

The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley

Concrete Herald

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50 cents

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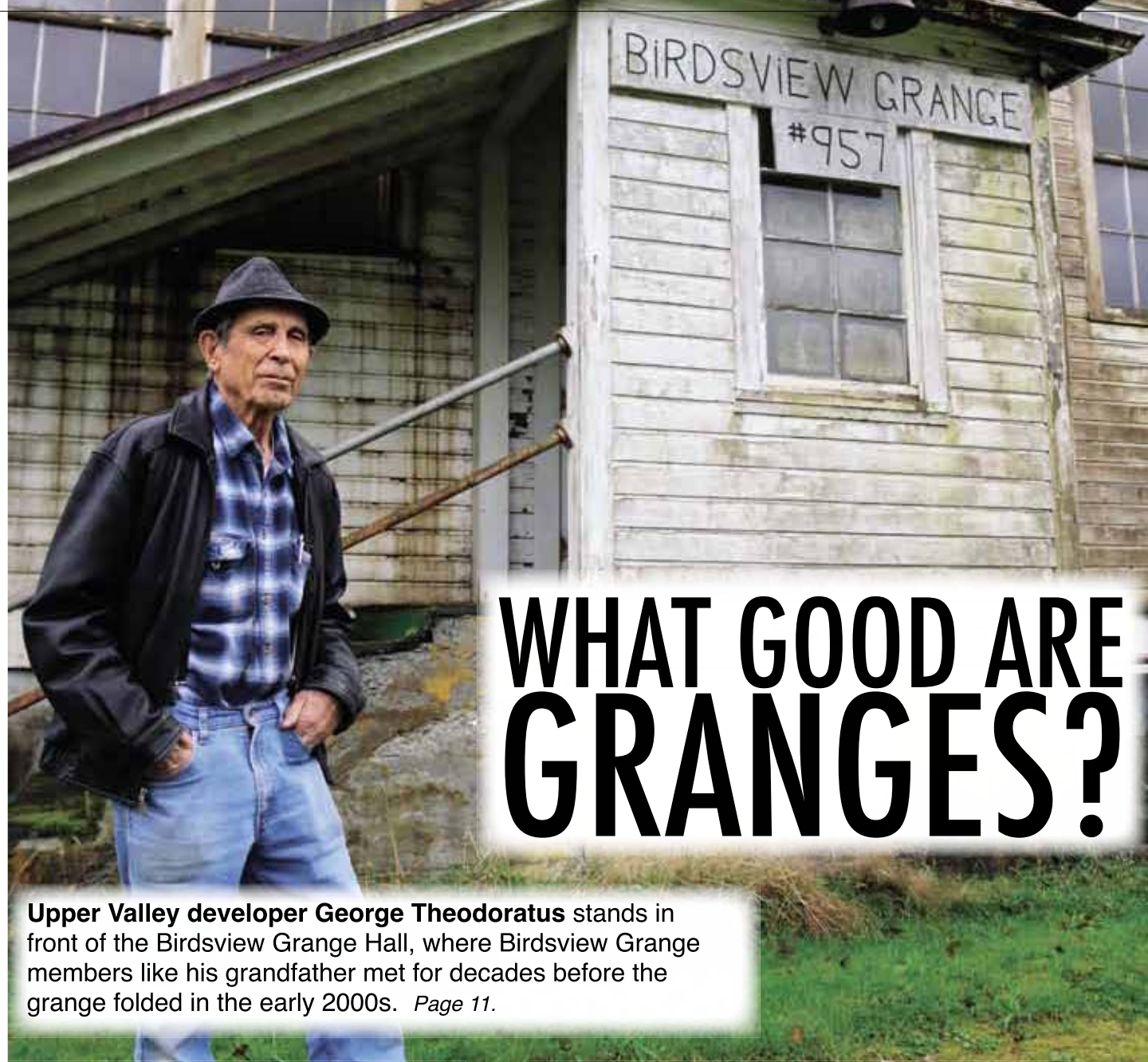
Concrete School District adopts tip line

Students, staff, parents, and community members now have the ability to submit concerns and tips about potential threats to student safety to school administration. *Page 13.*

Thanksgiving Dinner slated

The annual Sedro-Woolley Community Thanksgiving Dinner will be held at Cascade Middle School in Sedro-Woolley. Dinner will be served on Thanksgiving Day from 12:30 to 3 p.m. *Page 17.*

Post office vandalized

A vandalism spree that included the Rockport Post Office left post office boxes ruined and mail removed on Oct. 20. *Page 23.*

WHAT GOOD ARE GRANGES?

Upper Valley developer George Theodoratus stands in front of the Birdview Grange Hall, where Birdview Grange members like his grandfather met for decades before the grange folded in the early 2000s. *Page 11.*

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The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley

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Guest editorial Community should be inclusive

Several years ago when I worked for the Faders at the *Concrete Herald*, we received a Letter to the Editor from some young women who had visited town and weren't happy. Since the letter had all the requirements of publication in our paper, we ran it. If I remember correctly, they hadn't enjoyed their reception in a local store, the little library was closed, the street was dirty, and I can't remember what else, but the letter was critical.

We got quite the reaction from people defending their town. However, a few folks figured out that maybe, just maybe, some of these things were how others might view the town and started work on correcting them. We had some economic development meetings in which we discussed the importance of offering a warm welcome to anyone coming into your business, and what it feels like if the staff are only responding with smiles to people they know. It took a long while, but we now have the ways and means to have a library that's open more hours (and with free Wi-Fi—something we never imagined in the 1980s), and have had the ongoing battle to keep the streets and sidewalks swept through all the ups and downs of the economy.

A few years later, a newer resident complained about the town in a letter to the paper, stating something like, "How can they say they want business if they have dead flies in the shop windows?" From that initial criticism came a response to unite in a festival that made national attention as the Dead Fly Festival (certainly glad that went away as funny, but not something you want to be known for). The merchants looked at their windows and noticed that yes, maybe things could improve instead of slamming more doors. They actually had a fun time with the event.

A community is something that takes lots of work to grow and thrive and be a place for all its members. It's easy for the old-timers and those with lots of family and friends who have been around forever to stick with their clans and not welcome anyone new or with different ideas. It's also easy for newer residents to offer all kinds of advice to people who have been struggling to keep things running. There are many groups with long histories and dwindling members who would embrace new energies with open

See Editorial, p. 18

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Opinion

Letters to the editor

Kudos from East Coast visitor

In mid-September, I came out that way for my vacation to hike in North Cascades National Park and see what else I could see. I am so glad that I did, because it was as good a five days as I've ever had.

Not only was the hiking and scenery (and hooting owls) worth the trip, but the friendly people I met in Concrete really made me feel at home, and they were great ambassadors to your town.

I pitched my tent in Rasar State Park, and everyone there was kind and helpful—including Garrett, Leslie, and Toni. The park was a great home base, and to see the moonlight streaming through those tall evergreen trees, well, it made for a special place to sleep.

Bill, who operates the cedar mill just off 20, was as friendly as he could be, and a genuine piece of Americana. I really enjoyed our conversation and am grateful that he took the time to show me a manufacturing operation that I would never see back East.

Then there's Lois, who runs Wolf Hair Studio. She gave me a great haircut, but even more, she shared some fascinating stories of her adventurous family and their pioneer spirit—and then she gave me two of her art pieces for no reason other than to be kind to a stranger.

And there's Josh at Annie's Pizza Station—the most welcoming restaurant manager a person could ever meet. His homemade soup made for the best late night meal ever, and soon after walking through the door I knew I would definitely be a regular there if I lived in Concrete.

Oh, and I can't forget the post office clerk who hand-postmarked my post cards as a favor to me ... and the employees at 5b's Bakery, who now have the distinction

of making the best dessert I've ever had (chocolate hand pies) ... and the kind nighttime cashier who took good care of me at Albert's Red Apple Market ... and the girls who work at Cascade Burgers, for making the greatest hamburger (avocado burger with bacon) I've ever had.

And even though I didn't meet them in person, I sure did enjoy listening to the local voices on KSVU radio, and hearing the neat music they played and the stories they told. Volunteer-driven, independent public radio seems like a great way for a community to stay connected.

You know, being able to take a vacation is a real blessing, and it's fun to see and experience new things. But what really makes it special is when you can get a true sense of a place, and maybe cross paths with good and kind people. I'm sure lots of people who have come to Concrete

See Letters, p. 38

Letters policy

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

Corrections

In the October issue, the Darrington section contained an incorrect statement that the 4-Corners Cafe in Darrington was closed on Sundays and Mondays. It is closed only on Mondays.

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Message from the mayor

By Jason Miller

Town staff and I are breathing a sigh of relief after completing the Lorenzen Creek dredging project in early October. The creek channel had not been dredged since the mid-1990s, when new



state regulations (I like to call them "unfunded mandates") made the task prohibitively time-consuming and expensive.

Fortunately, we were able to work collaboratively with several entities and volunteers, bringing the price tag down into manageable territory.

It is these organizations and people I wish to thank:

- Wayne Watne and Bob Warriner of Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife.
- Susan Madsen, Kyle Koch, and Taylor Schmuki of Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group, and their crew of interns and volunteers.
- Local volunteers Ray and Sandra Hambleton, Tom Jones, Bill Newby, Jim Parker, Cheryl Werda, and Chad Hawkings.
- Howard Stafford, who provided two excavators and a dump truck.
- Kelly Bush with Equinox, who provided our cultural monitoring and worked to minimize that cost.
- Concrete Public Works employees Rich Philips, Jimmy Luttrell, and Dale Angell. Rich and Jimmy in particular put in long hours over the course of the five-day project, typically working till dark, and working on the Columbus Day holiday to beat the first heavy rains of the season, which arrived the day after we finished. I even dragged Dir. Alan Wilkins into the fray at one point, although he was charged with staying focused on the wastewater treatment plant.

Although these efforts are, admittedly, a short-term fix, we feel we've bought ourselves a few years of peace.

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

Public Works Director suffers heart attack

Concrete Public Works Director Alan Wilkins is recovering after a mild heart attack on Oct. 17 led to quadruple bypass surgery on Oct. 26.

Before his surgery, Wilkins said he was grateful the cardiac event wasn't more severe and didn't occur while he was in Wenatchee at an infrastructure conference from Oct. 18–20.

Wilkins' wife, Jean, told *Concrete Herald* that he left the Intensive Care Unit at UW Hospital in Seattle on Oct. 30, and was expected to be able to return home four or five days later. Wilkins should be able to return to desk work about a month after that and light physical labor two months later.

In Wilkins' absence, Assistant Public Works Director Rich Philips and Public Works employee Jimmy Luttrell have stepped in to keep the wastewater treatment plant maintenance and reporting on schedule, and plan to use some volunteer labor and pro bono assistance to stay on top. Mayor Jason Miller plans to assist when he can, and Town Clerk Andrea Fichter already has spent time at the plant. The town also has reached out to Water & Wastewater Services for possible assistance on an hourly basis.

—J. K. M.

Legion Hall to say goodbye with reception

On Veterans Day, Nov. 11, at 2 p.m., Post 132 of the American Legion will hold a reception to say "goodbye" as its last official function in the Concrete Legion Hall.

The building that has served the Post so well since it was built by veterans in 1948 will be remodeled and repurposed as the new home for the Upper Skagit Library.

For the members of this Post, it will be a goodbye. For the Upper Skagit Library and the community which it serves, it will be a welcome "hello." The public is invited to join Post and library representatives for the event. Refreshments will be served. Feel free to bring cookies or cake to share.

—John Boggs

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Election 2016

Last month, *Concrete Herald* invited several candidates for public office to share their campaign aspirations in their own words. This month, in advance of the Nov. 8 election, I asked the two major parties in Skagit County to provide their endorsements for those who want to vote a straight ticket. Voters are encouraged to consult their Voters' Pamphlet and vote their conscience by 8 p.m. on Nov. 8. In the list below, the Republican endorsements are red and the Democrat endorsements are blue. Blanks indicate no endorsements.

President	Secretary of State
Donald Trump	Kim Wyman
U.S. Senator	Tina Podlodowski
Chris Vance	
1st Congressional Dist.	
Robert Sutherland	Pat McCarthy
2nd Congressional Dist.	
Marc Hennemann	
Governor	
Bill Bryant	
Lt. Governor	
Marty McClendon	

2017 budget includes increases in utility rates, airport fees

By Haley McNealey
Edited by Katy Tomasulo

The Concrete Town Council is in the process of approving its 2017 budget after a series of public hearings that will continue this month.

In the past, the council would meet an hour before each regular bimonthly meeting, beginning in September and ending in November, to complete the workshops necessary for establishing the budget for the following year, reviewing a different component of the budget at each meeting. This year, however, the council chose a different approach, meeting on one Saturday morning in September and one Saturday morning in October to discuss the budget and develop proposals to be considered during public hearings. Among the noteworthy adjustments for 2017:

- At its regular meeting on Oct. 24, the council approved utility rates and fees via resolution 2016-16. For residents

within city limits, the water fee is set to rise \$3.50, from \$30.30 to \$33.80. The sewer fee will increase by \$4, from \$91 in 2016 to \$95. This is an alternative to the previous practice of increasing the sewer fee by increments of \$2.50 every six months. The town initially began increasing the sewer fee bi-annually to avoid an increase of \$30 at one time, to allow residents the opportunity to adjust to the increase, but it is sufficient now and will only need to be adjusted once per year, said Clerk Treasurer Andrea Fichter. Water rates have increased because of loans the town received from the Dept. of Commerce and Dept. of Health for water system improvements, including the installation of meters on all services, a regulation mandated by the state.

- Another notable increase in the 2017

Insurance Commissioner	Mike Kreidler
Richard Schrock	
WA Legislative Dist. 10	Angie Homola
Barbara Bailey	
State Rep. Pos. 1	
Norma Smith	
State Rep. Pos. 2	Doris Brevoort
Dave Hayes	
WA Legislative Dist. 39	
Kirk Pearson	[unopposed]
State Rep. Pos. 1 (Dist. 39)	Linda Wright
Dan Kristiansen	
State Rep. Pos. 2 (Dist. 39)	Ronda Metcalf
John Koster	
State Rep. Pos. 1 (Dist. 40)	
Kristine Lytton	[unopposed]
State Rep. Pos. 2 (Dist. 40)	
Jeff Morris	[unopposed]
WA Legislative Dist. 40	
Daniel Miller	Kevin Ranker
Skagit County Commissioner Dist. 1	
Ron Wesen	[unopposed]
Skagit County Commissioner Dist. 2	
Ken Dahlstedt	[unopposed]
Skagit County Coroner	
Haley Thompson	[unopposed]
PUD Dist. 1	
Kevin Loy	Eron Berg
WA State Supreme Court Pos. 1	
David DeWolf	Mary Yu

WA State Supreme Court Pos. 5	Barbara Madsen
Greg Zempel	
WA State Supreme Court Pos. 6	Charles Wiggins
Dave Larson	
Skagit County Superior Court Pos. 3	Laura Riquelme
Davis Svaren	
Skagit County District Court Pos. 3	
Thomas Verge	[unopposed]
Initiative 1433	
No	Yes
Initiative 1464	
No	No
Initiative 1491	
No	Yes
Initiative 1501	
No	Yes
Initiative 732	
No	Yes
Initiative 735	
No	Yes
Advisory House Bill 2768	
No	
Advisory House Bill 2778	
No	
Senate Joint Resolution 8210	
Reject	
Mount Vernon Prop. 1	
No	
Skagit County Prop. 1	
Reject	

notarial act. This change reflects an increase in requests for notaries.

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

Upper Skagit Library hosts second year of November Writing Challenge

The Upper Skagit Library District will present its second annual Upper Skagit Writes program in November, a 30-day writing challenge in conjunction with National Novel Writing Month. The goal is to inspire creativity and engage people of all ages in the practice of daily writing and reflection. Beginning Nov. 1, the public will be challenged to write in a variety of genres self-directed every day for the entire month. All ages and skill levels are encouraged to participate. Participants will be encouraged to reflect and share their writing during two events throughout the month hosted by Upper Skagit Writers group. Program features include the library as an official "Come Write In" space, Word-of-the-Day, and an option for youth to participate in Letters About Literature national writing contest. View program guidelines at upperskagit.lib.wa.us. For more information: chomas@upperskagit.lib.wa.us or 360.853.7939.

Economic Development Commission holds first meeting

Fledgling commission will pursue five goals in 2017.

By Haley McNealey
Edited by Katy Tomasulo

On Oct. 12, the Concrete Economic Development Commission held its first meeting, during which members chose five objectives they aim to accomplish in 2017. The goals they selected emerged from a list generated by the Economic Development Task Force, a group that preceded the formation of the commission.

The commission is composed of six community members, each appointed by Mayor Jason Miller, who have influential roles within the town. During its first meeting, the commission voted to elect task force facilitator Eric Archuleta as its chair and Columbia Bank Branch Manager Lynette Gentry as its chair pro-tem. The remaining members are Concrete High School teacher Claus Joens, 5b's Bakery owner Em Beals, Upper Skagit Library Director Brooke Pederson, and Concrete Chamber of Commerce employee Cheryl Werda. Concrete Coins owner Joshua Gonzales was initially appointed to the commission, but Miller removed him from the commission during the Oct. 24 Town Council meeting, choosing instead to work one on one with Gonzales on other town-related initiatives.

Town Councilmember Ginger Kyritsis will serve as the council liaison, attending the meetings and reporting back to the council on progress of the commission and content of its discussions. Concrete Municipal Code prevents Kyritsis, as a councilmember, from being a member of the commission, but she will continue to be involved through her liaison position. Kyritsis formerly served as a member of the task force.

The EDC came away from the meeting with its five objectives:

- Replace the obsolete Town of Concrete Web site. This task is

assigned to Joens, who will work with his son, Alex, and Mayor Miller to research Web site examples and develop a beta Web site for testing.

- Create a brand for the Town of Concrete. This two-part action involves the entire commission, which will work with the Imagine Concrete Foundation to organize a townwide workshop on the topic, then review the data that emerges from the workshop. After compiling the data, the commission will present to the Town Council recommendations for further action from the town.
- Develop a database of vacant buildings in Concrete Town Center. This task was divided among members of the commission. Joens is responsible for gaining access to vacant buildings and taking photos and notes on strengths and needs. Beals is tasked with gathering other information regarding vacant buildings, and Archuleta is expected to develop a template worksheet for the inventory database.
- Develop consistent and reliable broadband options within town limits and the town's urban growth area. Beals and Pederson are tasked with collaborating with broadband providers and gathering information to develop the next steps.

