

The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley

Concrete Herald

Vol. 100, No. 5

May 2017

concrete-herald.com

50 cents

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Concrete Herald

The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley



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Concrete Herald owes its success to citizen journalists and photographers. **Reporter:** Haley McNealey; **Proofreading:** Katy Tomasulo; **Ad Production:** Lynn Jefferson; **Bookkeeping:** Uniprver 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 Skagit Publishing, Mount Vernon, Wash. Contents © 2017 Concrete Herald LLC.

From the editor

Beware the (federal) funding hand

While searching the *Concrete Herald* archives for this month's "Way Back When" column (see p. 28), I came across an article in the May 30, 1957, issue that reminded me of a pivotal moment in Concrete's economic history. WSDOT engineers were in town, explaining to Mayor Hoover and Concrete citizens that a rerouted SR 20 was going to bypass the business districts of Lyman, Hamilton, Sauk, and Concrete, and that doing so was a condition required by the federal government because federal highway money was going to be used for the projects.

Insert a deep sigh here. This is a classic example—one that has been repeated ad nauseum throughout the U.S.—of what happens when you allow engineers to run the show. The blinders go on, the vehicles are rerouted because the most important thing is to move vehicles from Point A to Point B as quickly as possible, and the

See Editorial, p. 7

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Opinion

Letters to the editor

Thanks to egg hunt sponsors
A huge thank-you to all who sponsored items for this year's Easter Egg Hunt at Ovenell's Heritage Inn.

Sponsors were Albert's Red Apple Market, Annie's Pizza Station, Cascade Burgers, Cascade Supply, Cascadian Farms, Columbia Bank, Double O Ranch, Hair Fitness, Northwest Garden Bling, Perks Espresso & Deli, Wolf Hair Design, 5b's Bakery, Birdsvie Brewing Company, Valley's Buzz, Pacific Rim Tonewoods, Grandy Creek Grocery, and Ovenell's Heritage Inn.

Ovenell Family
Concrete

Community hall thanks you
With nearly 80 supporters enjoying a scrumptious meal, serenading by Richard Lewis and John "Peace Wizard" Bromet, and a selection of donated raffle items bid upon, the Marblemount Community Hall's (MCH) April 22 fundraiser was deemed a big success.

We thank the following businesses and individuals for their generous donations of time, talent, and raffle items:
Volunteers Sallie Larsen (and daughter), Kathy Hunter, Mina Wilson, Rusty Shirley, Merlene Buller, Connie Anderson, Doug Pocock, Matt Del Bosque, and our musicians Richard and John.

Donations: 5b's Bakery, Annie's Pizza Station, Caboose Cuts, Pat Buller Photography, Cheryl Cunningham, Cindy Lou's Artisan Jams, Mina and Steve Wilson, Hightower Longhorns, Merv and Delia Peterson, Haggen's Supermarket (Burlington), Seattle City Light, and the Bread of Life Food Bank.

In addition, many thanks to Marblemount Citipoint Church members for

helping to clean up afterward!
Christie L. Fairchild, MCH VP
Rockport

Tree-planting party a success
Anja Roozen is a rock star. The 13-year-old student at Concrete Elementary decided to host a tree-planting party to celebrate Earth Day last month, and did exactly that. She collaborated with Town of Concrete to install five cherry trees and 68 Japanese holly shrubs at the Silo Park Park & Ride on April 23. She put together a team of volunteers, fed them, and pulled off a major planting project in a little more than three hours.

Big thanks to Anja and her volunteers: James Murray, James and Ashlyn Morgareidge, Tyler Nibarger, Hildi and Ashleigh Parker, Searrah Martin, Patience Kruger, Kayleann Kohnke, Joe Eckerson, Jeff Maher, Mia Roozen, and the fellow whose name escapes me now. Did I miss anyone? Thank you too!

Jason Miller
Concrete

Corrections
Olivia Greso was incorrectly named as a Marblemount resident in the April issue. Not true; Greso is a Concrete resident. Sorry, Olivia.

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

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Message from the mayor

By Jason Miller

Check out this awesome quote from former *Concrete Herald* editor Chuck Dwelley:



"Plans for a revival of community interest begin with two dozen interested citizens. That should ensure two dozen interesting ideas. If one of them can develop a spark of interest in two dozen other citizens, we have the chain reaction under way. The greatest force on earth is still one of homemade, friendly cooperation."

On April 15, I was encouraged to see not two, but three dozen locals show up for the townwide workshop, which focused on branding Concrete. Several more members who couldn't attend the workshop offered their thoughts on the topic.

What is Concrete's brand? It's the intangible sum of our town's attributes. It's what other people think of when they hear the name, "Town of Concrete." Our brand is how we perceive our town and how we want the world to perceive us. It's everything the public thinks it knows about our town, both factual and emotional.

During the workshop, two questions were posed for attendees to ponder:

1. What story do we want to tell about ourselves?
2. What image are we trying to project?

Gathered at tables, participants brainstormed their answers to the questions, writing them down at a furious pace.

Now what? All responses have been collected and will be analyzed and consolidated during the Economic Development Commission's meeting in June. That group will produce a report explaining the outcomes from the workshop, which will be available to anyone, starting with our Town Council.

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

Commentary

Memorial Day observance

By John Boggs

May 29 is the day set aside to remember those who have made the supreme sacrifice to our nation. As a veteran, I am sometimes asked why people are willing to make the ultimate sacrifice during the many conflicts our country has seen. They ask as if there is one answer.

When that question was first posed to me, I had no ready response. However, it was a question I felt the need to reflect on and examine. It is one of those questions we should all stop and ponder, because it is a question to which we should know the answer. I have no right to speak for the fallen, so I sought the answer from some of their surviving families and the friends who knew them, and read some of the testaments the fallen wrote beforehand. The answer to the question of "why" can be summed up simply: They believed.

The specifics of those beliefs are as

See Memorial Day, p. 38

Commentary

Washingtonians: Take a test drive

By Reema Griffith

Washington, along with every state in the nation, utilizes a gas tax to provide a major source of funding for roads and bridges. It has been a reliable workhorse for decades, but its future sustainability is uncertain as vehicles become more fuel-efficient and alternative fuel sources emerge.

We all want to lower our costs of owning a car and many of us want to leave less of a mark on the environment. As gas consumption goes down—for all the right reasons—gas tax revenues also go down, which leads to less available funding to build and maintain critical transportation infrastructure.

Washington's gas tax was increased in 2016 to the current 49.4 cents per gallon to provide a much-needed infusion of

See Test Drive, p. 38



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Imagine Concrete Foundation hosts “Branding Concrete” workshop

By Haley McNealey

Edited by Katy Tomasulo

What story do we want to tell about ourselves? What image are we trying to project?

These two questions were addressed during a series of roundtable discussions at the April 15 Branding Concrete workshop, hosted by Imagine Concrete Foundation.

Approximately three dozen community members attended, eagerly collaborating and sharing ideas; among those present, ages ranged from adolescents to senior citizens, each delivering a perspective distinct in value and content.

Their goal? To discuss the town's identity. Popular notions that emerged from the discussions will be reflected on and ultimately incorporated into future strategies for marketing the town as a

destination and a great place to live. Along with public discourse, the event featured speakers Town of Concrete Mayor Jason Miller, Town of Concrete Economic Development Commission Chair and Imagine Concrete Foundation Vice President Eric Archuleta, and Economic Development Association of Skagit County CEO John Sternlicht. Members of Imagine Concrete Foundation and the Economic Development Commission served as facilitators for individual discussion groups.

To stimulate conversation, some facts about the geographic region and history of the town were provided. The area's attributes include the Skagit River's status as the only river in Washington to sustain all five salmon species, and

the Superior Portland Cement company, whose Concrete plant supplied cement for noteworthy projects including the Space Needle, the Ballard Locks, Pearl Harbor, several of the state's dams, and military support functions such as fuel tank farms, airfields, and supply depots used during World War II.

Common themes

Following the workshop, Mayor Miller said, “What we are finding so far is that there are three categories [of core attributes] that are rising to the top: our environment, our heritage, and our community.”

One of the popular ideas, for example, is expanding on outdoor recreational activities, with citizens discussing fishing venues, bird watching, hiking, hunting, camping, and amplifying the presence of the river via activities like river rafting. Another pattern that emerged at the workshop was directing the brand toward retired citizens, accommodating the interests and essentials of seniors in the selection of leisure activities; some groups were even discussing the possibility of launching a nursing home in the area.

Others discussed the advantages of the small community, noting how there are usually no long lines for services at the local businesses and praising the commitment of organizations like the

Lions Club and Chamber of Commerce.

There was also discussion regarding the historical significance of Concrete, ranging from acknowledging the filming of “This Boy's Life” in town to capitalizing on landmarks. Further, groups deliberated continued improvements to parks, including expanding advertising, and the opportunities associated with pursuing primary education in the Concrete School District.

Next steps

The Economic Development Commission will perform an initial review of the feedback gathered during the workshop, arranging the raw data in a single document, with emphasis given to the ideas that arose repeatedly within multiple groups.

Following the compilation and analysis of data, the commission will present a copy of the record to Concrete Town Council members for use as a reference for forthcoming decisions, in addition to consulting the record as a guide for ventures of their own. The document will be accessible to the public subsequent to its presentation to the council and will be retrievable online or at Town Hall. Feasibility and timeframes for action will also be determined by the commission and included in the document.

The document is intended to be dynamic, with the prospect of updating it with addendums as they develop. Citizens are encouraged to communicate with the town with future ideas, to make sure the document echoes the current vision of Concrete citizens.

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

Challenge met for Concrete Food Bank

By John Boggs

After several weeks of meetings and uncertainty, the Concrete Food Bank Board can see a light at the end of the tunnel.

When media attention brought the plight of the food bank to light, a handful of individuals have stepped forward,

Food Bank, cont. from p. 4

from its current location at 45952 Main St. In 2004 the owner of that building wanted it for another use and asked them to vacate. At that time, Skagit County commissioners, spurred by Emily Garcia, purchased the current location for the food bank's use. Before that purchase, the county had leased the building for what was called Upriver Services.

About five years ago, the county government changed its position, deciding that it no longer wished to be a landlord for nongovernment functions. One by one, they have been declaring such properties as excess and auctioning them off. Since they had no long-term plans to keep the building, the county property managers made little effort to repair the deteriorating building. Recent inspections by Concrete Fire Chief Darrel Reed and Building Inspector Jack McCormick found some serious issues that need to be addressed before further damage results.

Those inspections were conducted because one of the options available to the county was to transfer ownership of the building to the Town of Concrete, and the town wanted to know the condition of the building before it entered into a transfer

agreement.

The town's ownership of the building did not appear to be a feasible option for the association. First, significant repairs are needed, the town's budget is already stretched thin, and they didn't want to burden the town. Second, the ongoing plans to revitalize the town center would still require the food bank to move after a certain amount of time, so this was not viewed by the association as an acceptable long-term solution.

It took the county some years to finally take action to follow through with disposing of the building. On April 10, without any formal notice to the Food Bank Board, the commissioners held a public comment hearing on their resolution to dispose of the building. That hearing was conducted without prior coordination between the Skagit County Facilities manager and the food bank. Objections to the proposal were raised by representatives of the food bank, a concerned citizen, as well as Concrete Mayor Jason Miller. If the action to sell the building went unabated, the building could have been auctioned off in as little as three to four weeks, with no assurance the Concrete Food Bank could continue. The next day, despite the objections

raised during the public hearing, the resolution was passed with only a slight modification by Commissioner Dahlstedt. The modification added a stipulation for the county to enter into a six-month assignable lease with the Food Bank Association. That type of lease would have to be honored by any new owner for whatever time remained. The stipulation, while not changing the end result, gave the Food Bank Board some time to find a solution, which it hopes it has.

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East County Public Forum Council summary planned for May 17

East County residents with questions for the Skagit County Board of Commissioners—or representatives from various county departments and local agencies—are invited to attend a public forum on Wed., May 17, at 5:30 p.m., in the Commons room at Concrete High School.

The forum gives residents an opportunity to chat with county representatives at stations set up in the Concrete High School library before the Board of Commissioners takes public comment at 6 p.m. in the Commons room. Residents interested in making comments can sign up prior to the comment period and discuss any issue of interest.

Presenters will include:

- Will Reichardt, Sheriff
- Dale Pernula and Ryan Walters, Planning and Development Services
- Jennifer Johnson, Public Health
- Dan Berentson, Public Works
- Kevin Chao, EMS
- Brian Adams, Parks and Recreation
- Bill Henkel and Claudia Marken, Community Action of Skagit County
- Dale O'Brien, Skagit Transit

For more information, contact the commissioners' office at commissioners@co.skagit.wa.us or 360.416.1300.

THIS AND THAT

By J. K. M.

Upper Skagit Library will host **Washington State Poet Laureate Tod Marshall** at the Concrete Theatre on Tue., May 9 at 7 p.m.

Marshall is a poet and professor at Gonzaga University and is serving as the WA State Poet Laureate from 2016–18. He is the author of *Bugle* (2014), which won the Washington State Book Award in 2015. Poet laureates travel to communities in Washington State in order to increase awareness and appreciation of poetry. Marshall also will visit Concrete School District in early May.

On May 9, Marshall will share his thoughts on the impact that poetry can bring to our lives, read from his works, and conclude with a brief Q&A period. The audience may participate in an open mic segment during the evening.

This event is free and open to the public. For more information, go to www.upperskagit.lib.wa.us or call 360.853.7939. To learn more about the Washington Poet Laureate, go to www.wapoetlaureate.org.

Caseworkers from Rep. Suzan DelBene's office will hold mobile office hours at the East County Resource Center

(45770 Main Street, Concrete) on Wed., May 10, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

While the Congresswoman won't be there in person, her staff are able to help folks navigate federal agencies and departments, such as VA benefits, citizenship and immigration services, Social Security benefits, Medicare, IRS, customs and border protection, Dept. of Defense, and more.

Concrete will host a **town- and Upper Skagit-wide Garage Sale** on June 24 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Anyone who lives in town can throw open their garage doors, set tables out in front of their houses, and sell off all that stuff you don't use. Those who live in the Upper Skagit outside of town can bring their items to the south side of the Concrete Community Center and set them out there.

Mark your calendar for June 24. Maps will be printed to show the locations of all the sale sites. The early-bird fee to obtain a site at the Concrete Community Center is \$10; after June 10 it will be \$15. Anyone selling at their homes inside town limits can submit \$10 by June 10 to get their sale location on the maps that will be available to all who attend the sale.

All donations and fees, minus expenses, will benefit the Concrete Community Center.

For more information and to reserve a location at the Concrete Community Center for this sale, call 360.853.8549.

Council summary

Concrete Town Council met for regular meetings on April 10 and 24. 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 10 regular meeting

- **Public safety:** Sgt. Chris Kading reported there have been approximately 19 calls for service so far in April. He also reported the holes and foundation for the gate that will be installed by PSE at Baker River Bar Rd. have been completed.
- Town engineer Cody Hart reported on several projects.

He said the NPDES permit renewal for the wastewater treatment plant is progressing well.

He reported the Superior Building demolition assessment is proceeding. He stated the hazmat survey has been completed, which noted the hazardous materials that will need to be removed.

He stated that town staff is currently working on creating a stockpile of material near the location for the water spray park. He stated this effort will save the town substantial money on this project. He stated the team goal is to have the spray park open by July 4.

He reported the town received one bid for the South Dillard overlay project. He stated the bidder was SRV Construction and the bid came in within budget.

Hart also reported that TIB is offering emergency funding for pothole repairs caused by the harsh winter. He stated that Airport Way is

the perfect fit for this funding, and he is putting an application together for this. He stated that he researched possibly applying for Cedar St. as well, but this road section does not fit into the parameters of this funding.

He also reported he will pursue construction funding for the Secondary Access project through the STPR program, which also has a program that may allow for the town to complete several overlay projects throughout town. He stated this would be for five to seven streets in town. He explained the overlay process, as well as the process for full-depth reclamation. He stated full-depth reclamation would be a great cost saving for the town and would fit into those roadways that do not require sidewalk repairs or construction.

