

The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley Concrete Herald

Vol. 97, No. 5

May 2014

concrete-herald.com

50 cents

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Airport will get fueling station

If everything goes according to plan, Mears Field in Concrete soon will offer an amenity it's never had before: fuel. *Page 4.*

Concrete community clears new path

A recently cleared path that begins at the pullout on State Route 20 and leads to the Skagit River at the east end of Concrete was a collaborative effort of community members and local organizations. *Page 13.*

S-W students earn Wash. Scholars award

Sedro-Woolley High School students Kyle Hickman and Brandi Mason have been named as Washington Scholars for the 2014–15 Washington Scholars Program. *Page 16.*

Pass should open this month

WSDOT crews continue to clear SR 20 for a planned mid-May opening of the pass. *Page 27.*

Advice column debuts

"Dear Dottie" responds. *Page 36.*



Darrington Mayor Dan Rankin surveys the SR 530 landslide site April 30. The March 22 slide swept across the Stillaguamish River and the highway with a speed and ferocity that still confounds experts.

Darrington residents, businesses bury loved ones and brace for rough months ahead.

With all but two SR 530 landslide victims found, work at the site of one of Snohomish County's worst natural disasters is shifting from rescue to economic recovery. A one-lane bypass road is in place for Darrington-area

residents to reach I-5 instead of driving the long way around, crews are moving mud in the Stillaguamish River channel to encourage it to behave when next winter's

See **Landslide**, p. 20

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The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley



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

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Concrete Herald is published the first Wednesday of each month and distributed via newspaper racks and retail businesses from Clear Lake to Newhalem and Darrington, Wash. A complete list of distribution points is posted online at www.concrete-herald.com/about-the-herald/distribution-points. Mail subscriptions are \$27 annually for U.S. addresses, \$39 for Canadian addresses. Other subscription options are listed on the "Subscribe" page at www.concrete-herald.com. Physical address: 7674 Cedar Park, Concrete, WA 98237. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Concrete Herald, P.O. Box 682, Concrete, WA 98237. Printed by Sound Publishing, Everett, Wash. Contents © 2014 Concrete Herald LLC.

From the editor

The folly of Facebook

No, I’m not going to bash Facebook. I have a personal and professional presence on the site, which, until Facebook decided to force my *Concrete Herald* presence to become a “page” and then neglected to migrate five years of photos, has served me well. But one ethical dilemma surrounding Facebook comes when its users uncover and spread news without going through proper channels. When that happens, family members can learn of loved ones’ deaths in a jarring, disrespectful manner. Imagine how you’d feel if you were scrolling through your Facebook news feed and discovered a post from someone mourning your brother’s death. Or your sister’s. Or your husband’s, your wife’s.

Professional media outlets have safeguards in place to prevent this, often in the form of policies that call for corroboration of statements or accepting official reports only from credible sources, such as trained law enforcement. We—and I include myself in this charge—would do well to observe those policies.

—J. K. M.



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Opinion

Letters to the editor

Already missing Carol Fabrick
We are just a few of the many people who are very sorry that Carol Fabrick will soon be moving from our community. She is currently in the process of downsizing and slowly pulling back from all the activities she supported so devoutly here. Her cheerful face and quiet willingness to support the community in all sorts of activities will be truly missed.

*Concrete Heritage Museum
Association members*

Oso in their hearts
Is there any possible way to do a shout out to Task Force 7 Sacramento Search and Rescue, who have dropped everything at home to be here with us in Oso?
I have been working side by side with these men in the slide and every day I hear stories of what they left back home to be here and help. I spend over nine hours a day knee deep in mud and destruction. These men have Oso in their hearts.

*Blake Clark
Bow*

Let locals play a role
The Oso Slide on March 22 took dozens of lives and wiped out the main road to Darrington. Hundreds of local volunteers showed up with heavy equipment and chainsaws to undertake the immense task of searching for survivors.
Our community recently learned that WSDOT has preselected a handful of contractors to bid on the clearing and rebuilding of State Route 530. Those locals who first volunteered their time, equipment, and energy for the search and recovery effort were not involved in the bid. We understand from WSDOT that the volunteers who’ve proven themselves qualified to work in this harsh environment are not allowed to bid on

the contract or even subcontract to the company chosen for this project.
We owe it to the families of those still missing to involve experienced workers who have spent the last month working in the mud and debris, carefully extricating victims of the slide. We owe it to our communities to open this vital road up as soon as possible by calling on workers who have been impacted by the slide and who feel the need to open the road as strongly as any other member of the community.
We’re asking for your help to allow the people affected by this slide to participate in opening this critical artery. Exemptions and waivers were made to allow these same people and their equipment to participate in the search and recovery effort. Help us to allow these skilled and qualified locals, along with their heavy equipment, to work on clearing this road.
After learning of WSDOT’s plans, the community quickly came together and assembled a petition of more than 700 signatures requesting that the locals who’ve worked on the slide be allowed to continue working to clear SR 530.
The petition is available online at www.530slide.com.
Please help us to help our town by allowing us to help clear SR 530.

*Brian Roggenbuck
Darrington*

See **Letters**, p. 39

Letters policy

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

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Message from the mayor

By Jason Miller

I spent a good chunk of my April meeting with Skagit and Snohomish officials—including Darrington Mayor Dan Rankin—to discuss potential landslide areas within Concrete town limits and the stretch of SR 20 between our town and I-5, and what resources are available and strategies should be in place if the unthinkable happens.



We are in the process of updating our section of the countywide **Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan**, so I had that on my plate before the SR 530 slide. In the aftermath, I feel an additional sense of urgency and will set about that task with greater attention to detail. This month I plan to meet with Mark Watkinson with Skagit County Emergency Management and county geologist John Cooper, to dig in and get some specific details about the slopes in and near our town, as well as what can be done to mitigate and respond to slides.

Our planned **Fire and Life Safety Building** is proceeding, although it will be delayed by approximately 45 days because of some specific paperwork that wasn’t completed in a timely fashion. We’re still looking to build this year, but the completion date will likely slide into December, rather than late October or mid-November.

Our **wastewater treatment plant** has ongoing performance issues that I’m convinced are mostly design-related. I’m working with staff and council to address these issues with short- and long-term solutions.

I’m convinced the only way a part-time mayor can be effective is to delegate, divide, and conquer at every opportunity. So on a parallel track, I’ve worked with consultant Eric Archuletta to form an **Economic Development Task Force**, which will first and foremost work to develop an economic development plan for the town’s consideration. Eric will focus on that task while I focus on our town’s daily needs.

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

Commentary Landslide yields new strengths

By Martha Rasmussen

On March 22 at 10:37 a.m., the ground trembled for miles, and the Darrington community lost all phone, Internet, and much cell service. Many were confused as to what had happened; others learned of the mudslide thundering down to the Stillaguamish River, trapping and killing family and friends, and ran to their aid. There was no way to prepare for such a tragedy, and Darrington will never be the same. I have family that was in the third car to arrive at the still-settling wall of mud and debris across SR 530. If they had been there just a minute earlier, they would have been listed among the dead or missing.

That’s how fragile and precarious our existence beyond the slide seems to many of us, not just because of the massive destruction of the slide, but because of the effects we will feel during the coming months and years. The challenges we now face of how do we get “down below,” to work and support our families? Feeling cut off from friends and loved ones. Wondering what summer will bring during our outdoor recreation and tourist season with music festivals and rodeo. Will people drive twice the distance and be a part of our shared experience this summer?

Tough challenges are familiar to residents of Darrington and we have struggled with our declining timber industry and our declining tourism and outdoor recreation. We put in long volunteer hours working to keep public access open and dealing with constant ongoing lawsuits trying to close our access roads and erase our heritage. The tragedy of the SR 530 slide is once again pulling together local citizens who are finding a renewed strength to help cope with grief as ongoing recovery work continues to find the remaining dead.

The overwhelming support and love that flooded to Darrington during such a time of despair carried my community forward. People from across the country and locals stood side by side as we worked to bring closure and tried to move forward. A new extended family has been created through this tragedy, and we hope some will return to Darrington during happier times.

See **Rasmussen**, p. 38

Commentary Elk work group moves forward

By Val Mullen

On April 10 the WDFW held the fourth meeting of the North Cascades Elk Work Group. This group was formed to provide citizen input into the North Cascades Elk Herd Plan. Russell Link, Program Manager for the WDFW, chaired the meeting. Members of the four committees—damages committee, public safety committee, population monitoring committee, and forage enhancement committee—presented the final drafts of their work. The next step in the process is for the co-managers to consider the citizen input and come to agreement.

This was the end of the citizen process, and the April 10 meeting provided some important information.

The public safety committee reported 65 elk-vehicle collisions in the last two years between Sedro-Woolley and Concrete.

The population monitoring committee

See **Mullen**, p. 38

Commentary Veteran needs transfusion

By John Boggs

A veteran conceived in Paris, France, in 1919, went on to:

- Serve this nation with distinction through our numerous conflicts while shedding blood around the world.
- Be active in our local community and donate many dollars and hours of effort to all sorts of local causes over his tenure here.
- Be one of the primary advocates for the active forces and for those who have already served.
- Consistently provide help to fellow veterans for several generations to help them become reintegrated back into their families and civilian communities.
- Do so much over the years that people learned to take him for granted, expecting he would always

See **Boggs**, p. 6

2014 PRESENTED BY DWAYNE LANE'S North Cascade Ford Remember, We'll Take Care of You!

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Airport will get fueling station

If everything goes according to plan, Mears Field in Concrete soon will offer an amenity it’s never had before: fuel. The cement pad is poured and bollards in place to accept a 2,000-gallon, reinforced fuel tank by the end of May.

The fueling station installation is being paid for entirely by North Cascades Vintage Aircraft Museum, which is located at the airport and was frustrated with the challenges of trucking in fuel for the numerous aircraft in its inventory. The project’s price tag—upwards of \$80,000—is what stymied the town in the past, whenever the idea of fuel was raised during Town Council meetings.

“I couldn’t see a downside to it. I believe offering an airport with gas is an asset for the town,” said Concrete Town Councilmember David Pfeiffer of his thought processes during discussions of the fuel station idea. Pfeiffer, who is a pilot and lives in his hangar at the airport, said he mentally removed the benefit he stood to gain from the proposed addition while considering the museum’s offer.

The museum first explored the idea with the town more than a year ago, but health

issues within its administrative ranks and questions surrounding how the nonprofit organization could legally charge for the fuel delayed a final lease agreement between the two parties. The Town Council approved the lease in March.

Good deal

The museum will manage the fueling station upon its completion, and will sell fuel by charging visiting pilots a membership fee of \$5 per fill-up or a \$20 annual fee. All leaseholders at the airport will get a complimentary museum membership, allowing them to pay only the fuel price when they fill up.

The problem of fuel has long been seen by the town as a limiting factor for the expansion and popularity of its airport. Museum officials pressed that issue, stating their belief that fuel would bring more pilots to town, who would stay and visit local businesses, especially restaurants. During one council meeting, museum manager Jim Jenkins relayed anecdotal evidence that pointed to that conclusion.

—J. K. M.

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Puget Sound Energy’s Lower Baker Floating Surface Collector (FSC) has earned the firm that designed it, MWH Americas, Inc., a Gold Award in the category of “Future Value to the Engineering Profession” from American Council of Engineering Companies of Washington. The FSC is a second-generation collector, patterned after the first surface collector was installed at the Upper Baker Reservoir by PSE in 2008. MWH worked with PSE engineers and biologists to propose enhancements to the existing FSC design and to design the new, improved FSC and associated facilities at Lower Baker. *Submitted photo.*

Kristiansen, Scott to host telephone town hall meeting

Reps. Dan Kristiansen, R-Snohomish, and Elizabeth Scott, R-Monroe, will host a telephone town hall meeting for their constituents on Thur., May 15. The community conversation, similar to a call-in radio show, will begin at 6:30 p.m. and end at 7:30 p.m. The state lawmakers will take questions and share their thoughts on the 2014 legislative session, public policy issues, and the Oso landslide.

Constituents may join the town hall meeting by calling toll-free 800.759.5313.

Once connected, they can listen in and press * (star) on their telephone keypads to ask questions.

Questions prior to the telephone town hall meeting can be directed to Rep. Kristiansen at 360.786.7967 or dan.kristiansen@leg.wa.gov, and to Rep. Scott at 360.786.7816 or elizabeth.scott@leg.wa.gov.

For more information about Rep. Kristiansen, go to www.representativedankristiansen.com. To learn more about Rep. Scott, go to www.representativeelizabethscott.com.

Pregnancy Choices closes

It is with great sadness that Pregnancy Choices will close its office in Concrete on Thur., May 15. In 2008 we opened the office with a two- to three-year plan. It has been our joy to serve this wonderful community for six years.

Since 2011 our numbers have slowly declined, indicating that our services are not as needed as they once were. We invite our Concrete clients to redeem their credits in our Concrete Boutique by May

15.

The Concrete office will be open Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. until May 15 (360.853.7700). We will continue serving Skagit County through our Mount Vernon office at 617 West Division, Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information, please call 360.428.4777.

Mary Bron, executive director
Pregnancy Choices

www.concrete-herald.com

Concrete sophomore’s poem stands to win

May 25 will be a big day for Concrete High School sophomore Haley McNealey.

That’s the day she’ll learn whether she won an April environment-themed poetry contest sponsored by Guemes Island Environmental Trust. McNealey’s poem, “Our Duty” (published below), already is in the top three, meaning she stands to win at least \$500 for a third-place showing. First- and second-place prizes are \$1,500 and \$1,000, respectively.

McNealey said she’s written poetry before, but this is the first contest she’s entered. “I just kind of sat down and it came to me,” she said of her creative process. “I was waiting for the spark of inspiration. It hit me; I dropped what I was doing and wrote it out in fragments. I edited it three or four times before submitting.”

Contest winners will be announced during an awards presentation at the Anacortes Library on May 25.

McNealey

Our Duty

By H. R. McNealey

we seek inspiration in the emerald Forest-
a whirling kaleidoscope of harlequin, jade, celadon.
Trees reach out with sinewy arms to cradle us-
in times, of sorrow.
we find peace beneath the boundless canopy of the Skies,
and warmth in the Sun’s touch,
welcoming us Home.
we are tucked in at dusk,
beneath a blanket of winking stars.
we grow in the rich russet Soil
and draw courage from a sharp breath
of crisp clear Air.

we cherish sweet memories
of pure glittering Sand,
squished betwixt little toes.
we fondly recall the gentle crash of the Tide,
washing over smooth shells.
the melody of little voices; harmonic birdsong;
laughter as Earth’s youth caper about.
joyful in their innocence and wonder.

caustic conflagrations
Humankind’s massive mistakes
engulf virtue, serenity.
wisps of smoke shroud Nature’s beauty
entombing, dooming.
robbing posterity of comfort.
extinction of joy,
pollution of our Home;
barren wastelands and toxic smog.
Voices of unborn Generations
plead for a more hopeful Future.

It is Our Duty, to listen.

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Shared values, shared strength

PeaceHealth welcomes a new era with United General.

Now the quality health care you are accustomed to in your community is backed by the strength of a network of specialists, facilities, and caregivers that spans three states.

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In The Service



Torheim

Kimberly Torheim from Marblemount graduated from Navy boot camp in Great Lakes, Ill., on April 4.

Torheim is a 2013 graduate of WAVA HS and a 2013 Concrete High School graduate. She is now in Charleston, S.C., starting A school, which is in the nuclear program.

Torheim’s parents are Art and Tonya Torheim of Marblemount.

Meet novelist Janet Oakley

Thur., May 29, 7 to 9 p.m.

Upper Skagit Library

(see notice, p. 32)

Hair Fitness celebrates 30 years

This month, Hair Fitness near Concrete will celebrate 30 years in business! We want to thank all of our customers by offering \$5 off perms and color, and \$3 off haircuts, during May. We appreciate our customers’ support and friendship all these years. We are grateful for our continued success because of all your support. It’s been fun! Please call 853.8684 for an appointment any weekday. Thank you!

Kathy Monrad & Becki Hoover



Kimble and daughter, Kylen.
Photo by Cpl. Corey Dabney.

Corporal Daniel Kimble, 22, of Concrete, a food service specialist with 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, may already be in Darwin, Australia. With deployments to Afghanistan dwindling, the Marine Corps is shifting its attention to the Pacific.

The “Fighting Fifth” is sending approximately 1,100 Marines to Darwin. The exact date of their arrival was not publicly released, but it will be the first time California-based Marines are deploying in support of Marine Rotational Force-Darwin. This also marks the first time a full battalion will deploy to Darwin.

The move will allow the Marine Corps to be even more expedient in its responses to crises worldwide, while building relations with Australian Forces.

The purpose of the mission is twofold. The battalion will increase depth with allied Australian forces and also build greater interoperability with the Australian army.

—Cpl. Corey Dabney

Town of Concrete wins WellCity Award

Town of Concrete learned in April it met Association of Washington Cities Trust’s WellCity standards and achieved 75 percent participation in its Health Questionnaire program, earning a two percent discount on all AWC Trust medical premiums in 2015.

The achievement earns the town the WellCity Award of Excellence. That level of recognition requires a minimum of 90 points and completion of all required program items, including a minimum of 50 percent employee and spouse/partner participation in the Health Questionnaire.

The town’s achievement will be recognized at AWC’s Annual Conference in June, at its Member Expo in October, and at the Healthy Worksite Summit September 30.

2014 WellCity Award recipients also will be recognized in a special edition of AWC publications *For Your Health* and *CityVoice*.

A record 96 employers in Washington earned the WellCity Award this year. The average questionnaire completion rate among WellCities was 64 percent.

Boggs, cont. from p. 3

be there, able to carry on without their assistance.

This veteran now needs your help to continue this noble effort. As the number of combat deployments for our troops wind down, more and more young men and women veterans will return home and need his assistance.

This veteran is your local American Legion Post 132.

Today, Post 132 is on the verge of collapse and desperately needs a transfusion of new blood, new interests, and a renewed willingness to serve the community and our nation’s fellow veterans. However, the generations who were prone to belong to organizations are fading from the scene. If some of our traditions are to continue, we must encourage younger generations to take our place. Please join us at our next meeting on Tue., May 13, at 5:30 p.m.

Read Concrete Herald

The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley

THIS AND THAT

By J. K. M.

Concrete High School classes of 1950s will hold their annual potluck picnic on Sat., Aug. 16, at 1:30 p.m. at Skagit View Village near Concrete. For more information, call 360.853.8233 or 360.856.1378.

Concrete Post Office will collect food for all east county food banks on May 10. To donate, simply hang a plastic bag of nonperishable food items on or at your mailbox, and your carrier will collect it.

