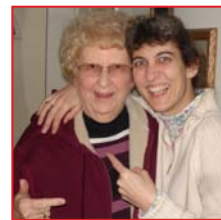


# The Voice of Eastern Skagit County Concrete Herald



Vol. 92, No. 1

May 2009

50 cents

## Concrete turns 100

By Charles M. Dwelley  
and Jason Miller

This story starts with a waterfall, a missing leg, and a fierce rivalry.

In 1888, the location that would become Concrete was designated “Minnehaha” (Sioux for “waterfall”) by a gold-seeking settler named Richard Challenger.

When Challenger sold the land to Magnus Miller in 1890, Miller changed the name to “Baker” because of the river that lined his property on the east and flowed into the Skagit at that point.

Amasa Everett, a.k.a., “Peg Leg,” who had lost his right leg after a nasty fall in 1879, settled on the east bank of the Baker River and called his town site “Cement City,” because of his discovery of limestone and clay, and the sale of it to a cement company.

Cement City prospered until another cement company built on the west side prospered even more and bought out its east-side rival.

During this period of rivalry and possible incorporation of the two sides of the river, the idea cropped up to change the town’s name.

On May 9, 1909, the civic leaders settled on the name of “Concrete” and, like the product, the name set firmly and proved indestructible. On May 10 of that year, the town’s first mayor took office.

### History in full color

Photos of Concrete from its early years are black and white or sepia in tone, showing a rugged citizenry that rose each morning to get the job done.

Reality, on the other hand, was far

more colorful. During its boom years from the early to mid-1900s, Concrete had a rough-and-tumble spirit that sprang from hordes of hard-rock miners, loggers, and mill workers who hit the town on Saturday nights primed with a week’s wages and a yen to spend it all on whatever pleasure there was available.

The enterprising merchants and businessmen of the town obliged with all the services required: a dozen or more saloons, several hotels and rooming houses, a bank, barber shops, retail stores, and restaurants that stayed open as long as there was a hungry man in the house. Not to mention, however, a number of places where short-term rental of a cot included a friendly female companion.

For those of sterner demeanor, churches of most denominations welcomed the penitent on Sunday morning, and in these places the young women of the community could be examined seriously with a view toward possible lifetime association.

### Boomtown prosperity

For the first years of the boom, this was the pattern: a wide-open western town whose residents came not for gold, but for timber and commercial minerals. Over the years, other booms followed, with more or less decorum on the part of newcomers. Saw mills, building of dams, and extensive logging kept the economy rising and falling with the times.

Those who have taken part in Concrete even briefly never forgot those old days. Some of the itinerant workers who arrived with the building of the railroad in 1900—Italians,



Main Street, Concrete, February 2009.

Swedes, Norwegians, Greeks from the old country; plus Northerners, Southerners, Easterners of all nationalities—remained to become the old families of the town. Newcomers were generally accorded an unusual acceptance and welcome that made them feel at home. Many who came for a short employment stayed on to marry and settle in, and lived to be buried here as old-timers. It was that kind of town back in the day, and it remains so today.

### Journey ahead

After the cement plants closed in the mid-1960s, Concrete entered a period of economic depression from which it has not yet fully recovered. Still, its citizens have every reason for hope.

On April 18, a group of citizens who care about Concrete gathered in the High School commons room for a visioning workshop, a brainstorming initiative they called “Imagine Concrete.”

## It’s baaack... Concrete Herald resumes publishing

After an 18-year hiatus, the voice of eastern Skagit County has returned.

Spearheading the effort is Jason Miller, a citizen of Concrete with a 21-year track record in the publishing industry. “All the stars aligned for this to happen,” said Miller. “Philip Johnson was looking to sell *Upriver Community News* and, as an experienced writer and editor, I believe I’m qualified to revive the *Concrete Herald* and restore it to its former prominence in eastern Skagit County.”

In early February, Miller launched a fundraising initiative posted at [www.concrete-herald.com](http://www.concrete-herald.com). The fundraising effort is ongoing, with \$8,547.75 raised at press time (the goal is

See Concrete, p. 3

See Herald, p. 2

# Concrete Herald

Born 1901. Reborn 2009.

7674 Cedar Park (P.O. Box 682)  
Concrete, WA 98237

**Publisher and Editor Jason Miller**  
**Designer Paul Wayne Rider**

360.853.8213 / editor@concrete-herald.com  
design@concrete-herald.com

*Concrete Herald* owes its success to a small army of volunteer contributors covering their individual communities. **Birdsview:** Kris Voigt; **Cape Horn:** Launi Harrell; **Concrete:** Linnaea Groh, Lacy Lahr, Bill Sullivan, Dan Royal; **Diablo:** Wayne and Judy Knopf; **Hamilton:** Carol Bates; **Lyman:** Kristi Johnson; **Marblemount:** Christie Fairchild, Laurie Thomas; **Newhalem:** Jim and Judy Hannigan; **Rockport:** Christie Fairchild, Philip Moran. More local contributors are welcome; call or e-mail Jason Miller at 360.853.8213 or editor@concrete-herald.com.

## Contact us

Newsroom: 360.853.8213 / editor@concrete-herald.com  
Advertising: 360.853.8213 / ads@concrete-herald.com  
Letters: P.O. Box 682, Concrete, WA 989237 / letters@concrete-herald.com  
Classifieds: P.O. Box 682, Concrete, WA 989237 / classifieds@concrete-herald.com

The Concrete Herald is published the first Wednesday of every month, and is distributed via subscription, newspaper racks, and retail businesses from Sedro-Woolley to Winthrop, Washington. Mail subscriptions are \$24 annually. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Concrete Herald, P.O. Box 682, Concrete, WA 98237. Contents © 2009 Concrete Herald LLC.

## Herald, cont. from p. 1

\$10,000). Donations still are being accepted via the Web site at [www.concrete-herald.com](http://www.concrete-herald.com). Future donations over and above the initial goal will be used solely to strengthen the *Concrete Herald* financially.

### Drenched with history

The *Concrete Herald* was actually the second generation of another Skagit County newspaper. F. J. Wilcox launched the *Hamilton Herald* on Nov. 23, 1901, west of Concrete in the town of Hamilton. Hans J. Bratlie, a Norwegian immigrant, took over the paper in 1903 and it soon evolved into the *Hamilton Herald-Recorder*. Sometime in 1912, Bratlie moved the newspaper to Concrete, which was booming rapidly with the payrolls from two cement plants.

On March 13, 1915, Bratlie's three-story Concrete Herald building on Main Street burned to the ground, and on July 2, seven more buildings burned. They were rapidly rebuilt of fireproof concrete, but Bratlie, frustrated with these events, moved his family to Ridgefield, Washington.

During the next 14 years, Bratlie sold the building, equipment, and newspaper to a series of transient buyers. The town experienced a boom from 1923–26 with the construction of the dam on the Baker River, but by 1929 the publishers moved on and that is when Charles M. "Chuck" Dwelley came into the picture.

Dwelley and his first wife, Helen, had settled in Concrete permanently by the time of the 1930 Federal Census. They lived on West Main Street with their son, Arthur. They published the *Herald* weekly in a small building that now houses the town's dentist. During the Depression years, an old Ford dealership failed and Chuck took over the building and turned it into a modern printing plant.

Dwelley served as the publisher-editor of the *Concrete Herald* for more than 40 years, reaching a readership that stretched from Lyman to the west,

all the way to the North Cascades and elsewhere in Washington, via subscriptions. He began publishing in 1929 and sold the paper in late 1970 to Robert and June Fader. The Faders kept the community institution in print till 1989, handing the editorship to Anne Bussiere in 1984.

### Caretakers of a classic

Bussiere served as editor till 1989, when the town was shocked to discover that the paper had been sold to John and Mae Falavolito. Bussiere left the paper shortly after the change of ownership, and within a couple of years, the *Herald* failed.

From 1992–93, the *Skagit Argus* newspaper tried to publish a special alternate "upriver edition" out of the Mount Vernon *Argus* office, with Anne Bussiere again covering news in the town. The re-plating of the Concrete pages turned out to be an awkward construct and that idea faded after a couple of years, with Bussiere eventually opening Annie's Pizza Station in Concrete, which she currently owns and operates.

In 1990, Ken and Pat Betts moved to Concrete and bought the Herald building. From 1996–2005, Pat Betts produced a popular community newsletter, *East Skagit Community News*, which effectively filled the gap left by the loss of the *Herald*. In late 2005, tendonitis forced Pat to stop publishing the newsletter. She handed control of the venture to Philip Johnson in early 2006.

Philip Johnson eventually renamed the publication *Upriver Community News* (UCN) and published it as a monthly, small-format shopper from January through April 2009. On March 3, 2009, he sold UCN to Jason Miller, a local freelance writer/editor, citizen activist, and member of the Concrete Town Council, who paid for it with money raised from contributions from supportive donors.

Miller ceased publication of UCN after its April 2009 issue, replacing it with the new *Concrete Herald*.

This is his first issue.

**TAURUS**  
CONSTRUCTION, INC.



**General Contractor**  
**Custom Homes & Remodeling**  
**Structural Repairs**  
**Foundations & Flatwork**  
**Pole Buildings & Metal Roofing**

**Licensed,  
Bonded,  
& Insured**

#TAURUCI956DP

**(360) 708-5530**  
**fax (360) 853-7991**

[taurusconst@msn.com](mailto:taurusconst@msn.com)

Subscribe to the

**Concrete Herald**

For only \$24 per year  
(12 issues),  
you can have the  
NEW Concrete Herald  
delivered to your doorstep!  
Send your check for \$24,  
payable to Concrete Herald,  
to:

Concrete Herald  
P.O. Box 682  
Concrete, WA 98237

To pay with a credit card,  
go to  
[www.concrete-herald.com](http://www.concrete-herald.com)  
and click on "Subscribe."

The workshop posed five questions to attendees:

- What do we want to preserve?
- What do we want to create?
- What do we want to change?
- What should our community look like in the future?
- How fast should change occur?

These questions spurred lively discussion and, while the final results of this accelerated brainstorming session are still being tabulated, a few ideas rose to the top as favorites.

1. Concrete citizens are sick of “junk yards” and want them cleaned up. Mayor Wilson already is acting on this feedback, calling for a townwide clean-up day the weekend of June 5-7 (see. p. 4).
2. Concrete citizens see the “sustainable community” strategy as a viable path toward economic vitality. Examples of this approach include building a community garden and encouraging ecotourism.
3. Concrete citizens want a community recreation center, which could house an expanded library, a teens area, and an Internet cafe.

These ideas and others will be tabulated and reported in the *Concrete Herald* during the coming months.

## Cape Horn community update

Commentary by Launi Harrell

If the Cape Horn Corporation has stressed one thing to this reporter, it is this: Cape Horn is lacking community involvement in a major way.

After reading the corporation's bylaws, I realized Cape Horn had once been a glorious beacon of hope, of reform. Its Articles of Incorporation call for a dock, trails, communal gardens, parkse ven a swimming pool.

In the *Cape Horn Newsletter* issued most recently, the Association president attempted a community call to arms. He wrote passionately about his desire to see more community involvement and more member involvement. The Cape Horn Corporation made it clear to me they desired one thing: volunteers.

Like most rural valley communities, Cape Horn currently is a community lacking involvement or the desire to change. The blunt acceptance of our surroundings is always easier than fighting for the change you want to see.

The problem is, people have stopped fighting. They have stopped trying.

Those who were involved lack the desire to see change now; after all,

they fought for it to be how it is now.

One primary element is lacking: the desire to do it themselves.

People aren't fighting, because, for whatever reason, they stopped doing it themselves.

Compare this to the system we have now: If everyone were to “fight” over ideas in City Hall, it would be better than it is now. Why? Because everyone talks about the change they want to see, but no one puts it into action anymore.

The main question I took from the interviews I conducted was this: Where have the Roaring 20s gone? What most of the community has forgotten, it seems, is that we are here

**See Cape Horn, p. 23**

## THIS AND THAT

By J.K.M.

