

The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley

Concrete Herald

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50 cents

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Clockwise from above: This month, welder Rebecca Howard unveils heavy metal art from Mad Hatter Metal Works; Christine Woodward, DDS, plans to open Two Rivers Dental; and florist Dawn Newkirk brings gorgeous flowers and gifts to Concrete Town Center.



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Concrete Herald
The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley

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Opinion

Letters to the editor

Be all you can be

The deadlines to submit information for the *Concrete Herald* is just over a week prior to the publication date of the first Wednesday of the month. As I ponder what the next week and a half will bring, I am somewhat perplexed.

No matter where you reside on the political spectrum, few people are ambivalent about the upcoming election. A common sentiment is that this will be the most important election of our lifetimes. On Tue., Nov. 2, the very day this paper will be at the printer's being transformed into hard copy, we too will likely become fixed into hard copies of stereotypes defined by our adversaries. That very night we will all be bounced back and forth between jubilation and depression as all the election results become known.

No matter what your personal beliefs are, our differences are relatively small in comparison to what others may call huge divides. We all want to be treated with more courtesy and respect than we sometimes extend to others. Our nation has been divided, in so many ways, for way too long over issues that may not be completely solvable, but can be greatly diminished. It's unlikely that any of us are willing to make the giant leap across that magic dividing line, although perhaps we should seriously consider halting the barrage of rocks and hate and consider a truce.

Being an Air Force veteran, I always laughed at the Army's old recruiting slogan, "Be all you can be," but I must confess in life, it's a good general rule. Whatever the election brings, it will be we who truly solve the problems that need resolution in our nation and culture.

We can be a significant part of the solutions required. Such change requires

teamwork that crosses all boundaries.

Are we up to the challenge, or we will we simply give up trying?

John Boggs
Concrete

Reelect Ron Wesen

Why? Most importantly, to help keep Skagit from becoming a charter county. There's a strong push for Skagit County to transition from its county commission form of government to that of a charter.

Contrary to claims, our county commission form of government, not perfect by any stretch, is not broken. Why try to fix something not broken? Because it would benefit myriad environmental, progressive, and other special interest groups—not the majority of us living here.

Before moving to Skagit County, I was active in King County politics, including as a member of the King County Charter Review Commission. I got to see how bureaucratically dysfunctional and staff-heavy its charter had made all aspects of governance there: a nine-member county council too often bogged down in its decision-making processes waiting for this or that study result or committee input, the county executive role the charter created, allowing one person to daily decide

See **Letters**, p. 3

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 first and last names and town or community for publication, plus a daytime telephone number for confirmation purposes. *Concrete Herald* reserves the right to edit letters for length, clarity, accuracy, spelling, grammar, and potentially libelous statements.

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what the county would or wouldn't do to support its citizenry, etc. You only need to look at King County today to see how its flawed charter has impacted political and everyday life there.

Reelect Ron as a county commissioner to avoid charter rule and all its failings.

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Falling behind on your mortgage due to COVID-19?

Program Details

This one-time grant is for eligible Skagit County residents to cover up to \$6,000 of past-due or currently-due mortgage payments* per household as a result of a temporary job loss, reduction in work hours or other income hardship caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Family Size	Max Monthly Income
1	\$2,287.50
2	\$2,616.67
3	\$2,941.67
4	\$3,266.67
5	\$3,529.17
6	\$3,791.67
7	\$4,054.17
8	\$4,312.50

Who qualifies?
- Earn 50% or less of Area Median Income
- Income has decreased due to COVID-19
- Must be your main residence, located in Skagit County
- See skagitcounty.net/Departments/Health for full eligibility details

How much can I receive?
- Your mortgage company can be sent a check in the amount you owe, up to \$6,000

How can I apply?
- Applications are available online at skagitcounty.net/Departments/Health
- Or pick one up at Public Health, 700 S 2nd Street, Room 301, Mount Vernon
- Email housing@co.skagit.wa.us or call 360-416-1500 if you have questions
- Return in person or by mail to Public Health
- Applications will not be accepted by email

Completed applications will be accepted in the order in which they are received starting Oct. 1 at 9 a.m. Relief is available for eligible homeowners on a first-qualified, first-served basis until available funds are fully spent or until Nov. 23.
*Mortgage principal, interest, and PMI only.

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Council mulls 2021 budget

Debt refinancing supports a decrease in sewer utility rate

By Jude Dippold

Concrete residents will face only a bare minimum tax increase in the 2021 fiscal year under a budget proposal currently being considered by town council. And that increase will be offset to some extent in both the long term and short term by a massive restructuring of Concrete's outstanding debt on its sewage treatment plant and subsequent reduction in sewer utility fees.

Those developments are contained in a \$2,817,384 budget for fiscal year 2021, which is significantly smaller than this year's \$5,243,290 budget, which contained grant revenue for significant capital improvement expenditures, including the water meter installation and reservoir construction projects.

While the town's property tax will increase by one percent to offset increases in inflation for goods and services, the restructuring of more than \$2.65 million in outstanding debt on Concrete's sewage

treatment plant will reduce residents' monthly sewage rates by \$6.50 if council approves the current working budget. The other component of the town's monthly utility bill, the water rate, will remain unchanged. Those changes will drop sewer utility charges from \$116.50 to \$110. Overall town utility bills will drop from \$159.95 to \$153.45.

Looking out past this year, Concrete and its residents will save even more. The restructuring should translate into over \$750,000 in interest savings over the life of the three major loans carrying the town's sewage treatment plant debt. Those loans, two at 4.375 percent and one at 4.5 percent, are slated to be consolidated into one loan from SaviBank at 3 percent interest for the first 15 years by early next year under the proposal council studied in work sessions on Oct. 10 and 31.

"That's absolutely huge," says Concrete Mayor Jason Miller in regard to the sewage plant loan consolidation. "Ever since that plant was built, we've struggled

with the debt. This will be a huge easing of that burden." Miller is also hopeful that Concrete's lobbyist in Olympia will be able to secure some legislative or grant relief for the burden imposed on the community by the unfunded state mandate that obligated the town to build and maintain the sewage treatment plant. "Unfunded mandates are strangling low-population towns," Miller claims.

In addition to substantial annual interest savings, consolidating the loans with SaviBank will free up an estimated \$165,000, which Concrete is currently required to maintain in a reserve fund to service the current loans. The town had been diverting \$50-\$60,000 annually to keep the reserve fund at the level required to service the three loans. The base amount of \$165,000 and the annual contributions can now be diverted to the town's capital improvement projects, according to Concrete Clerk-Treasurer Andrea Fichter. Projects on the town's radar include improvements to Limestone Street and secondary access to the Concrete school complex and airport.

Besides the debt consolidation of the sewage treatment plant loans, Fichter outlined a number of other factors that have enabled the town to propose a bare minimum property tax increase for the coming year. Unlike many communities whose retail bases have been hit hard by COVID restrictions and reduced shopping, Concrete, whose retail base is primarily essentials, hasn't seen much of a reduction in sales tax revenue. In addition, the town has seen an increase in property assessments, building permits, and business license fees.

"We've been luckier than most larger towns and cities in that COVID hasn't cut that deeply into our sales tax revenues," said Fichter.

Those fortuitous circumstances on the revenue side of the ledger and the reduced expenses servicing the sewage treatment plant debt, will enable Concrete to do more than match the 1.4 percent minimum wage increase mandated by the state. The 2021 budget proposal envisions giving town employees a 2 percent wage increase.

Councilman Rob Thomas, while maintaining that what employees are currently paid is not reflective of their value to the community, said it would be extremely difficult to justify a larger increase at this time. Fichter agreed with that assessment, noting that Concrete's assessment and sales tax base are significantly smaller than those of other small communities in Skagit County, citing La Conner as the closest example in terms of size, but one with a significantly larger retail tax base.

Mayor Miller said the process of finalizing the 2021 budget "is certainly going smoothly." Referring to the town's practice of holding dedicated budget work sessions, Miller says, "I'm a big fan of the way we do it. It enables us to sit down and do a deep dive." Miller expects the budget will be adopted at council's Dec. 14 meeting after mandatory budget hearings on that date and Nov. 23.

Jude Dippold is the former managing editor of the Times Observer in Warren, Penn. He lives in Concrete.



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Performance to benefit Concrete Theatre

The play is the main thing, but how you watch it is up to you! "May's Vote" is a play produced by Key City Public Theatre in Port Townsend. It honors the two women who helped win the vote for Washington State women in November 1910.

The play can be viewed online, in your own home, or at a special, private event at the Concrete Theatre on Sat., Nov. 14 at 7 p.m. Regardless of how you choose to watch it, this special performance will benefit the Concrete Theatre.

In "May's Vote," you will meet prim and proper Emma Smith DeVoe and outrageous, flamboyant May Arkwright Hutton. These women worked side-by-side, but seldom eye-to-eye, to win the vote for women in our state.

Emma is played by Barbara Callander and May is portrayed by Denise Winter,

both professional actors with a long list of successful performances to their credit. Barbara and Denise will welcome you with a brief, live introduction before the performance, and will be available live to answer your questions after the show.

If you choose to view the production from home on Nov. 14, tickets are free, with a suggested donation of \$5 per person and \$15 per family. Get at-home tickets at www.keycitypublictheatre.org, and designate your donation for the Concrete Theatre.

If you choose to join a small, socially-distanced group at the Concrete Theatre on Nov. 14 and watch the production together on the theater screen, tickets are \$25 each and can be found at www.concrete-theatre.com. Proceeds will benefit the Concrete Theatre.

"May's Vote" is funded in part by the Washington State Women's Commission and the Washington State Historical Society through the Votes for Women Centennial Grant Program.

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

Concrete Chamber brings back "Holiday Lane"

At Christmas time in the 1960s, the Upper Skagit Garden Club sponsored Holiday Lane, a popular decorating contest with entrants all over town vying for awards and bragging rights. This year, the Concrete Chamber of Commerce is dusting off that tradition and bringing it back to life.

Holiday Lane will take place on Sat., Dec. 12, from 6 to 8 p.m. The event will feature a decorating contest just like in the '60s, with the special added attraction of seeing Santa make his annual appearance. You will find Santa at the brightly lit

Town Tree, located near the old fire hall on Main Street.

After seeing Santa, guests will refer to a map with designated homes, businesses, churches, and organizations that have entered the Holiday Lane decorating contest. Judges will award prizes for best-decorated entries.

Holiday Lane is free and everyone is welcome to participate in either portion of the event. More details will be published in the December issue of *Concrete Herald*.

The event is co-sponsored by Town of Concrete and partly funded by Skagit County. For updated information and contest entries, go to www.concrete-wa.com or contact Valerie Stafford, chamber president, at chamber@concrete-wa.com.

—J. K. M.

WSU Extension to offer home horticulture training

Learn to be a better home gardener and steward of the environment this winter with Washington State University Skagit County Extension's new online Home Horticulture Training program. Training focuses on a wide range of

horticulture topics taught online by WSU faculty, staff, Master Gardeners, and other regional experts on Saturday mornings from 9 a.m. to noon starting Jan. 9 and continuing weekly through Apr. 24.

Training also includes access to WSU Extension's online Master Gardener Training Modules and the Master Gardener Manual. Those wishing to earn

Sno-Park permits are on sale

Sno-Park permits began sales on Nov. 1.

Sno-Park permits allow visitors to park in specially cleared, designated parking lots with access to areas around the state for cross-country skiing, skijoring, fat-tire biking, snowmobiling, snow biking, dog sledding, snowshoeing, tubing, snow play, and other winter recreation activities.

Keeping it simple

Last year, the Washington State Legislature passed a bill to simplify the rules regarding Sno-Park permits. As a result, the Discover Pass is no longer required to accompany the daily Sno-Park permit in Sno-Parks on State Parks

property. (These areas are Crystal Springs, Easton Reload, Fields Spring, Hyak, Lake Easton, Lake Wenatchee, Pearrygin Lake, and Mount Spokane.)

Seasonal Sno-Park permit holders were already exempted from displaying the Discover Pass at Washington State Parks Sno-Parks.

Snow bikes classified as snowmobiles

In 2019 the Washington Legislature also passed a bill designating snow bikes in the same class as snowmobiles. Snow bikes use motorcycle frames and engines, but they have a ski in place of the front wheel and continuous track (much like a snowmobile) in place of the back wheel.

