gradually in the coming months. By the first quarter of next year, planes that have not sold will be donated, according to Hubner. "The nice thing is the family is letting us donate most of our planes to other museums," Hubner said. "A number of them are going to what's called WAAAM—Western Antique Aeroplane & Automobile Museum—in Hood River, Oregon."

Some planes also will go to the Port Townsend Air Museum, including some restoration projects.

"We're very happy that the family is being so generous and that most of the really nice ones are going to other museums," Hubner said.

While the planes will move on to other locations, the museum closure feels like a big loss to the community. "It's very sad," says Hubner. "We did try, particularly in the last few years, to find a way to make it work. It's very sad for the town, it's sad for the people who worked there—a couple of whom worked there for nearly 20 years—and it's sad for tourists who won't be able to see these airplanes."

To learn more about the museum's history and see a photo gallery of the airplane collection, visit www.vintageaircraftmuseum.org.

Chazlyn Lovely is a freelance writer from Corkindale.

Katy Tomasulo is a freelance editor from Bainbridge Island.

UW lecturer to speak in Concrete

University of Washington Senior Lecturer Anu Taranath will present "Not just for Kids: How Children's Literature Inspires Bold Conversations" at Concrete Theatre on Sun., March 25, at 1 p.m.

The free event is part of the Upper Skagit Library Foundation's annual meeting. The event will include library updates and a brief business meeting.

Children's books such as *Curious George* and *Goodnight Moon* are often beloved by children, sparking their imaginations and providing warmth and comfort. But books like these can also inspire adults—helping us to imagine ourselves in a new way and think about society from a new perspective.

In her talk, Taranath showcases children's books from around the world, as well as diverse communities in the U.S.; invites audiences to take a closer look at kids' books; and suggests we adults might also learn new lessons about how to navigate our complicated world. Within these seemingly simple stories are important messages about how we think

about our differences, and importantly, how we might rethink our similarities.

Taranath is a senior lecturer at the University of Washington, specializing in global literature, identity, race, and equity. She is the recipient of University of Washington's Distinguished Teaching Award and a "Best of Seattle" designation from the Seattle Weekly, as well as multiple national Fulbright awards and fellowships. She also works as a consultant for schools, colleges, libraries, community organizations, and government agencies on social justice and global issues.

Taranath is a member of the 2017–18 Humanities Washington Speakers Bureau. The event is sponsored by Upper Skagit Library Foundation, Concrete Theatre, and Humanities Washington.

For more information, contact info@upperskagitlibraryfoundation.org.

At a glance

What: "Not just for Kids: How Children's Literature Inspires Bold Conversations," with Anu Taranath

When: Sun., March 25, 1 p.m.

Where: Concrete Theatre, 45920 Main St., Concrete

Cost: Free admission

On the Web: www.upperskagitlibraryfoundation.org or www.humanities.org/calendar-events

—Submitted by Barb Trask

Cement City Trail Run returns April 21

Concrete Lions Booster Club will again host the Cement City Trail Run on April 21, the proceeds of which will help programs and kids involved in extracurricular activities, including sports and music. Parents and coaches in the Concrete School District work to provide opportunities for kids to experience teamwork and commitment outside the classroom, and often contribute not only their time but funds to support the kids.

The fundraiser is posted online, on the events calendar of Skagit Runners and on Facebook Events, with a link to

online registration. Soon, those wishing to participate and pre-register also will be able to pick up registration forms at select local businesses for mail-in with your fee, providing for a hassle-free run day. Performance T-shirts (ladies and men's styles) also can be ordered online and with mail-in registration.

Ribbons will be awarded to all participants who complete the run and medals presented to both male and female overall and categorical winners in several age categories, for both the 5k walk-run and the more challenging 10k run. This is a kid-friendly event with a half-mile walk/run around the track (grades K–6). Prizes will also be awarded in several categories.

—Janis Schweitzer

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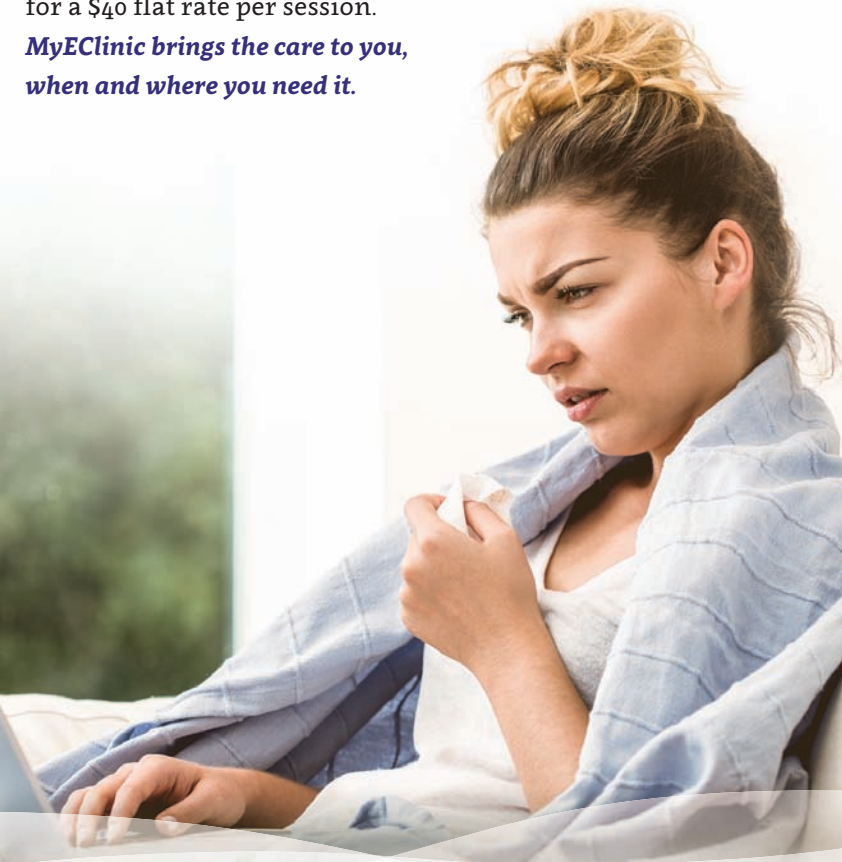
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Local performers present “Equinox” Council summary

Concrete Theatre and Hewitt Music Studio will present “Equinox: A Springtime Musical Experience,” on Tue., March 20, at 7 p.m. at the historic Concrete Theatre in Concrete Town Center.

The audience will be treated to an evening of songs, stories, poetry, and dance, featuring the Concrete Community Chorus under the direction of Gretchen Hewitt, as well as other talented performers. The event will celebrate the joy of the new season.

Performers include Em Beals, Ed Bradel, Donna Rae Brockmann, John Bromet, Cherie Donovan Smith, Adele

Eslinger, Gretchen Hewitt, Linden Jordan, Richard Lewis, Lane Lloyd, Arielle McBroom, Ellen McKinstry-Moons, Erin Meyer, Jason Miller, Cindy Myatt, Janis Schweitzer, Marren Yarborough, and the ballet students of Kerry Constantine.

Concrete Theatre is located at 45920 Main Street in Concrete. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for general admission, and \$8 for youths and seniors. Purchase tickets online at www.concrete-theatre.com. Tickets may not be available at the door.

For more information, contact Valerie Stafford at valerie@concrete-theatre.com or 360.466.8754.

THIS AND THAT

By J. K. M.

Skagit Conservation District is taking applications from community residents age 17 and up for participation in its **Backyard Conservation Stewardship Short Course**. The program features tips for native plant landscaping, environmentally friendly gardening practices, composting, attracting birds to your backyard, bees as pollinators, landscaping for wildlife, water conservation tips, building healthy soils, introduction to Low Impact Development, permaculture, stormwater runoff, and more.

The course will begin on Wed., March 21, from 6 to 8:30 p.m., and will run Wednesday evenings through April 25. The program also will include two Saturday field trips, scheduled for April 8 and 14. The evening trainings will be held at the Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, located at 10441 Bay View Edison Rd.

The program is free to local residents. Pre-registration is required. Registration deadline is March 19. To register or for more information, call 360.428.4313 or e-mail kristi@skagitcd.org.

Skagit County Public Health seeks community input regarding the use of local, state, and federal resources to provide solutions to homelessness and affordable housing needs in our

community.

In addition to the facilitation of key focus groups and community forums, Skagit County Public Health is soliciting responses to an online survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Z8P5259>.

Responses to this survey will be used to inform the update of Skagit County's Community Plan to End Homelessness, as well as the writing of the Skagit County Consortium's HOME Investment Partnerships Program 2018–2022 Consolidated Plan.

Questions regarding the survey should be directed to the Housing Division of Skagit County Public Health at 360.416.1500.

The **38th Annual SICBA Home & Garden Show** will take place March 23–25 at the Skagit County Fairgrounds. Spread among six buildings and acres of outdoor space, the show is Skagit, Island, and San Juan Island Counties' largest and only home and garden show. This show draws more than 4,000 people annually.

Activities within the larger event include Playhouses for Charity, multiple seminars, bands, food trucks, and more than 100 vendors. This year includes wine, beer, and spirits tasting to Friday and Saturday nights.

The event is billed as the best place to find everything for a new home, remodel, garden, and more.

The fairgrounds are located at 479 W. Taylor St. in Mount Vernon. The show is open from noon to 8 p.m. on Friday, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday, and from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday.

For more information, call the SICBA office at 360.757.6916.

Concrete Town Council met for regular meetings on Feb. 12 and 26. Following are summaries of those meetings. Complete and council-approved minutes for every council meeting are posted on the town's Web site at www.townofconcrete.com/cminutes.php.

Feb. 12 regular meeting

Upper Valley engineer Terrence Meyer presented an idea for a Community Solar Program to council. Discussion ensued. Council requested references, case studies, and other additional information from Meyer, some of which referenced previous similar projects he has managed. Sgt. Greg Adams reported on a meeting he had with the mayor and that the deputies will assist with loose dogs after hours and weekends when they are able. They will put the dogs in the town kennel and notify staff.

Sgt. Adams stated he and the mayor reviewed the town's contract with SCSO, and there is supposed to be meetings held between the town and the Sheriff's representatives to discuss the contract and/or any areas of concern.

Public Works Dir. Alan Wilkins reported on the backhoe quotes received from NC Machinery and Scholten's Equipment. He stated that Rich Philips has contacted both companies and will test drive and look over the equipment. Clerk-Treasurer Andrea Fichter stated that once Rich is able to take a look at each piece of equipment and compare them, final paperwork will be brought before council for final approval. *Historic Preservation and Landmarks Commission:* Town Planner Marianne Manville-Ailles reported that an HPLC meeting was held last month. She stated that Chair Eric Archuleta and Kelly Bush are working on a statement that will convey what the town's preservation efforts are and what the town is trying to preserve.

Manville-Ailles also reported that Eric had met with food bank representatives regarding their awning proposal. She stated that Robert McWilliams has agreed to work with them on the details and then they will resubmit their proposal. Council discussed the need to amend the airport code section for building requirements, as well as the need

to update the leases. It was the consensus of the council to schedule a work session on the airport code and leases for March 19 at 6 p.m., at Town Hall.

Feb. 26 regular meeting

Mayor Miller stated that he had spoken with Sgt. Adams regarding an article that appeared online about a possible neo-Nazi cell out of Blaine that were using the Devil's Tower property as a training area and were seen there shooting automatic weapons. Mayor Miller stated that he was surprised that he had not heard about this on Facebook or through any other chatter. He stated that he reached out to Sgt. Adams and to CalPortland. Mayor Miller reported that Sgt. Adams had stated they had spoken with the FBI regarding this matter a while back, and that they are aware of this individual and that he may have been in the area, but they do not believe there is a cell in the area or any training being done here.

Sgt. Chris Kading, attending the meeting for Sgt. Adams, stated that Sgt. Adams also spoke with CalPortland and they may be changing the locks on the gates and adding other security measures as well. He also stated that he does not believe there is much more to this. He stated they haven't seen a lot of chatter or activity on this, and they do not believe there is any actual training or recruitment happening in this area.

Mayor Miller stated that he does not like having the town's name mentioned in the same article as any neo-Nazi organization.

Council discussed possible parking code changes, nuisances, and junk cars in town. Manville-Ailles reported that Skagit County Parks and Recreation Dir. Brian Adams had put forth a solution for the town to move forward with its proposal for a primitive campground and day use area at the confluence of the Baker and Skagit rivers.

—Compiled from staff minutes

Keep track of your council

To have Concrete Town Council agendas and meeting minutes e-mailed to you automatically, e-mail your request to andrea@concretewa.gov or call 360.853.8401. Concrete Town Council meets the second and fourth Mondays of each month, at 6 p.m. at Town Hall.

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Q&A with Cinema Septic's Fred West

Q. In your experience, what's the biggest issue with local septic systems?
A. Lack of regular maintenance. "Out of sight, out of mind."

Q. My septic system seems to be working fine. Why would I need it inspected?
A. Because your sink might be draining and your toilet might be flushing, but your system still could be on the verge of failure. If that happens, it could cost you thousands of dollars.

Q. I'm getting ready to sell my house. What do I need to do?
A. To sell a house in Skagit County, you need a current septic inspection. Cinema Septic is certified to provide that.

Q. What's up with that big red truck?
A. It's our newest addition! If you see it in your rearview mirror, you may think it's an emergency vehicle. But if you're the person with a backed-up septic system, it's better than a fire truck!



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Sports



Fichter medals at Mat Classic

Concrete High School saw one lone Lion on the podium at Mat Classic this year: senior Riley Fichter, standing at 4th place in the 126-lb. class.

Fichter traveled to State every year during his high school wrestling career, placing as a senior.

"He was our go-to guy this year," said Coach David Dellinger. "He was in the finals at every tournament but one. He did the extra work that you need to. He was always asking what he could do better. He was really coachable and an awesome

captain. He was behind every teammate as they wrestled; he had their back. I'd love to have a whole team of Rileys."

Fichter faced steep odds this year: There were two 126-lb. state champions at the Tacoma Dome. Dellinger said that east-side coaches were referring to the 126-lb. weight bracket as the toughest bracket in the state this year, and that the only reason Fichter ended up on the podium was because he put in the work.

"Should he have been higher on the podium? Yes. That last match could

have gone either way. But the Tacoma Dome—that's the House of Upsets," said Dellinger.

Riley Fichter wasn't the only Concrete wrestler who found himself in a tight spot. His teammates, Hunter Olmstead (220) and brother Marshall Fichter (152), were each one match away from placing—there were no matches for 7th and 8th place.

"When they go to State in our division, they're already in the top 12 in the state," said Dellinger.

—J. K. M.

Concrete sent six wrestlers to this year's Mat Classic at the Tacoma Dome, with Riley Fichter bringing home the sole medal for 4th place at 126 lbs. The Lion contingent this year, from left: Coach Jesse Dellinger, Killian McCormack, Marshall Fichter, Riley Fichter, Coach David Dellinger, Robert Thompson, Peyton Sanchez, and manager Leona Martinez. Not pictured: Hunter Olmstead and Coach Don Olmstead. Sanchez and McCormack traveled as alternates.



Athletes of the Month



Athletes of the Month: Kylie Clark, Killian McCormack, Kaleb Engler

Kylie Clark is a 5'7" freshman on the Lady Lions basketball team. She started out the year playing forward and quickly moved to guard, where she played a lot of point guard. Kylie played everywhere and was always willing to do what was best for the team. Coach Kevik Rensink said she is a team player, a good listener, and a competitor. She plays unafraid, which is a rare quality for a freshman. Kylie led the team in scoring (also a rarity for a freshman) and quickly developed into the team's best 3-point shooter. She had a great January and did it against the toughest competition.