Hart also stated that Cedar St. is set for a funding application that will be submitted this September and that full-depth reclamation could be used for this project.

April 24 regular meeting

- **Public safety:** Sgt. Kading reported on an investigation into a Concrete resident who is growing an excessive amount of marijuana, far beyond the allowed legal limit.
- Sgt. Kading and Deputy Steve Dills reported on an SCSO mentoring program that is starting at Concrete Elementary School.

—Compiled from staff minutes

Keep track of your council

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

Editorial, cont. from p. 2

rural economies are starved because the potential customers who once drove right past businesses' front doors now have no clue that a town center business district even exists. In large part because of this decision, all three communities have been struggling ever since, trying to figure out how to draw people in from the highway.

Don't get me wrong. Federal and state funds are crucial for small, low-income communities like Concrete, Hamilton, and Lyman. They allow us to repair or reconstruct our infrastructure above

and below ground, not to mention build magnificent fire halls that will serve our communities for decades.

But when federal and state funding comes with strings that actually damage a community's long-term prospects, those strings need to be examined very, very closely, and at times eliminated. Any money that improves one element of town and place while decimating another can hardly be described as an improvement.

—J. K. M.



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Sports

Baseball boys eye a lock on spot 2

Softball strong as playoffs loom

By Jason Miller

Fastpitch Head Coach Kelly Howell likes his team's chances as the regular season winds down. His players will play one more doubleheader at Darrington on May 5, then two home games against South Whidbey on May 8 and Orcas Island on May 10. After that it's on to 2B District play at Stanwood High School, beginning May 16.

This year only one team will go to State after District play, and Howell is fairly certain he knows how the situation in

Stanwood will play out.

"We'll probably end up playing Friday Harbor in the District Championship, and I hope we make it," he said.

Howell is confident his players have what it takes to go to State, after seeing them finish a grueling April with seven total games in as many days. The schedule this year is packed with doubleheaders, which can strain teams that have primary pitchers, he said.

"It makes it tough for a small school like us, but most other schools are in the same boat: You're lucky to have one good pitcher, and it makes for a long day for that pitcher; it's hard. We've done it before; we're making the best of it. Doubleheaders are just the way it is."

April play

The Lions ended the month with a 6-3 league record after persistent rain gave them little time in the diamond.

- April 3: An 8-1 win over La Conner.
- April 11: An 11-1 loss to Friday Harbor.
- April 18: A 14-0 rout of Darrington.
- April 21: 17-4 and 19-5 wins over Orcas Island in a doubleheader.
- April 24: A 23-15 win over Sedro-Woolley's JV team.
- April 25: Another pair of wins in a doubleheader with La Conner, 6-5 and 12-0.
- April 28: Doubleheader losses to Friday Harbor, 9-6 and 13-5.

Three more regular season games stand between the Lions and District play.

"Now we make the final dash to the end," said Howell.

—J. K. M.



Above: Sidney Hockett gets a hit against La Conner during doubleheader at home on April 25. **Below: Chloe Stidman** belts one into left field during the La Conner doubleheader on April 25, which ended with Concrete winning both games, 6-5 and 12-0. Stidman sealed the otherwise close first game with a walk-off home run in the seventh inning. "I think Chloe's home run woke us up, inspired us, and got us ready to play the next game," said Coach Kelly Howell.



As of April 29, the Concrete High School baseball team had notched six league wins and four losses.

"We pretty much have a lock on the second spot in the District playoffs," said Coach Randy Sweeney.

April games

The Lions kicked off their month with an April 3 game at La Conner. With Marshall Fichter and Tyler Coffell on the mound, Concrete handed the Braves a crushing 22-5 defeat.

"It was a lot of fun to go out there and win," said Sweeney. "A league win like that got us going in the right direction."

On April 11, Concrete faced Friday Harbor and lost narrowly, 1-0. The game was an edge-of-the-seat battle, with no score till the bottom of the seventh. "Both pitchers went at it, and neither one was going to blink," said Sweeney. "But that was a great game against a great team. We weren't happy we didn't win, but we weren't disappointed with the way we played."

Concrete took another loss against Bush on April 15, 11-8 in nonleague play.

A solid win against Darrington on April 18 made the Lions' day a little brighter.

On April 21, the Lions dominated a doubleheader at Orcas Island, 10-8 and 12-7.

"We needed this and the next two doubleheader wins, a sweep to put a lock on second place, and we did it," said Sweeney. Grayson Luttrell pitched a strong first game and the Lions hit the ball well, holding the lead throughout the game.

During the second game, Riley Fichter took the mound, pitched the entire game, and got his first win. "He kept his pitch count really low, did a great job, and we played great defense behind him," said Sweeney.

Another doubleheader on April 25 found La Conner on the Concrete field, getting handed a pair of losses, 6-3 and 7-4.

"Those games were a lot closer this time; they'd improved quite a bit since our first match, but we still managed to get both games from them," said Sweeney. Luttrell pitched the first game, with Marshall Fichter and Coffell handling the second one. "Coffell did an outstanding job," said Sweeney. "Two big league wins, and a sweep of the series from La Conner, 3-0."

April 28: A doubleheader versus Friday Harbor, and two losses, 3-0 and 11-8.

The Lions have two more regular season appointments: May 1 versus South Whidbey, and a May 5 doubleheader at Darrington. District play kicks off May 13 at Stanwood High School.

—J. K. M.



Athletes of the Month



Athletes of the Month: Tessa Coffell and Grayson Luttrell

Senior pitcher Tessa Coffell is one of the Concrete softball team's top players, leading her teammates in batting average. But Coach Kelly Howell is grateful for the attributes that make her great. "She's very dependable, always there for us," he says. "Her even temperament is a big plus; she stays really even and steady for us."

Senior co-captain Grayson Luttrell is equally valuable for the high school baseball team. As pitcher and third baseman, Luttrell "sets the example by being our hardest-working guy at practice every day," says Coach Randy Sweeney. "He's hitting about .350, with a bunch of base hits and lot of RBIs. He's a team leader, a workhorse. If there's a big game, he's going to be pitching it. He's a pleasure to coach."

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



Above: Shayne Luttrell stretches for the throw to first and gets the out during a doubleheader clash with La Conner on the Lions' home field April 25. **Left: Marshall Fichter** beats the throw to second during the La Conner doubleheader, which found Concrete on top both games, 6-3 and 7-4.

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Track athletes shatter personal records

The Concrete High School Track team's coaching squad couldn't be more proud of their athletes this season, who barely let two minutes go by without breaking their own personal records.

Sprinter Blaine Storms and throwers Becky Azure, Hannah Rensink, Emily Bridge, Brian Torheim, Jonas Rensink, and Levi Lowry have all experienced the adrenaline rush of realizing they've just performed better than they ever have.

At the two-day Skagit County meets in Anacortes on April 26 and 28, Azure topped her own best discus throw by more than 10 feet, slinging it 92 feet 9.5 inches and placing fourth. In the shotput, Azure placed 6th with a throw of 29 feet 6 inches—a new school record.

Newcomer Bridge PRed with a toss of 71 feet 2 inches. Bridge, a senior, has been a surprise this year, having never

competed in track. She has demonstrated a natural feel for the discus in particular, learning the basics rapidly.

Senior Torheim intends to go out with a bang, hurling the javelin 89 feet 4.5 inches at the county meet for a new PR.

Also at the county meets, freshman Lowry stomped his previous bests in the shotput and javelin, throwing 34 feet 4.75 inches and 110 feet 7 inches, respectively. Lowry has big, big things in his future on the field if he stays committed to learning the techniques necessary to excel in his events.

Jonas Rensink upped his discus game at the county meet, throwing 62 feet 11 inches for a new PR. He also PRed in the javelin, throwing 79 feet 1 inch.

Our freshman go-getter Ebby Buchta notched a new PR at the county meet too, jumping 12 feet 3 inches.

After a bitter, bitter misunderstanding that bumped him from the 100m finals, senior Blaine Storms, well, stormed back with a 24-seconds-flat time in the 200m sprint, a PR that netted him a 5th place finish overall.

Storms kept the dial at 11, running a 52.9-second 400m for another PR and a 2nd-place ribbon.

Next stop: Northwest 2B/1B League Championship at La Conner on May 3.

—J. K. M.



Clockwise from top: Hannah Rensink throws the javelin during the April 8 Birger Solberg Invitational meet at Civic Field in Bellingham. Levi Lowry hurls the shot during the Nike Eason Invitational at Snohomish High School on April 22. Maniesha Hook hands the baton to Makayla Callas during the women's 4x100m relay at the Nike Eason Invitational. Callas lands in the pit during a long jump attempt at Birger Solberg.



HEAR THEM ROAR

Concrete Lions Club celebrates 75 years of service to its community.

By Haley McNealey

The Concrete Lions Club has served its local community and Skagit County since 1939, when the Sedro-Woolley Lions Club sponsored Concrete's proposed institution with 20 charter members.

With enrollment rapidly dropping to a mere nine members, the Concrete Lions Club was faced with suspending action for a short time in summer 1942; however, the organization demonstrated its resiliency and dedication to serving the community when it ultimately recovered just months later in November 1943.

Next year, 2018, will mark the 75-year anniversary of consecutive service from the local club, which belongs to Multiple District 19 of Lions Clubs International.

Starting small

The concept that would become Lions Clubs International emerged when a successful 38-year-old businessman named Melvin Jones distributed invitations to representatives from assorted men's clubs for a convention he would facilitate on June 7, 1917 in Chicago, where he lived. Jones' proposal was to develop an organization devoted to employing one's faculties in the improvement of one's community through dynamic service. His personal code, "You can't get very far until you start doing something for somebody else," became the foundation upon which Lions Clubs International was built. Four qualities central to the organization are represented by the lion symbol: courage, strength, activity, and fidelity.

Jones' conception has proven itself to be prolific, currently merited as the world's largest service club organization, with 1.35 million members in more than 46,000 clubs, with an international network dispersed across more than two hundred countries.

Lions Clubs International's vision to be the global leader in community and humanitarian service is embodied in The Global Service Framework, which includes five concentrations: diabetes, environment, hunger relief, pediatric cancer, and vision. Each of these interests presents various routes through which to take action locally or internationally, with

features like recommended projects and grant opportunities. Each program also offers an opportunity to donate funds or in some cases resources, such as eyeglasses.

In celebration of delivering 100 years of service, Lions Clubs International encourages all regional clubs to complete a Centennial Community Legacy Project by June 30, 2018; this mandates a visual endowment to the community in commemoration of the service contributions offered by the local club—it could be something as small as posting new Lions signs or as large as equipping an area hospital.

Close to home

Although the Concrete Lions Club does not plan to participate in any Centennial Celebration events, its active role within the local community is highly visible.

The most recent event hosted by the club was its annual Easter Egg Hunt held at the elementary school for local children, and its next event will take place the second weekend in May: a White Cane Days donation drive to raise funds to provide eyeglasses to the vision-impaired who may not otherwise be able to afford this essential resource.

The club's primary function is to support the needs of the community, an undertaking that ranges from installing wheelchair ramps at residences to hosting an annual vision and hearing test at the school district. Each year, the club operates a barbecue at Cascade Days; proceeds are directed to the children's fund and used for things like paying Little League fees for youth who would not otherwise be able to afford participation, providing tennis shoes for children in need, and providing eyeglasses and hearing aids to children in need. The club also sells Christmas trees annually, and members have participated in an initiative that involves distributing gifts to poverty-stricken families in remote regions across the Canadian border. Its 21 active members regularly donate time and labor to support the needs of the local community. When asked the greatest need the club currently faces, members Connie Smithhart and Dolores Elliott

stated a wish for increased membership. Those who wish to become involved with the organization are invited to attend one of its regular meetings, which take place on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Annie's Pizza.



Members of the Concrete Lions Club are responsible for an exhaustive list of activities and good deeds within Concrete and the Upper Valley, ranging from Christmas tree sales (above, after chipping the leftovers) to home repair projects, such as decking replacement (below).



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Academics



FBLA in Spokane

The 2017 FBLA State Leadership Conference was held in Spokane April 19–22. Twelve members from our local chapter made the trip to compete in the following events:

- Business Plan: Michael Booker, sophomore; Erica Knuth, junior; Troy Schmidt, sophomore
- Community Service Project: Charles Parent, sophomore; Nora Towner, sophomore
- Computer Problem Solving: John Hansen, freshman
- Emerging Business Issues: Emily Schmidt, junior; Mary Spangler, junior; Nora Towner, sophomore
- Intro to Business: Thalen Cambo, sophomore; Nora Towner, sophomore
- Intro to Information Tech: William Baird, freshman
- Introduction to Fin. Math: Ebby Buchta, freshman
- Introduction to Parliamentary Procedure: Samantha Mitchell, freshman

"FBLA did a great job of placing the community interests first with their group projects," said advisor Claus Joens. "The Business Plan Team worked directly with the new executive director of the North Cascades Vintage Aircraft museum, Julie Hubner. The Community Service Project worked directly with Em Beals of 5b's Bakery to support a flier for the Map Your Neighborhood Project for the Upper Valley areas east of Birdview." This was the largest FBLA group to qualify for the state conference in the past five years, and all these students will be back next year.

—J. K. M.



Members of the Concrete High School FBLA paused for a photo opp at the FBLA State Leadership Conference in Spokane, which ran from April 19–22. From left, William Baird, Michael Booker, Troy Schmidt, John Hansen, Emily Schmidt, Erica Knuth, Mary Spangler, Samantha Mitchell, Ebby Buchta, Nora Towner, Charles Parent, Thalen Cambo. Photo by Claus Joens.

YD update

Concrete Youth Dynamics is rolling! There are so many great stories in the lives of our young people taking place right here in Concrete, and still so many adventures to come outside of Concrete. We just got back from an amazing weekend at Baker Lake, where 34 high school students participated in our annual 30-Hour Famine Retreat. The students did an amazing job of raising money for poverty-stricken children in third-world countries who go hungry every day.

Concrete YD had two other Monday night events in April: Minute to Win It and a Scavenger Hunt around town.

We have some great Monday night events on the schedule for May, as well as a couple of community service opportunities. Our Monday night events include Outdoor Game Night, Jell-O Wrestling, Fear Factor, and our end of the year BBQ and Softball Game, all held at Veterans Memorial Park. Our community service projects include picking up garbage along SR 20 on Sat., May 6 from 9 a.m. to noon, and working in the community garden on Mon., May 15 from 7 to 9 p.m. The students can get volunteer or scholarship hours by attending these events.

What would the students need scholarship hours for? I'm glad you asked! We have two summer adventure trips planned: our annual Rock-n-Roll trip to Leavenworth, and a seven-day kayak trip down the Salmon River in Idaho, from Aug. 4–9. We are so excited for this trip, and we would love for you to join us. If your son or daughter is interested in participating in any of our Monday night events or summer adventure trips, please contact me at 360.630.6063 and let me know. These trips fill up fast, and space is limited. If you would like to sponsor one of our students who can't afford one of these trips, we have a scholarship account set up to help pay the way for students who would otherwise be unable to go. The student who receives the scholarship still needs to work those hours off through volunteering or community service to receive credit. It's a win-win for everyone!

—Kevik and Marta Rensink
Concrete YD Area Directors



Happy May!

The coalition has been hard at work going over new school district and community data to help guide the coalition on updating its strategic plan. The coalition will share the plan at the Concrete Prevention Posse and Varsity in Volunteerism dinner on Thur., June 1 at 6 p.m. in the Concrete High School Commons, and at another community event this summer.

On May 17, six local middle school and high school students will attend the Spring Youth Forum in Grand Mound, Wash. This event draws close to 300

students from all over Washington State. The students participate in small groups and give presentations about prevention programs they are promoting in their communities. The students have worked hard to make Concrete youth safer and healthier by promoting three "Jam Nights" held at the high school, creating a drug-free pledge wall, and having a bake sale to raise money to purchase cameras at Silo Park. We know they will represent Concrete and all the amazing work we are doing.