Snow bikes must be registered as snowmobiles, and their operators must follow snowmobile regulations.

PSE launches energy efficiency program

Puget Sound Energy has launched Efficiency Boost, a new energy efficiency program designed to bring customers additional energy and cost-saving opportunities.

The new program offers increased rebate amounts for income-qualified customers so they can improve their home before winter arrives without breaking the bank. Whether customers are hoping to insulate their home, update windows, or replace a water heater or heating system, sliding scale rebates of up to \$2,000 are available for those who qualify. Efficiency Boost income guidelines allow a four-person household with an annual gross income between \$58,000 and \$78,000 (before taxes) to qualify for the rebates.

The process is simple: Customers start by contacting a PSE Energy Advisor to confirm their income eligibility. Once

they receive confirmation, the Energy Advisor can also provide a referral for a Recommended Energy Professional (REP), who would complete the work in their home and provide an instant rebate.

To learn more about Efficiency Boost, go to pse.com/efficiencyboost.

Customers who fall below the minimum income range for Efficiency Boost rebates may be eligible for PSE's no-cost Weatherization Assistance Program administered through local community agency that partner with PSE. Information about this program is available at pse.com/liw.

PSE also offers everyday incentives for energy-efficient improvements to all PSE customers without income qualification requirements. To learn more and see if you qualify, visit pse.com/rebates.

—Submitted by PSE

Registration opens Nov. 14.

For more information and to be contacted when registration opens, contact Alex duPont at alex.dupont@wsu.edu or leave a message at 360.395.2367.

—Submitted by WSU Extension

A Certificate of Completion will need to participate in weekly online quizzes, a final, and attend most classes. Homework is expected to average 3–5 hours per week. All training is open book and no memorization is expected.

Tuition for the program is \$300 and requires a computer with Internet access, an e-mail account, and a Zoom account.

Council summary

Concrete Town Council met for regular meetings on Oct. 12 and 26. The following is a summary of those meetings. Complete and council-approved minutes for every council meeting are posted on the town's Web site at www.townofconcrete.com/minutes.php.

Oct. 12 regular meeting

- Public Safety:** Deputy Wolfe distributed the incident report for September. There were 55 calls for service in town limits. He gave a brief summary of the calls. He also reported that having cameras, locking mail boxes, and additional lighting around your property are good crime deterrents.

- Deputy Wolfe also reported on a new program within the Sheriff's Department. He stated the county received a grant for providing mental health professionals on staff with the Sheriff's Department. He stated they are on a rotating schedule and work between 10 a.m. and 10 p.m. He stated this is a great resource to have, especially during this time.

- Kelly Wynn with Water & Wastewater Services reported the wastewater treatment plant is running well. They are assisting with two projects. He reported on the decommissioning of the lagoon and the timeline associated with this project, as well as the screen project and that the concrete pour will take place tomorrow.

- Wynn also reported on a warranty issue with the new membrane plates and that they are waiting on a response from the manufacturer regarding this claim. He said the plant is running well and is currently meeting permit requirements.

- Council voted to move forward with a 15-year fixed-rate refinancing option for three of the outstanding loans for the wastewater treatment plant construction.

- Council approved Ordinance No. 820, raising councilmembers' pay from \$35 to \$100 per regular and special meeting, beginning with each new term as of January 2022. Because councilmembers can't vote to increase their own pay, this ordinance won't take effect until after the next election—January 2022 for some and the following year for the remainder.
- Town Planner Marianne Manville-

Ailles reported on the Airport Layout Plan progress, a WSDOT culvert project inside town limits, a potential project inside the town's Urban Growth Area, and an in-town violation notice.

Manville-Ailles also reported that she continues to have a lot of people contacting her with interest in building in town. She stated that Coach Corral is in the process of putting in three homes, Larry Jensen is working on a boundary line adjustment for a larger piece of property that currently has one house on it, and a couple more lots in Mill Addition have had interest as well.

Oct. 26 regular meeting

- Mayor Miller updated on an issue with a known transient who has threatened to kill the town's Public Works director. He stated the Sheriff's deputies were contacted and that this man had been given a bus pass to get to a mission in Bellingham. He stated that the man was again seen in town today, near the Resource Center. Mayor Miller also stated that he has instructed the director to let him know when this man is seen in town, and he believes the next time deputies have to make contact with him, he will be transported to the hospital for a mental evaluation. Mayor Miller stated we cannot have someone threatening town employees, and wanted the council to be aware of the issue.

- Planner Manville-Ailles reported that she will accept a full-time senior planning position with the City of Mount Vernon at the start of the new year. She stated that she has enjoyed working with the town and will begin transitioning. She also stated that she is aware of a possible candidate that she could recommend for the position.

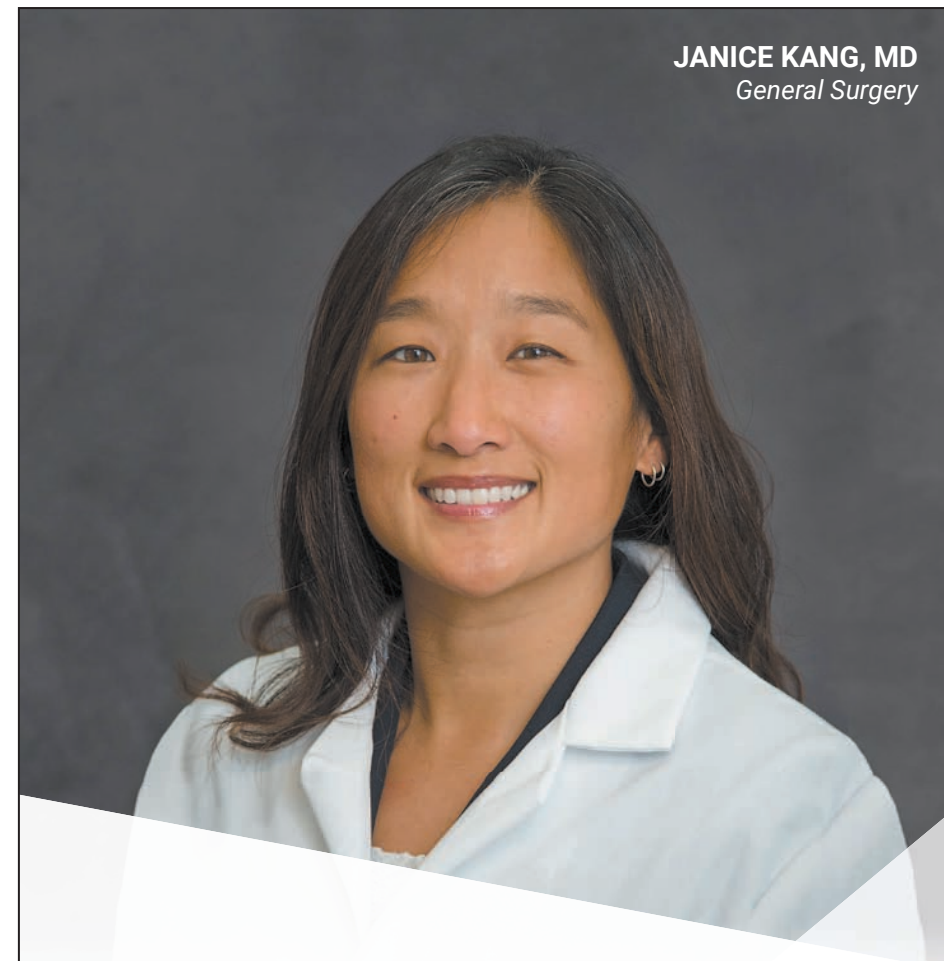
Manville-Ailles also discussed with council the WSDOT culvert project, which will include the paving of a short length of the Cascade Trail.

—Compiled from staff minutes

Keep track of your council

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

JANICE KANG, MD
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Academics



Essay contest for grades 5 to 8

An essay contest for students in grades 5 to 8 is being sponsored by the Ann Washington Chapter of the Greater Skagit Valley of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). Students may be in a public, private, or parochial school, or home schooled.

The subject is "The Boston Massacre," to commemorate the 250th anniversary of that event considered to be pivotal in paving the way to the American Revolution.

Writers are encouraged to imagine they are living in Boston and after witnessing the event, to describe their family's discussion about it and what role it played in organizing the colonists against the British king and Parliament.

Essays must be the student's own work and 300 to 1,000 words, with all words counting except for the title page and bibliography. Dates count as one word. They must be handwritten in black ink, or typed or prepared on computer with nonscript font no smaller than 12-point and no larger than 14-point.

The deadline for submissions is Jan. 10, 2021.

Judging is based on historical accuracy, adherence to the subject, organization of material, originality, interest, spelling, punctuation, grammar, and bibliography.

Prizes are a ribbon medal, a certificate, and eligibility for the state contest, whose winner will be honored at a luncheon banquet in the spring.

For a copy of the official entry form or more information, send an e-mail to kimekimmy@gmail.com. Students need not live in Skagit County, but must reside in Washington State.

Concrete Resource Coalition



I hope everyone had a safe and happy Halloween and is ready for the coming winter. In reflecting on Concrete Resource Coalition accomplishments, our highlights from October include the following:

- Receiving an additional \$20,000 in funding from the Washington State Health Care Authority. With this funding the coalition will provide virtual resources for community members, engage in additional professional development, and start a middle school prevention club.
- The signing of a letter of agreement between Concrete High School and Cascadia Youth Mental Health. This new partnership will allow Cascadia to work with Concrete schools and gather important data on attitudes and beliefs around substance use and our teens. This process will take several months, and we look forward to sharing those results with the community in the spring.

We have scheduled our first virtual webinar on youth mental health. "Helping our Youth Cope with Anxiety" will be led by Dr. Saline, a highly sought-after speaker. Learn more about Dr. Saline at www.drsharonsaline.com. This training will take place on Wed., Nov. 11 at 1 p.m. Go to our Facebook page to sign up.

Our next coalition meeting is Nov. 19 at 2 p.m. via Zoom. To get the link, send an e-mail to stephanie.morgareidge@unitedgeneral.org or call 360.854.7179.

Remember to check out our Facebook page at www.Facebook/ConcreteResourceCoalition/ and like, follow, and share.

Stay healthy!

—Stephanie Morgareidge, coordinator
Concrete Resource Coalition
United General District 304
stephanie.morgareidge@unitedgeneral.org
360.854.7179

YD update

Theodore Roosevelt said "Do what you can, with what you've got, where you are." That has been my outlook on my role in our community for years, and it must continue to be right now, more than ever.

The church I attend has this question printed on its bulletin every Sunday: "What am I doing today that will make a difference for eternity?" I think both of these quotes go hand in hand. I want to make a difference in our community every day, and I want it to be a lasting one.

Since COVID, depression is up and motivation is down. That is a bad combination, and it leads to negative thoughts, stagnation, apathy, and self-destruction. I am drinking water out of a mug right now that says "Let your light shine." This should be our attitude every day, but that is easier said than done. With Concrete Youth Dynamics looking very different this year, the importance of meeting with local high school students is more important than ever. We have four small groups that are meeting right now, and this is an example of doing what we can, with what we have, where we are. This is an example of doing what we can to make a difference for eternity. And, this is an example of letting our light shine, staying positive, and being present.