Killian McCormack is a freshman wrestler

who set a goal of going to state and earned his way as an alternate. He placed 1st in subdistricts at Darrington and 6th in regionals at Kalama. Coach David Dellinger said Killian improved his wrestling skills dramatically from the beginning to the end of the season. Killian pushes his teammates to compete, is a hard worker, and vocally encourages everyone during practice and matches.

Kaleb Engler is a senior captain for the CHS basketball team who improved a lot in January. Coach Daniel Schoolland mentioned his multiple double-digit scoring games gave the Lions hope in the hunt for a playoff spot. He also praised him for

leading by example in his work ethic, game performance, good attitude, and positive personality. One of Kevin's highlights was against La Conner, where the Lions were down 22-21 in the 3rd quarter. He took over by knocking down some big shots and assisted in securing the win.

Clark, McCormack, and Engler were selected by Concrete Lions Booster Club members based on their academic performance, exemplary athletic leadership, positive attitude, and demonstrating sportsmanship and character.

—Kathy Hurn

Down from top left: Riley Fichter kicks off his bid for a medal with a match against Troy Wood of Tonasket. Wood edged the senior Lion 3-2. **Hunter Olmstead** crushes Toledo's Michael Echtle 18-3, invoking the 15-point rule. **Riley Fichter** dominates Christian Nierman of Kittitas, rolling to a 9-1 win during the second day of matches and setting the stage for his eventual 4th place medal.

**Sports
schedules:**
nw1a2bathletics.com

"Kardiac Kids," a.k.a., middle school girls basketball team, wraps season

By Rob Thomas, coach

I could not think of a more accurate description and nickname for this year's Concrete Middle School basketball team than the "Kardiac Kids." With eight of their 10 games being decided in the fourth quarter, and a few in the last minute, this was a breathtaking and heart-pounding (literally) season for a group of girls who started the season on Jan. 8 wondering what to expect.

Needing approval from WIAA to allow 6th graders to play (in order to fill out the team), four 6th graders (Bella, Hayley, Jayden, Winter) joined the lone 7th grader (Aja), along with seven 8th graders (Ashley, Carolyn, Devon, Kayla, Kendra, Payton, Searrah). Kendra was lost for the season (surgery) after the first game.

With just 11 players (seven of which were experiencing their first season of competitive basketball), the plan was to play one full game and between one and two additional quarters against each of the schools on our schedule. The theme for

this season was being "together." Whether in practice or in the games, the players were reminded that everything they do affects their teammates.

After 12 days of practices, the girls scrimmaged against the Concrete High School JV team at the Concrete Elementary School gym. This provided an excellent opportunity for the girls to get a feel for the game. Although the JV jumped out to a quick lead, the CMS team fought back and got within four points with two minutes left in the game. The final score ended with the JV winning 29-23. All 12 CMS girls played in all four quarters and for some it was their first game experience ever on a basketball court.

The schedule consisted of 10 games—five home and five away. Our league includes competition against La Conner, Conway, Orcas, Darrington, and Mount Vernon Christian. Some of the schools had two complete teams, while other schools were in the same situation as Concrete, with limited numbers. Our approach was simple: we would play whoever the other school put on the court, regardless of grade or experience.

With the exception of the La Conner games (their coach said it was their best team in 15 years), all of our other games were incredibly competitive. Our offensive output varied from a low of 15 points to a high of 36 points. Highlights included wins against Conway, Mount Vernon Christian, and Darrington. The Orcas games proved to be the most heartbreaking, as both games weren't decided until the final seconds.

Knowing that a number of our players were young and inexperienced, we primarily focused on fundamentals

(dribbling, passing, shooting, playing defense). And yet, throughout the short season, the girls were expected to learn multiple defenses and five offensive sets, as well as press and press-break. I was thoroughly impressed with their skill development, effort, attitude, and maturity all season. The bonus? The Concrete Elementary School gym truly was a drama-free zone this season.

Personal thanks to Jim Newby, Dallas Newby, Forest Barnedt, and Jimmy Schoolland for reffing our games. Thank you to the family and friends who watched the home and away games and provided much support and encouragement to the players. Also, our photographers provided me many more opportunities for coaching tips with all the photos that ended up on Facebook (OK, coaching tips and a bit of humor). Most importantly, a special thank you to my bride, Kathy, for being my scorekeeper and a great coach's wife.



Clockwise from top right: Jayden Hall drives past a Conway defender during a Jan. 30 home game. Payton Dickinson shows Mount Vernon Christian who's boss on Feb. 27. Ashley Parker has one thing on her mind during the same home game on Feb. 27.



Boiling point

A centerpiece of the Legislature's 2018 agenda addressed Washington state's water crisis. When a fix finally came, one county was left out.

By Alex Visser
WNPA Olympia News Bureau

Along its 150-mile course, the Skagit River crosses boundaries political and natural, as its journey carries water from British Columbia to Washington state, cutting through the high, dry air of the Cascade Mountains before settling in the low wetness of Puget Sound.

The Skagit Basin is the third-largest watershed on the West Coast, and the largest river that flows into Puget Sound. Yet many of Skagit's resident landowners are unable to acquire water for their homes, which are not served by public water systems.

Nestled between the banks of the river and Mount Baker's formidable shadow is Forest Park Estates, a planned neighborhood development. A sign at the entrance marks 10 lots out of 29 as sold, but a quick meander down the road reveals a flat, overgrown mass of weeds encircling the development's only home. The home belongs to JoAnn Walker. In a letter published by the Citizens' Alliance for Property Rights, Walker said she and her husband bought two lots in 2012, and started building on the property in 2013. They were unaware until the end of 2013 that water was unavailable for development, meaning they could not draw any water from a well.

The Walkers had moved to the area to start a new life in Skagit County, and were suddenly left without career opportunities and with property quickly depreciating in value.

Walker wrote that she and her husband fought for their water rights, with her husband testifying before state lawmakers in Olympia to no avail. Walker said her husband died three months after testifying in Olympia.

With one home and another empty lot in Forest Park Estates, Walker stated her land is essentially "worthless," and that her empty lot would usually be worth \$75,000 but was valued by Skagit County at \$13,000.

Walker's son said she has moved to the Washington coast and hopes to sell her Skagit County residence.

Hopes dashed

The past two legislative sessions brought Skagit County hope for relief, but that hope went unfulfilled.

In 2016 the state Supreme Court ruled in Whatcom County v. Hirst that counties could not rely on the state Department of Ecology to determine whether water is available for a given development and must make the decision for themselves. The ruling, known as the "Hirst Decision," essentially froze development projects across the state, since proving availability of water would require expensive hydrology studies.

The Hirst decision was a contentious issue between state Republicans and Democrats during the 2017 legislative session. Republicans refused to support an unrelated capital budget proposal unless Democrats could bring a Hirst "fix" to the table.

Water was bound to dominate the 2018 legislative session proceedings, but the issue was resolved just ten days into the session on Jan. 18, with a bill restoring water access to landowners in Washington. Only Skagit County was explicitly left out of the new law, which leaves resident landowners stuck in the same place they've been for nearly two decades.

House Minority Leader Dan Kristiansen, R-Snohomish, said in a Feb. 8 press release that Skagit County's exemption came at the request of "negotiators, supported by the tribes."

Kristiansen, a leader in the "Hirst fix" discussions, represents a part of Skagit County impacted by the water situation, and called the county's exclusion "complete politics."

He said that his support for the Hirst bill was due to his role as a leader within his party and chamber.

"I knew 100 people were going to die, and I had a chance to save 95 of them," said Kristiansen, using a metaphor to explain his predicament. "Here's my problem: The five I couldn't save were in

my own district, in Skagit."

Another potential solution for Skagit County came in the form of House Bill 2937, sponsored by Rep. David Taylor, R-Moxee, and a bipartisan group of representatives.

Taylor's bill would have rolled Skagit County water laws back to a 1996 agreement that allowed rural landowners the ability to access water through their own wells.

HB 2937 never made it to committee for a public hearing, which Kristiansen said was due to Democratic control in the House.

But Rep. Brian Blake, D-Aberdeen, who chairs the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources and is a sponsor on the bill, said the measure to benefit Skagit was introduced too late in session for public hearing.

Decades of struggle

Skagit County's fight for water was raging long before the Hirst Decision. In 2001, the Department of Ecology established the Skagit County Instream Flow Rule, designed to protect the basin from withdrawals that might hinder water levels in streams and the river. The new rules essentially brought a halt to development in Skagit County, since the use of nearly any well would violate the rule.

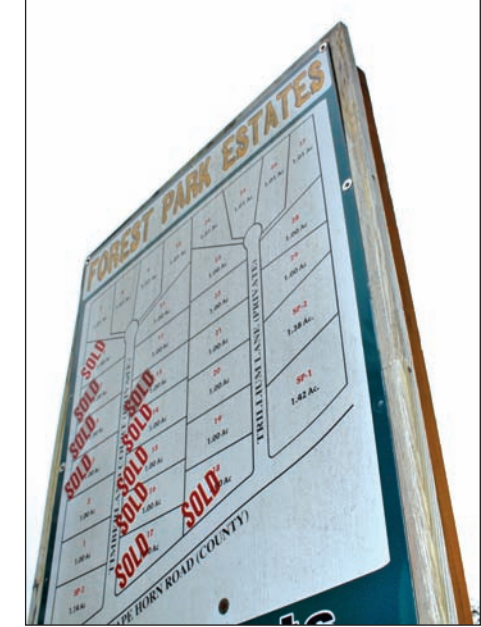
Noticeably absent from the 2001 rule was a clause that would allow "exempt wells" to be drilled for single homes spaced too far apart for public water systems to reach. An exempt well is one that does not require a permit.

Such a clause was in the original version of the instream flow rules agreed upon in 1996, but had vanished from the rules published in 2001.

Ecology in 2006 added an amendment for Skagit County "creating reservations of a limited amount of water for specific future uses that are not subject to the existing instream flow rules." The

"We're trying to bring a rational solution to an irrational problem. It's creating a tremendous amount of animosity in the community."

—Zachary Barborinas



A sign marks the entrance to Forest Park Estates, a planned neighborhood development near Concrete. While 10 lots were sold, only one saw development, as Department of Ecology rules have prohibited homebuilding. *Photo by Alex Visser.*

amendment would have provided water to landowners, and Ecology determined in their analysis that "the probable benefit of the rule amendment is greater than the probable cost."

But the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community challenged Ecology in court, arguing that the state agency had acted beyond its authority. Thurston County Superior Court ruled in favor of the department in Swinomish v. Ecology, only for the state Supreme Court to overturn that court ruling in 2013, siding with the Swinomish.

Kristiansen said the Supreme Court's decision "locked up" 800 parcels of land and caused property values in Skagit County to drop by \$22 million.

Local conflict

One of the better-documented resident struggles has been that of Richard and Marnie Fox, who in 2014 were denied a building permit for land they purchased and built a well on in 2000. The Foxes took the issue to court in an attempt to get the county to either issue a permit or explain why the permit had been refused. A trial court allowed Ecology and the Swinomish to involve themselves in the case, and the state Court of Appeals eventually ruled against the Foxes, arguing that they had no "legally

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL AWARDS

Varsity Letters: Madysyn Renzelman, Jenna Whorten, Jalayne Hastings, Asusena Fregoso, Kaitlin Earheart, Jaidyn Swanson, Isabela Ramos, Kylie Clark. **Queen of the Boards:** Kaitlin Earheart (153 rebounds). **Miss Hustle:** Madysyn Renzelman. **Varsity Most Improved:** Asusena Fregoso. **Varsity Most Valuable Player:** Jenna Whorten. **Players' Award (teammate who best represents a Lady Lion):** Andrea Rogers. **JV Most Improved:** Sadie Peif.

MEN'S BASKETBALL AWARDS

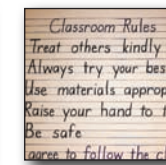
Varsity Letters: Joe Ramirez, David Swain, Kaleb Engler, Cole Meacham, James Schoolland, Dalton Newby, Tyler Coffell, Shayne Luttrell, Tyler Nevin. **Best Defensive Player:** David Swain. **Outstanding Hustle:** James Schoolland. **Most Improved:** Shayne Luttrell.

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.



Academics



Summer jobs for teens with Ecology Youth Corps

This summer, more than 300 teenagers throughout Washington will hit the road to pick up litter and protect the environment with the Ecology Youth Corps. In 2017, EYC crews cleaned more than 5,000 miles of roads and picked up more than 1.1 million pounds of litter.

Teens ages 14–17 may apply. Applications are being accepted for summer EYC work. You can apply online and also find schedules, crew locations, and other information at www.ecology.wa.gov/eyc. Applications are due by early April.

Those chosen will typically work on a crew near their home, earning \$11.50 per hour for a four-week session in either early or late summer. EYC has more than 30 crews across the state, so most young people will be able to begin and end their day at a location near their home.

“The Ecology Youth Corps is a terrific first job for young people, and it’s a way they can give back by protecting the environment in their communities,” said Peter Christiansen, who oversees EYC for the Washington Department of Ecology.

—Submitted by DOE

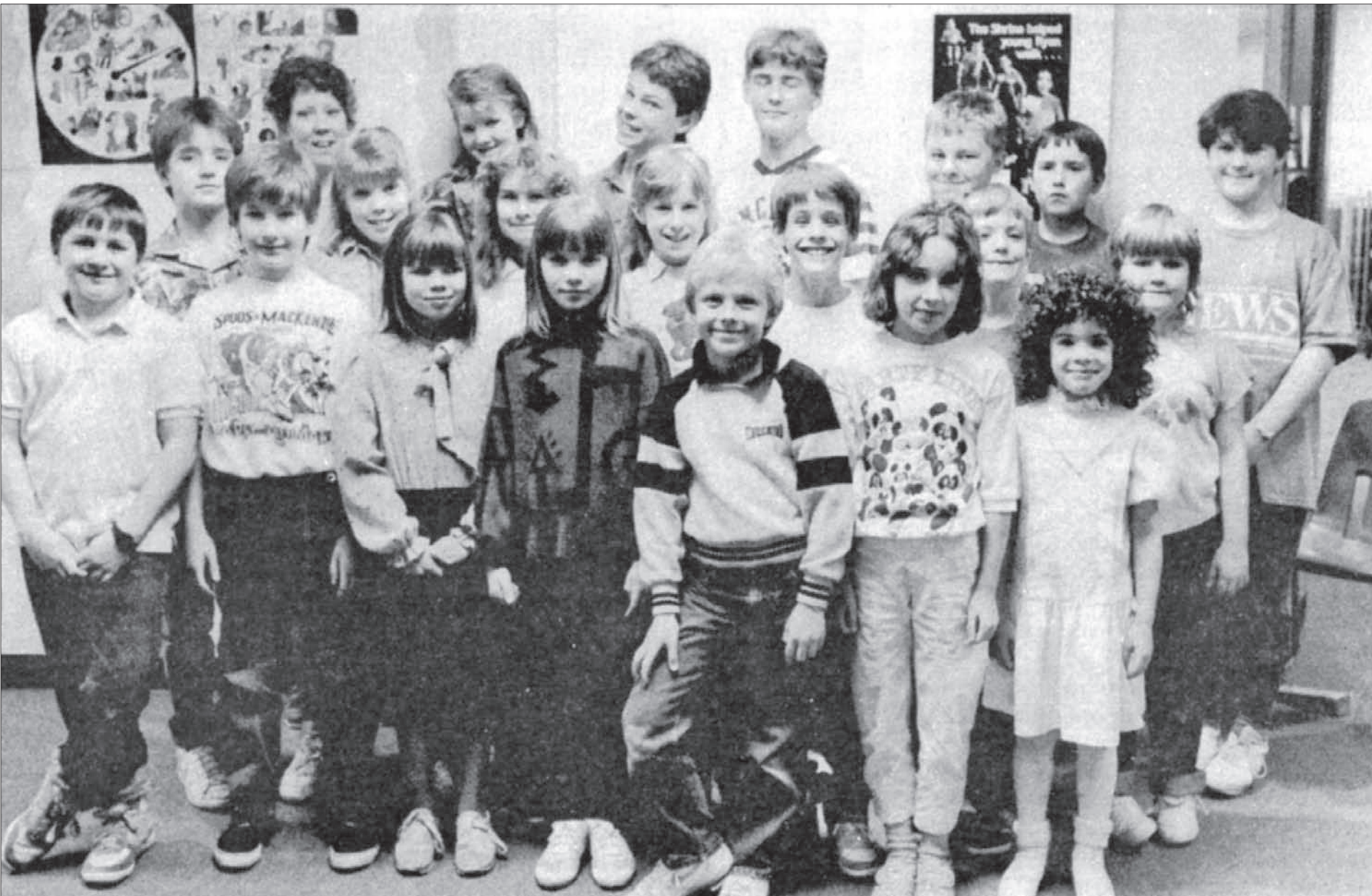


Dress swap/rental/sale planned for April 14–15

Like Tom Haverford’s “Rent-a-Swag” business in the TV sitcom “Parks & Recreation,” Sheena Daniels has hit upon a similar way for young ladies in the Concrete School District to dress the way they want to for Prom—without breaking the bank.