The commission's next regular meeting is scheduled for Feb. 8 at 6 p.m. at Town Hall. A pre-meeting workshop will be held Jan. 11 at 6 p.m. at 5B's Bakery.

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

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Open for Business

Hewitt Music Studio

Music instructor Gretchen Hewitt has brought her brilliance to Concrete Town Center, doing business as Hewitt Music Studio at 45905 Main St.

A newcomer to Concrete, Hewitt recently fell in love with a wee cabin in Birdview and moved there in July. Since then, she's spent her time familiarizing herself with the Upper Valley and putting together an impressive list of musical offerings.

Hewitt teaches voice, piano, guitar, violin, and viola. She's available for private or joint lessons.

But that's only the beginning of Hewitt's ideas for bringing her brand of music instruction to the community. On Tuesday nights she hosts "creative drawing to music," where students are encouraged to draw, color, even doodle while Hewitt plays music. In November she'll offer a shared-cost voice class and an opportunity to "read music in two hours." And you can catch her Monday nights at Concrete Center at 7 p.m., leading a sing-along.



At a glance: Hewitt Music Studio

Where: 45905 Main St., Concrete

Phone: 314.277.4780

E-mail: gretchen.concretemusic@gmail.com

Hours: Mon.-Fri., 1 to 6:30 p.m.

Sat. by appointment, closed Sun.

Photo contest celebrates 20 years of eagle watching and advocacy

The Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center (SRBEIC) at Howard Miller Steelhead Park is celebrating its 20th anniversary this winter season by sponsoring a "20-20 Photo Contest."

The top 20 photos will be selected to represent 20 seasons of eagle watching. The contest provides an opportunity for expert and novice photographers to capture their experience while eagle watching or taking part in other outdoor adventures.

For 20 years the team at SRBEIC has been inspired to raise awareness for environmental conservation of the Upper Skagit River ecosystem and the bald eagles and salmon that return each year. In part, that inspiration stems from the beauty of this corner of the world.

The contest poses this question to the public: "What is it about this place and the creatures that live here that inspires you?" SRBEIC is searching for nature photographs on/around the Skagit River or the greater North Cascades that capture that feeling.

Photos must be taken during the fall and winter of 2016-17. Submit photos beginning Nov. 1. Deadline for submittals is Jan. 15. The top 20 photos will be announced on Jan. 20. One grand prize winner will receive a Bald Eagle Scenic Tour by Skagit River Guide Service. The top 20 photos also will be featured on the organization's Facebook page and Web site. For complete contest guidelines, go to www.skagiteagle.org. The photo contest e-mail contact is skagiteagles@gmail.com.

This year look for new designs in the Web site, official poster, and special events. View the migration of raptors in their natural habitat this winter. SRBEIC features guided nature walks, speaker presentations, informative videos, interpretive displays, a Nature Store, a Children's Corner, and a life-size eagle's nest. Open weekends December through January, and December 26-30, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Closed Dec. 24-25. Support the SRBEIC's 20th season by volunteering. Please contact the organization to discuss interest and availability. Training available. For more information, go to www.skagiteagle.org, call 360.853.7626, or e-mail srbeatic@frontier.com.

—Cora Thomas

THIS AND THAT

By J. K. M.

This year, the organizers who brought Santa to Concrete Town Center will instead direct him to "Christmas on Moen Road."

The Dec. 10 event is open to all Upper Skagit Families, and will be hosted by Marty and Adrienne Smith at their home, located at 48040 Moen Rd., approximately 5 miles east of Concrete, off SR 20.

Santa will arrive promptly at 6 p.m. in his sleigh, with a gift for every child up to 12 years old. Other attractions for the evening include hay rides, a live Nativity scene, a drawing for a girl's bike and a boy's bike, Christmas gift baskets, a bonfire, hot dogs, and hot drinks. Festivities should wrap up at 9 p.m.

Christmas on Moen Road is sponsored by Friends Helping Friends and Community Bible Church of Concrete.

A public information meeting is planned for Thur., Nov. 17, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Hamilton Town Hall, 584 Maple St., Hamilton.

The purpose of the meeting is to seek input from community members regarding a local project.

Town of Hamilton and Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group (SFEG) have received funding from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board for a project that will investigate opportunities for restoring fish habitat in Carey's/Alder Slough, an oxbow lake connected to the Skagit River.

SFEG has spent the past few months collecting habitat data and developing a flow model that will be used to evaluate the effects of proposed restoration actions. At the meeting, SFEG and town staff members will seek input from community members to help confirm that the model accurately reflects flow patterns they observe during winter floods.

Community members' participation will help guide SFEG's planning process and ensure a project that is good for both fish and people.

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Council summary

Concrete Town Council met for regular meetings on Oct. 11 and 24, and for a budget workshop on Oct. 15. Following is a summary of those two meetings and workshop, in chronological order. Complete and council-approved minutes for every council meeting are posted on the town's Web site at www.townofconcrete.com/cminutes.php.

Oct. 11 regular meeting

- Council voted to extend the application period for Council Position No. 2 to Dec. 5, 2016, in order to ensure adequate time has been allowed for notification, so that residents are aware of the vacancy.
- Public safety:** Sgt. Chris Kading stated there has been an increase in traffic infractions and enforcement. He also reported on a grant program they are working in partnership with the school district and United General Dist. 304 to discourage underage drinking. He reported on the different monitoring that is occurring and the possible use of counselors for those kids caught drinking.
- Clerk Treasurer Andrea Fichter reported the exit conference for the audit was held today and that things had gone well.

Oct. 15 budget workshop

- Council reviewed the proposed 2017 Budget, which incorporated all of the items, including salaries and benefits and the utility rates and fees that had been previously discussed.

Council discussed a number of items, including law enforcement fees, salaries, cherry tree purchases, the town's medical insurance provider, and the fee associated with airport lease transfers.

Council reviewed a draft of its newly created Financial Management Policies. Fichter stated these documents will be beneficial to staff and the council so there is clear guidance on the financial plan for the town. She stated a procurement policy and contract execution code section was also included for their review. Council asked for more time to read through the policies, and also to deliver a copy of the draft to town attorney David Day.

Oct. 24 regular meeting

Mayor Jason Miller stated his intention to remove Joshua Gonzales

from the Economic Development Commission, and instead work with him one on one to address some of Gonzales' ideas for the town, especially in the area of crime reduction.

- Public safety:** Sgt. Kading reported on a large event that occurred during the weekend at Devil's Tower. He stated it was a rather large rave. He said the organizer was from the Seattle area and is most likely facing charges. Only a handful of locals were at the rave, apparently.
- Mayor Miller reported that town engineer Cody Hart had provided a quarterly project report and asked if council had any questions that he or Andrea may be able to answer. Andrea stated the council can always e-mail Cody as well.
- Council held a public hearing regarding Resolution 2016-16, Utility Rates and Fees. Audience member Gary Dunlap asked about the airport lease assignment fee increase. It was stated the fee is being increased from \$50 to \$500. Dunlap asked if this means that each lease holder will be charged this fee. Fichter stated this fee is for when a lease is transferred and assigned to someone new. Dunlap stated that he believes that is high. Council declined to change the fee and voted to pass Resolution 2016-16, Utility Rates and Fees for 2017.
- Planning Commission report:** Town Planner Marianne Manville-Ailles reported they did not have a quorum at the last Planning Commission meeting, so they did not get to work more on the Parks element of the Comprehensive Plan. She stated they will still hold the public hearing in November and the final will come to the council at its first meeting in December. She asked that the council review that element and let her know if they have any suggested changes or questions.
- Mayor Miller reported that he and Alan attended the IACC Conference last week.

—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@concretetwa.gov or call 360.853.8401. Concrete Town Council meets the second and fourth Mondays of each month, at 7 p.m. at Town Hall.



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Sports



Volleyball presses on

By Kevik Rensink, head coach

On to the playoffs! The Concrete volleyball team is advancing to the Northwest 2B District Tournament for the fourth consecutive year, and the players are excited about the opportunity to continue their season for as long as possible.

Concrete will play Orcas at noon on Wed., Nov. 2 at Mount Vernon Christian High School. The winner will advance to play La Conner in the second round, while the loser will go home. The girls will be ready, and I love the challenge before us. Our team has continued to accelerate as the season draws down, and that is good news as we now have time to fine tune the engine before taking the court against a very good Orcas team.

The Concrete Lions split their two matches with the Orcas Vikings during the regular season, so this should be a very competitive, high-level volleyball match. Even though we squeaked into the playoffs and finished the season on a mini-losing skid, the girls are playing their best volleyball right now. In our last match we faced a tough Darrington squad that came into our place with a 13-2 record and a ton of momentum. We knew we could compete with them, and compete with them we did. We lost 25-23, 25-19, and 25-20. All three sets were close. All three sets were high energy, aggressive offense, and unbelievable defense. The Concrete girls recorded a season best 92 pass percentage (including 36 percent perfect pass), and a season-high 56 digs. Kaitlin Earheart had 15 digs, while Grace Clemons recorded 13. Those two absolutely owned the back row, and have joined forces with a very consistent Alyssa Roberts and a pleasant back-row surprise in Jaycelyn Kuipers. Kuipers and Earheart have also improved their play at the net, where they combined for eight blocks and 16 kills vs. the Loggers. Emily Bridge and Ashlee Gilbert continue to impress from the setter positions, and have been the glue that has held us together through all of the injuries, sickness, and other ups and downs.

Bridge recorded 12 more assists against Darrington, and is on pace to break Cassidy Cargile's mark from last year. Hannah Rensink and Jalayne Hastings continue to lead the way in the serving department as their "friendly" competition heats up as we near the tournament. Both



Kaitlin Earheart lifts a shot over a soaring Autumn Miller of Darrington during the team's match on Oct. 25 in Concrete.

players are serving well over 90 percent on the season, and our team recorded a 90 serving percentage vs. Darrington (another season best). I am very proud of the way the team has really come together down the stretch. They want to keep playing, and I love to see that desire in them every day in practice. Practice is fun. We have a blast, and it keeps them interested, learning, and wanting to get better. The girls are hungry for the playoffs, and very self-motivated right now.

Sports schedules:
nw1a2bathletics.com

Season of growth for soccer team

The Concrete women's soccer team played its last game of the season on Oct. 27, tangling with La Conner on the Lions' home field. The close game ended with a 1-0 score in the Braves' favor, but there's more to the story than the final score.

When Concrete faced La Conner on Oct. 3, the Lions fell 6-1. Their Oct. 27 loss was much more than a loss.

"The tight score shows our improvement during just a few weeks," said Head Coach Jessica Filtz. "During that game, the girls worked together the best I've seen all year, from reading the opposing team and understanding each other too. La Conner has always been a great school to compete against, and overall that game was great; it was a great way to end the season. We played exceptionally and brought our all, and the girls were excited to realize they'd created a great team and had a great season."

During the team's second game last month, they faced Mount Vernon Christian at home on Oct. 6. Mount Vernon had a short squad, with seven players. Still, "we made some mistakes that gave them two more points," said Filtz, and the Lady Lions ended up with a 3-1 loss.

On Oct. 8 the girls traveled to Orcas,

where they captured a 3-1 win. "We went into that game super ready, came with lots of attitude and put it all on the field," said Filtz. "Connecting on our passes really helped us that day."

Ten days later, the Lady Lions did it again, this time hosting Orcas and handing them an even worse defeat, 6-0. "Our scorers did really well that day," said Filtz, "and the others moved the ball upfield well and read the other players well."

Friday Harbor dished up a 3-0 loss for Concrete on Oct. 20. The away game found the Lions doing well at the beginning, but tempers flared at one point and "it went downhill from there," said Filtz. "Our defense did well, however, improving our bottom line by two points since the first time we met them."

On Oct. 25 the team headed to Mount Vernon Christian again, and tried a couple new strategies, said Filtz. "We did well, but we made a couple mistakes and they scored off those mistakes."

Filtz looks back on her first season at the helm with satisfaction. "From the beginning, we've improved a lot," she said. "Some players hadn't touched a soccer ball, but the older players took care of them."



Concrete hosted the La Conner soccer team on Oct. 27. Above, Aunya Carpenter fend off a defender for control of the ball. Below, Mary Spangler looks for an open kick upfield. Below left, goalkeeper Brook Barned gets a save.



Athletes of the Month



Athletes of the Month: Nora Towner and Blaine Storms

Sophomore Nora Towner plays left forward for the women's soccer team. She scored a hefty chunk of the team's goals this season, but that's not the sole reason Coach Jessica Filtz pushed to honor Towner. "She hasn't missed one practice or game for any reason," said Filtz. "She's only a sophomore, but other players look up to her because of her hustle and heart for the game. Her attitude is always positive, which creates a good atmosphere on and off the field. She's a great student athlete, a solid soccer player because of her skills and the person she is."

Senior free safety and wingback Blaine Storms is well named, burning up the football field with a speed that very few can match. Coach Marcus Carr said he voted to name Storms an Athlete of the Month because of his work ethic. "He always comes ready to practice, goes 100 percent, gives it his all, and he's an outstanding student on top of that. Just an all-around outstanding young man."

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

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Season ends for football squad

After three October games, the Concrete Lions football team will finish their season with a Nov. 3 home game against Friday Harbor.

October matches

The Lions hosted South Whidbey on Oct. 7, notching a 20–8 win in spite of South Whidbey's bigger players. "We still managed to execute at a high level and make the game," said first-year Head Coach Marcus Carr.

On Oct. 21, Concrete made Darrington wish it had never made the trip to its rival's home field. Tyler Nevin had two interceptions on the evening. Louie Ketchum contributed four sacks. And injured senior QB Tyler Labrousse was cleared to play, adding two touchdowns. Marshall Fichter layered on another three TDs to give the Lions a 48–0 win over the Loggers.

"That was a nice Homecoming win for us," Carr said.

La Conner turned the tables on Concrete

when the Braves hosted the Lions on Oct. 28. The teams traded touchdowns during the first half, which ended with the Lions down by only two TDs.

"The way the team came out in the first half—they really got out there," said Carr. "But they ran out of steam in the second half," he said. The Lions ended the game with a 62–21 loss—still better than the 60–0 drubbing the Braves gave them earlier in the season.

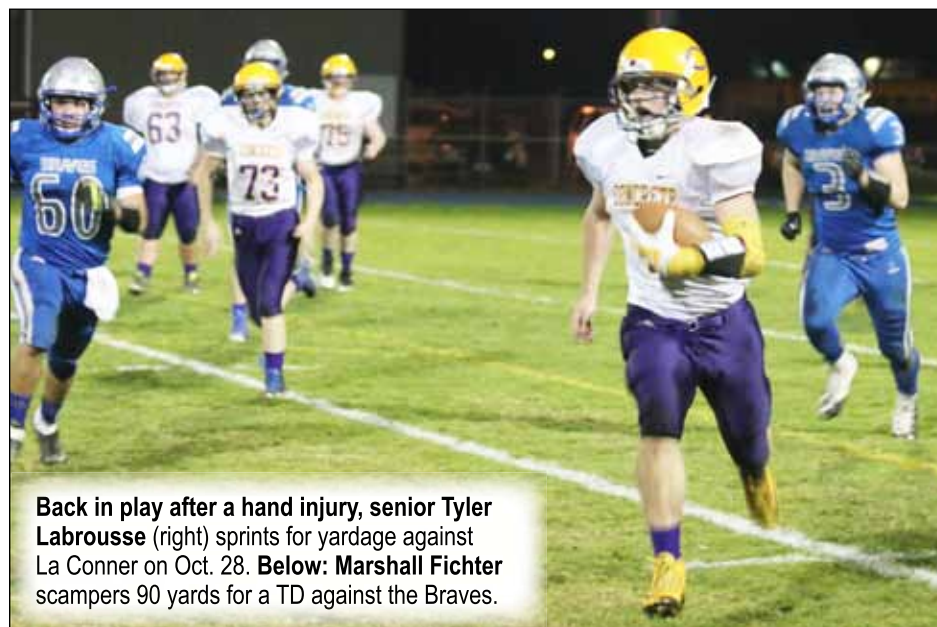
"We have a young team overall," said Carr of the loss. "Moving forward, we'll be a lot better for the lessons learned."

No playoff hopes

The team will narrowly miss its chance at post-season play this year, with a league record of 5–2 and 6–3 overall.

"We performed really well," said Carr. "I can't wait to see what next season will hold for us. We'll lose only four seniors out of 25 kids, and with incoming freshmen, we should be all right."

—J. K. M.



Back in play after a hand injury, senior Tyler Labrousse (right) sprints for yardage against La Conner on Oct. 28. Below: Marshall Fichter scampers 90 yards for a TD against the Braves.



Middle school volleyball wraps season

By Rob Thomas, head coach

The 2016 edition of Concrete Middle School volleyball ended on Oct. 25 with some very competitive home games against rival Darrington. I was not available to coach the girls for their final matches of the season; both teams were under the excellent leadership of assistant coach Martha Schoolland.

With 18 girls for most of the season (just three 7th graders), the teams were split evenly based upon a number of factors. Although not as successful as they would have liked in the win-loss column, the girls not only remained competitive throughout the season as they faced Mount Vernon Christian, Orcas,

La Conner, Friday Harbor, Conway, and Darrington, but they continued to improve in all facets of the game.

Concrete played home and away matches with most of the schools including ferry trips to both Orcas and Friday Harbor, a highlight of the season.

Highlights of the season for the 8th grade team included victories against Friday Harbor, Darrington, Conway, and Mount Vernon Christian. The 7th grade team enjoyed wins against La Conner, Friday Harbor, Orcas, and Mount Vernon Christian.

The season started Sept. 6 with the girls committing themselves to working together as a team to accomplish their stated goals:

1. Learn the fundamentals of the game.
2. Learn to work together as a team.
3. Improve each and every week.
4. Have fun.

With the difference in numbers, some 8th graders played on the 7th grade team.

Both coaches were impressed by the cooperation between teammates, even though they were different grades. The good attitudes demonstrated the maturity of the players throughout the season.

The keys to each victory were relatively simple. The higher the serving percentage, along with the greater the energy and enthusiasm on the court, the better the team played and the more points they scored. Adding to the winning mix was the necessity of effective communication and seeking to control the ball with each and every contact. The girls go into the off season with a clear understanding of what they need to focus on to help improve individually to be prepared for next season.

I wish the 8th graders well as they move on to play either volleyball or soccer next year in high school. I look forward to coaching the 7th graders next year, as well as a great group of 6th graders moving up to the middle school.