In May, the former Cajun Bar & Grill on Main Street in Concrete will become the Ponderosa restaurant, with proprietors Shirley Young and Tom Vanshur. Shirley is sister to Larry LaPlante, who successfully ran the Grasmere Motel and Restaurant years ago. Shirley and Tom currently operate Skidder s in Darrington.

This is good news, of course, but we're still sorry that Tim Cooley found it necessary to close the Cajun.

Tim rebuilt the building and business, making it a Main Street destination, said Philip Moran of Moran Ranch in Rockport. Tim was one of the most supportive members of the Chamber and we wish to thank him for his contributions over the years.

We wish Shirley and Tom great success.

Adrienne Smith and Gladys Silrus will hold a fundraiser for Becky Voelkel, a Concrete citizen who is battling cancer. It's a spaghetti dinner and silent auction on May 16 from



**Quarry products:  
5/8" to large riprap  
You haul or we deliver**

**Robert Hornbeck,  
owner, L.B. & R. Logging**

4 to 8 p.m., held at the Concrete High School cafeteria. All the money raised will go to help Becky with her expenses. For details, call or e-mail Adrienne Smith at 853.8505 or addie5@verizon.net, or Gladys Silrus at 826.4848 or gsilrus@verizon.net.

The Town of Concrete's application for a \$100,000 USDA grant to build a town-owned RV park has been denied. Grant officials cited insufficient documentation to support the town's claim that the park would sustain or create jobs, as well as a determination that \$100,000 was too small an amount to complete the project. I'd still like to see it go in, but I guess we'll have to find another way," said Concrete Mayor Judd while relaying the news at the April 27 Town Council meeting.

Our hardworking crews with the Washington State DOT beat last year's mark by a full week, and opened State Route 20 on April 24 at 8:00 p.m.



This postcard stamped 1911 shows Main Street Concrete at the time. Must have been fun in winter.

# Opinion

## Editorial

It is a great honor that publisher Jason Miller has invited me to write the first editorial for the reincarnated *Concrete Herald*. My last one was written at the end of 1988, just a week before new owners took over my job as editor of the community's weekly newspaper.

I've thought a lot about the importance of a newspaper in any community over the years, especially since we lost the *Concrete Herald* in 1991. Up until that time, I think we took for granted having a real newspaper in town. Once it was gone, we mourned and moved on, not realizing we were missing an essential element. There have been many attempts to fill that gap, but since they weren't the *Concrete Herald*, they just didn't work the same. (I salute all those dedicated people who tried, however.)

Communication is what ties us together, yet it can break us apart if malicious word-of-mouth gossip or unbridled Internet posting is all we have. A newspaper editor knows how to weave facts with compelling stories to let us know what is really going on. Without a newspaper, the threads of communication weaken and community fragments. Without a newspaper, we don't know whom to believe.

We need factual stories about governmental business affecting our lives, written from a journalistic viewpoint instead of a one-sided news release issued by the agency. We need to know why the school board has plans for a levy, or what to do when the Town Council is asking for a neighborhood rezoning. It's a cornerstone of a free democracy, no matter how small the community. Sometimes it isn't easy.

We also need to be aware of what people and groups are doing in our community to the benefit of all. Is the Lions Club planning a fundraising event and how can we help? Are there volunteers who have been helping kids and deserve a pat on the back? Are teenagers restoring a salmon stream by working every day after school and on weekends? What if the fire department needs more volunteers? There are many interesting people who deserve a story in print.

We need a record of important moments and sporting events in photos so we have something for scrapbooks. We also need some advance warning about these events so we can participate. There is nothing worse than finding out you've missed the Mardi Gras parade because you didn't know it was happening. The list is long.

However, with this community communication tool comes commitment, and it's two-sided. Not only will Jason be asked to keep track of everything going on and record it in a timely fashion with accuracy, we will need to keep him supplied with information, news tips, photos, advertising, and subscriptions. He's hoping to cover all communities from Sedro-Woolley to Diablo, so we can't complain if he misses our event because we have forgotten to tell him about it. We can't complain that we want a weekly print version if subscriptions and advertising dollars don't justify the expense. We can't fault advertisers if we never visit their businesses.

It's a big circle and we all fit in somewhere. Welcome to the new *Concrete Herald*!

ALB

### Letters policy

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

## Letters to the editor

Dear editor:

I read in the *Seattle Times* you are going to start up the *Concrete Herald*. This is great and I wish you a lot of luck . . . My uncle Charles Dwelley ran that paper along with his wife, my aunt Helen. She wrote the feature

This and that every week. They lived in town . . .

They later bought the mansion house that is now the Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church. Aunt Helen cooked and served chicken every Sunday in the big dining room in the 40s and did B-B for years . . .

I can remember as a child watching Chuck printing the paper and running it off a huge press in a really small building on the edge of town. I am told that my uncle Chuck's name is on a bridge there in Concrete.

My uncle sold the paper in the early

60s, I think. I know Helen ran the paper while Chuck was in WWII.

I hope you will send me a copy of your first paper.

Mrs. R. D. Zat  
Oak Harbor

## A word from the Mayor

by Mayor Judd Wilson  
Town of Concrete

Well, here it is, my first column. My biggest concern is cleaning up the community, our Town of Concrete.

I plan to accomplish this by starting an annual Town Cleanup Weekend. This year's weekend will be June 5, 6, and 7.

I hear everyone's concern about the town being dirty and, after I took a ride this morning, I agree with all of you. Now it's time to do something about it.

Let's clean it up, yards and all. If you have any suggestions about this effort, call me at 360.853.8401.

### Worth repeating...

Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness.

Mark Twain

paul wayne rider



professional  
graphic designer

design  
logos  
and  
more



853.8709  
paul@zigglezoom.com

## Concrete Heritage Museum News

The museum announces the release of a Special Limited Edition of *So They Called the Town Concrete*. The book was originally published in 1980 by Charles M. Dwelley. The museum was granted exclusive rights to the book by the late author's wife and family, and in 2004 released an inexpensive spiral-bound edition.

Last fall, the museum board decided that a new volume of the book would be appropriate to coincide with the 2009 centennial of the town of Concrete. The assignment fell to board member Dan Royal, who enlisted the aid of Philip Johnson, former publisher of *Upriver Community News*, for his design and computer production capabilities. The result is a cleaner, more readable book, with newly scanned photos for a professional presentation. The cover design includes the Concrete Centennial logo designed by Concrete citizen Paul Rider.

The book will go on sale for \$25 per single copy on Sat., May 9, to coincide with Concrete's Centennial celebrations, and will be available at the museum and Albert's Red Apple. More outlets will carry the book after May 9. Funds from this project will help the museum with ongoing projects and upkeep of its facilities.

Special thanks go to Philip Johnson for his work on this project. We wish him well in his new ventures following the end of his *Upriver Community News*.

The book as originally written and published by Charles M. Dwelley was a labor of love and a gift to the community of Concrete, to which he dedicated 40 years of his life as publisher and editor of *Concrete Herald*. We wish the paper's new publisher and editor, Jason Miller, great success on the relaunch of the *Concrete Herald*.

### Other museum news

The museum will open Sat., May 9, from noon to 4 p.m. during the Concrete Centennial celebration, opening officially this year from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

This year's Old Timer's Get-Together will be part of the Concrete Centennial festivities. This year's topic is History Through Newspapers, with a focus on the *Concrete Herald*, and will be hosted by Dan Berentson at the Concrete Theatre.

The Museum is still working on the scanning project. Contact Cathy Huntley at 853.8787 if you have old photos of anything east of Sedro-Woolley to Diablo that we can scan and save for our historical archives.

Another project we are working hard to complete in time for the Concrete Centennial is the designation of a new Historic Byway, complete with new historical information signs, through the downtown area.

Our annual Bow Hill Rest Area fundraiser is scheduled for June 26 to 29 on the northbound side. Baked goods and volunteers will be needed, since this one calls for 24-hour rotations. Contact Robin or museum members to sign up and help: 360.826.3075.

Centennial Quilt: Della Payne showed the board the starting blocks for the wall hanging. Her square is the old railroad depot. About 13 kits have been assigned and some are still available. The finished product will be donated to the museum; a calendar also may be in the works, too.

Jason Miller has announced the museum's free subscription to the revived *Concrete Herald* will last as long as he owns the paper and is not limited to just one year.

DPR

# OUR HISTORY IS YOUR HISTORY

**WHEN YOU LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE,** it's easy to share values and memories with the people you serve. Since 1914, we've recognized the special place that is Skagit County. Through ups and downs, we've shared nearly 100 years of history with the people of this area. Thanks to all who have shared with us.



Main Street in Concrete, c. 1911

**SUMMIT BANK**

Large Enough to Serve You. Small Enough To Care.

[www.summitbank-wa.com](http://www.summitbank-wa.com)



**BURLINGTON**  
723 Haggen Dr.  
(360) 757-0100

**CONCRETE**  
45872 Main St.  
(360) 853-8171

**MOUNT VERNON**  
1725 E. College Wy.  
(360) 848-5000

**Tires LES SCHWAB**

**BE TRAVEL READY**

Welcome back to the Concrete Herald, from your friends at the Pat Rimmer Tire Center in Sedro-Woolley



**PASSENGER CAR RADIALS**



**LIGHT TRUCK/SUV RADIALS**

**BRAKE AND ALIGNMENT SPECIAL  
FREE BRAKE INSPECTIONS!**

**WHY LES SCHWAB BRAKES?**

- More than 25 Years of Experience
- Best Brake Warranty
- Professionally Trained Technicians
- Premium Quality Parts

There are many important parts that wear out in your brake system. This is why we don't just replace your brake parts and shoes. It's also why we can stand behind our brake service with the best brake warranty (Free Replacement 25,000 Miles - Parts & Labor)

**PAT RIMMER TIRE CENTER**  
204 W. Moore St., Sedro-Woolley

**360-855-1033**



**Doug Gran**  
Manager



# Lyman



## Lyman Booster Group to hold carnival

An Ol County Fair -themed carnival is coming to Lyman Elementary School May 16 from 1 to 4 p.m. Sponsored by the Lyman Booster Group, the carnival is the group's largest fundraiser, with moneys helping to bring special extras to the school, including Missoula Children's Theater, The Science Van, Family Fun Nights, and skate night. This year brought new playground equipment to the school, courtesy of the Booster Group.

As the school experiences many changes and budget cuts because of the current economic difficulties, the Booster Group becomes even more important to the school community,

said Booster Group member Rhea Stiles. We are eager to see more parent involvement.

The carnival will include a class basket raffle, with themed baskets designed and created by students, parents, and teachers from each class. For more information, call 360.826.5811.

## 2009 Lyman yearbooks

Yearbooks will go on sale Monday, May 4, for \$10. Checks should be payable to Lyman Elementary and submitted to the office.

All businesses wishing to advertise in the yearbook may purchase space in all 120 yearbooks for \$25. Send a business card, plus a check payable to Lyman Elementary, to the office at Lyman Elementary School by May 13. The card will be scanned and reproduced in the yearbook.

## AR Store seeks donations

The AR Store always needs donations. If you have new or gently used items your child(ren) no longer play with, or books that are no longer read, please consider donating them to the AR Store. The last AR Store for this year will be held Friday, June 12. The AR Store is held at the end of each trimester.

## Lyman celebrates 100 years July 11

A party is brewing in Lyman as it anticipates its 100-year anniversary in July.

The Town of Lyman is inviting its citizens and visitors to push the party into the stratosphere. Planned events include a simultaneous celebration of the popular Lyman Car Show, where raffle tickets will be sold to support the Lyman Cemetery and City Park.

Music by WhiteKnight Entertainment, unique trophies, and craft booths also are on the agenda; interested parties can contact the following folks for booth rental and pricing information:

Nancy Trythall: 360.855.1280  
Karen Griffith: 360.826.3315  
Sonja Haigh: 360.826.4906

## Lyman Town Library turns another page

That little yellow sidewalk sign is becoming a familiar sight as Lyman's Town Library grows its inventory and continues to be a sought-after amenity for citizens.