Our coalition meetings are always on the third Thursday of each month from 1 to 2:30 p.m., and open to public.

Mark your calendars: Concrete Youth Activity Day returns to Silo Park on Fri., July 14!

—Stephanie Morgareidge, coordinator
Concrete Resource Coalition
United General District 304

Continue the cycle

**Please recycle
this newspaper**



Concrete Elementary School wins Washington Achievement Award

Concrete Elementary School has been named a Washington Achievement Award recipient for 2016 in the "Closing the Achievement Gap" category, which focuses on students with disabilities.

The award is given by the State of Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. The Washington Achievement Award uses the State Board of Education Revised 2016 Achievement Index and is based on statewide assessment data for the three previous years. Each award has individual business rules, but all schools are required to have at least 95 percent participation on state tests.

Schools are recognized in seven categories:

- Overall Excellence
- High Progress
- English Language Arts Growth
- Math Growth
- Extended Graduation Rate (awarded

to high and comprehensive schools only)

- English Language Acquisition
- Closing the Achievement Gap

In the "Closing the Achievement Gap" category, schools qualify for recognition if they have demonstrated closing the achievement gap between a reference group and a subgroup, based on two years of data. Schools must close the gap by at least 10 percentage points, the subgroup performance must not decline over the two years, and the All Students group must not decline.

The award is designed to shine a light on the best practices that are making the state's most high-performing schools achieve that success.

Concrete School District will receive a banner and an acrylic award to display at the elementary school.

—J. K. M.

Looking for advice on how to talk to kids about marijuana?

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Clear Lake



HISTORY CORNER

The picture at right shows early logging in Clear Lake, Wash., circa 1885. Logs were brought into Clear Lake on rail cars and dumped into the lake. Oxen were then used to transport logs from Clear Lake to Mud Lake. Note the two teamsters who were in charge of the oxen. Five yokes constituted a team. The logs were held in Mud Lake until the river rose, backing up the water through a natural slough at the west end of Mud Lake. The logs were then floated down the slough to the river. From there they were towed to a mill at Utsalady on Camano Island, where they were sold.

Photos courtesy of Clear Lake Historical Association.

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

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

—Deanna Ammons, historian



Community Calendar



MAY

- 5 Craft Friday at 5b's Bakery, Concrete, 6 p.m.
- 6 Storytime at Upper Skagit Library, 11 a.m.; info at www.upperskagit.lib.wa.us or 360.853.7939
- 6 "Blast Open the Pass" spring fundraiser for KSVU, Marblemount Community Hall, 6 to 10 p.m. (maypole raising at 5:30 p.m.); see article, p. 26; info at 360.853.8588
- 9 KSVU staff and volunteers monthly meeting, station studio in Portable B behind Concrete Elementary, 4 p.m.; info at 360.853.8588
- 9 "An Evening of Poetry with Tod Marshall" (Washington State Poet Laureate), Concrete Theatre, Concrete, 7 p.m.; free admission; see notice, p. 6; info at 360.853.7939 or www.upperskagit.lib.wa.us
- 10 Mobile office with Rep. Suzan DelBene caseworkers, East County Resource Center, 45770 Main St., Concrete, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; see notice, p. 6
- 10 Marblemount Community Hall Annual Meeting and Open House with dessert potluck, at the hall, 6:30 p.m.; info at 360.873.2323
- 13 Master Gardener Plant Fair, Skagit County Fairgrounds (south entrance), 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.; free admission; info at <http://extension.wsu.edu/skagit/mg/plant-fair>, 360.387.3799, 206.919.4346, or slswarbrick@mac.com
- 13 Barnaby Reach field tour, 1 to 4 p.m.; see notice, p. 23; info at <https://barnabystudy.wordpress.com>
- 15–19 Filing week for candidates for elected offices in Skagit County
- 16 Fire Risk Reduction Workshop: see notice, p. 27
- 17 East County Public Forum, CHS Commons room, 5:30 p.m.; see notice, p. 6
- 20 Storytime at Upper Skagit Library, 11 a.m.; info at 360.853.7939
- 20 Genealogist Margie Wilson at Sedro-Woolley Museum; see notice, p. 16
- 21 Retirement Party honoring Barb Hawkings, CHS gymnasium, 1 to 3 p.m.; see ad, p. 12
- 22 Memorial Day ceremony at Seattle City Light Newhalem complex, 8:30 a.m.
- 29 Memorial Day
- 29 Memorial Day ceremony, Forest Park Cemetery, Concrete, 1 p.m., followed by a potluck sponsored by the Concrete American Legion Post 132 at the Concrete Community Center, 1:30 p.m.

JUNE

- 2–4 Blast from the Past, downtown Sedro-Woolley, see ad, p. 2
- 3 Blast of Color, Sedro-Woolley: 9 a.m. registration, 10 a.m. start; see ad, p. 17; register online at www.databarevents.com/blastofcolor5k
- 4 Mount Baker Ultra Marathon, Concrete; info at www.mtbakerultra.com
- 4–6 Concrete High School Senior Trip: Lake Chelan
- 24 Concrete and Upper Skagit-wide Garage Sale; see notice, p. 6

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

Community meetings

Cascade Days Committee Board of Directors meets the third Mon. of each month at 5:30 p.m., at Lone Star Restaurant in Concrete Town Center. 360.853.7867, ember@cascadedays.com, info@cascadedays.com.

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

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

Concrete American Legion Post and Auxiliary meets the second Tue. of each month, Sept. through May, at 1 p.m., in the conference room of the East County Resource Center. 360.853.8347.

Concrete Economic Development Commission meets quarterly at Concrete Town Hall. Its first meeting is Oct. 12 at 6 p.m. 503.333.2406

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

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

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

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

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

Concrete School District Board will hold its next work session on May 22, at 6 p.m. in the high school Commons. The board will hold its regular monthly meeting on May 25 at 6 p.m. in the same location. 360.853.4000.

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

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

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

Forest Park Cemetery District No. 5 meets the 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, 11 a.m., open to public. Call 360.416.7001 to confirm appointment.

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

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

Marblemount Community Hall board and staff meet the second Wed. of each month at the hall, at 6 p.m. 360.873.2323.

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

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

Sedro-Woolley School District Board will meet on May 8, at 7 p.m. at the Support Services Bldg., and on May 22, at 7 p.m. at Lyman Elementary School. 360.855.3500 or kcargile@swsd.k12.wa.us.

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

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

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

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Save the date: Kindergarten Registration Block Party June 3

Nick Jr. and the Concrete and Sedro-Woolley School Districts invite you to Nick Jr. Beyond the Backpack Kindergarten Signup Block Party.

The event will be held on Sat., June 3, at Cascade Middle School, 905 McGarigle

Rd., Sedro-Woolley, from 1 to 4 p.m.

Getting ready for kindergarten is critical but easy with the help of Nick Jr. Beyond the Backpack.

Nick Jr. Beyond the Backpack joins with the Concrete and Sedro-Woolley School Districts to invite you to celebrate

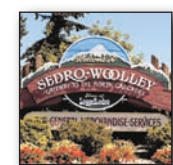
kindergarten readiness.

Let your child enjoy oversized games and hang out with their favorite Nick Jr. characters while you get the tools needed to register your preschooler for kindergarten.

For more information, call Kellie

Cargile at 360.855.3502.

—Kellie Cargile



Sedro-Woolley



Historic building burns



A fire in the wee hours of the morning on April 17 started the day wrong for downtown Sedro-Woolley. The 100-year-old brick building on the corner of Metcalf and Woodward burned, decimating the building and necessitating its demolition. The building was home to Video West, a video rental store, and at various points in its existence had housed the local chapter of the International Order of Odd Fellows and, later, a Rexall drug store. No one was injured in the blaze, which shut down Metcalf for several hours. *Photo by Pola Kelley.*

Museum to host genealogist

On Sat., May 20, at 1 p.m. at the Sedro-Woolley Museum, genealogist Margie Wilson will again reveal highlights of what she has discovered about decoding messages carved on stone. Before

inventing lettering, people left information of who they were and how they wanted to be remembered carved in images in burial grounds. This custom still persists on cemetery monuments and headstones.

Wilson describes her interest as a kind of detective work. "Gravestones tell about the people and the community. There is a dual purpose, finding hidden stories through ancestors' pasts—insights into a



Horner

Nurse practitioner joins PeaceHealth

RoseMarie Horner, APRN, MSN, has joined PeaceHealth Medical Group as Nurse Practitioner at PeaceHealth Sedro-Woolley Family Medicine.

Horner provides care in all aspects of family practice, from pediatrics to women's health, to chronic conditions.

Prior to joining the PeaceHealth team in Sedro-Woolley, Horner gained a breadth of experience in family medicine, most recently as a Family Nurse Practitioner in Soldotna, Alaska. She has also practiced in community clinics in Georgia, at Travis Air Force Base in California and the Fort Mojave Indian Health Center in Arizona.

person and the life they lived."

Slides from Burlington's cemetery illustrate Wilson's presentation. The Sedro-Woolley Museum will display photographs of carvings on headstones in Clear Lake, Concrete, Hamilton, Lyman, and Sedro-Woolley.

Admission is by donation. Seating is limited; ensure your seat by reserving it at 360.855.2390.



Ekaterina Matsko serves as page for Sen. Pearson

Ekaterina Matsko, an 8th grader at Cascade Middle School in Sedro-Woolley, recently spent a week at the Capitol working as a page for the Washington State Senate. Ekaterina was one of 30 students who served as Senate pages for the 13th week of the 2017 legislative session.

She was sponsored by 39th Legislative District Sen. Kirk Pearson.

"It's been a real joy seeing Ekaterina's determination and passion for government," said Pearson. "I hope that she'll take this experience to heart as she moves on to bigger and better things."

"I'm very interested in political work," said Ekaterina. "I think that paging is an important first step. The experience has been even better than I expected; I really enjoyed learning more about the process."

Ekaterina was born in Russia, and moved to America with her mother, Nina, and brother, Sasha, when she was 7 years old. Since then, she's developed an intense

passion for U.S. history and government.

"I hope that someday I can work in Congress," said Ekaterina. "I think that if I work hard enough, I can achieve anything."

Besides government, Ekaterina has a variety of interests, including astronomy, karate, writing, art, and studying languages. Ekaterina is bilingual and at present is working hard to learn Chinese, among other languages.

"I'm hoping to go to Stanford after graduating high school," said Ekaterina. "I'm particularly interested in studying business and economics."

The Senate Page Program is an opportunity for Washington students to spend a week working in the Legislature. Students are responsible for transporting documents between offices, as well as delivering messages and mail. Pages spend time in the Senate chamber and attend page school to learn about parliamentary procedure and the legislative process. Students also draft their own bills and engage in a mock session.

Ekaterina, 14, is the daughter of James and Nina Hubbs of Sedro-Woolley.

CASCADE MIDDLE SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

The following 7th grade students at Cascade Middle School received honors for high marks for the first quarter of the 2016-17 school year. An asterisk denotes a student with a perfect 4.0 GPA.

Grade 7 Honor Roll

Jacob T. Acton, Graci L. Adkerson, Lauren L. Anderson, Kaiden J. Bair, Jamie L. Bartok*, Hayden Birkle*, Arriann J. Bockenkamp*, Natalie A. Boyd, Chloe T. Brase, Connor J. Brooks, Lilli Brooks, Tyson M. Brown, Michael J. Brumley, Jordan N. Burke*, Taylor A. Burke*, Miah G. Castilleja, Gally Celaya-Martinez, Nataly Celaya-Martinez, Emily M. Chavez*, Evan D. Coker, Connor S. Davis*, William R. Dean, Madelynn A. Deleon, Janet Delgado Guillen, Kimberly B. Delgado Santiago, Dharma A. Denmark, Lily S. Devries, Benjamin N. Dinh, Ethan R. Doctor, Rhianalyn Dodson, Kiara K. Dreyer, Noah S. Evans, Keara Fellers, Anker B. Frye, Mabel R. Gahan, Ashley J. Gaines, Amber F. Gant, Ryan B. Garcia, Rebecca J. Geary, Roger E. Geisendorf, Allen J. Goudy, Lyric Graham*, Lucas D. Greening, Stacy D. Griffith*, Ashton Hall, Cody R. Hankins, Ameliah R. Hanson, Bode J. Hanson, Kaylie A. Hanson, Mia K. Hanson*, Benjamin Hedberg, Amarie R. Hemmerich, Alexandra V. Hernandez, Taryn I. Higgins, Briley Hixson, Leah M. Hoogendam, Jasmine R. Horton, Ashlyn J. Huisman, Nicole E. Hulst, Maxwell Hynds, Ryder C. Jacobson, Jacob W. Jepperson*, Mason Johnson, Madison S. Justice, Brady E. Kinsella, Anna M. Lehmann, Emma Litke, Kaitlyn M. Loehr, Isabella R. Lopez, Lezzeth Lopez Martinez, Sheyla A. Macedo-De La Torre, Annalise R. Mahaffie, Arturo A. Martinez, Grayson A. Mast*, Jerome B. Mathias, Katelynn G. Mathias, Alex J. McCauley, Myles O. McKee, Jackson D. McLemore, Ricardo Mendoza, Noah R. Messmer, Emmett Mihelich*, Dawson D. Mills, Nicolas J. Miranda*, Kyla S. Mitcham, Beau P. Mitchell, Jayden M. Moors, Madison L. Nasin, Torrie S. Nasin, Cora A. Pierce, Maxim A. Porter, Mattie M. Powers, Dalton C. Pullen, Peter Pusateri*, Jacinda R. Rana, Olivia Rinne, Luis M. Ruiz, Sabrina Smith, Emma J. Sullivan*, Christian C. Sylvia, Nathan A. Thornbrough, Alexa J. Thorndike, Braedyn Tinklepaugh*, Kaden R. Todd, Nylah J. Torgerson, Kiah A. Trammell*, Justice Trevithick, Reina I. Uzunov, Abby Virata*, Baylor Virata*, Carson Virata*, Collin I. Wages, Grace A. Wartchow, Jaelle L. Werner*, Ariana Westfall, Cameron H. Wilbur, Lauryn H. Wilson, Cameron L. Wolkenhauer, Collyn I. Zerby.

Grade 8 Honor Roll will appear next month.

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Lyman



Day Creek



Distracted drivers: Mother's mission focused on legislation banning handheld devices while driving

By Grace Swanson
WNPA Olympia News Bureau

Twenty-three-year-old Cody Meyer loved hiking at Wallace Falls in Gold Bar, Wash., and lighting off fireworks on the July 4. He spent time playing video games with his father and brother and hanging out with his girlfriend, Nicole.

Arlington resident Tina Meyer, describes her son, Cody, as her best friend.

"The one thing that a lot of people don't get with their boys is affection as they get older," Tina said. "Cody was the type of man who would always give me a kiss on the lips."

Cody was working as a construction flagger on Cedar Grove Rd. near Issaquah on Dec. 15, 2015, when a Jeep estimated to be traveling at 40 mph struck him. The driver, Andrew Richwine, had glanced down at his phone.

Meyer was rushed to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle on that December day with a traumatic brain injury, a torn kidney, bruising on his lungs, and a broken leg.

As his mother entered the hospital, she was already making plans to build a ramp in the house to help Cody move around more easily in a wheelchair.

"I wasn't accepting what I was seeing, because bad as it was," Tina Meyer said. "I was already making the plans to get him home to take care of him."

Tina visited Cody at the hospital each day. She arrived at seven in the morning and began taking care of her son. Every day, Cody's family and the Harborview staff looked for purposeful movement.

Twenty days after Cody arrived at the hospital, he puckered up his lips to give his mother a kiss—his first purposeful movement.

Cody was transferred to Kindred Hospital in Seattle in January 2016, to continue his recovery. He was unable to

speak, but could communicate through movements such as thumbs up and thumbs down signs. One day, he flipped off his aunt after she played Taylor Swift's song "Shake it Off" and grabbed Cody's hands and started dancing with him.