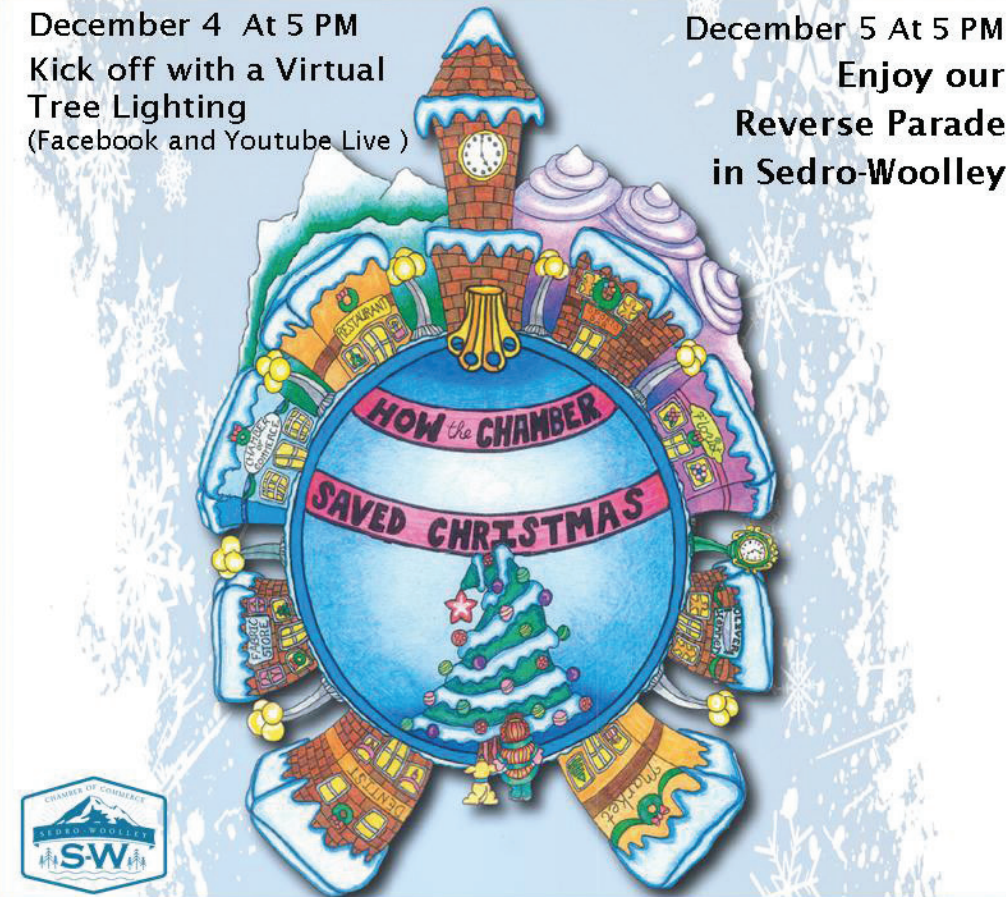
During the past month, we have met with local teens to play games, eat together, and travel to Deception State Park to play at the beach and watch the sunset. I love the fact we are still able to meet with kids.

If you are a student who wishes to attend Youth Dynamics, or you are the parent of a student who you would like to see get involved in some local activities with other students their age, please reach out to me so I can help get them connected. My phone number is 360.630.6063.

We need social interaction. It's healthful. We need relationships. There is nothing more important or more needed. Thanks to all of you who continue to support us. Your prayers, encouragement, and financial giving are all very much appreciated!

—Kevik and Marta Rensink
area directors

December 4 At 5 PM
Kick off with a Virtual
Tree Lighting
(Facebook and Youtube Live)



December 5 At 5 PM
Enjoy our
Reverse Parade
in Sedro-Woolley

- Share the Joy*
- Families remain in their cars and drive up Metcalf Street viewing Parade Participants.
 - Prizes to the best—decorated family vehicle will be awarded. Line up near the high school gym.
 - Santa will pass out candy canes at the museum at the end of the parade.
 - Drive-thru Beta Sigma Phi Santa Breakfast in the parking lot of the Community Center December 12 9 AM to 11 AM, sponsored by the local businesses.
 - Santa will also be at the Museum on December 12 1 PM to 3 PM
 - Virtual Ugly Sweater Contest and Christmas Dash online at <https://www.facebook.com/Whoolleyville>

See the Chamber Facebook page or website for more information:

sedro-woolley.com



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Holiday Lane

Santa Parade & Decorating Contest

Saturday, December 12 • 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

SAVE THE DATE

Sponsored by the Concrete Chamber of Commerce and Town of Concrete
More details and contest entries: www.Concrete-WA.com

This event partially funded by a grant from Skagit County • www.VisitSkagitValley.com



Three times the charm

Concrete welcomes a trio of women-owned businesses in November

In the face of an economic downturn, election stress, and pandemic worries, three women aim to open their businesses in town this month.

Mad Hatter Metal Works

Rebecca Howard is bringing heavy metal to Concrete.

The Darrington welder plans to open Mad Hatter Metal Works in the old Eagles In Flight building at 7489 S. Dillard Ave. on Nov. 13.

Howard isn't your average welder. Her father owned a logging company and encouraged her to be in the shop when she was younger. She grew up, got

her certificates for welding at Renton Technical College, and hit the career trail.

After spending years welding "in the field," her metal work took a decidedly artistic bent. In her showroom you'll find sculptures of the natural world and fantasy creations: a deep-sea angler fish, a huge scrap-metal face, giant mushrooms.

"I'm just a little too creative for that [earlier work]," Howard laughs.

The welder will share her show floor with other artists, including a photographer, an oil painter, a watercolor painter, and a silversmith, all of whose works should appeal to locals and travelers alike.



Welder/artist Rebecca Howard and partner Clint Coggins plan a Nov. 13 opening of Mad Hatter Metal Works, located at 7489 S. Dillard Ave. in Concrete.

"It will be a variety of stuff," she said. "Not a crafters mall, but high-end stuff with ground-level prices. We want to have a range of pricing, from \$5 to \$5,000. We want to offer affordable art, and we want to have something here for the locals and the tourists."

Howard has scrambled to get the building ready for opening day on Nov. 13, working with her business partner and sweetie, Darrington builder Clint Coggins, to prep the building and figure out the mechanics for her kinetic sculptures.

"So far, everything has come together perfectly for us," she said.

Dawn's Floral & Gifts

A light touch will arrive in Concrete Town Center by Thanksgiving. Florist Dawn Newkirk will reopen Dawn's Floral & Gifts in the business incubator space (former police station), located at 7337 N. Dillard Ave., Suites B and C.

Newkirk will "reopen" because she

brings 25 years of storefront experience with her business of the same name in Eatonville, Wash. Newkirk moved to Concrete five years ago and has been longing to return to her first love—flowers—ever since.

"I started in my garage with \$1,000 in savings," said Newkirk.

Dawn's Floral & Gifts will be a full-service floral shop, including deliveries as far as Lyman and Sedro-Woolley to the west, and Marblemount to the east—possibly farther. Patrons will be able to send flowers anywhere in the world via the Teleflora wire service.

Newkirk is a certified floral designer and a member of the American Institute of Floral Design—she knows her stuff. She specializes in weddings and funerals, and plans to include some rental items for these ceremonies. She fulfills special requests and custom orders, such as a replicated race car for one funeral, and taxidermy or fishing pieces incorporated into flower arrangements. She once worked a stuffed duck into a funeral arrangement.

Her store also will carry an extensive line of gifts, such as cards, truffles, fine chocolates, balloons—everything you'll need for parties.

"Pretty much anything you'd expect in

Businesses, cont. from p. 10

a quality floral shop, with more gifts and home décor," she said.

Flowers can get expensive if you let them, but Newkirk caters to everyone, no matter how skinny their wallet.

"I work with families within their budget. I listen to them and help them choose the flowers that will fit their budget. There is no wedding or funeral too big or too small. I cover every price point to make it happen for them, and I try to do a little extra for people."

Two Rivers Dental

Christine Woodward, DDS, is about to give Upper Valley residents a new reason to smile.

The seasoned dentist will open Two Rivers Dental in mid- to late-November, in the former Concrete Dental building, located at 45860 Main St. in Concrete Town Center.

Dr. Woodward started in dentistry at age 7 in her family's orthodontic practice

in rural Virginia, and worked her way up from sterilization technician to dentist and now practice owner. She said she's excited to bring full-service, comprehensive family dentistry back to the Upper Skagit, and continue the vision of former Concrete dentist Dr. Sharon Feller. Feller closed her practice in March 2019 and moved to Italy in May 2019 with her husband, Tim Cooley, who had been stationed there. The building now belongs to Dr. Woodward.

Dr. Woodward; her husband, Stephen; and their two boys, Mylo and Shelby, came to Skagit County from Lake Hallie, Wisc., and fell in love with Concrete. "I prefer smaller towns," she says. "I like the intimacy and the community of it—a lot."

The good dentist specializes in patient comfort and listens to what her patient's needs are. "I'll offer my advice for care, but it's really a joint effort between me and my patient to determine how they are best taken care of. My practice is very family centered as well: I treat all ages."

—J. K. M.



Christine Woodward, DDS, shown in full costume during the Trunk or Treat event on Halloween, will open Two Rivers Dental in the former Concrete Dental building in Concrete Town Center in mid-November.

At a glance:

Dawn's Floral & Gifts

Where: 7337 N. Dillard Ave., Stes. B & C

Hours: Tue.-Sat., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Phone: 360.853.7490

E-mail: dnewkirk123@aol.com

Web: dawnsfloorandgifts.com (pending)

At a glance:

Two Rivers Dental

Where: 45860 Main St., Concrete

Hours: M, T, W, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Phone: 360.399.1250

E-mail: info@tworiversdds.com

Web: www.tworiversdds.com



Florist Dawn Newkirk will open Dawn's Floral & Gifts in the business incubator space at 7337 N.

See **Businesses**, p. 11 Dillard Ave., Suites B and C, Concrete, before Thanksgiving.

Did You Know?

The mission of the Port of Skagit is
"Good Jobs for Our Community"

The Port of Skagit owns and manages more than 2,000 acres of property between our four locations: Skagit Regional Airport, Bayview Business Park, La Conner Marina and the SWIFT Center.

www.portofskagit.com

360-757-0011



Port of Skagit

At a glance:

Mad Hatter Metal Works

Where: 7489 S. Dillard Ave., Concrete

Hours: Tue.-Sun., noon to 5 p.m.

Phone: 360.853.7288

Web: madhattermetalworks.com

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Flag design by Becky Azure, CHS 2018

Sheriff's Blotter, cont. from p. 19

The two neighbors made an agreement that if the garbage left on the property by the neighbors was cleaned up, the new property owner would allow them to take the wood. A little while later, the new owner called and said that the neighbors had come back and started taking the wood but she told them that they couldn't take the wood until the garbage was gone. After further arguments, it was finally agreed that the neighbors would try to remove their garbage before removing the wood.

Deputy Johnson also handled a civil property dispute. A tenant of a residence on Hornbeck Ln. called to advise that the owners had sold the house and the new owners were evicting him. Deputy Johnson referred him to the Landlord Tenant Act and told him the issue was a civil matter between him and the new owners.

Oct. 18

Another domestic disturbance was reported at the residence in the 45000 block of Division St. in Concrete. The reporting party said that two brothers were shoving each other in the front lawn. When Deputies Wiggins and Dalton contacted the suspect, he was sitting on the front porch. He told the deputies that worms were coming out of his arms and he had been infected by worms and chemicals. He kept trying to show the deputies the worms and was digging at his arm with a plastic card. The suspect told deputies that he kept seeing doctors about the worms, but they kept telling him he was crazy and needed mental health treatment. Deputies tried to convince the suspect to go to the hospital for mental health treatment, but he refused. Since deputies could not prove that the suspect was a danger to himself or others, he did not meet the guidelines for an involuntary commitment. He was trespassed from the property again and allowed to leave.

Oct. 19

The next day, Deputy Wiggins contacted the same suspect that had been trespassed from Division St., but this time at Loggers Landing in Concrete. The employees said that he had been yelling at customers and spitting. They requested that he be trespassed from the property. Deputies Wiggins and Slack located the suspect by the community center in Concrete. He was given a trespass warning from Loggers Landing and told not to go to the business. About eight hours later, Deputy Wolfe was called again about the subject, who was now on Main St., yelling and speaking

to himself. Deputy Wolfe contacted him but again was unable to develop enough information to take the subject into custody on a mental health evaluation. An hour after Deputy Wolfe contacted him, Deputy Devero contacted him after a person living on Cedar St. called to report that a male was taking his clothes off and yelling. Deputy Devero was able to collect enough information to take the subject into custody for an evaluation, but when he got to the hospital the hospital did not admit him. The subject told Deputy Devero that he was hungry and wanted to go to the mission in Bellingham. Deputy Devero took the subject to the Burlington McDonald's, bought him a meal, then gave him a ride to the bus station in Mount Vernon so he could go to the Bellingham Mission.

Deputy Devero was dispatched to a burglary in the 37000 block of Cape Horn Rd. The victim said that someone had broken into her shop and taken some lumber and a hood to a BMW. At this time she had no suspects.