Elaine Kohler, one of the library's stewards, told the *Concrete Herald* she's looking forward to holding a book sale during the town's birthday celebration and car show in July. There are, however, a few gaps in the book line-up, she said.

We still need large print, children's, and western books, plus more volunteer help and some 8-ft.-tall bookcases in which to store them, said Kohler.

The Lyman Town Library is located in the old Town Hall and is open Tues. and Thurs. from 3 to 6 p.m., and Sat. from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Just look for that yellow sign on the sidewalk.

## Note of thanks

Lynn Jonasson sends a big thank you to the ladies of the Library, who graciously filled in for her during her recent surgery and recovery. She also wants to thank the Aid Car personnel for picking up her husband on March 23 and April 4.

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

## Lyman Elementary

### CALENDAR

#### May

- 13 6th grade field trip
- 16 Booster Group-sponsored carnival
- 18 6th grade transition meeting, 6:30 p.m. at CMS
- 21 4th grade field trip
- 25 No school
- 27 Wildcat Award assembly, 9:30 a.m.; early release, 12:25 p.m.
- 28 Kindergarten field trip  
1st and 2nd grade field trip

#### June

- 1 Booster Group meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 5 All library books due

Because school was not held on Jan. 8, our last day of school will be Wed., June 17. We will have school on Mon., Tues., and Wed. June 15, 16, and 17, 2009. The last day of school will be June 17.

### Filing for Town Council?

If you want to join the Town Council, the dates for filing are June 1 through 5.

### Volunteer correspondents are needed for Lyman!

If you'd like to write short updates for *Concrete Herald* readers, or simply provide news tips, please contact Jason Miller, publisher and editor:

360.853.8213  
editor@concrete-herald.com

## Help us bring back the Concrete Herald

It's not too late to show your support for the Concrete Herald with a donation in any amount.

Funds donated so far have been used to buy the Upriver Community News, but we still need your help to reach our goal of \$10,000.

Go to  
www.concrete-herald.com  
and click on "Donate"  
for more details,  
or mail your check  
payable to Concrete Herald to:

Concrete Herald  
P.O. Box 682  
Concrete, WA 98237

We're bringing back  
the voice of eastern Skagit County!  
You can help!

## Komo Kulshan Outdoor School: from dream to reality

By Christie Fairchild

It was a phone call I'll always remember. Dave Reid, Outreach Educator for Puget Sound Energy (PSE), was on the line with a dream: to use PSE's Baker River Hydroelectric Project lands as an outdoor classroom for local schools.

Having developed and coordinated environmental education programs for many years prior, I jumped at the offer: I would explore this land, listen to what it told me, and go from there. And so, with the support of local businesses and individuals, and participation by Concrete Elementary School's fifth-graders, the pilot program was born in late spring 2003.

Under the umbrella of my nonprofit organization, Community Arts, Education, & Education coalition (CARE), funding was now possible by applying for grants and foundation monies, as well as in-kind support from PSE. So, the three-day, two-night residential program has geared up for full-time sessions each fall and spring ever since.

Richard Louv, in his well-known book, *Last Child in the Woods*, states:

Children of the digital age have become increasingly alienated with the natural world, with disastrous implications not only for their physical fitness, but for long-term mental and spiritual health.

Apparently, our state decision-makers realized this, too, as environmental education was declared a mandate by our legislature back in 1990. Although required to be taught in our schools, it receives no state funding, creating a need for programs such as Komo Kulshan Outdoor School (KKOS). An additional challenge is the cost associated with putting on such programs, often requiring student tuition and fees.

As a result, a major goal in creating the Komo Kulshan Outdoor School

was not only to provide the best experience possible for participants, but to keep it affordable. Thanks to recent sponsorship through PSE's Community Education & Outreach department (Energy Efficiency program), schools no longer have to hold fundraisers to attend. Now in its sixth year of operation, KKOS is proudly tuition-FREE!

The trade-off, however, is that teachers wishing to bring their class must attend the pre-season training, as they become part of the KKOS instructional staff. This spring, ten classes from Sedro-Woolley to Concrete will have the opportunity to attend KKOS, with ten more from both Skagit and Whatcom counties attending in the fall.

Eco-theologian Thomas Berry says teaching children about the natural world should be treated as one of the most important events in their lives.

Concrete teacher Mary Janda couldn't agree more. As the middle school science specialist, Janda has been involved in outdoor and environmental education for most of her adult life, and takes every opportunity to expose her students to the real world.

Stating that the frenetic pace and the techno-gizmo world of learning ignores the basis of life on Earth, she encourages her students to find their passion and follow it, believing that investigating the natural and cultural world creates that safe, nurturing space.

Twenty of Mrs. Janda's eighth-graders recently attended a special KKOS session, designed specifically with them in mind, for these students had attended the standard fifth-grade

Watersheds program three years prior and had expressed a strong desire to return.

Return to KKOS was born to



Concrete Middle School eighth-graders deal with a follow-up activity to a forest ecology hike. Photo courtesy Komo Kulshan Outdoor School.

build from the fifth-grade experience with Sustainability as the overarching theme. From involvement in making the meals to learning forest ecology concepts along the trail, eighth-grade student Linnaea Groh expressed that she wanted to learn more about science, wildlife, and the environment, and was excited to have this opportunity. Responsibility and respect were two factors fellow student Duncan Robertson embraced while attending, and promised to continue back at home and at school.

So, it's about introducing children to the world that supports us all in a safe and loving atmosphere, as well as giving them tools for success. It is, after all, about the relationships between people and the land, between kids and their backyards.

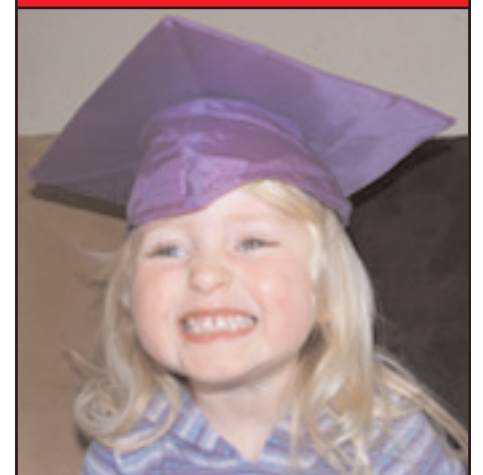
As poet, novelist, and farmer Wendell Berry wrote so well in *The Gift of Good Land*, "When going back makes sense, you are going forward."

For more information, visit the Komo Kulshan Outdoor School Web site at [www.komokulshanoutdoorschool.org](http://www.komokulshanoutdoorschool.org).

### Write for the Herald!

360.853.8213  
editor@concrete-herald.com

**SMART GIRL!**  
**HER DADDY ADVERTISES IN THE**  
**CONCRETE HERALD . . .**



**CALL OR E-MAIL TODAY**  
**FOR YOUR AD KIT**  
**360.853.8213**  
**ads@concrete-herald.com**



# Hamilton



## HAMILTON HAPPENINGS

By Carol Bates

What a surprise to answer the phone and hear Jason Miller say,

I'm starting up the *Concrete Herald* newspaper again and wanted to know if you would like to keep me posted on Hamilton's news and happenings!

I don't know exactly what he has in mind, but I will try to make something interesting for you readers.

Of course, all of you probably know by now that our clerk for the Town of Hamilton retired after more than 20 years working for Mayor Tim Bates and the town. The retirees, Don and Delilah Sutton, have decided it's time to make use of that camper for the summer.

Our new clerk is Susan West-Mani, who seems like she is very well qualified for the job.

Another newsworthy item in Hamilton is the replacement of a councilman: Harold Pitts has been selected to fill Craig Bates' vacated seat.

You have probably heard that efforts to buy the Lawson acreage for Hamilton's relocation have fallen through. I guess Mr. Richard Lawson and family have decided that it is

more peaceful up in this area than anywhere else, and are going to stay on their farm instead of selling it to Hamilton to relocate those who would like to move out of the flood area.

A call was received by the Harold Pitts family, regarding the death of his great-niece. The 11-year-old Kylee Shines of Medical Lake, Wash., died unexpectedly on April 10 (Good Friday). Funeral services were held April 17 in Medical Lake. Harold and Cheryl Pitts are the owners of the Hi-Low RV Park in Hamilton.

Have you driven by the new Janicki building? Just take a look at the parking lot. It sure is filling up. We'll be glad when it is full around the clock, because that will mean more work for people and more taxes for Hamilton, plus more people eating at the Hamilton Market and Cafe. Hopefully, this will help to put Hamilton back on the map again, as the saying goes.

Well, the sun came out this week and the lawns are growing. And, out come the lawn mowers. Just a word of caution: Always shut the motor off to clean that wet grass out of the mower. You will get through the year with more fingers and toes by using a stick or something besides your hand or foot to clean that plugged-up blower.

Hey, you young kids who now have motorized scooters and trail bikes! The sheriffs are patrolling Hamilton at least three or four times a day. Maybe you should just ride in your backyard until the town can figure out a place for a racetrack of some kind.

Notice the clean streets? The street sweeper is finishing up the removal of the flood mud and loose gravel so when the wind blows, it doesn't fly into your homes. Also, this is helping to prepare for the road resurfacing that will be done soon to take care of those broken places from the heavy snow and frozen roads.

## Birdsview Briefs

By Kris Voigt

Here in Birdsview, we start with Darryl Weidkamp, who saw 65 elk in his field in April, and he has the pictures to prove it. His wife, Anita, is healing nicely after her recent knee replacement surgery.

Rebecca Morse and Andy Cambo have been busy at Jericho Farm pressing their greenhouse into service and getting things planted and growing for another year of Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) and the Saturday Market.

During the winter, they were busy clearing more land to expand their operations.

Rebecca also was at the Birdsview Brewery, tilling up the ground so that she and Thalen could plant potatoes and onions.

Speaking of Thalen, he lost his first tooth in late April. The tooth fairy gave him \$2 and a candy bar! That's a good way to keep the fairy in business! someone remarked.

We Voigts were happy to have all our kids home for Easter. Nicki came home from Boston. Jack Mattingly and Jessie Voigt came home from Spokane. Jason, Julie, Sara, Julian, and Jaydona—all were able to be here. It was a big deal, because we haven't all been together since Christmas.

Our own Bill Voigt made a trip to California in late April/early May. He's back, now, whipping the lawn into shape and getting the beer garden going.

Deanna Ray and Uncle Floyd hosted a big dinner party on May 4, for a lot of Birdsview residents and beyond.

**Bird'sview Brewing Co.**

CLOSED MONDAYS / OPEN:  
Tues-Thurs noon-8pm • Fri & Sat. noon-10 • Sunday noon-7  
Fresh micro beer made on premises • Great food  
Family friendly  
38302 State Route 20 Birdsview, Wa. 98237  
360-826-3406 www.birdsviewbrewingco.com

**DON PAYNE'S BACK HOE services**

extensive experience  
reasonable costs  
360 853 7838  
360 770 0178

**CONCRETE LAUNDRO-MAT**

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK  
9:00 AM - 9:00 PM  
45781 main st.  
360 853 7838

**GLADYS' UPHOLSTERY SHOP**

quality work,  
reasonable prices!  
interior design consultant  
360 826 4848

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

# Business Spotlight:

## Back to Basics Concrete Laundromat Don s Backhoe Service

Back when this country was just getting started, business owners who lived above their downtown storefronts were a fact of life. They did it in New York, Chicago, and Seattle. They did it in Concrete, too. Some still do.

Don and Della Payne run three businesses out of their live/work building in Concrete s Town Center. Married in 1963, they bought property in Concrete in 1990 and were around off and on till 2002, when they made our fair town their permanent home, moving into their current residence in 2003.

Their businesses are many, testifying to a strategy of efficiency that seeks not to put all its eggs in one basket.