Daniels will hold a dress swap from April 14 to 15 (time and location TBA), which will give prospective shoppers a few options:

- Bring a dress to swap. Take a dress, leave a dress. The dress left behind becomes available for others.
- Bring \$10 as a deposit, find a dress, leave money and take a dress. Return the dress after the dance and get your deposit back or keep the dress.



March 31, 1988: Concrete Elementary School students selected by their teachers for strong and creative writing talents were given the opportunity last week to attend the Young Authors Conference at Skagit Valley College. The students in 2nd through 7th grades listened as published writers and illustrators encouraged them to write and draw (including one author who has a learning disability and couldn’t read, so she wrote her own stories). The students brought their own works and shared them with the group as part of the workshop. Many of the manuscripts, complete with illustrations, are on display at the school and the Concrete Public Library.

Participants were Jacob Lambly, Larse Berg, Kyle Brown, Denny Lee Allen, Michael Erickson, Chrissie Lane, Ian Wilson, Tami Lake, Laura Parker, Jennifer Luhr, Torry Brouillard, Amy Wilson, Kristin Shepherd, Joe Shepherd, Roxy Alberts, Jason Schmidt, Davey Prince, Brian Kinsman, Nicole Rumpff, Miesha Pritchard, and Sasha Brunner. Teachers were Deborah Money and Marilyn Lane. Concrete Herald archive photo by Anne Bussiere.

Agricultural scholarship offered

The Skagit County Cattlemen/Cattlewomen are accepting applications for a \$1,000 scholarship.

A student applying for this scholarship

must be a graduating senior from a Skagit County high school or a college student furthering their education in a field that is agriculture-related.

The deadline is April 30. For an application, go to www.skagitcountycattlemen.net.

For more information, call Mike Ware at 360.856.4140.

—Submitted by
Skagit County Cattlemen/Cattlewomen

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 2017–18 school year. An asterisk after a name denotes a student with a perfect 4.0 GPA.

Grade 7 Honor Roll

Owen Aamot, Vanessa Aiken, Ethan Bounds, Hannah Hook, Lilly Landweer, Lukas Sahlin*, Melinda Scheer.

Grade 8 Honor Roll

Jake Bronoske, Payton Dickinson, Carlen Herz, Devon Howard, Christian Joens, Kayla Knuth, Patience Kruger, Ashley Parker, Romie Salipot, Colby Whitford.

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 2017–18 school year. An asterisk after a name denotes a student with a perfect 4.0 GPA.

Grade 9

Roberto Acevedo-Lara, Carissa Cross, Hunter Kelley, Collin Martin*, Leona Martinez, Hunter Olmstead, Eleanor Parent, Rebekah Rider, Andrea Rogers, Kai Sahlin*, Kassidy Smith, Lily Whitford.

Grade 10

Elizabeth Buchta*, Alia Campbell, Jacquelyn Jackson, Izabela Ramos, Peyton Sanchez, Troy Schmidt, Devin Wilbur-Blankenship.

Grade 11

Josabet Acevedo-Lara, Thalen Cambo, Grace Clemons*, Faith Daniels, Ashley Mabe, Dalton Newby, David O’Neil, Hayden O’Neil, Charles Parent*, Jonas Rensink, Jaidyn Swanson*, Karlie-Rose Vierra.

Grade 12

Carlee Brigham*, Chaquala Davis, Riley Fichter, Asusena Fregoso, Hannah Haskett*, Rebeckah McClure, Alyssa Roberts, Emily Schmidt*, Robert Thompson, Tanner Tygret.

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Clear Lake



HISTORY CORNER

Our picture this month is a portrait of Dora Bartl, taken by Darius Kinsey in his Sedro-Woolley studio. She was born in Mount Vernon in 1881 and died of consumption (tuberculosis; a.k.a. TB) in 1899 at the age of 18 while living in Clear Lake. She is buried in the Bartl section of the Clear Lake Cemetery in an unmarked grave.

Dora's sister, Maggie (1882–1904), and Dora's brother, William (1871–1897), were also victims of TB. Tuberculosis was rampant in Skagit County, including Clear Lake, around the turn of the century and into the 1940s. Symptoms included fatigue, fever, night sweats, chills, loss of appetite, and coughing up blood. It was spread by the tiny droplets produced by coughing. Tuberculosis was finally brought under control following the discovery that penicillin was an effective treatment. *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.

Like the Clear Lake Historical Association on Facebook at www.facebook.com/clearlakehistory.

—Deanna Ammons, historian



The Clear Lake Historical Assn has changed its hours to Tuesday only, from 10 a.m. to noon. Members may be able to accommodate appointments by request.

For more information, send an e-mail to clha1987@gmail.com and allow up to a week for a response.

You're Pregnant: Now What?

By Natalie Weatherby

Here are the top six pregnancy tips from the obstetrics team at PeaceHealth Medical Group.

Start your prenatal vitamins right away

Prenatal vitamins are most important in the first three months. This is when the body absorbs extra folic acid, which helps to prevent birth defects.

Examine other medications that you are taking, including over-the-counter

medications. Safe medications to take include acetaminophen (like Tylenol), Benadryl, and Tums. Avoid ibuprofen (found in Advil and Motrin) and aspirin.

Contact your doctor right away if you are taking anti-seizure or anti-depression medications, which could be harmful. But don't stop taking these medications until you speak to your doctor, as the benefits may outweigh the risk to your pregnancy.

Establish healthful eating habits

Nausea is common in the first six to eight weeks. While it seems counter-intuitive, eating throughout the day helps you avoid an empty stomach. The reason why most women experience nausea in the morning is because they have an

empty stomach.

When shopping for groceries, read cereal, bread, and pasta labels for "fortified" or "enriched" with folic acid.

Stay hydrated. Water is ideal, but orange juice, milk, and noncaffeinated teas are also good choices. Try to limit your intake of caffeine to one 12-ounce cup per day.

Most women know this, but it's worth repeating: There is no safe amount of alcohol use once you are pregnant, and you should not smoke.

Stay active

Establishing or maintaining a healthful exercise routine is encouraged for most women. This will help you control your weight, boost your mood, and help you sleep.

Aerobic activity at least five days a week is encouraged. This could be walking, yoga, swimming, strength training, stationary cycling, or jogging. High-impact exercise, like CrossFit training, should be avoided. Talk to your provider about your exercise plan.

You will likely experience fatigue, especially during the first three months. Embrace your inner child and take naps when you are able. Don't be afraid to ask your partner, friends, or family members to help you with laundry, cooking, grocery shopping, or other tasks.

Begin your prenatal care

An ideal time to establish your prenatal care is around weeks eight to 10 from your last period. You can choose from an obstetrician-gynecologist (OB-GYN), a family physician, or a certified nurse-midwife (CNM). To help make your decision, consider the type of birth experience you want and where you plan to give birth. Your pregnancy timeline, including your due date, will be established from this date.

In your second and third trimester, appointments with your provider will offer the first glimpses of your baby. At 12 weeks the fetus is only the size of a fig, so you can picture how tiny the newly forming heart is. The sex is usually revealed at the 20-week ultrasound.

In addition to your partner, family, and friends, your provider will become an important part of your "pregnancy team." Beyond medical advice, he or she

can provide objective feedback about the type of birth you wish to experience (epidural or drug-free?), the benefits of breastfeeding, and much more.

When to share the news

While knowing you are pregnant is an exciting time, consider keeping the news "close to the vest" until the second or third month. This will give you time to adjust to pregnancy, to discuss with your partner how this will affect your lives, and to decide how to share the news with your employer, if you're employed.

Symptoms to act on

Nausea is common in the first trimester, as is vomiting. Signs of concern would be if you have an extremely dry mouth, aren't producing urine, or if you can't keep any food or beverages down for more than a day or so.

Spotting or bleeding can be normal. Possible causes can include hormonal changes in your body, sexual intercourse, or an internal exam from your provider. If you're going through more than one pad per hour, call your provider.

During the early weeks of pregnancy, you should also be mindful of significant abdominal pain, which could mean an ectopic pregnancy (when the fertilized egg attaches itself in a place other than inside the uterus).

The first several weeks of your pregnancy can be physically and emotionally challenging. You can be your own best advocate by being mindful of changes to your body and contacting your provider with any concerns.

Take it all in

About all that unsolicited advice? Just grin and bear it. In fact, pregnancy will be good practice, as you'll get unwanted advice once you are a parent, too.

In addition to consulting with your healthcare provider, remember that you can lean on your "pregnancy team." Talk with your sisters, female cousins, and girlfriends. It's a great time to bond over this shared experience and offer each other support.

Natalie Weatherby is a certified nurse midwife at the PeaceHealth Medical Group clinic in Burlington.



Community Calendar



MARCH

- 7 "Hearts Alive!" healing evening, Marblemount Community Hall, 6 p.m.; see notice, p. 26
- 7 Energy-assistance prescreening appointment scheduling, East County Resource Center, 9 a.m.; info at 360.416.1733
- 9 Free Movie Night: "The Case for Christ," Community Bible Church, 45672 Limestone St., Concrete, 7 p.m.
- 10 Daylight Saving Time begins tomorrow at 2 a.m.; set clocks ahead one hour before going to bed tonight
- 10 "Movies at the Museum," Sedro-Woolley Museum; see ad, p. 16
- 10 Spring Art Show, 605 S. Emens Ave., Darrington, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; info at 360.436.0711
- 10 Darrington Community Dance, Mansford Grange, 1265 Railroad Ave., Darrington; potluck at 6 p.m., dance from 7 to 9:30 p.m.; suggested admission donation \$7; info at 206.402.8646
- 12 Emergency Action Plan Roundtable, Concrete Community Center, 45821 Railroad Ave., Concrete, 6 p.m.
- 14 Senior Appreciation Day, Concrete Community Center, 45821 Railroad Ave., Concrete, 10 a.m.; see article, p. 28
- 17 Yolanda Allard Book Launch Party: *Song of Fire*, Upper Skagit Library, 45770B Main St., Concrete, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.; info at 360.853.7939
- 20 "Equinox: A Springtime Musical Experience," Concrete Theatre, 7 p.m., \$10 admission, \$8 youths/seniors, purchase tickets online; see article, p. 6; info at valerie@concrete-theatre.com or 360.466.8754
- 21 Community Dinner, Concrete High School cafeteria, 5 p.m.; free admission
- 21 Backyard Gardening, Concrete Community Center, 45821 Railroad Ave., Concrete, 6 p.m.
- 21 Concrete Farm 2 School Game Night, Concrete High School Commons, 6:30 p.m.; free admission
- 23–25 38th Annual Home & Garden Show, Skagit County Fairgrounds, 479 W. Taylor St., Mount Vernon; tickets and info at www.sicbahomeshow.com
- 24 Concrete Volunteer Fire Dept. Pancake Breakfast at the fire hall, 9 a.m. to noon; donations accepted
- 24 Trinkets, Treasures, and Collectibles Sale, Concrete Community Center, 45821 Railroad Ave., Concrete, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; info at 360.770.5914
- 24 Marblemount Volunteer Fire Dept. Fireman's Ball and Scholarship Fundraiser, Marblemount Community Hall, 7 p.m. to midnight; see notice, p. 26; advance tickets at 360.630.3900; info at 360.873.2501
- 25 Hamilton Easter Egg Hunt, Town Park, Hamilton, 1 p.m.; free admission
- 25 UW lecturer Anu Taranath speaks at Concrete Theatre; see ad, p. 2
- 30 Free Movie Night: "Risen," Community Bible Church, 45672 Limestone St., Concrete, 7 p.m.
- 31 Concrete Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt, Concrete Elementary School, noon; free admission
- 31 Ovenell's Heritage Inn Easter Egg Hunt, 46276 Concrete Sauk Valley Rd., Concrete, 1 p.m.; info 360.853.8494
- 31 Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Parade and Program, Sedro-Woolley downtown, 1 p.m. parade, 2 p.m. program at Legion Hall, 701 Murdock St., 360.856.2762
- 31 Young Authors in the Public Library, Upper Skagit Library, 3:30 p.m.

APRIL

- 1 Easter Sunday
- 2–7 Spring Break Main St. Scavenger Hunt, Upper Skagit Library, Concrete
- 21 Cement City Trail Run, Concrete; see notice, p. 5

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

Community meetings

Cascade Days planning meetings will be held the second Wed. of each month, at 7460 S. Dillard, Ste. A (corner of SR 20 and Dillard), at 5:30 p.m. Meetings are not mandatory for volunteers. Info at ember@cascaadedays.com.

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

Coffee Talk with Concrete Mayor Jason Miller meets the third 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 meets the second Tue. of each month, Sept. through May, at 1 p.m., in the conference room of the East County Resource Center. 360.853.8347.

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

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

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

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

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

Concrete Resource Coalition meets the third Thur. of each month, at 2 p.m., in the Concrete High School library.

Concrete School District Board: The board will hold a work session on March 26 at 6 p.m. in the high school commons. The board will hold its regular monthly meeting on March 29 at 6 p.m., same location. 360.853.4000.

Concrete Town Council meets the second and fourth Monday of each month at Town Hall, 45672 Main St., Concrete, at 6 p.m. 360.853.8401 or andrea@concretewa.gov.

Darrington Strong meets the third Wed. of

each month, 7 p.m., at Cascade Senior Center, 1115 Darrington St., Darrington. 360.436.2167.

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

Forest Park Cemetery District No. 5 meets the third Tue. of each month at the cemetery office on Compton Lane in Concrete, at 6 p.m. 360.708.3656.

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

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

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

Lyman Town Council meets the second Tue. of each month at Lyman Town Hall (Minkler Mansion), 8405 S. Main St., Lyman, at 7 p.m. 360.826.3033 or clerk_lyman@lymn.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 p.m. 360.873.2323.

Paranormal Discussion Group meets the last Sunday of each month at Concrete Center, 45821 Railroad St., Concrete, at 7 p.m. 360.630.5143.

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.