Izabela Ramos serves against Mount Vernon Christian during a home match on Oct. 24.

WHAT GOOD ARE GRANGES?

At the intersection of Russell Rd. and Cape Horn Rd. in Birdsvie lies a property with two buildings on it, the remnants of the Birdsvie School that operated in the early decades of the 20th century. The former schoolhouse is a single-family home now, and the long and narrow former gymnasium has seen better days. Grime and runoff have colored the once-white clapboard siding a dingy gray. The gutters are full and sagging from the roofline; a small sapling sprouts from one. The sign at the entry is testament to a way of life that is disappearing: "Birdsvie Grange #957."

At one time there were 67 Granges operating in Skagit County. Today, only five remain. Their members are stalwart and committed to community service. They're also aging.

More than a century of service

The Order of Patrons of Husbandry, more commonly known as the Grange, was born in 1867 in a small Washington, D.C., building. Sitting around a plain wooden table, a group of seven earnest men planned what was to become a force in preserving and expanding American democracy. Simple values underpinned their actions and the actions of generations who followed. Grange members are committed to the betterment of their communities. From community service initiatives to grassroots legislative action, Grange members believe that what they do to strengthen their hometowns today can have a lasting and positive impact tomorrow.

At its inception, Grange was an agriculture-based organization, a way for farmers to gain strength in numbers, hoping to influence legislation that would improve their quality of life. They did and still do a lot of lobbying in support of agriculture. Every year they update a "Legislative Handbook," which is delivered to state legislators in an effort to keep them apprised of what's important to Grange members. The handbook includes such categories as land use, marketing and trade, research and science, public lands,

USDA programs, livestock and programs, forestry management, pollution and waste, and many more.

At Skagit Valley Grange No. 620 in Sedro-Woolley, members are gearing up to celebrate their 100-year anniversary in April 2017. They've been honoring the Grange history by improving their local community.

"We're into community service," said member Jean Swift. "We collect food for food banks, provide backpacks with school supplies at the beginning of the school year, and give dictionaries to 3rd graders in the Sedro-Woolley School District. We like to work with the community in that way."

Like the other four Granges in Skagit County, the grange hall stays open because of member dues, plus rental fees for local dance groups and others. The hall once hummed with Grange-sponsored dances, but those days are a memory now.

There's a social component too that is typical of Granges. "Locally, it's a way to get together and enjoy each other's company," said Swift. "But at the state level, the importance is meeting with legislators and pointing out necessary decisions to support the agricultural community, because without agriculture, we'd be in deep trouble. So it's a very important organization."

Community values

Chuck Prochaska is a deputy for the Granges in Skagit and Island counties. A member of the Deer Lagoon Grange near Langley, Prochaska said his job is "to keep the granges in the two counties happy—I'm a liaison between the state and Granges."

Prochaska reiterates the community side of Grange. "We focus on community values, legislative items, supporting children, and having fun. We're active in our communities and our families," he said.

Prochaska has been involved in Grange for 35 years. His sightline allows him to

See **Grange**, p. 19



Skagit Valley Grange No. 620 (above), on Cook Rd. near Sedro-Woolley, is one of only five active granges in Skagit County. The Birdsvie Grange No. 957 building in Birdsvie started life as the Birdsvie School gymnasium and now lies neglected and in need of major repairs.



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10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

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For more information, visit
SkagitFestivalofTrees.org
or call 360-814-5747

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Academics



Concrete Elementary School students gathered for an Oct. 16 Recognition Breakfast in honor of their special academic efforts. *Front row, from left:* Kenneth Orr, showing empathy to a friend; Couper Sanchez, excellence in writing and art; Jackie Daniels, positive behavior and friendliness toward others;



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Ben Martinez; Allison Voss, most improved in reading; Madison Flaton, trying hard to improve; Cail Wilson, honorable leadership skill and classroom manager. *Back row, from left:* Oblio Thorn, consistent respect and honor of others; Samantha Mitchell, excellence in math and reading; Laura Powell, working hard at home to catch up; Kimberly Middlemist, steady improvement and hard work; Taylor Dawson, reading effort and achievement; Jon Beard, PAX leader in class.
Photo by Jaci Gallagher.

Concrete Elementary PTO meetings are held the **second Wednesday** of each month, at 5 p.m., in the **Concrete Elementary School library**.
For more information, call **425.350.5988**.

YD update

It's crazy how many students we have attending Concrete Youth Dynamics already, and we are only a month into the school year. Eighty students have attended so far, and there are more new students showing up every Monday. It is so great to see the excitement and eagerness on their faces every week.

We gather every Monday night at various locations around town, and challenge our local teens with games, different competitions, and life choices. The response has been very positive so far, and that might have something to do with the fact there is food there every Monday. It sort of reminds me of the garbage dumps in Alaska. It doesn't take long for the bears to smell the garbage before they show up in groups and the garbage is torn apart and devoured.

Teens are the same way. If the food gets left alone for longer than two seconds, they quickly gather in a herd and consume everything in sight. Bottom line, we have a ton of fun. We have already had a barbecue, played capture the flag, Ultimate Frisbee, town shark, kickball, dodgeball, and even had a night where the students were given random items and had to work together to perform skits in front of their peers.

The events coming up in November are Cardboard Gladiator Night, Family Feud Night, a scavenger hunt at Bellis Fair Mall, and a Movie Night. Our staff continues to do a wonderful job interacting and communicating with the high school students who show up. All of our staff is 100 percent volunteer, and the time they put back into our community and these young people is absolutely incredible. We have touched on some tough subjects, and we have talked to the kids about some really cool stuff like trust, adventure, unconditional love, and how to make time for the important things in your life. Our investment is our young people, and I want to do everything I can to ensure that investment has the greatest return. Working with teens can be tough sometimes, but the reward is great!

—Kevik Rensink
Concrete YD Coordinator



Fall 2016 is the start of a new strategic planning year and the importance of the community being active as we set priorities for 2017 and 2018 couldn't be greater. The coalition mission is to develop and implement ways to respectfully meet the needs of youth, families, and individuals through collaboration, networking, and building community relationships.

Currently our coalition is building capacity and we are looking for new members in business, church organizations, and law enforcement. If you fall into one or more of these categories and want to be part of the coalition, please consider joining us at our next meeting, Thur., Nov. 17 from 1 to 2:30 p.m. in the Concrete High School Library.

Last summer we said goodbye to some amazing community partners. I want to thank Mardi McLaskey and Chris Kennedy for their years of service to the Concrete community in so many capacities. We all wish you the best in your new endeavors.

Mary Janda and Kim Olander who were nominated and elected to serve another two-year term on the board of the coalition. Both are strong leaders in our community with a passion to serve youth. Their dedication and experiences have proved invaluable to the coalition's efforts of bettering East Skagit County.

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

Continue the cycle
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Concrete School District adopts new Tip Line service

Safety is one of Concrete School District's top priorities. They have taken an important step to safeguard the school and community by adopting a tip line service through SafeSchools Alert.

Students, staff, parents, and community members now have the ability to submit concerns and tips about potential threats to student safety to school administration. Threats include, but are not limited to, underage drinking and partying, drugs, bullying, harassment, and vandalism. This new system allows administration to investigate the tip and take appropriate action and/or pass onto law enforcement. Tips may also be submitted anonymously if preferred.

Tips can be submitted in 4 different ways:

1. Leave a voicemail by calling 360.419.6971.
2. Text: Text your tip to 360.419.6971.
3. E-mail: E-mail your tip to 1502@alert1.us.
4. Web: Visit <http://1502.alert1.us> and click "Report via web"

Once a tip is submitted, an access code will be given. Keep this code in order to track updates and follow up with questions administration may have. This can be done by visiting <http://1502.alert1.us> and entering the code into "Track Access Code" on the home page. Working together, we can make our community and schools a safer place to work and learn. If you see something, say something.

As always, for emergencies, please call 911!

The SafeSchools Alert system is provided by the Washington State Risk Management Pool. Coordination for the tip line in Concrete is provided by United General Hospital District 304 Community Health Outreach Programs in partnership with Concrete School District, and the Skagit County Sheriff's Office through grant funding provided by the Washington State Traffic Safety Commission and the Concrete Resource Coalition.

Read Concrete Herald
The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley



David O'Neil, Tyler Nevin, Hayden O'Neil, and Peyton Sanchez livened up Homecoming at Concrete High School by dressing up as four amigobos and singing jaunty tunes of welcome to anyone entering the building.

Visit the North Cascades Vintage Aircraft Museum!



Spend the day with these amazing vintage aircraft from the Golden Age of Aviation. We have one of the premiere collections in the Pacific Northwest and invite you to come take a self-guided tour and see these incredible machines up close and in person!

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<http://www.vintageaircraftmuseum.org>
360.770.4848





Clear Lake



HISTORY CORNER

Shorty Greene and David Parker, both descendants of Clear Lake pioneer families, loved to fish. The picture at right of the men with their catch of the day was probably taken in the early 1950s. Greene and his family arrived in Clear Lake in 1914 when Greene was 4 years old. Parker's family came in the early 1890s.

Parker was born in 1917. He began working as a delivery boy at Stephenson's store at the age of 16 for \$8 a week. He later became owner of the store and changed the name to

Parker's Serve-U, later known as the Clear Lake Market.


Photo courtesy of Clear Lake Historical Association.

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

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

—Deanna Ammons, historian





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Community Calendar



NOVEMBER

- 1 Upper Skagit Writes 2016 begins, sponsored by Upper Skagit Library; program guidelines at www.upperskagit.lib.wa.us
- 4 Storytime at Upper Skagit Library, Concrete, noon to 12:45 p.m.
- 4 Craft Friday at 5b's Bakery, Concrete, 6 p.m.; bring scissors and gel pens; free admission
- 5 Set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed tonight; Daylight Saving Time ends tomorrow at 2 a.m.
- 8 Election Day. Ballots are due by 8 p.m.
- 11 Veterans Day
- 11 Legion Hall/Library reception at American Legion Post 132, Concrete Town Center, 2 p.m.; see notice, p. 3
- 11 Spaghetti Feed fundraiser for Sedro-Woolley Museum; see p. 17
- 12 3rd Annual Pearls for My Girls fundraiser to benefit North Puget Cancer Center, Skagit Lodge & Casino, 11 a.m.; \$30 admission; tickets at 360.724.3075 or mmcilmoyle@gmail.com
- 12-13 "Treasures of the Earth" gem, mineral, fossil, and jewelry show, Sedro-Woolley Community Center, 703 Pacific St., Sedro-Woolley, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sat., 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sun.; free admission; info at skagitrockandgem@gmail.com and www.skagitrockandgem.com
- 17 Community Meeting re: Carey/Alder Slough restoration planning project, Hamilton Town Hall, 584 Maple St., Hamilton, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.; see ad and notice, p. 22
- 18 Storytime at Upper Skagit Library, noon to 12:45 p.m.
- 19 "Come Write In" writing-in-progress workshop, Upper Skagit Library, Concrete, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.; free admission
- 19 "Just Desserts" dessert event, Marblemount Community Hall, Marblemount, 6 p.m.; free admission; see notice, p. 26; info at 360.873.2504
- 20 Pancake Breakfast to support Growing Veterans (charity) and White Elephant Sale, Fredonia Grange Hall, 14245 McFarland Rd., Mount Vernon (next to Sierra Pacific Mill on SR 20), 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.; adults \$7, children \$3; info and vendor inquiries at 360.399.7876
- 24 Sedro-Woolley Community Thanksgiving Dinner, Cascade Middle School, 905 McGarigle Rd., Sedro-Woolley, 12:30 to 3 p.m.; see notice, p. 17; info at 360.855.0231 or slokkebo@yahoo.com
- 25-27 Festival of Trees, Burlington; see notice, p. 34, and ad, p. 11
- 26 Small Business Saturday: Support your local businesses!
- 28 Upper Skagit Writes Open Mic, Upper Skagit Library, Concrete, 5 to 6 p.m.; free admission
- 29 Advent service at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, 46372 Main St., Concrete, Tuesday nights thru Dec. 20, 6 p.m.; info at 360.853.3714

DECEMBER

- 1 Geoffrey Castle Celtic Christmas Celebration concert, Concrete Theatre, doors open at 6:30 p.m., show starts at 7 p.m.; info and tickets at www.concrete-theatre.com
- 3-4 Concrete Lions Club Christmas Tree sales in field west of Loggers Landing and at the Red Apple, 9 a.m. to closing
- 4 Marblemount Christmas Bazaar, Marblemount Community Hall; see notice, p. 26; info at 360.873.2323
- 10 Imagine Concrete Foundation Bazaar and Children's Craft Fair, Concrete Elementary School gym, 1 to 4 p.m.; free admission
- 10 "Christmas on Moen Road," 48040 Moen Rd., 6 to 9 p.m.; free admission; see notice, p. 6
- 21 Concrete Heritage Museum Christmas Potluck Dinner, Concrete Center, 6 p.m.; open to the public, bring a dish

*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., in the Pilots' Lounge at Mears Field, Concrete. 360.853.7867, ember@cascaadedays.com, info@cascaadedays.com.

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

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

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

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

Concrete 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 Nov. 21, at 5 p.m. in the high school Commons, immediately followed by its regular monthly meeting at 6 p.m. 360.853.8141.

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

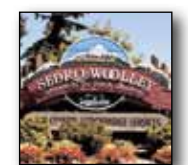
Sedro-Woolley School District Board will hold a regular meeting on Nov. 14 at 7 p.m. at Mary Purcell Elementary. It will hold a second regular meeting on Nov. 28 at 7 p.m. at Big Lake Elementary. 360.855.3500 or kcargile@swsd.k12.wa.us.

Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center Board meets the second Tue. of each month, 6:30 p.m., at Annie's Pizza Station in Grasmere. Open to the public. sauksister@frontier.com or www.skagiteagle.org.

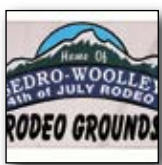
Upper Skagit Library District (USLD) Board meets Nov. 17 at 5 p.m., at the library. Public is welcome. 360.853.7939 or info@upperskagit.lib.wa.us.

Upper Skagit Writers Group meets the fourth Mon. of each month at 7 p.m., at 5b's Bakery, Concrete. Open to the public and all skill levels. thomas@upperskagit.lib.wa.us.

Parents! Get involved in your PTO!
Concrete Elementary PTO meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month, at 5 p.m., in the Concrete Elementary School library.
For more information, call 425.350.5988.



Sedro-Woolley



September 12 found Zachary Schmidt of Sedro-Woolley in Anacortes, holding his Eagle Scout Court of Honor. A member of Troop 4084, Schmidt is the first in a long line of family scouters to achieve the highest rank in scouting. He paused on the momentous day for this photo with three of his scouting mentors, from left, Rick Reffling, one of his first Boy Scout Masters; his uncle, Jerry Rumsey; and his grandfather, Brian Rumsey.

Schmidt is the family's first Eagle Scout, but not the first Scout in the family. Brian Rumsey was a member and senior patrol leader of Troop 89 that was located at Dewey Beach, and also a member of the Order of the Arrow. Jerry Rumsey was a member of Troop 84, was a Scoutmaster for Troop 77 in Burlington in the 1980s, and later a Scout commissioner.

Schmidt's great-grandfather, Orville Rumsey, had also been a Scout in Skagit County in the 1920s, and was a Scout commissioner of the Island District in the late 1950s and early '60s, and was a Commissioner of the Year around 1962. Schmidt's other great-grandfather, John Adams, was a Boy Scout in the Albany, Ore., area and achieved the rank of Life Scout.

Schmidt's family goes back seven generations in Skagit County. His fourth great-grandmother was Mary Watkinson, one of the first white women to homestead in Skagit County. Schmidt's great-great-grandfather Roscoe Taylor was half of Taylor and Chase, which supplied gravel and material to build the dams on the Skagit.

Schmidt was the first Eagle Scout in Troop 4084 in more than three years. *Submitted photo.*



Sedro-Woolley Boys & Girls Club members Kody Palmer, Gavin Bachelor, and Gavin Palmer paused for a photo at Safeco Field while attending the Mariners vs. Houston Astros game on Sept. 17. The trio and others were there thanks to a donation of 100 Mariners tickets from the Sedro-Woolley High School baseball team. This was the first annual Brad Conn/Sedro-Woolley Community Day at Safeco Field. With the 100 tickets, the club was able to send club members with their families to the baseball game. Because of the high school's generous gift, their baseball team has been invited to participate in the Safeco Baseball Classic in spring 2018. *Submitted photo.*

Boys & Girls Clubs of Skagit County: Under the Big Top, Dinner & Auction

Boys & Girls Clubs of Skagit County announce their biggest fundraiser of the year, Under the Big Top, Dinner & Auction, to be held on Fri., Nov. 4. DreamChasersRV will host the event in the new Dreamchaser's Indoor Show Room. This year's Fall Fundraiser features a live auction, fine wines and ales, a gourmet dinner provided by La Conner Seafood & PrimeRib, a small silent auction, and many exciting, carnival-themed games with chances to win prizes. Tickets are \$100 and can be purchased at www.skagitclubs.org or by contacting Ian Faley at 360.419.3723, ext.7, or ifaley@skagitclubs.org. Thanks to sponsors underwriting the cost of this event, 100 percent of funds raised will go to clubs and the 1,600-plus youth they serve.

What: Under the Big Top, Dinner & Auction

When: Fri., Nov. 4

Social hour, silent auction, games at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner, live auction at 6:30 p.m.

Where: DreamChasersRV Showroom, 1550 Walton Dr, Burlington

Cost: Tickets \$100 per person, \$750 for a reserved table of 8

Left: Yeates Family Dental has moved to its new location at 333 State St. in Sedro-Woolley, and celebrated with a grand opening on Oct. 18. Dr. Justin Yeates (festooned with the cut ribbon) paused for a photo with Catherine, his wife (holding scissors), Sedro-Woolley Mayor Keith Wagoner, and Yeates Office Coordinator Michelle Smith.

Yeates Family Dental always accepts new patients, and will host a "Trick or Treat Candy Buy Back" event at its new location on Wed., Nov. 2, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Community members are encouraged to bring their unopened Halloween candy and receive \$1 per pound (up to 5 lbs.) The collected candy will be shipped to Operation Gratitude and sent as care packages to U.S. troops. *Submitted photo.*

Lang joins PeaceHealth Medical Group –Orthopedics

Kaärsten Lang, MD, joined PeaceHealth Medical Group - Orthopedics at PeaceHealth United General Medical Center in Sedro-Woolley in September.