It s almost impossible for a Main Street business to make enough money to support both a business and a home, said Don. But, if you are living in the building above your business, it s more efficient."

### Threads of success

Della runs Back to Basics, an appointment-only sewing, mending, hemming, and alterations business she began in 2002, which includes in its clientele customers from their coin-operated laundry service next door.

One lady came in to do laundry and then hired me to completely retailor a dress from an adult size to a 14-year-old girl, for her prom, Della recalls.

She did a beautiful job, said Don with pride. She transformed a young girl into a beautiful young woman.

She s also sewn patches for police officers, and once created a log cabin quilt for a client in England a n example of the care and attention she lavishes on all her customers. When the gals run out of something, I m

here, she said with a smile.

### Cleaning machines

The coin-operated laundry is the newcomer. Started in 2006, it s open seven days a week from 9 a.m. till 9 p.m., and offers 18 15-pound washers and dryers, plus one 35-lb. washer and dryer. Everything laundry seekers need is on hand, including bill changers, folding tables, a pop machine, and detergent dispensers.

We endeavor to keep things clean and in good working order, said Don. And when people are running

Northwest Garden Bling  
7460 S. Dillard Ave., Ste. B, Concrete  
360.708.3279 / nwgardenbling@verizon.net  
Featuring stained glass, mosaic, and supplies for stained glass artists; custom work and classes

Sauk View Gallery  
New shops and studio; gifts and specials  
Grand Opening May 16  
Flea market, 10 – 3, vendors wanted  
SR 20 and S. Dillard, Concrete  
360.853.8209

### Bookkeeping

UpRiver Bookkeeping Services  
360.826.4448 or 360.708.9761  
upriver21@verizon.net  
Reasonable rates  
Payroll services to full-charge bookkeeping

### Childcare

"Just As I Am" E.L.C.  
Licensed Childcare  
Now enrolling all ages, 12 mos.–5 yrs.  
Open M-F, 6 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.  
Great rates! 360.853.7800

"Just As I Am" school-age site  
NOW OPEN!!!  
Licensed childcare 5–12 yrs.  
Open M-F 6 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.  
Great rates! 360.853.7800

### Electrical

All American Electric  
Full-service residential/commercial electrical contractor serving Skagit County since 1993  
639 Sunset Park Dr., #200, Sedro-Woolley  
360.854.9094  
www.allamericanelectric.com

### Gardening

Gladys' Garden Shed  
Customize your containers with hanging baskets and planters  
Custom orders only  
360.826.4848 / gsilrus@verizon.net

### Gifts

Matty's on Main  
45905 Main Street, Concrete  
New\*Eclectic\*Unique  
Family Gift Shop  
360.333.8851

### Insurance

Farmers Insurance  
45905 Main Street, Concrete  
For ALL Your Insurance Needs  
Notary Public  
360.333.8851

### Local retail choices

Pat Buller Photography  
North Cascades wilderness scenery and native wildflowers; notecards and prints available  
P.O. Box 279, Marblemount  
360.873.4344  
www.pdbphotos.net

Saturday Market 2009  
Open May 23 to Sept. 12, 9 to 4, Saturdays  
Concrete Senior Center, MP 89 on Hwy 20  
360.853.8765 or 360 853 8505  
E-mail: concretesaturdaymarket@gmail.com  
Local arts, crafts, produce, baked goods

### Restaurants

Buffalo Run Restaurant  
"DINE ON THE WILD SIDE"  
Featuring buffalo, venison, elk, ostrich, vegetarian, and all-American favorites!  
60084 SR 20, Marblemount  
360.873.2103

Lyman Tavern  
8328 S. Main St., Lyman  
360.826.4131  
Full menu, including fresh burgers, fresh-cut salads, tenderloin steaks  
Find us on MySpace!

Perks Espresso  
44586 SR 20, Concrete  
Open 7 days a week  
Breakfast, lunch, ice cream, and espressos!  
360.853.9006

### Woodworking

Lahr Custom Woodworks, LLC  
Robert Lahr, owner, 360.708.2504  
Online: www.lahrcustomwoodworks.com  
E-mail: info@lahrcustomwoodworks.com  
Specializing in counters, custom cabinets, and interior doors and trim

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

late and can't finish by quitting time, I ll just say, Remember the song: If you ve got the money, honey, I ve got the time, so you just stay and when you get done, I ll close.

### Dig this

Don s Backhoe Service tagged along when the couple moved to Concrete, and Don keeps it as busy as he can, doing site-preparation work, such as clearing, leveling, and stump removal. He s even positioned park model



Concrete business owners Don and Della Payne take a break outside their storefront residence in downtown Concrete.

See Spotlight, p. 23



# Rockport



## Rockport resident honored with VIPP Award

By Jason Miller

Mike Brondi was all smiles the evening of April 23. That's when Skagit Prevention Council held its 18th Annual Dinner and Awards Banquet at McIntyre Hall. Brondi left carrying a beautiful plaque.

Honored as one of nine recipients of the organization's VIPP (Very Important Prevention Partner) Award, Brondi regaled the crowd of roughly 130 attendees with stories not about himself, but about the students in whose lives he loves to play a role.

Brondi is a North Cascades National Park Supervisor of the Native Plant Nursery at Marblemount, who influences students' lives by teaching care for the environment. Part of his job includes teaching native plant horticulture and soil and stream restoration to middle school students. You might have seen him during a recent downpour, standing along Lorenzen Creek in Concrete while Mary Janda's science class students studied the creek.

I love Concrete kids," he said

during his acceptance speech. The rain doesn't bother them. Any other school, the kids would be running at the first drops. But Concrete kids work and play right through it.

Presenting the award was Darrel Reed, who was accompanied by his wife Marla at the dinner. The three are members of the Upper Valley Awareness Task Force, which works closely with the Skagit Prevention Council and states a mission to promote substance- and violence-free activities for youth in the Upper Valley area.

When he retires, Brondi wants to devote more time to teaching kids about the environment and the importance of volunteering.

Sometimes they need to stop and look at what they've already accomplished," he said.



Rockport resident Mike Brondi and his Skagit Prevention Council VIPP Award.



## The Sustainable Gardener

**Q:** As warm weather approaches, I'd like to mulch my new trees to help prevent excessive evaporation when I water them. What do you recommend?

**A:** Most organic mulches will do the job. I prefer wood chips, which are free here in Concrete and do the job just as well as bagged bark. Lay down a few inches around the tree, but do not pile the mulch against the trunk. Doing so holds moisture against the bark, which invites mold, fungus, and rot, and, eventually, insects, which move in when they discover the tree is stressed. When mulching trees, therefore, picture a doughnut shape, not a volcano.

**Q:** I have young children and pets, so I'm trying to minimize my use of chemicals in our garden. What's a nonchemical way to control slugs?

**A:** Any slug/snail bait with iron phosphate as its active ingredient will provide a safe alternative to chemical poisons. I like to use a product with a ridiculous brand name (Escar-GO!),

because its formula kills earwigs and sowbugs, as well as slugs and snails. Iron phosphate makes these creatures lose their appetites; they starve to death. It then breaks down harmlessly into the soil.

**Q:** I'd like to fertilize my lawn, but the synthetic fertilizer I used last year burned my dog's paws. Alternatives?

**A:** Good grief. How these companies stay in business is a mystery. Use corn gluten meal, applied with a drop spreader at 20 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft.

### Volunteer correspondents are needed for Rockport!

If you'd like to write short updates for *Concrete Herald* readers, or simply provide news tips, please contact Jason Miller, publisher and editor:

360.853.8213  
editor@concrete-herald.com

 **ROCKPORT  
COUNTRY STORE**

• Gas • Videos • Souvenirs  
• Fishing • Tackle & License  
• Espresso • Hot Dogs

Hours: 8 AM - 7 PM

53074 HWY. 20, ROCKPORT  
360 853- 8531

## Ghost of Dwelley gives sage advice

by Dan Royal

Charles M. Dwelley was the most significant and synonymous person connected with the *Concrete Herald*, serving as its publisher and editor for 40 years from 1929 to 1970. Known to everyone in the Concrete community as Chuck, Dwelley was the grandson of one of the earliest Skagit County pioneers, Joseph Franklin Dwelley. The elder Dwelley's story can be found in *Skagit Memories*, part of the Skagit County Historical Society's book series that was compiled and edited by Chuck Dwelley. He did this work after leaving the Concrete area for La Conner, following his selling the *Concrete Herald* to Robert and June Fader in 1970.

At the Skagit River Journal (SRJ) Web site ([www.skagitriverjournal.com](http://www.skagitriverjournal.com)), you can search on Dwelley's name and find a very good biography on the family line in Skagit County from Joseph to his son Charles L. Dwelley of Anacortes to our very own Chuck Dwelley in Concrete. You also can find a nice tribute to Dwelley at the Skagit River History Web site ([www.skagitriverhistory.com](http://www.skagitriverhistory.com)).

While reading the SRJ article, I noticed something that is relevant to Jason Miller, the new publisher and editor of the newly minted *Concrete Herald*: sage advice to then-editor Anne Bussiere (of Annie's Pizza) in 1984 from the man himself, Charles M. Dwelley. I hope Mr. Miller takes it to heart in this new venture. The letter reads as follows:

To Anne Bussiere, [Jason Miller] Editor, The *Concrete Herald*:

I was very pleased to see the two column editorial in the last issue of the *Herald*. This had been a tradition

of the *Herald* for over forty years and brings back the memories of the tragedies and triumphs of my early years in daring to print my very own thoughts weekly in a publicly circulated publication.

In time I became both an established whipping boy within the valley, but also a nationally quoted editorial writer, worldwide if you count the *Readers Digest*, *Time* and the *Ladies Home Journal*.

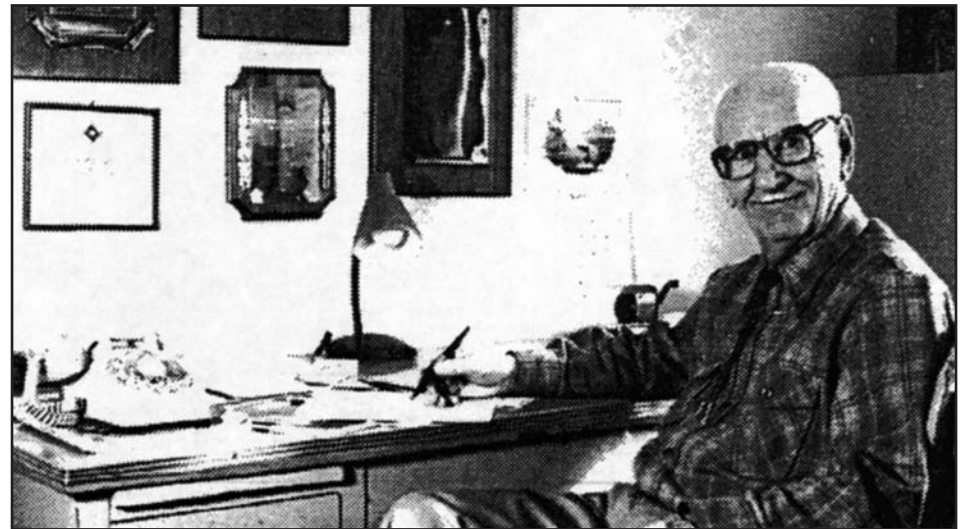
In the beginning I didn't know any better and after directing a complaint about cement dust at the Superior Cement Co. I was called down to the office to face the then superintendent, C. L. Wagner. He told me that in the past all items appearing in the *Herald* concerning the plant were to be first brought to his office for approval.

I, feeling my new title as Editor, and with more spunk than I knew I had, replied that I was going to run my paper without any outside censorship and that included the cement plant and its dust. He took a good long look at me, then said, "You're right, kid, and by God, I'll back you all the way."

From then on I wrote what I thought and took the pressure and lots of hard criticism, lost a few ads once in a while but they all came back. Was threatened with the proverbial horse whipping with no lashes being taken. I made mistakes, but admitted them humbly, made errors and lost sleep over them. But, all in all, it was a heck of a lot of satisfaction and worth all the grief.