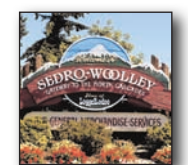
Sedro-Woolley School District Board: A work session is planned for March 12 at 5:30 p.m., at the Support Services Bldg., followed by a regular meeting at 7 p.m., at the same location. A regular meeting is planned for March 26 at 7 p.m. at Clear Lake Elementary. 360.855.3500 or kcargile@swsd.k12.wa.us.

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

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

Upper Skagit Writers Group meets the third Mon. of each month at 6 p.m., at 5b's Bakery, Concrete. Open to the public and all skill levels. em@5bsbakery.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



Mayor, councilwoman settle into new seats

After former Mayor Keith Wagoner's departure for the state Senate, Sedro-Woolley elected officials have rearranged their ranks and brought a new face to the city council chambers.

On Jan. 10, Sedro-Woolley City Council members appointed Council member Julia Johnson as mayor by unanimous vote. Johnson had served on the city council since January 2016. On Feb. 28, the council filled Johnson's vacated Ward 4 seat by unanimously appointing Pola Kelley to the position.

For Johnson, the appointment came as somewhat of a surprise, even though Wagoner approached her twice prior to his resignation, encouraging her to consider throwing her hat in the ring for his seat.

"I said no at first," she said. "He came

back and pressed again, as did council members. I gave it a lot of thought. I'd only been on the council two years, and felt a little intimidated by the mayor position."

Johnson credited her experience with Leadership Skagit for helping smooth the transition from council member to mayor.

"I'm very grateful that I had the opportunity to do that, because those people, organizations, businesses—they're all pretty prominent in my life right now. It's a huge learning curve, but Leadership Skagit prepared me and gave me a good foundation for what I'm doing now."

From her new vantage as mayor, Johnson said she's more aware of how decisions made in other parts of the county affect Sedro-Woolley, and vice versa. "There's an increased sense of responsibility, and although I've always seen Sedro-Woolley as part of the whole county, I'm realizing that it's much more layered than that."

Strengths and challenges

Good things are happening in Sedro-Woolley, said Johnson, pointing to the SWIFT Center, the coming new library, the STEM program in place in the Sedro-Woolley School District, and the city's

recent joining of the Main Street Program.

"That should help us develop our identity and economy," she said. "We're probably looking at a decade of work, if not more, but we'll work on it in phases."

City staff and existing long-term plans are crucial for addressing Sedro-Woolley's challenges, said Johnson.

"Our biggest challenge is economic—coming up with jobs. We'd love to see more people who live in town, work in town—lessen the exodus out Cook Rd. every morning. We want to bring our youth back too. We have a great school district, and the STEM program has reinforced that, but we won't get those students coming back unless we have jobs for them. We want to take that STEM training down into the elementary levels—so that they're prepared as they move through their schooling."

Johnson's term expires at the end of 2019. She said she plans to run for re-election at that time. "That was another factor for deciding whether I'd run for an appointment," she said. "It would have felt futile to do it for only two years."

Kelley: economy, housing, staff

New Ward 4 Councilwoman Pola Kelley should work well alongside Johnson. As



Johnson



Kelley

executive director for the Sedro-Woolley Chamber of Commerce, Kelley stated three priorities in her application for appointment: Build a thriving economy, increase affordable housing, and pay city staff properly.

"I believe we need to take another look at accessory dwelling units by regulating them in much the same way as other multifamily housing units," she said.

Kelley had sought the Council At Large seat in 2017, but was edged by Jared Couch. During that election, she earned 128 votes in Ward 4. She said she'd seek to retain the Ward 4 seat in the next election.

—J. K. M.



Sophomore Sedro-Woolley High School wrestler Cora Orton stood tall on the podium at Mat Classic in February, having won 7th place in the 100-lb. bracket.

Orton was joined by two other medal teammates: senior Michael Haynes (220), who took 5th place, and junior Sven Lukner (285), who squeaked to a 3rd place win in a 3-2 overtime decision. Orton was the lone female on the State podium for Sedro-Woolley this year.

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10:30 am & 2:00 pm **Tar Heel Journey**
Produced by the local Tar Heel Committee, WA State project.

11:00 am **Tusko the Elephant**

11:30 am **Schools and Skagit Steek: The Early Years**

12:00 pm **Tugboats on the Skagit**
Narrated by Danny Vandenberg

1:00 pm **The 1914 Bank Robbery Glass Lantern Slides**
Narrated by Dale Thompson.

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Lyman



Day Creek



Bigfoot again eludes state recognition

By Alex Visser
WNPA Olympia News Bureau

The mythical Sasquatch, an integral piece of Pacific Northwest folklore, got another shot at recognition this year with a bill that would name the creature Washington's official state cryptid. But just as it has done to so many explorers and scientists, the furry, bipedal creature once again evaded legislative capture. A cryptid is a creature of folklore or myth whose existence has not been verified.

Senate Bill 5816 was introduced last year by Sen. Ann Rivers, R-La Center, but has not made it past the committee sessions. The bill is one of two pieces of Bigfoot legislation, along with another Rivers bill that would create a Bigfoot license plate.

The Sasquatch would join other local greats like the apple, the steelhead trout, and the bluebunch wheatgrass as Washington state emblems.

Rivers said a third-grader in her district asked her to create the bill, but a public hearing was postponed until the senator could bring the child to Olympia to testify. The bill missed the cutoff date for

committee hearings and will have to wait until next year to earn another chance at passing.

Bigfoot's relationship with the Pacific Northwest has been prominent since long before Rivers filed bills addressing the mysterious hominid.

Native and First Nations tribes in the United States and Canada have told of various creatures resembling Sasquatch, and the name itself is derived from a word in the Halkomelem language spoken by tribes in British Columbia.

According to the Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization, Washington state is home to more Sasquatch sightings than any other state or province in North America, by a substantial margin.

Washington has another connection to the popular myth through the famous Patterson-Gimlin film, where Bigfoot allegedly walks across the screen.

The encounter was filmed in Northern California by Roger Patterson and Bob Gimlin, locals of the Yakima Valley. Patterson died of cancer in 1972 and always maintained the authenticity of the film, as has Gimlin, 86, who resides today



Frame 352 of the 1967 Patterson-Gimlin film, which allegedly depicts a Sasquatch walking in Northern California.

in Union Gap.

Gimlin said he would be excited to see the Sasquatch become an official symbol of his home state, calling it a "special being." Gimlin today is something of a legend to Sasquatch believers, as he continues to tour North America, signing autographs and speaking to thousands of attendees at Bigfoot festivals.

Sen. Maralyn Chase, D-Edmonds, cited the Patterson-Gimlin film as "evidence" of Bigfoot's existence when speaking in the Senate Transportation Committee on Jan. 29. Chase serves as a member of the committee, which heard Rivers' license plate bill.

Although SB 5816 would classify Sasquatch as the official state "cryptid" or "crypto-animal," Gimlin said he doesn't see the creatures as animals at all, and likened them instead to hominid "beings," similar to humans.

"I'm no scientist," Gimlin said. "I just believe that we have a ways to go to understand what they really are." Washington state has already honored Bigfoot at least once, as former Gov. Dan Evans in 1970 proclaimed "the Great Sasquatch" to be state monster. Evans wrote in his proclamation that Washington was the only state capable of claiming the creature to be its own.

Gimlin made reference to the vast number of brands, images, and merchandise in Washington state that utilize the Bigfoot name or likeness, cementing the cryptid's iconic status in the Pacific Northwest. He said if the state could come together to bring official recognition to the legend, it would put a smile on his face.

"That would make me, as an old man, very, very happy," Gimlin said. "I think it means a lot to Washington state."

Community notes

Day Creek Community Youth Project

Currently the DC Youth (6th to 12th grades) have an open invitation to a Sunday morning breakfast, prepared in the kitchen at Day Creek Chapel and served at 9:30 a.m. The breakfast is free and the friendships are forever.

On the calendar is a Rock and Worship Roadshow to be held at Key Arena on March 10. Cost is \$10 per middle or high school student. Possible drivers needed. For more information, call 360.661.7976.

Healthy Home, Healthy You Dinner

Community Wellness Project is hosting a Healthy Home, Healthy You dinner in March. The group's mission is to educate consumers about the toxic products that might be shackling families

to medications and illnesses. The event offers participants a half-price meal at Bob's Burger and Brew. Space is limited and is geared toward those with genuine interest in the topic.

To register, e-mail or call leiavilarid@gmail.com or 360.961.0012.

Homework Club

The Homework Club meets Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 3 to 5 p.m. to June 12. Kids can ride the bus from school to Day Creek Chapel. Snacks are provided and adults help with homework needs. Adults are needed and will be background-checked. Donations for snacks are graciously accepted. To RSVP, call 360.661.7976.

Friendship House Helping Hand

Day Creek Chapel serves dinner at Friendship House in Mt. Vernon on the

last Sunday of every month. To help prepare and serve, call 360.391.1709.

WOMEN HAND in hand

The next WOMEN HAND in hand event is Sat., April 21, from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, go to www.womenhandinhand.com and Facebook.

Day Creek Community Potluck Gatherings

All Day Creekers are invited to attend the monthly Community Potluck Dinner at the Day Creek Fire Hall. Bring your favorite potluck dish to share and a story about your latest events in Day Creek or surrounding area.

Dinner is served at 6:30 p.m. and a full evening of laughter and fun is usually over by 8 p.m.

For more information, call Bill Scalf at 360.826.3234.

Report illegal dumping

If you see anyone illegally dumping garbage, report the activity by calling 360.428.3211.

Cowboy Church

Cowboy Church is held in the clubhouse at the Sedro-Woolley Rodeo grounds every Wednesday evening at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call 425.395.4014.

Quilters Day Retreat

A day retreat is planned for quilters from April 26 to 28 at Day Creek Chapel. The days begin at 9 a.m. Projects include twin-sized quilts for Friendship House. For more information, call 360.770.1765.

If you have an idea for community gatherings, call 360.826.3003 or 360.826.3581, or send an e-mail to winningcircularanch@gmail.com.

Bill-pay assistance still available through PSE

Millions in bill-payment assistance dollars are still available to help PSE customers with their utility bill. In late February, \$10 million remained available to income-eligible households in PSE Service Territory that need assistance paying their heating bills or weatherizing their homes.

For information about qualifying for bill-payment and weatherization assistance grants, PSE customers should call 866.223.5425 or go to <http://pse.com/accountsandservices/youraccount/pages/low-income-assistance.aspx> for contact information about their community assistance agency.

Assistance comes in many forms:

- PSE Home Energy Lifeline Program (HELP): Depending on income and household size, a qualified recipient can receive up to \$1,000 from PSE's HELP. A family of four with a monthly net income of \$3,075 is eligible for HELP funds.

- Salvation Army Warm Home Fund: Funded by voluntary contributions from PSE customers, the Salvation Army Warm Home Fund helps PSE customers who need emergency, short-term utility bill assistance. So far, the Warm Home Fund has raised more than \$704,000 and served more than 2,700 households. PSE customers should contact their nearest Salvation Army district office for more information about the Warm Home Fund.
- Weatherization: PSE provides weatherization funds to income-eligible households who heat their primary space and water with electricity or natural gas. Qualifying applicants may receive grants to install effective home energy efficiency upgrades, including insulation and sealing of leaks around windows and doors and seams in heating ducts.

More than 18,000 PSE customers already have received \$8.1 million this winter for bill-payment assistance through the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and from PSE's HELP.

—Submitted by PSE

Nick VanJaarsveld Financial Advisor

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February in pictures



Above: Art Olson (wearing all black) of Rockport and Andrea Holmquist (gray sweatshirt) ran half-marathons in rain, sleet, hail, and wind during The Woolley Run on Feb. 17—and survived. Holmquist is the daughter of Cheryl Cunningham of Marblemount and a former resident of Marblemount who now lives in Hepner, Ore., and is a firefighter for the U.S. Forest Service. Photo by Christie Fairchild.



Above and left: Mardi Gras King John Bromet, a.k.a. Peace Wizard, reigned during this year's Mardi Gras in Concrete celebration on Feb. 10. He walked the parade route with an entourage who sang with him a revised version of "Ode to Joy": Peace, love, joy, truth, good health, happiness, kindness, generosity ...

Below: A jester was one of many costumed characters during the Mardi Gras parade.



Above left: A young reveler let the music move her during Mardi Gras in Concrete on Feb. 10. Above: A jubilant Jaretta Osborne from Sedro-Woolley attended Mardi Gras with her sister, Joy Eberly. Right: A young artist squeezes paint onto a tile at Mardi Gras.



Snowmobilers!

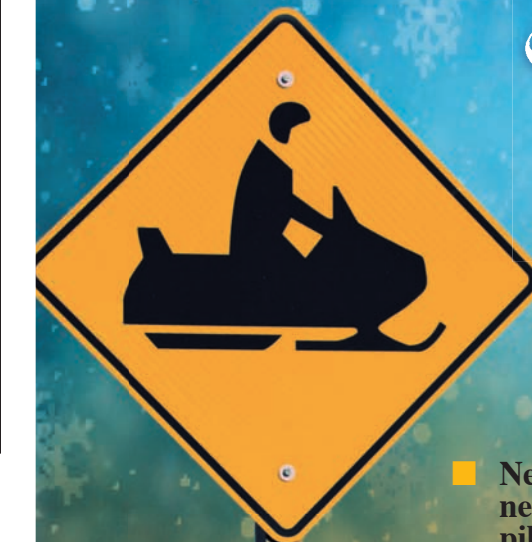
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Hamilton



Rockport



Council summary

The Hamilton Town Council held a regular meeting Jan. 9. Following is a summary of that meeting.

- Public comments: Brian Friend wanted to discuss access to his property off Noble. Mayor Joan Cromley stated that this was on the agenda for tonight's council meeting.
- Council voted to approve Ordinance No. 330, a 5 percent increase on water consumption only.
- Council agreed to allow residents Friend/Johnson access to their property through Noble St. This is a six-month trial with conditions that nothing more be brought onto the property. There will be a re-evaluation in July.
- Water Dept.: Cas Hancock was not present. November reported

a 5 percent unaccounted-for loss. December showed a 20 percent loss. Maintenance is checking the system for leaks.

- Fire Dept.: The kids Christmas Party was a success. The Santa suit will be purchased with the fire fund. The fire department qualifies for a \$1,222 grant from Dept. of Health. The aid car will be serviced soon.
- Street Dept.: More patching and repairing is under way, as well as cleaning up flood residuals. Councilman Morrison asked about closing off Baker St. to prevent unwanted traffic and for public safety.
- Flood review: Mayor Cromley stated that the dike has been fixed and armored. Repairs total around \$11,000. Job was not bid as it was an emergency.

—Compiled from staff notes

From the Mayor

Game night for teens has been going well. They are Tuesdays at 6 p.m., excluding the second week of each month (when the Town Council meets). Anyone with donations of snacks, prizes, or games, please see Denise at Town Hall.



The Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be at the town park on Sun., March 25 at 1 p.m. Again, donations of candy or prizes are appreciated; please take them to the Hamilton Cafe.

Reminder: Hamilton has a leash law. Dogs are to be on a leash if off of your property, and contained on your property if loose. The fine is \$50 for the first violation, and if it becomes a problem, the dog can be impounded. Nobody needs their yards fertilized by dogs, so please pick up after them.

—Mayor Joan Cromley

Birdsview Buzz

Happy March, everyone! Hope the snow goes away and spring is on the way.

March events

March 18: Speckled Hen will hold another paint-and-sip party. Lots of fun, but limited spaces available. Go to their Web site to purchase tickets.