Beginner yoga classes are being taught in Darrington, two days a week: Mondays from 6 to 7 p.m. and Wednesdays from 10 to 11 a.m. Admission is \$5 per class. The classes are held at First Baptist Church, 1045 Montague Ave., Darrington. Some childcare is available. For more information, call 360.436.1267.

Have you heard of **Tusko**? Ninety-two years ago, on May 15, 1922, Tusko, the elephant, brought to Sedro-Woolley by the Al G. Barnes Circus, made national news when he ran amuck through town, causing considerable damage.

A short silent video of the event was made available to the Sedro-Woolley Museum after Slim Lewis, Tusko’s trainer, died. The video shows Tusko pushing a house off of its foundation and includes footage from the Woodland Park Zoo in the 1930s. Tusko died at the zoo several years later.

Some wanted to skin him so they could make an exhibit out of the hide and take the bones for another exhibit. No one knows what happened to the bones, but they cut the hide into squares and sold them.

When skinning him they found spent bullets embedded in his hide from when he was shot by the citizens of Sedro-Woolley in 1922. The museum has these spent bullets and a square of his hide.

The museum will be showing the video on May 17 at 1 p.m. and as needed. May 17 is a free day at the museum, so show up and check out Tusko!

OHANA Parent Support group has formed for parents who have children with a substance use disorder. All parents or guardians dealing with a child (youth to adult), whether dabbling in drugs/alcohol, active addiction, recovery, or have passed from their substance use are welcome. For time, location, or questions, e-mail ohana.skagit@live.com.

Council summary

Concrete Town Council met for regular meetings April 14 and 28. Following is a summary of those meetings. Complete and council-approved minutes for every council meeting are posted on the town’s Web site at www.townofconcrete.com/cminutes.php.

April 14 regular meeting

- Sgt. Chris Kading introduced new deputy Mark Sonnabend, who replaced Deputy Moore on April 3.
- Sgt. Kading reported a significant increase in calls during March. He stated good weather usually results in an increase in calls. He reported the residents that were living on Spring St. and causing dog-related, noise, and domestic issues have been evicted and are no longer living there.
- Sgt. Kading reported he has a meeting scheduled tomorrow to talk with Mr. Wilson at Eagles Nest Motel, who supervises the current manager. He stated that Wilson reports to the property owner. He stated he was told that Sunrise Services has withdrawn any interest in this property. He also stated he is hoping to find out why so many residents from Snohomish County are finding their way here to stay at the Eagles Nest.
- Mayor Jason Miller stated the town has a municipal code section that addresses the issue of dangerous dogs or animals, and he would like to add this to the current contract with the Sheriff’s Office so they may assist the town with enforcement.
- Mayor Miller also reported on research being done by town attorney David Day for a Town of Concrete Panhandling Ordinance. Day stated that it is not illegal to panhandle, but an ordinance can be written against aggressive panhandling, which would not allow panhandlers to obstruct traffic. Sgt. Kading also stated there is an option for writing no-trespass orders if a business owner requests such an item for any panhandling that is being done on their property.
- Council decided not to demolish the old fire hall for the time being, since the funding sources for the new Fire and Life Safety Building do not require it.
- The Parks Committee, now chaired by Councilmember Marla Reed, is discussing ideas and projects that it believes will bring people to town.

April 28 regular meeting

- Concrete Heritage Museum Board member John Boggs presented an idea to repaint and redesign the “For the Kids—35 mph” sign near Concrete Center, adding language to announce the presence of the museum. The museum also is researching the purchase of a large map of Concrete; Boggs asked for permission to display it in the window of the old Town Hall on Dillard Ave.
- Sgt. Kading reported on a broken window at the school, a back gate pried open at the storage units, and a reported suicide that had occurred just outside of town limits the previous week. He also stated that calls to the Eagles Nest Motel have decreased, but that he has still not been able to get in contact with “Mr. Wilson” from Everett.
- Council approved a supplement request from Hart, in the amount of \$18,844.01, for the Fire and Life Safety Building project.
- Council approved an amendment to Ordinance No. 722, stating no parking on the east or west sides of North Everett Ave. from SR 20 to E. Main St.
- Council approved Resolution No. 2014-05, declaring the Town of Concrete is pursuing a loan for water system improvements through the Public Works Trust Fund Board. The money is to be used to pay for the purchase and installation of service and production meters, as well as water line improvement projects.
- Council approved Ordinance No. 724, allowing noncommercial greenhouses on public lands. This ordinance change will allow greenhouses to be built in the Angele Cupples Community Garden.

—Compiled by J. K. M.

Keep track of your council

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

Serving our community with a focus on service.

Committed to providing personal attention and professional service to the Sedro-Woolley community since 2006, we’ve grown to know our customers by name. We work directly with your physician to make sure you get the accurate and dependable service you deserve.

When it comes to personal, professional service, Skagit Regional Clinics Pharmacy is here for you. Just as a local community pharmacy should be.

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Christopher Schaffner, PharmD and staff in Sedro-Woolley

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Hot month for Lion baseball

By Dallas Newby

The Lions had a hot month, winning 10 out of 13 games in April. Their first game of April was against rival La Conner. It was a tough battle for the entire game, with neither team giving an inch, but with some clutch base hits, the Lions were able to pull off the victory. Dylan Clark drove in three runs and Mason Swenson pitched all seven innings, striking out 10 batters as the Lions went on to win 7–2.

The Lions then headed to the east side for two games against Wilbur-Creston and St. George’s. The Lions were able to win both games, beating Wilbur 8–7 and St. George’s 17–9. Coach Newby said the trip was a great time for the kids who got to hang out with kids from the Wilbur team before the games. One of Coach Newby’s buddies coaches that team.

It was back to league play for the next game against Orcas. A shaky start for the Lions found them down 3–1 after two innings; they didn’t tie the game until the fourth inning. Orcas scored three runs in the first inning off five Lions errors. That was all for Orcas though, as they were shut out the rest of the game. Andrew Freeman drove in four runs that game and the Lions won 9–6.

Next, the Lions had a nonleague game against Cedar Park. Everyone on the Lion team got to play in this game. Mason drove in two runs, while Dallas Newby and Josh Rogge each drove in one. Despite giving up six runs in the last inning the Lions won 12–9.

The next game was a league game with Darrington. Gibson Fitcher pitched all five innings and only gave up three hits as the Lions went on to win 15–1.

The Lions then turned to Nooksack, which handed them their first loss of the month. The Pioneers scored six runs in the first inning, while the Lions scored only one run the whole game, losing 16–1.

The next game had the same result. The Lions took on Friday Harbor and gave up six runs in the first inning again. Concrete was able to score three runs, but could not stop the Wolverines and lost 13–3.

The game after this was the Lions’ most important game of the month. It was against La Conner again and a win meant a league championship for the Lions. This time though, the Braves came ready to play. The Lions once again hit well, but left eight runners on base and had the bases loaded twice and could not score. The Lions were defeated 4–1.

Concrete bounced back against Lopez. This was the first year that Lopez had a team and it showed. The Lions sent 20 batters to the plate in the first inning and scored 14 runs. Lopez did not score at all and the Lions won 15–0.

The next game was one of the Lions’ best this year. Playing Darrington, seven of the nine Lion players were able to get a hit, while Mason Swenson gave up only three hits and the Lions cruised to an 11–0 victory.

The last game of the month was a doubleheader against Shoreline. Both games were all about pitching. Gibson Fitcher struck out 14 batters in the first game and pitched all seven innings, giving up just one hit, and the Lions won 7–0. In the next game, Rogge, Newby, and Clark

all pitched and gave up no runs and no hits. The Lions got 11 hits and took the game 8–0.

Dallas Newby is a senior at Concrete High School.



Concrete senior Andy Freeman steals second during a home game against the Darrington Loggers April 11.



Concrete junior Gibson Fichter (above left) and senior Dallas Newby pitch and swing during the April 11 game against Darrington.

Sports schedules:
nw1a2athletics.com

Ups and downs in April

By Adam Woodworth, fastpitch head coach

April was a bit of a roller coaster for the Lady Lions softball team.

The Lions first traveled to La Conner. Going into the top of the 7th inning, down 3–0, the bats came alive and the Lions poured on five runs after getting two outs to take a late lead. Key hits came from Katelin Pritchard and Sidney Hockett, both with singles, a double from Iris Nevin and a triple from Chloe Stidman. The Braves came back to bat a little stunned, but managed to put up the runs they needed to take the game 6–5.

The following week the Lady Lions took the ferry to Orcas Island and battled the Vikings up to the last pitch. Again trailing by three going into the top of the 7th inning, the bats got hot again. The Lions put up eight runs in their half of the inning, going up 11–6, and held on defensively, finishing the victory 11–7 and bringing their league record to 1–0. Nevin batted in two runs with a single and two doubles, Stidman batted in three on three singles, Kelse Cargile had the game-tying hit that drove in two, and Tessa Coffell struck out four batters with only three earned runs.

Later that week the Lions squeaked out a 14–13 win behind pitching from Pritchard and a game-winning double from Hockett over Mount Vernon JV. Then the bats went silent against Darrington. The Loggers scored nine runs in their half of the 5th inning and shut out the Lions 11–0. This was a tough one to lose against a league rival, with the rest of the league schedule rapidly approaching.

The Lions put in some hard work and found their bats again in Friday Harbor—getting edged out 14–11 —and at home against La Conner in a home run derby that left the Lions short 13–4.

Through all the ups and downs, the Lady Lions continued to work hard in practice, getting closer as a team and stronger as a unit, capable of handling stressful situations. The Lions took that energy to Darrington April 25 for what would be the most stressful and nail-biting game to date. The Loggers and Lions traded runs back and forth until the Lions rallied and scored five in the 5th, putting them up 8–3. The Loggers chipped away over the next few innings and tied it in the bottom of the 7th, sending the game into extra innings. Despite having runners on 2nd and 3rd in their half, the Lions didn’t score. With Darrington up to bat and no



Freshman Tate Mathis snags a high throw to first for the out during the Lady Lions' April 11 home field match against the Darrington Lady Loggers. The Concrete team showed support for the Darrington crew in the wake of the landslide by wearing green and yellow ribbons in their hair and hanging a handmade sign in the opposing team’s dugout, with the Lady Lions’ signatures on it.

outs and the bases loaded, a fly ball lofted into left field. The catch was made and the third base runner tagged. The throw came in on time, only to hit the runner in the back, and Darrington scored the winning run, ending the game 9–8 after eight stressful innings. Singles came from Tate Mathis, Hockett, Coffell (two), and Cargile. Doubles from Hockett and Coffell and a triple from Hockett all contributed to the battle.

The last game of the month saw Orcas in Concrete as the Lions turned on the bats, tallying 17 hits and 15 runs including a grand slam, beating the Vikings 15–5 in six innings. Everyone who batted hit the ball, with singles coming from Pritchard, Mathis (two), Nevin (two), Hockett

Athletes of the Month



Athletes of the Month are Tessa Coffell and Mason Swenson

In her second season with the Lady Lions softball team, freshman Tessa Coffell has tallied three wins and 53 strikeouts so far. Coffell is primarily the team’s ace pitcher and also plays first base occasionally. “She’s a tireless worker, a tough competitor, and a joy to coach,” said Head Coach Adam Woodworth. “She puts in extra effort outside of practice to better herself and is a great student. She’s a role model for younger players and her peers alike.”

Baseball Head Coach Jim Newby refers to senior Mason Swenson as “an all-around solid player.” Swenson pitches and plays at shortstop primarily, and his stats back up his place as Athlete of the Month. So far this season, he’s batting .434 and has a 2.86 ERA. “He’s a complete baseball player,” said Newby. “He’s an outstanding pitcher and infielder. He’s been a great addition to our club.”

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



Junior Kelse Cargile gets the throw to first just in time during the April 11 home game against Darrington.

(three), Emily Bridge, Erica Knuth (two), and Cargile (two). Coffell also hit a triple and pitched lights out with a strike-out and only allowing three earned runs on seven

hits and two walks. The big bat that night came from Stidman, who batted in eight

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Skinny April schedule leads to May prep for State

By Xyomara Ramos

The Lions Track team had an unusual April, with only three meets scheduled. The team began in Mount Vernon at an April 10 league meet hosted by Mount Vernon Christian. The women’s team took third overall, and the men placed fourth. Despite the standings, a few athletes stood out. For the guys, Kevin McLaughlin took second in the 3,200 meter race, Josh Gentry took first in the long jump, and Clay Nelson took second in the long and triple jumps.

For the women, Jasmine Hopfield took first in javelin and third in the 100 meter hurdles, the women’s relay team took second in the 4x100 meter relay, Rebecca Torheim took first in the shotput and third in discus, Muriel Troka placed first in discus and second in shotput, Madeline Corn and Xyomara Ramos tied for first place in high jump, and Ramos took third in triple jump.

After this league meet, the Lions took a two-week break after two meets were cancelled.

“It put the athletes in a tough spot. There

was nothing to really aim for at practice, and it put them a little out of shape,” said Coach Ashleigh Howell. This led to the Lions having to struggle at the April 26 Mountlake Terrace Invite at Edmonds Stadium. However, the Lions took these performances and turned them around at the Skagit County meet on April 30 and May 2. The athletes came back strong and hungry for a good performance.

Against tough competition, some of the Lions rose to the occasion. Blaine Storms took fifth in the 400 meter dash, River Lee took seventh in shotput, Troka took second in discus and eighth in shotput, Ramos took third in high jump, Torheim took second in shotput and seventh in discus, and the women’s 4x100 meter relay team took sixth overall.

Looking at May, the Lions will take on the meets that will qualify them for the State competition. The team has been performing very strongly, but the coaches are constantly surprised.

As Coach Vanessa Williams stated, “The qualifying meets are my favorite time of the year. The season is like reading a book: Once you open the pages, you get captured and you try to resist the urge to look at the last pages because in the end, the athletes always peak.”

The coaches agree that one of the most surprising pages in the book is that of Gentry. He ran track his freshman year, but injured his meniscus and was barely able to compete as a thrower. However, coming back very strong and healthy in his sophomore year, he has blossomed into what may be a state competitor in the long and triple jumps, and he is pretty quick too. He is merely putting his toes in the water to what might be the start of a very successful track career.

As for the rest of the team heading into these qualifying meets, they are filled with untapped potential. Williams and Howell agree that with this potential, the athletes can go the distance, they are just really going to have to work for it and want it for themselves. The Lions will spend the next few practices preparing for the League Championship meet at Mt. Vernon High School on May 6, which will set the tone for the next few pressure-filled meets that will carry them to the state championship.

Xyomara Ramos is a senior at Concrete High School.



Scenes from the April 10 League meet hosted by Mount Vernon Christian at Mount Vernon High School include, clockwise from top, Jasmine Hopfield in the 100m hurdles, Josh Gentry in the long jump, Xyomara Ramos in the high jump, and Madeline Corn triple jumping. May will find Concrete Track athletes eyeing the State tournament in Cheney.

April in pictures



Above: Hunter Throssel, 6, from Marblemount, holds up a rare golden egg during the Concrete Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt April 19. Lions Club members hid more than 1,000 eggs; only 20 of them were golden eggs, which had quarters in them. One held a dollar coin. The event has been around “forever,” according to Lion Bill Newby, who laughed at the swarm of kids. “We put out 1,000 eggs, and they’re done in three minutes!” he said.



Above: Cub Scouts from Concrete Troop 4074 competed during the district Pinewood Derby race at Cascade Mall in Burlington April 19. In front are David Young (left) and Corbin Coggins. Back row, from left, Jeffrey Hayward, Morgan Rowe, Robert Rushing, and Mason Alexander. Photo by Rita Rowe.

Right: Debra Chapman of Concrete shows off the huge stuffed bunny and bag of goodies she won during an Easter-themed contest at Cascade Supply in Concrete. Photo by Carol Rohan.



Above: Zander Watson, 2, finds what he’s looking for during the April 19 Easter Egg Hunt hosted by Double O Ranch near Concrete.



Above: Concrete High School senior Dallas Newby displays a cutting board and chess board he created and entered into the woodworking contest at Woodfest in Sedro-Woolley this year. Both pieces are crafted from tiger maple, black walnut, and purple heart. Newby said he made the cutting board for his mother; he made the chess board “because I wanted one.” Good answer!



Above: Runners stream down Superior Ave. South during the Cement City Trail Run in Concrete April 19. The annual running/walking event is a fundraiser for the Concrete Lions Booster Club.

Softball, cont. from p. 9

runs on a double, a two-run homerun, and a grand slam.

The Lions stand a good chance to make it into the playoffs this season and are hoping to build up a head of steam as they enter the post season. The league has been very competitive this season, with surprises and upsets coming in nearly every game across the board. La Conner looks to win the league, but the two and three seats headed into playoffs are still up for grabs.

The Lions are 5–7 overall and 2–4 in league play.



Academics

Academic Achievers



Concrete K-8 School recognized its May academic standouts with awards of achievement. Back row from left: Rebeckah McClure, Ashley Mabe, Madisyn Renzelman, Dalton Newby, Jonathan Akers, Matthew Hendry-Conrad, Kassidy Smith, Leona Martinez. Front row from left: Alejandro Sanchez, Rose Mihalovits, Jonah Kuipers, Zachary McCall, Christian Joens, Genalynn Beazer, Lilly Landweer, Tanner Haj, Devon Truelove, Ashton Martin, James Murray (an April achiever). Not pictured: McKenna Kononen, Jasara Taylor-Temple, Natalie Lahr.

District looking good in recent audit

Concrete School District received a positive outcome from the Washington State Auditor’s Office (SAO) during an audit of the district in April.

The district was audited in two areas: Accountability and Federal/Financial. The SAO found no deficiencies in the district’s handling of its finances or federal awards.

In the Accountability category, the SAO examined areas that represent the highest risk of noncompliance, such as disbursements and cash receipting, and found the district’s controls were adequate and in compliance with state laws.

PTO update

Concrete PTO will host a **carnival** on Sat., May 17, from 2 to 6 p.m., throughout the halls of Concrete K-8 School. The carnival will be open to the public, students, and their families. Designed to be a fundraiser for the PTO, the carnival will include a bouncy house, karaoke, bean bag toss, photo booth, face painting, cake walk, crafts, Zumba, and more. The Skagit County Sheriff will be there, as well as our fire department. Concrete Lions Club will cook hamburgers and hot dogs, and offer beverages and popcorn. There will be a silent auction and a raffle for themed baskets created by the

students. Free admission; tickets are 50 cents each or a \$5 bundle. Volunteers and donations are still needed.

Concrete PTO is looking for **photo submissions** for the yearbook. Parents and other family members are encouraged to upload photos from events or activities involving their Concrete K-8 student at <http://lpx.me/vncu-bcga-4mae/>.

After accessing the site, click on the appropriate folder and click “add images.” If no folder exists for your pictures, add the images to the main file.