Charles M. Dwelley

*Dan Royal is a Skagit County historian, memorialist, and genealogist of the Skagit County Pioneer Association. This is the first installment in a four-part series on the life of Charles M. Dwelley.*

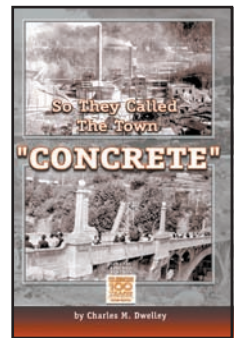


Chuck Dwelley at his desk in LaConner, Wash., c. 1981.

## Hot off the presses!

### New edition of Dwelley book available

Dan Royal and Philip Johnson's thoughtfully redesigned and edited version of Charles Dwelley's defining book, *So They Called The Town Concrete*, will be available beginning May 9 at Concrete's Centennial Celebration. Single-copy price is \$25; proceeds support the Concrete Heritage Museum Association.



## Valleys West Realty

30 Years, Same Location

360.853.8155

Corner of SR20 and Concrete-Sauk Valley Road



### CEDAR CREEK

Quality new homes. 3 bdrm, 2 bath, open design. Bright, loaded w/amenities, 2-car finished garage, creek and landscaped. \$239,500

### VIEW VIEW VIEW

Large, covered porch w/great mountain view. Lots of neat features. 4 bdrm, 1.5 bath, hardwood floors, French doors, basement. \$209,000



### GARDENS DREAM

Near-new 2 bdrm, 1 bath home on large corner lot w/year-round creek. Hot tub, outbuildings, mountain view. \$179,500



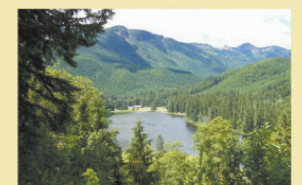
### PRIVATE LOCATION

Huge deck for gatherings. 2+ bdrms, 1 bath. This home is in excellent condition. Backs to woods, garden space. \$159,000



### TAKE A LOOK

Looks small, but lots of room. Quality upgrades. New windows, roof, appliances. 3 bdrms, 1.5 bath, huge garden space, garage. \$215,000



### More than 15 listings at LAKE TYEE!

Check them out at [www.laketyeeproperties.com](http://www.laketyeeproperties.com)

[www.valleyswest.com](http://www.valleyswest.com)

## Why is your mother the greatest?

### For Mother's Day, we asked Upper Valley residents what makes their mom special....

By Bill Sullivan

Mom has passed away, but she raised 10 kids and was a support machine: one call and she was there.

—Tina Chappel, Lyman

Mom was always happy, fair and firm with us kids. Plus, she was a great cook!

—Richard Sayer, Lyman

Mom is a loving person who always has been there for us and willing to really listen to our problems.

—Donna Baker, Concrete

"Mom is an unselfish and loving woman who gives every part of herself. She is my best pal.

—Heidi Grosson, Van Horn

Mom is the greatest cook, nurse, and housekeeper. She is supportive in most everything I do.

—Ryan Dichesare

Mom is everything for us, the go-to person, the nurse, the teacher. She lovingly ran the household and business.

—Richard Frank, Van Horn

"Mom is a nurse, always caring, loving, helpful, and supportive of the whole family."

—Krissandra Pace, Concrete

"Mom has a great sense of humor. She's a loving person and has made me the person I am today."

—Judy Hemenway, Rockport

"My mom instilled a strong, positive attitude in me, and was always there for me during my time as a single parent."

—Leatha Sullivan, Concrete

## Centennial quotes from around town

### Concrete citizens tell us what's on their minds when asked where Concrete has been, where it is now, or where it's going.

By Lacy Lahr

It's nice to see the Town growing with all the new faces.

—Josie Cochran, 40

I would like to see Concrete stay small. But I would like to see more summer activities; things that bring in visitors.

—Kathy Forgey, 53

Concrete has the potential to be a destination place. There is great fishing and great hiking here."

—Kris Voigt, 58

I would like to see people be able to shop locally again. We need to get more local business in town. And I like that people look out for one-another in Concrete.

—Jim Fichter, 60

The best part about Concrete is the natural beauty of the area. I think it

is important for it to be preserved. I like the small-town friendliness of the people here.

—Elaine Fichter, 53

I had plenty of opportunities to go other places and I always come back. I left several times, and the beauty and the people always bring me back.

—Deanna Ray, 54

Don't change a thing about Concrete, and don't tell anyone about it!

—Floyd Hintz, 67

I love the view of Sauk Mountain with the sun rising behind it. It would be nice to see people be more open-minded and less judgmental. Willingness to change and adapt will help this town prosper.

—Robert Lahr, 35

If you don't buy locally, the

businesses will go away. It's important to support the local businesses.

—Annie Bussiere, 57

I love the small-town atmosphere. Everyone knows everyone; it's laid back here. I hope that there will be enough funding for the schools, and there needs to be things for kids to do in town to keep them here in the community.

—Dani Bussiere, 26

During the Imagine Concrete workshop, it was nice that everyone was focused on the future, and not focused on the past. They were all on board to make it a better place. It is important to retain the history and retain the ruralness. We need to preserve the natural beauty while we continue to grow.

—Beverly Richmond, 50

I just want the *Concrete Herald* to come back! The tight-knit community shouldn't change.

—Rosie Philips, 54

(Editor's note: Unsolicited, I swear!)

We need to do the raft races again! We need to turn the town into an arts center, with artists and musicians.

—Dave Collins, 64

I like Concrete because there is a lot of space and things for kids to enjoy, like playing in the woods and climbing trees.

—Gibson Fichter, 11

Everything about Concrete is awesome! What it really needs is more trees!

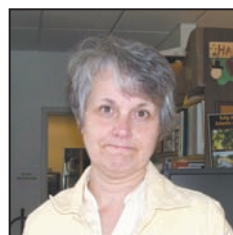
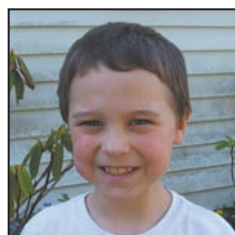
—Riley Fichter, 9

"I like the view from my office window!"

—Andrea Fichter, 32

Concrete is a great place to raise a family. Everyone knows one another; they help each other out. We need to buy more locally and support local businesses.

—Josh Fichter, 31



# Happy birthday, Concrete!



Barefeet

Something for everyone!

Centennial parade!  
Live music!  
Kids games!  
Beer garden!  
Storytelling!  
Cake walk!  
Food vendors!  
Don't miss it!



Carter Family Band



Concrete Centennial Station  
May 9, 2009  
Concrete WA 98237

Concrete's Centennial Celebration is  
Saturday, May 9.

Here's a schedule of the planned activities.

- |                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| <b>11 a.m. to<br/>12:30 p.m.</b> | <b>Centennial parade</b><br><b>Time capsule presentation</b><br><b>Town photo</b><br>Head to Main Street and help us celebrate our past and present, then create new memories for our future! |
| <b>Noon to 3 p.m.</b>            | <b>Kids games</b><br>Wild fun in our Town Park  |
| <b>Noon to 3 p.m.</b>            | <b>Cake walk</b><br>100 cakes waiting for you at the tennis courts in the Town Park   |
| <b>Noon to 3 p.m.</b>            | <b>Special postage stamp</b><br>Get your letter or postcard cancelled with our special commemorative postage stamp, at the Town Park  |
| <b>2 to 4 p.m.</b>               | <b>Old-time storytelling</b><br>Head to the Senior Center for old-fashioned yarns   |
| <b>2 to 6 p.m.</b>               | <b>Photo/article exhibit and presentation</b><br>Historic memories, events, and learning at the Concrete Theatre  |
| <b>2 to 8 p.m.</b>               | <b>Music in Town Park</b><br>Melodies and harmonies to suit almost any taste  |



# Marblemount



## East-county co-op idea gains momentum

By Laurie Thomas

A movement is under way to support local farmers and provide food grown closer to home. Driving the idea is the Upriver Community Co-Op (UCC), a nonprofit organization created to bring more enterprise to eastern Skagit County communities. UCC goals include seasonal farmers markets, a storefront, a skills bank, a commercial kitchen for processing value-added products, bulk buying, and space for classes.

The time is ripe for a venue for community involvement to help local food and art producers thrive, while still serving our community, said UCC Executive Board President Michelle Coda.

UCC preparations for the 2009 season include a booth at Concrete s Saturday Market and a farmers market along State Route 20 between Rockport and Marblemount. The UCC

is exploring additional sites along the Mountain Loop Highway between Darrington, Rockport, Marblemount, and Concrete. We are taking suggestions, said Coda of the group s site-search efforts. Locations are selected with the thought of enticing travelers into stopping and shopping, as well as being close to home for those organic items for which local residents prefer to shop.

The UCC is looking for anyone willing to join and work together in getting the community organization established. We hope to see an explosion of enterprise emerge to support these upriver communities, said Coda.

Eastern Skagit County residents who grow or produce items they d like to sell are asked to contact the UCC at uprivercoop@gmail.com or 360.873.4210, or by writing Laurie Thomas at P.O. Box 96, Marblemount, WA 98267. More information is available online at www.uprivercoop.110mb.com.



With a boom that echoed through the valley, a cannon was fired on State Route 20 in Marblemount during a Civil War reenactment April 25-26. Photo by Elizabeth Sier.

## Marblemount hosts Civil War buffs

By Jason Miller

When it comes to Civil War reenactments, it s about more than guns and cannons.

That s the message from participants of such an event in Marblemount, April 25-26. Sure, there are the requisite loud noises that pull in tourists and journalists like this reporter. But folks like Ruben and Anna Flores, who are

newcomers to the hobby, want to communicate the realities of living during that period of turmoil in our nation s history.

I m still living in my house, but money is hard to come by and the blockade is making it more difficult to obtain what I need, such

**See Civil War, p. 15**

### Volunteer contributors are needed for the new Concrete Herald!

If you d like to write short articles about the goings-on in your community, contact Jason Miller, publisher and editor, directly:

360.853.8213

editor@concrete-herald.com.

**GOLDNER RV REPAIR**  
Mobile RV  
Maintenance & Repair

- LP Gas Systems • Water Systems • Heating Systems
- AC/DC Electrical

360 708-4424 or 826-3303  
rvrepair@verizon.net

**The Secret Garden Styling SALON**  
Family hair Care

color specialist and waxing  
OPEN TUES - SAT CALL for Appt.  
360 - 853 - 8880  
Dani Magee owner / Stylist

**Donald K. Moore CONSTRUCTION**

Excavation • Dump Truck  
• Sand • Gravel  
• Topsoil • Lots to Acreage Cleared

Truck Loads of Logs available!  
New!  
underground utilities installation

360 853-8525  
Licensed Bonded & Insured DONALDKMO15K3

**Hair Fitness**  
Kathy Monrad & Becki Hoover  
Complete Family Hair Care

We specialize in Perms, Color & Cuts! Over 20 years Experience! Waxing!

call for an appointment:  
360 853-8684

**Civil War, cont. from p. 14**

as flour, sugar, and fabric,” said Anna, speaking in character as her persona, whom she has yet to name. Prices for everything are skyrocketing.

Her persona is a civilian woman who is living out the war in Tennessee, relatively unscathed so far. No ransacking has occurred on her property, a trend she prays will continue since her husband is off fighting who knows where with Cobb's Battery, a.k.a. the Orphan Brigade.

The sound of gunfire interrupts Anna; she steps out of character.

My husband's love of history drew me to this, she said. We're empty nesters with more free time, now, and although I don't like to sleep outside in the cold, I have enjoyed recreating the home life, and I like learning about the new inventions and how life was in general back then.

I've created a monster! laughs Ruben.



Civil War reenactor Anna Flores poses as her wartime persona. When asked to smile, she declined. “They didn't smile for photographs back then,” she said.