Lang is familiar with the medical center and the community, having practiced there in the 1990s with her father, K. Robert Lang, MD.

An orthopedic surgeon with more than 20 years' experience, Lang has a special interest in hand and upper extremity surgery. She has worked extensively with cubital and carpal tunnel syndrome; overuse syndromes, such as tendinitis in the hand and elbow, trigger fingers, and arthritis of the thumb.

Additionally, she offers nonoperative management of spine, shoulder, hip and knee problems, as well as treatment of Dupuytren's contracture. She also handles worker's compensation cases.



Lang

Dr. Lang is a fellow of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons and a member of the Ruth Jackson Orthopaedic Society, Washington State Medical Society and Skagit-Island County Medical Society.

Spaghetti-feed fundraiser to benefit the Sedro-Woolley Museum

A spaghetti-feed fundraiser to benefit the Sedro-Woolley Museum will be held at Joy's Sedro-Woolley Bakery in downtown Sedro-Woolley on Fri., Nov. 11, from 4 to 7 p.m.

On the menu is spaghetti, of course, plus salad and French bread. Dinner is \$10 per person, and \$8 for diners age 6 and younger.

New book reveals life in WWII prison camp

A book-signing and compelling story are slated for Sat., Nov. 12, at 1 p.m. at the Sedro-Woolley Museum.

Army Air Corps 2nd Lieutenant Frank Pratt was captured by the Germans when his B-24 was shot down over Poland on Sept. 13, 1944. He spent the next eight months as a prisoner of war in Stalag Luft I near Barth, Germany. While there, he kept journals that he wrote mostly on the back of cigarette packets from the Red Cross parcels. Together, his three "cigarette diaries" tell the story of day-to-

day life of a prisoner of war in Germany during the closing months of WWII.

Upon his release, Pratt was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for aiding and escorting a damaged bomber back to home base while returning from a mission. He resumed his quiet life in Blanchard, Wash., where he became a small business owner, his journals tucked away and forgotten.

In 1994, the Polish government in a ceremony in Washington D.C., honored Pratt and the surviving members of his B-24 crew. At this point, his daughter, Rebecca Pratt, learned of the existence of the diaries. When her employer, Newsweek magazine published an article about Ken Burn's epic WWII television series, Ms. Pratt showed the diaries to her editors. They jumped at the chance to produce a three-part video interview with her father, which ran on the Newsweek Web site, together with excerpts from his diaries.

Ms. Pratt furnished Cave Art Press with the actual diaries, along with other documentation, for the book's publication.

The elder Pratt passed away in 2008. Ms. Pratt will tell her father's compelling story. She will have the diaries on display at the book signing for *The Cigarette Diaries: A personal history of life in a WWII prison camp* on Nov. 12.

Thanksgiving Dinner scheduled; volunteers needed

The annual Sedro-Woolley Community Thanksgiving Dinner will be held at Cascade Middle School, 905 McGrigle Rd., Sedro-Woolley. Dinner will be served on Thanksgiving Day, Thur., Nov. 24, from 12:30 to 3 p.m.

The traditional feast is free to all members of the community. Donations are accepted.

Volunteers are needed for Wednesday, the day before the event. A head cook or cooks are needed, as well as a clean-up crew and a school custodian after the dinner.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Stephanie Lokkebo at 360.855.0231 or slokkebo@yahoo.com.

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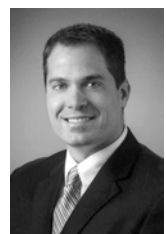
Day Creek



The former meat market across from Lyman Tavern was demolished last month. The aged building was beyond repair; its back wall already had collapsed. Mayor Eddie Hills said the town worked with the property owner to demolish the building. "It's was a safety hazard," said Hills. "I jumped on it right away because I wanted to see it gone. I had a heart-to-heart with the owner; we're going to clean it up and lien the property, then collect on that down the road when he sells the property. In the meantime, we've have gotten rid of the safety hazard and eyesore factors." The building came down after low levels of asbestos were mitigated. *Submitted photo.*

Nick VanJaarsveld Financial Advisor

Edward Jones
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www.edwardjones.com



Rick Lemley
Doug Hutter
Tobi Stidman

360-855-1288

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www.lemleychapel.com info@lemleychapel.com

Editorial, cont. from p. 2

arms if they could only figure how to get the new ones to come to a meeting or event. I love how there is new energy at the Concrete Center, and the radio station has been a valuable resource in recent years. Connecting on Facebook is another interesting addition that can be good or bad.

I would like to see this community become more of a place to embrace each other's ideas and views, do some serious pondering about things, and become more united as a community of widely different

people who love this place. We all know that it's special, but as in any place there will be a dark side we can't ignore. There is poverty and drugs and crime, just as in any place in the world. There are wonderful people with big hearts and willing hands. The scenery is phenomenal, the weather isn't too bad.

And if someone says they aren't happy about their experiences, they shouldn't be shrugged off, but given an opportunity to make it better for all of us.

—Anne Bussiere

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Community notes

November potluck dinner

Our November dinner will be a progressive potluck event on Nov. 15. We will gather at the fire hall between 5 and 5:20 p.m., for those who'd like to carpool. Here's the schedule:

1. Appetizer at 5:30 p.m.: Philip and Gretchen Strutton home, 33155 S. Skagit Hwy. 360.826.4030.
2. Main course at 6:30 p.m.: Fran Thoreen home, 29517 S. Skagit Hwy. (right at milepost 7). 360.826.3014.
3. Final stop at 7:30 p.m.: Mike and Donna Pulver home, 21281 S. Lyman Ferry Rd. 360.826.3003. Bring a

jacket; if it's not raining, we'll enjoy a campfire.
For more information, call 360.826.3003 or 360.826.3581.

Cowboy Church

A "Cowboy Church" meets in the clubhouse at the Sedro-Woolley Rodeo Grounds (24538 Polte Rd.) every Wednesday evening at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call 425.395.4014, e-mail c4cowboychurch@gmail.com, or go to www.c4cowboychurch.com.

Friendship House Helping Hand

Dinner at the Friendship House has been a success. We have reached out to the homeless and are serving a monthly dinner, with prep at 3 p.m. and dinner at 5

p.m. on the last Sunday of each month. For more information or to volunteer as a helper, call Sue Walden 360.391.1709.

Coming in December: Christmas Breakfast Gala

On Sat., Dec. 10, Day Creek women along with their families and friends are invited to attend this year's Christmas Breakfast Gala.

A festive breakfast will be served, followed by instruction to paint a canvas, taught by a fabulous teacher supplied by Shelley's Shack of Sedro-Woolley.

Mark your calendar for Dec. 10 at 9 a.m. More details will follow; the contact person for this event is Sue Walden, 360.391.1709.

Christmas Performance

Calling all children for the annual Christmas Performance. Learn your parts, gather your props, and shine. Plans include a church performance on Dec. 18 and a second showing at the Mt. Vernon Retirement Home.

—Kathy Henderson

2016 Community Potluck dates

November 15, 6:30 p.m.
December 20, 6:30 p.m.

Grange, cont. from p. 11

look back decades to when the Birdview Grange was active, and he sighed when he talked about it.

"I remember when the membership decided it would let its charter lapse. What happened there is a common story: The membership grows old together and pretty soon they're all 90 years old and can do nothing more. Meanwhile, they have a hard time attracting younger members. In time, the Grange fails. It's a dilemma; that's something that all Granges have to watch out for. Our social structure has evolved over the last 50 years, with TV, cars, technology, and the need for a community center is not nearly as compulsive as it was at that time.

"But there is still a need, and I'm absolutely convinced that the community center still can be the heart and pulse of a community. Schools and church work and don't work in this way all the time, because of rental structures or other rules. In our case, we try to keep our hall available to our community for events of our own and outside events."

United with like minds

Susan Custance comes from a long line of grangers. Fervently committed to the organization, her mother told Custance's husband, Michael, that he couldn't marry her unless he joined the Grange. A former member of the Cedarcrest Grange in Clear

Lake, the Custances now belong to the Fredonia Grange in Burlington.

Active lobbyists, the Custances have been delegates to the state Grange for many years. "That's where you really see the voice of Grange in action, and you see the youth developing their leadership skills. One gal, a freshman at Mt. Vernon High School, has been in Grange since she could barely walk," said Susan.

Susan Custance is aware of the greatest challenge that faces Grange: "We are dwindling, like most fraternal groups."

In response, the Fredonia Grange is trying to focus more on service in the community. Money from a pancake breakfast event this month will go to a veterans organization. Past fundraisers have funneled money to Friendship House, the Crisis Center, and Pregnancy Choices.

The Grange also is active in local issues, one being a past resolution to lower the speed limit on Josh Wilson Rd., which passes in front of Bayview Elementary School, from 50 to 35 mph. They found success with that effort.

That's one of the strengths of Grange, said Susan Custance. "People can have a voice; sometimes they just need to be united with other people of like minds."

Grange in the Upper Valley

With the struggles facing other Granges

in Skagit County, could the Birdview Grange be revived? Could a separate Grange start up in Concrete? And what purpose might it serve?

Tina Champeaux-Wolner, a Fredonia Grange member, thinks it may be possible, while acknowledging the challenges such an effort would face.

"It's a problem statewide with Grange: there's an old guard with Granges that doesn't want to admit it's dying and that you have to engage differently. You don't really need a building; you can meet in a library or community center and have a grange. It would be nice to have a Grange in East County because they don't have that anymore. I know it would be a good fit for a lot of people up there."

Champeaux-Wolner would advise any startup to stick with the foundational principles of Grange: legislative input and community service. She brings up the water rights issue currently hampering development in rural Skagit County. What would happen if a Grange were formed whose membership focused on resolving that quandary?

"I think the fit would be really good," she said. "Granges have served a purpose that can still be served, but we need younger people. It's hard to draw them or know where they are. The older people need to welcome the younger generation and make the Grange relevant to them."

Meanwhile, the Birdview Grange Hall slowly decomposes. Back under ownership of the Concrete School District, it lies empty and unused. District Superintendent Barb Hawkings winces at the mention of it. She agrees it's a resource that could be used in some way, but can't resolve the financial realities. "I just can't see a way to commit the amount of money it would take to save that building," she said.

There's no question on other grangers' minds that starting a new Grange in the Upper Valley would be a daunting task. There are dozens of questions even before any action is taken.

"So much depends on your potential membership," said Prochaska. "Do you have someone with energy and contacts? You need to give the membership a reason to be part of the Grange. Every Grange is unique to itself and depends on something that binds them together: 4-H, youth clubs, Bingo, or a simple potluck. What it takes is 14 people to sign an application and pay dues, which are set by the local Grange."

"Granges are catalytic in nature; they can make things happen. In Skagit County, I know there's some interest in property rights and water rights. I think the Grange is a natural for opposition to groups that would threaten those things."

—J. K. M.



Left and above: Concrete Public Works employee (and part-time daredevil) **Jimmy Luttrell** maneuvers the basket of a lift truck into position and covers 35-year-old graffiti with paint on Oct. 12. Luttrell hoisted himself more than 100 feet in the air to reach the graffiti, which was stranded at the top of the silo years ago when the town removed an interior ladder that the tagger had used to climb to the top.



Above: Concrete Public Works Assistant Dir. **Rich Philips** monitors the Lorenzen Creek dredging project, which took five days in October and involved multiple agencies and volunteers.

Left: WDFW biologist **Bob Warriner** checks the number and species of fish that were netted from the creek channel before dredging. Warriner was joined on the site by fellow biologist Wayne Watne, who rode point on the project on behalf of WDFW.

October in pictures



Russ Wells with FOG Paranormal gestures during a late-night "Ghosts of Concrete" tour in Concrete Town Center on Oct. 22. Wells and his wife, SJ (immediately to the left of Wells' pointing finger) hosted four tours of the town in October, providing a distinctly different flavor of tour from the Chamber of Commerce Ghost Walk, which focuses more on history. FOG Paranormal has investigated several buildings in the Town Center for paranormal activity.



Left: A SKAT crew assembles the first of two planned bus shelters at the newly constructed Park and Ride facility in Silo Park, Concrete, on Oct. 12.



Above: This year's Homecoming royalty at Concrete High School paused for their group photo on Oct. 22. Top row, from left: Senior Princess Tate Mathis, Senior King Tyler Labrousse, Senior Queen Iris Nevin. Middle row, from left: Junior Princess Carlee Brigham, Senior Prince Blaine Storms, Sophomore Princess Josabet Acevedo-Lara. Front row, from left: Junior Prince Tyler Hansen, Sophomore Prince David O'Neil, Freshman Prince Levi Lowry. Not pictured: Freshman Princess Aunya Carpenter.



Right: A finely detailed scarecrow adorns a light post in Concrete Town Center in October. This scarecrow and many others were part of a Chamber of Commerce-sponsored competition that used Facebook to gather votes. The winner had yet to be announced at press time.



Hamilton



Rockport



Birdsview Buzz

Welcome to November! Lots of November birthdays to celebrate.

- 10 Erin Haven, Marine Corps
- 11 My chemo buddy Kathy Wilhelm
- 11 Veterans Day
- 13 Debby Riehl
- 15 Cory Badding
- 17 Justin El-Smeirat
- 18 Brewmaster Bill Voigt
- 21 Adam Lafayette
- 22 Kathy Lemon

Our Paws and Claws Cause fundraiser was a big success. Lots of people turned out to support the cause. Between the 50/50 raffles, the silent auction, and our donation, we raised \$2,000 for the Skagit Valley humane society, plus a lot of pet food. Thanks to Jack Mattingly and

Whiskey Fever and Back Porch Apostles for rocking the house.

Our next fundraiser is planned for Nov. 12 and will be for the Concrete Food Bank. We will have 50/50 raffles, and the Fender Benders and Barefeet will be playing. We will accept cash donations, as well as nonperishable foods.

If you are a knitter or crocheter, we meet at the brewery about 2 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month. Bring what you're working on or need help with, or if you are interested in learning how to. Plus, if you are a knitter or crocheter and interested in making newborn or school-age hats, contact me.

We will be closed for Thanksgiving on the 24th and possibly another random day as our daughter is having a baby in Seattle.

Well, I guess that is about all. Have a great month!

—Kris Voigt

From the Mayor

Hamilton will have a Community Assistance Visit from the National Flood Insurance Program State Coordinator on Dec. 12. The last visit was in 2001.

In a nutshell, they will tour the town and anything that doesn't have an approved permit in the floodplain will need to apply for a permit, make any modifications needed, or be removed. Yes, anything put in since 2001, including filling, grading, paving, storage of materials, and anything affecting habitat. If it isn't remedied, they will pull your flood insurance and probably raise



—Mayor Joan Cromley

the rates for everyone else in Town. If you need a permit application, please let us know. Jim Sherwood at the Burlington Planning Department can verify if anything you've done requires a permit. Time to get your ducks in a row.

Please come to the Community Meeting Nov. 16 regarding the Slough study (see ad, this page). It's at Town Hall from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. They are working on modeling how the water flows in the slough, and have already found some great information. We'd love to hear if what the models show matches what you've seen. This will help us know what order we need to fix slough crossings so we don't make the problem worse before it gets better, among other things!

State Parks final free day of 2016 is Nov. 11

No Discover Pass required in recognition of Veterans Day.

In honor of Veterans Day, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission is offering a free day on Fri., Nov. 11. Day-use visitors will not need a Discover Pass to visit state parks.

For Upper Valley residents and visitors, the decision affects Rasar State Park and Rockport State Park.

State Parks free days are in keeping with legislation that created the Discover Pass, a \$30 annual or \$10 one-day permit

required on lands managed by Washington State Parks and the Washington departments of Natural Resources (DNR) and Fish & Wildlife (WDFW). The Discover Pass legislation provided that State Parks could designate up to 12 free days each year when the pass would not be required to visit state parks. The Discover Pass is still required to access lands managed by WDFW and DNR on these days.

"We hope on Veterans Day, especially, the public will take the time to thank a veteran for his or her service to our country," said State Parks Director Don Hoch. "And we're pleased to honor those who served by recognizing this day with free entrance for all to state parks."

Free days apply only to day-use access by vehicle, not overnight stays or rented facilities.

Post Office vandalized; allegations of employee misconduct

A vandalism spree that included the Rockport Post Office left post office boxes ruined and mail removed on Oct. 20.

Concrete Postmaster Bob Goodin confirmed the damage had occurred, with post office box doors ripped off and mail stolen at the Rockport Post Office. The Marblemount Post Office had two parcel lockers damaged, and the Darrington Post Office also suffered at the hands of vandals. Concrete Herald could not

determine the extent of the damage at the Darrington Office by press time.

Tampering with U.S. mail or destroying U.S. postal service property is a federal crime, and carries with it a fine or imprisoned for not more than five years, or both.

Alleged misconduct investigated

An investigation also is under way into alleged misconduct by an employee at the Rockport Post Office, who allegedly used their access to the post office boxes to stuff them with NRA/Donald Trump flyers. *Concrete Herald* was alerted to the situation by a Rockport Post Office box holder who discovered a photocopied NRA/Trump flyer in her box on Oct. 19 and questioned the appropriateness of its presence there.

Goodin could not comment on the allegations, other than to say an investigation was under way.

—J. K. M.

Community Meeting
Hamilton Town Hall

Thursday, Nov. 17th
6:30 PM to 8:30 PM

The Town of Hamilton and Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group invite you for an update on our Carey/Alder Slough restoration planning project. We are seeking input on our flood model to ensure the project benefits people and fish.

584 Maple Street
Hamilton, WA
For details visit
www.skagitfisheries.org

Open for Business Birdsview Burgers

Birdsview Burgers is back, and better than ever. After an extended closure following the Jarmins moving on, the wee burger joint has become much more than even its famous and original Cascade Burger.

Co-owners Amy Christopher and Amit Nayyar took over the iconic eatery in May of this year, and are serving up the

the good stuff: Everything you love about the popular stand, plus a few surprising extras.

Burgers of every stripe are on the menu, with a vegetarian black bean burger and chicken burgers supplementing the standard beef. Then there's breakfast dishes, seafood, chili, sandwiches, milkshakes, sundaes, kids' meals, tacos and taco salad ... the list is almost endless. You can even get a beer with your burger.

Specialties? Yup. Look for the Cascade Burger, which still lights up the Internet with rave reviews. Gluten-free buns are available, and the chicken strips are gluten-free too.

"Our burgers are famous," says Christopher. "They're really and truly the best burgers in the Northwest."