"That was his character, he was a screwball," said Tina. "For him to turn around and flip my sister off like that, it was him."

Tina Meyer said her son was there mentally, but was struggling physically. He had been diabetic since childhood, so his broken leg wouldn't heal.

On May 23, 2016, his brother's birthday, Cody was transferred to Josephine Sunset Rehabilitation Center in Stanwood. The next day Cody suffered a massive heart attack due to complications from his accident. He was rushed to Everett's Providence Hospital, where he died.

Steps to prevent tragedy

On April 12, the House passed an amended SB 5289, sponsored by Sen. Ann Rivers, R-La Center, which would prohibit drivers from using a portable electronic device while driving. This includes using fingers to read, view, browse, save, retrieve messages, or watch videos. Holding a mobile device in one or two hands would also be banned.

Rep. Ed Orcutt, R-Kalama, rose in opposition to the bill during the House floor debate because, he said, the legislation goes too far.

"If there's not some other infraction that's going on or some sign that they've actually been distracted by having that [phone] in their hand, I don't think they should be pulled over," he said. He believes it would be more reasonable to classify holding a phone while driving as a secondary offense or infraction.

Officers now can stop motorists only for primary traffic infractions. An officer can pull a driver over for a secondary traffic infraction only when the driver is committing another infraction, such as speeding.

Rep. Bob McCaslin, R-Spokane Valley, also voted to oppose the bill. He said during the April 12 House floor debate that he's afraid SB 5289 would target lower-income populations that may not be able to afford vehicles that sync up with portable electronic devices and provide hands-free use of cell phones.

Rep. Steve Kirby, D-Tacoma, voted in favor of the bill. He explained during the House debate that distracted drivers sometimes hold up traffic.

"We do so many things down here to try and fix traffic congestion and to keep people moving, and these [distracted drivers] are just a menace and we need to do something to get their attention," he said. "I think this bill is exactly the right idea, and I urge your support."

SB 5289 struggled before finally gaining Senate approval after it had earlier rejected House amendments. Finally the House withdrew its major amendments, approving the bill on a 61-36 vote. The Senate gave its final support on a 39-10 vote late on April 26. The measure now heads to the governor for his signature. If signed, it takes effect Jan. 1, 2019.

Amendments and companions

An amendment adopted April 12 specified insurance companies would be notified if drivers received two or more fines for using an electronic device within five years. That section of the bill was redacted before final passage, which means that drivers' insurance companies will not be notified of distracted driving



Arlington resident Cody Meyer, 23, died last May from injuries sustained in a December 2015 distracted-driver accident near Issaquah while working as a highway flagger. Submitted photo.

infractions.

A companion bill, HB 1371, sponsored by Jessyn Farrell, D-Seattle, passed the House, but failed to gain Senate consideration this session.

Distracted driving affected Senator Rivers personally. She's prime-sponsor of SB 5289.

A distracted motorist had struck her husband's car. He didn't suffer injuries, but the car had extensive damage.

During her frequent drives between the Capitol in Olympia and her home in La Center, north of Vancouver, Wash., Rivers said she often observes cars weaving, which she associates with someone using a cell phone.

"You would think people would realize they are driving a two-ton vehicle that could cause a lot of damage," she said. "My hope is that SB 5289 will cause people to wake up and become accountable not only to themselves, but to others."

So hopes Tina Meyer, whose son died from injuries when struck by a distracted

"Basic justice" for sexual assault victims set to become law

Bill would require notice of attacker's petition to avoid sex offender registration.

With unanimous support in the House and Senate, a bill to give sexual assault victims fair notice if their offender petitions to be removed from the sex offender registry is on its way to the governor's desk to be signed into law.

Currently, sex offenders are only required to notify their local district attorney of their petition to be exempted from registering as a sex offender.

"If an offender wants to apply for lenience, the victims should have a say in the decision," said Sen. Kirk Pearson, R-Monroe, the sponsor of the bill. "The judge making the decision should hear from the people who suffered at the hands of these offenders, and the victims should be able to speak up for themselves. This is basic justice and an important protection for the victims."

There is currently no process for victims of the abuse or the original prosecuting

attorney on the case to be made aware of the offender's petition, especially if it is submitted in a different jurisdiction. Senate Bill 5083 would require that the prosecuting attorney make reasonable effort to notify the victim of the offender's petition for relief from registration.

One victim of sexual assault worked with Pearson to bring the bill forward. Bethany and her sisters survived years of abuse, but faced the return of their fears when learning that their tormentor could be removed from the registry—a protection they relied on—with no notice.

"This can help everyone have the opportunity to fight the petition if they still think they need to," said Bethany. "Some might not care, but my sisters and I went through so much abuse. It was his choice. He has to live with the consequences."

—Submitted by Jess Honcoop

More ballot boxes coming to counties

The House of Representatives has passed a bill by Sen. Kirk Pearson, R-Monroe, that would require many more ballot dropboxes to keep voters from having to pay postage in order to vote.

Having already passed the Senate, the bill now proceeds to the governor's desk to be signed into law.

"We should be making it easier for the citizens of Washington State to vote, not harder," said Pearson. "Forcing people to pay for postage in order to vote is essentially a poll tax. It's only fair that

every citizen should have an opportunity to drop their ballot off rather than mail it in."

Pearson's bill, Senate Bill 5472, would require a ballot drop-box wherever there is a city, town, or census-designated location with a post office. It also mandates that county auditors establish one ballot box for every 15,000 registered voters in each county.

Nearly 60 percent of voters in 2016 submitted their ballot via dropbox.

—Submitted by Jess Honcoop

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Community notes

Firefighters Appreciation Gathering

More than 80 attendees gathered to honor Day Creek firefighters during an appreciation dinner last month. Chief Travis Arendse addressed the community with plans for the upcoming years, seeking volunteers, and an explanation to fund the community's new fire engine. Bound by insurance law, Chief Arendse exhorted community members to vote to continue the current tax rate for the next 20 years. The Day Creek Fire Dept. needs this bond to maintain compliance for its fire insurance rating.

Day Creek Community Pancake Feed

This year's pancake feed will be held at Day Creek Chapel on May 13 from 7 to 11 a.m. Admission by donation. Menu is

pancakes, ham, fruit, and drinks. A silent auction also will be presented.

—Kathy Henderson

2017 Community Potluck dates

May 16, 6:30 p.m.

June 20, 6:30 p.m.

July 18, 6:30 p.m.

August 15, 6:30 p.m.

September 19, 6:30 p.m.

October 17, 6:30 p.m.

November 21, 6:30 p.m.

December 19, 6:30 p.m.

Legislature approves bills focused on homeless youth

Three bills addressing youth homelessness were approved by the Legislature this session, which ended April 21. A 30-day special session began April 24.

The three youth homelessness bills are among dozens of measures passing both the House and Senate. The three are:

- SHB 1641 allows a school nurse, school counselor, or homeless student liaison to provide consent for health care for a homeless student when consent is necessary for nonemergency outpatient primary care services; the patient meets the definition of a "homeless child or youth" under the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, which is aimed at addressing the problems that homeless children and youth have faced in enrolling, attending, and succeeding in school; and the patient is not under the supervision or control of a parent, custodian, or legal guardian and is not in the care and custody of the Department of Social and Health Services. The governor's signature is next.
- SHB 1816 allows the Department of Social and Health Services to disclose confidential child welfare records to the Department of Commerce for youth admitted to crisis residential centers (CRC) or HOPE centers and modifies certain administrative responsibilities related to CRCs and HOPE centers. Crisis

Residential Centers are short-term secure or semi-secure facilities providing a temporary residence for runaway youth and adolescents in conflict with their families. Counselors at a CRC work with the family to resolve the immediate conflict and may refer the family for additional services. At the request of the child or parent, a CRC administrator may convene a multidisciplinary team to assist with coordination and delivery of services to the family. HOPE centers provide temporary residence and services for street youth under the age of 18. Youth residing in a HOPE center receive a comprehensive assessment that may include referrals and permanency planning. The bill awaits the governor's signature.

- SSB 5241 sets in place procedures to help the on-time grade level progression and graduation of students who are homeless. It was signed into law by Gov. Jay Inslee April 17.

Meanwhile, major legislative solutions to the biennial budget and how the state intends to fully fund basic education remain for consideration during the special session. A mandate from the State Supreme Court with a deadline this year for solving the education funding crisis, plus a daily \$100,000 fine until that mandate is met, continues to hover over legislative deliberations. So far the state owes more than \$60 million in penalties for inaction since the court exercised jurisdiction over the education-funding dilemma.

—Grace Swanson

April in pictures



Left: The Concrete contingent to WoodFest, April 1-2, stands proudly with their creations and swag. From left, Kaden Becker, Shayne Luttrell, Blaine Storms, Tanner Wilson. Storms brought home a blue ribbon for his wood box and also built a cutting board on legs. Luttrell built the center table. Wilson brought two cutting boards to the event, and Becker brought two step stools. Not pictured: Tyler Nevin. *Photo by Becky Luttrell.*



Above: Local band Flood, composed mostly of Concrete High School graduates, played a set at the Mirkwood Public House in Arlington on April 8. From left, Cody Mills, guitar; Hayden Holbrook, drums; Ben Eddy, vocals and guitar; and Spencer Duffy, bass. They rocked.



Above: Phoebe and Vashti Buller from Marblemount couldn't be happier with their winnings at Cascade Supply in Concrete last month: a giant stuffed rabbit and a basket full of goodies. *Submitted photo.*



Above: Anja Roozen (left, in purple), a 13-year-old student at Concrete Elementary, works to plant a Japanese holly shrub during an Earth Day Planting Party she organized for April 23. Roozen and a crew of volunteers descended on the Park & Ride at Silo Park in Concrete and planted 68 of the shrubs, plus five cherry trees. When mature, the shrubs will form a hedge along Superior Ave. North.



Left: Spring, sprang, sprung. Cheery tulips planted by volunteers last fall outside the Upper Skagit Library in Concrete leaped toward a rare sunny day last month. *Photo by Betty Seguin.*



Clockwise from left: The annual Concrete Elementary PTO Carnival on April 21 brought out hordes of fun-seeking kids and families. Grace Petosa, 6, attempts to count jelly beans for a prize. Madisen Norgord, 11, gets her face painted by 13-year-old artist Anja Roozen. Brooklyn Dellinger "fishes" for a treat provided by Jason Driver. The evening included many more games and challenges, booths, and a Cake Walk.



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Hamilton



Rockport



Council summary

The Hamilton Town Council held a regular meeting March 14. Following is a summary of that meeting.

- **Public comments:** Debra Chance expressed concerns about paying an RV fee for a trailer that was used for camping only and wasn't parked on location all year.
- Sue Madsen from Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group discussed the status of the slough project. Council will need to write a resolution and approve the next phase.
- Assignment of Council Seat No. 3 was tabled till April.

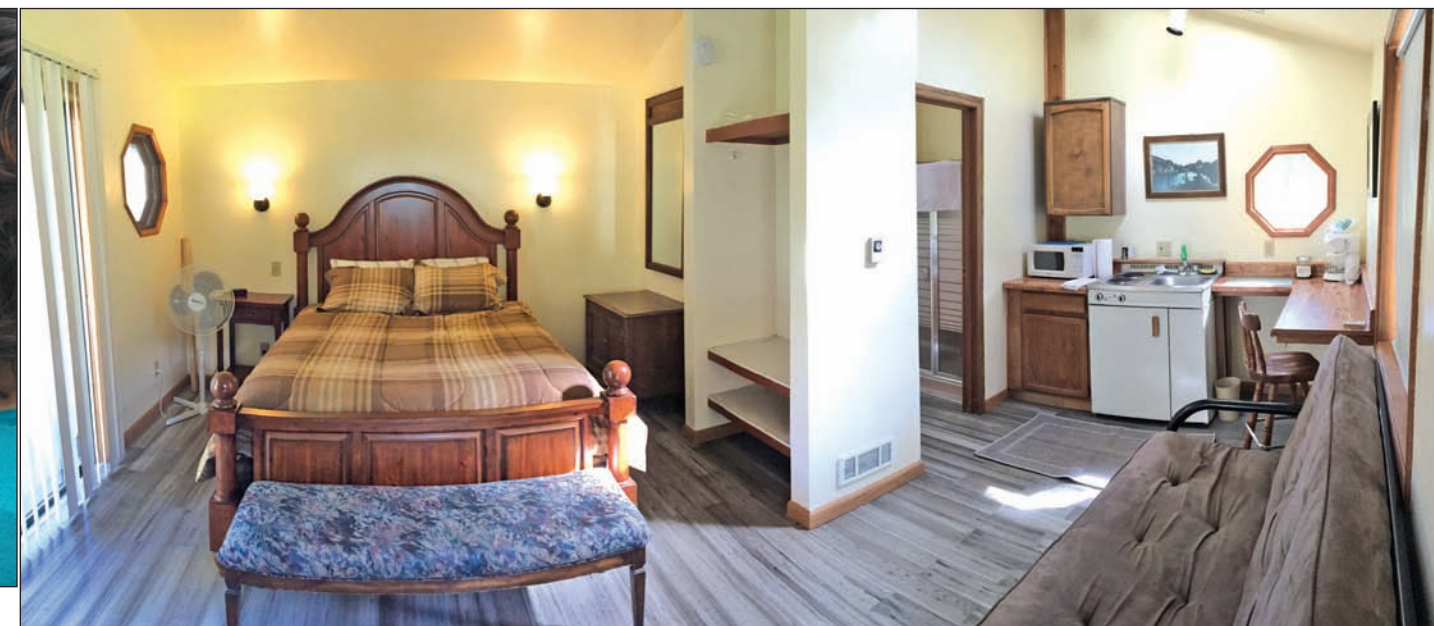
From the Mayor

Thanks to everyone who helped put together the Egg Hunt this year, especially the Hamilton Volunteer Fire Dept. It's a great tradition, and we enjoy seeing the fun the kids have.



—Mayor Joan Cromley

Right: Zoe Lavette Gensburg gets her face painted by Hamilton Mayor Joan Cromley during the town's Easter Egg Hunt on April 9.



Distracted, cont. from p. 18

driver. The Washington Traffic Safety Commission reports that one in 10 people are distracted while driving on the roads in this state. Seventy percent of observed distracted drivers were using cell phones.

According to a study by Dr. David Strayer, a psychology professor at the University of Utah, cell phone use can cause "inattention blindness." Talking on a cell phone while driving diverts the driver's attention to the phone conversation and away from the road, which can lead the driver to fail to see traffic signals or other signs.

If SB 5289 becomes law, a base fine of \$48 and a total fine of \$136 could be applied the first time someone is pulled over for using a portable electronic device when driving.

Drivers who are caught using a portable electronic device a second time would receive a base fine of \$96 and a total fine of up to \$235.

The base penalties would go to the Distracted Driving Prevention account, which would fund programs geared toward reducing distracted driving.

Today, driving laws state that bringing a phone to the ear to make a call, or sending, reading, or writing a text message, are primary traffic infractions. They are not criminal acts. However, current driving laws

don't prohibit other forms of digital communications, such as Facebook, Snapchat, or Instagram.

SB 5289 also includes a \$100 fine for other forms of distracted driving, including activities such as eating, putting on makeup, or attending to children or pets.

Exceptions are made if a driver is contacting emergency services with a portable electronic device, a transit employee is using the radio system to contact the dispatch center, a commercial driver's use of an electronic device is in the scope of employment and complies with federal law, or the driver is operating an authorized emergency vehicle.

During his 29 years in law enforcement at the Puyallup Police Department, Bob Thompson pulled over thousands of drivers. He estimates that a couple thousand of those times were related to cell phone use.

He continues to notice drivers on their phones during his commute to his job as the statewide law enforcement liaison for the Washington Traffic Safety Commission (WTSC) in Olympia. Recently, he witnessed a woman yelling at a video chat while driving under the speed limit.

"The amount of cell phones in the hands of drivers is unreal," he said.

During his time as a police officer, Thompson couldn't cite drivers if they

were doing something on their phone other than calling or texting. He is hopeful the possibility of receiving a ticket will deter people from using their phones while driving.