Civil War enthusiast George Sier takes a break after a reenactment. Typical days find him and his fellow soldiers performing morning and afternoon reenactments. “The Civil War is in my blood,” he said.

The event comes to Marblemount the last weekend of April, and has done so for the past eight years, said organizer Marshall Cooper, who owns the Buffalo Run Inn and Restaurant in Marblemount.

It started with a handful of guys and kept getting bigger. We had two cannons this year; next year there'll be three or four, plus Cavalry, said Cooper.

The reenactment comes courtesy of the Washington Civil War Association, which states its commitment to honoring our ancestors, both Northern and Southern, who fought in or lived during the American Civil War.

Members keep a busy calendar, often traveling all over Washington in their quest to make history come alive. An events calendar is posted at [www.wcwa.net](http://www.wcwa.net).

Alfred and Linda Myers like to dispel some of the myths surrounding the Civil War, which include the perception of absolute chaos during the period.

Some areas of the South were never touched by war and were

relatively unscathed, said Linda.

As they educate and entertain, the Civil War enthusiasts draw closer to others and each other. This is something we can do together, just get away and have fun, said newcomer Elizabeth Sier.



Reenactor Linda Myers chose a seamstress as her Civil War persona. “Many people don't understand what the war was about, the hardship, the strong women behind the men,” she said.

## LIQUOR STORE

**CONVENIENCE FOODS,  
GIFTS & MORE**



**CARD ACCEPTED HERE**

**MONDAY TO THURSDAY:  
11:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.**

**FRIDAY AND SATURDAY:  
11:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M.**

**45895 MAIN STREET,  
CONCRETE**

**360.853.7149**

## RED CEDAR INN

**LIVE  
MUSIC**

**FRI NIGHTS  
KARAOKE**

*a family restaurant*

**360 853 8103**

**TUE: CHICKEN ENCHILADAS**

**WED: SPAGHETTI**

**THU: TACOS/ TACO SALAD**

**FRI: PRIME-RIB**

**SAT: PRIME-RIB BREAKFAST**

**EARLY BIRD DINNER SPECIAL 2-5**

**OPEN HOURS:**

**FULL MENU breakfast / lunch / dinner**

**TUE-SAT: 8:00-8:00**

**SUN: 8:00-3:00**

**45938 MAIN ST. CONCRETE**

## Concrete High School Graduation Plans

By Sally Straathof  
Career and Guidance Counselor

The Class of 2009 is beginning to prepare for its graduation commencement exercises. Graduation is scheduled for Sat., June 13, at 1 p.m., in the Concrete High School gymnasium.

Approximately 50 students will participate in graduation ceremonies and begin their journey into life after high school. Concrete High School has students looking at the military, Vo-Tech schools, Community Colleges, and four-year Universities.

The schedule of events during graduation week is:

- Yearbook distribution and signing on June 3.
- The Senior Trip to Silverwood, Idaho, from June 4 -7. All graduating seniors from the Class

of 2009 are eligible to go.

- Community Bible Church will sponsor a dinner for seniors and their parents on June 11 at 5 p.m.
- Baccalaureate at the high school gymnasium begins June 11 at 6:30 p.m.
- Scholarship and Award presentations begin at the high school gymnasium on June 11 at 7:30 p.m.
- Graduation practice for all graduating seniors will be held Fri., June 12, at 8 a.m., in the high school gymnasium.
- Graduation will be held on Sat., June 13, at 1 p.m., in the high school gymnasium.

We welcome everyone to join us in this celebration of high school completion for our Concrete High School graduating class of 2009!

If you have questions or need more information, please call the high school office at 360.853.8143.

## Concrete School Board announces future meetings

The Concrete School Board will hold a special board meeting on Wed., May 13, 2009, at 6:00 p.m. in the high school commons room.

The special meeting agenda will include the 2009-10 school year calendar and 2009-10 certificated staffing proposal.

The School Board's next work session is planned for Tues., May 26, 2009, at 5:00 p.m., also in the high school commons room.

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on Wed., May 27, 2009, at 7:00 p.m., in the high school commons room.

# SPORTS

## Spring and summer football activities

By Ron Rood

The defending NWB League champion Lions football team will conduct their usual spring and summer activities for all players interested. This is a great chance to learn and polish a player's football skills to get ready for the upcoming season. It is also a chance for new or inexperienced players to be introduced to the game.

This spring the Lions have two turnouts per week once all the spring sports are done with their state tournaments. They also will participate in the Meridian 7 on 7 (passing) tournament. During the summer the weight room is open for players and other interested students Mon. and Wed. nights from 6 to 7 p.m.

The Lions will attend the Camp Rilea team football camp for their 5th consecutive summer from July 26 to 30. There they compete in various skills competitions, lineman challenges, passing league tournaments, and live scrimmages against teams from all over Washington and Oregon. Two defending state champions and many state playoff teams will attend the camp. Last year Concrete's Derek Rice won the grueling obstacle course

event and the Lions finished second in the passing league.

Camp Rilea is a reserve military base in Oregon near the mouth of the Columbia River and Astoria. The players stay in their own dorm environment and are fed 3+ meals per day. Lion coaches transport and coach the players for the 5-day camp. The cost per player is \$140. (Moms, this is probably less cost than food for your growing lad for a week.)

Fall turnouts start on Aug. 19 and gear for noncamp attendees will be handed out on Aug. 17 at 6 p.m. All participants must have a current physical and school paperwork on file before they can turn out. If you have questions, contact Coach Rood at the High School.

**Smith, Rice selected for All State**  
Concrete Lions senior football players Chris Smith and Derek Rice will participate in the WSCA East-West All State game in Yakima, Wash., on June 27 at 1 p.m. They have been selected to the West squad from senior football players all over the state. Chris and Derek will be part of a West squad that will challenge a squad of East all stars. Many collegiate and some professional players have played in this game. Both seniors will spend a week of practice and preparation in Yakima with their new West team members. Go West!

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### MAY

- 9 Concrete Centennial, Concrete, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- 16 Concrete American Legion Post #132 Baked Potato Feed fundraiser, 45952 Main St., Concrete, 5 to 7 p.m., call 853.8940
- 16 Spaghetti dinner and silent auction fundraiser, High School cafeteria, 4 to 8 p.m. For details, call or e-mail Adrienne Smith at 853.8505 or addie5@verizon.net, or Gladys Silrus at 826.4848 or gsilrus@verizon.net
- 16 Ol County Fair Carnival, Lyman Elementary School, 1 to 4 p.m., more info at 360.826.5811

### JUNE

- 57 Concrete Community Clean-up Weekend

### JULY

- 11 Lyman Car Show and 100th Birthday Celebration, Lyman
- 24-26 Old-Fashioned Fly-In, dawn till dusk, Concrete
- 25 Cement City Street Fair and Poetry Festival, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Concrete
- 31-8/1 Western Washington Family Forest Owners Field Day, Lusk Road, Birdsvew. More info at 360.856.3491 or <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/2009FieldDay.htm>



# Newhalem



With spring's arrival, Newhalem and Diablo residents report mixed reactions. Jim Hannigan is excited the pass has opened, while Sherwin Phillips frowns a bit at the dandelions that are cropping up everywhere.

The Skagit General Store is open, too, although only on the weekends for now. Its schedule will expand as spring passes into summer.

Hannigan reports that Unit 41, one of four generators at the Ross

powerhouse, is being rewound. The process involves replacing the generator's iron framework and the copper wiring inside, a process that takes months.

The units are about 50 years old, so it's about time to rewind them, said Hannigan. The process began about a month ago and should be complete by the end of October. The renovated generator should then be able to produce more electricity.

Tours of the Seattle City Light facility here should start in May, possibly June; a firm date will be finalized soon.

## Diablo dishes

Wayne and Julie Knopf proudly announce the engagement of their daughter, Sabrina, who plans to wed Joey Peninger Aug. 22, in Newhalem. The couple will continue to live in Sedro-Woolley.

## Volunteer correspondents are needed for Newhalem and Diablo!

If you'd like to write short updates for *Concrete Herald* readers, or simply provide news tips, please contact Jason Miller, publisher and editor:

360.853.8213  
editor@concrete-herald.com

## Just As I Am E.L.C. supports Week of the Young Child

By Jason Miller

On April 22, Concrete's Just As I Am Early Learning Center welcomed some very special guests to entertain and teach their charges.

In support of Week of the Young Child, April 20 to 24, North Cascade National Park Service Rangers Marieke Slovin and Paula Ogden-Muse visited the center on Earth Day.

They spent the entire day with puppets, skits, reading, and other activities, effortlessly holding the attention of the center's three age groups: pre-school, pre-kindergarten, and school-agers.

The kids had a ball, and they didn't even realize they were learning. This week, you see, is an initiative pushed by the National Association of Educating Young Children, whose aim is to do exactly that: help children learn.

This week's goal is to make people aware of early childhood and the importance of investing in our children's education, said

Rose Weaver, who co-directs Just As I Am with Shelle Timmer.



National Park Service Ranger Marieke Slovin reads to a group of 4- and 5-year-olds at "Just As I Am" Early Learning Center on April 22.

**Spring is here!**

**We have everything you need to greet it!**

## Get outstanding low prices on quality products.

**GreenThumbz**  
**SAVE 33% OR MORE**  
**2.49**  
Your choice  
reg. 4.99  
24-Oz. RTU Spot Weed Killer  
L 106 083 B12 While supplies last.

**GreenThumbz**  
**SAVE 50%**  
**9.99**  
reg. 19.99  
2-Pk. Front-Lever Metal Hose Nozzles  
All-metal body and handle with curved design for easy handling. 8-pattern dial nozzle and adjustable-tip nozzle.  
L 112 537 B6 While supplies last.

**Find the right can for your area at your local True Value.**  
**SAVE 50%**  
**4.99**  
reg. 9.99  
2+-Gal. Gas Can  
H 715 573 B6 While supplies last.

**MAY**  
**Bargains of the month**

Find the right supplies for your projects, plus expert local advice.

Cascade Supply  
45900 Main St., Concrete  
360.856.8811

Sale ends 6/30/09

© 2009 True Value Company. All rights reserved.

**True Value**  
START RIGHT. START HERE.®

# Seniors

## Coffee Break

By Patrick Kennedy

Sleep . . . sleep . . . sleep . . .

Couldn't sleep at all last night. Many seniors remember the words of that hit song by Richie Adams, among others.

How many times has that happened to you these days, because of those aching muscles and bones, or that acid-causing pepperoni-and-peppers pizza or barbaric burrito you ate before bed, or that misdemeanor imbibing of spirits at the local Grill and Bar? It happens to all of us.

Sleep is a waste of good time, but a necessary evil. How much sleep is necessary, required, and healthful for you? It ranges from as little as 5 hours to as much as 11 hours a night. After hours of deliberation and discussion, a group of professional practitioners came to the consensus that the amount of sleep people need varies from person to person.

That's helpful. You could have come up with that decision at your poker party.

What are these variables from person to person? Weight, lifestyle, exercise routine, worries, flights of the imagination, a snoring better half or the pet dog, the neighbor's barking dog, lights on or off, TV on, the amount of caffeine consumed, the forgotten bathroom stop before bed, or money concerns.

There are ways to help the old noggin to bob off into slumber

land. When you lie down in bed, try a breath-counting exercise or counting sheep, or visualizing a relaxing experience, such as relaxing on a Caribbean cruise, or being alone in a candy store.

If you feel anxious about sleep, get up and leave the bedroom. The idea is to disconnect your relationship between the bed and your anxiety. Try reading or doing some other enjoyable but low-key activity and not eating, because digestion can cause sleeplessness.

Or, just before you go to bed, take a warm bath. Bathing will elevate your body temperature, but lying down will make it drop because your muscles relax and produce less heat. Sleep tends to follow a steep decline in body temperature, say the professional practitioners.