Deputy Rogers responded to a report of a male yelling and causing disturbances in the area of Baker Loop Rd. When he arrived he checked the area, but could not locate any issues. He was told by a citizen that the subject who was causing issues was named Eric, but no one knew where he was or where he stayed.

Oct. 20

Deputy Wolfe and Deputy Devero investigated a domestic that had occurred on the previous night on Shoemaker Lane in Marblemount. The victim said that she and the suspect had gotten into an argument over a vehicle. The suspect got mad and walked over to where the victim was sitting in her car, reached into the car and slammed the victim's head into the steering wheel. A witness confirmed the story. The suspect also made several threats that he was going to kill the victim. The suspect was contacted and arrested for felony harassment / threats to kill and 4th degree assault. He was taken to jail.

Oct. 21

Deputies Rogers and Steiner responded to a removal call in the 45000 block of Benjamin St. in Concrete. The reporting party said that a person he knew was trying to get into his house, but he was holding the door shut so he couldn't come into the house. When deputies arrived they were told the suspect was calmer, but did have mental health issues. Deputy Rogers was accompanied by the new Mental Health Liaison person, who agreed to talk

to the subject. The liaison was able to communicate with the suspect and make arrangements to get him help.

Oct. 22

Sgt. Dills was dispatched to a report of a suspicious car on Duffy St. near Park St. in Concrete. He contacted the vehicle and the driver told him he was waiting for the library to open. Sgt. Dills advised the driver that he was nowhere near the library and gave him directions to the library, as well as other parking options closer to the library.

A U.S. postal worker called and advised that a dark color car was following the mail vehicle and the worker believed the suspect was stealing mail. Deputy Passovoy contacted the suspect, who is well known to deputies. She denied stealing mail and Deputy Passovoy did not see any evidence of her stealing mail in the car. She was warned to stop following the mail truck.

A firefighter from the Hamilton Fire Dept. called to request deputies check on a male, female, and dog he saw walking around. He was concerned because temperatures were dropping and they were homeless and at risk. Deputy Passovoy contacted them and made sure they were all right. She gave them an emergency blanket and they went on their way.

A couple fishing at Vogler Lake called to advise that a male was in the parking area yelling at them to give him a fish. He was also standing at the launch preaching to them. When Deputy Devero arrived he contacted the suspect, who admitted to yelling at the couple telling them to give him a fish. Deputy Devero explained to him that Vogler Lake was a catch-and-release only lake and they could not give him a fish. He also told the suspect that he shouldn't preach to people who were fishing on the lake. The suspect said he understood and would take a walk.

A saddlebag from a motorcycle that contained two brass candle holders was found near the Baker River boat launch in Concrete. It was turned over to Deputy Devero at the Sheriff's Office.

A residence on B Ave. in Concrete was reported to have a number of intoxicated subjects standing outside yelling and acting disorderly. When Deputies Passovoy and Devero arrived, they contacted several subjects who had been drinking. After getting them calmed down, they talked to the property owner, who asked for advice on how to evict the subjects. She was given information, then deputies left, since the drunken

subjects had gone back into the house and quieted down. Later, one of the drunken subjects called Deputy Passovoy to report someone had thrown a rock through his car window. When Deputy Passovoy tried to call him back, he never answered.

Oct. 23

A caller advised that someone had driven over her protests signs and she wanted to report it. Deputy Wiggins called and talked to the victim. She said someone in a Jeep with Tennessee license plates had driven over her protest signs. The Jeep had since left the area.

Oct. 24

Deputies received a call that a male was in Concrete Town Center, causing a disturbance during the Haunted Town Tours. Deputy Wiggins contacted the male and advised him that he needed to leave. The male left immediately. Later, the same person was contacted by Deputy Montgomery as he walked down the middle of the road near Loggers Landing. The subject said that two males had been chasing him, wanting to beat him up. Deputy Montgomery was unable to determine if the subject was telling the truth or making the story up. The subject appeared to be intoxicated, having mental issues, or both.

Deputy Vincent was advised of a possible prowler in the 34000 block of Hamilton Cemetery Road. The reporting party advised a female was on the property, possibly checking doors. When Deputy Vincent arrived he found the female, who said she was placing bird seed for doves at the residence and didn't think that the property owner would care since it was a vacant house. She was told to move along and not to come back onto the property.

Oct. 25

A neighbor called to say that a Hispanic male wearing a hooded sweatshirt, sunglasses, and a backpack was seen coming from next door in the area of Alder Dr. The caller followed the suspect to SR 20, where the suspect started exercising. The caller then went back to his residence. Deputy Moore arrived and checked the area, but could not locate the suspect. He contacted the property owner, who thought the suspect may be living in the woods on her property. There was no indication that anything at her residence was disturbed.

—Compiled by Sgt. Greg Adams



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- * CHICKEN BROTH SWANSON - 14.5oz
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- * LARGE OLIVES FOOD CLUB - 6oz
- * ROLLS WHITE OR WHEAT THAW AND SERVE- 12ct
- * 2 CANS FOOD CLUB VEGETABLES - 14.5-15.25oz
- * IMPERIAL MARGARINE - 16oz
- * OCEAN SPRAY CRANBERRY SAUCE - 14oz
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- * COOL WHIP TOPPING - 8oz

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Clear Lake



Community Calendar



NOVEMBER

- 3 General Election. Ballots must be postmarked by today's date or placed in a ballot drop box by 8 p.m. today
- 9, 28 Festival of Trees Tree Stroll & Silent Auction, First St., Mount Vernon; see add, p. 16, and article, p. 34
- 11 Veterans Day
- 11 Washington State Parks Free Day, see article, p. 23
- 14 "May's Vote" screens in-home and at Concrete Theatre, 7 p.m.; see article, p. 6
- 27 Washington State Parks Free Day, see article, p. 23

DECEMBER

- 4-5 How the Chamber Saved Christmas, Sedro-Woolley; see ad, p. 17
- 5-6 Concrete Lions Club Christmas tree sales, Swap Meet field west of Loggers Landing, Concrete; more info on Facebook
- 12 Holiday Lane in Concrete Town Center; see ad, this page, and article, p. 6
- 12-13 Concrete Lions Club Christmas tree sales, Swap Meet field west of Loggers Landing, Concrete; more info on Facebook

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

Community meetings

Christian Motorcyclists Assn Morning Star Chapter 39 meets the third Sat. of each month at Royal Star Buffet in Mount Vernon. Optional dinner at 6 p.m.; meeting at 7 p.m. 425.770.6154 or cmachapter39@gmail.com.

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

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

Concrete School District Board: The October board meeting notice had not been posted at press time. Call 360.853.4000 for more information.

Concrete Town Council meets the second and fourth Monday of each month at Town Hall, 45672 Main St., Concrete, at 6 p.m. 360.853.8401 or andrea@concretewa.gov. See notice, p. 4, for information regarding virtual attendance.

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.

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

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 meets the second Wed. of each month at the hall, at 6:30 p.m. 360.873.2323.

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

Sedro-Woolley School District Board will meet Nov. 9 and 23 at 5 p.m., via Zoom. Info at kcargile@swsd.k12.wa.us or 360.855.3500.

Upper Skagit Library District (USLD) Board meets the second Thursday of each month, 6 p.m., via Zoom. To attend, go to upperskagitlibrary.org for the Zoom link or e-mail info@upperskagitlibrary.org.



HISTORY CORNER

The 1891 photo above shows the Mountain View Grocery Store/Post Office in Clear Lake.

Jake Bartl built the store soon after the Seattle Lake Shore and Eastern built their railroad through town in late 1890. Bartl

applied for a post office and was appointed the town's first postmaster on June 10, 1891. He wanted to name the town "Mountain View," but was told there was already a town by that name in Washington. He then chose "Clear

Lake," but again, the name was not accepted by the U.S. Post Office Department because they wanted only one word. Bartl then ran the two names together, naming the town "Clearlake."

Members of the Bartl and Isaacson families, along with Eddie O. Adams, Charlie Smith, and Hiram Hammer (the first teacher at the Clear Lake School) are included in the group above.

This photo has been chosen to be on

display at the State Capitol in Olympia, in commemoration of Washington State's 125th birthday on Nov. 11. *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.

—Deanna Ammons, historian
Clear Lake and Day Creek



Holiday Lane

Santa Parade & Decorating Contest

Saturday, December 12 • 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

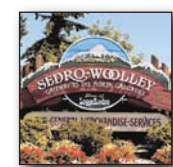
SAVE THE DATE

Sponsored by the Concrete Chamber of Commerce and Town of Concrete

More details and contest entries: www.Concrete-WA.com

This event partially funded by a grant from Skagit County • www.VisitSkagitValley.com





Sedro-Woolley



Autumn yard work for fire safety year-round

With cloudy skies, rain, and windy conditions, it is clear that autumn has finally arrived in the Pacific Northwest.

The Washington State Fire Marshal's Office advises residents that a little yardwork around your home now can improve your fire safety and help firefighters respond to emergencies.

your posted house numbers to make it easier for first responders to find your home in emergency situations.

- Keep a clearance of three feet around fire hydrants in your neighborhood. Overgrown vines, tree branches, or even snow can slow firefighters down when responding to a fire.

Taking some time for yard maintenance now can mitigate damages and emergencies around your home and in your neighborhood for a long time.

For more information on these recommendations, contact the State Fire Marshal's Office at 360.596.3929.

- Clear leaves and other debris from your roof and gutters to reduce the risk of moisture damage now and fire spreading to your home in the spring. Pick a dry day to remove fallen debris and leaves from your roof top and gutters. Exercise proper ladder safety and assess your own abilities when considering climbing ladders or walking on your roof.
- Trim branches or shrubs away from

Soroptimists accepting applications for 2021 Live Your Dream Award

Soroptimist International of Sedro-Woolley, a global organization that works to improve the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment, will present two \$2,000 Soroptimist "Live Your Dream" Education and Training Awards for Women to help two local women improve their economic situation.

The Live Your Dream Award provides women who serve as the primary wage earners for their families with financial resources to offset costs associated with their efforts to attain higher education or

additional skills and training. The award can be used for tuition, books, childcare, car fare, or any other education-related expense. Awards are competitive.

The deadline for applications is Nov. 15, 2020. Apply online.

For more information about how Soroptimist improves the lives of women and girls or to apply, go to www.soroptimist.org and click on the Live Your Dream Award link.

—Submitted by Soroptimist International of Sedro-Woolley

Skagit Transit expands bus service

On Nov. 2, Skagit Transit (SKAT) expanded its service for Fixed-Route bus service in response to increasing ridership during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Monday through Saturday: Fixed Route Service buses will operate on a Saturday schedule unless noted below:
- Route 300 will operate hourly trips following the Saturday schedule Monday through Saturday.
- Route 205 and 206 will operate 30-minute service, leaving Skagit Station at the top and bottom of the hour following the Saturday schedule.
- Route 409 will operate trips following the Saturday schedule Monday through Saturday.
- Route 40X will add an early run leaving March's Point at 7:40 a.m. Monday through Friday.
- Route 80X will add an early run leaving Skagit Station at 605 a.m. Monday through Friday.
- Route 90X will continue to operate an early run, leaving Skagit Station at 6 a.m. Monday through Friday.
- Routes 513 and 750 will not operate until further notice.
- Sunday: Fixed Route service will operate on a Sunday schedule.
- Paratransit service will operate: 6 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday. 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday and Sunday.

—Submitted by SKAT

Studded tires allowed from Nov. 1

By law, studded tires are legal for use in Washington state only from Nov. 1 through March 31. This applies to all vehicles in Washington, even those traveling from other states, and no personal exemptions or waivers exist.

More information about studded-tire restrictions and requirements can be found in the FAQ on the Washington State Patrol Web site.

The Washington State Department of Transportation urges all travelers to start preparing themselves and their vehicles for winter weather. Drivers can check out WSDOT's winter driving Web page for tips and information. WSDOT also asks travelers to always "know before you go" and get the most up-to-date roadway information before heading out.

To check conditions and prepare for winter weather:

- Download the WSDOT mobile app.
- Follow WSDOT's regional and pass accounts on Twitter, the agency's Facebook site, and online travel alerts.
- Sign up for e-mail and/or text updates

about road conditions; text alerts about Snoqualmie Pass delays is a subscription option.