"We want to save lives, we want people to make better decisions," he said. "The first better decision people can make is putting the phone down."

Tina Meyer, mother of Cody, agrees. A study conducted by the Washington State Board of Health reported that SB 5289 would decrease distracted driving. Evidence suggests that decreased distracted driving would result in improved health outcomes, especially for young drivers. People aged 16–29 are more likely to be distracted when driving.

Tina Meyer is an advocate for the education of distracted driving in her son's honor. She testified in favor of SB 5289.

"I know Cody would have wanted me to help create change because of what happened with him," she said. "Sitting back and doing nothing is not something I'm very well known for, and so I have to do something to create change."

Tina and her husband requested that Andrew Richwine, the distracted driver who caused their son's death and was convicted, not go to prison. They didn't want Richwine to be away from his two young children.

At a trial April 7 in King County

Superior Court, Richwine was sentenced to six months of work release, which means he can look after his children at his home during the day and then return to jail at night. He also was sentenced to 240 hours of community service and will lose his driver's license for two years. In March, he pleaded guilty to felony vehicular homicide.

Although Meyer wants the distracted driving laws to be stricter than the language in SB 5289, she believes the bill is a large step in the right direction.

She says that distracted driving affects the whole nation and says national limits should be imposed. Currently there is no national law prohibiting distracted driving.

Her hope is that drivers will put down their phones.

"It only takes one time of someone leaving their lane while playing with their phone to cause the death of another," she said. As the mother of a victim, she knows.

This story is part of a series of news reports from the Washington State Legislature provided through a reporting internship sponsored by the Washington Newspaper Publishers Association Foundation. Reach reporter Grace Swanson at grace.swanson47@gmail.com.

Glacier Peak Winery adds "Resort" to name

The Skagit River Resort between Rockport and Marblemount has a new name: Glacier Peak Resort and Winery.

Glacier Peak Winery owners Gary Outzen and Jackie Schneider snapped up the neighboring property as it went through bankruptcy proceedings late last year after being in the Clark family for decades.

Since mid-February, Outzen has turned a small army of workers loose on the property. He wants to retain the character of the cabins and chalets while renovating most of the interiors in time for the 2017 tourist season.

"Some of the cabins were built during the lumber mill days—decades old," said Outzen. "I like the looks of them, but the insides were really not much, so some of them we've redone. Others we're making more commercial. Some have low ceilings or need wall work."

The buildings that have had work done look brand-new on the inside, with new mattresses and bedding, new flooring, new cabinets, completely refurbished bathrooms, and more.

Outzen is cranking up the amenities too,

with plans for a spa room, a gym, and a play room. A playground, pavilion, and plenty of camp sites for tents, trailers, and RVs already exist.

Outzen is on track to be open for business within weeks and said he wants to stay open year-round.



Above: A good example of the complete renovations being done to the interiors of the cabins and chalets, which are seeing floor-to-ceiling facelifts.

Below: Glacier Peak Resort and Winery owner Gary Outzen stands in a cabin that was given a cathedral ceiling, as well as new floors and paint. This cabin will become a gym open to all guests; the games there now will move to their new home in a separate game room.

Barnaby Reach tour

Barnaby Reach Project sponsors will host a field tour for community members and other stakeholders on Sat., May 13, at the old Barnaby Slough Hatchery site.

The tour is an opportunity to see and hear about the former rearing pond facilities and the site as it is now, get an update on the Barnaby Reach Habitat Project, and talk with many of the people involved with the project. The tour will begin at 1 p.m. and end around 4 p.m.

Vehicle access to the site is not available because of recent vandalism and resulting protective road blockage, so participants should plan to arrive at least 30 minutes early to allow time for parking and walking in to the hatchery site.

For more information, go to <https://barnabystudy.wordpress.com>.

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Darrington



Bike trails project aims to be the biggest

Story and photo by Marla Skaglund

“My love for mountain biking started in the 1990s, when a group of my friends and I would go into the woods and build mountain bike trails around the state,” said Mark Lovejoy, owner of Garden Treasures Nursery and manager of the North Mountain Bike Trails Project (NMBTP), located at the base of North Mountain outside of Darrington.

“Things have been going well at the nursery and when I read there was an actual job being offered by Evergreen Mountain Bikes to manage a crew of builders on a new trail project outside of Darrington, I put together a resume and got the job as project manager.” When complete, the NMBTP will be the largest mountain bike system of its kind in the entire United States. It will bring riders from all points of the globe who ride trails for fun and as an occupation.

The NMBTP is a nonmotorized recreation development project located north of Darrington within the North Mountain state-managed trust land. Construction of approximately 9.2 miles of new mountain biking trails on upper North Mountain will expand 3.7 miles of trails currently under construction on the lower slopes of North Mountain. The renovation of an existing forest road and

landing area will result in a designated trailhead for vehicle parking access, providing approximately 10 vehicle parking spaces.

One area called the Skills Area will be for riders of all ages. Another area is the Shuttle Zone for vehicle-assisted riding: A shuttle service would take riders to a higher area so riders can experience going downhill along banked corners; this area is designed for more experienced riders. The Optimum Trail, 5.5 miles of a downhill experience, includes riding over roots, banked corners, and great views. Several of the trails are directional for safety, and trail-riding etiquette will be followed. Trails will be named in a way to alert riders of the skill level needed and also recognize the logging history of the area.

The Department of Natural Resources has been working closely with the project and has redone its trail signage, making it professional and consistent with other areas. Detour signs with natural feature-viewing areas will be posted along the trails. Information kiosks will be placed in the parking areas.

Riders already have been visiting the trails, and an official opening will coordinate with Darrington Day, July 15.



North Mountain Bike Trails Project Manager Mark Lovejoy speaks in Darrington during a recent meeting for the project, which aims to be the largest mountain bike system of its kind in the U.S.

Born in the aftermath of the Oso slide, Darrington-based Glacier Peak Institute will hold its inaugural fundraiser this month.

Glacier Peak Institute will combine the outdoors, kids, and bluegrass music for the event, which is scheduled for Thur., May 18, at 6 p.m. The fundraiser will be located at the Mountaineers Club, 7700 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle.

The program will include bluegrass music from Darrington musicians; music from Seattle-based Community Arts Presents; complimentary beer, wine, and Darrington-inspired hors d'oeuvres; and a selection of silent auction items.

Registration is online at www.glacierpeakinstitute.org/inaugural-fundraiser.

For more information, contact Ben Greuel at bgreuel@gmail.com or 360.670.2938.

After the slide

Following the SR 530 slide in March 2014, a grassroots effort formed to support residents in the North Cascade mountain communities to create long-term, lasting change by investing in local youth, forests, rivers, and rural life. The slide forced the timber-depressed Darrington community to examine its uncertain future. The community's greatest assets were identified: youth, forests, and recreation.

In August 2014, members of the

community designed and launched the Darrington Youth Outdoor STEM Pilot Project (later to become the Glacier Peak Institute) to invest and strengthen these assets. Universities, local and national conservation and recreation groups, nonprofit social service providers, government agencies, school districts, businesses, experts, and politicians have helped the fledgling organization.

During the past three years, GPI has accomplished much on a shoestring budget. It created STEM and recreation opportunities bringing rural and urban youth together. It empowers youth to develop infrastructure and scientific knowledge through hands-on, practical-based projects contributing to the ecological and economic regeneration of their community.

The inaugural fundraiser is designed to bolster GPI's efforts to fully develop and expand their partnerships.

Donations welcome

In addition to the planned fundraiser, GPI welcomes donations of time, expertise, outdoor equipment, or cash.

To donate, go to <https://secure.squarespace.com/commerce/donate?donatePageId=5846fb6b725e25b805ad6154>.

For more information on where to send checks or gear, go to www.glacierpeakinstitute.org/donate-1.

For more information, go to www.glacierpeakinstitute.org.

Council, cont. from p. 24

Council summary

Darrington Town Council met for a regular meeting on March 8. The following is a summary of that meeting. Complete and council-approved minutes for every council meeting are available at Darrington Town Hall.

March 8 regular meeting

- Peter Forbes gave an update for the Ranger District and projects they are working on: Mountain Loop Highway, November flood damage, road maintenance, Circle Creek Rd., Darrington Collaborative, Stilly South Fork, North Mountain Lookout, Sulfur Creek Campground, guard station, and Whitechuck Bench Trail. He indicated that the timeline

for these projects would be started around August. Councilmember Kevin Ashe asked about the S. Stilly timber sale, if there are any timber sales on this side of the Mountain Loop, and what the quota is for this year. Forbes said around 17 million board feet. He hopes to see sales out of the S. Stilly timber sales. Councilmember Gary Willis asked how many roads were destroyed in the November flood. Forbes said that Darrington had around 20 sites. Mountain Loop took a big hit and will be fixed. Any other roads scheduled for decommissioning? None at this time.

- Clarification made: The 3 percent

See Council, p. 25

cost-of-living raise for Town of Darrington employees pertains to regular full-time employees only.

- T-Mobile tower construction will start in March, weather permitting.
- America's Best Communities Competition: An outline is being developed between Arlington-Darrington. If Arlington-Darrington wins, the money will go to a board to distribute according to the outline. Mayor Dan Rankin said that EASC will be the fund holders, along with a board from Arlington and Darrington. There will be an emphasis on the North Stillaguamish Economic

Development Plan with the funding.

- Old School Park: The hope was to go to bid by March 13.
- This year is the 100th year for the Darrington Cemetery. The Cemetery Board would like to do a walking memorial, along with a binder of all of the names for people to locate loved ones. They would like to have the celebration on Memorial Day and open it after the Memorial Day Ceremonies. Council voted unanimously to provide \$300 in town funds toward the 100-year celebration.

—Compiled from staff minutes

Snohomish County Sheriff's Report

March 8

Everett Police Department and Snohomish County Sheriff's Office are warning the public about a “kidnapping scam” making the rounds in the area. The scam involves the victim receiving a phone call where the caller tells the victim they have kidnapped their child or other relative, and demands ransom money from the victim. The sounds of a person screaming can be heard in the background.

Everett Police investigated one such call that a 65-year-old Everett man received on March 5. The male caller told the victim that his 23-year-old daughter had been kidnapped and demanded \$30,000 in ransom money. The caller stated that if the victim didn't pay, his daughter would be “left on the side of a road with a bullet hole in her.” The victim told police he could hear a female crying in the background, which he believed to be his daughter. An Everett police officer responded to the victim's residence and, while on scene, the suspect called again, this time demanding \$500 in ransom. The victim's daughter was located in Marysville and was unaware of the kidnapping claim and extortion scheme.

While investigating this incident, police discovered several similar calls were received around the county. Snohomish County sheriff's deputies have responded to at least four similar calls. In all cases, the caller was male and the sounds of screaming could be heard in the background. All victims were able to confirm that their family members were safe and accounted for, and hung up on the scammers.

The calls made to victims in Snohomish County came from numbers with 525 and

528 area codes, or from another Mexico area code.

“This is a particularly frightening scam for victims,” said Sheriff Ty Trenary. “We are extremely concerned that this scam, which has been reported previously in other parts of the country, has now hit Snohomish County.”

The FBI warned the public of similar extortion calls in other parts of the U.S. last summer.

If you are the victim of this scam, try to write down the phone number of the caller, then hang up the phone. If you cannot immediately verify the whereabouts and/or safety of family members the suspects have claimed to have kidnapped, call 911 and ask for assistance from law enforcement.

April 7

SR 530 was closed tonight from “C” Post Rd. and Oso Loop Rd. as a precaution because of an unstable hillside above the highway. The movement of the hillside is very slow and there have been no reported injuries or any damage to property. The size of the affected area is significantly smaller than the 2014 SR 530 slide, and is south of the highway between mileposts 35 and 36.

Geologists and first responders will return to the hillside tomorrow morning to make an assessment on when to re-open the road.

April 17

On the evening of April 16 at approximately 6:50 p.m., a 20-year-old male inmate was found unresponsive at the Snohomish County Jail, located at 3025 Oakes Ave., Everett. Snohomish County Corrections personnel immediately began multiple life-saving techniques, including CPR, but efforts were unsuccessful.

—Compiled from SCSO releases



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Marblemount



Newhalem



Blast Open the Pass for KSVU

Plowed open or not, the annual spring fundraising event for Upriver Community Radio is on tap for Sat., May 6, at the Marblemount Community Hall.

"Blast Open the Pass" starts off with the "dressing" of the Maypole at 5:30 p.m. Kids are especially entranced by this ancient rite of spring, winding and braiding the colorful ribbons to the tunes of local musicians.

Then comes the potluck supper at 6 p.m., traditionally delicious and bountiful, also allowing time for folks to peruse the raffle and silent auction tables before the live music and dancing begin at 7 p.m.

Suggested donations at the door: \$8/adult, \$15/couple, kids 12 and under are free.

The lively swing tunes of the Upper Skagit group, Undecided, should get the hall hopping, followed by Marblemount's own Jumbled Pie, offering an eclectic variety of tunes from Cajun and zydeco to bluegrass, R&B, and Americana.

And although the local, all-volunteer radio station is always in need of funding to stay on the air, this time in history is especially critical, as the new presidential administration threatens to cut or eliminate federal funding for the

Corporation for Public Broadcasting. The CPB is responsible for public television (PBS) and public radio (NPR, etc.), including all college and community stations, of which we are one. Any previous funding from the CPB to our "mother ship," KSVR, has already been cut, and that affects everything that KSVU does, as well.

We know that one of the simplest and most effective things you can do for our democracy is to "support a free press," and that means all independent media. Your community radio and your community newspaper may be the best hope for our voices to be heard, openly and honestly, without the interference and influence of special interests and commercial advertisers.

Whether you feel the need to make a political statement or just need to peel off a winter layer and kick up your heels, please join us in celebrating spring on May 6 at Marblemount Community Hall.

For more information and/or to offer a raffle item or service, call the studio in Concrete, 360.853.8588.

—Christie Fairchild

The good news is ...

By Sasa and Jesse

In a chaotic climate we have a choice: be angry about the way things are or accept our observation, asking ourselves, "what can I do to help?" I believe that each of us carries a beautiful power within our hearts to transform the world we live in into an abundant, harmonious environment for all life to thrive in. We can disconnect from the chaos and shift into our hearts and manifest miracles in our communities. It is our choice to create positive impacts in our environment. By growing our own food, we make a huge statement to the powers that be. It lets us be more independent and healthy. It is the one thing that brings people together no matter our walks of life. Community gardens and individual gardens have brought people together. We regain the

guardianship of our food and medicine, while taking pressure off an already failing method of feeding our human family. Monocropping attracts many pests and diseases; permaculture has shown us that a wide variety of plants and critters create a sustainable and thriving method of feeding ourselves and others. A Huffington Post article stated, "The overall global food system—including land-use changes, feed, fertilizer, transportation, refrigeration, processing and waste—is estimated to be responsible for 30 to 50 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions. Over the last decade, agricultural emissions have increased by approximately 1 percent per year."

What can you do to help mitigate climate change? Grow or buy local; buy organic; reduce food waste (50 percent of food produced in America is wasted); eliminate industrial meat, dairy, and eggs from your diet; and



Top and above: Photos from last year's Blast Open the Pass event show the dressing of the Maypole and dancing that follows the potluck supper. Photos by Christie Fairchild.

reduce overall consumption of animal products. If choosing to eat meat, seek out 100 percent grassfed products. Get involved locally to reduce the number of animals raised in animal factories in inhumane ways, as well as help protect local agricultural land from land grabs and wasteful development. This will help

reduce our consumption of and exposure to chemicals, reduce our carbon imprint, and better your health.

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

Forest health and fire risk reduction workshop for property owners

Yellow or red needles, thinning crowns, dead tops, and ghostly skeletons of dead trees have become a more common sight during the past five years. Is it the weather, a spreading disease, an invasion of tree-killing insects, or all of the above?