They also say exercise is good for making you sleep. In many studies, exercising 30 to 45 minutes during the day or evening helped insomniacs enjoy better, and somewhat longer, sleep. It also helps control the blood pressure and diabetes. Why exercise seems to help is still unclear, probably because your heart is beating faster and your lungs get fresh air, although one possibility is that it has effects similar to sleeping pills. And, sometimes taking some aspirin/Tylenol/Advil/etc., will help if pain is keeping you awake.

Think exercising too close to your bedtime can keep you from falling asleep? Not true. In fact, research shows that even vigorous exercise right before bedtime

doesn't affect sleep for many people; in some cases it may help.

Even if you are sitting in a chair for increased mobility, you can still lift small dumbbells or use the old muscle-powered chair to move instead of the electric one.

Other suggested cures for non-sleeping are sex, not thinking, ear plugs, forcing yourself to yawn two or three times, lying down with a hot water bottle on your stomach, smoking yourself to sleep, or contacting your local glassy-eyed hypnotist to give the sleep . . . sleep . . . sleep knockout cure.

If you still work, there are other considerations, and that famous Unknown Author put it well: The best cure for insomnia is a Monday morning.

The bottom line is, try different things until you find out what works for you but don't hit yourself on the head with a hammer. There may be some pleasant dreams on the other side that you do not want to miss.

Finally, remember W.C. Fields philosophy: Sleep: the most beautiful experience in life except drink. Also, they say, reading before bed is a good way to put yourself to sleep, and if you read this, you probably didn't get this far.

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

## Way Back When

### 100 years ago

Officials from Baker and Cement City decided to merge their two towns and incorporate. They couldn't agree on which existing name to use, so, on May 9, 1909, they called the town Concrete.

### 75 years ago

On May 18, 1934, the town of Concrete and the local plant of Superior Portland Cement, Inc., joined together to celebrate the re-awarding of the Portland Cement Association Trophy for one more year without an accident. More than 500 attended the big rally, which was held on the lawn in front of the company's office (the Lonestar Building) in the afternoon. The event was followed by "a fine dance."

### 50 years ago

A May 28, 1959 headline reads: Cascade Supply enters retail lumber business. C. C. Baughman, of the Cascade Supply, announced this week the inclusion of a complete stock of lumber and building materials to the already huge stock of hardware and related items at his store. Odd Valum erected the necessary shelving and racks in the new addition to the store, and this week the first stocks of lumber began to arrive. A full

**See Way back, p. 19**

## Concrete Senior Center Activities – May 2009

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

### Mondays

9:00 a.m. Gray Ladies hoop quilting  
1:00 p.m. Skip Bo  
1:00 p.m. Mexican Train Dominos

### Tuesdays

11:30 a.m. Jigsaw puzzle  
1:00 p.m. Skip Bo

### Wednesdays

8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. Quilting  
11:30 a.m. Jigsaw puzzle  
1:00 p.m. Skip Bo

### Thursdays

10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Wii Sports play  
11:30 a.m. Jigsaw puzzle

### Fridays

8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. Quilting  
11:30 a.m. Jigsaw puzzle  
Noon Mexican Train Dominos

### Special Events

5/4 1:00 p.m. Bingo  
5/7 12:30 p.m. Mother's Day Lunch  
5/7 12:45 p.m. Music with Dana McCoy  
5/12 11:00 a.m. Advisory Board meeting  
5/12 1:00 p.m. Rebekah's meeting  
5/18 12:30 p.m. Birthday lunch  
5/18 1:00 p.m. Bingo  
5/26 12:45 p.m. Music with Leap of Faith  
5/26 1:00 p.m. Rebekah's meeting

### Senior Center Closures

5/22 All Skagit County offices will be closed  
5/25 Memorial Day holiday

## Way back, cont. from p. 18

line of dimension, finish, plywood, veneers, etc., was stocked as rapidly as orders could be placed and filled.

### 25 years ago

May 17, 1984: Vietnam veteran, Kiwanis Club member, river raft business owner, and former coach and school teacher Dave Button announced he will vie for the Republican seat in the second district County Commissioner post

against incumbent Bud Norris. Button stressed his desire to put enthusiasm and positive thinking back into politics. Button also was critical of the salaries earned by the elected county officials, saying, "A hard-working coach and teacher gets one half of a county commissioner's pay. Adding that those salaries should be cut in half," he said, "The office should be to serve the public, not to feather pockets."

## Town governing, no matter your age!

Several Concrete Town Council positions are up for re-election this coming November. If you want to join the council, the dates for filing are June 1 through 5. A Declaration of Candidacy form is available at Town Hall for this purpose. This form must be mailed or hand-delivered to the Skagit County Auditor-Elections Dept. during the filing period. Questions? Call Town Hall at 360.853.8401.



## GROCERIES / PRODUCE / MEAT

Fishing Tackle / Fishing Licenses - 24 Hour Ice  
LOTTO - Cash Machine - Western Union  
Copies / Fax Service - MOVIE RENTALS



## Take-Out from our DELI!

Hot Dogs - BBQ Roasted Chicken - Pizza

9 AM - 9 PM Monday thru Saturday 10 AM - 6 PM Sunday  
44546 State Route 20 Concrete  
360 853 8540 fax 360 853 8208

[www.redapplemarkets.com](http://www.redapplemarkets.com)

# Hang Time

## If I could change the world

By Linnaea Groh

The topic of changing the world is one of the most-discussed subjects ever. It's a thought that is forever milling about in humanity's mind. Each and every inhabitant of this Earth has dreamed of making the world a better place. In the John Lennon song "Imagine," he sings about an improved world, and how he would alter how people function.

In the second verse, John sings, "Imagine there's no countries/It isn't hard to do/nothing to kill or die for. There are 195 countries across the wide expanse of land that is Earth. From the dawn of time, there have

been wars abounding within and between these countries. The wars have been provoked by religion, power, wealth, and land. My dispute is: Why? Why is this huge greed for sovereignty implanted in humanity's mind? If I could adjust the world, I would make a balance of power for these countries. Equal wealth, equal land, equal power. No more hostile arguments over petty things like oil or land. It may not achieve complete world peace, but it is definitely a start.

Every inhabitant of this Earth has a religion. Whether it be Christian, Catholic, Jew, Muslim, or Atheist, we all believe in a higher power or a lack of one. In "Imagine," a controversial lyric is "Imagine no religion, too." As I am a devout Christian, I would not go as far as banishing all religion from the world. People take comfort, even pride in their beliefs, and making all religion vanish would cause greater problems. But I would choose to have equilibrium between religions. No faith would teach it is better than others.

The third and final verse is "Imagine no possessions/I wonder if you can/no need for greed or hunger/a brotherhood of man/imagine all the people sharing all the world." Lennon is spot-on with his evaluation of how people function.

When I asked a young girl what she would choose if she could have anything, she spontaneously answered, "An iPod." What if humanity released itself from this steadfast desire for material things? What if we deserted our power-hungry, greedy ways? What if humanity went back to basics? What if we learned to cherish our loved ones, became more charitable, tolerant, and warmhearted?

You may say that I'm a dreamer/

But I'm not the only one/I hope someday you'll join us/And the world will be as one. Granted, it's a cliché. And you may say I'm a dreamer. But I want complete world peace. Equilibrium for all people. Imagine.

## Student athletes an example for all

By Heather B. Nick

Throughout high school, students are presented with the opportunity to participate in many extra-curricular activities beyond their basic school education. Many students who attend Concrete High School take advantage of one or more of the sports programs offered.

However, by choosing to participate in sports, students take on the challenge of becoming a student athlete. The challenges these students face can be and often are overlooked. Many students at Concrete High balance their education with athletics and the obstacles of everyday life. These students should be commended for using their time in such a productive and positive way.

Sports can teach students many qualities that can be used quite often, in addition to promoting good attendance and better grades. Many students have a love for sports and this, combined with their responsibility and commitment to both their team and school, motivates them to meet the requirements of being on the team, which includes being to class on time and passing all of their classes. Some students even exceed these expectations. Many students juggle their education with sports, clubs and organizations, and/or jobs. This is not an easy thing to do, yet many students here in Concrete do it

successfully.

One example of the many student athletes is Brandi Dellinger, a two-sport varsity athlete, who maintains a 4.0 G.P.A. while keeping up with her part-time job and duties as the National Honor Society President. When reflecting on the opportunities being a student athlete has presented her with, Brandi said, "Being involved in sports has given me the chance to be the person I want to be. I have become a leader, a helper, and someone others can look up to. Sports have encouraged me to set goals, get good grades, and do something positive with my life."

Brandi and other students at Concrete High are good examples to the community. They are proof that Concrete is not home only to people who have made poor choices, but it is also the home of people who are self-motivated, determined, hard-working citizens with good values.

During the first semester of the 2008-2009 school year, 62 students at Concrete High made the honor roll, which requires a 3.0 or better G.P.A. Of those, many were student athletes. This shows that there are youth here in Concrete who work hard and are good people. They take on many responsibilities and manage to complete them with honor, pride, and dedication. The work these students do is truly unappreciated.

In life it is easy to allow the good to be blinded by the bad, and it is time to take a look past the usual sight of the young ones caught up in bad choices and reveal the many hard-working students involved in various good things here in our small town of Concrete. So look. I promise it will be a pleasant surprise.



**ANNIE'S PIZZA STATION**

**853-7227**

**MORE THAN JUST GREAT PIZZA!!**

*Lasagna \* Salads  
Baked Goods  
Espresso \* Beer*

**Tues-Sat 11-9 Sun 2-8**

**Delivery Avail.  
5-8 p.m.**

**44568 SR20 CONCRETE**

# Smile

## Dwelleysms

Back in the day, former *Concrete Herald* Editor and Publisher Chuck Dwelley wrote editorials that sometimes took the form of short snippets of wit aimed at whatever was making news at the time. Looking back at these editorials, it's amazing how much has changed—and how little.

So far, the people of Concrete are not blessed (?) with a theatre showing the talkies, and are still able to get a little out of a show without being disturbed by the baby in the row behind or the talkative lady in the second row ahead.

Oct. 10, 1929  
(his second issue)

There are always a few people in every town who, when in need of credit, go to the local merchants and receive help through their period of need. These same people with a little money in their pockets, do not even think of helping those who gave them credit but trade out of town or in other stores. Don't get into the habit of trading with cash at one store and credit at another. Help the merchant

who puts himself in debt to help you. The local merchants are here for your benefit and deserve the support of every citizen, for they are the only backbone of the town.

Oct. 24, 1929

At present, we have more laws than we know how to enforce, and with the multitude of prisoners in our jails, it seems that it would be better to start all over again, with a new set. The old ones are broken anyway.

Oct. 24, 1929

A little unexpected but much welcome publicity was given Concrete in the last issue of the Saturday Evening Post. An aerial view of our fair city was printed in a Ford advertisement. Thank you, Henry.

Oct. 31, 1929

Scarface Al Capone, the Chicago gangster and tough guy, refuses to speculate in Wall Street. They are too crooked, he says. And if they are too crooked for him—God help the poor speculators.

The stock market is (or was) back to normal again for a few days. Probably just steaming up for another blow-out.

Nov. 7, 1929



Lyman Councilman Mike Swanson tills a planting bed in late April, accompanied by bug-loving chickens Dandelion, Blacky, and Sunshine. The birds are remarkably fierceless around the noisy tiller, said Swanson. "When I start up this thing, they come running."

The state advisory tax commission is busy thinking up new and better ways to tax the people. We have only to sit back and hope for the best.

Nov. 21, 1929

The *Concrete Herald* is the only paper in the world that gives a whoop about our community.

Dec. 26, 1929

## Community fundraisers

**Concrete American Legion Post #132** will hold a Baked Potato Feed fundraiser on Sat., May 16, from 5 to 7 p.m., at the American Legion Hall at 45952 Main St., Concrete. American Legion members, guests, and the general public are welcome. Designed to help with the hall's operating expenses, the feed will include all the baked potato toppings you've grown so fond of, plus a salad, roll, and dessert. Price is \$7 per person. For more information, call 853.8940.