Submission of photos does not guarantee publication in the yearbook.

This month’s **PTO meeting** will be May 14 at 6 p.m.

—Sheena Daniels

YD update

Our first Monday after Spring Break was a crazy day capped off by an even crazier night with our annual Couch Derby. Paul Rider spoke on the impossible, and how all things are possible through Christ.

April 11–12 was our annual 30-Hour Famine at Baker Lake. During this event we raise money for World Vision to help feed and care for children in Third World countries, and we raise awareness in our own young people that there are needs out there that far surpass the inconveniences in our day-to-day lives.

On April 21 we had an Outdoor Game Night at Veterans Memorial Park. It was a great time, with a lot of fun games and food. We were in the park again on April 28 for our annual Jell-O wrestling tournament. This is always a very slippery and sticky evening, but has Concrete Youth Dynamics written all over it. Be sure to bring a change of clothes if you are participating in this one.

May 5 was our Spring Rave. This is always a very well attended event. If techno music, dancing, free food, and glow sticks are your thing, then this is your place.

Our first retreat is one day of rock climbing Mount Erie in Anacortes on May 10. We are only taking 10 students, and the cost is only \$10, so spots will fill fast.

Our next adventure trip is our annual Rock-n-Roll trip to Leavenworth. We will camp, hike, tour Leavenworth, and white-water raft down the Wenatchee River from May 30 to June 1. The cost is only \$80, and we have room for approximately 20 high school students.

Our third and final retreat is July 28–30, a three-day horse-packing trip in Eastern Washington. This trip also is limited to 10 students, and the cost is \$200.

Concrete Youth Dynamics has a scholarship account set up for any students who cannot afford one or all of our adventure trips. If your son or daughter would like to go on one of our retreats, please call 360.853.6815 or have them come to a Monday night meeting for more information.

Thank you for allowing me to give back to such a wonderful community. We do this for our local youth.

—Kevik Rensink

Concrete community clears new path

By Haley McNealey

A recently cleared path that begins at the pullout on State Route 20 and leads to the Skagit River at the east end of Concrete was a collaborative effort of community members and local organizations. It replaced steps that had deteriorated over time and had been removed because they were no longer safe or functional.

Susan Madsen, a restoration ecologist with Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group (SFEG), initially approached Concrete Town Council with the idea in spring 2013. The restoration plan effectively addressed two central matters:

1. Providing public access to the area (which had been limited since the removal of the steps).
2. Incorporating habitat restoration for the wildlife that call the area home.

The land where the path begins belongs to Washington State Department of Transportation, which was quick to support the proposition. Funds for the project came largely from the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account through Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. The wood chips used to create the trail were purchased from BTI Landscaping Services and the rock was purchased from Day Creek Sand and Gravel. The U.S. Forest Service helped by clearing and leveling the land that would be used for the path during the first week of March, which made it a more accomplishable task for workers. Those who made up the labor force included a crew of Washington Conservation Corps members, Whatcom County inmates, and Concrete Middle School students.

Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group (SFEG) works closely with the Concrete School District. Each year, employees from the organization make frequent appearances as guests in the science classroom for 7th and 8th grade students to add to the curriculum and instill in them the importance of protecting natural resources and wildlife, in addition to educating them about indigenous aquatic life and what role fish play in the Skagit Valley watershed. Another element that SFEG and Concrete School District integrate into the program is a service learning project the students get to participate in. Brett Gibson, former K-8 science teacher, helped with the completion of the project by welcoming



Concrete 7th grade student Michael Booker places stones to line the path from the pull-out area from SR 20 at the east end of Concrete, down to near the Skagit River shoreline. Booker and other 7th graders from Concrete K-8 School worked March 13 to complete the pathway.

SFEG members into his classroom and by encouraging his students to partake in the annual service learning project, which this time was the design of the path and the construction. The project began March 13 for the student group, who call themselves Junior Stream Stewards.

Haley McNealey is a sophomore at Concrete High School.



Mikey Filtz, 13, registers his approval of a healthful smoothie during the first Farm to School Taste Test at Concrete K-8 School April 30. Two smoothie recipes were sampled, highlighting locally grown strawberries and greens. Photo by Hannah Kononen.



Concrete 7th graders work with Washington Conservation Corps volunteers (in yellow hard hats) to define a path leading to the Skagit River near east Concrete. The wood-chip path went in March 13. The project was a collaborative effort among Concrete School District, Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group, WSDOT, Washington Conservation Corps, U.S. Forest Service, and Whatcom County inmates, who cleared and prepped the site prior to the students’ visit.



Concrete 1st grade student Noah Brandon proudly poses with his Science Fair entry, “What’s in the jar?” Brandon had every reason to be proud: His experiment, which explored the sense of smell, nabbed first place in his grade.



Concrete 4th graders Payton Dickinson (left) and Kiaunna Gardner show off their ribbons during the April 10 Science Fair at Concrete K-8 School. The two had just won 2nd place in their grade for their entry, “The icy truth of Coke & Diet Coke,” in which they attempted to determine which would freeze faster. The icy truth? Diet Coke freezes faster, because liquids that contain sugar have a lower freezing point.



Clear Lake



Clear Lake this month

Clear Lake Historical Association (CLHA) will host its Open House and Celebration of Clear Lake, known as the Clear Lake Reunion, on Sat., May 31, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the CLHA Hall, 12655 State Highway 9 (just south of the post office).

Everyone is invited to visit and learn about the history of Clear Lake. The DeBay family will be the honored family and will be available to talk about living in the area years ago. Light refreshments will be available.

For more information, call 360.856.4324.

—Sylvia Matterand

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HISTORY CORNER

The “Galloping Goose,” shown in this undated photo, was a “gas electric” rail car built in 1929 for the Northern Pacific Railroad by St. Louis/EMC. It was powered by a Winton 6-cylinder gas engine developing 300 h.p. This engine ran a G.E. 600-volt generator that in turn powered a pair of 75 h.p. electric traction motors on the car’s axles. The car had 6 windows with RPO (Railroad Post Office) and baggage section and a 20 passenger coach section. The Galloping Goose was 77 feet in length and weighed 64 tons. It was retired in September 1946. (Information provided by Dennis B. Thompson, author of *Logging Railroads in Skagit County*.) Photo courtesy of Clear Lake Historical Association.

Fundraiser for S-W downtown flower baskets and barrels

After generous donations from Loggerodeo and Janicki Industries, the effort to bring flower barrels and hanging baskets back to downtown Sedro-Woolley this year is halfway to its goal.

Chamber of Commerce officials hope that a planned fundraiser dinner will help them raise the last \$4,500 needed, for maintenance and watering.

Sedro-Woolley Eagles will host the dinner on Sat., May 10, from 5 to 8 p.m. Admission is \$15; tickets are available at the Chamber office, Simply Silver & More, Oliver Hammer, and Cascade Fabrics.



Community Calendar



MAY

- 1–11 “Spring Fling” at Northwest Garden Bling, 44574 SR 20, Grasmere, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily; info at nwgardenbling@frontier.com
- 7 Kindergarten registration for all Sedro-Woolley School District schools, Cascade Middle School, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.; see notice, p. 17
- 10 Master Gardeners’ Plant Fair, Skagit County Fairgrounds, Mt. Vernon, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.; free admission; info at 360.428.4270
- 10 Free Boot Camp class and Walking Clinic at Encore Fitness, Concrete Theatre, Concrete Town Center, 8 a.m.; info at encorefitness@concrete-theatre.com
- 10 Concrete Post Office carriers collect food for Upper Valley food banks; see notice, p. 6
- 10 Cascadia Effect event, 59001 SR 20, Marblemount, noon to 3 p.m.; \$5 donation or free admission; info at cascadiaeffect@gmail.com
- 10 Fundraiser for downtown Sedro-Woolley flower baskets and barrels, Sedro-Woolley Eagles, 5 to 8 p.m.; see notice, p. 17
- 11 Mother’s Day
- 15 Telephone Town Hall Meeting hosted by Reps. Dan Kristiansen and Elizabeth Scott, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.; call 800.759.5313 to listen in; press * (star) to ask questions
- 17 Celebrate the World!: A Multicultural Family Festival, Skagit Valley College, Mount Vernon, noon to 5 p.m.; free admission; info at anita.ordonez@skagit.edu
- 17 “Tusko” movie screens at Sedro-Woolley Museum, 1 p.m.; free admission to museum and movie that day; see notice, p. 6 and ad, p. 16
- 17 Concrete PTO Carnival, Concrete K-8 School, 2 to 6 p.m.; free admission; see notice, p. 12
- 24 Concrete Saturday Market opens for season, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; see p. 33
- 24 Friends of Upper Skagit Library Book Sale and KSVU Bake Sale at Concrete Saturday Market, Concrete Center, Concrete, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- 28 National Senior Fitness Day: Celebrate at PeaceHealth United General Med. Ctr. with a FREE day pass to the Fitness Center during the week of May 26; info at 360.856.7524
- 29 Author Janet Oakley speaks at Upper Skagit Library, 45770B Main St., Concrete, 7 to 9 p.m.; see notice, p. 32; info at 360.853.7939 or bpederson@upperskagit.lib.wa.us
- 30–31 PeaceHealth United General Med. Ctr. Fitness Facility Yard Sale, Sedro-Woolley; info at 360.856.7524
- 31 Bake Sale to benefit North Cascades Community Church of Marblemount at Concrete Saturday Market, Concrete Center, Concrete, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- 31 Clear Lake Reunion, Clear Lake Historical Assn, 12655 SR 9, Clear Lake, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; free admission; see notice, p. 14; info at 360.856.4324
- 31 Fundraiser Dinner, Music, and Silent Auction to benefit landslide survivors, Rhodes River Ranch, 22016 Entsminger Rd., Oso; e-mail donations@osocaring.com to donate to auction; info and volunteer details at info@osocaring.com

JUNE

- 6–8 Blast from the Past, Sedro-Woolley; info at www.sedro-woolley.com
- 13 Eighth grade graduation at Concrete K-8 School
- 19–22 Berry Dairy Days, Burlington; info at www.burlington-chamber.com or 360.757.0994
- 27–29 Concrete Townwide Cleanup
- 28 Dr. Jerry Franklin speaks about old growth forests and hosts a guided walk at Rockport State Park, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; info at 360.770.7677

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

Community meetings

Coffee Talk, a casual conversation about Concrete’s transformation, meets the third Fri. of each month at 8 a.m. at Perks Espresso & Deli in Grasmere Village. 360.853.8213.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Concrete School Board will hold a work session on May 27, at 6 p.m. in the high school Commons. The board will hold its regular meeting May 29 at 6 p.m. in the high school Commons. 360.853.8141.

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

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

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

Forest Park Cemetery District No. 5 meets

the second Wed. of each month at the cemetery office on Compton Lane in Concrete, at 8 a.m. 360.708.3656.

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

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

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

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

PFLAG (Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) Skagit County Chapter, meets the second Monday of each month at The Safe Haven Room, Central United Methodist Church, 1013 Polite Rd. Sedro-Woolley, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. 360.856.4676, www.pflagaskagit.org.

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

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

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

Sedro-Woolley School District Board will meet May 12 at 7 p.m. at the support services building, and May 28 at 7 p.m. at Clear Lake Elementary School. 360.855.3500 or kcargile@swsd.k12.wa.us.

Upper Skagit Library District (USLD) Board meets the third Thurs. of each month at 5 p.m. Public is welcome. Its May 15 meeting will be held at Rockport Fire Hall. 360.853.7939 or info@upperskagit.lib.wa.us.

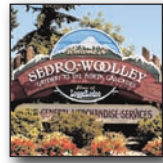
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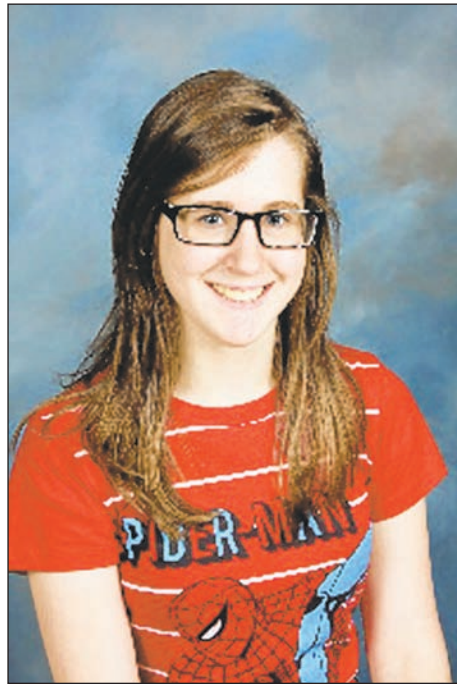
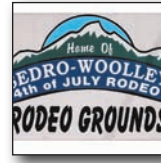


Concrete Herald

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Sedro-Woolley



Hickman, Mason earn Wash. Scholars award

Sedro-Woolley High School students Kyle Hickman and Brandi Mason have been named as Washington Scholars for the 2014–15 Washington Scholars Program.

The Washington Scholars program recognizes the academic achievement, leadership ability, and community service of 147 high school seniors throughout Washington State—three from each legislative district. Hickman and Mason

are recognized as two out of the three students from the 39th legislative district.

The Washington Scholars award represents the highest academic honor conferred to high school students graduating in the state of Washington.

Hickman's current field of study is computer science. Mason is focused on mathematics.

The award currently includes no monetary scholarship benefit.



Sedro-Woolley High School student Annabelle Frazier shows off her entry at Woodfest this year, a beautiful hard case for her bow, crafted from pine, Tennessee cedar, paduck, and purple heart. Frazier, an avid bow hunter, built the case for personal use; she was dissatisfied with her soft case. Frazier's case won the People's Choice award at the April 6 event.

SWSD announces admin. changes

Sedro-Woolley School District announced in April the following Sedro-Woolley High School administrative changes for the 2014–15 school year.

- Mike Schweigert, Sedro-Woolley High School principal, was named the Director of Curriculum and Instruction.
- Kerri Carlton has been appointed the new principal of Sedro-Woolley High School, replacing Schweigert. Carlton has been the assistant principal at SWHS since 2011.
- The district is in the beginning stages of hiring a replacement for Carlton and Assistant Principal Jeff Ingram, who recently accepted a principal position in the Mount Vernon School District.

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this newspaper



Members of the Sedro-Woolley High School Jazz Band

perform during Skagit Jazz Night 2014 in Brodniak Hall at Anacortes High School April 11. From left, Shanon Reyes, Daniella Rodriguez, Jake Elliott, and Colin Belles. Elliot also was named to the Skagit All-Star Jazz Band along with bandmate Mark Hull. Composed of musicians nominated by their respective band directors as musical and social leaders, the All-Star Jazz Band performed at the close of the event.



Briefly ...

Cascade Middle School administration and staff will host meetings designed to provide sixth grade families with the information necessary for a smooth transition to middle school. The presentations will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the CMS Cafeteria.

- May 6: Outlying schools
- May 13: In-town schools

Students will:

- Choose electives for their 7th grade schedule.
- Gather information on athletics and extracurricular activities.
- Gain insight on a smoother transition from elementary to middle school.
- Discuss concerns and have questions answered.
- Take a tour of the school.

For more information, call 360.855.3080.

Kindergarten registration for all Sedro-Woolley School District schools will be May 7 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Cascade Middle School.

Parents or guardians need to bring immunization records and birth certificates to register.

Heart to Heart Charity's **KIDS Club** will throw an end-of-the-year pizza party on Wed., May 21, at 5:30 p.m. at Coconut Kenny's in Sedro-Woolley. This is the last meeting for the school year; the club will return next fall. RSVP to Tammie at hearttoheartcharity@gmail.com.

Woolley Fiber Quilters is planning its fifth annual quilt show in downtown Sedro-Woolley, June 6–8. This year's theme is "Blast of Freedom." Annually held in conjunction with the Blast from the Past festival, area quilters display 250-plus quilts and host vendors, a bed-turning, and more.

"The show grows every year," said Judy Johnson, WFQ president. "We invite everyone in the area to enter their quilts and to help with the show. Last year we displayed 289 quilts from 110 exhibitors."

All quilters, including young quilters, are invited to pre-register their quilts with forms available at Cascade Fabrics in Sedro-Woolley. Pre-registration deadline is May 16 and quilt turn-in day is June 3.

For more information, go to www.woolleyfiberquilters.blogspot.com.

—J. K. M.

Jensen announces legislature run

Sedro-Woolley teacher and U.S. Air Force and Washington Air National Guard veteran Charles Jensen last month announced his intention to unseat first-term legislator Elizabeth Scott in the 39th Legislative District this fall.



Jensen

Jensen said the rookie lawmaker has proven to be an ineffective representative, expressing disappointment in her voting record and her response to the March 22 landslide between Oso and Darrington.

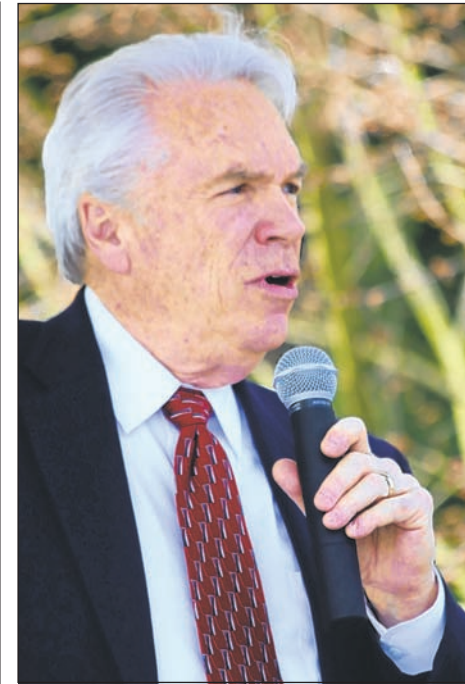
Jensen, 51, a Sedro-Woolley resident, works with at-risk youth at an alternative school on a Job Corps campus as part of the Sedro-Woolley School District. He spent three years teaching in the Concrete School District, from 1996–99.

Jensen has named his priorities for the 39th District, which include encouraging sustainable job growth, strengthening education, improving the area's transportation network, and protecting the natural beauty of the rural district.



Sedro-Woolley Farmers' Market will open its season May 21 from 3 to 7 p.m. The market is located at Ferry St. and Metcalf St. in downtown Sedro-Woolley, and will be open every Wednesday through Oct. 15 for the same hours of operation.

For more information, call 360.202.7311 or e-mail sedrowoolleyfarmersmarket@gmail.com.



Outgoing United General Hospital CEO Greg Reed

speaks during an April 1 ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the official affiliation of the hospital with PeaceHealth Medical Group. The partnership gave the facility a new name: PeaceHealth United General Medical Center. Reed will stay involved with Public Hospital District 304 in the near term, serving as Superintendent of the district until late summer 2014.