Join experts from Washington State University and the Washington Department of Natural Resources for a free workshop for Upper Skagit Valley property owners to learn about why trees are dying, when to be concerned, and what you can do to improve the health of trees on your property.

The workshop will be held Tue., May 16, from 6 to 9 p.m. in the Marblemount Community Hall, 60155 State Route 20, Marblemount.

Topics will include how to tell the difference between insect, disease, and weather damage, as well as how to prevent forest health problems before they start and how tree-killing insects and diseases spread. Speakers will cover how and when trees can be saved and how to tell the difference between normal mortality levels versus a serious or emerging threat. The workshop also will cover practical tips on how to improve the chance of your home or cabin surviving a wildfire—a growing risk in Western Washington, especially in foothills communities.

The workshop is free. An RSVP is appreciated (but not required). Light refreshments will be provided.

For more information or to RSVP, go to <http://forestry.wsu.edu/nps/events/foresthealth/> or contact WSU Extension Forestry at 425.357.6023.

Deadline to apply for special hunt permits is May 24

Hunters have through May 24 to apply for special hunting permits for fall deer, elk, mountain goat, moose, bighorn sheep, and turkey seasons in Washington State.

Permit winners will be selected through a random drawing conducted by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) in June. Special permits qualify hunters to hunt at times and places beyond those authorized by a general hunting license.

To apply for a special permit, hunters planning to hunt for deer or elk must purchase an application and hunting license for those species and submit the application with their preferred hunt choices.

Applications and licenses are available from license vendors statewide or on WDFW's Web site at <https://fishhunt.dfw.wa.gov/>. Applications must be submitted on the Web site or by calling 877.945.3492.

To purchase or apply for a license online, hunters must first establish an online account by creating a username and password. Information on how to create a username and password in the new WILD licensing system can be found at <https://fishhunt.dfw.wa.gov/content/pdfs/WILD-account-instructions.pdf>. Hunters can also click the "Customer Support" link on the WILD homepage for additional assistance. Hunters who already have a username and password can log in to purchase and submit their applications.

Most special hunt permit applications cost \$7.10 for residents, \$110.50 for nonresidents, and \$3.80 for youth under 16 years of age.

The exception is the cost for residents purchasing applications for mountain goats, any bighorn sheep ram, any moose, and "quality" categories for deer and elk. Those applications cost \$13.70.

Results of the special-permit drawing will be available online by the end of June at <https://fishhunt.dfw.wa.gov/>. Winners will be notified by mail or email by mid-July.

Pearson plan to stop elk disease receives legislative stamp of approval

On April 13, legislators gave the final stamp of approval for Sen. Kirk Pearson's plan to stop the spread of hoof disease among the state's elk herds. Senate Bill 5474 passed the House unanimously after receiving unanimous approval in the Senate.

After a vote to concur on changes made in the House, the bill only needs the governor's signature to be signed into law.

"This bill will provide the jumpstart we need to stop and eradicate this disease among our state's elk," said Pearson, R-Monroe, the chairman of the Senate Natural Resources and Parks Committee. "Hoof disease is a serious problem that needs decisive action, and now we have

the plan in place to begin stopping it once and for all."

Pearson's bill shifts responsibility to the Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine for monitoring elk herds, identifying causes for the spread of disease and creating solutions to eradicate it. It also limits translocation of diseased elk in a way that might spread the disease to more elk or to domestic animals.

Elk with disfigured hooves have been reported for years, but reports have now spread across the state to other herds and even across state lines to Oregon. Local farmers have also expressed fear that the disease may be spreading to dairy herds.

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Seniors



Coffee Break

Is this you?

By Patrick M. Kennedy

Feeding the fish, cat, dog. Making the bed and doing the dishes. Sipping on a cup of coffee with cream and sugar when you are done with these everyday morning chores. Repeat in the evening.

Does this sound like you in your senior, retired life?

Rain all week, so you can't take your daily stroll around the neighborhood. Are you suffering with symptoms such as weight gain, brain fog, insomnia, moodiness, and being tired all the time? Has your doctor failed to give you a diagnosis?

Hypothyroidism is very commonly overlooked by doctors, but may need to be treated.

Hypothyroidism is an underactive thyroid that results when the body doesn't produce adequate thyroid hormone, thus affecting normal brain, mood, and body function. Is this you?

If you get adequate hours of sleep (roughly eight hours per night) and still struggle to get up

in the morning, take a shower, and dress yourself, you may suffer from hypothyroidism. Many diagnosed patients report dealing with unexplained and severe forms of exhaustion throughout the day, even after a night of restful sleep.

Oh, all the negatives of old age—called seniorism by some—are so frustrating and so frequently misunderstood. Seniorism is a form of age discrimination against children and older adolescents based upon the idea that adults, or seniors, are morally and psychologically superior to children and adolescents.

Let's face it: You're not getting any younger. And try as we might to turn back time with lotions, potions, and plastic surgery, there are a few signs of aging that are dead giveaways. You can blame it on heredity, environment, stress, poor diet, and health, but aging happens to us all.

Is this you?

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

Way Back When

100 years ago

May 26, 1917: J. P. Brooks and E. P. Lucas, engineers on the Baker River and Shuksan Railway, narrowly escaped a serious accident when the steam shovel they were working with jumped the track into the Baker River.

Brooks was on the ground just ready to step on the shovel when the accident occurred. Luckily for Lucas, the coupling pin by which the shovel was attached to the engine broke, so that the engine did not leave the track.

The loss to the Superior Portland Cement Company will amount to about \$3,000. The cause of the accident is unknown, as they had just given the steam shovel a complete overhaul and repair.

70 years ago

May 29, 1947: Town of Concrete and Superior Portland Cement Co. are now at work on dust-prevention for the community. Installation of the first trial dust collectors at the plant is progressing satisfactorily, with the foundations now in place and some steel work being done.

The dust collectors to be tried out on two stacks are centrifugal-type machines, which operate on the principle of the familiar cream separators. The whirling motion of the dust going through them forces the dust particles to the outside edges, where they are drawn off and back into the kilns. The cleaned gases and steam go on up the stack to be dispersed by

the wind. The manufacturers claim a 75 to 85 percent elimination of stack dust.

The town plans to help with a bit of road oiling, but has run into a series of difficulties. First, they secured the use of the oiling equipment stationed here for the state job that couldn't get any oil. Then the equipment was moved out and the town found they could have bought oil.

They have purchased the oil and are now trying to figure out a method of getting it on the road. A large tank has been secured to go on the city truck and will be fitted with private connections.

60 years ago

May 30, 1957: A good turnout of Upper Valley citizens heard the proposed state highway projects now set up for future construction explained in detail Monday evening. The public hearing was held in the high school band room and led by Paul McKay, district engineer for the department.

The first half of the meeting was confined to explanations of the various surveys that will bypass Lyman, Hamilton, Sauk, and the main business district of Concrete. McKay told the group that this was a condition required by the federal government where federal highway money will be used. Such funds are to be applied on all three upriver jobs.

When the conversation turned to the proposed half-mile of new highway through Concrete, the state men had their map of the proposed route, showing an overpass for the railroad tracks

Concrete Community Center

May 2017 Activities

Mon. – Fri., 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Lunch served at noon

East County Veterans Center meets Mon., Tue., Wed., from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Monday through Friday

Jigsaw puzzles, walking group, games, more

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

Monday

5/1	6 p.m.	Earthquake seminar with dinner
5/15	11:15 a.m.	Fall prevention instruction
5/29	1:30 p.m.	Memorial Day Potluck

Wednesday

5/17, 24, 31	10:30 a.m.	Molina Healthcare
5/31	9 a.m.	Provider Relations

Thursday

All	1 p.m.	GED prep
5/4	12:30 p.m.	Pinochle
5/18	12:30 p.m.	Pinochle

Friday

All	1 p.m.	GED prep
5/12	12:30 p.m.	Commissioner Janicki

Saturday

All	7 p.m.	AA meeting
5/27	9 a.m.	Saturday Market opens

Way Back, cont. from p. 28

behind Concrete Automotive and Cascade Cleaners. At this point the overpass must be 30 feet above the tracks. An access to Main St. had been planned from the overpass at F St. (between the cleaners and the Herald office); Aldridge St. was to be closed entirely, and the highway would proceed at about grade level

See Way Back, p. 29 across the bench at the rear of the



40 years ago: Rudy Clark and his son Don appeared on the front page of the May 5, 1977, edition of *Concrete Herald*, putting finishing touches on Wildwood Chapel, a miniature chapel they repaired and installed on SR 20 across from Clark's Skagit River Cabins west of Marblemount. The roadside chapel attracted travelers for many years at its Stevens Pass Highway location near Monroe, but then was vandalized and replaced with a new structure. Don Clark obtained the wrecked building—little more than a floor and back wall—in 1975. Replacement of the front, roof, and steeple, windows, and pews has been a family project since that time, with assistance from the Marblemount community. Dedication of the nondenominational chapel is scheduled for June 5. *Archive photo by Anne Bussiere.*

main business district to meet the bridge approach. The bridge will be on the north side of the railroad span, and the road on the east side will pass through the Puget Sound

warehouse property and join the present highway in the vicinity of the Puget Sound clubhouse.

Those present from Concrete, led by Mayor Hoover, immediately

Verna's Kitchen

By Verna McClure

Fruit Cole Slaw

1 small head of cabbage, shredded
1 small carrot, shredded
1 8 oz. can pineapple tidbits, drained
¼ cup raisins
¼ cup flaked coconut
1/3 to ½ cup mayonnaise

1. In a large bowl, combine all the ingredients EXCEPT the mayonnaise.
2. Cover and chill.
3. Just before serving, stir in the mayonnaise.



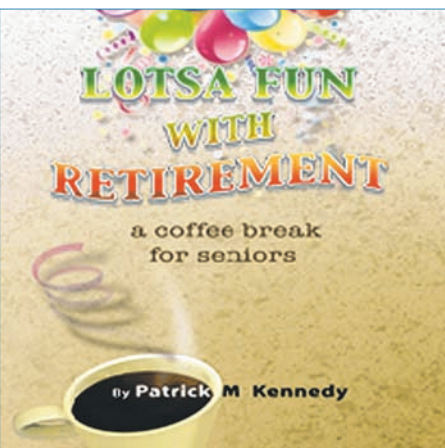
protested the closing off of Aldridge St. (South Baker), as this is the main outlet for all residents of Mill and Crofoot Addition.

A further suggestion was made that the main access from the new highway be located at the bridge approach on the street running south from Town Hall. The only building in the way for a short, convenient access street would be the telephone company office. The citizens present appeared to agree that this access would be much better than one coming on to Main St. on the hill below the Herald office.

50 years ago

May 10, 1967: Final services for Mrs. Alice Dwelley will be conducted Thursday at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Concrete. Dwelley passed away early Saturday morning at a Seattle hospital when complications from an earlier stroke erupted in a second brain hemorrhage.

—Compiled from archives



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Obituaries

A graveside inurnment service with military honors for **Adolph Nieshe** will be held on Sat., May 6, at 2 p.m. at the Hamilton Cemetery. A potluck will follow at the Birdview Fire Hall at 3 p.m. Cremation arrangements are under the direction of Lemley Chapel, Sedro-Woolley.



Obituaries published in Concrete Herald

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

Sunday School lesson

A thought on believing

By Bill Mueller

I couldn't even imagine it. Me, a grandfather! I'm not ready for that yet or ever. I'm too young at heart; I can't be that old to fit into that category. Yet, it's happening. I can't escape the reality that I'm a grandfather. And now, 21 months into this new phase of life, I can't imagine not being one.

A few days ago my granddaughter was visiting. I was standing at the counter in the kitchen. She came up behind me, wrapped her little arms around my legs, patted me with one of her hands and said, "Papa," and hugged me. There isn't a better moment in all of life. The words to communicate such a moment do not exist. That experience is etched in my memory

forever.

This caused me to wonder how God reacts when one of us turns to Him for whatever reason. There is that open invitation at the beginning of the Gospel of John: "Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God." Which means anyone who trusts in Jesus Christ, automatically becomes a child of God. How does God react to that? What goes on in the halls of heaven when one of us comes to faith?

A glimpse of heaven's reaction is found in Luke's Gospel, where we find a story Jesus tells about lost sheep. Toward the end of the story, we hear these words: "I tell you there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents..." Rejoicing! A party that began way back when and never ends. Think about it, in this entire world, wouldn't it be safe to say that at least one person comes to faith every minute or so? Wow, an eternal party filled with joy that knows no end!

There in the midst of that party is the LORD Himself, smiling and rejoicing. Can we relate to such a moment? Perhaps not. But there is a certain link where we can relate: "Because you are children, God sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, Abba, Father." "Abba" is a term of endearment that means, "Papa."

Words fail to express such a moment, but it will happen, if you've received Him. It is a joy that will last forever. And don't forget the hug.

Pastor Bill Mueller has been involved in ministry for the past 30 years, serving several churches on the West Coast as a senior and teaching pastor.

*Read
Concrete Herald
The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley*

Worth repeating

"Change your thoughts and you change your world."

—Norman Vincent Peale

"Memories of our lives, of our works, and our deeds will continue in others."

—Rosa Parks

"Happiness is a butterfly, which when pursued, is always just beyond your grasp, but

which, if you will sit down quietly, may alight upon you."

—Nathaniel Hawthorne

"The things that we love tell us what we are."

—Thomas Aquinas

"When you get into a tight place and everything goes against you, till it seems as though you could not hang on a minute longer, never give up then, for that is just the place

and time that the tide will turn."

—Harriet Beecher Stowe

"I thank you God for this most amazing day, for the leaping greenly spirits of trees, and for the blue dream of sky and for everything which is natural, which is infinite, which is yes."

—e. e. cummings

"To love means loving the unlovable. To forgive means pardoning the unpardonable.

Faith means believing the unbelievable. Hope means hoping when everything seems hopeless."

—Gilbert K. Chesterton

"People often say that motivation doesn't last. Well, neither does bathing. That's why we recommend it daily."

—Zig Ziglar

"Believe you can and you're halfway there."

—Theodore Roosevelt

Worship directory

Assembly of God Concrete Assembly of God

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

Citipoint Church North Cascade
59850 SR 20, Marblemount
360.873.2504
Sunday Gathering: 10:30 a.m.
www.citipointchurch.com
E-mail: matt@citipointchurch.com

Baptist

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

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

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

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

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

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

Episcopal

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

Free Methodist

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

Methodist

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

Presbyterian

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

Lutheran

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

Nondenominational

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

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

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

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

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

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CONCRETE HERITAGE MUSEUM NEWS

We're shaking off the winter blahs and preparing for our **season opening** on May 27 at noon. Starting then, we'll be open every Saturday from noon to 4 p.m. until the end of September. Special tours still can be arranged by contacting John Lloyd at autohistory@hotmail.com or John Boggs at jbggswash@aol.com.

As part of getting re-energized for the summer, we're getting back to **remodeling our annex building**. New displays will be developed for that added space.

For those who missed the Concrete Heritage Museum **making the front page** of the *Skagit Valley Herald* on April 12, check it out on their Web site: www.goskagit.com.

Our next big historical research project will entail assisting the Concrete Economic Development Commission with developing a **database of businesses** the town has had and where they were located. Since my personal memories of Concrete only go back 20 years, please contact me so we can sit down over coffee some day and fill in the many gaps I have. Fundraising-wise, our **Good Friday**

Bake Sale at Albert's Red Apple was successful because of the many donors of baked goods and cash, as well as all the hungry customers. Look for our next sales: July 1 and Aug. 5 at the Saturday Market, and July 21 at the Concrete Fly-In, which will be a cooperative effort with Post 132 of the American Legion/Auxiliary. We'll have plenty of great walking-around snacks to enjoy while you're making the rounds.

After the Fly-In, our next huge fund-raising effort will be our annual **Labor Day Weekend Yard Sale** on Sept. 2 at the Swap Meet west of Logger's Landing, so please set aside good items to donate to support your local museum. Please, no furniture, clothes, or items that should really go to the dump.