March 28: Brewers night at the Empire Ale House. Come join us for a night of fun trivia and raffle to win some Birdsview swag.

March 31: Skagit Farm to Pint Fest at Skagit Valley Melting from 1 to 6 p.m.

Food and beer pairing. We are paired with Train Wreck.

Sometime this month, brewer Julie's 6-year anniversary beer will be released.

March birthdays

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

Happy anniversary, Kyle Hunsaker. You've made it two years with our crazy bunch.

Have a good month!

—Kris Voigt

Governor's carbon tax proposal is dead in the state Legislature

By Josh Kelety
WNPA Olympia News Bureau

An amended version of Governor Jay Inslee's proposal to tax carbon emissions to fight climate change is effectively dead in the state Legislature.

The primary sponsor of the carbon tax bill and its shepherd in the state Senate, Sen. Reuven Carlyle, D–Seattle, said on March 1 in a phone interview that the bill is “one to two” votes short and that it’s “not going to come up for a vote” to pass it out of the Senate before the end of the 2018 legislative session.

“The governor and I finalized the absolute numbers this morning,” said Carlyle. “We were damn close.” The session ends on March 8.

In January, Inslee proposed taxing carbon emissions at a rate of \$20 per metric ton with annual increases for inflation while exempting certain manufacturers, agricultural industries, and jet fuel. The proposal would have increased the cost of electricity, gasoline, and natural gas.

His plan would have invested the revenues into renewable energy infrastructure, wildfire suppression, and assistance for low-income families struggling with increased energy costs. Despite the legislation's frosty reception from Republicans and lukewarm enthusiasm from Senate and House Democratic leadership, the bill slowly wound its way through the Senate legislative process.

It passed out of the Senate Energy, Environment, and Technology Committee on Feb. 1, before moving through the Senate Ways and Means Committee on Feb. 22. However, without enough votes in the entire Senate chamber, it won't be brought up for a floor vote.

The bill was altered in its journey through the state Senate. In contrast to the governor's original proposal, the

tax rate in the latest version of the bill was reduced to \$12 per ton with a cap at \$30 and more industry exemptions were added.

“We didn't get to the peak of Mount Everest but we made it well past base camp to damn near the top,” Carlyle said. Passing a carbon tax was a priority for Inslee, who has proposed taxing carbon pollution in some form several years in a row. None of his proposals have made it through the Legislature.

On Feb. 13, former U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry came to the state Capitol on Inslee's invitation to promote the carbon tax bill.

Throughout the 2018 legislative session, local environmental groups threatened to field a carbon tax ballot initiative later this year if lawmakers didn't pass Inslee's proposal.

The legislation garnered the support of some business and energy industry interests, who opted to work with lawmakers on crafting the bill than face a fixed carbon tax ballot initiative.

In 2016, a different carbon tax ballot initiative was voted down by roughly 20 points.

Carlyle said that he hopes that the governor's altered carbon tax bill informs how the potential ballot initiative is drafted.

“I feel nothing but pride in our team and the work we did,” he said, before going on to claim that a carbon tax will be enacted in Washington state within two years. “I think the seal is broken and the precedent is set.”

Read
Concrete Herald
The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley



Former U.S. Secretary of State, Democrat John Kerry appeared in Olympia on Feb. 13 in support of Gov. Inslee's carbon tax proposal. Kerry is shown here with Inslee and several Democratic lawmakers. Photo by Josh Kelety.

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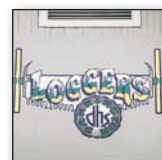
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Darrington



Logger wrestlers bring home state medals

Three Darrington High School wrestlers came home a little heavier after this year's Mat Classic in Tacoma, weighed down by medals around their necks.

Senior Gage Burtenshaw (170 lbs.) led the grapplers with a 2nd-place medal.

Johnny Franke, a sophomore, captured 3rd place at 195 lbs. And freshman Darin Sedenius (106) earned a 6th place medal at his first trip to the state tournament.

Sophomore Lucas Reuwsaat fought the good fight and was one match out of the placing rounds after making it into the second day of competition. Sophomore first-year wrestler Devon Dawson was eliminated from further competition after losing his first two matches.

Coach Ray Franke had glowing reviews for his grapplers.

On Burtenshaw, who missed the 1st place medal by 1 point: "I know he was disappointed, but sometimes you can put everything into it and still come up short—there's no shame in that. He was a great team leader, motivated his teammates, put his heart into it, really gave it all he had at State. I've been with him as a wrestler since he was a young kid. I couldn't ask for a harder working kid; I'm going to miss him as a coach."

On his son, Johnny: "It's been a pleasure being able to coach my own son, and then watch him succeed through hard work. He's probably the hardest worker on the

team; he club wrestles out of season in numerous locations. I enjoy all the years we've spent together."

On freshman Darin Sedenius: "This was his first year on the podium at State. He's got a bright future. He's a super stoic kid, a very even-keeled young man. He's a great kid to work with—super smart, learns quickly. He's excited about wrestling. I can tell he'll stick with it for some time."

On sophomore Lucas Reuwsaat: "He's wrestled for a long time. He's right there at placing at State—his final match in the second day was a close match. I anticipate that he'll do quite well next season and that he'll place at state."

—J. K. M.

Down from top right: Gage Burtenshaw wrestles Ashton Dowell from Adna in the title match. Burtenshaw took second in state at 170 lbs. in a heartbreaking 4-3 decision.

Johnny Franke has the advantage over Ilwaco's Marcus Connor during his final match, which ended with Franke on top 2-1 and gave Franke the 3rd place medal at 195 lbs.

Darin Sedenius pins Spencer Ferguson of Inchelium during second-day action at the Tacoma Dome. Sedenius, a freshman, went on to nab 6th place at 106 lbs.



The Darrington wrestling contingent paused for a group photo after this year's Mat Classic drew to a close. From left, Coach Andy West, Darin Sedenius, Coach Ray Franke, Cesar Brizuela (Wapato, 5th at 132 lbs., "honorary Darrington team member"), Johnny Franke, Gage Burtenshaw, Lucas Reuwsaat, Jimmy Mead, Coach Mason McKenzie.

Measure would maintain library funding

Sno-Isle libraries, including the Darrington Library, will ask voters to maintain funding with a measure on the April 24 ballot.

The ballot measure will ask voters to consider restoring 9 cents to the library district's regular operating levy. If

approved, the levy rate in 2019 would be 47 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value.

Sno-Isle Libraries receives 98 percent of its operational funding from the property-tax levy that applies across most of Snohomish and all of Island counties. Voter approval would:

- Restore the library operations levy rate to 2009 voter-approved level.
- Maintain library staffing to keep libraries open to support needs.
- Continue to purchase library materials

that reduce wait times for popular books, DVDs, and more.

- Maintain bookmobile service for children and seniors.
- Continue preparing preschoolers and students with early childhood development resources, homework help, and after-school STEM classes for K-12 students.

If voters do not approve the measure, budget cuts would:

- Reduce open hours at libraries.

- Reduce library staffing.
- Purchase fewer books and materials, resulting in increased wait times for popular items.
- Decrease library programs and classes.

Sno-Isle Libraries operates 23 community libraries, bookmobile, outreach, and online services available to more than 743,000 people across Snohomish and Island counties. For more information, go to www.sno-isle.org/levy.

—Asheley Bryson



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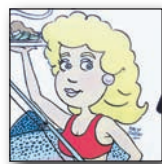
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Marblemount



Newhalem



Community hall springs forward

Marblemount Community Hall will host a number of springtime events soon, beginning Wed., March 7 with “Hearts Alive!” a gathering for those wishing to heal from grief, trauma, or disease. The joyous evening begins with a potluck supper at 6 p.m., followed by two hours of healing (and fun) activities, including rainbow making. All ages are welcome. For more information, contact Sasa at cascadiaeffect@gmail.com or 360.873.4171.

Next on the hall’s calendar is the Marblemount Volunteer Fire Department’s Annual Fireman’s Ball and Scholarship Fundraiser on Sat., March 24, from 7 p.m. to midnight. The Marlin James band will rock the hall with country and classic rock dance tunes. A potluck supper kicks things off at 7 p.m., followed by raffle drawings and prizes and the dance from 8 p.m. to midnight. Tickets are \$15/single or \$25/couple in advance, or \$20/\$30 at the door, respectively. To purchase advance tickets, call 360.630.3900. This annual event raises scholarship monies to award to a worthy high school graduating senior (CHS class of 2018) from Rockport or Marblemount (Fire District 19). For more information, call 360.873.2501.

On Sat., April 15, from 5 to 7 p.m., the hall will host a Community Spaghetti Supper fundraiser, to help pay for much-needed repairs and physical improvements to the hall and grounds. For more information, call 360.873.2323.

Last, heads up for Upriver Radio KSVU’s annual “Blast Open the Pass” fundraiser dance on Sat., May 5. The evening includes a potluck supper, raffle, and live music, so put it on your calendars now. For more information or to donate something for the raffle, call KSVU at 360.853.8588. More details next month.

—Christie Fairchild



Mother and daughter musicians Corina and Eva Sahlin perform a duet of “Where have all the flowers gone?” during the February Grub-n-Groove open mic event at Marblemount Community Hall. This month’s Grub-n-Groove is planned for March 31. *Photo by Christie Fairchild.*

The good news is ...

By Sasa, Starwalker, and Two Hats

We came across an excellent short video on how to return to center and empower ourselves. “How to train your monkey mind” by Buddhist Master Mingyur Rinpoche was simple and enlightening.

Mingyur says we can meditate anywhere, everywhere, anytime—even a second or two does wonders. You can meditate while you are walking or drinking coffee, or even in a meeting. A perfect time to meditate is when we need to wait in a line.

He goes on to say that many of us view meditation as having to think of nothing and concentrate real hard. This is not the case ... we just try too hard or think we must try really hard.

Mingyur says we cannot block our thoughts and emotions—we need those. We end up listening to our monkey brain or our analytic brain that chatters lots of opinions; it’s our choice to listen or not. Meditation makes friends with the monkey mind, but how do we do this? Providing distractions like bananas (TV, games, etc.) is not enough. We need to give our monkey mind a task. It’s rather simple, but in today’s crazy, chaotic world, it may not seem so. It’s a choice to try something different since the pattern we have been exhibiting has not worked out for us and has actually created much of the chaos we experience today.

One simple task to give our monkey brain is to be aware of our breath. Rinpoche invites us to say, “Hello, monkey mind. Watch breath.” Monkey mind will say, “Ah yeah, good idea!” All you need to do is just breathe in and breathe out. When chatter starts back in from monkey mind, simply return to being aware of your breath. Like a muscle, the more we exercise it, the stronger it will become and we clear our channel up so we can hear our hearts speak.

Infinite blessings.

Contact Sasa at cascadiaeffect@gmail.com. Experiences may be shared at <http://cascadiaeffect.weebly.com> and on Facebook: Cascadia Effect.



Both lanes reopened to all traffic on SR 20 at milepost 122.5 on Feb. 27 after an avalanche closed the road at Newhalem on Feb. 25.

The avalanche blocked SR20 at milepost 122.5 at 10:30 a.m. on Sun., Feb. 25. The snow slide was estimated to be about 300 feet wide and 25 to 30 feet high. The closure was approximately 11 miles west of the seasonal closure point for the highway. The avalanche trapped 55 to 60 people behind the slide area, all of which had access to food and housing in the Diablo area.

WSDOT worked with the Whatcom County Sheriff’s Office and the National Park Service as part of a unified command to handle the situation. *Submitted photo.*

Public Records, cont. from p. 35

public disclosure laws. The Republicans want their bill heard in the House State Government, Elections, and Information Technology Committee on March 7, which is the day before this year’s session ends.

Rep. Paul Graves, R–Fall City, who voted against SB 6617 and is the primary sponsor of HB 2255, said that he hasn’t received confirmation that it will get a hearing.

Earl-Hubbard noted that none of the lawmakers’ letters feature signatures from the House or Senate Democratic and Republican leadership, who are explicitly party to the ongoing lawsuit. “We’ve heard not a lot from the four leaders. Period,” she said.

SB 6617’s sponsors, Sens. Nelson and Schoesler, declined to comment for this story.

Skagit County and Darrington merchants bring you Concrete Herald each month. Please support them!

Letters, cont. from p. 2

segregated reservation, with 461 followers (according to the U.S. Census Bureau), has complete control of the Washington State Legislature? What happened to our “representative” form of government, a government by the people and for the people?

In an effort to protect millions in campaign contributions, our elected officials have created a “shadow government”; unelected and with no responsibility to the people of this state. They allow them to run tax-free businesses (Washington is the only state in the U.S. that does not tax tribal casinos) to guarantee the continued flow of tribal dollars into their re-election coffers.

Kris Lytton, D-40 and Dan Kristiansen receive the most in tribal contributions out of the nine people who have been elected to represent the citizens of Skagit County in our state legislature. Both of them are up for re-election in 2018. It is time to take our government back. We have no control over Brian Cladoosby, but we do elect our legislators.

*Mike Newman
Sedro-Woolley*

SRBEAT thanks you

We could not fly without you!

Thank you all for a stellar season at the Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center celebrating the winter migration of the Bald Eagles. This season there was an 80 percent increase of the bald eagles, compared to last season.

Thank you to our:

- Wonderful volunteers
- SRBEAT board members, who strive to improve the program all year long
- Dedicated partners: Skagit County Parks and Recreation, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest Service, WA State Parks
- Gifted environmental speakers
- Amazing sponsors: Cascadian Home Farm, visitors and their donations, City of Burlington and Skagit County
- Local artisans

To lose just one of you would shut the doors of a 21-year, volunteer-driven

program. This nonprofit program generates winter economies for our local community and inspires visitors far and wide.

*Judy Hemenway, SRBEAT
Rockport*

NRA aims to protect gun industry

When the Second Amendment was added to the U.S. Constitution, our founding fathers could not have imagined the killing capacity of some of our modern weapons. That one private citizen would be capable of killing 20 little primary grade students, or 59 concert goers in a matter of a few minutes would never have occurred to them. Nor would it have occurred to the two Union Army officers who established the NRA in 1871 to teach proper gun use. In those early days the NRA prided itself on independence from corporate influence.

That is no longer the case. More than half of the NRA’s revenue is from sources other than memberships. Ten percent of its revenue, \$20.9 million, is from selling advertising to gun industry companies for marketing their products in its many publications. Some companies donate portions of sales directly to the NRA. Others buy NRA memberships for everyone who buys their guns.

Additionally the gun industry donates money to the NRA Foundation to give to local-level organizations for training and equipment purchases. But the true source of the NRA’s clout is mobilization of its members, not donations.

The NRA is also active politically. Through PACs, lobbying, and outside spending they contributed \$58,671,708 to support mostly GOP federal candidates in 2016. Of that, \$21 million was spent to support Trump and \$12 million to attack Clinton.

Wayne LaPierre constantly warns “they” will take away the Second Amendment. Nonsense. Changing the Constitution would never get the support of three fourths of the states needed to repeal it, and LaPierre knows it. The aim of the NRA today isn’t to protect the Second Amendment; it’s to protect the gun industry so that it can sell more guns, period.

*Gail Nicolls
Guemes Island*

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING



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Seniors

Way Back When

70 years ago

March 18, 1948: A statewide search is on for Olie Wiles, Skagit County forger, who escaped from the county jail in Mount Vernon Saturday night by picking the lock of his cell with wire from a coat hanger and then using the rope from the flag pole to let himself down from the roof of the building. He had just been sentenced to a life term at Walla Walla penitentiary under the Habitual Criminal Act.