- Download, print, and carry the WSDOT Winter Driving Guide.
- 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, highway-advisory radio, and by calling 511.
- Preset your radio to 530 AM and 1610 AM for WSDOT's traffic-information stations.

Alternatives to chains

Although some vehicle manufacturers recommend against the use of tire chains for certain models, that doesn't excuse travelers from state traction device laws.

The Washington State Patrol provides an online list of state-approved alternative traction devices on its vehicle equipment Web page under "traction tires." These approved alternatives meet state traction tire requirements.

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SUPPORTING PATIENT PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS AT SKAGIT REGIONAL HEALTH. VISIT SkagitFestivalofTrees.org

December 4 At 5 PM
Kick off with a Virtual Tree Lighting
(Facebook and Youtube Live)

December 5 At 5 PM
Enjoy our Reverse Parade in Sedro-Woolley

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SEDRO-WOOLLEY

Share the Joy

- Families remain in their cars and drive up Metcalf Street viewing Parade Participants.
- Prizes to the best—decorated family vehicle will be awarded. Line up near the high school gym.
- Santa will pass out candy canes at the museum at the end of the parade.
- Drive-thru Beta Sigma Phi Santa Breakfast in the parking lot of the Community Center December 12 9 AM to 11 AM, sponsored by the local businesses.
- Santa will also be at the Museum on December 12 1 PM to 3 PM
- Virtual Ugly Sweater Contest and Christmas Dash online at <https://www.facebook.com/Whoolleyville>

See the Chamber Facebook page or website for more information:
sedro-woolley.com

SEDRO-WOOLLEY



Lyman



Lyman loses councilmember, accepting letters of intent for replacement

After 15 years of service to Town of Lyman, Councilmember Mark Harris is stepping down. Harris detailed his decision in a letter to Lyman Mayor Eddie Hills, which came after Harris' home was lost to the Skagit River. Harris had spent 28 years in Lyman, but was displaced after his home was destroyed.



Harris

"The 28 years I lived in Lyman were the best, the 15 years I spent on the council taught me many things."

Mayor Hills said Harris' input on the council will be missed.

"The town thanks Mark for his 15 years of service. He was a valuable member of our town council, and he will be missed," said Hills.

Town of Lyman is accepting letters of intent for the vacant council position one. Anyone interested in serving on the council is asked to e-mail their letter to clerk@townoflyman.com.

New Public Works manager

Town of Lyman has hired Caleb White as its new Public Works manager. White had been working with former Public

Works manager Mark Young for some time, learning the ropes. White and his family have lived in Lyman for about 10 months.

"If you see him out and about, be sure to give a wave and welcome him to this new position," said Lyman Mayor Eddie Hills. White can be reached on his work cell phone at 360.630.7361.

With White's arrival, Town of Lyman bid farewell to former Public Works Manager Mark Young. "We thank Mark for his hard work and dedication during his time as Public Works manager," said Mayor Hills. "His work ethic was appreciated and he is wished the best in his future endeavors."

—Tammie Werner, J. K. M.



Young



White

Charity announces coming events

Lyman-based Heart to Heart Charity's Christmas Angel Tree is accepting applications for this year's program. The Heart to Heart Charity's Christmas Angel Tree is looking for businesses, families, groups, and people who wish to spread some Christmas magic this year for families in need of holiday assistance.

This is a great way for families, groups, businesses and more to celebrate the season by adopting a child or family for Christmas. We have families of all sizes; just contact us for more information. If you would like to adopt a child or family please e-mail Tammie at hearttoheartcharity@gmail.com. We will help as many families and children as we can, depending on how much support we get.

Donations of cash/checks are greatly appreciated to help with additional needed items. Checks need to be made payable to Heart To Heart Charity and can be mailed to Heart to Heart Charity, P.O. Box 1372, Lyman, WA 98263. For PayPal payments, use hearttoheartcharity@gmail.com or e-mail for a credit/debit card authorization.

—Tammie Werner

Sheriff's Blotter, cont. from p. 35

elbowed him in the stomach. She gathered a few things, then walked back by him again, this time elbowing him in the chest. He asked that she not be allowed back at the residence. Deputy Clark noted that there were no marks on the alleged victim. Deputy Clark checked the area for the suspect, but could not locate her. He will be sending a review for charges to the prosecutor for an opinion.

A commuter called to advise that a male was passed out in a dark-colored car that was partially in the ditch with its lights on near Cedar Grove and Concrete Sauk Valley Rd. Aid arrived before Deputies Ayala and Grant, and advised that the car was no longer in the ditch. Both deputies responded and checked the area, but could not locate the possible DUI.

A male was reported to be looking into cars parked at the Lake Shannon boat launch. The suspect was described as a tall male with a darker complexion, wearing colorful clothing. The suspect was seen talking to other people at the boat launch and was associated with a white sedan with dealer plates. When Deputy Serna arrived, she located a Suburban that was registered to a person in Mount Vernon. The door to the vehicle was ajar and it appeared that someone had gone through the vehicle. Later in the shift, Deputy Serna was contacted by the owners of the suburban who confirmed that the car had been broken into and numerous items taken, including tools and stereo equipment, along with the owner's purse. Debit and credit cards from the purse had already been used at Wal-Mart and Old Navy in Mount Vernon. Deputy Serna will investigate further.

Oct. 9
A customer called to complain about the service at a local establishment. He felt that the staff had treated him rudely. Deputy Wolfe explained that it was not a criminal matter and if he felt strongly about it, he could contact the manager or owner of the establishment.

Construction material was stolen from a residence on Limestone St. in Concrete. The victim advised Deputy Wolfe that approximately \$475 worth of sheathing was stolen overnight from her residence. She advised the neighbor has a surveillance camera that they would review and then let Deputy Wolfe know if they discovered any suspects.

Oct. 10
At approximately 9:45 a.m., Deputy Wolfe was assigned to investigate a cold burglary in the 400 block of Noble Ave.

in Hamilton. A caretaker for the residence advised that she had arrived at the house and noticed several items missing. She had a couple suspects, but no evidence to indicate that they were the ones who took the items.

Deputy Wolfe responded to a domestic disturbance in the 46000 block of Baker Loop Rd. in Cedar Grove. The victim said that he had been slapped by his ex-wife. He had since taken his daughter and left. While traveling to the call, Deputy Wolfe was advised that the victim was now stating that he didn't want law enforcement to respond, but only wanted to talk to his wife. Deputy Wolfe continued to the residence, where he contacted the victim. The victim recanted his story and said that he had not actually been assaulted, but had been pushed when he had tried to get the keys to leave. Deputy Wolfe talked to the wife, who said that the victim is delusional and believes she is having an affair. He became upset and attempted to take the keys to their car. While trying to get the keys, both parties pushed each other. Neither party felt that the other had assaulted them. Deputy Wolfe determined that no crime had occurred.

A person who lives on 2nd St. in Lyman called to report that she had purchased a cord of wood from a guy. When the guy arrived, he only brought half a cord, and the wood was very poor quality. He agreed to return with the other half cord. She advised that she hasn't seen the guy in more than three weeks. Sgt. Morgan advised her that it was a civil matter. He attempted to call the person selling the wood, but got no answer.

Oct. 11
Dispatch advised Deputy Rogers of a shooting offense on South Healy Rd. between Lyman and Hamilton. The victim said that he had contacted a man attempting to burglarize a house, and during the altercation the man pulled out a shotgun and fired a round. The reporting party said that the man fled west into the blueberry fields. Several deputies and detectives from the Sheriff's Office investigated the incident. A suspect was identified and was later apprehended. The suspect is believed to be involved in multiple burglaries throughout the county, including several east of Lyman.

Oct. 13
While looking for mushrooms, a local resident found a bone on the Baker Lake road near milepost 5. The bone was later identified by the Skagit County Coroner as a nonhuman bone.

Deputy Brannon called a homeowner

in the 37000 block of Cape Horn Rd. The homeowner said that a person he knew as "Conner" had come over to his house claiming to be looking for property he lost at a party. The homeowner said that he has not had a party and that this subject had been previously trespassed from his property. Deputy Brannon was able to identify the suspect and advised Deputy Rogers who was in the area.

Later that night, Deputy Clark was dispatched to investigate suspicious activity in the 37000 block of Cape Horn Rd. The reporting party said that they could see several subjects with flashlights walking around an address nearby. Deputy Clark arrived and checked the area, but did not find anyone.

A motor vehicle accident was reported on SR 20 and Pipeline Rd. Reports were that one of the subjects in the vehicle involved had fled the scene. It was believed that the person who fled had run toward Lyman Mercantile. It was also reported the fleeing person had been involved in the shooting during the previous weekend. Deputy Serna checked the area. She was able to determine that the person at the Mercantile was not involved in the accident. It is unknown where the person who fled went. Washington State Patrol (WSP) investigated the accident.

Oct. 14
A person called Dispatch to advise that he was lost on Medford Rd. north of Punkin Center near the Harry Osborne Horse Camp. Deputy Clark responded and, using his lights and siren, was able to help the person find his way back to the parking area.

Sedro-Woolley Police Department (SWPD) requested that the Sheriff's Office attempt to contact a female who had not been seen for a couple of days. They requested that the Sheriff's Office check the female's mother's residence to see if she was there. Deputy Rogers and Deputy Serna contacted the mother, who called the missing female. The female said that she was fine and was trying to get away from her boyfriend, who was the person calling 911 looking for her. SWPD was advised.

Oct. 15
A call of a possible domestic disturbance was reported in the 46000 block of Baker Loop Rd. in Cedar Grove. The reporting party called and asked that her ex-fiancé be removed from the residence. Deputies Serna and Clark responded. They were told that the two people involved were arguing over personal issues and the female decided she wanted the male to

leave. She was advised that the Sheriff's Office could not make the male leave since he lived there and no crime had been committed. The female then told deputies that she would have someone come pick her up and she'd leave. A short time later, a friend arrived and the female left. When deputies asked the male what his relationship was with the female, he said she was his fiancée. Deputies asked him why then did she say he was her ex-fiance, to which he replied, "That must have happened today."

Oct. 16

Noise coming from a construction site at approximately midnight was reported to be disturbing the neighborhood on Limestone St. in Concrete. Deputy Clark contacted the workers and advised them that running their chainsaws and excavator at such a late hour were disturbing residents. The construction crew stated that they had been making an emergency repair of the main water line, which had been damaged, but that they were now done.

Employees of Loggers Landing in Concrete advised Deputy Clark that a male was outside the business asking customers for money. He had been there for more than 45 minutes. Deputy Clark contacted the male, who had warrants for his arrest. He was taken into custody and transported to jail.

A victim of a vehicle prowling reported that someone had broken into his car while it was parked at Illabot Creek, and taken his cell phone. He was later contacted by his credit card company that a new account had been opened in his name and a second user had been put on the card. He did some research and discovered that the second name on the account led to a subject in Marysville who had been arrested for similar incidents. Deputy Beisler is investigating the case.

Oct. 17

The new owner of property in the 47000 block of SR 20 east of Concrete called to advise that the neighbors were stealing wood from her property. Deputy Ayala contacted the property owner, who told him that the Realtor told her that anything left on the property after closing belonged to her. That included the wood pile located on the property. Deputy Ayala contacted the neighbors, who said that they had cut the wood with the permission of the old property owner. They believed that they had stacked the wood on their property, but didn't realize until the property sold that it was actually not on their property.

See Sheriff's Blotter, p. 12

Nick VanJaarsveld Financial Advisor

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Above: Rain? What rain? Aja Lee (left) and Taleah Swanson (dressed as King Nebuchadnezzar, because why not) wait for participants during the Vacation Bible School Family Auto Scavenger Hunt on Oct. 11. Sponsored by Community Bible Church of Concrete, the event sent families to stations all over Concrete and Grasmere in search of clues and 12 stamps for their paperwork. After all 12 stamps were gathered, participants returned to the church for a sweet treat.



Above: National Night Out drew dozens of drive-through participants to the Concrete Self Storage property in Concrete on Oct. 6. Organized by Upper Valley local Eric Cooper, the event provided participants with numerous disaster preparedness tools and information.

Below: Madisyn Renzelman was decidedly creepy during the Haunted Town Tours, even if she giggled too much while dancing with her body fat-challenged beau.