Do you know what was happening on May 21, 1927? That Saturday the Concrete Theater included the comedy, "The Laughing Ladies," as one of their features. And speaking of laughing ladies, Barbara Hoover was also born that day. **Happy birthday, Barb!**

—John Boggs

May at the Darrington Library

Children and family programs

- We Read Book Club: *Stallion By Starlight* by Mary Pope Osborne, Mon., May 22, 5 p.m.
- Family Storytime, Wed., May 3, 10, 17, 24; 11 to 11:45 a.m.; all ages welcome, caregiver required.
- LEGO Robotics, Wed., May 3; 1 to 2 p.m.; ages 7 and up.
- LEGO Club Free Play, Wed., May 10, 1 p.m. Ages 5 and up.
- Bikes for Book Talks Awards and Finishers' Party, Sat., May 20; 4 p.m. Arlington Masons will award bikes to winners.

Tweens and Teens programs

- Duct tape wallets, bracelets and more: Make your own. Sat., May 6, 11 a.m.
- Day of Shrek: Movie marathon and "swamp snacks." Wed., May 17, 1 to

3 p.m.

All ages programs

- Walk-in Tech Help for general computer skills, Mon., May 8, 1 p.m.
- Writers Ink, Fri., May 19, 3:30; a group for any age writer to improve their skill.

Adults

- STARS Training Series: "Up, down, move around: Fun with movement in circle time." Sat., May 13, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; register at www.sno-isle.org/kids/stars.

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

—Asheley Bryson, branch manager

At the Upper Skagit Library

Mark your calendars for May 9 at 7 p.m.! Join us for an **"Evening of Poetry with WA State Poet Laureate, Tod Marshall"** at the Concrete Theatre. Marshall is a poet and professor at Gonzaga University, and is serving as Poet Laureate from 2016–2018. Marshall is traveling throughout the state and on May 9 will share his thoughts on the impact that poetry can bring to our lives. The audience may participate in open mic, and the evening will conclude with a Q&A. Free admission. Sponsored by Upper Skagit Library District, Concrete Theatre, and Humanities Washington.

Make Seed Pouches for Craft Friday on May 5 at 5b's Bakery at 6 p.m. Get ready for gardening season by organizing your seeds with easy-to-make pouches. Bring a journaling pen. Supplies provided. Open to all ages.

The **Library Tutor Program** is now Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 to 11 a.m. Improve your computer and mobile device skills. Get help with resumes, cover letters, and job applications. Schedule an appointment today; call 360.853.7939.

Subscribe to our e-newsletter, **Upper Skagit Library News**, to receive updates on new releases, library events and programs, and the latest library

happenings. Visit our Web site and enter your email address. Or, sign up at the front counter on your next visit. Subscribe at upperskagit.lib.wa.us.

Storytime with Miss Brooke (and sometimes Miss Laura)! Mark your calendars for May 6 and 20 at 11 a.m. Families with young children are invited to join us for stories, songs, and a simple craft.

New on our shelves

In adult fiction, *The Horse Dancer* by Jojo Moyes.

In adult nonfiction, *The Alchemy of Herbs* by Rosalee de la Forêt.

In young adult nonfiction, *Uprooted* by Albert Marrin.

In children's, *We Are Growing!* by Mo Willems.

Take a listen with new audiobooks:

- The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot, now a film airing on HBO.
- The High Divide* by Lin Enger.
- The Homesman* by Glendon Swarthout; we also have the movie starring Tommy Lee Jones.

The next Upper Skagit Library Board of Trustees meeting will be held on Thur., May 11, at 5 p.m.

—Cora Thomas, Library Associate

Lions R-O-A-R



This month's Concrete Lions Club **regular meetings** will be on May 3 and 17 at Annie's Pizza Station. The meeting starts at 6:30 p.m.; however, there is always a group that gathers around 6 p.m. to eat and socialize before the meeting starts. All existing members, mark your calendars. Anyone interested in becoming a member or learning more about your local Lions Club, feel free to stop by.

The Concrete Lions Club thanks the community for the great turnout for our annual **Easter Egg Hunt**.

On May 5 and 6, donation stations will be set up at Albert's Red Apple Market and the Concrete Post Office for **"White Cane Days."** Please stop by and learn more about the Lions Club and the help that can be given to those who are visually impaired.

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

I encourage members of our community to think about and **join your local Lions Club**. Our club is your club. We are a club to serve you and our community.

Our hope for 2017 is to double our membership numbers. We all have friends and family who have seen the outreach of your local Lions Club, so now is the time to give great thought about being a member!

Thank you for your continued prayers for the healing of our Lions Club members.

—Connie Smithhart

Outreach aims to keep middle school boys busy

Ever since the Boy Scouts troop left Concrete, Art Torheim has been bothered by a lack of organized activities for middle school-aged boys. The Marblemount man, who attends Community Bible Church in Concrete, said he wanted to "give them something positive to be involved with. At least they'll have something to do, other than get in trouble."

To that end, Torheim formed CBC Young Men's Outreach, which plans monthly outings for boys ages 10 to 18, with special attention focused on the middle school years.

The group is easygoing and faith-based,

with a short message about Jesus Christ included during every outing. This year the boys will enjoy the snow at Mount Baker, take a weekend canoe trip at Baker Lake, hike and fish along Jackman Creek, and travel to the Museum of Flight in Seattle, among many more scheduled events.

Torheim's goals for the group are simple. "I want to give these kids something to do, let them have fun, and store a little bit of God's word in their hearts. While they're having fun, it'll keep them out of trouble, and if they hit the bottom at some point in life, maybe Christ will help them climb out of it."

Several church members and community members have come alongside Torheim to help make his efforts successful, including Dan Sanford, Jarrod and Valerie Lee (who hopes to develop a group for girls), Mike Criner, Mike Farthing, Dave McLaughlin, Gene and Maureen Ford, and Torheim's wife, Tonya. "She helps me stay organized," said Torheim. "I wouldn't have stood a chance with this if it hadn't been for them."

For more information about the CBC Young Men's Outreach, contact Torheim at us5nm@frontier.com or 360.873.4181.

—J. K. M.

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Out & About



State

The 100-Day Challenge Metro counties form big plans to shelter their homeless youth

By Grace Swanson
WNPA Olympia News Bureau

OLYMPIA — Jim Theofelis, executive director of a Way Home Washington, has worked with homeless youth and young adults for the past 40 years. “For me there’s a real deep connection to young people who are vulnerable, whom the system has not served well, and who have been failed too many times by the adults who are supposed to take care of them,” he said.

A Way Home Washington is a public-private partnership in Seattle that’s building a movement to prevent and end homelessness in this state.

April 18–19 the organization gathered teams from Pierce, King, and Spokane counties in Seattle for its 100-Day Challenge to create means for collectively housing more than 700 homeless youth.

Here are conferees’ commitments for the next 100 days:

- King County intends to find safe and stable housing for 450 young adults ages 18-24; 60 percent of these young adults would be people of color or identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ).

- Pierce County expects to house 168 youth and young adults. Up to 30 percent of these are 16 to 17 years old; 40 percent of housed youth and young adults identify as LGBTQ and 40 percent are people of color. The county also targets developing 100 new housing options, which include landlords, home opportunities, and host homes.
- Spokane County plans to place 100 youth and young adults in housing, including 10 minors. There would be a focus on youth and young adults who encounter barriers to housing.

According to the Washington Department of Commerce, nearly 13,000 homeless youth are unaccompanied in the state, meaning a parent or legal guardian isn’t present.

In the late 1970s, Theofelis worked in homeless shelters and as an outreach worker on the streets of Seattle. The Donut House, near Pike Place Market, was infamous for drugs, prostitution, and other criminal activities. Hundreds of youth gathered there each night. Theofelis would intervene, steer the youth away from dangerous situations, and try to help get them off the streets.

As the director of mental health clinics at King County Juvenile Detention, he was instrumental in advocating passage of the state’s HOPE Act in 1999. He helped draft the legislation and presented it to former Sen. Jim Hargrove, D-Hoquiam, and Rep. Ruth Kagi, D-Seattle, and recruited homeless youth to speak at legislative hearings on the proposal. The HOPE Act funded 75 emergency-shelter beds across the state. Youths can self-refer to these beds, meaning they can enter centers without the intervention of a social worker.

In 2001 Theofelis founded the Mockingbird Society, a Seattle-based organization geared toward improving foster care and ending youth homelessness. Subsequently, he helped draft and advocated for passage of over 25 pieces of legislation affecting youth homelessness and foster care, including a measure that extended the time a foster youth can stay in foster care — from 18 to 21 years of age. He met with lawmakers and testified during public hearings to



Prior to being appointed as A Way Home Washington’s executive director, Jim Theofelis, (center), attended a Listening Tour with local leaders last August to learn about the impacts of youth and young adult homelessness in communities across the state. Community leaders continued to work toward ending and preventing youth homelessness at the 100-Day Challenge event in Seattle April 18. *Photo courtesy of A Way Home Washington.*

support these acts.

After leaving the Mockingbird Society in 2015, Theofelis became Seattle Mayor Ed Murray’s special advisor on homelessness and a senior advisor on youth homelessness to Partners of Our Children, a collaboration of the University of Washington School of Social Work, Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, and private sector funding.

Now, as the executive director of a Way Home Washington, he continues to search for solutions and puts forward plans and policies to prevent and end youth homelessness. Over the years he’s seen a change in perception in how people view homeless youth and young adults.

“We have changed the narrative, moving

away from ‘those bad kids’ to ‘our kids who need support,’” he said. “That’s been huge.”

To Theofelis, ending youth homelessness means communities across the state have enough resources to meet the needs of homeless youths in their community.

“Basically kids should not have to run away from their communities and come to Seattle to get a safe bed.”

During last week’s Seattle conference, the teams from Spokane, Pierce, and King counties worked to break down barriers that prevent youth from being housed in their communities.

“Over the next two days you will identify goals to accelerate progress and

move toward our ultimate and collective goal, which is making sure every young person has the resources and support they need to exit homelessness and have a path forward,” Theofelis said as he addressed the crowd during his welcome speech on April 18.

At the conference each community was coached by Rapid Results Institute, a nonprofit that works to create change in social impact programs. The institute has been involved in other 100-day challenges around homelessness.

At conference end, each community delivered its plan. Theofelis said that the communities focused on equity, specifically the disproportionate number of LGBTQ youth and youth of color who are experiencing homelessness.

Youth experiencing homelessness and people who work with homeless youth were at the forefront of each team’s conversations.

Terry Jackson, who experienced homelessness as a young person, was a part of the conversations and spoke during the conference’s closing ceremony. He is co-chair of A Way Home Washington and is a chapter leader with Mockingbird’s Youth Advocates Ending Homelessness program. His struggles as a youth experiencing homelessness led him to the Mockingbird Society.

“My experience gives me insight to some of the barriers youth experiencing homelessness face on their journey,” he said. “I’ve shared this to encourage you to listen to the youth experts on your team. Each one of them has a personal story that contains key pieces of information that will guide your success.”

Karina Woodruff, senior program manager of shelter, outreach, and support services at Friends of Youth, said her team included supervisors of programs that deal with shelters, outreach, and crisis management, and young people who experienced homelessness or were formerly in foster care.

Friends of Youth, a non-profit in Kirkland, provides services to youth and families experiencing homelessness.

“We had a variety of voices at the table who were able to speak from their own perspectives around what they thought would be helpful moving forward,” said Woodruff.

The communities will report their progress periodically to A Way Home Washington and Rapid Results Institute and will gather at the end of 100 days to

See Homeless, p. 35

Homeless, cont. from p. 34

one began April 20.

The event was financially supported by the Raikes Foundation and the Schultz Family Foundation.

Howard and Sheri Schultz started the Schultz Family Foundation in Seattle, which initiates national strategies and initiatives focused on supporting and creating opportunities for veterans and homeless youth. Howard Schultz built Starbucks into the company it is today, and he is currently serving as the company’s executive chairman.

“The 100-Day Challenge is an opportunity for the provider communities to work with the city and the county at the same table to create some urgency around [youth homelessness] and come up with solutions for the young people who are currently unsheltered,” said Dan Pitaski, executive director and chief of staff of the Schultz Family Foundation.

Launched by Jeff and Tricia Raikes, the Raikes Foundation, located in Seattle, invests in strategies and programs that support and empower all youth to be successful in adulthood. Jeff Raikes was the president of the Microsoft Business Division and later became the CEO of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. He left that post in 2014.

The Raikes Foundation supported another 100-Day Challenge in Austin, Texas, last year, which was held by A Way Home America and Rapid Results Institute and included the cities of Austin, Cleveland, and Los Angeles.

Katie Hong, director of youth homelessness at the Raikes Foundation, thought the 100-Day Challenge in Seattle went well. She said the goal of the challenge was to find young people in crisis and get them into stable housing as soon as possible. Determining a specific goal of how many youth could be housed helps each community address youth homelessness, she noted.

“I would love it if we hit this out of the ballpark, but even if we don’t meet that numeric goal, we won’t be a failure if we learned something in the process,” she said.

She compares preventing and ending youth homelessness to building a fence around a cliff. The fence may not be able to stop all young people from falling into homelessness, but the community’s response should be similar to a trampoline. The resources available in a community should help a young person bounce back into stability instead of getting entangled in the spider web of

See Homeless, p. 38

Spring: Time for allergies

If you’re one of the estimated 60 million Americans who live with seasonal allergies (or allergic rhinitis), you know it’s the little things — like pollen or dust — that can make you feel miserable.

Fortunately, there are also little things that can make you feel better. Here are two key strategies for surviving the season:

1. Combat the culprits that cause your allergic reactions. Do what you can to keep pollen, mold, dust, dander, or other allergens down and out.

At home:

- Leave shoes and jackets at the door to keep from bringing pollen or other allergens into the rest of the house.
- Dust and vacuum with a HEPA filter weekly or even daily in the spring.
- Close windows and doors, again, to block allergens from getting in.
- Bathe after being outside to get rid of pollen; it’s especially helpful at night so you don’t bring allergens into bed with you.
- Change your bedding weekly.
- If you use an air purifier, be sure to change or clean the filter every month.
- Do you have houseplants? Make sure they aren’t adding to your misery.

On the go:

- Wear glasses — sunglasses or safety glasses — to keep out allergens.
- Keep your car windows up and don’t use the vent.
- Clean your vehicle weekly — inside and out — during the height of spring.

2. Make yourself comfortable. Sometimes there’s just no avoiding your allergens. So when your body reacts, do whatever you can to ease your sneezing, itching, coughing, stuffiness, and other symptoms.

Ask your doctor for personalized recommendations, including:

- How to identify your allergen triggers.
- Best medications for you, whether over-the-counter, prescription, or shots.

- Herbs — either those you should try or those you should avoid.
- Guidelines for when to seek for more assertive treatment.

Reduce stress. Studies have shown that stress makes allergic reactions worse. Here are a few tactics to try:

- Massage (a side benefit is that lying face down can help drain sinuses).
- Meditation.
- Music.
- Aromatherapy.
- Foot rubs.
- Yoga or other gentle exercise.
- Drink water, hot teas, broths, and other soothing drinks to flush out mucous.
- Use a humidifier, vaporizer, or steam with or without menthol or other herb.
- Hang a sprig of eucalyptus or use an essential oil in your shower. Some people find eucalyptus helps reduce stress and improve breathing.
- Take garlic in food, as a supplement, or in steam, to open up airways.