Detour planned

On May 5 the city of Sedro-Woolley began a detour of SR 20 from Ferry St. to F&S Grade Rd. During the two-and-a-half-month detour, construction crews will build a roundabout at the intersection of SR 20 and Cook Rd. (formerly Washington St.). For more information, call 360.855.0771.



Lauren Matsuo waters a flower basket at Thompson's Greenhouse, which creates the eye-catching baskets for hanging in downtown Sedro-Woolley. *Submitted photo.*

Fundraiser aims to aid downtown flower basket efforts

After generous donations from Loggerodeo and Janicki Industries, the effort to bring flower barrels and hanging baskets back to downtown Sedro-Woolley this year is halfway to its goal.

Chamber of Commerce officials hope that a planned fundraiser dinner will help them raise the last \$4,500 needed, for maintenance and watering.

Sedro-Woolley Eagles will host the dinner on Sat., May 10, from 5 to 8 p.m. Admission is \$15; tickets are available at the Chamber office, Simply Silver & More, Oliver Hammer, and Cascade Fabrics.

Nick VanJaarsveld Financial Advisor

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Lyman



Council summary

The Lyman Town Council held a regular monthly meeting on April 8. Following is a summary of that meeting. Complete minutes for every council meeting are posted in the hall by the front door of Lyman Town Hall.

April 8 regular meeting

- Mayor Deb Heinzman called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.
- Department Heads and Council/Committee Reports: Mark Kitchen reported water loss for March, which was 37 percent. He said the percentage was up because of lower usage. This was the lowest month ever as far as usage. The monthly percentage is not as important as the whole year average.
- MRSC Small Works Roster: Council directed the clerk to renew the town's placement on the Small Works Roster.

- Executive Session: Mayor Heinzman called Executive Session at 7:15 p.m. for 15 minutes. Executive Session ended at 7:31 p.m. Regular meeting back in session at 7:32 p.m.
- Citizen comments: Councilmember Rita Burke asked if there were any new projects to add because of the coming car show.

—Compiled from staff notes

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Lyman Library tales

With warmer weather arriving, we are seeing a larger number of people stopping in to pick up books and puzzles. I enjoy visiting and helping them find old friends in the books and introducing them to new ones. It's nice to be able to leave the door open and have the sun shine in too.

We have been donating books to the new lending library in Hamilton, and I believe Big Lake is looking into starting one. The lovely new mayor of Hamilton contacted me and then came to town to see how we were set up, and we discussed helping them get started. Anyone who needs books for a project like this is free to contact me at kohlerelaine4@gmail.

com and I will be glad to give you access to the duplicates and hardbacks we have available. If you use our library, it would be nice if you would let the mayor and councilmembers know you appreciate them letting us use the hall and how you feel about having the library there. A good word now and then is nice.

There are still some seed catalogs available and some gardening books too. More and more folks are making home gardens, and the books are nice for the newbies. Our area is tilled and ready for raking. We did a small area, and the onions we started as seed last year are in and looking good.

Enjoy spring ...

—Elaine Kohler

Lyman Slough Conservation Area Invasive Removal

May 16, 10 a.m. – noon

RSVP to volunteer@skagitlandtrust.org

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All other questions: Marla Reed, co-manager 360.391.2589 or marlareed79@gmail.com
Jason Miller, co-manager 360.853.8213 or goodwords@frontier.com

Free seeds available for all bed renters.
Free beds available in the Children's Garden for kids under 18 years.

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Day Creek



Community notes

Davis Slough bridge project

Flagging began May 5 at milepost 14.

By May 12 a portable traffic light will be installed to keep the road open with one-lane traffic.

The speed limit will be 25 mph and the road will be open to legal-load weight restrictions, with allowances for an 11-foot width.

The road will be closed to all traffic on June 24 and Aug. 29 all day, both days.

Save the date: Day Creek Chapel invites you to **Family Camp**, Aug. 1–3 at Mile's Camp Ground. For more information, call 360.840.5978.

Landslide update

Day Creek community members are collecting money donations and passing them to the Darrington Assembly of God Church.

To be a part of this effort, call Kathy Henderson at 360.826.3581 or mail your donation, payable to Day Creek Chapel (write "Darrington/Oso" on memo line), to:

Day Creek Chapel
31438 S. Skagit Hwy.
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284

The store is still a vision. The Day Creek Store project is still under way, although the end use might become an auto repair shop. Last month we noticed

a Big Box trailer sitting on the property; that's an encouraging sign.

Any women's ministry group that wants to be involved with **Women Hand in Hand** is encouraged to contact any one of the following:

Sylvia Miles	360.826.3067
Sharon Herring	360.661.5037
Bonnie Lintz	360.856.1385
Sue Walden	360.826.3944
Kathy Henderson	360.826.3581

Donna Pulver and Kathy Henderson, co-directors of **Kingdom Builders**, are back on the road. Along with traveling the roads of Day Creek, meeting community members, and gathering information, they will be available to the community for hospital visits and crisis calls. Kingdom Builders has been out helping those in need right here in Day Creek. For more information, call 360.826.3003, 360.826.3581, or 360.826.3822.

The **Day Creek Walkie Talkies** are up and at 'em. Every day around 7 a.m., there is a group walking the streets of Day Creek. When you see them, wave or honk—or better yet, join them. For more information, call 360.826.4375.

Day Creek Book Club meets at Cedar Springs Lodge on Barben Rd. For more information, call 360.661.0247.

Garden dirt

- The nights are getting warmer, so if weather allows, set out annuals and bedding plants, and sow seeds.
- As a general rule for planting spring seed crops, the soil temp (at seed depth) should be in the 50- to 60-degree range. For summer crops, the soil needs to be in the high 60s for a "fair germination" of the seeds.
- Now is a great time to plant a new lawn. May is a good time to plant dahlias, gladiolus, potatoes, onions, cabbage, lettuce and chard.
- Pinch three inches of new growth off your asters and chrysanthemums, to make for a bushier plant.
- Spread used coffee grounds around the blueberries. Organic fertilizer may be used on lawns, trees, shrubs, and roses. Apply compost in your flower

and vegetables beds.

- To give your geraniums a good start, give them a feeding of one teaspoon Epson salt to one gallon water.
- Soap spray kills soft-bodied insects, such as aphids, mealy bugs, white flies, and mites. Spray the plant carefully, covering the tops and bottoms of the leaves. The soap must smother the bugs. After a day or two, spray the plant with water. Repeat the process after four days, if needed.

Fish tales

Boat safety is a big deal. You can be fined for not having the proper safety gear on board.

- You must have a life jacket for each person aboard.
- A horn or a whistle.
- An up-to-date fire extinguisher.
- Current, dated flares.

The Fish and Game officers or the County Sheriff, who may stop you to check your equipment, are there for your own protection. The fun in boating and fishing is coming home safe.

A quick engine check at home, could save you lost boating time and give you a better boating experience.

Check the bilge plug before you launch.

We are looking for **ideas for the community**—fun events and fundraisers to support the fire hall and get to know the neighbors. If you have an idea, call Donna Pulver 360.826.3003 or Kathy Henderson at 360.826.3581.

—Kathy Henderson

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*Source: 2013 National Newspaper Association Survey

Landslide, cont. from p. 1

rains come, and plans are being formed to clear SR 530 and raise a portion of it out of harm’s way.

But the uncertainty of a final fix and reopening of SR 530 has many in the Darrington and Hazel communities concerned, and rightly so. While no challenge compares to those dealing with the loss of loved ones and property, the communities east of the slide are grappling with a burning question: How will their communities endure this summer and beyond?

Like the communities of the Upper Skagit Valley, businesses in Darrington, Oso, and others rely heavily on summer tourism dollars to get them through the lean winter months. One bright spot for Darrington’s economic driver, Hampton Mill, came with the announcement of \$300,000 in aid to help the mill pay the truck drivers who transport logs, lumber, chips, and sawdust to and from the mill. The money comes from two sources: \$150,000 from United Way of Snohomish County and \$150,000 from the State Dept. of Commerce.

For Darrington’s smaller businesses, however, the coming summer is a bit more murky. Loans from the Small Business Association are available, but taking on debt isn’t exactly a sunny proposition for a

small business owner who’s facing losses in 2014.

“We live for summer, and we’re going to miss it,” said Martha Rasmussen, a Darrington Area Business Association member who leads a slew of community-minded groups, including Friends for Public Use, which aids with forest road maintenance. Her husband, Nels Rasmussen, is a chiropractor in Darrington, and Martha assessed the current business climate grimly: “Absolutely nothing. We saw one person today. Most of our clientele came from down below. Local traffic has to go down below, but we also have to have the traffic come this direction. It has to be a two-way flow.

“May is when we wake up and things start happening. Consider play days at the rodeo, where people trailer in their horses. And what does the bypass road say? ‘No trailers.’ How will that affect play days? I think there’s a growing panic that we’re not going to get our revenues this summer, and those revenues are what see us through the winter,” said Rasmussen.

“Even in the good times, it’s tough,” said Darrington Mayor Dan Rankin.

Which way to recovery?

Rankin has been working with

numerous county, state, and federal contacts to plot a course toward economic recovery, “turning over stones,” as he puts it, to see where funding may be found.

“The governor and the governor’s staff have been very attentive and proactive in sharing that we’re going to come out of this OK, economically. From WSDOT all the way to different branches, such as the Commerce Dept. and the governor’s staff and elected officials, and Snohomish County officials, they’ve been phenomenal,” said Rankin.

The mayor sits on committees now that create economic projections and work toward good economic strategies moving forward. “The exciting part about this is that we have a lot of great people who have our community’s interest at heart and want to help,” said Rankin. “With funding, we might be able to realize some of our long-range goals, such as economic diversification and job training. We’ll try to create a broader economic base within our community so that our resources don’t leave every day. They’re the folks that help our community stay alive. What can we bring to our community that will preserve our quality of life, but could also bolster starting, middle, and high-wage earners right here in our hometown? That’s the hard part.”

See **Landslide**, p. 21

Rankin said one of the pieces of “low-hanging fruit” for Darrington is working with federal sources to help bolster the local timber industry. “Using those tools and maybe some financial incentives from other arenas to help with trails and recreation opportunities in the forest service and the valley floor, so that when people come to our communities, they are met with things to do.”

Rankin also is trying to develop signage and advertising that respects the community’s rural atmosphere while encouraging visitors to stop and linger. He also has dreams for a green hydro endeavor and is working with Arlington Mayor Barbara Tolbert to develop additional economic solutions downvalley.

Rankin isn’t one to put all his economic eggs in one basket, especially when it comes to tourism. “Some people want to pave the Mountain Loop Highway to encourage more recreation. But my emphasis is not on recreation. Everyone thinks that recreation is going to be their savior, but recreation generates very few living-wage jobs. No matter how hard we try to get people there to see the eagles, to cross-country ski, it’s tough to get them,” he said.

Landslide, cont. from p. 20

“A surreal experience”

Words fail most people who are allowed to visit the site. How do you describe an absolute moonscape of land that’s been scrubbed clean of everything, even itself? People say you cannot truly understand the scale of the slide until you’re standing in front of it.

On April 30, five weeks after the slide, Rankin shows his access paperwork to a guard and steers his truck toward the eastern edge of the disaster. Logs and root balls come into view, scattered haphazardly in the brown dirt and gray mud, or clustered in some areas where deep water pooled. Steelhead Drive is unrecognizable. Rankin waves his hand over the scene. “This was all underwater,” he says.

U.S. Army Corp of Engineers workers established a berm, then pumped the water away from the road. Root balls lie bucked off the road. Most of the remnants of residents’ lives have been removed, but there are still shredded cars, some of which look like they were in a really bad crash. Some are unrecognizable. There are children’s toys and unrecognizable twists of metal. A hand truck. A basketball. A gas can.

Rankin gestures toward the new base of Hazel Hill. “The timber you see in

See **Landslide**, p. 24

that mid-band, everything went out from underneath that. There’s a hole [in front of the new slope] that’s about 300 feet deep, before it rises up to the new crest of the hill.”

The slide seems to stretch as far as the eye can see. By the time it hit SR 530, it was a mile wide. Somewhere out in the scarred landscape, the Stillaguamish River flows, but not properly; there’s still too much mud and debris in the way. It ponds where it once rushed in rapids.

Rankin points out where houses once lay between the river and Hazel Hill. They are no longer there.

He gestures up the steep slope of a 60-foot-tall hill along the southern edge of the roadway. “There’s a Volkswagen bus up there that was hurled up the hill and into the forest. A lot of the initial destruction was caused by the wind ahead of the slide. And then the wall of mud moving at 60 mph. Amazingly, the slide turned as it approached 530. It actually flowed in two directions eventually.”

Rankin stands quietly. The only sound is a pounding rig up on the hill, drilling cores to see where the road needs to go.

“At one point, I stood where the river should have been. I should have been



Above: Washington Conservation Corps volunteers pick their way through slimy mud and debris during April operations at the SR 530 slide site. Depending on weather, the mud was compared to quicksand or concrete. *Submitted photo.*





Hamilton



Council summary

- The Hamilton Town Council held a regular meeting March 11. Following is a summary of that meeting.*
- Mayor Joan Cromley announced the town has an empty seat for council and that it has received one letter of interest. Mayor Cromley said she is concerned about a quorum of the council being on the fire department; it could open the town to violations of the Open Public Meetings Act. Legal review of firefighters being on council was requested. Mayor Cromley will contact MRSC. Council Bates motioned to postpone the open council position to the next council meeting; motion carried.
 - Council voted to accept Resolution 03-14, joining Public Employee Retirement System.
 - The town’s Water System Emergency Response Plan update needed only to have changes made to council member names and the mayor’s name.
 - Mayor Cromley updated on the Volcano Crises Awareness class she attended.
 - Cas Hancock did not attend. Mayor Cromley said the water loss was down to nine percent.
 - Councilmember Bates announced he had attended an Emergency Vehicle class.
 - Street Dept.:* Mayor Cromley announced all the street signs have been tested. She is working on two grants from RMSA, one for old signs and one for new signs. Tom Selin brought up the situation regarding the fencing that needs to go around the culverts to keep the beavers away. Mayor Cromley stated the fire siren is still in process.
- compiled from staff notes

Notes from the mayor

By Joan Cromley

Town of Hamilton thanks everyone who helped with the Hamilton Volunteer Fire Department Egg Hunt. A huge thanks goes to Jen Bates and Pam Ford for stuffing all those eggs! Mike Ford and Scott Bates handled the crowd control. The kids also had fun with a hand-painted photo stand, piñatas, prizes, and snacks. They could take home strawberry plants donated by Tim Morrison, and their choice of books, courtesy of Susan West-Mani and the Hamilton Library.

This event is totally funded by donations, and we appreciate everyone’s generosity of both money and time.

The Hamilton Library has been expanding! Book donations have started coming in and are being sorted. This is an honor system library—no paperwork involved—so if you live in the area, please stop by. The library is open 9–11 a.m., Monday through Friday. We could use another bookcase or two, and let’s keep those book donations coming!



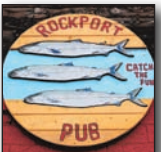
And they’re off! Children of all ages sprint for eggs during the annual Hamilton Volunteer Fire Dept. Easter Egg Hunt in Hamilton April 13. Photo by Pam Ford.



Kids swarm and scramble for candy after a piñata splits apart during the April 13 Easter Egg Hunt and celebration in Hamilton Park, sponsored by Hamilton Volunteer Fire Department. Photo by Joan Cromley.



Rockport



PIONEERING TODAY Asparagus

By Melissa K. Norris

Spring is a beautiful thing, especially to those who grow their own food. It’s a time of new plants, fresh garden beds, and the harvest of early spring yummys. One of our favorite spring crops is asparagus, though rhubarb runs a quick second.

Even if you don’t grow your own food, buying local, in-season crops can be a great way to get fantastic deals on fresh food. Or you could hit up a neighbor who has a good asparagus bed and do some old fashioned begging—or bartering might be better.

I usually always buy organic when purchasing food I haven’t grown myself, but asparagus is one vegetable I don’t worry about purchasing organic. Only 3.3 percent of asparagus tested shows pesticides, which is very low, so I buy whichever asparagus looks fresher and is a better price.

We eat our asparagus a variety of ways. You can tell it’s fresh if it snaps easily; if it’s rubbery, then it’s likely been picked a while ago.

For preserving, I prefer pickled asparagus. (You can find the tutorial under the recipe tab at www.melissaknorris.com) We eat it all year long and plan to put up at least 20 quarts, if not more.

Another way is to toss it with olive oil and a little bit of garlic salt, and grill it. I’ve seen some beautiful pictures of asparagus wrapped in bacon and baked, though we haven’t tried it yet.

When the weather is too nasty for grilling, this is how we prefer to prepare our asparagus.

Roasted asparagus
1 bunch of rinsed asparagus
2 tablespoons butter (organic, grass-fed if possible)
Lemon pepper

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Place rinsed asparagus in a baking dish. Dot it with butter and sprinkle with lemon pepper. Cover with either a glass dish or tin foil. Bake for 20 minutes or until asparagus is fully cooked.

Find Melissa K. Norris online at www.melissaknorris.com.

Major work at SR 20 shoreline finishes ahead of schedule

ROCKPORT — WSDOT announced May 1 that State Route 20 was back on its original course east of Rockport after completion of a project to keep the Skagit River in its current channel.

A contractor crew for WSDOT finished installing engineered logjams along the north bank of the river four months early. The logjams are designed to eliminate erosion close to the highway.

Three times during the past decade, the river eroded the roadway embankment, threatening SR 20. Installing large rocks as an emergency measure proved to be only a temporary fix, as the Skagit continued eroding farther upstream and downstream of the repairs. A more permanent fix was needed.

Since winter, contractor crews from Trimaxx Construction have installed five engineered logjams and four protective log-based barriers on approximately 1,000 feet of the Skagit River’s north bank a few miles east of Rockport. The logjams and barriers are held in place by large concrete blocks called dolosse (plural, pronounced “doh-LOH-suh”), which resemble jacks from the children’s game. But these jacks are about eight feet on a side and weigh eight tons each, large enough to keep the logs in place.

The logjams are designed to deflect the river flow away from the shoreline, stopping erosion in that area. The barriers are designed to protect the highway embankment from erosion in areas between the logjams. They also provide habitat for young salmon to grow before heading out to sea.

The original project schedule included a break from May to July to avoid delays for drivers on SR 20 during most of the North Cascades Highway summer travel season and heightened river levels during

the spring snow melt. The break also was designed to preserve fish passage during a vulnerable salmon spawning period. Because the contractor finished early, crews from Trimaxx will not need to return to finish the project in August.