Our favorite decision by the new owners is the fact that they'll keep their doors open during the winter (see info box at left). Check in with the eatery's Facebook page after the pass closes, though, when they'll likely adjust their hours a bit.

What's in store for customers? Indian food on the weekends! The Upper Valley is starting to boast some real variety in its culinary lineup!



Co-owners Amy Christopher and Amit Nayyar have revived Birdsview Burgers after an extended closure, and plan to stay open this winter.

AREA FOOD BANKS

Clear Lake

Community Covenant Food Bank

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

360.826.4090

Lyman

Shepherd's Heart Food Bank

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

Concrete

Concrete Food Bank

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

Darrington

Darrington Food Bank

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

Hamilton

Hamilton Community Food Bank

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

Marblemount

Bread of Life Food Bank

59850 State Route 20, Marblemount
First and third Wed. each month
11 a.m.–4 p.m.
360.873.2504

Sedro-Woolley

Helping Hands Food Bank

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

*Changes? Call 360.853.8213.

AG report details data breaches affecting 500,000 Washingtonians

Nearly half a million Washingtonians had their personal information compromised as a result of data breaches between July of 2015 and July of this year, according to a report issued on Oct. 31 by Attorney General Bob Ferguson. The release coincides with National Cyber Security Awareness Month.

The Attorney General's report details the sources and impacts of data breaches reported to the Attorney General's Office (AGO) under new, stricter notification and reporting requirements adopted by the Legislature in 2015.

During the first year after the law took effect, 39 data breaches met the reporting threshold of 500 affected Washingtonians. Those 39 incidents occurred at companies and organizations ranging from school districts to national retail chains and

affected at least 450,000 Washingtonians. The number is undoubtedly higher, since several companies reported that they were unable to determine the number of individuals affected.

While most of the breaches impacted fewer than 10,000 individuals, one breach in the telecommunications industry affected more Washington residents than the other 38 breaches combined. In that instance, T-Mobile informed the AGO that an intruder obtained the sensitive data of nearly 330,000 Washingtonians.

The report also details the causes of the breaches. Malicious cyber attacks accounted for the largest share of the breaches. A significant number also resulted from unauthorized people, such as third-party vendors or employees, gaining access to information. A small number of breaches resulted directly from loss or theft.

More information about data breaches in Washington is available at www.atg.wa.gov/data-breach-notifications. Information for businesses on reporting data breaches is available at <http://www.atg.wa.gov/identity-theft-and-privacy-guide-businesses#report>.



Darrington



Shuttle bus service begins between Darrington and Concrete

The Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe (SSIT) celebrated the start of a Darrington-Concrete Direct Shuttle Bus Service with a dedication ceremony at the tribe's Community Center Building parking lot on Oct. 31.

The DC-Direct Shuttle Bus Service is a public transportation program developed and implemented by the tribe. The Oct. 31 event marked the beginning of the program's regular routes.

The shuttle bus service is a fixed route public transportation for all residents of the area. This route will serve the Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe's Reservation, Town

of Darrington, and Town of Concrete.

The shuttle bus service operation is funded by the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Consolidated Grant Program. The grant was awarded to the tribe to connect all rural communities along SR-530 and SR 20 from Darrington to Concrete for the first time in 25 years. The fixed route provides a direct link to public transportation access mobility with Snohomish and Skagit Regional Public Transportation, namely Community and Skagit Transits.

—J. K. M.

NCFS welcomes new facility

By Marla Skaglund

On Oct. 15, North Counties Family Services (NCFS) held its grand opening in their new facility, a former local sport shop.

Working with the Red Cross and local businesses, NCFS has transformed the two-story, open-air building with hand-carved stair railings into a place for public meetings, seminars, and community activities. Red Cross, Salvation Army, Snohomish County, United Way, and other partners will have a presence in the building. Staff at NCFS received grants to complete the effort, with the largest grant coming from the National Red Cross Headquarters.

Members of the community provided much of the labor needed to make the transition from the old building near the Darrington School District campus to the new facility on Seeman St. Teens from the Darrington Youth Coalition hauled furniture and painted a room in the basement that will be used as a place to hang out. Local businesses provided money or supplies. One of the custodians at the school arranged for the piano to be moved to the new location.

For 23 years, NCFS has had an office in many locations around town. The American Red Cross awarded NCFS a \$350,000 grant to buy the building located at 1015 Seeman St.



North Counties Family Services board member Linne Haywood speaks during the Oct. 15 grand opening at the new facility for NCFS.. Photo by Marla Skaglund.

Work will continue with the staff supporting local families with services for food, housing, gas, Salvation Army vouchers, and state benefits. Other services include the Kids' Place Early Learning Center, Outdoor Club, Darrington Youth Coalition, Darrington Intervention/Prevention Community Coalition, Monthly Family Nights, National Night Out, Youth Mentoring Program, Senior Graduation Night, and Tutoring.

Director Wyonne Perrault plans to add a teaching kitchen, install an elevator, and remodel the downstairs bathroom, which already has a shower and hookups for a washer and dryer.

The teen room, located in the basement and painted by the teens themselves, has a large tv, DVD movies, games, and controllers. There is also a microwave and toaster oven. Comfy, overstuffed couches provide ample sitting space.

Donations are accepted.

Council summary

Darrington Town Council met for a regular meeting on Aug. 10. The following is a summary of that meeting. Complete and council-approved minutes for every council meeting are available at Darrington Town Hall.

Aug. 10 regular meeting

- Jeff Ketchel with Snohomish County Health District presented to council. He reported some of the current major concerns include Zika, Ebola, and other major epidemics. According to Ketchel, one of the most concerning epidemics we face is the opiate epidemic. Snohomish County accounts for 20 percent of heroin deaths in the state.

Recently Snohomish County Health District helped to pass the Medicine Take Back Bill. This bill will force pharmaceutical companies to pay for a program that will place locations where residents will be able to drop off unused medication to be disposed of in a safe manner, thus keeping it out of the hands of people who will abuse the medication.

Ketchel explained that because of budget cuts, Snohomish County has seen a 22 percent decrease in funding and a layoff of 34 percent of staff. The Health District is now going to each city/town in Snohomish County, asking for a \$2 per capita in city limits to help fund public health. Eighty percent of the new funding will go into hiring more staff, because their work is "boots on the ground."

Ketchel requested a decision from the town by the end of 2016.

- Council voted to allow CDC to move forward with new plans for Old School Park/Skate Park.
- Council discussed installation of a fence by resident Jerry Sellers, which partially blocks alley access between Commercial Ave. and Madison Ave. Sellers will be contacted by the town attorney and asked to move his fence.
- Council learned that one of the marijuana grow operations at the old truss plant will move to Eastern Washington.

—Compiled from staff minutes

No Community Dance in November; next dance Dec. 10

The next Darrington Community Dance will come next month, Dec. 10.

\$4 Shoe will return to play for the dancers again and a caller new to the Darrington Dance—Alex MacLeod—will take over the duty.

\$4 Shoe is Kate Lichtenstein, fiddle; Morgan John, banjo and vocals; Tom Collicott, guitar and vocals; and Susan

Rosenbaum, banjo and ukulele.

On Sat., Dec. 10, the fun begins at the Mansford Grange with a potluck dinner from 6 to 7 p.m., followed by dancing till 9:30 p.m.

Suggested donation is \$7. All proceeds go to the wonderful people who make the music and call the dances.

Other dance opportunities in the valley include Arlington Community Dance at Sisco Heights Community Hall, on the third Saturday of each month.

For more information, call 206.402.8646.

Obituaries published in Concrete Herald

from May 2009 to present are posted online at

www.concrete-herald.com/obituaries.

For more information, call 360.853.8213

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Darrington junior Katie Liden rejects an attempted spike by Concrete's Jaycelyn Kuipers during a hard-fought match in Concrete on Oct. 25. The Loggers took the day, winning all three sets 25-23, 25-19, and 25-20.

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



Marblemount



Newhalem



Hall still hoppin'

With the annual KSVU Harvest Fest & Halloween Dance fundraiser behind us, Marblemount Community Hall will once again host a Thanksgiving celebration.

Sponsored by Citipoint Church (formerly Marblemount Assembly of God), this won't be the full-blown supper as in past years, but instead a sweet evening of fabulous desserts, coffee, music, and fun crafts for the kiddos called "Just Desserts!"

A dessert venue, the event will seat guests at candlelit tables, where they'll be served coffee and cocoa, listen to music, and be free to dance if they wish.

The event is scheduled for Sat., Nov. 19 at 6 p.m. at the hall. Admission is free.

For more information, call Pastor Matt Del Bosque at 360.873.2504.

Here comes Christmas

Put the first Sunday of December (the 4th) on your calendar to enjoy the umpteenth annual Marblemount Christmas Bazaar. From an ongoing pancake breakfast to a dozen local artisans offering handmade gifts, the day is sure to please and put you in the holiday mood.

Santa Claus will appear at noon for a visit with the kids, as always. For more information or to apply as a vendor, call 360.873.2323 and leave a message, or log on to the Web site at www.marblemountcommunityhall.org/events. Hope to see you there!

—Christie Fairchild

The good news is ...

By Sasa and Starwalker

Mission Possible: An Abundance of the Heart. We have an abundance of gifts we are not even aware of. Within our hearts there is an infinite supply of gifts. They are love, compassion, gratitude, and peace, among many other higher vibrations related to these main expressions. We can give these to others without exhausting the supply within our hearts.

Most of us think we need to buy something for somebody to show our love, but this is certainly not the case. We are an amazing family of light. Ignite your heartlite this Season of Giving.

Your mission

- Center yourself in your heart each morning with a grounding exercise or just breath mindfully for a few minutes. If you need resources for this part, please connect with us.
- Close your eyes and put your hand over your heart and focus on breathing in through your nose. Feel the coolness as you breath in then out through your mouth as you visualize your breath moving through your heart.
- Next, think about different things you can do each day to help people out, what is it like to be them? Today, what can I do to lift people up? Smile at a grumpy cashier who's probably been working long, stressful hours getting ready for the holidays. Give

someone with a sign on the side of the road your warm wool jacket to keep them warm and give them a hug. Invite a friend over for music and art. Invite a friend over for a cup of hot cocoa and a conversation where you listen. Help out an elderly couple who may need wood chopped or chores done. Volunteer at a hospital or Children's Hospital during the holidays.

Should you choose to accept this mission, you will experience gratitude, love, compassion, abundance, and peace, as well as exercise your empathic ability, which is within our hearts. You will begin to view the world from a Love perspective instead of a fear perspective, and catalyze evolutionary transformation within yourself and others with whom you share your experiences.

This is not a contest, so move into it peacefully, slowly, and mindfully with love in your heart. Please share your experiences here with Cascadia Effect. I will be doing an article to share our results with our community, so please join us in an "Experiment of the Heart" this holiday season.

Please RSVP and post your experiences with us here: <https://www.facebook.com/Abundanceoftheheart/?ref=bookmarks>.

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



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Doug Hutter
Tobi Stidman

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WDFW seeks reports of elk with hoof disease in Cascades

State wildlife managers are asking hunters, anglers, campers, and others planning to spend time in the Cascade Mountains this fall to report any elk they encounter and pay close attention to see if any walk with a limp.

The volunteer project is part of a broad-based effort by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to gauge the distribution of a debilitating

bacterial hoof disease that has affected an increasing number of elk in the lowland areas of southwest Washington in recent years.

Treponeme-associated hoof disease in elk is infectious, and can be spread among elk through exposure to the bacteria that is associated with the disease. The bacteria persist in soil, especially in wet, muddy conditions.

Brooke George, project coordinator for WDFW, said the new reporting system is designed to build on current information about where elk are seen in the Washington Cascades and to closely track the disease if it is found in new areas.

"Our goal is to monitor the outer edges of where the disease occurs, so we can respond to changes in its distribution more quickly," George said. "We appreciate any help people can give us in this effort."

Those interested in contributing to the project can pick up maps, reporting forms,

and instructions on how to fill them out at National Forest Service offices and visitor centers throughout the Washington Cascades. Participants also can report their observations online at http://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/health/hoof_disease/. Maps and reporting forms are available at the following locations:

- Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest
- Darrington Ranger District Office
- Mt. Baker Ranger District Office (Sedro-Woolley)
- Glacier Public Service Center (Glacier)
- Verlot Public Service Center (Granite Falls)
- Skykomish Ranger District Office
- Snoqualmie Ranger District (North Bend and Enumclaw)
- Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest
- Cle Elum Ranger District Office

- Naches Ranger District Office
- Wenatchee River Ranger District Office (Leavenworth)
- Gifford Pinchot National Forest
- Fort Vancouver National Historic Site (Vancouver)
- Mt. Adams Ranger District Office (Trout Lake)
- Cowlitz Valley Ranger District Office (Randle)
- Johnston Ridge Observatory (Hwy 504)
- Mount St. Helens Volcanic National Monument
- Monument Headquarters (Amboy)
- Washington State Parks Visitor Center (Hwy 504)

For more information about Treponeme-associated disease in Washington elk, go to http://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/health/hoof_disease.

—Submitted by WDFW

Cascade River Road closes for winter

Cascade River Rd. closed at the Eldorado gate (mile marker 20) on Mon., Oct. 31.

The area receives large amounts of precipitation during the winter months and is prone to mud and snow slides. The road will reopen in the spring after accumulated debris has been removed.

Volunteers needed for Fire District 19, Marblemount Fire Department. Stop by the Fire Hall for an application on meeting nights, the second and fourth Mondays of every month at 7 p.m., or call Vanessa at 360.630.3900 for more info. This position is subject to a background check.



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Seniors



Coffee Break

The enemies I buy

By Patrick M. Kennedy

I, as a red-blooded and very experienced human being, have always had the confidence that I was smarter than a toaster. I know the younger generation with all their gizmos and thingamabobs could fry me in a one-on-one contest of technology trivia. But I always thought my discount-store inventory of appliances was a safe haven. I know it's a hard choice between saving money and saving sanity. But things happen. Let me explain.

Lately, I buy all my enemies at the discount store, and now more than ever after I've moved into a new residence. I save money that way, and, besides, they have such an assortment. It makes life easier. But this morning I was rudely attacked from the blind side by a blood-curdling scream that interrupted my canoe ride through a softly tinted forest, on a serene stream, through a blurred landscape of willows with whip-

poor-will's songs filling the air. My nighttime dream world had been shattered like a cheap mirror.

My first reaction was self-defense. I grabbed the pillows and crushed them to the sides of my head, for self-protection, to muffle the eventual mashing of my brain by these ultraviolent sound waves. It took a few seconds to clear the fog and readjust my brain to analyze how I'd been thrown from my serene stream into the front row of an acid rock concert in hell.

My second reaction, an automatic motor function, was to open my eyes, blink, then adjust to the daylight and investigate to see if the room was spinning around me or me around it.

My third reaction was a descriptive "Dagnabit!" If you haven't figured it out, my first enemy of the day was a whirly little electronic black-blazer-butler, made-in-China hammer located somewhere inside my newly purchased inexpensive snooze-alarm-radio clock.

My fourth reaction was to ask, "Why is it screeching, and how do I turn it off?" I hadn't turned the alarm on in the first place the night before. I can sleep in these days. That's what I've worked all these years for. I must have placed one of the 10 or dozen knobs and switches in the wrong position.

I don't punch a clock anymore, but this time I did.

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

94 years ago

Nov. 4, 1922: The Superior Portland Cement Co. has started an improvement that has long been awaited by the operating officials and the office force: a new office building. The present building

was erected in the early days of the company and as the business of the company has grown, the old building has become too congested. The new office will be located directly north of the plant, and will be a reinforced concrete structure, one story in height with a full basement. The estimated cost of the new office and fixtures will be \$18,000.

See **Way Back**, p. 29



30 years ago, Nov. 13, 1986: Members of the Camp Fire Blue Bird group from Concrete Elementary School watch as *Concrete Herald* General Manager Patty Moore sets their names in hot metal on an antique intertype typesetting machine, still used occasionally in printing operations. They also had their names set on modern Compugraphic phototypesetting equipment. The group toured the newspaper during a recent field trip. Members include Conifer Collins, Dori Vader, Erin McCormick, Julie Weyland, Monica Scott, Karin Peterson, Chrissy Lane, and Kirk Kirkpatrick, with leaders Carol McCormick and Marilyn Lane.

Archive photo by Anne Bussiere.

Concrete Center

November 2016 Activities

Mon. – Fri., 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Breakfast served at 8:30 a.m.

Lunch served at noon

East County Veterans Center

meets Mon., Tue., Wed.

from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Mondays

10 a.m.

Jigsaw puzzles

12:30 p.m.

Walking group

12:30 p.m.

Skip Bo

7 p.m.

Songfest

Tuesdays

10 a.m.

Jigsaw puzzles

12:30 p.m.

Walking group

12:30 p.m.

Skip Bo

Wednesdays

10 a.m.

Jigsaw puzzles

10:30 a.m.

Discussion: Illegal

Dumping, 11/9

12:30 p.m.

Walking group

12:30 p.m.

Skip Bo

Thursdays

10 a.m.

Jigsaw puzzles

12:30 p.m.

Walking group

12:30 p.m.

Skip Bo

12:30 p.m.

Pinochle, 11/3, 11/17

1 p.m.

GED class

2 p.m.

WSU gardening classes

11/3, 11/10

Fridays

10 a.m.

Jigsaw puzzles

10:30 a.m.

Advisory Board mtg.,

11/18

12:30 p.m.

Walking group

12:30 p.m.

Dominoes, Skip Bo

12:30 p.m.

Coffee with Commis-

sioner Janicki, 11/11

1 p.m.

GED class

Way Back, cont. from p. 28

79 years ago

Nov. 18, 1937: A seemingly well-organized gasoline-stealing party was nipped in the bud Thursday evening when a group of young Concrete boys were caught in the act of siphoning gas from parked cars at the Birdsvie gym.

As removable parts of cars and things left in unlocked cars had been disappearing at previous shows at the Birdsvie hall, a group of Birdsvie men were on watch for the thieves. Thursday night the trap was sprung and a fine catch was made.

Coincidentally, the play given in the gym was "Hayseed and Gangsters," in which the "hayseeds" also proved smart enough to subdue the gangsters.

The boys had their cars filled with cans to hold the stolen gas,

Verna's Kitchen

By Verna McClure

This can be made a day ahead and will keep for several days. If a little moisture appears, simply stir it back into the mixture. This can be used as either a salad or a dessert. It's quick and easy, and tastes great.