Above: A bevy of provocatively dressed ladies of the evening were on hand during the first night of the Haunted Town Tours in Concrete on Oct. 24. Submitted photo.



Above: Jarrod and Valerie Lee played a bank robber and a terrified teller during the Haunted Town Tours in Concrete on Oct. 24.

Left: Ember LaBounty was unrecognizable as the town drunk during the Haunted Town Tours in Concrete.



Right: Upper Valley artist Don Smith submitted this ode to linemen in advance of winter, when their talents are pressed into service—with much gratitude from all of us in eastern Skagit County. The poem was written by Chan Gardiner. The artwork and calligraphy came courtesy of Arm Coleman. Submitted image.

October in pictures



The Lineman

*They sing of the men as goes down to the sea;
Of the heroes of cannon and swords;
An' writes of the valors of dead chivalry,
An' the bravery of old knights 'n lords.*

*They sigh 'cause the romance of knighthood is past,
'Cause there ain't no ideals any more;
They says that this old world's a-rollin' too fast
To develop that "esprit de corps".*

*But them as complains are the ones as don't know,
Who sits loose where it's warm and then kick ~
They ain't never seen a line saggin' with snow
An' had to get service back ~ quick!*

*They ain't never struggled with Death at their side,
A-snappin' an' hiss'n' an' pale ~
Nor clung to the towers and grimly defied
The assaults of the blizzard an' gale.*

*They sit and are served with never a thought
Of the fellers out pluggin' like hell ~
To supply at their touch the service they've bought
With a light, or the sound of a bell.*

*For his is that knighthood that's noblest by far,
The highest an' mightiest clan,
That's fightin' the battles of Things-as-they-are,
In the cause of the Service of Man.*

*These fellers ain't togged out all shinin' in steel,
They don't ride around on no hoss ~
They don't sing no songs about how they feel
In the gales when the feeders may cross.*

*They don't have no banners embroidered in gold,
In Latin nobody can read;
They don't do no braggin' of deeds that were bold,
Their motto is "SERVICE AND SPEED".*

*Their armor ain't nothin' but slickers an' boots,
Their weapons are climbers an' pliers,
Their battles are fought up where hi-tension shoots
An' Death lurks unseen on the wires.*

*They're fightin' the gales an' the blizzards an' ice,
Protectin' the towers an' the span,
With effort not measured in hours or price ~
For one cause ~ just Service to man!*

*So here's to the Lineman ~ the son-of-a-gun
That can do without sleep for a week!
That sticks to the job till it's every bit done
An' the feeders can carry the peak.*

To Bob Smith, the Unretired Lineman, from Arm Coleman, the Shy, Retiring Acrophobe. MCMXXIX. Poem by Chan Gardiner



Hamilton



Rockport



Council summary

The Hamilton Town Council held a regular meeting Sept. 8. Following is a summary of that meeting.

Sept. 8 regular meeting

- Rob Janicki reported that Devon Caines wants feedback working with cash on payment, and would like to resolve the issue by the end of the year. FEMA has been slow to provide additional clerical support.
- Devon Caines is going to schedule time to meet with Theresa Boots on code enforcement.
- Town is in receipt of an invoice from Wilson Engineering for \$10,000. Councilmember Tim Morrison suggested that the town wait for its CDBG grant of \$24,000 before paying Wilson.

- Councilmember Alyssa Boots reported on a transient problem and the perception that law enforcement was not addressing it. Councilmember Travis Patrick suggested the town contact Dept. of Ecology and Dept. of Health, and request they investigate. Councilmember Dean Vandiver recommended calling the game warden.
- Council discussed buying a new woodchipper for a cost ranging from \$2,000 to \$5,000. A new motor is needed. Councilmember Vandiver recommended a compression test.
- Fire Dept.: Chief Scott Bates said the county fire marshal placed an immediate ban on all outdoor burning, effective at 8 a.m.

—Compiled from staff minutes

Nick VanJaarsveld
Financial Advisor

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Stephen and Carol Clay, with employee Sandra Hambleton (far left), pose with a custom comforter in their home-based finishing space in Birdview. Plumeria Bay fills cloth "shells" with goosedown and fulfills orders from their converted two-car garage.

"Backyard" business Plumeria Bay

Stephen and Carol Clay run an enviable business. They buy pillow and comforter "shells," fill them with fluffy goosedown, and sell them, along with beautiful bed linens, from their Birdview home base under the name Plumeria Bay. "We make some of the best comforters and pillows around," says Steve. Talk about warm fuzzies.

The high-quality venture begins with the shells, which are sewn for Plumeria Bay in Austria and Germany. The shells are filled and finished in Birdview, then shipped to customers all over the world.

The highly technical fabrics, such as a comforter with internal pre-sewn walls, are specially woven to be downproof, soft, and strong. They are tested against the types of goosedown used by Plumeria Bay, to make sure they're downproof.

The goosedown itself comes from Hungary and is certified RDS—Responsible Down Standard. That means every batt of down is tracked from the farm—where geese are raised for food—

to the supplier, and finally to Birdview. The Clays started the company in 2002 after sniffing around for a business that would work on the Internet.

"I'm a homebody and I love down comforters and pillows, so after doing some research, we got in," says Steve. "The competition wasn't nearly as fierce back then."

The business lives fully online and is truly micro—the Clays name Sandra Hambleton as their sole employee—but there is potential for growth.

"We've only been manufacturing for ourselves for the last couple years, and that's working out well," says Steve. "We hope to grow the business."

—J. K. M.

At a glance:
Plumeria Bay

Where: Birdview
Phone: 360.826.3600
Web: www.plumeriabay.com

State Parks announces final 2020 free days

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission will offer its two final free days of 2020 in November. On these free days, day-use visitors will not need a Discover Pass for vehicle access.

The last two free days of 2020 are Wednesday, Nov. 11, and Friday, Nov. 27.

Rasar State Park in Birdview and Rockport State Park will be free for day use on both days.

Since the free days were first designated in 2011, the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission established Nov. 11, Veterans Day, as one of its free days to honor those who served in the armed forces. In 2017, the agency set aside the Friday after Thanksgiving as a free day to encourage people to get outside and visit a state park in autumn.

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

State Parks free days are in keeping with 2011 legislation that created the Discover Pass, which costs \$30 annually or \$10 for a one-day visit. The pass is required for vehicle access to state recreation lands

managed by Washington State Parks, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The Discover Pass legislation directed State Parks to designate up to 12 free days when the pass would not be required to visit state parks. The free days apply only at state parks; the Discover Pass is still required on WDFW and DNR lands.

In September, State Parks announced its free days for 2021.

- Jan. 1 and 18
- March 19
- April 3
- April 22
- June 5
- June 12 and 13
- Aug. 25
- Sept. 25
- Nov. 11 and 26

State Parks announces winter camping, day-use schedule

Washington State Parks last month announced its 2020–21 winter schedule, with more than 100 parks remaining open for camping or day-use activities.

Rasar State Park near Birdview is included in the list, as is Rockport State Park for day use only.

The winter schedule is available online at https://www.parks.state.wa.us/158/Winter-schedule?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=.

State parks offer opportunities for those who enjoy camping in the winter months. Campgrounds that remain open are less crowded, and more campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Most parks offer off-season rates.

Each year, Washington State Parks identifies which parks will remain open and which will offer limited or partial services, such as fewer camping sites and restrooms. Specific areas within a park may be closed, and some parks are open only on weekends and holidays. Campers should be aware that some state parks may shut off water systems, even if the park is open. Some boat launches are closed, and some docks are removed for the winter.

Parks that close in the winter generally close in October or early November and reopen in the spring when weather and

conditions allow. This year, some parks have had extended reservations through Nov. 1.

Reservations for 2021 are accepted for arrival dates between May 15 and Sept. 15. Some parks offer extended reservation dates. Rasar State Park accepts year-round camping reservations. Rockport State Park allows day use only.

For parks that are open in winter but don't accept reservations, campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis only.

Cabins and yurts

For those who aren't keen on camping in the winter but like the idea of getting away to the outdoors, many State Parks cabins and yurts are open and available by reservation. Cabins and yurts have heaters and electric lights. Some have bathrooms. Guests bring their own bedding. Cabins are available at Rasar State Park.

Making reservations

Reservations may be made online or by calling 888.226.7688.

Park alerts, COVID-19

Even though most of Washington's state parks are open year-round, some parts of the park may need to close temporarily because of inclement weather, repairs, or other reasons. People can check on current park conditions on the State Parks online Alert Center. From this link, people can also sign up to receive e-mail alerts for the parks of their choosing.

Some closures could potentially occur because of COVID-19.

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Tobi Stidman
David Bradley
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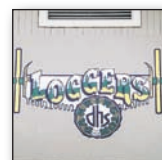
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Darrington



Darrington Strong groups still planning, executing during pandemic

By Marla Skaglund

Despite the 2020 COVID-19 fiasco, Darrington Strong has continued in the mission of community involvement, including the Friends of Fortson Committee, the North Mountain Lookout Restoration Project, Friends for Public Use, Visual Impact, Darrington Events Committee, Darrington Area Resource Advocates, and facilitating the growth of trade, tourism, recreation, and communication in the Darrington area. Although general meetings have not been possible, the board has continued to meet and conduct business.

Restoration on the North Mountain Lookout is nearing completion and will be available for overnight rental beginning in the summer of 2021. An official opening date will be announced next year.

Friends of Fortson has been working with Snohomish County to establish a park with a trail system at the site of the old Fortson Mill.

The Visual Impact Committee has been

responsible for planting and watering trees on Darrington Street, maintaining Pioneer Park, and planting trees, bulbs, and perennials at Dot Park.

Friends for Public Use has continued, with the help of volunteers—many from out of town—to repair as many as 39 road washouts in the Darrington Recreation Area, opened Grade Creek Rd., and drained water on the White Chuck Rd., preventing a 1,000-foot washout.

Darrington Area Resource Advocates developed a funding program for the feasibility study that will determine the best way to make the Mountain Loop Highway accessible to all visitors.

Darrington Events Committee, which usually organizes the Darrington Street Fair and the Trunk or Treat Halloween event, has been working hard to develop new ways to hold events.

Adopt Highway 530 and Visual Impact are two committees dedicated to keeping the Darrington area neat and tidy, one for keeping the roads clean and the other for making Darrington beautiful and inviting.

The newly formed Darrington Street Alliance Group has a goal to improve Darrington Street, and let residents and visitors know businesses are there and alive and well, turning Darrington Street into a beautiful place to drive through by adding benches, lampposts, and signs.

Martha Rasmussen, President of Darrington Strong, has been working on a new, updated DiscoverDarrington.com Web site. Thousands of visitors access the site every year, and it has a wealth of information on Darrington's history; places to hike, bike, and enjoy; local businesses to visit; festivals to attend; and other information about the area.

Rasmussen also has been updating the darringtonstrong.org. site, which explains the various projects in detail with an opportunity for readers to donate so the projects can continue. The site has information on the various committees, divisions, economic impact, and various volunteering opportunities.

Council summary

Darrington Town Council met for a regular meeting on Sept. 9, 2020. The following is a summary of that meeting. Complete and council-approved minutes for every council meeting are available at Darrington Town Hall and online at townofdarrington.com.

Sept. 9 regular meeting

- Fall Clean Up: Snohomish County Solid Waste will not support a fall clean up at this time. The county did not have the staff to support a cleanup.
- After discussion, council voted to approve the Snohomish County Sheriff contract for 2021–23 with the current level of service.
- Council approved an airport property lease for the Darrington Food Bank. The least is a 48-month, nonpayment lease agreement. After groundbreaking for the food bank building, the lease will change to rent of \$10 plus tax per year.
- Council voted for Mayor Dan Rankin to establish a process for Darrington Internet Users Association to place no more than four utility poles at various locations throughout town on town-owned right-of-way.
- Council discussed the Wood Innovation Center project, with concerns voiced regarding the proposed Forterra loan, the CERB loan, the interest rate, and the timeline. Council voted for Mayor Rankin to negotiate the loan with Forterra for the Grandy Lake land acquisition.
- Groundbreaking for the Whitehorse County Park expansion is expected to start Oct. 10.
- Mayor Rankin reported that COVID-19 cases in town had increased to 11, but had since remained steady at 11.