The early completion also means SR 20 returns to its normal route ahead of the opening of the North Cascades Highway. During construction, the highway was detoured onto a 1,900-foot temporary bypass and the speed limit was reduced from 50 to 30 mph.

Until mid-May, drivers may experience reduced speeds and single-lane closures near the work zone, as contractor crews remove the bypass pavement. This fall, drivers may again experience flagger-controlled single-lane closures while crews do landscaping along the riverbank.

The total project cost is \$10.2 million.

For more information, go to www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/sr20/skagitriverrestoration.

—Submitted by WSDOT

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THINK AGAIN

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- 17.5% Friends & Relatives
- 5.5% Radio
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- 4% Don’t specify

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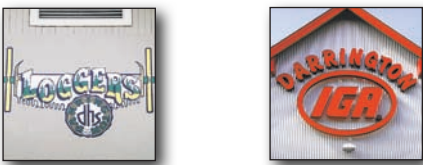
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Darrington



President Barack Obama visited the slide site April 22 and met with victims' family members. The photo above shows him during his final stop, the Oso Fire Hall, where he spoke to some of the first responders and rescue workers who were involved in the disaster. Darrington Mayor Dan Rankin stands to Obama's immediate right. *Submitted photo.*

Landslide, cont. from p. 21

standing in the middle of the river, but my boots were dry. It was a surreal experience," he said.

"The miracle is the folks who survived."

Getting back the road

State Route 530 has to be completely reconstructed. Since debris still covers much of the roadway, the full extent of the damage is still unknown, although volunteers in the area reported broken chunks of roadway in places.

Rankin said WSDOT officials have told him they'll likely have to elevate the road close to 15 feet for about a two-mile section, then rebuild the road on top. They hope the increased elevation will keep the highway above the Stillaguamish during rainy seasons.

"During our initial meetings, WSDOT said 'fall.' More recently, they said, 'October.' Right now they're trying to figure out a reconstruction configuration that allows one lane of SR 530 to be open while they are working on the other half. But there are a lot of unknowns with that, whether it's even possible."

Volunteers were crucial

On the dashboard of Rankin's truck is a handwritten note he found tucked under his windshield wiper during the days immediately following the slide. It says, "Thank you, Mayor Rankin."

—J. K. M.

The Future of SR 530

By Jentry L. Wright

More than a month has passed since the deadly and destructive SR 530 landslide occurred. The highway is still blocked by debris from Whitman Road at milepost 36 to 310th Street NE at milepost 39. The future of a new permanent SR 530 is still to be determined.

Since the March 22 slide, Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) maintenance crews have been assisting with Snohomish County search and recovery operations to clear up debris from search areas and clear portions of the highway for better emergency access.

It is estimated that up to 100,000 cubic yards of debris material cover the highway. WSDOT spokesman Bart Treece offered a comparison, saying, "100,000 cubic yards is 10 times the amount of concrete used to build Century Link Field."

It could take up to three months to clear the material from the highway and its adjacent right-of-way. Once the clearing of the highway is completed, the extent of damage done to the roadway can be accurately assessed and WSDOT will award a reconstruction contract.

Local responders have reported finding pieces of the roadway in the debris field. Treece stated that WSDOT anticipates having one lane of SR 530 open for alternating traffic by fall, but the future of a permanent SR 530 is still undetermined.

Since the geography of the valley has changed from the landslide, WSDOT engineers must carefully evaluate all possibilities for a new, permanent SR 530. Darrington Mayor Dan Rankin told *Concrete Herald* that it was likely

WSDOT would raise a two-mile stretch of SR 530 by approximately 15 feet and install a new roadbed on top of that. The added elevation will help to keep the road out of harm's way when the Stillaguamish River rises during winter months.

A temporary bypass access route via a Seattle City Light maintenance road was opened at 12:01 a.m. on April 29. This route is open for local access only, including Darrington-area residents, those who work in Darrington, and emergency crews. Nonresidents are urged to support WSDOT and Darrington area residents by not using the temporary route and to use the primary detour route via SR 20.

Public contractor Granite Construction was hired to maintain and operate the temporary bypass road and to provide pilot cars to guide drivers along the route. Westbound traffic will be escorted through at the top of every hour; eastbound traffic every half hour. The route is a primitive one-lane road and is open 24/7. The speed limit is 10 mph. No trailers or vehicles over 15,000 pounds are allowed. Drivers also are not allowed to stop or pull over while on the route. Logging trucks are allowed on the road from 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Washington State Patrol and a private security staff will assist with vehicle escorts on the route.

The Mountain Loop Highway also was opened early on March 26 to drive to Darrington via Granite Falls.

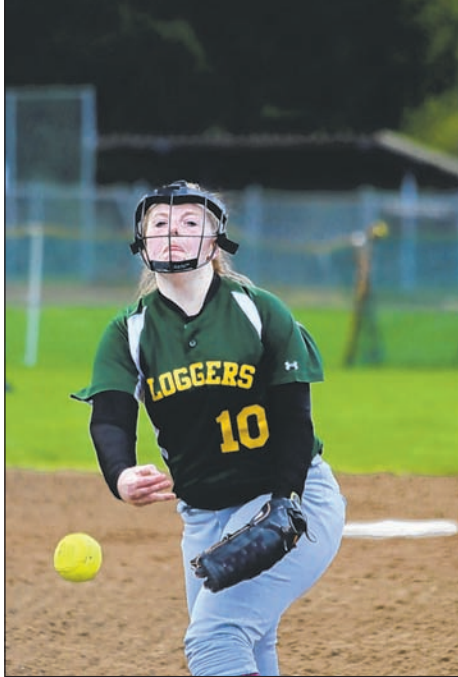
Community Transit has created an emergency bus route to serve Darrington. Go to the Community Transit Web site for up-to-date information at www.communitytransit.org/darrington.

For updated information regarding SR 530, subscribe to the SR 530 e-mail update on the WSDOT Web site: <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WADOT/subscriber/new?>

**Darrington area merchants
are open for business.
Please support them!**



Darrington junior pitcher Andrew Young races to block sliding Lion Mason Swenson—and succeeds—during the Loggers' April 11 away game at Concrete.



Kassie Jones pitches against a Concrete Lady Lion opponent during an April 11 away game.

Summer Bryson squeaks by two Lady Lion opponents to score a run during the April 11 game against Concrete.

May at the Darrington Library

Children's programs

- Ready Readers Preschool Storytime, Thursdays, May 8, 15, 22, 29; 9:30 a.m.; caregiver required.
- Baby & Me Storytime, Thursdays, May 8, 15, 22, 29; 9:30 a.m.; caregiver required.

All ages programs

- Spring Community Band, Mondays, May 12, 19; 6 to 8 p.m.; pre-registration required.

Adult programs

- Bibliophiles: *The Known World*, by Edward P. Jones, Wed., May 7, 6:30 p.m.
- Beginning Guitar for Adults,

- Wednesdays, May 7, 14, 21; 12:30 p.m.; pre-registration required.
- Intermediate Guitar for Adults, Wednesdays, May 7, 14, 21, 28; 1 p.m. (2 p.m. on May 28); pre-registration required.
- Basic Computer Skills Classes, Thursdays, 1 p.m.; pre-registration required.
- May 15: Cursor, mouse, and keyboard.
- May 22: Internet for beginners.
- May 29: Beginning e-mail

The library will be closed Mon., May 26, in observance of Memorial Day. For more information, go to www.sno-isle.org?ID=1194 or call 360.436.1600.

—Bryan Stratton, branch manager



Connie McCloud from Lake Tye reads her poem, "Ode to Oso" at a poetry reading event at 5b's Bakery in Concrete during Concrete Earth Week April 26. Here is the poem:

Trees, ferns, trilliums,
newborn nettles
will not feel summer's sun.
Mother Earth has spoken
and we survive not knowing
the reason.
She gives the ribbon of
river a new path.

Sunshine will come, new birth
will burgeon with promise
of another cycle ...
even as raindrop shadow
the tears of our
brokenness.



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Marblemount



Community Hall will hop in May, June

The Marblemount Community Hall will host a variety of events this month and next.

On Sat., May 3, folks shed their wintertime blues as the 4th annual “Blast Open the Pass” dance went into full swing. Two great local bands, Jumbled Pie and Bare Feet, provided the toe-tapping tunes, following a barbecue burger dinner with all the fixin’s. This dinner and dance, an annual benefit for KSVU 90.1 FM, has become a welcome tradition at the hall and a great start to the season.

Tuesday, May 13, will find the hall hosting its annual Open House/Dessert Potluck at 6 p.m., with the general meeting and elections following at 7 p.m.

On Sat., June 7, the hall will be the site of our Red Cross Disaster Training session. For more information, call Shana Weiderman at 360.873.4074.

Sunday, June 8, will find local vendors and shoppers enjoying the Marblemount Community Market’s season opening! From noon to 4 p.m., offerings such as a bake sale, organic produce, garden starts, nursery stock, handmade jewelry, mountain and wildflower photography, Salish cedar carvings, herbal salves, cut flowers, goatmilk soaps, felted hats, handspun wool yarns, tanned sheepskins, and various handmade novelties should entice and beckon all who come by. Live local music too!

The Market will be held the second Sunday of each summer month, outside, on the grounds surrounding the Community Hall, rain or shine.

For more information or to download a vendor application, go to www.marblemountcommunityhall.org/events. Please note that vendor applications must be received and approved at least one week before each market date.

—Christie Fairchild



Linda Jordan of Jumbled Pie sings during the May 3 Blast Open the Past KSVU fundraiser party at Marblemount Community Hall. Jordan was joined on stage by fellow band members Andris Vezis, John Boyd, Rich Cross, Debo North, and Rob Coffey.



Wyatt Throssel, 3, of Marblemount didn’t let a little rain dampen his enthusiasm during the Marblemount Egg Hunt & Seed Swap event at Marblemount Community Hall April 19.



Jim Hunter patches steps at Marblemount Community Hall during an April 5 spring cleaning work party. After the patches set, a handrail will be set in place and holes will be drilled in the patches for new anchor bolts. More than a dozen people showed up for work that day, which saw a variety of tasks handled inside and outside the building, including lawn mowing, edging, cleaning the message board, weeding the playground gravel, cleaning out the storage shed, and washing the hall windows. *Photo by Pat Buller.*



A variety of seed packets from Albert’s Red Apple Market in Concrete littered one of the tables at the Seed Swap event in Marblemount April 19.

Continue the cycle

Please recycle this newspaper



Newhalem



WSDOT crews continue to clear SR 20 for a planned mid-May opening of the pass. The above left photo shows clearing operations on the east side, after an avalanche came down Cutthroat Ridge on April 28. *Photo courtesy of WSDOT.* The above right photo shows Newhalem-based WSDOT employee Bob Hopfield’s loader-mounted Kodiak Northwest snowblower in place on the west side, near Porcupine Creek. *Photo by Bob Hopfield.*



Seattle City Light will receive an Outstanding Achievement in Historic Preservation Award for its renovation of Ross Lodge, shown in the before-and-after photos above. The awards ceremony is slated for May 13. Built in 1938, Ross Lodge was a one-and-a-half-story building to house single men, who shared common eating and lounging areas. It had been abandoned for more than 20 years, and now serves as a meeting and conference facility. The building is located in the company town of Diablo. Other recent preservation efforts by the utility include rehabilitation of the Gorge Inn, the anchor building on old Main Street in Newhalem, part of the Skagit National Register Historic District. *Photos courtesy of Seattle City Light.*



Seniors



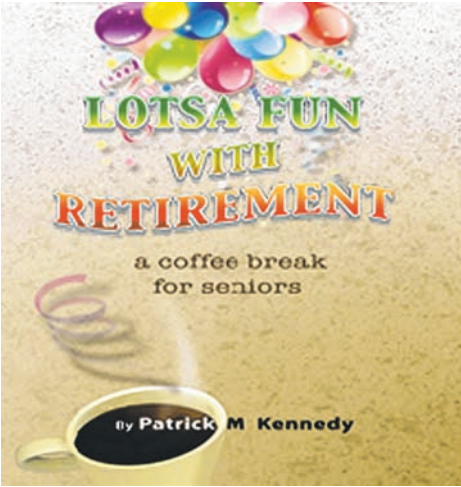
Coffee Break

Did you hear that ...?

By Patrick Kennedy

... sandy beaches with the sun shining almost every day on your deck on the small abode, reflecting on an incoming tide, and warming your skin in a gentle way. An 18-hole golf course just a walk away with a 19th hole that looks over that same sandy beach and a crowd of buddies to play with. A friendly, fashionable, gallery-filled little town just a short walk or drive away—that’s the best place to spend your retirement.

... a small mountain log cabin located in green trees and flowering bushes near a rippling river, with birds flying and singing in the air. A ski lodge nearby with all the paraphernalia needed to have a frolicking day on the boards, on the hills, and a lodge to warm up in while sipping some hot coffee or your favorite beverage. A map of hiking trails that lead to the tops of hills and mountains with their unlimited views and the possibility of spotting wild animals—that’s the best place to spend your retirement.



... a house in a faraway land, such as Mexico or one of the Caribbean islands, with all the amenities of a comfortable home with TV, modern appliances, and sports equipment. Your boat docked at a nearby wharf on the lake or ocean. A motor bike or scooter in the garage so you can ride in the sun and explore the area—that’s the best place to retire.

... a home in the city, where you can live and play, with all the dues paid at the local clubs and golf courses and plans for weekly card games and knitting parties. You have everything you’ve bought and stored and want to keep and admire for days to come. Friends and relatives are within walking and driving distance when you want to throw a barbeque in the backyard or a poker game in the recreation room—that’s the best place to retire.

“The trouble with retirement is that you never get a day off,” said Coach Abe Lemons. And the best plan is to select the location where you want to spend that day off. The easiest way to make it work is to start early before that last punch-the-clock day. Many seniors make it a last-minute decision, but that isn’t a negative because now you have the time to consider them all, and maybe visit a few to help in making that decision.

“I have retired, but if there’s anything that would kill me it is to wake up in the morning not knowing what to do,” said Nelson Mandela.

Find a place with things to do.

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

Way Back When

80 years ago

May 24, 1934: While at work digging a well at his farm near Rockport, Monroe Mason narrowly escaped serious injury Monday when the rope on a hoist that they were using to remove the dirt from the hole broke as a container filled with more than 50 pounds of wet sand was being lifted from the hole. Mason was in the bottom of the well and was struck on the head and shoulder as the load fell.

He was taken to Concrete, where he was treated by Dr. A. C. McPhaden, who found that the wounds were not of a serious nature.

70 years ago

May 11, 1944: Fire completely destroyed the Marblemount Shingle Co. Mill at the head of the Skagit River last Thursday. A high wind had been blowing, and it is thought that a spark ignited some sawdust; before it was discovered, it had gained such headway it was impossible to put out.

The fire then jumped the road and started a blaze in the Archibald slashing. Before it could be quelled, that fire had burned more than a territory of three miles. Rangers and logging crews battled the blaze over the weekend and succeeded in putting it out.

60 years ago

May 13, 1954: Glen Hooper of Marblemount broke in a brand-new

See **Way Back**, p. 29

Concrete Center May 2014 Activities

Mon. - Fri., 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Lunch served Tue. - Fri., noon

Mondays

10 a.m. Jigsaw puzzles
Noon Coffee Bar
Noon Birthday party, 5/19
12:30 p.m. Skip Bo, Cribbage

Tuesdays

10 a.m. Jigsaw puzzles
10:30 a.m. Tai Chi
Noon Lunch
12:30 p.m. Skip Bo, Cribbage
12:30 p.m. Leap of Faith, 5/27

Wednesdays

10 a.m. Jigsaw puzzles
10:30 a.m. Advisory Board mtg., 5/14
Noon Lunch
12:30 p.m. Skip Bo, Cribbage
12:30 p.m. White elephant bingo, 5/14, 28

Thursdays

10 a.m. Jigsaw puzzles
Noon Lunch
12:30 p.m. Skip Bo, Cribbage
12:30 p.m. Pinochle, 5/1, 15, 29

Fridays

10 a.m. Jigsaw puzzles,
Watercolors
Noon Lunch
12:30 p.m. Dominoes, Skip Bo,
Cribbage

Special Events

5/31 Senior fundraiser
breakfast, sausage &
biscuits, 8-11 a.m.

Furlough/Holiday Closure

Mon., 5/26

Way Back, cont. from p. 28

car the wrong way Saturday night, when he came down Sauk Hill and rounded one of the sharp curves to find a horse standing in the middle of the road. Hooper slammed on his brakes and skidded a few feet before knocking the horse off the highway into the deep ravine at the left, then ground to a stop just inches before going into the ravine himself.

The horse belonged to Walt Murray and had broken away from its tether at the Murray home on the old river road. Because of darkness, they were unable to get the horse out until morning. It was found to be badly cut and bruised, but is recovering.

Hooper’s new car is going to

need more than a call from the veterinarian before it is in perfect shape again.

50 years ago

May 28, 1964: Work on the new United General Hospital, which will serve this area under the hospital district, is now moving along well toward completion. Recently the board was informed that the contractors were running ahead of schedule and that the date of March 1965 for completion may be moved up.

Brick work is now almost finished, and windows and interior fixtures are being installed. The boilers and most plumbing and wiring have been installed.

—Compiled from archives

40 years ago: Robert Blankenship assumed town marshal duties in Concrete during the week of May 13, 1974. The change was announced by then-Mayor Robert Sjoboen and filled the vacancy created by the resignation of Robert Maxwell. Marshal Blankenship was a graduate of the Missouri Highway Patrol Academy and studied law enforcement at Central Missouri State College. He served as police chief in Scott City, Missouri, for two-and-a-half years and was a member of the Missouri Police Chiefs’ Juvenile Association before moving to Washington and Sedro-Woolley, where he had been working as an ambulance driver and orderly at United General Hospital. *Archive photo.*



30 years ago: Students in Janet Matthews’ first-grade class at Concrete Elementary School, after studying ecology and pollution, collected aluminum cans and raised \$12 to buy a tree for the school. The cutleaf weeping birch tree, nicknamed Fred, was planted in proper ceremonies (with the honorary gold shovel used only for groundbreaking and other important school functions) on Fri., April 27, 1984, with students from other classes observing the ritual. *Archive photo by Anne Bussiere.*

Obituaries

Judith (Judie) Arletta Fisher, 74, of Lynden, Washington, passed away on Sat., April 26, 2014.

She was born in Seattle on April 14, 1940, to the late Frank and Betty Teeter. Judith attended Franklin High School in Seattle. Judith was a longtime resident of Concrete and will be remembered for her generosity and kindness to everyone she knew. She spent many years helping others and volunteering at the local food bank.