Double Duty Dish

- 1 small carton cottage cheese
- 1 small package orange Jell-O
- 1 small can pineapple chunks
- 1 small can mandarin oranges
- 1 small carton whipped topping

1. Pour Jell-O over cottage cheese (pour directly from package) and mix well.
2. Drain pineapple and oranges, and mix in the whipped topping.
3. Combine with the cottage cheese/Jell-O mixture.

60 years ago

Nov. 8, 1956: An open house will be held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Daves of Birdsvie on Sun., Nov. 11, in honor of the 80th birthday of her aunt, Mrs. Nell Quackenbush.

—Compiled from archives

Confused about your Medicare enrollment options?

Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisors (SHIBA) are coming to the Upper Skagit Library in Concrete on Thur., Nov. 3, to help you understand your health care coverage and compare health and prescription plans so you can make an informed choice for 2017.

For those on a limited income, the volunteer advisor will help determine if you are eligible for Extra Help. Bring your Medicare card, a list of your prescription drugs and doses, your current plan card, and any letters you receive from your insurance plan.

An appointment is required. Call 800.422.2024 to schedule.

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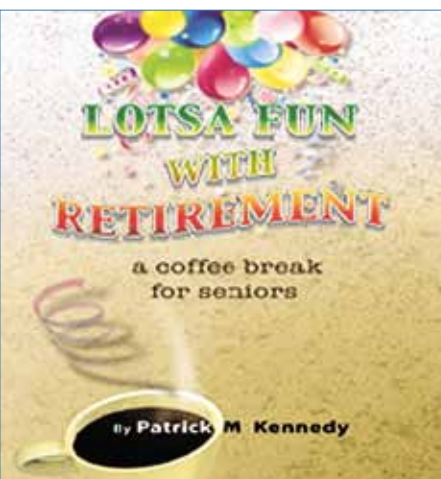
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Shepherd of the Hills welcomes vicar

Lowell Chilton is going to get along just fine with the congregation of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Concrete. It's not simply his friendly, approachable personality or the fact that his smile rides high above most crowds (he's 6' 9"). The new vicar has a distinct connection to the Upper Valley.

"I grew up all over the Southeast U.S., and all my family members are alums of the University of North Carolina," said Chilton. "I learned the Tarheel Fight Song before I learned the Lord's Prayer. And I have a deep enmity for Duke," he laughs. That will do just fine.

Vicar Lowell, 33, came to Concrete in September after the church's interim pastor, Chris Anderson, left the pulpit. Congregation member and ordained minister Dolores Elliott had stepped in to fill the gap after Anderson's departure and before Chilton's arrival.

Chilton's year-long internship is part of his preparation to be ordained as a Lutheran pastor. During his time in Concrete, he'll function as the pastor of the church, fulfilling all the duties of pastoral care and community engagement. He'll spend three-quarters of his time at Shepherd of the Hills and one-quarter at Bethlehem Lutheran in Sedro-Woolley,

with his supervising pastor, Eric Wangen-Hoch. Pastor Wangen-Hoch will preach at Shepherd of the Hills during Chilton's off Sunday each month. Vicar Lowell will be ordained and become Pastor Chilton after he completes his schooling and internship, and is called to a congregation.

Shaping future pastors

Shepherd of the Hills has a history of hosting interns with annual turnover, but that hasn't happened since the mid-1990s. Chilton said the hope is to have a new intern every year for the next several years.

"I'm helping the congregation become the kind of congregation that helps to shape future pastors for the church," said Chilton. "One of my tasks is to prepare the congregation for that transition. The continuing ongoing transformation of the larger church is preparing and raising up new leaders, and I think this is a great site for that."

What happens if the congregation decides it wants to keep Chilton when his time is up? "I'll have to reflect on that," he said.

Educating a pastor

After his upbringing in the Southeast,

Chilton moved to Seattle in 2006, where he worked for Microsoft for about eight years. Along the way he decided to take classes at Seattle University. A preacher's kid, Chilton realized he enjoyed teaching kids at church. And through a Master of Arts Pastoral Studies program at SU, he discerned a calling to full-time ministry. He switched to a Masters of Divinity.

In 2014 he was laid off by Microsoft (he had planned to quit anyway), which allowed him to go to seminary full-time at SU.

Chilton will graduate from SU in June 2017. Also in June, he'll be approved by the Northwest Washington Synod of Evangelical Lutheran Church of America to be a pastor, pending his internship completion and being called to a congregation. That congregation could be anywhere in the U.S.

For now, Vicar Lowell seems perfectly content in Concrete. He wears the collar of his calling not to distance himself from locals, but simply to make them aware there's a Lutheran vicar in town. He refers to himself as "the tallest guy in the room who does not play basketball," and "the tall guy dressed like a priest."

"If you see me in the bar with a beer, feel free to come up and share a beer with me."

For more information about Vicar Lowell or Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, contact the vicar at 360.853.3714 or shepherdofthehillsvicar@outlook.com.

—J. K. M.



Lowell Chilton is the vicar at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Concrete. He began a year-long internship at the church in September and will function as the church's pastor till August 2017, when a new intern will come on board.

Advent services at Shepherd of the Hills

46372 Main St., Concrete
Tuesday nights, Nov. 29 thru Dec. 20, at 6 p.m.

Skagit County Sheriff's Office Blotter

Oct. 1

A female caller from the White Falls Court area in Rockport wanted to report a theft of several items. She indicated she's missing several guitars, a motorcycle, a TV set, and other items. A suspect has been named by the victim, and as I've said several times previously, there's much more to this story.

Oct. 7

A resident just east of Lyman reported a burglary to his house. The man is remodeling his residence, and thieves were able to break in and steal multiple carpentry tools. Both large and small tools were taken, and deputies are continuing to investigate.

Oct. 9

At about 3:30 a.m., a deputy was parked near Silo Park in Concrete when he observed a car heading his way with

Level 2 Sex Offender NOTIFICATION

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

Speight, Roland Arthur

Age: 56
Race: W
Sex: M
Height: 5' 9"
Weight: 165
Hair: Blonde
Eyes: [Not stated]
Address: 74xx N. Superior Ave., Concrete



Speight was convicted of two counts of second-degree rape in San Juan County in 2005.

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

Source: Skagit County Sheriff

no headlights on. He pulled in behind the car and it sped off, trying to lose the deputy. No luck: The deputy followed at a safe distance as the dark car pulled into the Shields Court apartment area. The driver fled into an apartment. The deputy contacted the apartment resident, who initially denied knowing the suspect. A short time later the man was taken into custody for eluding a police vehicle, driving with a suspended license, and warrants. He was booked into jail on several charges.

Oct. 10

A caller from the east end of Utopia Rd. near Lyman reported finding used syringes in the brush. Unfortunately this area is well known to both drug users and deputies. Deputies try to catch folks, and drug offenders do their best to remain hidden. I encourage neighbors to continue calling, and we will continue to respond.

A male caller reported another man was using the bushes just west of Loggers Landing in Concrete as a urinal. The issue that upset the man was the suspect was standing near, not in, a porta-potty. The description of the man and his vehicle were known to the deputy. The deputy is following up and trying to locate the man in question.

Oct. 13

A caller near Prevedal Lane in Lyman reported someone trying to open her back door. The caller had the door safety chained shut, which prevented the unknown subject from entering. It's unknown who may have tried to open the door, but no one was located.

Oct. 15

SCSO assisted Washington State Patrol in checking SR 20 for a blocking limousine. The deputy responded and discovered the vehicle was actually legally parked and there was no urgency to have it towed away. The limo is known to law enforcement in the area, and the driver will be contacted.

Oct. 17

A deputy responded to the area known as the Baker bar, along the Baker River in Concrete. Squatters in motor homes had created a temporary camping spot on private property. The deputy warned the squatters about knowing where the property lines are located, and they were asked to move along.

Oct. 21

A 35-year-old Concrete male was arrested for making a bomb threat to blow up his significant other's residence. He had been contacted earlier in the day by deputies and warned about his drinking and threatening behavior. A short time

Sergeant's corner

Fall safety tips

By Chris Kading



Change smoke alarm batteries

As we turn back our clocks for daylight saving time, now is the time to change the batteries in your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors. Carbon monoxide is a silent killer, and these detectors are vital to home safety. CO₂ detectors are usually sold alongside smoke detectors. Make sure to test the alarms after installing the new batteries to ensure they work. Check and replace any home fire extinguishers that have expired.

Check your furnace and chimney.

Have your furnace inspected annually by a professional. Most furnaces vent into the chimney, so it must be free of debris to allow gases to vent to the outside atmosphere. Also have your chimney inspected to make sure it is unobstructed. If you will be burning wood in a fireplace, have the chimney inspected to make sure it is in good condition and free of creosote buildup. Chimney fires are common and are generally caused because of creosote buildup. Never leave a burning fire unattended, and make sure a fire in a fireplace is completely out before going to bed.

Clear the area around your heat source.

Make sure the area is clear for good air circulation. Keep all flammable materials, such as clothing, cardboard

boxes, paint thinners, fuels, and solvents, far away from the heat source. It's tempting to put items near or even on top of the heat source to dry out, but this is very unsafe.

Be cautious with space heaters.

Be cautious with portable heaters or space heaters, making sure to follow manufacturer instructions for safe venting and use. Place them at least 3 feet away from any combustibles, such as wallpaper, bedding, draperies, clothing, and furniture. Never leave them operating when you are away from the room or asleep. Don't leave children or pets unattended with space heaters, and never use them to dry clothing, shoes, or mittens.

Look up.

When cleaning gutters, trimming trees, or installing storm windows, be sure to avoid overhead power lines. Before you work, look up from your work area to inspect for overhead power lines. Stay clear of electrical lines when working with ladders, pruning poles, tractors, grain augers, equipment with antennae, etc.

Lights on.

As the days grow shorter, make sure outdoor lighting is in good working order. Good lighting can protect you against crime and falls or accidents caused by darkness. Inspect fixtures and outlets for weather damage and replace burnt-out bulbs. Motion detectors are cheap and easy to install. Crooks don't like to be seen in the light.

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

later and a bit more intoxicated, he made enough of a threat to get a trip to jail.

Several post office boxes at the Marblemount Post Office were damaged and broken into. The deputy discovered that the Darrington post office also had been damaged in a similar fashion. The Snohomish County deputy is working together with the Skagit deputy to develop leads and arrest a suspect.

Oct. 22

Deputies continue to respond to a problem house on Hamilton Cemetery Rd. near Hamilton. If you live in the area, you know which one it is. Frustrated neighbors report loud parties, noise complaints,

suspected drug activity, and other nonproductive activity. Court orders have been obtained against several offenders, but the frustration continues. I recommend game cameras for all nearby neighbors and dogs to protect your property. The SCSO will continue to contact persons there and make arrests as appropriate.

Deputies checked the area of Hillside Alley in Concrete after a report of shots fired. Witnesses indicated it was likely local kids lighting fireworks. No suspects were located.

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: mattd@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

CONCRETE HERITAGE MUSEUM NEWS

The **Concrete Ghost Walk** made history in October! The forecast of a massive approaching storm caused us to cancel a walk for the first time in 11 years. We were all relieved when the storm did not live up to expectations, but it still turned out to be a miserable night. Our other performances went well and the new cast of characters was terrific. Many thanks to all those who attended, performed, or supported this annual fundraising event. Hope to see you all next year.

Bill Pfeifer has been industriously scanning old photographs of the cement plant and putting them on our Web site (www.concreteheritagemuseum.org). For those of you who were here when the plant was operating, the photos might refresh your memories of those golden but dusty years. We'd be interested in hearing your stories about that time.

For those of you with **Fred Meyer Rewards Cards** and who have designated

the museum to receive a share, we thank you and request you hurry and do your Christmas shopping there. Fred Meyer only sends us a check in increments and the rewards do not roll over to the new year, so unless we get more credits, we'll lose what has accumulated.

Our regular season may be over, but we are still available for **special tours** upon request. Please give us plenty of advance notice—our volunteers are active in many other things in the community. Call 360.853.8347 or e-mail requests to jboggswash@aol.com.

Our next gathering will be our annual **Christmas potluck** on Wed., Dec. 21 at 6 p.m., at the Concrete Center. It's always a low-pressure and friendly event, and is a great break from the holiday run-around. Please join us.

The next monthly business meeting will be Wed., Jan. 18 at 7 p.m. at the museum. The public is always welcome.

—John Boggs

November at the Darrington Library

Coloring Time

Coloring pages and colored pencils provided free, Nov. 10, 17, 24; 3 p.m.

Children and family programs

- LEGO Club: Robotics, Wed., Nov. 2; 1 to 2 p.m.; ages 7 and older, free admission.
- LEGO Free Play, Wed., Nov. 9; 3 to 4 p.m. Ages 5 and up.
- Reading with Rover, Mon., Nov. 7, 3:15 to 4:15 p.m. For school-age children.
- Family Storytime, Wed., Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; 11 to 11:45 a.m.; all ages welcome, caregiver required.
- Darrington Rocks! paint party, Wed., Nov. 16, 1 to 2 p.m.
- Movie Matinee: "The Jungle Book," Wed., Nov. 23, 1 to 3 p.m.

Teen programs

- Tween Steam Tuesdays: Basic and expanded coding, Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; 3 to 4 p.m.

Adult programs

- Coloring and conversation, Mon., Nov. 7, 14, 21, 28; 3 p.m.
- Internet for Beginners, Mon., Nov. 7; 1 to 2 p.m.
- Friends of the Darrington Library meeting, Wed., Nov. 9, 5:30 to 7 p.m.
- TedX Sno Isle Libraries livestream viewing, Fri., Nov. 18, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; for details, go to www.sno-isle.org/tedx

Darrington Book Group

Discussing *The Plover* by Brian Doyle. Newcomers welcome. Potluck optional. Wed., Nov. 2; 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Library closures

The library will be closed on Nov. 11 and 24 in observance of Veterans Day and Thanksgiving, respectively.

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

—Asheley Bryson, branch manager

At the Upper Skagit Library

Upper Skagit Library presents its second annual **Upper Skagit Writes** program, a 30-day writing challenge for all ages and skill levels that began Nov. 1. The 2016 program features the library as an official "Come Write In" space, events hosted by Upper Skagit Writers group on Nov. 19 and 28, back by popular demand Word-of-the-Day, and optional youth participation in the Letters About Literature National Writing Contest. View program guidelines at www.upperskagit.lib.wa.us; hard copies are available at the library.

Join us for **Storytime** Nov. 4 and 18 at noon. Families with young children, please join us for storytelling, songs, and crafts. Mark your calendars: Storytime is the first and third Fridays of each month.

November 4 is **Craft Friday**. Get ready for the holidays by making your own gift cards and tags. Supplies needed: gel pens, scissors. In December, story snowflakes return. Craft Friday is the first Friday of each month, at 6 p.m., at 5b's Bakery.

Guitar classes at the library are now by appointment only. Bring your own instrument and train with a local instructor on Saturdays from 9 to 10 a.m. Call for an

appointment: 360.853.7939.

The **Library Tutor Program** is each Friday from 10 to 11 a.m. Appointment required. Improve your tech skills, job search skills, or resume writing.

New on our shelves

In adult fiction, *Small Great Things* by Jodi Picoult.

In adult nonfiction, *American Ulysses: A Life of Ulysses S. Grant* by Ronald C. White.

In Juniors, *Wildwood Chronicles 2* and 3, *Under Wildwood* and *Wildwood Imperium*.

New Audiobooks, *Fine Just the Way It Is* by Annie Proulx and *Sevens* by Neal Stephenson.

Library closures

Friday, Nov. 11 and Fri., Nov. 25.

November meetings

Upper Skagit Library Public Budget Hearing on Nov. 17 at 5 p.m., followed by the regular Board of Trustees meeting.

—Cora Thomas, Library Associate

Lions R-O-A-R



Lions Club **Christmas tree sales** are the following days: Dec. 3–4 and 10–11 from 9 a.m. to closing, and Dec. 17 from 9 a.m. to noon. Tree sales will be off SR 20 just west of Loggers Landing in Concrete, and also at Albert's Red Apple in Grasmere. All trees purchased at Albert's can be paid for at the Lotto counter. All funds go back into community.

A big thank-you to all the Lions Club members for their support of the Claybo family since the loss of **Shirley Claybo**. The **Smithharts** thank the Lions Club for the volunteers who helped out the family as they continue to deal with health issues.

This month's Concrete Lions Club **meetings** will be on Nov. 2 and 16 at Annie's Pizza. The meeting starts at 6:30 p.m.; however, there is always a group that gathers there around 6 p.m. to eat and socialize before the meeting starts. The meeting on Nov. 16 will be our annual Thanksgiving dinner for all our members and their families. All existing members

mark your calendar. For those interested in becoming a member, submitting a request, or just want to see what we are about, please feel free to stop in.

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 2016 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

Sheriff's Blotter, cont. from p. 31

Oct. 26

A citizen on Healy Rd. near Hamilton reported overhearing an odd conversation. An older gentleman was standing near the roadway holding two empty jugs of water. Another man was yelling at him, saying he needed payment before he'd fill the water jugs. Apparently the yelling man is allowing the other man to stay there and subsequently charging him for the water service.

—Compiled by Sgt. Chris Kading

Concrete Herald

The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley

Bookkeeping

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360.853.7667 or 360.708.9761
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Unique selection of handcrafted gift by local artists. Collectibles and antiques.
Wed.–Fri. 10–5, Sat. 9–5, Sun. 9–3
Facebook.or.rusticrooster20@gmail.com

Letters, cont. from p. 39

the Citizens United ruling to get big money out of elections. Citizens United may sound good, but ruling in its favor has allowed unions, corporations, social welfare groups, and rich individuals to make unlimited donations into political campaigns.

Wealthy progressives and conservatives can now donate obscene amounts of money into campaigns to buy influence with political candidates. But their donations can't go straight to the candidates, so they go into political action committees (PACs), which can donate to candidates' campaigns. Citizens United has allowed PACs to grow into super

PACs. So far this year, super PACs have raised \$1.1 billion. Just 50 donors, both Progressives and Conservatives, have donated 38 percent of that super PAC money.

Some super PACs are classified as social welfare groups, which are not even required to disclose the names of their donors. So the Center for Political Accountability and the Democratic Leadership Council, both progressive super PACs, as well as the conservative super PACs Tea Party Patriots and Americans for Limited Government, can give as much money as they want to campaigns, and the donors to those super

PACS can remain anonymous. That is the dark money that is influencing the outcomes of our elections.