See Allergies, p. 38

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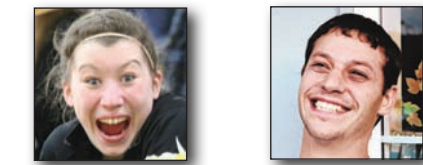
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Smile



Dwelleysms

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

"The good old days were when pollution
was a Saturday night side effect."
—March 1, 1967

"Plans for a revival of community
interest begin with two dozen interested
citizens. That should ensure two dozen
interesting ideas. If one of them can
develop a spark of interest in two dozen
other citizens, we have the chain reaction
under way. The greatest force on earth
is still one of homemade, friendly
cooperation."
"Ownership' soon will be just a word
for the history books. Once the down
payment is made on anything, you find
you have also taken on several silent
partners whose job is to keep you broke."
"Desire is that frantic emotion created
when the objective is just out of easy
reach."
—March 8, 1967

"Money trouble for Congressmen seems
to be an occupational disease. They spend
any they can get their hands on privately
like it was ours."
"This is spring, a time when buds bud,
birds nest, thumbs turn green, and love
germinates from a passive noun to an
active verb."
"In this country, a depression exists
when there is more of what we want than
what we have."
—March 15, 1967

"What puzzles most of us who live
in or near the Cascades is how a rough
country that practically no one enters can
become more of a wilderness by making it
accessible on payment of the proper park
entry fee."
"We could all solve the other fellow's
problems if he would just quit meddling
with ours."
—March 29, 1967

"Remember way back when a fad was
good, healthy foolishness?"
—April 5, 1967

Concrete Harold

By Joyce Harris



Public Service Announcement

By Stig Kristensen



Crossword: "Isms"

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12
13						14					15		
16					17					18			
				19				20					
21	22	23	24				25	26			27	28	29
30					31						32		
33				34			35				36		
			37		38	39		40			41		
42	43	44		45			46			47	48	49	50
51				52				53	54		55		
56			57							58			
			59				60						
61	62	63				64	65				66	67	68
69													
70					71					72			
73					74					75			

- Across**
1. Guitar attachment
6. ____ cut
10. Lund or Cavet
13. It often contains a seasonal reference
14. Son of Rebekah
15. Notice
16. Philosophical belief
19. Bearded beast
20. It'll never fly
21. Attitude on the job
30. Coin with 12 stars on it
31. Court contest
32. ____ Getz ("Lethal Weapon 2" role for Joe Pesci)
33. Come again
35. Cape
36. Race unit
37. Red ink amount
40. Hot pot
42. Astern
45. Certain typeface
47. Saw
51. ____ maison (indoors): Fr.
52. Dessert toppers
55. Rajah's mate
56. Dedication to improving man's welfare
59. It has moles: Abbr.
60. Carbonium, e.g.
- Down**
1. Cow or sow
2. Custom
3. Swindle, slangily
4. Archaeological site in Mexico
5. Rid of sin
6. Addle
7. Full of: Suffix
8. Blanched
9. Certain musician
10. Kind of particle
11. Good times
12. Sock hop locale
15. Jewish month
17. Research facility: Abbr.
18. Put together
21. The "p" in r.p.m.
22. Bewail
23. Mythical monster
24. Unfair?
25. B & B
26. Half of binary code
- 27. Down**
28. Yellow, for one
29. Floor cleaner
34. Deciduous trees
38. In a convivial manner
39. Open, as an envelope
41. Previce
42. "Won-der-ful!"
43. Bird ____
44. Flat hat
46. Kind of test
48. Clavell's "____-Pan"
49. Starfleet Academy grad.
50. Headlight setting
53. African talisman
54. Municipality in France
57. Height
58. Concerning
61. Hail, to Caesar
62. NATO member
63. French Guiana's Royale, e.g.
64. Jersey call
65. Calendar abbr.
66. Piece of pipe
67. Elvis Presley's "____ Lost You"
68. Capitol Hill V.I.P.: Abbr.
69. "____ Miniver"

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.

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

*Solutions to both puzzles are on p. 38.

Funny as Facebook

- The following funnies were pulled verbatim from Facebook status updates in April.
- "Let it be known that if I am editing for someone or someplace that uses Oxford commas, I will add them back if they are missing. I'll scowl at them first and perhaps mouth a few curse words at them. But I'll add them back."
 - "We have idiot tulip tourists in our midst. Jon wants to send photos of them doing stupid things to their insurance companies."
 - "What does watching an eagle fight with a flock of seagulls over my house portend? An impending and poorly thought out '70s and '80s band revival tour lineup?"

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Homeless, cont. from p. 35

homelessness where it's hard to break free.

Washington's first lady, Trudi Inslee, is co-chair of A Way Home Washington. During the closing ceremony she spoke about the state government's commitment to leading the effort to ending youth homelessness. "Government has a very important stake in this; government is all of us," she said.

Theofelis expects to continue working toward solutions that prevent and end homelessness. He believes the conferee communities can make a difference in the next 100 days.

"I think what we want is increased awareness, connection and action," he said. "I think the 100-Day Challenge gives us that opportunity."

This story is part of a series of news reports from the Washington State Legislature provided through a reporting internship sponsored by the Washington Newspaper Publishers Association Foundation. Reach reporter Grace Swanson at grace.swanson47@gmail.com.

Allergies, cont. from p. 35

- Exercise indoors when pollen counts are high.
- Use breathing strips.
- Apply a compress—either warm or cool—to alleviate pressure behind your eyes and nose.

Everyone is different. Do what works for you to breathe a little easier this spring.

Get more healthy living tips at www.peacehealth.org/healthy-you.

—Submitted by
Nadya Volsky, MD, Family Medicine
PeaceHealth Medical Group
Sedro-Woolley

Memorial Day, cont. from p. 3

varied as their backgrounds, their home towns, their religions, their race, the ethnic heritage, or their ages, but they believed in what our nation stands for. Not simply how our way of life manifested itself during their lifetime, but what their hopes and dreams were for our collective future.

We should never forget we still have a future because of their sacrifices. The future they saw was hopeful and optimistic—full of promise. As we memorialize those who secured our future, we all owe a great deal of gratitude. However, with that gratitude comes a responsibility. A responsibility not to squander the rights and freedoms of ourselves or others in our pursuits.

Although we always should seek to avoid unnecessary conflicts, we should not forget that what we have today is a result of past conflicts and the resulting sacrifices. Future generations are depending on us—yes, each and every one of us—to ensure a bright future for our descendants.

That future will continue to be challenged, and our men and women will be called to defend it, time and time again. To fully respect their sacrifices, we must remain cognizant that they are not just fighting for our hopes and dreams, but for their own. We do the fallen a disservice if we ever lose sight of that.

On May 29, in remembrance of those fallen, it is customary for the flag of the United States to be raised briskly to the top of the staff and then solemnly lowered to the half-staff position on Memorial Day. The half-staff position is in memory of the more than 1 million men and women who have given their lives in service of their country. At noon, it is then customary to raise it to the full-staff position for the remainder of the day. This is to remind us not to let their sacrifice be in vain. Their fight for liberty and justice for all is now ours.

John Boggs is a member of Arnold-Heskett American Legion Post 132 in Concrete.



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Test Drive, cont. from p. 3

funding to build many transportation projects across the state during the next 16 years. However, forecasts suggest that during the next 20 years, the average miles per gallon (mpg) of vehicles in the state will climb from the current 20.5 mpg to 35 mpg. This equates to a 45 percent reduction in our state's gas tax revenues per mile driven—a clear indication that we need to identify a new, viable funding source to ensure meeting our future transportation needs.

For these reasons, our state, with several others across the country, is anticipating the potential for reduced gas tax revenue and assessing possible solutions to replace the gas tax in the future. One promising approach we've been exploring is a road usage charge, which would charge drivers by the mile rather than by the gallon of gas. This approach would be similar to the way people pay for other public services like electricity, water, and natural gas. Under a road usage charge system, it won't matter what your car's mpg is or what fuel you use to power it, because all cars would pay the same per-mile rate for using the roads.

After more than five years of study, we are ready for Washington drivers to put road-usage charging to the test. We want drivers to experience it firsthand and give us feedback on what works and what doesn't. We need people from all over the state to participate in the year-long pilot project, beginning in early 2018, to ensure a broad spectrum of perspectives goes into shaping the outcome. We need drivers from urban areas and rural areas, with different income levels, and varying car types from old to new, from gas to electric. Drivers must be part of the solution and help identify a potential

Sudoku solution, from p. 37

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

replacement for the gas tax—and the pilot project is all about making that happen.

While a road usage charge holds a lot of promise for the future funding of transportation, it can certainly evoke concerns and confusion as it proposes a fundamental shift in how we pay for roads and bridges. Let's look at some of the myths and facts around road usage charging.

MYTH 1: A road usage charge must utilize GPS technology to work and will monitor individual driving habits and location.

FACT: Road usage charges can be collected without the use of any technology, including location-based technology (GPS). Our state will test four different options in the pilot project, two of which will be no-tech and two high-tech; drivers get to pick one they want to test.

One of the no-tech options is an odometer-read approach where drivers report their total miles driven to the Department of Licensing as part of the vehicle registration renewal process. Road charges would be calculated by multiplying the per-mile rate by the total miles traveled.

Another no-tech approach is a mileage permit where drivers pre-pay for a block of miles, similar to how pre-paid cell phones work. With this permit, drivers are good to go until they run out of miles and need to replenish their permit.

The two high-tech options to be tested utilize technology to increase consumer convenience. One is a mileage meter that utilizes GPS to determine if you are in state and on a public road. If you are on a private road or out of state, road

Crossword solution, from p. 37

	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12																				
	S	T	R	A	P		B	O	W	L		P	U	G																			
13	H	A	I	K	U		14	E	S	A	U		15	E	S	P	Y																
16	E	X	P	E	R		17	I	M	E	N	T		18	A	L	I	S	M														
						19	G	N	U					20	E	M	U																
21	P	R	O	F	E									22	S	E	S	S	I	O	N	A	L	I	S	M							
23														24																			
25														26																			
27														28																			
29														30	E	U	R	O		31	T	E	N	N	I	S							
32														33	R	E	C	U		34	R		35	N	E	S							
36														37	L	O	S		38	S		39	S		40	T	E	W					
41														42	A	F		43	B	O	L		44	D		45	D	A	T	E			
46														47																			
48														49	A	L	A		50	I	C	I	N	G		51	G		52	R	A	N	I
53														54																			
55														56	H	U	M		57	A	N	I	T	A	R	I	A	N	I	S	M		
58														59																			
60														61	C	I	A		62	I	O	N											
63														64																			
65														66	A	N	I	M	67	A	L		68	A		69	G	N	E	66	T	66	M
70														71	V	O	L	E	72	L	O	U	R		73	N	E	V	E	R			
74														75	E	R	E		76	Y	O	G	I		77	T	E	E	N	S			

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Test Drive, cont. from p. 38

charges will not be assessed. There is another version of the mileage meter that will not have GPS capabilities, but will act as an odometer and submit your total miles driven to the state electronically, rather than requiring drivers to go to the Department of Licensing to manually

report them. The other high-tech option is an application that would allow drivers to report their miles utilizing their smart phone. This will face challenges, but is an approach many states are considering, given the widespread use of smart phones.

MYTH 2: A road usage charge will unfairly impact rural residents and drivers who must drive long distances to get to essential services or work.

FACT: The gas tax and road usage charging carry the same effect as far as distance goes: the farther you drive the more you pay under either approach. In fact, we already are paying by the mile today under the gas tax; we just don't think of it this way. Because the gas tax is consumption-based, your car's

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mpg determines your per mile cost. As shown in Table 1 (right), if you drive a car that gets the state's average 20 mpg, you are currently paying the equivalent of 2.4 cents per mile in gas tax today. Cars that get less than 20 mpg could be paying as much as five times more per mile than cars that get more than 20 mpg. Essentially, less fuel-efficient cars are subsidizing the roads for the more fuel-efficient cars that pay little to nothing in gas tax. This fact demonstrates just how inequitable the gas tax really is.

MYTH 3: A road usage charge will cost drivers more money and generally be unfair compared to the current gas tax.

FACT: If fairness is measured by the cost to drivers, the cost of a road usage charge will be determined by your car's mpg. A road usage charge ensures everyone pays their fair share for the use of the roads, regardless of their car type, mpg, or fuel source. As shown in Table 2, a pickup truck that gets 15 mpg will pay the same road usage charge on a per-mile basis as a Toyota Prius, which gets 45 mpg. While this may seem unfair to those who drive more fuel-efficient cars,

Table 1

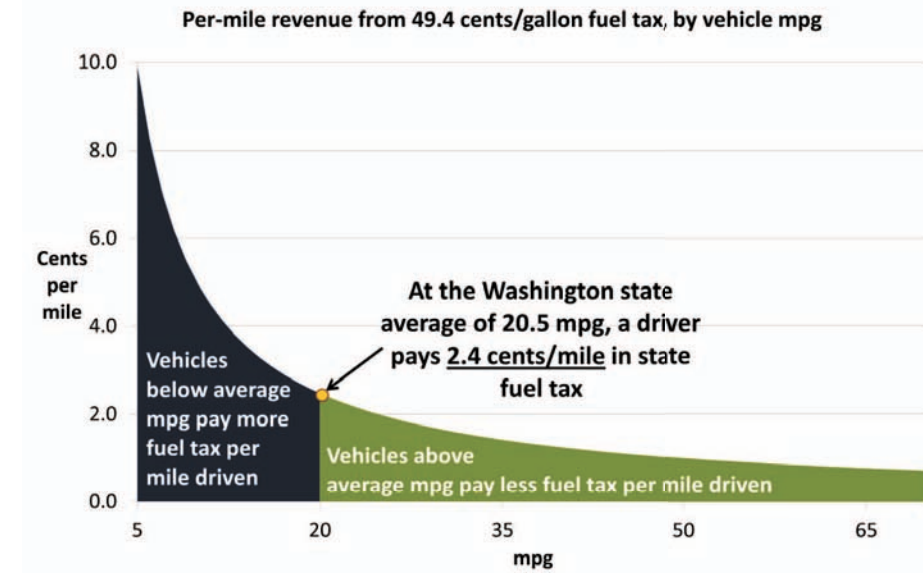
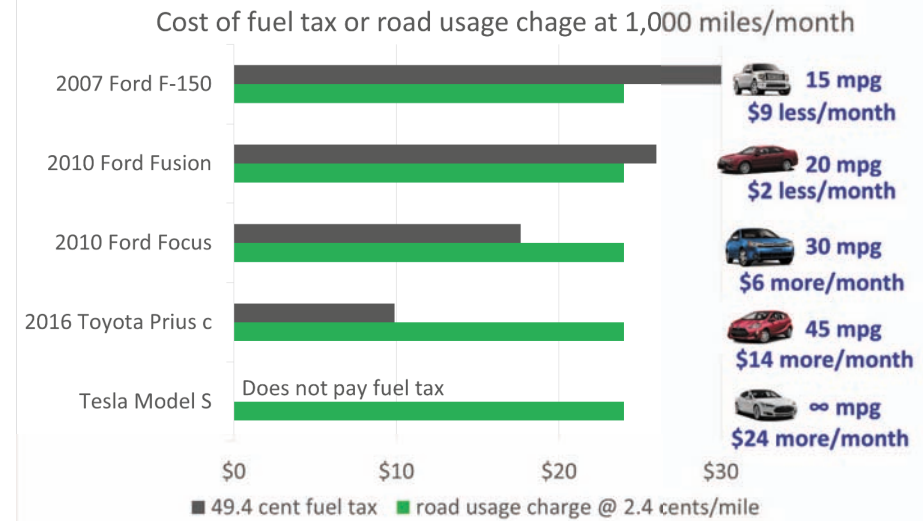


Table 2



the fact is those drivers will still enjoy a significant fuel cost savings at the pump, given they fill up much less often than drivers of less-fuel efficient cars.

This is a lot of information to digest and contemplate, considering it really reshapes how we fund critical infrastructure and road maintenance. It is essential that Washingtonians be part of helping us find the right solution.

The road usage charge pilot project is a test, not necessarily the answer. Your participation in the pilot will help us determine whether a road usage charge is worth carrying forward. Your input and guidance before, during, and after the pilot

project will directly affect the policies that emerge and the direction our state takes in addressing our growing transportation challenges. Your participation is key, so be a part of the solution and sign up for the test drive. There is no cost to participate. All we ask is that you share your experience and offer your input.

To learn more about the pilot project and sign up, go to www.waroadusagecharge.org.

Reema Griffith is executive director of the Washington State Transportation Commission. Reach her at griffir@wstc.wa.gov.



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