She is survived by her husband Haskell Fisher of Lynden (formerly of Concrete); brother David Teeter of Spokane, Washington; sons Daniel (Caroline) VanWinkle of Renton, Washington; and Bryan (Rae) VanWinkle of Maple Falls, Washington; daughters Lynne (Rick) Heeringa of Lynden and Angela Lowry of Concrete; as well as one niece and nephew, 10 grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

At Judith's request, no memorial service will be held. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Concrete Food Bank.



Obituaries published in Concrete Herald

from May 2009 to present are posted online at:

www.concrete-herald.com/obituaries

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

Sunday School lesson

The inner circle

By Rob Thomas

Have you ever read the Gospels and found yourself puzzled about something Jesus did? You catch yourself asking, “Why did Jesus do that?”

Recently I found myself in that position as I was continuing a verse-by-verse study in the Gospel of Luke. What puzzled me was that Jesus did not do this just once or twice, but three times.

In Luke 8:51 (context is Luke 8:49–56), Jesus separates Peter, James, and John from the other disciples, and these three have the privilege of witnessing a 12-year-old girl being raised from the dead. Wouldn’t you think that the other nine disciples would benefit from seeing such a miracle? But as I said, this wasn’t the only time these three would benefit from being part of the inner circle.

Just one chapter later (Luke 9:28–36), Jesus separates those same three disciples for what we have come to understand as “The Transfiguration.” It is at that moment when Jesus is transfigured (transformed/changed) into a glorious figure. Finally, in the Garden of Gethsemane (Mark 14:32–42), Jesus invites the same three disciples to experience His personal anguish in preparation for His betrayal, arrest, and eventual crucifixion.

Since we are never told the reasoning that motivated Jesus to choose Peter, James, and John to be His inner circle, I will not speculate. God the Father, by

means of the Holy Spirit, simply has not chosen to reveal such truth to us. Quite honestly, it remains yet another on a long list of questions I would love to have answered if given the opportunity.

I have chosen to view these three events from a different perspective that I hope prompts thought and reflection for you in the midst of your spiritual journey.

Let me ask you simple questions. First, would you want to be a part of the inner circle of Jesus? Why or why not? Second, if Jesus was choosing an inner circle today, do you think He would choose you? Why or why not?

This is the type of interaction with the Scriptures that helps us further personalize and apply the Bible to our lives today. These are the types of questions that should spur thought and reflection—and hopefully growth—in our spiritual journey. So, while the decision of Jesus may not be revealed, I believe the desire of our hearts can be revealed.

Rob Thomas is pastor of Community Bible Church in Concrete.

Worth repeating

“What is worse than doing evil, is being evil. To lie is wrong, but what is worse than the lie is the liar, for the liar contaminates everything he says, because everything he says is meant to further a cause that is false. The liar as liar has endorsed a world of falsehood and deception, and to focus only on the truth or falsity of his particular statements is to miss the danger of

being caught up in his twisted world. This is why it is worse for a liar to tell the truth than for a lover of truth to lie.”

“We shall be judged according to our works—this is why we are exhorted to do good works. The Bible assuredly knows nothing of those qualms about good works, by which we only try to excuse ourselves and justify our evil works. The Bible never draws the antithesis between faith and good works so sharply as to maintain that good works undermine faith. No, it is evil works rather than good works which hinder and destroy faith. Grace and active obedience are complementary. There is no faith without good works, and no good works apart from faith.”

“But God does not neglect his lost creature. He plans to re-create his image in man, to recover his first delight in his handiwork. He is seeking in it his own image so that he may love it. But there is only one way to achieve this purpose and that is for God, out of sheer mercy, to assume the image and form of fallen man. But this restoration of the divine image concerns not just a part, but the whole image of divine nature. It is not enough for man to simply recover right ideas about God, or to obey his will in the isolated actions of his life. No, man must be re-fashioned as a living whole in the image of God. His whole form, body, soul, and spirit, must once more bear that image on earth. Such is God’s purpose and destiny for man. His good pleasure can rest only on his perfected image.”

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Skagit County Sheriff's Office Blotter

March 24

A Lyman caller wanted to report her brother violating a protection order. She claims that a gal from Concrete is riding the bus to his house in violation of an order. Deputies have looked into the allegation and it appears unfounded.

March 27

A person house-sitting in Lyman discovered an unsecured door. A deputy responded to check things out. Nothing appeared missing; once the homeowner arrives home, things will be double-checked.

Since the tragic mudslide in Oso, traffic has been diverted north on SR 530

Level 3 Sex Offender NOTIFICATION

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

Self, Ricky Leonard
Age: 53
Race: W Sex: M
Height: 5’ 10”
Weight: 180
Hair: Brown
Eyes: Brown
Address: 341xx Hamilton Cemetery Rd., Sedro-Woolley



A Level 3 sex offender, Self was convicted of two counts of third-degree rape of a child in Skagit County in 2007. His victims were a 9-year-old daughter of his girlfriend and her 11- to 13-year-old sister. Self also was convicted of second-degree attempted child molestation in Skagit County in 1994; his victim was the 13-year-old daughter of a friend.

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

Source: Skagit County Sheriff

passing through Rockport. A Rockport caller was concerned about the increased traffic crossing the bridge over the river. A deputy spoke to a Skagit County road engineer, who assured him the bridge will easily accommodate the extra traffic.

March 28

Deputies continue to respond to issues at Eagles Nest Motel on SR 20 in Concrete. On this day it was a noise issue; earlier it was domestic violence. There is speculation drugs may be present. The Concrete Sergeant is looking into why there has been such an increase in calls for that location.

March 29

A series of stop signs were run over in Hamilton. Bar patrons identified the suspect. A deputy investigated the incident and discovered several witnesses knew the suspect. He was later arrested at his residence for three counts of hit and run.

March 30

A deputy responded to United General Hospital to speak with a dog bite victim. The female had been bitten by a 5-year-old shepherd-heeler mix while in Concrete. That person received nonlife-threatening injuries. The SCSO animal control officer is following up on the investigation.

March 31

A caller from the area of Shangri-La Dr. in Hamilton reported a prowler. The caller said the prowler had occurred about 10 hours earlier, at 1:30 a.m. He heard his door handle rattle, then the sliding door was tried by the unknown prowler. A deputy checked, but didn’t find the prowler anywhere in the area; granted, it had occurred 10 hours earlier.

Please call 911 as soon you need a response. There are deputies working all night, and they enjoy catching prowlers.

April 2

A fugitive was arrested in Rockport. He was wanted on several felony warrants from Skagit and Snohomish counties. He’d recently assaulted his girlfriend and another man in Sedro-Woolley. The U.S. Marshals Fugitive Task Force got a tip that he was hiding out in Rockport. After refusing to surrender, pepper spray changed his opinion. He’s currently in the Skagit County Jail.

April 3

Deputies responded to a one-car accident on Concrete Sauk Valley Rd. near Rockport. Upon arrival, they found the pickup truck unoccupied and no one around. The truck was impounded and removed from the scene. The driver was contacted and told how to retrieve his truck.

April 4

A caller from Lyman Hamilton Highway

Sergeant's corner

Spring driving tips

By Chris Kading



As spring arrives in the Upper Valley community, here are a few tips to consider. The North Cascades Highway is still blocked, but it should open around mid-May. Go to the Washington Department of Transportation Web site (www.wsdot.wa.gov) for details. Lots of folks can’t wait to drive “over the hump” to visit friends and family, or vacation on the east side. It’s no secret the Methow Valley near Winthrop is a very popular destination, and the race is on once the pass opens.

The weather on top of the pass is still pretty chilly this time of year. Make sure your vehicle is equipped to make the trek across the pass. Top off your fuel tank, ensure your tires are in good condition, and check your coolant level and other critical fluids. Prepare for a bad scenario; then, if it actually occurs, it will be an event, but not necessarily an emergency.

Ponder this scenario: You’re crossing the pass at night, you get a flat tire on

a blind corner, and you didn’t bring a flashlight. Your cell phone won’t work, and you’re alone. Most of this scenario is manageable. Carry a good spare tire, a jack, a lug wrench, and some flares, and you’ve moved from an emergency to an inconvenience.

With the tragedy in Oso still fresh, let’s remember that there’s no fast recovery from such a major event. There is a bypass road from Darrington to Arlington open for emergency responders and local residents, but daily traffic issue still is a concern. Skagit County has seen a dramatic increase in traffic on SR 530 north of Darrington and on SR 20, and thankfully no major collisions have been reported. People are doing what they should, planning ahead, driving slowly, and watching for elk. I encourage everyone to stay the course, drive reasonably, take extra time, and be patient. The North Cascades SR 20 pass opener, combined with the Darrington drive around, will certainly increase traffic in the county. Treat everyone with courtesy and we’ll all get through this together.

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

near Lyman had a pressure washer stolen overnight. The culprits cut the end of the nozzle off and took the main unit. Deputies are looking for a small, gray Honda vehicle that may be related.

A man staying at a suspected drug house in Concrete reported his ID stolen. He believes one of the persons staying there may be using his stolen ID to sell scrap metal. There’s a lot more to this story, but even couch surfers can be victims. We’ll continue to look for his ID.

April 8

The U.S. Post Office in Lyman was broken into overnight. A back door was forced open; several P.O. boxes were broken into. This is not your average burglary. This building is a federal institution, and burglarizing a U.S. Post Office is a federal offense. The U.S. Postal Inspector was called in and is working with investigators from the Sheriff’s Department. Anyone with information regarding this burglary is asked to contact Sgt. Kading of the East Detachment at 360.853.8583 or 911.

A man was sleeping in his car about three miles east of Concrete on Concrete Sauk Valley Rd. He was awakened by someone trying to open his door. He

didn’t get a good look at them and they left, but this was quite concerning. Deputies checked the area, but didn’t locate anyone.

April 6

A resident of Gordon Rd. near Concrete reported his chainsaw missing. A deputy found that the chainsaw had been pawned in Mt. Vernon. The investigation revealed it may be a civil issue: The person who pawned it is known to the victim.

U.S. Forest Service contacted the SCSO to report an increase in timber thefts. The Bacon Creek area has been hit hard lately. If you are transporting any firewood, you can expect to be checked by law enforcement for the appropriate paperwork.

April 19

A caller near Cascade Mercantile in Lyman reported someone dropping off two pit bull dogs in the parking lot. The dogs then chased after the car and the caller lost sight of them. It’s unclear if the dogs were abandoned or just getting some exercise. If you happen to find two pit bulls in the area, please let the Animal control officer know.

Worship directory

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

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

Baptist
First Baptist Church
12732 Hemlock St., Clear Lake
360.856.2767

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Community Bible Church
45672 Limestone, Concrete; 360.853.8511

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

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

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

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

CONCRETE HERITAGE MUSEUM NEWS

Concrete Heritage Museum will **open for the season** on Memorial Day weekend. Outside of normal season hours, you can make an appointment to visit the museum or do research in our library by calling Robin at 360.826.3075.

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

New book and book signing

The museum board is proud to present its new publication. Written by Jean Claybo and published by Stump Ranch Press, *The Story of Kate 1867–1944* is written from the viewpoint of its subject, Katherine Quackenbush Glover.

Kate, Kit, or “Glover” as she was typically called, came to Skagit County from New York by way of California with her husband Joe Glover. Independent and strong-willed, she was determined—at the request of Portland Superior Cement Company—to bring the telephone lines farther east from their then current location in Hamilton at the turn of the 20th century.

She helped create and became the major shareholder of Skagit River Telephone Co., from 1909 to 1935. She brought her

sister Nell Quackenbush from New York in 1909; Nell helped get those cables put up all the way to Marblemount in short time, and continued taking care of maintenance and repair of those lines.

Nell was celebrated as the first and only woman of the time to climb poles in countless articles from around the country, a Fox newsreel in movie theaters, and a “Ripley’s Believe it or Not” cartoon in 1939.

The author knows her subjects well, not only because she grew up in the area and graduated from Concrete High School, but because she is a grandniece of Kate and Nell.

During an opening weekend celebration May 24, the museum will host a visit from the author from noon to 4 p.m. Claybo and other family members will be on hand to discuss the famous Quackenbush sisters. Claybo will sign copies of the book, and a display will be in place with photos and memorabilia.

Our plans for the **annual cleanup** have been confirmed. We will meet on Sat., May 24, at 10 a.m.

Signup sheets will be available during the May general meeting for our annual **Bow Hill Rest Area fundraiser**. We need people to sell coffee and cookies at the rest area from July 4–7. If anyone can help with this important fundraiser, we would be pleased to have it.

Our **new home on the Internet** is www.concreteheritagemuseum.org, and our new email address is concreteheritagemuseum@gmail.com.

—Dan Royal



The Concrete Lions Club continues to hold those affected by the devastation in Oso, Darrington, and Arlington in our hearts and prayers. We also include all the volunteers from our area who have spent many hours helping out. Your Concrete Lions Club took a check for \$1,000 to Darrington for the Victims Fund.

The Lions Club annual Easter Egg Hunt on April 19 had a wonderful turnout, and everyone had a great time. Thank you to all the Lions Club members and volunteers who helped out.

On May 2 and 3, donation stations were

set up at Albert’s Red Apple and the post office for “White Cane Days,” to support our efforts to help those who are visually impaired.

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

The May meetings will be on the 7th and 21st in the front room at Annie’s Pizza Station, with socializing and food at 6 p.m. and the meeting at 6:30 p.m. Anyone interested in becoming a member, submitting a request, or just wanting to see what we are about, please feel free to stop in.

—Connie Smithhart

At the Upper Skagit Library

April 22 was **Kim Mitchell**’s last day at the Upper Skagit Library. We congratulate her on her new position with Skagit Valley College, but will miss her presence and passion for literature and library work. Best wishes to Kim in her new venture!

On April 23, **World Book Night**, Nancy and Steve Johnson and I had the enjoyable task of handing out 20 free copies of *Where’d You Go, Bernadette*, by Maria Semple, for the simple purpose of spreading the love of reading. We headed up to visit the energetic ladies at Encore Fitness and were well received! Next stop was the Hub Bar and Grill to hand out the remaining copies. If you’d like to get your own hands on the book, come check it out of your local library.

We’d love to see you at the first **Concrete Saturday Market** at Concrete Center, May 24. Look for the Friends of the Upper Skagit Library Book Sale tent. They’ll be partnering with KSVU, which will have a Bake Sale. Books and baked goods? Yes, please.

We have two wonderful adult programs coming up this month. Marblemount’s own **Andrea Weiser** will read from her latest book of poems on Thur., May 22, at 7 p.m.

On May 29 from 7 to 9 p.m., the Upper Skagit Library and Humanities Washington invite you to an engaging conversation with **Janet Oakley**, a member of the 2012–14 Humanities Washington Speakers Bureau.

Oakley, author of *Tree Soldier*, will give a presentation titled “Tree Army: The Civilian Conservation Corps in Washington State, 1933–1941.” Oakley will talk about the history of the Civilian Conservation Corps camps in Washington and explore the impact they had on our state’s natural resources and on the men

who worked to preserve them.

We continue to offer **Storytime!** On the first Saturday of the month from March through June, from 11 to 11:45 a.m., families with young children are invited to join us for stories, songs, and a simple craft.

The next **board meeting** will be May 15 at 5 p.m., at the Rockport Fire Hall. Thanks for supporting your local library.

—Brooke Pederson, director



Upper Valley native Dick Harris read from his poetry collections at the Upper Skagit Library April 24. Harris grew up in primitive log cabins along the Upper Skagit River (including the Porter cabin in Howard Miller Steelhead Park) and has published two volumes of poetry: *Reimagine* and *Selected Poems: Alaska & Northwest*.

Target a new audience.

Advertise in Concrete Herald

Concrete Herald

360.853.8213
editor@concrete-herald.com

Blotter, cont. from p. 31

April 20

A window at the Concrete K-8 School was found broken. It occurred sometime after the Easter egg hunt, and there is a suspect. The SCSO and school officials are working cooperatively to solve this.

April 21

A caller from the Pinelli Rd. area near Hamilton called 911 to report hearing someone inside their home. Several deputies arrived and searched the house. No one was found inside, and there’s no evidence that anyone had been inside, but the owner does have several dogs, which may have contributed to the “prowler.”

April 23

A grandmother from Hamilton reported her Blue VW Jetta stolen. She initially thought her grandson had borrowed it, but

that wasn’t the case. Deputies are looking for Washington license plate No. 730XLV. If you happen to see it, please call 911.

Callers in the area of Concrete Rd. near Concrete have complained of increased traffic during the nighttime hours. They also suspect drug activity is taking place, and I suspect they are right. The SCSO is continually trying to extinguish drug problems in and near town. Please call 911 or the local Drug Task Force at 360.848.1165 to report ongoing drug problems.

April 24

Deputies were dispatched to a suspected suicide on Everett Lake Road. A 26-year-old male from Concrete was found deceased in a vehicle. Relatives have been notified by the SCSO and Coroner’s

Office.

The Sauk Transfer Station near Rockport was burglarized. Someone cut the locks to the gate and stole 20 to 30 used car batteries. These items do have some scrap value and are often stolen by folks who need quick cash, often to support a drug habit.

April 25

An unruly passenger on the SKAT bus decided to get out in Hamilton. The problem was, he wanted to exit the bus at an unscheduled stop. He decided he’d just exit the bus through the emergency window exit and flee into Hamilton. Seems odd. If he’s seen again, he’ll be trespassed from the bus service.

—Compiled by Sgt. Chris Kading

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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UpRiver Bookkeeping Services
360.853.7667 or 360.708.9761
upriver21@hotmail.com
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www.birdsviewbrewingcompany.com

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Annual, monthly arrangmnts; on-call w/rentals (home) 360.436.2141 or (cell) 253.343.4762

Farmers' markets
Concrete Saturday Market / 360.856.1385
May 24 thru Aug. 30, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Local arts & crafts, seasonal plants & produce, live music, nonprofit bake sales.
New vendors welcome! Concrete Center, SR 20, MP 89.
<http://concretesaturdaymarket.weebly.com>
concretesaturdaymarket1@gmail.com

Gifts
All Valley Storage & Gifts
31687 SR 20, Ste. 102, Lyman/Sedro-Woolley
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360.826.6001 / allvalleystorageinc@live.com
Online: www.allvalleystorageinc.com

Matty's on Main
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UNIQUE & ANTIQUE / JEWELRY & PAWN
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NEW INVENTORY WEEKLY
360.333.8851

Greenhouses and nurseries
Lyle's Flower House
Tomato plants, vegetable starts, basket stuffers, hanging baskets, zonal geraniums, and miscellaneous. Opening April 1.
832 Alexander St., Sedro-Woolley
Open Mon.-Sat., 9 – 5 // 360.421.4117

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

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

Pet grooming
ANIMAL HOUSE PET GROOMING has moved to Sedro-Woolley after 20 years! Now located at 200 Murdock St (S. side of clinic). Same owner (Germaine Kornegay), same phone number (360.755.2108). Same service. Call for an appointment.