The votes of 99 percent of U.S. citizens, whether conservative or progressive, should count just as much as a rich person's vote. Corporations and unions are not people and should not be involved in our elections at all.

A few wealthy individuals donating so much money into political campaigns make the votes of the rest of us less powerful. Vote yes on I-735. Return real democracy to our elections.

Matt May
La Conner

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45895 Main Street, Concrete // 360.853.7149
Monday thru Saturday 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Sundays 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Gifts, Rocks, Tobacco, Cigars, and more!

Pawn shops

Concrete Coins, Gold & Silver Pawn

We buy gold, silver, platinum!
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45938 Main St., Concrete Town Center
10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily // 360.399.1302
<https://www.facebook.com/concretecoins>

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46276 Concrete Sauk Valley Rd., Concrete
360.770.5380, 9-5 M-F, by appt. weekends.
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44586 SR 20, Concrete
360.853.9006

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360.826.3303 // rvrepair@frontier.com

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www.cinemaseptic.com

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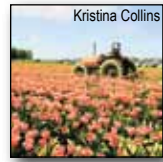
360.853.8213

or e-mail

editor@concrete-herald.com



Out & About



Burlington

Festival of Trees kicks off holiday season at new Burlington location

The Skagit Valley Hospital Foundation opens the 2016 holiday season with the 28th annual Festival of Trees on Thanksgiving weekend at a new location. The classic event featuring the auction and display of ornately decorated Christmas trees will take place at Skagit Center at Christ the King Church, 1000 Fountain St. in Burlington.

The annual Gala and Auction is set for Sat., Nov. 26. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., with hors d'oeuvres, wreath sales, and mini trees for sale. The live auction begins at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$90 until Nov. 20 and \$110 thereafter. Advanced ticket purchase is required.

The Christmas trees are the focal point of the event. This year's displays will include creative themes such as Cowboy Christmas, A Pikachu Celebration, Glassybaby, and Silent Night, Holy Night. Breakfast at the North Pole will offer fun for children and families from 9 to 11 a.m. on Fri., Nov. 25 at Skagit Center. The event features a catered breakfast, professional photo sitting with Santa, and a variety of children's activities. Tickets cost \$20 per person, with free admission for those under age 2. Advanced ticket purchase is required.

Family Festival Days are on Fri., Nov.

25, from noon to 5 p.m. and on Sun., Nov. 27, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Highlights include local live entertainment and a chance to view the 29 amazing Christmas trees. Admission is \$5.

"We are excited about Skagit Center hosting Festival of Trees 2016," said Jill Pickering, who co-chairs the event with Jamie Eslinger. "The new location allows the festival to expand into 8,000 more square feet, opening up the possibility for even more people in our community to enjoy and discover this beloved event."

Proceeds from the 2016 Festival of Trees will benefit the purchase of 27 new hemodialysis stations for the Skagit Valley Kidney Center at Skagit Valley Hospital. "Skagit Regional Health is most appreciative of the amazing participation and generosity shown for the Skagit Valley Hospital Foundation's annual Festival of Trees," said Mike Liepman, President and CEO of Skagit Regional Health. "We look forward to celebrating the opening of the holiday season with the community."

For tickets to the Gala and Auction or Breakfast at the North Pole, or for more information, call 360.814.5747 or go to www.skagitfestivaloftrees.org.

Burlington

Fun and honor

Three noteworthy events will take place



"The Joy of Snoopy" earned the People's Choice and Team Spirit awards at the 2015 Festival of Trees. This year's event will be held at a new location: Skagit Center at Christ the King Church, 1000 Fountain St., Burlington. Submitted photo.

Veterans Recognition Ceremony planned

To honor Veterans Day, the City of Mount Vernon will hold its annual Veterans Recognition Ceremony on Sat., Nov. 12, from 2 to 3 p.m. at Saint Joseph Center, 215 N. 15th St. in Mount Vernon. This year's ceremony will include:

- Complimentary lunch for veterans and their families beginning at 1 p.m., provided by The Lunch Box and Bill's Diner.
- Performances by the Mount Vernon High School Band.
- Color Guard demonstration by Burlington-Edison Junior ROTC.
- Guest speakers State Senator Barbara Bailey, Command Sergeant Major Jason Biermann, and Mount Vernon Mayor Jill Boudreau.
- Recognition of all veterans in attendance.

For more information, call 360.336.6211.

—City of Mount Vernon

in Burlington this month, starting the day after Veterans Day.

Kids Giant Garage Sale

Kids 17 and under will clean their rooms and sell what they find at great prices during a giant garage sale slated for Sat.,

Nov. 12, from 9 a.m. to noon. The garage sale will be held at the Burlington Parks and Recreation Center, 900 E. Fairhaven Ave. Shoppers are encouraged to bring cash or checks, and lots of energy.

Veterans Day Parade

Also on Nov. 12, the 21st Annual Veterans Day Parade begins at 11 a.m. at the American Legion Hall in downtown Burlington and ends at the cross street at the Burlington Parks and Rec Center.

Holiday Home and Lifestyle Fair

Shop for home and lifestyle merchandise in one showroom on Sat., Nov. 19, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission is free to this event, which will be held in downtown Burlington. Vendor inquiries should be directed to 360.755.9649 or recreation@burlingtonwa.gov by Nov. 9.

For more information, call 360.755.9649.

—Burlington Parks & Rec

Highway to Artist Point closes for season

The final stretch of State Route 542 in Whatcom County is closed for the winter, cutting off Artist Point until next spring.

Mt. Baker Ski Area received about an inch of snow in late October, and the top of Artist Point received about 4 inches. Washington State Department of Transportation maintenance crews swept the road for vehicles before closing the gate for the winter.

The road to Artist Point opened June 23 this year, the second-earliest opening ever. It was open for 114 days this year, the third highest total since records have been kept.

WSDOT crews will now focus on keeping SR 542 up to Mt. Baker Ski Area safe for skiers, snowboarders, and others who use the highway during the cold months. For more details on why WSDOT closes the final 2.7 miles of Mount Baker Highway, go to the WSDOT blog at <http://wsdotblog.blogspot.com/2016/10/the-end-of-road-until-next-summer.html>.

—WSDOT

Prepare now for winter weather, snowy conditions

Drivers can use studded tires starting Nov. 1.

With winter on the way, now is the perfect time to start preparing before the snow starts to fly.

Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) urges all drivers to prepare themselves and their vehicles for winter weather. Drivers can go to WSDOT's winter driving Web page (www.wsdot.com/winter) for tips and information. WSDOT also asks drivers to always "know before you go" and get the most up-to-date roadway information before heading out.

To check conditions and prepare for snow or ice:

- Download the WSDOT mobile app for smartphones at www.wsdot.wa.gov/traffic/seattle/products.
- Follow WSDOT's regional and pass accounts on Twitter or the agency's Facebook site.

- Sign up for e-mail and/or text updates about road conditions (<https://service.govdelivery.com/accounts/wadot/subscriber/new>), including a new text alert option for Snoqualmie Pass delays (<http://wsdotblog.blogspot.com/2016/09/frequent-i-90-traveler-get-text-updates.html>).
- Download, print, and carry the WSDOT Winter Driving Guide (www.wsdot.com/winter/files/winterdrivingbrochure.pdf).
- Get your vehicle ready and plan extra time to cross all mountain passes, including heavily traveled routes such as Snoqualmie Pass, Stevens Pass, and White Pass.
- Carry chains and know current traction and chain requirements for mountain passes, which are also available on highway-advisory signs and highway-advisory radio, and by calling 511.
- Preset your radio to 530 AM and 1610 AM for WSDOT's traffic-information stations.

"Our crews work hard to keep roads clear of snow and ice for drivers, but we also need the public's help," said James Morin, WSDOT's snow and ice program

manager. "One unprepared driver is sometimes all it takes to snarl traffic or force a pass closure. Please help us keep everyone moving on our roadways."

Alternatives to chains

Some vehicle manufacturers recommend against the use of tire chains for certain vehicle models. Washington State Patrol provides a list of approved, alternative-traction devices that are acceptable when chains or traction tires are required. Find it at www.wsp.wa.gov/traveler/images/traction/alt_traction_device.pdf.

Studded tires

Studded tires are legal for use in Washington state only from Nov. 1 through March 31. Motorists are encouraged to visit a tire dealer to learn more about traction tires that are legal for year-round use. Motorists purchasing studded tires this year will notice a new \$5 per tire fee enacted by the Legislature on all new studded tire purchases. Money collected goes to the state motor vehicle fund for roadway work. More information about studded-tire restrictions and requirements can be found in the FAQ at www.wsp.wa.gov/traveler/traction.htm.

—WSDOT

Concrete Welcomes You!

Imagine your new life or business in our great small town!



Come to Concrete and experience small town living in the Skagit River valley. Surrounded by natural beauty and minutes away from the North Cascades and south flank of Mt. Baker, Concrete offers clean air, spring water in your taps, a strong school district, and a town that will do whatever it can to help you succeed in business. The only thing it's missing is traffic lights.

Concrete's historic Town Center offers a variety of buildings and flexible spaces that can be used to develop your unique business. Our housing stock is waiting for people with vision and dedication to help us continue our path toward a vibrant economy and great quality of life.

TOWN OF CONCRETE

45672 Main St., P.O. Box 39
Concrete, WA 98237
360.853.8401

CONCRETE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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Jason Miller
Mayor

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Smile



Thanksgiving Day: When all we can hope for is the breast.

— § —

Some women are happy only before a glass, and some men only after one—or two.

— § —

Old-time “innocent amusements” are still innocent, Dad Gummit says, but they are no longer amusements.

— § —

Anyone found around my chicken house at night may still be found there the next morning.

— § —

“I know the other doctors disagree with me on the diagnosis of your case,” said the medic, “but the postmortem will prove I am right.”

— § —

Old-timer: One who can remember when a kid’s only Christmas present was a pair of red woolen mittens.

— § —

Lives of fathers all remind us
We are naught but grown-up boys,
For on Christmas morn you’ll find us
Playing with the children’s toys.

— § —

It must be all right to buy an automobile on an installment plan. Seventeen million Americans can’t be wrong.

— § —

Heaven help our middle class! The poor can beg, and the rich can steal.

— § —

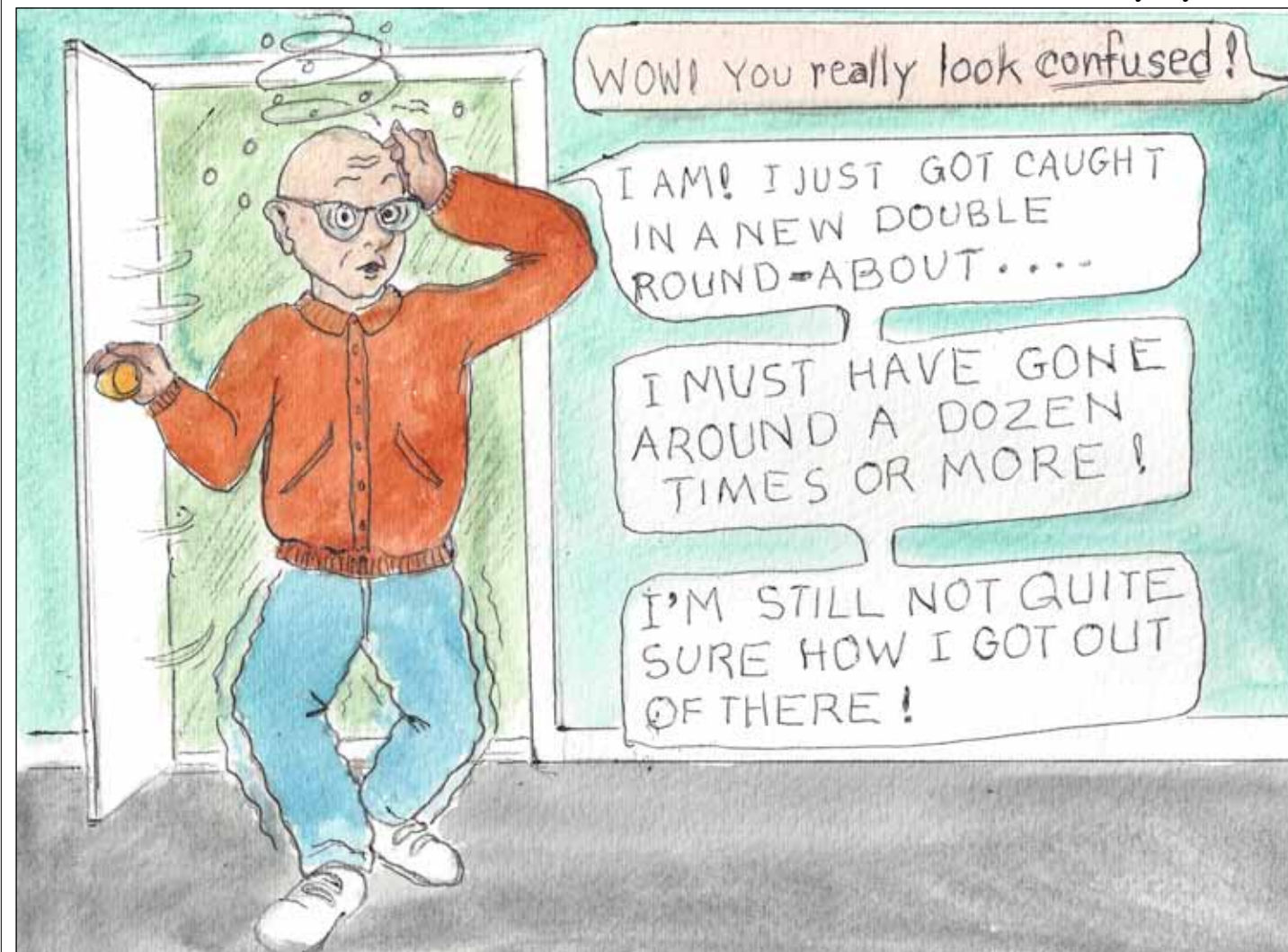
Early to bed and early to rise, and your head won’t feel double its size.

— § —

Universal peace may one day be established, but two-thirds of the world will get caught entirely unprepared for it.

Concrete Harold

By Joyce Harris

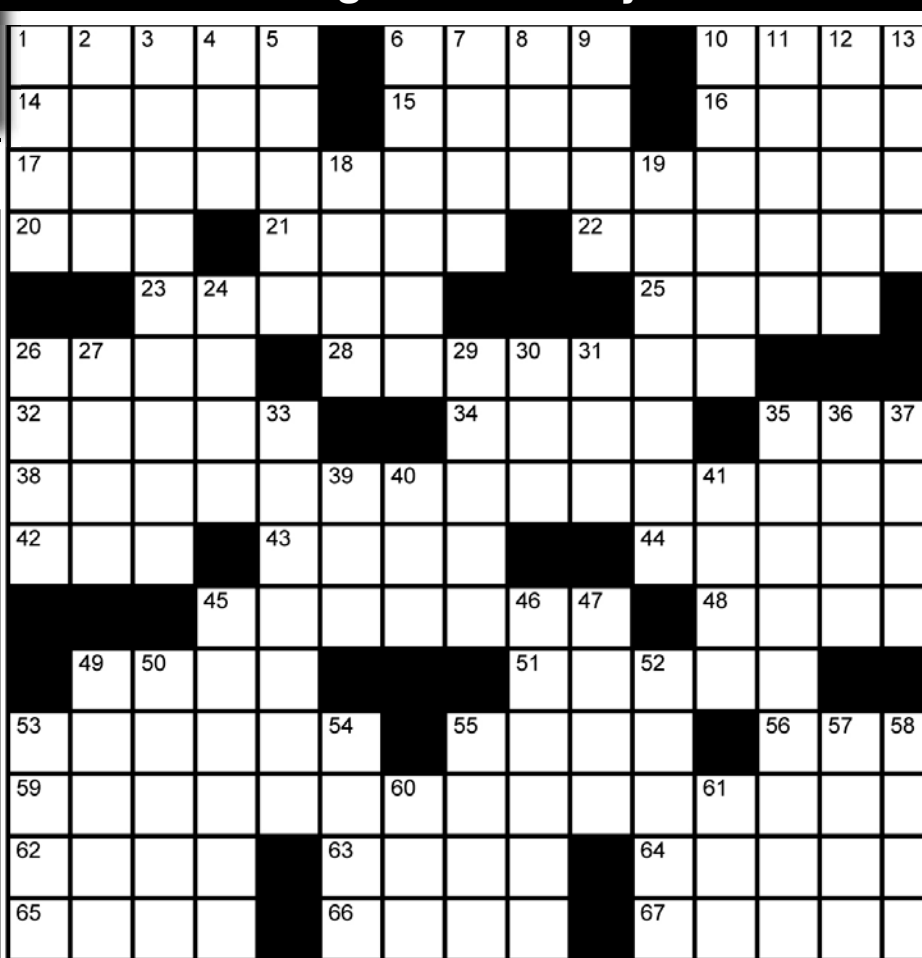


Public Service Announcement

By Stig Kristensen



Crossword: “High School Days”



Across

- 1. Lacks
- 6. Reddish-brown gem
- 10. Basilica area
- 14. Exterior
- 15. Turkish official
- 16. Get-out-of-jail money
- 17. High school garb
- 20. Lose resilience
- 21. Deep black
- 22. Farmers’ association
- 23. Duck down
- 25. Gaelic tongue
- 26. Sea eagles
- 28. Swell
- 32. Some holiday gifts?
- 34. Plane-jumping G.I.
- 35. Suffix with ideal
- 38. High school event
- 42. Poetic paeon
- 43. M.P.’s quarry
- 44. Provide, as with some quality
- 45. Missed the alarm
- 48. Sarah’s husband
- 49. Tent event
- 51. Deceive
- 53. Wired