—Compiled from staff minutes

For more Darrington information, go to www.destinationdarrington.com, www.facebook.com/destinationdarringtonwa, or <https://www.instagram.com/destinationdarrington>.

Snohomish County Sheriff's Report

Oct. 10

Human remains were found in a secluded wooded area today during a planned search operation for a missing Snohomish woman, Kenna Harris. Harris has been missing from the Snohomish area since March. Previous ground searches for Harris did not incorporate the area where the remains were found.

The remains have not yet been identified; however, Harris' immediate family has been informed of the discovery.

The scene where the remains are located was processed by detectives with the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office and members of the Snohomish County Medical Examiner's Office. The Medical Examiner's office will make identification of the remains and make notification to the next of kin.

The search was conducted by members of the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office Major Crimes Unit and members of the

Snohomish County Volunteer Search and Rescue Team.

Oct. 26

Sheriff's Office Collision Investigation Unit (CIU) detectives yesterday responded to a fatal collision in the 1800 block of Pioneer Highway. At approximately 3 p.m., a motorcycle and a passenger vehicle collided. The driver of the motorcycle, a 50-year-old man, was transported to the hospital, where he later died. The driver of the passenger vehicle was not injured.

The road was closed for several hours Sunday evening while CIU detectives investigated the crash. Several witnesses reported the motorcycle was driving at a high rate of speed and attempting to pass several vehicles when the collision occurred.

Positive identification of the decedent, as well as cause and manner of death, were to come from the Snohomish County Medical Examiner's Office.

—Compiled from SCSO releases

WSU Extension to offer home horticulture training

Washington State University – Snohomish County Extension will offer an online Home Horticulture Training program this winter.

The training focuses on a wide range of horticulture topics taught online by WSU faculty, staff, Master Gardeners, and other regional experts on Saturday mornings from 9 a.m. to noon starting Jan. 9 and continuing weekly through Apr. 24. Training also includes access to WSU Extension's online Master Gardener Training Modules and the Master Gardener Manual.

Those wishing to earn a Home Horticulture Certificate of Completion will need to participate in weekly online quizzes, a final, and attend most classes. Homework is expected to average 3–5 hours a week. All training is open book and no memorization is expected.

Tuition for the program is \$300 and requires a computer with Internet access, an e-mail account, and a Zoom account. Registration opens Nov. 14.

For more information, go to <https://tinyurl.com/y9qw9ok8>.

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Treasures of the night sky

By Stephen Somsen

The constellation Orion ranks as one of the better known and recognizable features of the night sky.

Because Orion straddles the celestial equator, it is easily viewed in both the Northern and Southern Hemispheres. From our point of view, it will be best seen when high in the southern sky. However, it is also easily viewed when rising on its side in the east and again when setting on its side in the west.

There are seven bright stars that make up the most familiar image of Orion, to include the four corners of a large rectangle, and three bright and perfectly spaced stars at the center that we know as "Orion's Belt."

Betelgeuse may be the largest single object you will ever see with the unaided eye. It is the bright orange star in the upper left of the rectangle, one of Orion's shoulders. It is so large that if it replaced our sun, its surface would extend to the orbit of Jupiter. I think you'll agree that Betelgeuse is in its more favorable position, about 430 light years distant.

Mintaka is a bright star in Orion's belt,

furthest to the right of the three belt stars and positioned exactly on the celestial equator. As a result, Mintaka is a great icon for wayfinding navigators as it rises due east and sets due west. The three stars in Orion's belt point in the direction of Sirius, the brightest star in the sky.

Orion itself is a great indicator of south when it stands upright in the night sky. If you get in the habit of looking for Orion, keep in mind that it will rise four minutes earlier each night. By mid-winter it will be visible nearly all night long.

Amateur astronomer Stephen Somsen can be reached at ssomsen@aol.com.



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.

Concrete
Concrete Food Bank
45942 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.
360.826.4090

Marblemount
Bread of Life Food Bank
59850 State Route 20, Marblemount
First and third Wed. each month
11 a.m.–2 p.m. (temporary hours)
360.873.2504

Sedro-Woolley
Helping Hands Solution Center
Pick-up only, at Food Pavilion parking lot
530 Crossroads Sq., Sedro-Woolley
Mon.: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
3 to 6 p.m.
Thur.: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
3 to 6 p.m.
360.856.2211

Days and hours will be updated as needs change.

*Changes? Call 360.853.8213.

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d.iga@frontier.com

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- Gift shop
- Stained glass & glass supplies
- Souvenirs

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



Marblemount



Newhalem



Erosion concerns Marblemount resident

Robert “Butch” Vogel has walked the stretch of SR 20 between mileposts 104 and 105 near Marblemount, and he doesn’t like what he sees.

Vogel, a retired educator, points to erosion caused by rain and the Skagit River, and believes that it’s only a matter of time before the road bed fails.

“I’m not being hyperbolic; this is an accident ready to happen,” said Vogel.

Along that portion of SR 20, there are several locations where erosion has begun to undermine the edge of the pavement nearest to the Skagit River. There is no shoulder, and logging trucks are making it worse every day, according to Vogel.

“If your wheel hits those spots, you’re probably going to go into the river,” said Vogel. “Every RV, every tourist, every local makes it worse. I wouldn’t even ride a bike on that side. This stuff needs riprap put in there yesterday.”

Vogel said he contacted the county and WSDOT, and tried for a year to get some action taken in the area.

In mid-October, WSDOT crews shored up many of the problem spots with large boulders and gravel.

But some locations of repair seem incomplete, as shown in the before and after photos at right, where gravel was either never added to meet the edge of the road bed, or washed away in less than two weeks.

The work wasn’t officially planned; rather, it was in response to concerns from Vogel and other members of the public, so WSDOT crews may have addressed the worst locations first and may return to “fill in the gaps” at a later date.



Above inset: Before WSDOT crews visited this location, the eastbound lane of SR 20 near Marblemount showed signs of subsiding because of erosion. **Above:** After the addition of large boulders and sizable cobble, the roadbed still displays cracks and the gully remains. This may indicate a “first pass” approach from WSDOT designed to prevent a large-scale washout.



Left: At several points below the road bed east of milepost 104 near Marblemount, the Skagit River has undercut its banks during high-water flows, threatening to eventually undermine SR 20. Photo by Rebecca Miller.

Marblemount hunkers down for winter with virus still in play

After a summer of struggle, Marblemount ended its 2020 event calendar with Trunk and Treat on Oct. 31.

Facing virus constraints, the Marblemount Community Hall board of directors canceled its meetings and events at the hall for the remainder of 2020. So far the hall has no 2021 bookings.

Elsewhere in the community, the Shell and Chevron stations will adjust for winter hours, and all the restaurants plan to close, with both the Marblemount Diner and Buffalo Run restaurants listed for sale.

—Syvella Kalil

Local response to new mine proposal prompts new comment period

By Jason Miller

A new proposal to mine 38.16 acres at the Cascade Big Bear Mine near Marblemount has area residents again split in their levels of support.

A 2019 proposal from Kiewit Infrastructure to mine a much larger portion of the site was withdrawn in September last year, but not before bumper stickers saying “Mine It Marblemount” had appeared on area cars. At the same time, a concerted movement to stymie the mining effort eventually won out.

The state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is considering the new application.

The new proposal—this one from Cunningham Crushing, which owns the land—looks to spur the same split among locals. While some point to the much smaller scale and say Cunningham can do what it wants with its own property, a similar level of resistance also exists.

“I’m fuming mad,” said Marblemount resident Andrea Weiser, who told *Concrete Herald* that neither she nor any of her neighbors received any notice of the proposal, and therefore missed the original comment period deadline of Oct. 12.

“No posted notice at the property, no notification of neighbors. They even skipped Swinomish Tribe,” said Weiser.

DNR has since extended the comment period to 4:30 p.m. on Nov. 12. Comments should be submitted to the SEPA Center at sepacenter@dnr.wa.gov or P.O. Box 47015, Olympia, Washington 98504-7015 for distribution to the responsible official. Comments should include the application file number (20-092802). Anyone who has submitted a comment does not need to resend it; however, additional comments may be submitted.

Smaller-scale effort

The new proposal, filed with the DNR as “Surface Mining Reclamation Permit No. 70-013279” details operations that would remove talus rock that has accumulated at the base of a near-vertical rock face that rises approximately 800 feet above the floor of the site. The mine floor would be used for material processing and storage. Imported clean fill and non-saleable reject material would be placed as fill up to a depth of 50 feet against the rock face to recreate a smaller talus slope for recreation. The site would be reclaimed to a residential and forestry subsequent use.

“The proposal estimates the amount of material in the large talus formation to be 1.2 million tons ... that’s 120,000 haul trucks loaded with 20,000 pounds of rock, every weekday, for twenty-plus years!” wrote Weiser in a letter to fellow opposition members obtained by *Concrete Herald*.

“This potential first phase reopening of a surface mine on this site has been repeatedly denied by DNR over the past 20 years for safety reasons due to the ‘jointed and fractured’ condition of the rock wall,” the letter continues. “Despite the significant potential hazard of further talus removal as identified by DNR, and despite many of the same significant impacts as last year’s proposal, which led Skagit County to determine that a full study of impacts (EIS) was needed, DNR has already made a Determination of Non-Significance (DNS). Concerned parties were successful in re-opening the comment period.”

More information about the proposal can be accessed through the DNR Web site at <https://www.dnr.wa.gov/mineral-resources>.

Search continues for missing California man

A search was under way in mid-October for 35-year-old Alexander Pisch from Discovery Bay, Calif., who was last known to be near Colonial Creek Campground on Oct. 8.

Pisch is described as a white male, 6’ 1” tall, and approximately 160 pounds. His white Toyota Corolla was parked along SR 20, where he had set up an easel for painting. His intended route or destination are unknown.

On Oct. 10, a National Park Service (NPS) employee noticed the vehicle and painting easel in the same location, with no indication that the person was in the area. NPS rangers began investigations on Oct. 11, with field searchers deployed



on Oct. 12 to search the Colonial Creek campground and Diablo Lake area. The search continued the next day.

Information from other hikers and visitors is often very helpful to missing person investigations. If you have information regarding this individual, please contact the tip line at 888.653.0009 or nps_isb@nps.gov and click “Submit a Tip.” Tips can be left anonymously.

—Submitted by NPS

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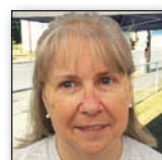
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Seniors



Verna's Kitchen

By Verna McClure

Almond cookies



Ingredients

- 1 cup shortening
- ½ cup plus 3 tablespoons sugar, divided
- ¼ cup packed brown sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon almond extract
- 2 cups flour
- 1½ teaspoons baking powder
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 3 tablespoons sliced almonds

1. In a mixing bowl, cream together shortening, ½ cup sugar, and brown sugar. Beat in egg and extract.
2. In a second mixing bowl, combine flour, baking powder, and salt. Gradually add to creamed mixture and mix well.
3. Shape into 1-inch balls; roll in remaining sugar.
4. Place 2 inches apart on ungreased baking sheets. Flatten with the bottom of a glass. Press three almond slices into the center of each cookie.
5. Bake at 350 degrees for 9 to 11 minutes or until edges are lightly browned. Cool for 2 minutes before removing to wire racks.

Yield: 3 dozen

Way Back When

90 years ago

Nov. 27, 1930: As the result of a petition filed months ago and signed by about 100 residents of Birdsvew and adjacent territory, the U.S. Postal Service has ordered a free rural delivery service started

on Jan. 16, 1931. To begin, the service will be tri-weekly, to leave Concrete on each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 1:30 p.m. and to return to Concrete at 4 p.m. each day. The time of delivery gives ample time to include the stage mail arriving on that day, and the return time is early enough for all outgoing mail to be handled on the afternoon stage mail.

In order to make certain the establishment of this service, at

least 80 families must qualify as patrons before Dec. 31, 1930, either by erecting approved mailboxes along the route to be traveled by the carrier, or by filing written agreements to join with others in the use of mailboxes, in accordance with postal regulations.

Nov. 27, 1930: Mrs. Katherine Glover and Mrs. Nell Wheelock

See **Way Back**, p. 29

Way Back, cont. from p. 28

recently purchased from Skagit County one of the dwelling houses located east of the Baptist church and are now having the building remodeled into a small lodge hall.