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

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

RV Repair
Goldner RV Repair, Concrete
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LP gas systems, water, heating systems, AC/DC electrical
360.826.3303 // rvrepair@frontier.com

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360.853.8100@concreteselfstorageinc@live.com

The Upper Skagit Library must find a new home.

The process of accomplishing this goal has begun. Please contact the library if you have any concerns, questions, or suggestions, or if you would like to help.

360.853.7939
info@upperskagit.lib.wa.us

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



Out & About



Skagit County

Berentson named county public works director

SKAGIT COUNTY — The Skagit County Board of Commissioners has announced the appointment of Dan Berentson as Public Works Director, effective April 23. Berentson has been serving as Interim Public Works Director for the past six months.

Berentson has worked for Skagit County for more than 12 years, previously serving as Natural Resources Division Manager from 2009–14, and Communications Director/Community Liaison from 2001–09.

A graduate of Burlington-Edison High School and Washington State University’s Edward R. Murrow College of Communication, Berentson spent more than 20 years in the newspaper industry prior to working for Skagit County. He served as a Burlington City Council member in 1980s and has held leadership positions with several nonprofit organizations in Skagit County.

Berentson’s father, the late Duane Berentson, served as Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Secretary from 1981 to 1993 following 18 years of service as a state legislator.

“I’ve enjoyed the past 12 years working for Skagit County Public Works in a number of capacities,” said Berentson. “I look forward to the continued challenge of serving as director.”

Skagit River General Investigation reaches major milestone

SKAGIT COUNTY — On April 23, Skagit County officials were notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reached concurrence on a Tentatively Selected Plan, or TSP, for the Skagit River General Investigation.

The Comprehensive Urban Levee Improvement Plan was selected as the TSP and will proceed to the next phase of the feasibility study. The plan includes

operational modifications to the lower and upper Baker dams for flood risk management.

In February Skagit County officials and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers staff participated in the Tentatively Selected Plan Milestone Meeting, the purpose of which was to outline the alternative analysis completed to date under the Corps’ new planning parameters. After some post-meeting assessments, the Corps reached concurrence on a TSP.

Throughout 2012 and 2013, the Skagit River General Investigation Project Delivery Team (PDT) created six preliminary alternatives and received feedback from the community at various forums. These were later refined to four alternatives: No Action, Joe Leary Slough Bypass, Swinomish Bypass, and the Comprehensive Urban Levee Improvement Plan.

The alternatives were evaluated based on numerous criteria, such as risks to life safety, hydraulic efficacy, economic damages, impacts to agricultural resources, and construction costs.

The alternative analysis will be presented to the public in a forthcoming draft Feasibility Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and at community forums. The document will contain a summary of the alternative formulation process, a draft EIS, and will undergo a series of concurrent technical, legal, and policy reviews.

The public will have an opportunity to provide input through a formal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) comment period; more details on the timing of this comment period are forthcoming. The PDT will use additional analysis, reviews, and public comment to recommend a plan for Congress via a Chief of Engineer’s report in 2015.

For more information, contact Kara Symonds, Skagit County Public Works, 360.336.9400.

Pannkuk becomes first library director

The Board of Trustees of the Central Skagit Rural Partial-County Library District announced the employment of its first library director, Jill Pannkuk,

during a special board meeting held April 7. Pannkuk began working at her new position on May 5.

Pannkuk brings to the district more than 17 years of experience as a library director. Her most recent position was library director at Liberal Memorial Library in Liberal, Kansas, where she supervised a staff of 18, administered a budget of \$800,000, and served approximately 23,000 residents.

Previously, she was the library director at the Harlan Community Library in Harlan, Iowa. She also has experience leading fundraising efforts and renovation projects. Pannkuk will guide the new district in developing a full-service library.

The Central Skagit Rural Partial-County Library District was created via voter initiative in November 2012. Its service area encompasses the Sedro-Woolley School District exclusive of the incorporated towns of Sedro-Woolley, Lyman, and Hamilton. It covers approximately 400 square miles stretching from the borders of Whatcom County to Snohomish County and will serve about 15,000 residents.

For more information about the district, go to www.centralskagitlibrary.org.

La Conner

Museum announces free day for mothers

LA CONNER — All mothers will be given free admission to the Skagit County Historical Museum in La Conner on Mother’s Day, May 11.

The current featured exhibit is “Relocation: The Impact of World War II on the Skagit Valley.” The museum’s special exhibit is “Dear Mother,” celebrating Moms on their special day.

The museum includes a viewing deck overlooking Skagit farmland and is located at 501 S. 4th St., at the top of the hill in La Conner.

For more information, call 360.466.3365 or go to www.skagitcounty.net/museum.

Burlington

Kiwanis fundraiser takes aim at hunger and violence

BURLINGTON — Burlington-Edison Kiwanis will host its 26th annual “Golfers Against Hunger and Domestic Violence” B-E Kiwanis Golf Tournament on Fri., May 16, with all proceeds going toward feeding the hungry and prevention of domestic violence in Skagit County.

Participants can compete in an 18-hole scramble tournament at Skagit Golf & Country Club. Prizes in men’s and women’s divisions include closest to hole, longest drive, and straightest drive.

Day-of Registration begins at 10:30 a.m., followed by a shotgun start at noon. A buffet dinner and awards program will begin at approximately 5:30 p.m.

Individual golfers may register for \$100; Skagit Golf & Country Club members for \$80. Dinner admission is \$25.

Anyone wishing to become a supporter or participant should call 360.770.5117 or 360.336.1000.

Registration forms are at Burlington Les Schwab and at Burlington-Edison Kiwanis meetings at the country club Wednesday mornings from 7 to 8 a.m.

Snohomish County

WSU Extension celebrates 100 years

The public is invited to attend an open house in celebration of 100 years of community engagement with WSU Extension, to be held May 8 from 4 to 8 p.m. at the WSU Snohomish County Extension offices, located at McCollum Park, 600 128th St. SE, South Everett. The open house will include program spotlights such as garden tours, forest walks, 4-H Robotics, and interactive activities.

For more information, contact Jenette Croft at 425.338.2400 or j.croft@wsu.edu.



Home & Garden



Chimney fire in paradise

By Andrea Weiser

April 18, sundown, and the fire sirens went off in Marblemount. Volunteer firefighters mobilized and called Rockport’s fire crew for backup. Homeowner Andris Vezis had dialed 911 after closing the flue, dampening the heat in the firebox with water, and emptying the contents of all the fire extinguishers he had into the cleanout door and chimney. “I had nothing left to throw at it,” Vezis said, “time to call in help.”

Several emergency responders were surprised when they saw whose house they were dispatched too, having known Vezis by his long career as a professional wildland firefighter.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), roughly 20,000 chimney or flue fires occur per year in the U.S., causing about \$195 million in direct property damage. Most of these fires are caused by creosote buildup. Fire can escape the chimney to burn the rest of the house if left uncontrolled.

Retired wildland firefighter and chimney builder Vezis had this advice: “Keep on top of cleaning and burn seasoned, dry wood.”

Long ribbed for his paranoia about being out of sight of the house when there is a fire in the woodstove, this year his fears were justified.

Vezis blames himself. Persuaded to go on a short family walk, he came home to the telltale signs: dense, roiling white smoke coming from the top of the chimney and a scorched, tar-like odor. He knew immediately what was about to happen, and sprinted to the house. Once inside he heard another warning sign: crackling of burning creosote up the chimney.

Creosote is a sticky, oily, smelly, combustible substance created when wood does not burn completely, says NFPA. It rises and forms deposits on the chimney wall, creating a sticky film. Regular chimney cleaning and periodically building hot fires are ways to remove it. In hindsight, a second chimney cleaning this season and more frequent hot fires could have averted the emergency.

Vezis cleaned the chimney last fall and

burns seasoned wood, but believes several conditions put his chimney at risk. The firewood was damp from frequent rainfall, and with this year’s milder winter, Vezis built fewer hot fires. The higher pitch content in the Douglas fir he burned more often this winter added to creosote accumulations. A faulty shutdown lever on the flue was another problem; it was wide open, though he had closed it partway before leaving.

Firefighters arrived, sized up the situation, and settled on having a hose at the ready for backup. Shooting cold water down the chimney would have cracked the clay liner from rapid heat expansion. Instead, they used chimney fire suppressants, which generated a large volume of gas that choked the fire of oxygen. Once it cooled, firefighters rammed ash and coals back down the chimney with a pole and removed them from the bottom. Once the fire was out, they left Vezis to continue monitoring, with high-powered fans to clear out smoke and more chimney fire suppressant, just in case.

“I’m going to have to throw a party for those guys,” said Vezis.

Know the warning signs

Chimney fires can be spotted before they become a full-fledged conflagration. Look for the following:

- A lot of dense smoke.
- Popping, crackling, or rumbling noises.
- Intense charred smell.

Be prepared

- Clean your chimney annually to semi-annually.
- Burn periodic hot fires.
- Keep fire extinguishers close and maintained.
- Keep chimney fire suppressants on hand (e.g., Chimfex sticks).
- Support your local volunteer fire departments.

For more information, go to www.csia.org or www.nfpa.org.



Dense, roiling smoke, such as that seen in the photo above, is a warning sign a chimney fire is about to start. *Photo by Russell Weiser.*

Garden Patch

By Gladys Silrus

Mother’s Day is coming, a good time to give roses and clematis. To smooth the transition from pot to garden, add compost to their planting holes.

Shrubs and trees

It’s still not too late to fertilize your trees and shrubs. Use a rhododendron or evergreen type of plant food and an all-purpose garden fertilizer (10-10-10) to feed roses. Be sure to water thoroughly after applying. Early flowering deciduous shrubs like forsythia, azalea, and spiraea should be pruned back when they have finished blooming.

Remove the wilting seed heads from rhododendron and azaleas so the plants’ energy can go to foliage growth and next year’s flowers, rather than seed. Work lime into the soil around your hydrangeas for pink flowers, or aluminum sulphate for blue. Remove any sucker growth from all fruit trees as soon as it appears.

Lilacs should be pruned lightly after they finish blooming: Remove all suckers and dead blooms. Feed lilacs with a 10-10-10 fertilizer after they bloom. Add a little lime if your soil has an acidic pH.

Perennials, annuals, bulbs

All summer flowering bulbs can be planted this month. Mulch after planting. Plant gladiolus every two weeks until the first of July; this will give you cut flowers up to the first frost. Cut off wilting tulip or daffodil heads; continue to feed and care for the plants until foliage dies back.

Pansies, snapdragons, dianthus, petunias, geraniums, fuchsia, and impatiens should be ready to plant by mid- to late May. By the end of May and first of June, plant salvia, zinnias, marigolds, and lobelia.

Fruits and vegetables

Peas, potatoes, beans, carrots, lettuce, corn, and onions are some popular vegetables that can be seeded or planted into the garden any time this month. Wait until mid-May (or even first of June) before planting the warmer weather crops like tomatoes, squash, cucumber, pumpkins, and peppers.

May is a good month to repair your lawn. Fill in the bare spots by slightly loosening the surface of the soil and sow lawn seed over the area.

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



Smile



Dwelleysms

Wit from former
Concrete Herald editor
Charles M. Dwelley

“The best job of public service is done by dissatisfied folks who don’t want to live in a world that isn’t the best they can make it—no matter if they have to make a lot of lazy people ashamed enough to help.”

“A father can set a precedent of never saying no to his children and still not spoil them, but he has to be a master at rewording sentences.”

“Kids may be long in learning to talk, but they are even longer in learning to stop occasionally. The ones who never learn are sent to Congress.”

“We wish folks would stop calling up to report seeing a strange object in the sky. That’s the sun!”

—July 29, 1954

“Did you ever stop to think how civilization is just a word coined to describe a society so advanced that an honest barbarian would have nothing to do with it?”

“According to the State Patrol, it is now illegal to straddle the middle line. Wonder if that applies to political candidates too?”

“Outlawing the communist party is going to bring on a new batch of martyrs who will argue that there is no freedom when a person isn’t allowed to tear down everything that displeases him.”

—Aug. 19, 1954

“The biggest trouble with the future is the difference in speed with which the good and the bad arrive. Hard luck seems to get organized quicker and descend in a matter of weeks. The bright promise of a boom dawdles along for years, just sending out teasers to keep hopes alive.”

“Addition of a new piece of machinery at the *Herald* this week not only means progress, but also that we had darn well better keep it up until the thing is paid for.”

“Your own troubles always seem greatest just before you talk to someone whom you thought hadn’t a care in the world.”

—Aug. 26, 1954

Dear Dottie

Dear Dottie,
Lately it seems that minor disagreements escalate into major battles that end in periods of silence. I feel like my spouse is falling out of love with me. What can I do to restore the happiness we once had in our relationship?

Crying in Concrete

Dear Crying,
It sounds to me like your spouse might be stockpiling issues. There can be a tendency to hold on to negative feelings if previous disagreements or misunderstandings aren't fully resolved. Consider planning a special event or special time that you and your spouse can talk without interruption, where they have your undivided attention. Let them know you're concerned and ask what you can do. Honest discussion and showing an interest in your mate's feelings goes a long way. Be prepared to listen. Positive responses to negative feelings will definitely help to get things back on track.

Dear Dottie,
I am fit to be tied! My husband isn't a big talker when things are going right. When we argue, he all but shuts down completely. I rant and rave and his response is ZIP! What can I do to get him to talk?

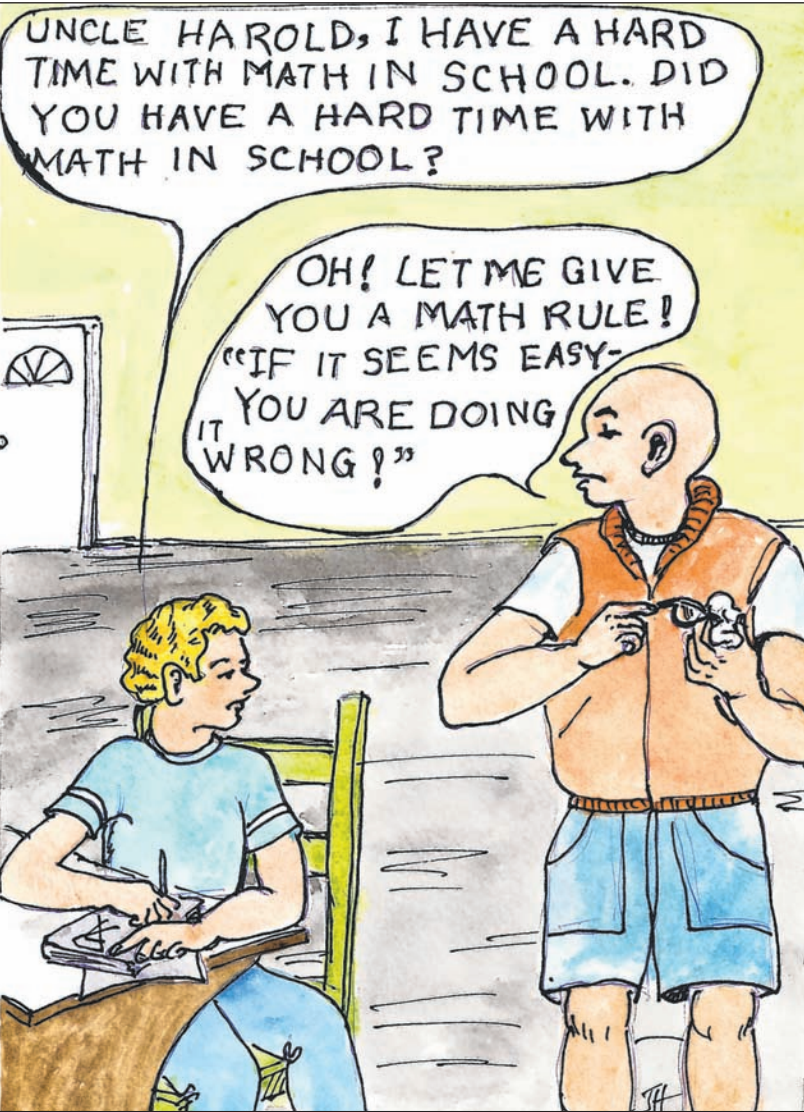
Ranting in Rockport

Dear Ranting,
First, do NOT kick the dog or cat! It sounds to me like your husband is suffering from "deer in the headlights syndrome." To some, conflict represents unknown territory that is extremely difficult to handle. Rather than dealing with issues or problems, they shut down and ignore things in the hopes that the situation will fix itself or magically disappear. Try a different approach when you feel yourself getting worked up. Put aside the rants and raves. Take a deep breath and talk to your husband in a pleasant and positive manner. Avoid statements like "you never" and "you always." Your husband will be more inclined to discussion if you remain calm and collected.

Send questions to Dottie at editor@concrete-herald.com or c/o Concrete Herald, P.O. Box 682, Concrete, WA 98237.

Concrete Harold

By Joyce Harris



By Stig Kristensen

Public Service Announcement



Crossword: “Meet the Beatles”

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

Across

- 1. Rapids transit
- 6. ____ print
- 10. Arizona’s governor, to friends
- 13. Toothpick fruit
- 14. Defiant one
- 15. Arapaho foe
- 16. 1966 Beatles hit
- 19. Alexei’s father, for one
- 20. Times to call, in classifieds
- 21. Sweet drink
- 22. Blue eyes or baldness, e.g.
- 24. Endings for ecto- and proto-
- 26. Zesty
- 29. Hollywood pole
- 30. Nymph
- 31. Almanac tidbit
- 32. Latin “I”
- 35. 1963 Beatles tune
- 39. Nonclerical
- 40. Squander
- 41. ____ the moment
- 42. Splendor
- 43. Ridges
- 45. Wets

Down

- 1. Egyptian Christian
- 2. Wistful word
- 3. Mangrove palm
- 4. Upset
- 5. Ballad’s end?
- 6. Side
- 7. Exasperates
- 8. ____ Age
- 9. Bobble
- 10. Asian plants
- 11. Special Forces unit
- 12. Uncool candies?
- 14. Lifeboat support
- 17. Vetch or lupin
- 18. Prayer leader
- 23. Optical phenomenon

Across

- 24. Somewhat, in music
- 25. Mythological plants
- 26. “Murphy Brown” bar owner
- 27. Part of the Corn Belt
- 28. Jetty
- 29. Aircraft compartment
- 31. Elite group
- 32. Broadcast
- 33. Palestinian city
- 34. Half of binary code
- 36. Offering
- 37. Some jazz
- 38. Move
- 42. Ivy League team
- 43. Trick
- 44. Organic compound
- 45. Model material
- 46. College leave
- 47. Gift recipient
- 48. They remained undefeated by the Romans
- 50. “Time’s a-wastin’!”
- 52. Bartlett’s abbr.
- 53. Set aside
- 54. Roll call calls
- 56. It’s a wrap
- 57. Prefix with profit
- 58. King’s title: abbr.