Down

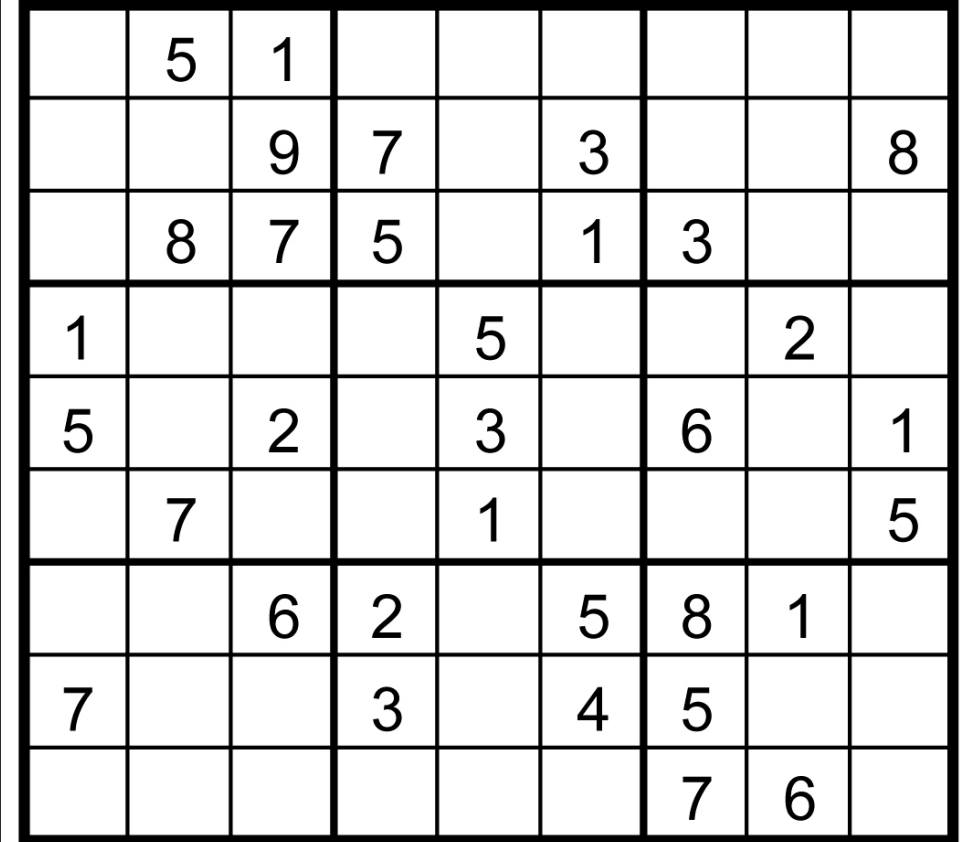
- 1. Bikers’ rides
- 2. Something in the air
- 3. Sting or Slash, e.g.
- 4. James Fenimore Cooper’s “_____ Myers”
- 5. Aligned
- 6. Folklore creature
- 7. Not fer
- 8. Frat letter
- 9. “Drat!”
- 10. On base
- 11. King protectors
- 12. Burn a bit
- 13. Ultimatum ender
- 18. Out, in a way
- 19. Hand _____
- 24. Man, for one

Across

- 26. Repeat performance?
- 27. Cross
- 29. Shed
- 30. Browning work?
- 31. Fraction of a joule
- 33. Like some triangles
- 35. It comprises 17,508 islands
- 36. Gulf war missile
- 37. Recompense
- 39. See red?
- 40. Unkempt hair
- 41. It’s just for openers
- 45. Covered with goo
- 46. Eave hanger
- 47. Head
- 49. _____ preview
- 50. Set apart
- 52. Ardors
- 53. Eye
- 54. Leave one’s mark on
- 55. Maryland stadium
- 57. Green
- 58. Start of North Carolina’s motto
- 60. Singer Charles
- 61. Gained a lap

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.



*Solutions to both puzzles are on p. 38.

Funny as Facebook

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

- “Day 3 of 5 this week in which I have had out-loud negotiations with a spider (I assume, probably wrongly, that it’s the same one) in the shower. So far we have both upheld our own ends of the bargain.”
- “In Anacortes, watching a rutting buck tear up landscaping while sniffing around a bunch of does in someone’s yard. Apparently this is a big problem and residents hope the city will do something about it. I feel like this will never become a major problem in Woolley.”
- “The amount of scorn a cat can put into a silent glare when you’ve accidentally sneezed on him is impressive.”



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Letters, cont. from p. 2

have been impressed with the town and its people, but I wanted to please add my name to the list. You have a lot to be proud of there, and I'm grateful to you for sharing it with me.

Dave Sacks
Annapolis, Md.

Sad October issue

As a former resident of Concrete, I was saddened by the news of the American Legion Building being sold, and also, a dear friend passing away. (I subscribe to the *Concrete Herald*, here in Reno, to keep track of folks I used to know, like Ray and Bonnie Drake, Ed Rogge, and Dave Wright.)

I moved to Concrete in 1989 from Anacortes, and moved in above the Log Cabin Tavern, owned by Richard Miller and Jana Hogan. I had been familiar with the town since 1983, being on the crew that built the Log Cabin Tavern Pirate Raft that always won Best Decoration (that's another story), until the race was shut down after 14 years.

After moving to Concrete, I immediately joined the Legion Post 132, and the Eagles down the street. I had previously run an not a real big deal other than you show no respect for other people's property or the community in which you live.

Main Street is decorated for all to enjoy, but you took it upon yourself to disrupt things for everyone. You likely have little or no regard for others or for yourself as evidenced by your actions. Please enjoy the hat and goggles that are likely of no use to you and already disposed of in the nearest garbage can.

If you can read this editorial or have someone read it to you it should send you a clear message how thoughtless you are. Should you feel so compelled you could drop by the Sheriff's office with \$20 to cover the cost of the items and we will donate it to the community center to help out others.

Ron Jackson
Concrete

Overturn Citizens United

In an election season that has felt like a slow-motion train wreck to many of us, there might be one thing we can all agree on: We feel increasingly frustrated that our voices are not being heard and our elected officials are not taking the interests of regular Americans like us into account.

The problem is, we'd be right. Since the Supreme Court passed down the

Citizen's United decision in 2010, allowing corporations and unions to pour unlimited, undisclosed amounts of money into elections, the influence of special interest groups and outside interests has increasingly overwhelmed the voice of local citizens. Fortunately, there is one thing on the ballot in Washington this season that just might help, and it's something we can all probably agree on: Initiative 735 calls on our reps to propose a federal constitutional amendment to overturn Citizens United. We desperately need this change, if we are ever to hope to see true democracy prevail.

Vote your conscience for president, but please also vote to get the money out of our political system, and vote YES on I-735!

Next time, maybe "we the people" might actually stand a chance.

Rosemary Seifried
Marblemount

Yes on I-735

I have been very distressed at several increasingly negative trends in our country's political system in recent years. It seems that our government "of, by, and for the people" has rapidly morphed into a government "of, by, and for" an elite few wealthy individuals and corporations through the influence of almost unlimited use of money to influence policies set and enforced by legislation. Among other things, Initiative 735 will reverse the cynically named "Citizens United" ruling of the Supreme Court that granted First Amendment "free speech" protections to corporations. I'm urging your readers to vote YES on Initiative 735!

Don Smith
Rockport

See Letters, p. 39

Sudoku solution, from p. 37

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

Support for I-735

Political Action Committees (PACs) have been around since 1944, the year I was born. Donations were limited to \$5,000 to a candidate committee per election before "Citizens United." The Supreme Court's ruling in favor of "Citizens United" in 2010, when one of my grandchildren was born, declared that corporations are people and money is speech.

Really? Do corporations go to war and fight on the ground to defend our country? Do they bleed actual blood (not money)? Do they have lifetimes? Do they give birth to children? Evidently five of our nine Supreme Court justices must have believed so six years ago.

The creation of Super PACs, loaded with hundreds of millions of dollars became available to spend on our country's electors in our free elections.

Elections have not been the same from 2010 to 2016. This influence of wealth and corporations passing through Super PACs alters the outcomes of elections all across the country. No longer do poor and middle class voters go to the polls on a level playing field. The vast amounts of wealth is poured into arguments toward the views of a few, and no punishment is applied to the deceptions or payoffs for misrepresentation or distortion.

A Supreme Court ruling can be overturned only through a constitutional amendment. This year Initiative 735 will be on our November ballot to call for your yes vote. It takes just 34 states to call for a constitutional amendment. If I-375 passes, the state of Washington will be the 18th to take that action.

If the incessant barrage of political TV ads have tired you of the rich corporations

Classifieds

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WEEKEND MOVIE SCHEDULE:
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TIX: \$8 general admission, \$7 for 65 and over/12 and under
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Truck: 1993 Ford Ranger 4x4 w/canopy, \$3,400 obo. 360.853.7433.

Truck: 1998 Chevrolet Silverado, \$4,200 obo. 360.853.7433.

NOTICES

NOTICE OF UPCOMING TOWN COUNCIL VACANCY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town of Concrete Town Council will accept letters of interest and applications from any interested, qualified person to serve on the Town Council.

Applications and letters of interest must be submitted to the Town of Concrete Clerk-Treasurer,

Letters, cont. from p. 38

using their unfair advantage in elections, if you want to return to democratically decided elections, then vote for I-735.

Holiday Matchett
Anacortes

Koster a proven leader

Support John Koster for the 39th Legislative District. John is a proven leader and will work for the 39th Legislative District. He believes that government should work for us, not the other way around. Having operated a third-generation dairy farm, he understands business and agricultural issues and government overreach such as currently being experienced in Skagit County. He has served as a past Legislative Representative, Snohomish County Councilman and Council Chair, Operations Chair, Law, Justice and Human Services Chair, and has been a

Crossword solution, from p. 37

1	H	A	S	N	T	6	S	A	R	D	10	A	P	12	13	E
14	O	U	T	E	R	15	A	G	H	A	16	B	A	I	L	
17	G	R	A	D	18	A	T	I	O	N	19	G	O	W	N	S
20	S	A	G	E	21	E	B	O	N	22	G	R	A	N	G	E
23	E	I	D	E	R	24	S	T	E	25	E	R	S	E		
26	E	R	N	S	27	D	I	S	T	28	I	N	D			
29	C	O	A	L	30	P	A	R	A	31	I	S	32	M		
33	H	O	M	E	C	34	O	M	I	N	G	D	41	A	N	C
35	O	D	E	42	A	W	O	L	43	E	N	D	44	U	E	
45	S	L	E	P	T	46	I	N	47	T	O	D				
48	S	A	L	E	49	C	O	Z	E	N						
50	O	N	L	I	N	51	B	I	L	E	52	E	V	E		
53	G	E	O	M	E	54	T	R	Y	C	L	A	55	E	S	
56	L	A	N	E	57	C	A	R	L	58	L	A	I	R	S	
59	E	K	E	D	60	H	Y	D	E	61	S	T	A	T	E	

45672 Main Street, P.O. Box 39, Concrete, WA 98237, no later than Monday, December 5, 2016, by 4:30 p.m. For more information, contact Andrea Fichter at 360.853.8401.

Applicants are requested to attend a Town Council meeting to give oral testimony as to why they wish to serve on the council and answer questions from the mayor and council. This meeting will take place on Monday, December 12, 2016, at 7 p.m. at Concrete Town Hall, 45672 Main St., Concrete.

Published in the November 2016 edition of *Concrete Herald*.

NOTICE OF 2017 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARINGS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that public hearings will be held by the Town Council of the Town of Concrete at its regular Council Meeting in the Town Hall at 45672 Main Street, Concrete, Washington, on November 14, 2016, and November 28, 2016, at 7:00 p.m.

The purpose of the public hearing is to review the proposed 2017 Budget. Action may be taken at these meetings.

The public is encouraged to attend and give written or oral testimony.

The Concrete Town Council chambers are handicap accessible. Arrangements to reasonably accommodate the needs of special classes of citizens, including handicap accessibility or interpreter, will be made upon receiving twenty-four (24) hour advance notice. Contact Andrea Fichter at the Concrete Town Hall (360) 853-8401.

Published in the October and November 2016 editions of *Concrete Herald*.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING: 2017 PROPERTY TAX

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held by the Town Council of the Town of Concrete at its regular Council Meeting in the Town Hall at 45672 Main Street, Concrete, Washington, on Monday, November 14, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. or as soon as possible thereafter.

The purpose of the public hearing is to review the proposed 2017 Property Tax. Action may be taken at this meeting.

The public is encouraged to attend and give written or oral testimony.

The Concrete Town Council chambers are handicap accessible. Arrangements to reasonably accommodate the needs of special classes of citizens, including handicap accessibility or interpreter, will be made upon receiving twenty-four (24) hour advance notice. Contact Andrea Fichter at the Concrete Town Hall (360) 853-8401.

Published in the October and November 2016 editions of *Concrete Herald*.

Andrea Fichter, Clerk-Treasurer
Town of Concrete
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leader on transportation issues.

In addition, he initiated a Business Roundtable for economic development and growing family wage jobs. John will "hold Olympia accountable" as the upcoming session deals with budget, transportation, and the McCleary decision (McCleary vs. the State of Washington).

Vote John Koster, 39th District Representative as your choice in Olympia.

Mel Mocabee
Burlington

I-735 will rein in unlimited campaign donations

Before 2010 there were limits on the amounts of donations allowed into political campaigns. The Supreme Court's Citizens United ruling removed those limits. Since that time corporations, unions, and rich individuals have been able to donate unlimited sums to campaigns across the nation, influencing the outcomes of even our local elections.

Like 66 percent of Washington voters in the summer of 2014, I thought it was reasonable to ask that foods be labeled if they contained GMOs, and I voted for I-522. However, the initiative failed 51-49 percent. Why? Because in the months leading up to the election, four out-of-state chemical corporations and the Food Manufacturers Association spent \$22 million in negative ads to sway the voters.

There are many examples of outside money trying to influence the outcomes of our elections since 2010. A wealthy California environmentalist donated millions of dollars into campaigns of Whatcom County Council candidates who were opposed to transporting coal and oil across our state. Taxes on bottled water and candy were defeated with negative ads financed by the soft drink industry and the National Grocers Association. Both environmental and business groups have made huge donations of outside money

PROPERTY FOR SALE



HUGE PRICE DROP! Excellent owner-operated investment. Gas station with store at the intersection of Hwy 20 & Hwy 530 on the North Cascade Hwy. Business with 2,300 sq. ft., 3 bedroom, 3 bath living quarters. Located in an area of outstanding natural beauty. Now \$275,000.

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360.853.8155 Concrete

FREE HOME-BUYING WORKSHOP

Everyone welcome. Nov. 19, 11 a.m., at Burlington Public Library, 820 E. Washington Ave., Burlington. Learn everything about home buying and loans, and receive a certificate for downpayment assistance good for two years. Lunch will be served. No pressure! Call Dianne at Hendrickson Realty at 360.421.1112. Just show up!

To place a Classified ad, call 360.853.8213 or e-mail ads@concrete-herald.com. Ads are \$5 per every 10 words. Payment is due at time of placement. Deadline for the December 2016 issue is Nov. 28.

into the campaigns of the Seattle mayoral and state senate candidates. This year more than \$100 million of outside money has already come into Washington state political campaigns.

But this year we finally have a chance to ensure that our local elections are no longer so influenced by unlimited amounts of cash from outside interests. Initiative 735, which calls for a constitutional amendment to overturn Citizens United, will be on the November ballot.

Support this initiative to rein in unlimited campaign donations. Vote yes for I-735.

Gail Nicolls
Guemes Island

I-735 a nonpartisan issue

Getting big money out of elections is a nonpartisan issue. Initiative 735 calls for a constitutional amendment to overturn

See Letters, p. 33

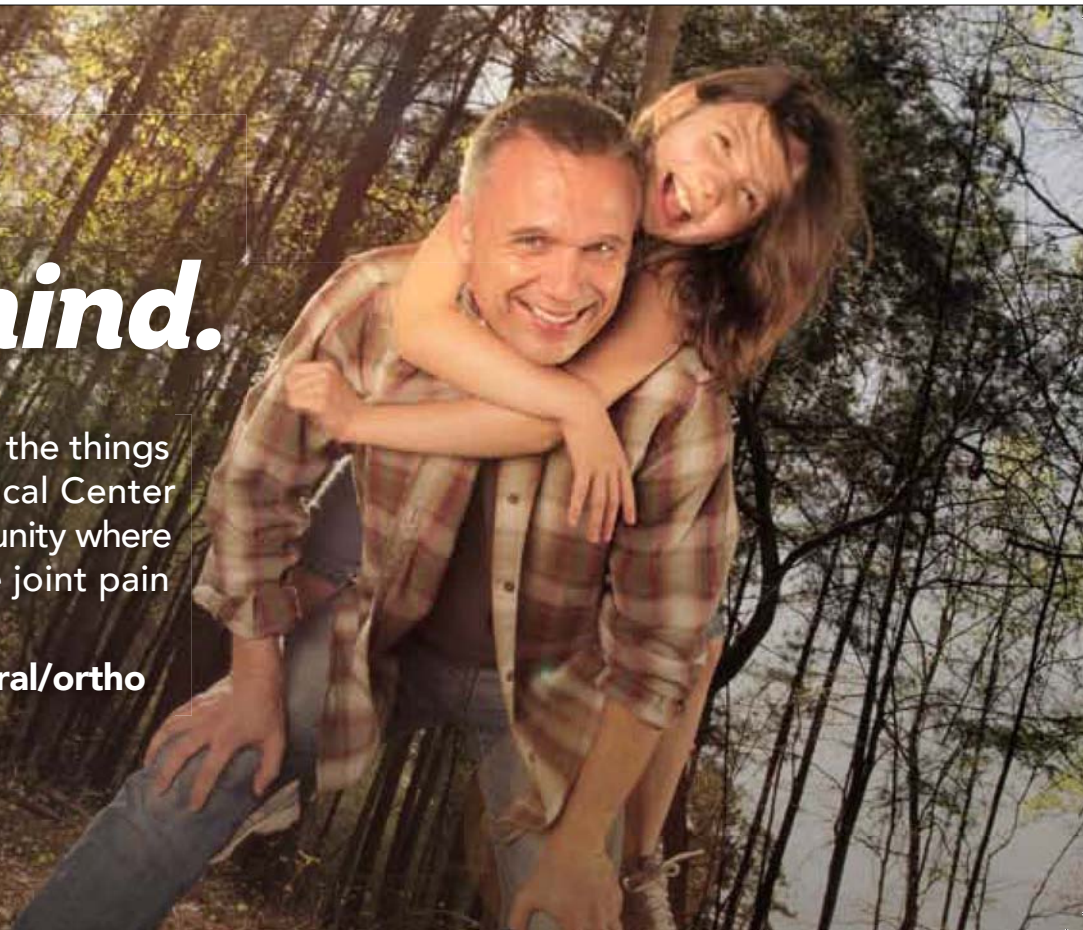
Leave your joint pain behind.

Don't let joint pain hold you back from doing the things you love. PeaceHealth United General Medical Center welcomes Dr. Kaärsten Lang back to our community where she and Dr. Jeff Krusniak can help you leave joint pain behind and get back to living.

Learn more at peacehealth.org/united-general/ortho



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