**Show your support for Concrete citizen Becky Voelkel** by attending a Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction fundraiser to help her meet her expenses as she deals with cancer. The dinner and auction will be held the same night, Sat., May 16, at the Concrete High School cafeteria, from 4 to 8 p.m. (Boy, you're going to be *full*.) For details, call or e-mail Adrienne Smith at 853.8505 or addie5@verizon.net, or Gladys Silrus at 826.4848 or gsilrus@verizon.net.



### Library Hours

Tuesday and Wednesday  
11 am - 8 pm  
Friday and Saturday  
11 am - 5 pm

45770-B Main Street  
Concrete

360-853-7939

www.upperuskagit.lib.wa.us

# Sunday School Lesson

## Thoughts for Mother's Day

by Tom Ross

Mother's Day is almost here, the second Sunday of May falling on May 10 this year.

This celebration is both new and very old. The contemporary celebration of Mother's Day in the United States became official in 1914, when Congress passed and President Woodrow Wilson signed a declaration that the second Sunday of May be observed as Mother's Day and that Americans fly the flag in honor of mothers who had lost sons in war.

This aspect of remembering Mother's Day seems to have fallen away, as it has become the day of the year most likely to include a visit to a restaurant. Gifts of Mother's Day cards, flowers, jewelry, and phone calls combine to make Mother's Day a commercially golden day.

It did not start that way. In the 1870s, activist Julia Ward Howe proposed and observed June 2 in Boston as Mother's Day for Peace. Howe's idea had been influenced by Anna Reese Jarvis of Grafton, W.V., who organized Mother's Work Days in 1858 to improve sanitation. Reese Jarvis later worked on both sides of the Civil War to improve sanitation, and afterwards, to reconcile soldiers and their families from both sides. When she died in 1905, her idea of a Mother's Day had not become a reality.

But the dream didn't die. Frank E. Hering of South Bend Ind., president of Fraternal Order of Eagles, campaigned for a national Mother's Day in 1904. And in 1907, Anna Marie Jarvis Reese Jarvis daughter, founded Mother's Day to honor her mother, memorializing her on the second Sunday of May 1907. On May 10, 1908, Anna Marie Jarvis passed out white carnations to her Philadelphia congregation. Later, florists modified the "carnation tradition," designating red carnations to honor living mothers, and white to remember deceased mothers.

More than 60 nations observe Mother's Day. England, Ireland, and Nigeria celebrate Mothering Sunday on the fourth Sunday in Lent. Norway and Orthodox countries recall that 40 days after Christmas, Joseph and Mother Mary dedicated Jesus at the temple in Jerusalem (see Luke 2:22-24). While at home, young Jesus obeyed his parents (Luke 2:51).

Following four of Ten Commandments about loving God, the fifth transitions to family: Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God commanded you, so that your days may be long and that it may go well with you in the land that the LORD your God is giving you (Deuteronomy 5:16). In Ephesians 6:2-3, the apostle Paul quotes this commandment and adds, "This is the first commandment with a promise." Family harmony promotes long, satisfying life, and models constructive relationships with other people in the remaining five commandments.

This Mother's Day thank God, and talk to your mother.

*Tom Ross is pastor of Mount Baker Presbyterian Church in Concrete.*

### Worth repeating...

The most beautiful system of the sun, planets, and comets could only proceed from the counsel and dominion of an intelligent and powerful being.

—Isaac Newton

## Worship Directory

### Assembly of God

Concrete Assembly of God  
45734 Main St., Concrete; 360.853.8042  
Sunday worship, 10 a.m.  
Tuesday: Men's meeting, 8:30 a.m.  
Wednesday: Adult Bible Study, 6 p.m.  
Thurs: Women's Bible Study, 6:30 p.m.

### Presbyterian

Mount Baker Presbyterian Church  
45705 Main Street, Concrete  
Sunday worship: 8:45 a.m.  
Church 360.853.8585 office 360.595.0446  
Tom Ross, pastor

### Nondenominational

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

### Lutheran

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church  
46372 Main St., Concrete; 360.853.8814  
Adult Sunday School 10 a.m.  
Worship 11 a.m.  
Marcus Stroud, pastor

To add your place of worship to these listings, call or e-mail  
360.853.8213 or editor@concrete-herald.com.

## Recipe Corner

### Nettle soup for 12

From Cheri Cook-Blodgett's kitchen

#### Ingredients:

- 1 gal. young nettle tops (4 in. or less),  
lightly pressed down with gloved hands
- 2 medium onions, finely chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 4 medium potatoes, peeled  
and cut into small chunks
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 teaspoon salt (or to taste)
- 4 cups chicken broth
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper, freshly ground
- 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg, freshly grated
- 1 to 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 cup half-and-half or milk

#### Preparation:

With gloved hands, cut any heavy stems from nettle tops, then wash well. In large saucepan, fry onions and garlic for 4 min. in olive oil. Add chicken broth and bring to boiling point. Add potatoes and simmer for 5 min., then add nettles. Simmer until potatoes are tender and nettle greens are cooked. Transfer the hot mix to a food processor or blender, and liquify at high speed (may need to do this in more than one batch). Return soup to saucepan to keep hot; add seasonings and butter. Just before serving, stir in the half-and-half. Do not boil. Serve with crusty bread.



Wear gloves and long sleeves when harvesting nettles for soup.

Spotlight, cont. from p. 9

trailers on their sites. Plus, even after injuring his shoulder last winter, he could be seen clearing snow from area streets.

The Paynes are integral members of the Concrete business community, dedicated to encouraging business growth downtown. They re not afraid to put their money where their mouths are, either: The recent possibility of a satellite radio station in Concrete prompted them to offer a storefront in one of the Town Center buildings for one yearf or free.

Who you gonna call?

Back to Basics  
360.853.7838

Don’s Backhoe Service  
360.770.0178

Concrete Laundromat  
360.853.7838  
360.770.0178

Cape Horn, cont. from p. 3

nowa nd the Roaring 20s can be here now, too.

We need to stop talking, and start doing. Glimmers of hope lie on the horizon, especially for Cape Horn, because everyone who reads this article can do something. More specifically, YOU can help.

We and our communities need it.

Classifieds

JOBS

“Just As I Am” now hiring various positions. Call 360.853.7800; ask for Shelle or Rose.

Housekeepers, cooks and waitstaff apply at Buffalo Run Restaurant\$\$\$, 360.873.2103.

Want to place a classified ad?

Contact Concrete Herald at 360.853.8213 or classifieds@concrete-herald.com. Monthly rate is \$5 for every 10 words, rounded up to nearest 10. Ads must be paid for at time of submission.

THANK YOU!

Since its launch on Feb. 3, the Concrete Herald comeback story has spread across the U.S. During the fundraising drive, donations came in from all over Washington, and from as far away as Alaska, Maryland, Florida, Nevada, and Washington, D.C. For me, though, the most meaningful gestures of support came from the citizens of Skagit County, particularly those who live in Sedro-Woolley and east. As I write this, we ve raised \$8,547.75 toward the goal of \$10,000a remarkable testament to the commitment and determination of everyone who believes a small, community newspaper should exist to give the rest of us a voice. To everyone listed below, and to those who will help us reach our goal, thank you. This is your paper and I m grateful you believe in it. Last, a special thank you to my mentor, Marketing publisher Larry Coffman. He believed, too. J KM

All American Electric  
Corwin Allred  
Annie s Pizza Station  
Anonymous (3)  
David and Dorothy Anthony  
Eric Archuletta  
Laurence J. Aurbach Jr.  
Jennifer Beacham  
Pam Benoit  
John and Gail Boggs  
Philip and Debbie Bovenkamp  
Larry Bramow  
Nikki Brooks  
Mike Bucholz  
Merlene Buller  
Pat Buller  
Pat Buller Photography  
Shanon Burke  
Hannah Carter  
Jonathan Carter  
Tim and Susan Carter  
Cascade Supply  
Michelle Coda  
Larry Coffman  
Concrete Heritage Museum Association  
Jennifer Corliss  
Mike Dellinger  
Bob and Lillian DiLeo  
Martin and Ann Dirks  
Diane Dorney  
Cynthia Dotzauer  
AndrŁ Duany and  
Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk

Douglas Dunn  
Lindsay Ehmke  
Enrique and Paula Enguidanos  
Karen Evans  
Fairhaven Legal Associates  
Shelly Ferkingstad  
Josh and Andrea Fichter  
Gene Fioretti  
Evalyn Goeringer  
Patty Goldner  
Glenn and Kate Good  
John Groh  
Linda Hadaway  
Gaylyn Harrington  
Steve and Darlene Harris  
Seth Harry  
Terry Haynes  
Howard Herl  
Thayer and Betty Hughes  
Marian Humphrey  
Jean Johnson  
John and Dani Keller  
Joe and Monique Knudson  
Josef Kunzler  
Adam Lafayette  
Debra Lahr and Luther Galbreath  
Katherine Lange  
Mary Pat Larsen  
Bob Leopard  
Loralyn Leopard  
April Lewis  
Greg and Lisa Loper  
John Matheson

Barbie McAllister  
Terry McDonald  
Pat McLucas  
Lynn McMillan  
Larry and Marsha McPhail  
Jack and Doris Mears  
Joel Melom  
Jason Miller  
Neal and Lois Miller  
Deborah Money  
Mitch and Greta Muscutt  
Al Nickerson  
Wilbur Nieshe  
Scott and Charlotte Nitschke  
Cheri Ogle  
Anna Page  
Nancy Paris  
Eric and Heidi Parks  
Vicki Past  
Don and Della Payne  
William and Sally Pfeifer  
Janelle Pickenpaugh  
John Previti  
Puget Sound Energy  
Maya Redwood  
Darrel and Marla Reed  
Sharon Rodio  
Mark Roetcisoender  
Ron Rood  
John and Nancy Ruhlman  
Naomi Rumpff  
Dan and Maureen Royal  
Maria Santa Cruz

Dan Schmidt  
Melissa Scollard  
Mary Shadwick  
Angie Sherman  
Wendy Shields  
Rudy Skonord  
Firen Skyshadow  
Toni Kay Smith  
William Smith  
Lee Sobel  
Howard and Karen Stafford  
Valerie Stafford and Fred West  
Cheree Stromeger  
Summit Bank  
George and Lois Theodoratus  
Laurie Thomas  
Frank and Margaret Timmons  
Katherine Tomasulo  
Anne Tonks  
William and Lisa Tuckett  
Keith Tyminski  
United General Hospital  
Andre Van Delden // Rob Van Wagoner  
Roxann Van Wyk  
Nichole Victor  
Charles and Mary Voelker  
Eli Warren  
John Weinshel  
Joe and Marti White  
Carol Wilson  
Judd Wilson  
Scott Wilson  
Gerald and Robin Wood



Come See What's New!  
**OPEN HOUSE**  
 May 12, 2009  
 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

- Join us for tours, displays, demonstrations and refreshments.
- Find out about a new cancer treatment and the Soft Touch Mammogram.
- Co-sponsored by the Concrete Chamber of Commerce, Sedro-Woolley Chamber of Commerce and Burlington Chamber of Commerce.

← Rehabilitation Services at United General Hospital, circa 1965.

# We've Been Keeping You Moving For 44 Years.

A lot has changed since we opened our doors in 1965. Our physical therapists now use wireless technology and sophisticated software to help people walk better. Nurses communicate instantly with one another by speaking into their badges. Medications are triple-checked for accuracy by state-of-the-art computer systems before ever being given. Even our beds are equipped with new technology that calculates your body weight in addition to keeping you safe and comfortable. Throughout United



General Hospital, we've embraced the most innovative technology and put to use the most advanced information and research. All to help keep you moving—and living—better.

One thing that hasn't changed, though, is our commitment to serve you with expert care and compassion. In this fast-paced, high-tech world, we still offer the gentle touch and friendly smile. After all these years, it's what you expect from United General Hospital.