Sudoku

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

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

*Solutions to both puzzles are on p. 38.

Funny as Facebook

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

- “Khloe: ‘Mama, I don’t have a name.’ Me: ‘You don’t? What do you want your name to be then?’ Khloe: ‘Mercy. Mercy Hotdog Water.’ Me: ‘Oh, should I call you that now?’ Khloe: ‘Yes. You can just call me Mercy. But don’t forget about the Hotdog Water.’ Me: ‘OK. Mercy Hotdog Water it is!’ Ha ha! That was last night and this morning she woke up and reminded me her name is Mercy.”
- “Are y’all tired of seeing baby goat pictures? Well ... sorry. You just haven’t lived if you haven’t spent an afternoon with baby goats jumping on you.”
- “Eli [holding up bag of pita chips]: ‘Look. It says “simply naked.” Evelyn: You should eat those with the Naked juice you wanted to buy earlier. Eli: Yeah. I could have a naked lunch. Both: [continue to eat as though nothing just happened]”
- “Don’t you just love it when you’re all happy in bed, then a spider crawls up your face. I don’t.”
- “Will someone please explain to me the purpose for the May Day protests in Seattle? They all just look like idiotic, angry punk teenagers that need to find a job and a shower.”
- “Birds really aren’t the brightest crayons in the box. As the body count rises, the grackles continue to insist on swarming the bird feeder and crapping on my deck.”
- “How does a lead guitarist change a light bulb? He holds the light bulb in the air and expects the world to revolve around him.”
- “Couple making out in the security line (at Chicago O’Hare International Airport). That’s a first!”
- “When I get naked in the bathroom, the shower gets turned on.”

Rasmussen, cont. from p. 3

I am a devoted student of history of this region, as well as a committed advocate of best practices that will sustain the people who continue to work so hard to live here. It is always gratifying to see people come to visit and enjoy the natural beauty of our area. Many are asking thoughtful questions of how life goes for us. Here are some observations for your consideration.

Yes, we know we can endure. This heartbreaking event that has caused loss of lives and property and temporarily divided our valley will heal. Our routine experiences with the natural beauty of our area and our pride of place provide a strength that may seem mysterious to folks living with less attachment to their communities. We are rooted here. It is a powerful emotion that is felt within our small town hospitality. We welcome you to come and share these feelings.

As we look to the future, we are faced with an ongoing road closure for SR 530; businesses have been stressed, and our industry and recreational tourism is faced with drastic budget cuts, which could result in further closures. Forestry management and responsible timber harvesting can provide sustainable funding for small rural communities and

their schools, as well as create habitat and fund recreation. No one wants to return to the reckless days of the 1960s and overharvesting. Our area still has the potential for a balanced mix of keeping the forests healthy through proper harvesting of timber, while also providing needed funding to keep our outdoor recreation open for public enjoyment. Perhaps this tragedy and the ongoing efforts to help all of us recover from it can resonate in unexpected but promising ways. As we grieve and help one another, we sense that this disastrous event yields new strengths both personally and community-wide. As we face our future once again, we ask, can recreation timber harvest find common ground? Can we return to a healthy managed forest and generate revenue for keeping our access roads and trails as well?

We owe deep gratitude to all of you who have followed the news of our tragedy and sent us love and support. It has made a difference; it continues to help us and has allowed us to handle our grief and now focus on the future. Now we need to carry this revitalized strength forward and restore our sense of the future of our schools, businesses, churches, rivers, and forests. The challenges may not lessen, but our determination will not cease.

I look forward to working to provide for new relationships among locals and visitors, and new opportunities in this beautiful place. We welcome you to share it with us.

Martha Rasmussen has lived in Darrington for 22 years. She is past president of the Darrington Historical Society, the current chair of Friends for Public Use (www.ffpu.org), and the admin for Destination Darrington Washington www.darringtonwatourism.com. Reach her at marthasgardens@gmail.com

Mullen, cont. from p. 3

described the capture and collaring of elk with high-tech collars to help in estimating the elk population size. The process, however, was not without conflict or disagreement. An issue with the population monitoring committee was their inability to agree on the target elk population size. This was a small committee, and included Chris Danilson, WDFW biologist, tribal representatives, and a few citizens. WDFW Game Division Manager Dave Ware stated in October 2013 that the target elk population number was to be the task of the citizen advisory group, with “plenty of room for negotiating a number ... ideally ... by December [of 2014].” The question we citizens must ask is, if this small committee couldn’t agree on a number, why is it now the task of the co-managers? Shouldn’t this be handed back to the citizens, since this was their decision?

A dispute arose on the damages committee. WDFW Conflict Specialist Brandon Griffith presented one version of the damages committee’s final work at the April meeting. He referenced a second version, hastily prepared by citizen members of the committee. At

the final damages committee meeting, chaired by Griffith, there was little time to incorporate new ideas or to make the major revisions that had been suggested by the citizens. The final product of that meeting looked very much like the 2002 objectives and strategies, with just a few changes. Committee members had three days—a WDFW deadline—to incorporate citizen input into a second final version. This version added two new objectives and made major changes to the rest of the document. The second version was not made available to the public at the April 10 meeting. Griffith stated that both final drafts would be sent to the co-managers for consideration. Citizens would have more trust in the process if both versions had been presented at the meeting.

WDFW has not offered any viable short-term solutions to landowners for elk damage being experienced on their property. Property rights are guaranteed to citizens by the 5th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and by Section 16 of the Washington State Constitution, “Eminent Domain.” The current damage complaint process is onerous; the monetary limits are unrealistic, and there is no money for compensation to landowners for property damage. WDFW is in violation of both the State and U.S. Constitution in raising elk on private property without just compensation.

Citizens of the damages committee have created a local petition asking for the elk to be removed from backyards and moved to wild areas. Signatures will be sent to two Washington state agencies: the Washington Department of Transportation, to address the safety issue of elk-vehicle collisions, and the WDFW, to address property rights. Petitions can be found at Rockport Country Store, Grandy Creek Store, Birdsvew Brewing Co., and the Cascade Mercantile, or by calling 360.853.8388.

Crossword solution, from p. 37

1	C	A	N	O	E			6	F	I	N	E		10	J	A	N	12		
13	O	L	I	V	E			14	D	A	R	E	R		15	U	T	E		
16	P	A	P	E	R			17	B	A	C	K	W	R		18	I	T	E	R
19	T	S	A	R				20	E	V	E	S			21	M	E	A	D	
			22	T	R	A	I	T				24	P	L	A	S	M	S		
26	P	I	Q	U	A	N	T					28	B	O	O	M				
30	H	O	U	R	I			31	F	A	C	T		32	E	Q	O			
35	I	W	A	N	N	A	B	E	Y	O	U	R	M	A	N					
39	L	A	Y			40	B	L	O	W			41	S	E	I	Z	E		
			42	P	O	M	P			43	C	U	E	S	T	A	S			
45	B	E	D	E	W	S			46	P	A	R	S	E						
49	A	X	O	N			50	C	I	T	E			51	T		52	K		54
55	L	E	N	N	O	N	M	C	C	A		56	R	T	N	E	Y			
58	S	A	E			60	B	O	O	T	H		61	E	L	O	P	E		
62	T	E				63	I	N	N	S			64	V	E	N	T	S		

Sudoku solution, from p. 37

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

Classifieds

MOVIES & EVENTS AT THE HISTORIC CONCRETE THEATRE
WEEKEND MOVIE SCHEDULE:
Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Sat., 5 and 7:30 p.m.; Sun., 4 and 6:30 p.m.

TIX: \$7 gen admission, \$9 balcony, \$6 over 65/under 12
24-hour MovieLine: 360.941.0403
www.concrete-theatre.com

EMPLOYMENT

Drivers wanted. Dave’s Towing. 360.853.7433.
Reporter, contract position. *Concrete Herald* seeks a competent writer to cover Concrete town government on a monthly basis, beginning ASAP. Compensation will be based on attendance at all Town Council meetings, plus production of two articles per monthly issue. Interested persons should send resume, two journalism samples, and letter of interest to editor@concrete-herald.com. For more information on this position, call 360.853.8213 or e-mail editor@concrete-herald.com.

Part-time attendant. Puget Sound Energy is looking for a temporary, part-time Lower Baker Visitors Park Attendant for the Baker Recreation office located in Concrete, Washington. The Park Attendant will attend to PSE’s Baker River facility at the visitor center with an emphasis on customer service and safety. This position will answer questions and educate visitors regarding the hydro projects, Baker River’s state of the art fish systems and how they interface with the environment, as well as the local communities. PSE is an Equal Opportunity Employer, including Protected Veterans and those with Disabilities. Read more about these opportunities and apply online to ad #76014 at PSE.com/careers.

FOR SALE

Wood-bricks firewood. Stock up now for winter! Throw down your axe and saw. 100% wood bricks burn clean and hot. No more bugs, bark, or creosote. No more aching back. \$220/ton (90 / 22.5-lb bundles); \$120/ 1/2 ton (45 / 22-lb. bundles). Fill up your car! Fill up your truck! Jump for joy—you’re in luck! Come in for your free sample. Pacific Rim Tonewoods, 38511 SR 20, Concrete. 360.826.6101. Mon.–Thur., open 8 a.m.–3:30 p.m. Info at www.pacificrimtonewoods.com.



PROPERTIES FOR RENT

Cottage for rent, Concrete. Accepting applications. 360.853.7433.
Concrete, 3-bedroom house. \$860 F/L/D. 45242 Duffy. 360.853.8887.

SERVICES

Eagles In Flight Motorcycle Sales and Service / Sissy Bar. 360.853.7000.
Gladys’ Upholstery Shop. Quality work, reasonable prices. 360.826.4848.
Headstones. Traditional & One-Of-A-Kind. TODD’S MONUMENTS, 360.708.0403. www.toddsmonuments.com.

STOLEN

2001 medium blue Volkswagen Jetta with cracked windshield, Wash. license plate No. 730 XLV, stolen April 22 from a Hamilton location. Call the Skagit County Sheriff’s Office with tips or to report its location: 360.428.3211.

To place a Classified ad, call 360.853.8213 or e-mail ads@concrete-herald.com. Ads are \$5 per every 10 words, rounded up to the nearest 10. Payment is due at time of placement. Deadline for the June 2014 issue is May 26.

Letters, cont. from p. 2

The lost towns

It saddens me to think that it took such a horrendous disaster like in the Oso community, where so many lives had to be lost and family’s lives destroyed, for the public to notice that we are here. The people who live in small communities in the Upper Snohomish and Skagit counties have been forgotten until recently. These small communities are all in need of recognition. The amazing history of these once active and thriving towns may as well be considered “ghost towns” for the lack of attention they receive from the residents and tourists in Washington State. I doubt seriously if our governor, senators, and all the public officials in these counties even knew that these towns existed until the recent tragedy. The people who live, work and now die in these obscure locations choose to live the simpler, quiet life surrounded by the beauty of nature choose to live in these locations mainly because of the heritage of their families, not because they want to be forgotten.

The people of Oso, Darrington, and Arlington deserve every bit of attention and financial help that they have received, but I guarantee once the limelight from the media has dimmed, we all will be forgotten once again. Small businesses and the working people of all these communities will go back to struggling to make it through a pay period, asking their neighbors for assistance, and trying to afford the horrible rents and food prices they must endure. In other words, the

temporary help is appreciated, but where will these towns go from here? These upper areas need industry other than logging, we need more small businesses to open, and investors who appreciate the grandeur of the beauty and the amazing hardworking people who deserve jobs that can support them in a lifestyle that will preserve a future for their families.

*Sandra Wells
Birdsvew*

Keep slide victims in thoughts

When I heard of the Oso landslide I was shaken beyond words. I could not believe what I was hearing. I knew right away it would be much worse than what we heard the first day or two. I wanted to help out so badly. I knew I couldn’t go out looking for bodies. I saw a picture of a yellow button on Facebook and said, “I can do that.”

I took the idea to work and Debs Lahr had the idea to put out a donation jar, along with giving out the “Oso hope” ribbons. It took off like wildfire. All the employees started wearing ribbons, and every single person who came into the store wanted to wear one.

Within six days we collected \$3,400. People started donating ribbon (Marlie Blanton, Mary Zole O’Marra, Cindy Dills, Randi Blanton Devries, Corrina Bea Hart, Anita Mathis, Tasha Holt, “Chatty Kathy,” and Lynn Williams).

Making the ribbons was an everyday thing we did and loved doing it. Lynn Williams started helping us out because we could not keep up. Also, a huge thanks to the cashiers at Albert’s Red Apple for helping get the ribbons to the customers. We are thankful and amazed at how this community came together in this time of need. Being a member of this community is something to be proud of.

Let us not forget that the healing and struggles for the victims of the landslide are nowhere near over. Let us keep them in our thoughts and help them when we can. Thank you so much for helping with this cause. I want to add that we are about to give two checks to two families that are in need; the checks are from the monies we have collected since our first donation to the bank fund for the victims.

*Cheryl Prier
Concrete*

Minimum wage high roller

I am not the 1 percent and I’ll never be like them
For if I became rich, I would again be poor
Because I know the struggle, I’ve been there before.

Working full-time I barely scrape by a single white male and a nice guy statistically superior but not in this day and age
It doesn’t matter my background I’m making minimum wage.

To fill the 1 percent’s pockets ... I represent their brand!
It’s my work and customer service that puts profit in their hand.

The collective labor of many ... feeds the tables of a few—finances their trips to the Bahamas, China, and Peru.

\$100,000 a year you say, Senator?
Not enough?
Oh okay; well, that is more than I get in FIVE YEARS
Making minimum wage.

That’s 1,920 hours a year I work—no paid vacation or sick call,
working hard (or I’d be replaced and have no job at all).

I support myself on this, barely \$15,000 ... supplemented by Cup-O-Noodle Stamps I’m breaking seventeen grand and some in Congress complain to give even that helping hand!

When I say scraping by ... do you know what I mean?

I often feel hunger, my cupboards are clean
every third bill gets paid,
the savings, there is none—
rotating random shifts,
you can imagine the vacation fund.
But I’m not alone; I’m the average Sam, Dick, and Sally
making this bread and prepping your salad.

I’ll be here all day, making the least I’m worth to The Man,

So I can go home (to my roommates) via bus,
and FEAST on noodles and spam.

So do me a favor, and raise minimum wage, so one day I can eat TV dinners and maybe even save.

*Launi Harrell
Quincy*

Not advertising in Concrete Herald is like winking in the dark*

***You’re the only one who knows what you’re doing.**

Call 360.853.8213 today to be seen in Concrete Herald.

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Community Covenant Food Bank

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

Concrete

Concrete Food Bank

112 E. Main St., Concrete
Second, third, and fourth Thur. each month,
Noon–3 p.m.
360.853.8505

Darrington

Darrington Food Bank

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

Hamilton

Hamilton Community Food Bank

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

360.826.4090

Lyman

Shepherd’s Heart Food Bank

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

Marblemount

Bread of Life Food Bank

59850 State Route 20, Marblemount
First and third Wed. each month
11 a.m.–5 p.m.
360.873.2504

Sedro-Woolley

Helping Hands Food Bank

601 Cook Rd., Sedro-Woolley
Wed., 10–11:45 a.m. and 12:30–4 p.m.
Commodities distributed every Wednesday
360.856.2211

**Changes? Call 360.853.8213.*

CASCADE SUPPLY

Do it Best

✓ **Manager's Special!**

\$8⁰⁰

Mail-In Rebate
See store
for details.



While Supplies Last!

13⁹⁷

Before
Rebate

1-Gal. RTU
Extended Control
Roundup

759229

Sale ends 5/31/14

💰 **Special Buy!**


14⁹⁷

While Supplies Last!

9" Square
Desk Fan

500642

Sale ends
5/31/14

**BUY ONE
GET ONE** **GALLON** **\$5**

of equal or lesser value.

Includes all Best Look interior and exterior paints and exterior stains. Sale good through May 31, 2014.

💰 **Special of the Month!**

While Supplies Last!

\$4⁰⁰

Mail-In Rebate
See store
for details.

6⁹⁷

Before
Rebate

1-Cu. Ft.
Moisture
Control Mix

726801

Sale ends
5/31/14



🔧 **Tool Savings!**

While Supplies Last!


19⁹⁷

31-Pc. Pink
Tool Bag

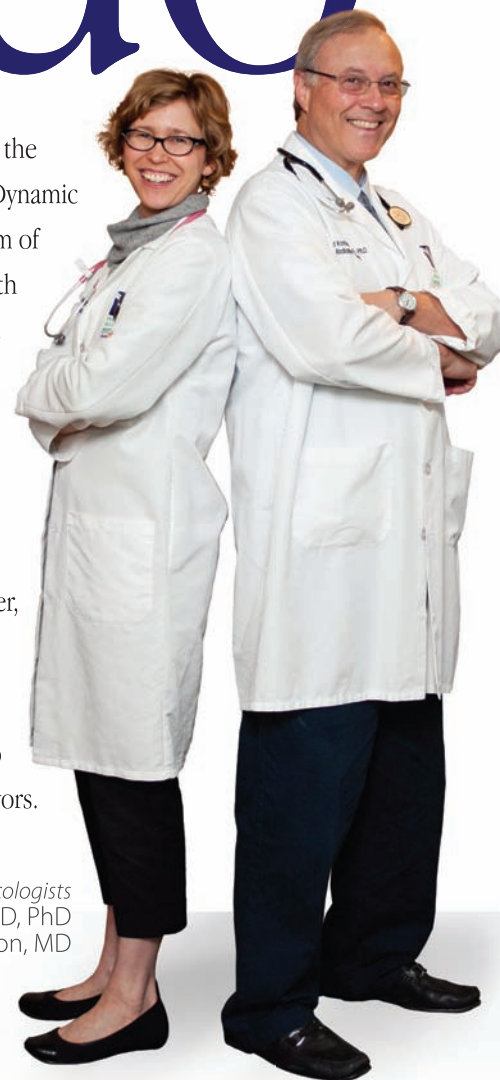
300214

Sale ends 5/31/14

The Dynamic Duo

When you're in need of a hero in the fight against prostate cancer, our Dynamic Duo will meet it head on. Our team of highly-skilled experts, matched with state-of-the-art technology, is right here at Skagit Valley Hospital Regional Cancer Care Center. No secret identities, no hidden headquarters, just world-class care you can trust from a pair of providers in the fight against cancer, personalized just for you.

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Radiation Oncologists
David Kantorowitz, MD, PhD
and Michal Whiton, MD

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