Sheriff Hinshaw stated that the prisoner escaped while the jailer was on temporary office duty on the floor below. In making his way

down the side of the building, he slipped past the jury room, where some of the jurors on his own case were deliberating another decision.

Wiles is described as "tough" and is not expected to give up without a fight if cornered. No trace had yet been found of him after he left the courthouse.

March 25, 1948: Some hardworking but rather weakminded burglars pulled the prize boner of the year last weekend when they broke into the old Hamilton bank building and put in a great deal of time trying to cut their way into the vault with an acetylene torch. The bank has been out of business for years.

It was a thoroughly planned job. The robbers got into the building by crawling under the floor, cutting through the flooring, and then dragging in the hose from two acetylene tanks they had placed at the rear of the building. They cut a hole about a foot and half in diameter through the vault door, and then tried unsuccessfully to open a safe inside the vault with steel punches.

The thieves were apparently frightened away, as they left all

their tools in the building.

The only loss was \$2,000 in savings bonds owned by Mrs. Emma Clark of Hamilton, who had been using the building for storage. The bonds were in a cabinet inside the vault. The burglars would have a difficult time cashing the bonds, if at all.

The Sheriff's Office is checking the serial numbers of the tanks and tracing the tools used.

60 years ago

March 20, 1958: "Bad Accident; Nobody Killed" read one headline in this week's issue of *Concrete Herald*.

A highway accident that caused several thousand dollars of damage and was spectacular enough to warrant blackout of all light in the Upper Valley luckily closed with only superficial injuries to the three persons involved.

The crash occurred at Van Horn about 6:30 p.m. on March 19, when a 1957 Chevrolet pickup driven by A. Grant Franklin of Mount Vernon came out of a side road and into the side of an empty logging truck driven by Harvey Cress of Rockport. The crash caused the truck to knock

down a power pole, cutting off all electricity upriver.

Franklin had been coming from his property south of the railroad tracks at Van Horn and apparently did not see the truck coming east across the Jackman Creek bridge. Witnesses said the pickup seemed to slow to a stop at the edge of the highway and then shoot directly across into the right side of the oncoming truck. They said it bounced away like a rubber ball on impact.

Cress was unhurt in the accident. Franklin had a 5-stitch cut on his mouth and some bruises, and Gary Lindquist, passenger in the pickup, suffered cuts on the knees and forehead.

50 years ago

March 20, 1968: Arthur Tonkyn, machinist at the Diablo power house, has been awarded \$45 for a suggestion for stopping oil leakage on the hydraulic generators.

His idea was use of a neoprene gasket in the oil slinger rings. The adoption will save about \$450

See Way Back, p. 29

Concrete Community Center to host Senior Appreciation Day

A "Senior Appreciation Day" event will be held on Wed., March 14, from 10 a.m. to noon at Concrete Community Center.

The event is designed as a "thank you" to area seniors, and will include information tables, gift bags, technology assistance, and other resources tailored for the needs of seniors.

For more information, call 360.416.1733.

—Erma Baude

Concrete Community Center

March 2018 Activities

Mon. – Fri., 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Lunch served at noon

Monday through Friday

Jigsaw puzzles, walking group, games, more

AARP Tax-Aide income tax help has moved to the East County Resource Center (see ad, below).

All subject to change. For latest information: www.facebook.com/concretecommunity or call 360.416.1377.

Monday

3/12 3 p.m. EAP Roundtable

Wednesday

3/14 10 a.m. Senior Appreciation Day
3/14 6 p.m. Ohana Support Group
3/21 6 p.m. Backyard Gardening
3/28 6 p.m. Ohana Support Group

Thursday

3/15 12:30 p.m. Pinochle
3/29 12:30 p.m. Pinochle

Friday

3/9 12:30 p.m. Commissioner Janicki

Saturday

All 7 p.m. AA meeting
3/24 10 a.m. Trinkets, Treasures, and Collectibles Sale

Way Back, cont. from p. 28

a year in oil loss and cleaning time prior to starting a unit after shutdown.

This is Tonkyn's second award. He previously designed a supporting mechanism to allow a workman to operate heavy air grinders with better facility.

40 years ago

March 16, 1978: A herd of 35 elk, happily wintering in Birdview area farm and pasture lands, refused to be moved by volunteers working under direction of the State Game Dept. Saturday.

Approximately 50 men gathered to attempt to move the elk from woods west of Cape Horn Rd. across the highway and toward

National Forest lands.

Everyone cooperated except the elk. The animals moved back through the line of marchers and remained in the woods.

"Elk go where they darn well please," said Dan Adkinson, Game Dept. wildlife agent and Birdview resident.

—Compiled from archives



30 years ago, March 1988: Nearly 100 card-playing senior citizens crowded into the Concrete Senior Center on March 21 as the local center hosted the All County Pinochle Tournament. Every available inch was filled with card tables, and sometimes the floor became even more congested as winning pairs of players advanced to the next table before that table had finished its game. Archive photo by Anne Bussiere.

Verna's Kitchen

By Verna McClure

Quick and Easy Snack



Saltine crackers
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Large marshmallows

1. Spread peanut butter on the saltine crackers. Place one marshmallow on top of each.
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Sunday School lesson

Why attend church?

By Matt Del Bosque

“Do I really need to go to church? Can’t I just believe in God on my own and not attend a local church?”

As a pastor, I meet a lot of people who claim to have a faith in God, but they do not feel like they need to attend a local church. There are a ton reasons as to why people who have a faith don’t want to be around others in the same faith. But the truth is churches are made up of people—imperfect people. And imperfect people do imperfect things that hurt others from time to time. But even in the midst of broken and messed up individuals, is a beautiful family: God’s family.

So can you have a belief in God without attending a church? Absolutely. Is it beneficial to live that way? Not really. And here’s why. Being an isolated believer is not biblical. When the early church began in the book of Acts, the believers met together. They had all things in common. They worshiped Jesus together and helped take care of and support each other.

Hebrews 10:24–25 says, “And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”

The purpose of belonging to a church family is so that you don’t have to face

life alone. You can join other people with real issues, and together you can seek Jesus, pray for one another, and encourage one another. It’s an amazing feeling to know that you have people who will be there for you when you need them.

If you are not a part of a local church, I strongly encourage you to join one and get plugged in. We were never meant to go it alone.

Those of us at Citipoint Church North Cascade in Marblemount would love for you to become a part of our family. We have what we call “Family Style Gatherings” at 10 a.m. on Sundays. We have breakfast together and then we go into some worship songs followed by a biblical sermon. Everyone is welcome in our church family.

So find a local church and become part of a family. We may not be perfect, but we know a God who is. Together we grow stronger in friendships and stronger in faith—which is exactly what the early church was all about.

Matt Del Bosque is pastor for Citipoint Church North Cascade in Marblemount.

Obituaries published in Concrete Herald from May 2009 to present are posted online at: www.concrete-herald.com/obituaries. For more information, contact Concrete Herald at 360.853.8213 or editor@concrete-herald.com.

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Skagit County Sheriff's Office Blotter

Jan. 25

Deputy Backstrom received a report from Skagit County Parks that someone had been stealing wood and trees from the Sauk River Park on Concrete Sauk Valley Rd. DNR advised that they also have been investigating tree thefts near the park. Deputy Backstrom will investigate further.

Feb. 1

A burglary was reported by an employee at the Sauk Transfer Station. A shed was broken into and several containers of fuel were taken. There are no suspects at this time.

Feb. 3

A cabin near the 53000 block of Concrete Sauk Valley road was reported to have been burglarized within the last month.

Level 3 Sex Offender NOTIFICATION

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

**Blett, Timothy
Delane**

Age: 57
Race: W
Sex: M
Height: 6’ 0”
Weight: 224
Hair: Gray
Eyes: Hazel
Address: 464xx
Baker Loop Rd.,
Cedar Grove



Blett was convicted of second-degree criminal sexual conduct on Aug. 9, 1993, in Michigan. He was convicted of accosting children for immoral purposes on April 3, 2012, also in Michigan.

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

Source: Skagit County Sheriff

Feb. 4

Deputy Lewellen took a complaint of stolen puppies on Concrete Sauk Valley Rd. Three puppies had been taken from a kennel that also contained an adult dog. A suspect was contacted, but denied any knowledge of the stolen puppies.

Feb. 5

While handling a noise-traffic complaint in Cedar Grove, Deputy Tweit observed a subject that he believed had warrants. He was able to contact the suspect, who had four warrants for his arrest. The suspect was arrested and taken to jail.

Deputy Beisler handled a report of a burglary on Baker Dr. in Cedar Grove. The residence, which was vacant, had the back door kicked open. Deputy Beisler checked the residence, but didn’t locate anyone inside and could not determine if anything had been taken. He secured the residence.

A citizen reported being threatened by two males in the parking lot of Loggers Landing in Concrete. The victim had left west on SR 20 and was followed by the two males, who were acting like they were going to run him off the road. Deputy Beisler contacted the victim at the Punkin Center Fire Department. The victim told him that he and one of the suspects had been arguing over a girl. They were going to fight, but the suspect showed up with a friend so the victim fled. The suspects had stopped following the victim near Pinelli Rd. After investigating, Deputy Beisler determined that no crime had occurred.

Feb. 7

The Concrete Food Bank reported that someone had broken into the food bank and taken food. Entry was made by breaking the front window and door. Food was taken from the freezer. Deputy Lewellen was able to locate possible video and will review it to determine if a suspect can be identified.

Deputy Lewellen investigated a report of a violation of a no-contact order on South Rietze St. The suspect, who is a registered sex offender and has warrants for his arrest, was seen going into an apartment from which he is restricted. When Deputy Lewellen arrived, he was able to determine that the suspect had been at the apartment, but had left before his arrival. The suspect will be referred for charges.

Concrete Middle School requested a deputy contact the district office to assist in removing a student from a bus. The school advised that a student had assaulted the bus driver and another school employee. The school had contacted the

parents. When the parents arrived, the student was turned over to them.

Feb. 8

Deputy Esskew responded to a complaint of a drug problem at Baker Loop Rd. and Cedar Grove Ave. in Cedar Grove. A bus driver had reported that she had observed several needles at that location. When Deputy Esskew arrived, he determined that there were no needles, but what the driver saw were actually Holly berries, which are similar in color to the tops of needles.

Feb. 9

The resident at Totem Trail Motel reported that someone had entered his shed and taken a Stihl Chainsaw with a 20-inch bar. The saw was valued at \$600. No suspects have been located at this time.

Deputies responded to a domestic call on Cape Horn Dr. The reporting party said that he had attempted to take his girlfriend’s drugs away from her when she hit him multiple times. Deputy Devero located the suspect, who admitted to hitting the victim. She also admitted to possessing methamphetamine. She was arrested for fourth-degree domestic assault and may be referred for possession of drugs pending results from the

Washington State Patrol laboratory. The victim was arrested on an out-of-county felony warrant. Both were taken to jail.

Deputy Wolfe responded to a report of a domestic disturbance in Cedar Grove. The reporting party advised that his daughter was in the house yelling and screaming at her mother. When Deputy Wolfe arrived, he determined that the daughter had not committed any crimes. But the family had no money, she was hungry, and was having an issue with stress. After talking to her, he advised her that he could meet her at the bakery in town to buy her a meal and make arrangements to have a friend pick her up.

Deputy Struiksma observed a vehicle traveling on Petit St. near Baker St. in Hamilton. He ran the registration and discovered the registered owner had a suspended driver’s license. The driver matched the description of the registered owner. Deputy Struiksma stopped the car and identified the driver as the owner. The driver was arrested for driving with a suspended driver’s license and cited for no insurance.

Feb. 11

A farmer on the Lyman Hamilton Hwy

See Sheriff’s Blotter, p. 33

Worship directory

Assembly of God Concrete Assembly of God

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

Citipoint Church North Cascade

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

Baptist

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

Hamilton First Baptist Church

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

Lyman Church

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

Catholic

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

Covenant

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

Sun. worship: 11 a.m.
Call for weekly youth group/Bible studies

Episcopal

St. Martin/St. Francis Episcopal Church
55223 Conrad Rd., Rockport
Services: first and third Sunday of each month, 1 p.m.

Free Methodist

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

Methodist

Central United Methodist Church
1013 Polke Rd., Sedro-Woolley
360.856.6412 / centralumcsw@yahoo.com
<http://centralumcsw.org>
Adult Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Sun. worship: 11 a.m.

Presbyterian

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

Lutheran

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

Nondenominational

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

Community Bible Church

45672 Limestone, Concrete; 360.853.8511
E-mail: cbcofconcrete@earthlink.net
Sun. School: 9 a.m.; Worship Svc: 10 a.m.
Childcare/Children’s Ministries at both
Contact church for other ministries

The RIVER Gathering

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

Rockport Christ the King Comm. Church

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

Wildwood Chapel

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



[Chief Darrel Reed]

Concrete Volunteer Fire Dept. needs firefighters!

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

Interested?

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



Applicants may live inside or outside town limits.

CONCRETE HERITAGE MUSEUM NEWS

The museum is conducting a **Last Chance Sale on memberships**. After keeping our rates the same for many years (\$25 for individual memberships and \$50 for family and business memberships) we've decided to raise them effective June 1. If you join or renew before then, the old rates will apply. How much they'll go up is still being debated, but the time to buy is now.

Memory Lane

In 1920 the fishing season was well under way when two industrious fishermen were caught dynamiting for fish in Grandy Lake by Deputy Game Warden Gallagher. They were fined \$50 plus costs, but were unable to pay, so off to jail they went. Additional charges were being considered for concealed weapons. Remember, dynamite was once a fairly easy and common commodity to obtain or use.

Baseball was a big deal in Skagit County in 1928 as a meeting was held to form a county baseball league. This idea came to fruition and Concrete's own Nighthawks became regular contenders. Herb Larsen, the founder of our local museum, was a regular player.

The murder of Merlin Leonard by Rex Connally in Crofoot Addition in December was still big news during the month of March 1929, as Rex was tried, convicted, and sentenced to 12 to 15 years for second-degree murder.

Of a more lasting nature, the corrugated sidewalk up Aldridge Street was completed by E. J. Hornbeck in 1929.

That was too late to help the barber George Feazel, who dropped dead hurrying up the hill to work in 1920.

The local printing of the *Concrete Herald* took a hiatus in 1944 when Chuck Dwelley departed for duty with the U.S. Navy. Until his return, the *Courier-Times* in Sedro-Woolley took up the slack of printing the paper, which was still locally written.

Highway 17-A was renamed State Route 20 in 1948. This re-designation upgraded its status and ensured it would continue to remain the major thoroughfare to the Upper Skagit Valley.

For those who would rather our town was called something other than "Concrete," be aware that is not a new opinion. In 1965, enough people wanted to change the name that it was being considered. The submissions to the naming contest included: Cascadia, Steelhead Bend, Shannon City, Two-Rivers, Ska-Bak, Uu-Vu, Wintergreen, Premier, Newlook, Peyton Place II, Tobacco Road, and Baker. Some of the choices were obviously better than others, but none were approved.

Our **pre-Easter Bake Sale** will be held at Albert's Red Apple on Good Friday, March 30, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. They'll close up when they sell out, so shop early.

We still open the museum for **special tours during the winter**. Arrange one by calling 360.853.8347 or e-mail your requests to jboggs@aol.com or autohistory@hotmail.com.

—John Boggs

March at the Darrington Library

Children and family programs

- Family Storytime, Wednesdays, March 7–28 at 11 a.m.; all ages welcome, caregiver required.
- LEGO Free Play, Wed., March 14; 3 p.m.

Adults

- Darrington Book Group, Astoria by Peter Sark, Wed., March 7; 5:30 to

- 7 p.m.; potluck optional
- Friends of the Darrington Library meeting, Wed., March 14, 5:30 to 7 p.m.

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

—Asheley Bryson, branch manager

At the Upper Skagit Library

Upper Skagit Library thanks all of those who entered their art work in our **Bookmark Design Contest**. All entries were displayed and the public voted for the top three choices. The three winners are Cait Burns, Felicia Kessler, and Guenna Burns. Their designs will be printed with our new library information when we move to our new spot on Main St.

This month's Upper Skagit Library **Board of Trustees meeting** will be held on March 8 at 5 p.m. All are welcome.

Please mark your calendars: the next **annual members' meeting** of the Upper Skagit Library Foundation will be held on Sun., March 25, at 1 p.m. at the Concrete Theatre. The guest speaker will be Anu Taranath, from the Humanities Washington Speaker's Bureau. Her talk is titled "Not Just for Kids: How Children's Literature inspires Bold Conversations." You can read more about Anu and her talk at <https://www.humanities.org/speaker/anu-taranath>.

On March 31 from 3:30 to 5 p.m., you'll find **Young Authors in the Public Library!** To celebrate the hard work and creativity of our young authors, and to formally accept the books into our collection, the library invites all the young

authors and their families to an afternoon reading and sharing event at the library. Food and beverages provided. This event is open to the public as well.

The **Spring Break Main Street Scavenger Hunt** will be held from April 2 to 7. Pick up your Scavenger Hunt entry form at either Upper Skagit Library or 5b's Bakery during Spring Break. Walk or ride your bike(s) down Main St. and try to answer all 10 questions. Answer all 10 questions correctly and win a prize from Upper Skagit Library. Complete the bonus question and win a treat from 5b's Bakery. Entry forms will be available to pick up from April 2 to 7 only. Contact Beth at Upper Skagit Library for more information.

Help your neighbor stay warm. Throughout March, Upper Skagit Library will accept used newspapers. Drop them off during regular business hours and we will make them available to others to use for fire starter.

Upper Skagit Library supports **Skagit Kid Insider**. Check out this fabulous source for what is going on in Skagit County for kids. You can find Skagit Kid Insider at <https://skagit.kidinsider.com>.

—Tess Carroll, Library Associate

Lions R-O-A-R



This month the Concrete Lions Club **meeting** will be on March 7 at Annie's Pizza. The meeting starts at 6:30 p.m.; however, there is always a group that meets starting around 6 p.m. to eat and socialize before the meeting. All existing members, mark your calendars. For those interested in becoming a member, submitting a request, or just want to see what we are about, please feel free to stop in. Thanks to all our members who continue to do projects to help our community.

Your Concrete Lions Club held a free **Community Dinner** at the High School on Feb. 20. Turnout was great and so was the food.

Our next big event will be the annual **Corned Beef Feed** on March 14. It will be held in the Concrete High School Commons. The doors open at 5:30 p.m. and dinner starts at 6 p.m. The cost will be

\$16 per person; everyone is welcome.

Thanks to all our members who continue to do projects to help our community.

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

I encourage members of our community to think about and **join your local Lions Club**. Our club is your club. We are a club to serve you and our community. Our hope for 2018 is to double our membership numbers. 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 prayers for the healing of our Lions Club members.

—Connie Smithhart

Sheriff's Blotter, cont. from p. 31

discovered that someone had run into his fence. He located a license plate that belonged to a truck with an address nearby. The owner of the truck advised that her ex-boyfriend had been driving the truck when the accident occurred. She advised that she would contact the farmer and help him repair his fence.

Near dusk a property owner on 2nd St. in Lyman saw a person he identified as a known drug user walking across his property. He was concerned that the subject was there to break into nearby abandoned houses. He called the Sheriff's Office and Deputy Esskew responded. The homeowner said that when he confronted the suspect, the suspect picked up rocks and started throwing them at the homeowner. The homeowner then drew his firearm and told him to leave. Deputy Esskew was able to contact the suspect and advised him not to return or he would be arrested for trespassing. The suspect agreed not to go back or to go to the abandoned houses.

Feb. 17

After seeing a vehicle fail to stop at a stop sign at Baker St. and Petit St. in Hamilton, Deputy Wolfe stopped the vehicle and contacted the driver. The driver told him that she did not have a license and had no insurance for the vehicle. Deputy Wolfe checked her driving status and confirmed her driver's license was suspended. He arrested her for driving with a suspended license and cited her for no insurance.

Feb. 18

While patrolling near Petit St. in Hamilton, Deputy Wolfe stopped a vehicle for an unreadable license plate. The driver immediately exited the vehicle and refused to get back into the vehicle when requested to do so by Deputy Wolfe. Deputy Wolfe identified the driver and was aware that the driver had a suspended driver's license and known drug activity. Deputy Wolfe approached the driver and advised him he was under arrest. The suspect then fled on foot. Because Deputy Wolfe was alone and knew the identity of the suspect, he chose not to chase him.

Instead he called for a tow to impound the vehicle. After about 30 minutes, the suspect returned. He was arrested for first-degree driving while license suspended, resisting arrest, and failing to obey a police officer. Deputy Wolfe took the suspect into custody, then checked the area where he had fled to see if he had dropped any illegal items. He didn't find anything. Deputy Wolfe booked the suspect into jail.

Feb. 19

While patrolling near the Hamilton boat launch, Deputy Wiggins observed a vehicle parked near the back of the launch. The launch is closed during the hours of darkness, and a Discover Pass or Vehicle Access Pass is required to park at the launch. Deputy Wiggins contacted the vehicle and discovered that a passenger in the car had felony warrants for possession of a stolen vehicle and second-degree burglary. He was taken into custody and transported to jail.

Feb. 20

Gas was stolen from the 51000 block of Concrete Sauk Valley Rd. The gas was

stored in 5-gallon cans in a shed on the property. The victim reported that four cans were taken, with about 20 gallons of gas. The victim said that there were no suspects.

—Compiled by Sgt. Greg Adams

Northwest Garden Bling

- Gift shop
- Stained glass & glass supplies
- Souvenirs

360-708-3279
nwngardenbling@frontier.com
 44574 Highway 20 — Concrete, WA 98237

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Bookkeeping

UpRiver Bookkeeping Services

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

Brew pubs

Birdsview Brewing Co.

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

Construction

Don Payne's Backhoe Services

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

Donald K. Moore Construction

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

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 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Gifts, Rocks, Tobacco, Cigars, and more!

Pawn shops

Gold Nugget Jewelry & Loan

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

Ranches

Double O Ranch, LLC

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

Restaurants

Cascade Burgers

45292 State Route 20, Concrete
 Featuring great burgers, fries, and milkshakes in a 1950s, family-style atmosphere!
 OPEN DAILY: 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

Self-storage

Concrete Self-storage

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

Septic services

Cinema Septic

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

Thrift stores

Second Floor Thrift Store

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

To add your business to this directory, call 360.853.8213 or e-mail editor@concrete-herald.com



Out & About



Water, cont. from p. 11

Skagit County

Perkins will run for county auditor

Sandra (Sandy) Perkins, Skagit County's Chief Deputy Auditor, has announced her candidacy for county auditor. The current auditor, Jeanne Youngquist, has held the position for 12 years and will retire at the end of 2018.

Perkins, who lives in Anacortes, has more than 25 years' experience as an auditor and fraud investigator. She has been a Certified Fraud Examiner since 2002 and has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Economic Crime Investigation. During the past 25 years, Sandy has worked with various businesses, implementing internal controls to

minimize the risk of fraud.

Perkins is working with members of the Anacortes community to develop an Anacortes Accessible Communities Advisory Committee, which is authorized under the disability access voting statute. As the county auditor, Sandy would expand the effort countywide to improve accessibility, affordable housing, and employment opportunities for the disabled residents of Skagit County.

For more information, contact Perkins at 360.420.1649 or info@sandyperkins.com.



Perkins

State

Governor vetoes controversial public records bill

Behind-the-scenes deal negotiated by the governor's office between lawmakers and media organizations

By Josh Kelety
WNPA Olympia News Bureau

In a down-to-the-wire decision, Governor Jay Inslee vetoed a controversial bill that would have immediately exempted the state Legislature from public disclosure law three hours before the bill would have been enacted into law.

At 9 p.m. on March 1, Inslee's office sent out a press release stating that the governor had vetoed the legislation, SB 6617, after securing an agreement between lawmakers and media organizations for a compromise.

"The public's right to government information is one we hold dearly in Washington," Inslee said in a written statement. "Transparency is a cornerstone of a democratic government."

The bill, which would have immediately and retroactively exempted lawmakers from the state Public Records Act, was pushed through the Legislature in less than 48 hours on Feb. 23 with no public hearings. It passed both the state House and Senate with supermajority margins and no floor debate, prompting outrage from media outlets, open government advocates, and the public. The governor's office was inundated with thousands of angry constituent phone calls and e-mails during the next six days.

Sponsored by Senate Majority Leader Sharon Nelson, D-Maury Island, and Senate Minority Leader, Mark Schoesler, R-Ritzville, the legislation came on the heels of a Jan. 19 ruling from Thurston County Superior Court Judge Chris Lanese that lawmakers are subject to the state's Public Records Act. The decree stemmed from an ongoing lawsuit

against the Legislature by the Associated Press, the Washington Newspaper Publishers Association, and other media organizations, who sued last year for lawmakers' internal communications and records pertaining to alleged sexual harassment incidents.

Washington legislators have routinely denied records requests in the past on the grounds that public disclosure laws don't apply to them.

The bill's rapid-fire passage in the Legislature prompted a statewide backlash. On Feb. 27, 13 daily newspapers across Washington published editorials calling on Inslee to veto the legislation. By March 1, the governor's office had received nearly 12,000 e-mails, 5,600 phone calls, and over 100 letters from constituents regarding the bill. In his statement, Inslee called the public reaction "unprecedented."

Inslee had until 11:59 p.m. on March 1 to decide whether to sign the bill, veto it entirely, partially veto it, or let it pass without his signature. He faced the prospect that legislators might override his veto with the supermajority vote of approval the bill had already received. In the hours leading up to the late-night veto, Inslee's Chief of Staff David Postman and his Executive Director of Legislative Affairs Drew Shirk, engaged in behind-the-scenes negotiations with legislators and newspaper publishers.

In exchange for a veto from the governor and no override vote from the Legislature, the media organizations—the plaintiffs in the lawsuit against the Legislature—will join the defendants in seeking a stay on enforcement of the ruling while the matter proceeds in an appeal now before the state Supreme Court. Furthermore, the news media plaintiffs agreed not to field a ballot initiative to overturn the Legislature's action, and would help lawmakers craft public records legislation in 2019.

The agreement came together in a turbulent and last-minute fashion. On Feb. 28, three regional newspaper publishers participated in a brief conference call with Inslee to voice their concerns and ask him to veto the bill. According to the publisher of Tacoma-based *The News Tribune* and

available" water, and that a permit-exempt well would violate instream flow rules.

While the Foxes hoped the case would go to the state Supreme Court, Richard Fox said the Hirst decision ended any chance of that happening.

The Foxes both pointed to the Swinomish as the primary barrier to development in Skagit County, and said the tribe's political spending gives Swinomish a powerful voice. According to data from the Public Disclosure Commission, the Swinomish Tribe has spent nearly \$650,000 in combined contributions to political committees and candidates since 2006. Contributions come from the tribal community itself, as well as the Swinomish Casino & Lodge. PDC data shows 31 tribes making political contributions in that time frame, with only the Puyallup, Muckleshoot, and Tulalip spending more than the Swinomish on political donations.

"The tribe is the main instigator here, but you have a lot of followers: the Legislature, the governor, and the judicial section," Richard Fox said. "How can money outvote us?"

Zachary Barborinas owned property on the south side of the Skagit Basin in Snohomish County. He said his lot was part of a 40-acre development that received approvals to drill wells, but not to use them. Barborinas went on to say that Ecology wouldn't issue mitigated water right permits, and that he thinks the agency was afraid of a Swinomish lawsuit.

It was eventually determined that the development was drawing more than half of its water from the Stillaguamish River watershed, so lot owners were eventually

allowed to use their wells.

By then, Barborinas had sold his lot, frustrated at the legal and political complications. He went on to co-found the Just Water Alliance, an organization of farmers, landowners, and residents of Skagit County determined to change water policy in the area.

In 2016 Swinomish asked the federal Bureau Of Indian Affairs to approve an amendment to its Swinomish tribal constitution. Skagit County opposed the amendment, claiming it would have extended the reservation boundaries. Skagit County called the process "annexing" and sent a letter to affected residents on Fidalgo Island, warning that their property could become part of the reservation.

Swinomish responded in a press release and said the county had not consulted with the tribe before sending its letter to residents, and that the information was "outdated" and of "limited understanding."

In any case, Skagit County attorney Will Honea sent a letter to the federal agency asking that it deny approval of the amendment. In its objections, the county referenced the clash over water rights as context for the relationship between the county and the tribe.

Honea wrote that under Tribal Chairman Brian Cladoosby's leadership, the Swinomish have, "since the mid-90s, pursued a broad-ranging and programmatic effort to assert direct control over the Skagit River ecosystem at the expense of its democratically-elected governments, asserting rights over taxation, land use, water rights and a broad range of issues on a constant and ongoing basis."

Swinomish tribal leaders did not

respond to repeated e-mails and phone messages seeking comment on Skagit County's exemption from the Hirst "fix." Swinomish Environmental Policy Director Larry Wasserman said they do not discuss "private conversations with legislators."

Science and politics

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, one in five U.S. homes uses an onsite septic system to treat wastewater, the same system that would presumably be used in many of the rural homes in Skagit County not serviced by a public water system.

The EPA also claims that septic systems provide benefits to public health, the environment, and the economy. In contrast to the argument that rural development would negatively impact instream flows, the EPA's Web site states that "wastewater treatment removes pollution from surface water, recharges groundwater, and replenishes aquifers."

Barborinas said that around 5,700 landowners were affected by instream flow rules, and if they had been able to build homes and use 350 gallons per day with a 50 percent septic recharge, their combined water usage would have been around 1 million gallons each day. Barborinas said this impact is a very generous estimation, and even then would use just over a thousandth of a foot of the Skagit River, an impact less severe than a boat knocking waves upon the shore.

"We're trying to bring a rational solution to an irrational problem," Barborinas said. "It's creating a tremendous amount of animosity in the community."

The recently-passed Hirst bill allows for 950 or 3,000 gallons of domestic water use per day, depending on which watershed a given well draws from. Kristin Johnson-

Waggoner, water resources communications manager for Ecology, said a household of four uses an estimated 60 gallons of water per capita per day.

"Nobody cares about anything logical," Richard Fox said. "This isn't about water, it's about politics."

No relief in sight

Mike Newman, a real estate agent in Skagit County, said that the statewide nature of the Hirst decision gave Skagit residents another chance at water access, but that the county may have run out of opportunities now that the rest of the state has been saved.

"We've tried common sense, we've tried state courts, none of it's worked," Newman said. "Maybe federal court will be next."

With the Hirst "fix" passing by a considerable margin in both chambers, members of both parties championed the bipartisan nature of the new bill and the relief it would bring to Washington landowners. When the legislation passed in January, it did so by a 35-14 vote in the Senate.

Sen. Barbara Bailey, R-Oak Harbor, cut through the celebratory noise and asked a simple question on the Senate floor: "What about Skagit?"

The senator, whose district covers southwestern Skagit County, said the bill would be good for the future of Washington state, but that she could not reconcile the harm that would be brought to her constituents, who were provided no saving grace.

"I wish there had been something done for Skagit so I could vote yes, because the rest of the work on this bill is good," Bailey said. "You've got friends and neighbors that this bill does not help."

with House and Senate Democrats—despite the fact that most House Republicans voted for it.

"As members of the minority caucus we don't get to choose which bills run or when they run ... SB 6617 was the only solution allowed by the Democrats," the letter states. "All 48 of our members wished they could have voted for a better bill."

The House GOP letter demands that Speaker of the House, Rep. Frank Chopp, D-Seattle hold a hearing on their bill filed late last year, HB 2255—which would require that legislators be subject to

See Public Records, p. 27

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Public Records, cont. from p. 34

The Olympian, David Zeeck, who was on that phone call, Inslee said at the time that he wasn't sure what he would do.

During the following 24 hours, Inslee's staff went back and forth between both sides. The publishers wanted the bill killed and a public stakeholder discussion on public disclosure in the Legislature. Lawmakers wanted guarantees that the media organizations would back up their attempt to seek a stay on the enforcement of the court ruling and wouldn't field a ballot initiative.

On March 1, Inslee's staff requested letters from both the publishers and

lawmakers clarifying their positions and their intended actions in the event that he vetoed the legislation.

Michele Earl-Hubbard, the attorney representing the media organizations in the lawsuit, drafted the plaintiff's letter, which was sent to Inslee's office at around 5 p.m. on March 1.

"It was a promise to the governor to give him information so that he could broker a deal," Earl-Hubbard said.

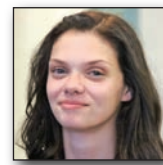
Sen. Jamie Pedersen, D-Seattle, who helped corral positions from the Senate Democratic caucus along with Deputy Senate Majority Leader Andy Billig, D-Spokane, said that the media's letter sealed the deal for many of his

Democratic colleagues. "The items that were covered in Michele Earl-Hubbard's letter were the things that we were looking for," Pedersen said.

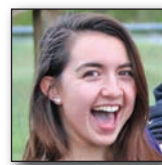
House and Senate Democrats also authored letters late Thursday afternoon endorsing the veto. "We have heard loud and clear from our constituents that they are angry and frustrated with the process by which we passed ESB 6617," both letters read. "We think that the only way to make this right is for you to veto the bill and for us to start again."

The entire House Republican caucus also authored a letter, but with a different tack. They endorsed a veto decision, but laid the blame for the controversial bill

See Public Records, p. 35



Smile



Pet Patch

Jaretta Osborne from Sedro-Woolley snapped this photo of her "Mother Cluckers" in their chicken tree.



... from the Concrete Herald archives ...

"I'll give you \$10 if you'll let me paint you," said the artist.
The old mountaineer shifted his tobacco silently.
"It's easy money," said the artist.
"Ain't no question about that," said the mountaineer. "I was just wondering how I'd get the paint off afterward."
— § —
A successful diplomat is a man who is always on his toes, but never on the other fellow's.

Dwelleysms

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

"The new minimum wage of \$1.60 an hour may cause trouble in some places. Some employers will start insisting that a similar value of work be done."
"A \$50,400 grant will go to U of W professors for a two-year study on the sex life of blackbirds. And they haven't figured out humans yet!"
"We are now heading straight into the political season, when a lot of them are going to start talking common sense. It is best to remember that this is a phase they go through, which will end right after election."
—Feb. 7, 1968

"The popularity of newspaper columns on how to run your lives would be commendable, except that most people read advice columns for entertainment value only."
"The offspring who thinks his parents aren't very bright should give thanks. If they had been as smart as he thinks he is, he wouldn't have been born."
"One of these days, all those people who are bent on saving the world are going to be stuck for a good reason for doing so."
"Reality is supposed to be what you see when you keep your eyes open. Often it is what happens to you when you keep them closed."
—Feb. 14, 1968

Concrete Harold

By Joyce Harris



By Stig Kristensen

Public Service Announcement



Crossword: "From Time to Time"

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17					18					19				
20								21						
				22		23	24			25				
26	27	28	29			30			31					
32				33	34				35	36	37	38	39	40
41								42						
43								44						
					45	46					47			
48	49	50	51	52		53			54	55				
56					57				58		59	60	61	62
63								64	65					
66						67				68				
69						70					71			

Across

- Muscat native
- Goya's "Duchess of ____"
- Dorking, e.g.
- Held up
- Cardinal
- Title of respect
- Intermittently
- Bug
- Tights
- Campaign
- Convex flower clusters
- U.N. agency
- "O, gie me the ____ that has acres o' charms": Burns
- Theseus slew him
- Squeal
- Without delay
- Botched
- Certain stanza
- Go bad
- One of three vessels
- Wrap
- Hirudinean
- Missile part
- Club-shaped tool
- Occasionally

- Defeat decisively
- Eyeball
- Disney flyer
- Slam
- New Jersey five
- Brace

Down

- Airy
- "____ along!"
- Not aweather
- Hardly Mr. Cool
- Tennyson poem
- Spanish 101 verb
- Kind of partner
- Flat rolls
- Daughter of James II
- Like ice cream
- Alphabetic system
- Invitation heading
- Domain
- Opposite of paleo-
- Sawbones
- Cloud
- Busy
- Prayer leader
- Commend

- Carpenters and harvesters
- Sounds at fireworks
- Portico
- Kind of time
- Combines
- Astern
- River in southern France
- Ethnic cuisine
- Reclined
- It towers over Taormina
- Unadulterated
- Senescence
- Katzbalger, e.g.
- Capital west of Haiphong
- Dense, roll-shaped cloud
- Stimulates
- Island chain?
- PC "brain"
- Obeys
- Any day now
- Censor's target
- Volume
- Brain section
- Organic compound
- Club alternative
- "____ Girls"

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.

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

*Solutions to both puzzles are on p. 39.

Funny as Facebook

- The following funnies were pulled verbatim from Facebook status updates in January:
- "Dog for sale. Must tolerate dog consuming portions of your intended dinner raw and whole and then regurgitating it under your table. VERY FAIR PRICE (FREE)."
 - "My child says she loves me more than chocolate milk. I suppose I feel special?"
 - "You cannot delegate communication. That's my work epiphany for the day. Continue on."
 - "I think I have been working by myself too long. None of my clients' pets find me as funny as I do!"

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THE BODY IN THE BLACKBERRIES

By Nicola Pearson

Editor's note: This is the sixth installment of a new serialized story by award-winning author and playwright Nicola Pearson of Sauk City. Future installments will appear on this page each month during 2018 until the story is complete. Previous installments are posted at www.concrete-herald.com.

"Which one is Jen?" Lange asked as Suleka drove through Concrete at a crawl. "She's the short one with the dark hair in a tidy kind of sweep that curls around her ears back onto her face. Like a mini bob cut. You know what I mean?"

"No. No idea."

"Okay, well ..." Suleka thought about how best to describe the cashier at Albert's as she picked up speed leaving the town limits. "She has big brown eyes and full, Cupid's bow lips."

"Does she walk with a limp?"

"I think she does, yes." She cocked her head, trying to picture Jen walking, enjoying the feel of the sun streaming through the windshield of her pick-up.

"Maybe sometimes."

"And she's not very tall?"

"I said she was short."

"Oh," said Lange. "Then yes, I think I know the one you mean."

"That's her there," cried Suleka as she pulled into the Albert's parking lot. "Just walking out of the store. You might be in luck."

"How so?"

"It looks like she's on break."

The clerk continued walking away from the door until she reached a red metal barrier by some soda machines. She leaned on the barrier, looking across at the pizza parlor opposite, and lit a cigarette. "You know that's bad for you, right?" teased Suleka as she and Lange walked toward the clerk.

Jen swung around to face them, tucking herself back in against the metal. "Yeah. But I've got to have at least one vice and I gave up men and alcohol."

"That's funny, I gave up men, too," admitted Suleka. "But not alcohol. I'll drink, you smoke and we'll call it even, huh?"

The clerk laughed, stuffing her free hand down inside the front pouch of her red work apron. She took a long drag on her cigarette.

"My friend here was hoping you might

have a moment for him," Suleka added, her left hand out to indicate Lange.

"Me?" said Jen, turning her head toward the pizza parlor to exhale the smoke from her cigarette so it wouldn't blow in their faces.

"I have a couple of questions if you don't mind," explained Lange.

"You're the detective, right?"

"Retired detective, but yes, you might have heard about me that way."

"Does this have anything to do with all the emergency vehicles that went screaming past here about an hour ago? I heard something happened up on Sauk."

Suleka lifted her eyebrows to Lange; so much for keeping it quiet.

Jen pushed herself off the metal barrier, looking alarmed. "Oh no, it's not one of my kids, is it?"

"No, no, nothing like that," Lange reassured her. "I'm Callum Lange," he said to introduce himself, "and I need a little information about Kyle Clarkson. Suleka told me you might be able to help me."

"What's he done now?" said Jen, her voice full of suspicion.

Suleka interrupted them, pointing toward the store. "If you don't mind, I'm going to leave you and go shop."

"Please," said Jen, flapping her hand for Suleka to go.

"We don't know that he's done anything," Lange answered the store clerk. "I'm just trying to find out a little bit more about him, and Suleka indicated you might be the person to talk to."

"Okay," said Jen and took another drag on her cigarette before going on. "What d'you want to know?"

"Whether you think he's still on the straight and narrow?"

Jen blew her cigarette smoke up into the air above her head. "Last I knew," she said. "He's waaaay different than he was when he met my daughter, if that's what you mean. Not that I wasn't disappointed when she chose to marry

him." She looked off into the distance and shook her head slightly. "He had a terrible reputation. Just terrible! But my daughter's got a good head on her shoulders—well, all three of them do."

"You have three daughters?"

"Uh huh. Triplets," she said and beamed.

"Oh my word."

"That's what I said when they came out. Well," she corrected. "I guess I said something not nearly that polite!" She laughed, a deep, throaty laugh, her brown eyes alight with merriment. "But they're my pride and joy. And I have to say, my daughter, Brandie, was exactly what Kyle Clarkson needed. He settled right down. 'Specially when little Alice was born. He only screwed up once, led by that brother of his, and Brandie divorced him over it. He said he'd never do it again and she said he sure wouldn't if she divorced him. She's still friends with him. Says she always will be. But she didn't want to be an enabler, that's what she told me." She took another puff of her cigarette, and turned her head again to exhale. When she looked back at Lange, she had a pensive look in her eyes. "I didn't think Kyle would screw up again after that. Not with how much he loves Alice."

"How old is Alice?"

"She's eight. And the sweetest little eight-year-old you'd ever want to meet." She beamed again as she said it, her shoulders rocking slightly with joy. She positioned her cigarette close to her mouth, ready to take another drag, and her face became more serious, her eyes harder. "What happened up on Sauk?"

Lange avoided answering her question by asking another. "Do you know if Kyle hangs around with Kevin Doyle?"

"Kevin?" she said, holding the smoke in her lungs. "Bob and René's grandson?" She exhaled toward the pizza parlor. "I don't think so. They used to, but then Kyle married my Brandie and she said that Kevin wasn't the good kind of friend and Kyle agreed. So he stopped hanging out with him. Plus Kevin settled down himself once he had a kid with his girlfriend." She thought about this for a moment. "Maybe two, I can't remember. It's been a while since I've seen Kevin."

"Did Brandie say anything to you about things not being usual yesterday?"

"You know she did now that I think about it. I'm glad you said that. We had coffee together this morning—I always stop by her house on Tuesday mornings for coffee—Tuesdays and Thursdays. And I stop at the other girls' houses Monday and Friday and Wednesday and

Saturday. Sunday we all sleep in, even if I have to work, because the store opens later on Sunday. Anyway, I stopped by Brandie's today and Alice didn't want to come out of her bedroom. She usually eats her breakfast next to me while I drink my coffee and visit with Brandie, but today she had her head in a book. Which isn't bad, but when I asked Brandie about it, she said she'd come back from spending the day with Kyle real quiet. Like something was bothering her, but she didn't want to talk about it."

"She wasn't at school yesterday?"

Jen shook her head no. "Alice is homeschooled. Kyle and Brandie trade off days teaching her." She took another drag on her cigarette and looked up, thinking. A motorbike roared into the parking lot, drowning out every other noise. When the biker killed the motor Lange overheard part of a conversation about renting a movie from some people coming up behind him on their way into the store. The doors swished open and the general noise of the business floated out toward him as he waited for Jen to go on.

She tapped the air with the hand holding the cigarette, remembering. "And I guess Alice was supposed to go someplace with Kyle yesterday," she said. "The fish hatchery, that was it. A kind of field trip, like they do in school. But when Brandie asked her about it, Alice said they didn't go because of Uncle Wayne."

Lange zeroed in on this point. "So Uncle Wayne is allowed to hang out with Kyle."

"Well Brandie couldn't stop that relationship. Wayne's family. Kyle's just not supposed to get involved in any of Wayne's criminal activities."

"Do you know what Alice meant when she said because of Uncle Wayne?"

"I don't, no," Jen replied, dropping the end of her cigarette on the ground and stepping on it. She exhaled the last of the smoke, picked up the butt and slipped it back in the box. "Brandie couldn't get her to say. And she didn't want to push it so she said she was going to ask Kyle today. She probably would've asked yesterday, but she couldn't because he didn't get out of his truck when he brought Alice back."

"Is that usual?"

"I'm not sure. I mean, I'm not there, so ..." She held her hands up in the air, like it was anyone's guess.

"No, I get it."

"But Brandie sometimes tells me the stuff they share about what Alice has learned that day. You know, the things she did good at, the things she struggled with.

See **The Body**, p. 39

The Body, cont. from p. 38

So that makes me think he usually stops. But he's working swing shift at the mill in Darrington these days and Brandie did say he was cutting it kind of fine to get to work on time yesterday, so he didn't even look at her when Alice got out of his pick-up."

"Do you think she'd mind if I went and asked her a few questions?"

"Probably not. 'Specially if Kyle's been up to something. She'd want to know that for sure."

"And she's home today?"

"Yep. Today's one of her days home with Alice." She pulled her phone out of her apron pocket and glanced at it. "I have just enough time to call her if you like. Tell her you'll be stopping by."

Lange wavered. "I have to check with the detective overseeing the case first. He may or may not want me to talk to your daughter." He held his hand out toward her. "Although feel free to call her; see if she's willing to talk to me if I get the go ahead." Then he leaned in a little closer, his tone more confidential. "But I'd prefer others didn't know that I have some questions for her."

Jen slipped her phone back in the pouch of her apron. "I get it. It's like me not wanting to know the Seahawks score when I'm working during one of their games. Don't. Say. A word!"



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Crossword solution

1	O	M	A	N	S	6	A	L	B	9	10	F	O	12	L
15	P	O	L	E	D	15	M	A	I	N	16	A	G	H	A
17	E	V	E	R	Y	18	N	O	W	A	N	D	T	H	E
20	N	E	E	D	L	E	23	B	B	Y	25	C	Y	M	E
26	I	C	A	O	30	L	A	S	31	S					
32	M	I	N	O	T	34	A	U	R	35	T	A	T	T	L
41	A	T	T	H	E	D	R	O	P	O	F	A	H	A	T
43	M	E	S	S	E	45	S	O	U	R	47	N	I	N	A
48	S	H	A	W	L	53	L	E	E	C	H				
56	W	A	R	H	E	A	D	57	P	E	S	T	L	E	
60	O	N	C	E	I	N	A	64	B	L	U	E	M	O	O
66	R	O	U	T	67	O	G	L	E	68	D	U	M	B	O
69	D	I	S	S	70	N	E	T	S	71	S	T	E	E	L

Sudoku solution

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



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