An addition is being built to make the hall about 24 x 30 feet, and the old part of the house has been repaired and overhauled to bring it into good shape for the purpose for which it is to be used.

The work is going ahead rapidly and the new hall will be ready for use within a week or so. It is

East County

Nov. 2020 activities

Concrete Community Center Meal Program

Mon.-Fri., 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

Take-out only.

Must be present to pick up a meal.

Donations always appreciated.

East County Resource Center

Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

360.416.1733

We are open and providing critical need services, information, and referrals to individuals, one person at a time.

For more information, please visit the Community Action Web site link, "COVID-19 Response," or call 360-416-1733.

Spirit of Hope update:

Team East County received \$3,952.51 in donations. Your support makes a difference in the community. Thank you.

understood that the hall will be used by the Concrete camp of Royal Neighbors of America, and possibly by others who require only a small lodge room.

70 years ago

Nov. 2, 1950: The Concrete Rebekahs are joining all the other lodges in the state in the raising of funds to purchase an iron lung for the state of Washington. There are only four iron lungs in the state. The lung will be available to any citizen of the state and will be used where needed.

The local lodge is sponsoring a bazaar as their method of raising extra money. It will be held on Sat., Dec. 2, at the I. O. O. F. Hall. Lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and there will be all kinds of fancy work and food on sale. A card party will be held during the evening.

Anyone who would like to help the Rebekahs in their project is asked to bring donations of food or fancy work to the bazaar to help raise as much money as possible.

Nov. 2, 1950: Wayne Mitchell, former Concrete resident who has been in and out of trouble most of his residence here, was brought into court again last week on a charge of disturbing the peace in Rockport. Judge Bagnell sentenced him to 30 days in the county jail, after which he is to leave the county.

60 years ago

Dec. 1, 1960: Washington's winter fishing season is set to open Dec. 4. Reports from the game department show that there are more steelhead in the rivers now than there were at this time last year because of recent rains, which served to raise water levels and bring the fish in.

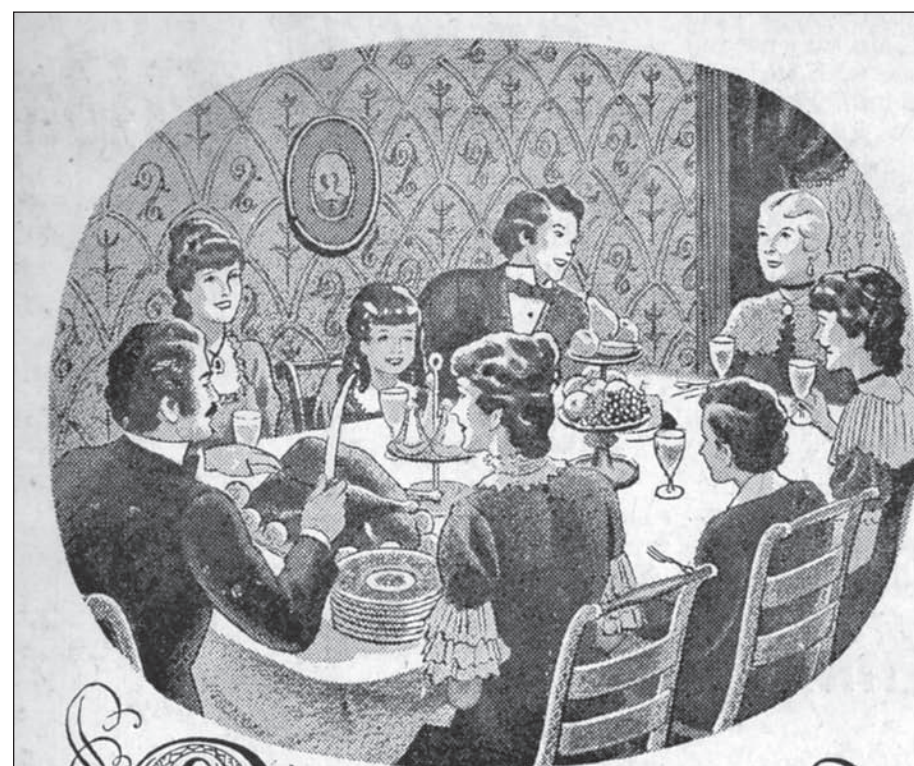
Although the Skagit—the top producing steelhead stream in the

state—does not usually provide the best fishing until January or February, other streams provide fishing at the opening, such as the Samish, Skykomish, Green, and Puyallup rivers.

Last year, steelhead fishing was

the best in four years. The game department biologists predict that the catch will be lower this year, but also that greater numbers of large fish will be taken.

—Compiled from archives



OLD FASHIONED Thanksgiving

The traditional Thanksgiving Day stems from the custom of people getting together for observance of the Pilgrim's first realization that America was truly a place where strong men and women could make a country survive and grow out of a wilderness. The day has long been associated with feasting and too often, today, the tables groaning with good things to eat are all that the occasion means.

So this year, be sure to look around you and note how many, many things we have for which to give thanks—and do so humbly. This is a great country and will grow greater as long as people remember that customs such as Thanksgiving are a part of living history—not just occasions for pleasure.

The pleasure is still there, intensified by friends and family, when you know you are truly giving old-fashioned thanks.

Right: 60 years ago, Nov. 24, 1960: This poignant graphic was published in *Concrete Herald* in advance of Thanksgiving. Archive image.



40 years ago, Nov. 27, 1980: Kindergarten students, seated on a buffalo-skin rug, enjoy hot buttered popcorn prepared before their eyes by teacher Mary Novy. The pre-Thanksgiving treat was educational, too: While the corn popped, the youngsters learned its Indian name—maize—and the important role that corn played in Native Americans' and pilgrims' diet. Archive photo.

Obituaries



Blanche (Mathis) Kloes passed away on Oct. 29, 2020, after suffering from Leukemia for two years. She was 80 years old. Her husband Loyal was at her bedside when she died. Blanche was born Blanche Mathis in Sedro-Woolley, Wash., on Dec. 18, 1939. After graduation from Concrete High School in 1958, Blanche worked in Seattle for a year before returning to the Skagit Valley to work at Northern State Hospital. She and her husband were married in St. Catherine's Mission Church in Concrete in 1961.

In 1969, the family moved to Eureka, Calif., when her husband was promoted. They moved to Santa Rosa, Calif., in 1971, where Blanche taught sewing, worked in various banks, and later was office manager for doctors Maes, Horan, and Barker for 12 years.

After retirement, Blanche and Loyal started Thermalsun Insulated Glass Products, which is still operated by their two sons. In 2001 they moved to Redmond, Ore., where she became an avid quilter. In 2008 they purchased a home in Salem, Ore., where they enjoyed the past 12 wonderful years. In addition to her quilting, Blanche loved working in her flower and vegetable gardens. She was an excellent cook.

In addition to her husband of 60 years, she leaves four children; five grandchildren; a brother, Gene, in Casa Grande,

Ariz.; and a sister-in-law, Peggy Kloes, in Puyallup, Wash. There were also many loved relatives and friends whom she enjoyed visiting with.

Blanche was always a strong advocate of education, and felt it was due to the wonderful teachers she had in her early years at Concrete Grade School. Because of this, a memorial fund is being set up in her name, and any donations should be sent to the address listed below. This fund is being established in Blanche's name for the continued support of teachers at Concrete Grade School who purchase needed supplies from their own pockets so they can better enhance their students' educational future:

Blanche Kloes Memorial Teachers Fund
1704 62nd Ave. S.E.
Salem, OR 97317

Funeral arrangements for Blanche were made through the Neptune Society. At her request, no services will be held.

Sunday School lesson

Linger in discomfort

By Cindy Myatt

Please take off your lenses—you know, those lenses that blind us to our biases.

We all have these lenses; I will name a few of mine. I'm a privileged white woman, I am the youngest in my family, I have student loan debt and I pay too much for crappy health insurance. These are a few, and they all affect how I see the world.

When we are able to take off these lenses—which isn't nearly as easy as taking off your glasses—we may start to see things differently.

Let's talk about the Black Lives Matter

movement. I have heard many people say, "why can't all lives matter?" Well, they can't until they all do. That being said, I have never lived as anything other than a white woman. I live a very privileged life, and so did Zacchaeus, that rich chief tax collector from Jericho who climbed a sycamore tree to see Jesus among the crowd. Zacchaeus not only saw Jesus, but Jesus saw him. Jesus asked Zacchaeus to come down from the sycamore tree and take Him to his house.

During the visit, Zacchaeus, knowing he had defrauded people, said to Jesus, "I will pay back four times as much to anyone I have defrauded on top of giving half of what I own to the poor."

Without hearing any religious jargon, heartfelt phrases, or theological condemnation, Zacchaeus had an extraordinary conversion experience that found him giving reparations!

When I hear the story of Zacchaeus, I think of the Duwamish tribe (<https://www.realrentduwamish.org>). They have received voluntary rent from some of the people who currently live on their native land (the city of Seattle). This goes entirely to the nonprofit Duwamish Tribal Services, which provides social, educational, health, and cultural services. You can choose to give a percentage of your income or monthly rent/mortgage. Maybe there is a number that has a symbolic significance. You could give \$54 per month for the 54,000 acres of homeland that was signed over to settlers. There are 9,568 Seattle residents who participate in this reparation. Imagine if

everyone did.

Let's talk about slavery. In his book, *Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the U.S.*, Lenny Duncan talks about reparations. He talks about how each Sunday we practice repentance. We confess our sins and seek forgiveness, but there is a stillness in the moments before our forgiveness is declared. In that moment of uncomfortable silence, there is something groaning to be born between our acknowledgment of sin and the reconciliation and forgiveness. This groaning birth is reparations. We don't have to wait for the government to seek reparations for our brothers and sisters; we can start now! We must no longer be complicit. How many churches say "all are welcome," but really mean "all are welcome if you don't challenge us, if you don't question the way we do things, if you worship like us, if you don't make me feel uncomfortable, if you don't make me question?"

Forcing people of color to agree with my way of thinking simply isn't how we are called to love our neighbor. I have to let go of my power, privilege, and fear. I have to sit tenderly in that moment between the confession of my sins and the proclamation of absolution of them. I have to linger there in the discomfort so long that it may fuel my work toward reparations. I pray you will try this too.

Cindy Myatt holds an MDiv. from Wartburg Theological Seminary. She lives in Marblemount.

Skagit County Sheriff's Office Blotter

Sept. 28

A theft was reported in the 9300 block of Adams Dr. east of Concrete. The victim told Deputy Brannon that she discovered that two Husqvarna chainsaws and a Honda TU 2000 generator had been stolen from her residence recently. The victim was going to contact the retailer she purchased the items from to get the serial numbers.

Later, Deputy Brannon took a report of a fraud call that occurred in the 45000 block of Division St. in Concrete. The reporting party told Deputy Brannon that he had received an e-mail stating that there was a technical issue with his computer. The e-mail came from a Web site called Geeksworld.host. It gave a phone number to call to fix the computer. When the reporting party called the number, a person with a heavy accent began to ask questions. When the person

Level 1 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.

Thompson, Michael Weldon

Age: 30
Race: W
Sex: M
Height: 5' 7"
Weight: 126
Hair: Brown
Eyes: Blue
Address: Sedro-Woolley

Thompson was convicted of 2nd degree rape of a child in Pierce County, in 2007.

Thompson 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

attempted to withdraw \$4,000 from the reporting party's account, he became suspicious. Luckily, the reporting party's bank caught the fraudulent activity and stopped the withdrawal. Deputy Brannon reminded the reporting party never to give out financial or personal information over the phone unless you know for sure that the company you are talking with is legitimate. He also advised that legitimate corporations don't send out these types of e-mails.

A person living in his car was contacted by Deputy Wiggins after it was reported that the subject was involved in drug activity. The car was parked at the Lyman Church parking lot. The subject was very intoxicated, but did not appear to be involved in drug activity. Deputy Wiggins warned the subject not to drive.

Sept. 29

The Hamilton Food Bank reported a burglary that had occurred sometime during the previous week. Workers advised that whoever was involved had entered the building and had turned off all the breakers, then had taken a box of flour and thrown it all over the building. The workers could not tell if anything had been taken. They believed entry was made through an unlocked door. The food bank has a security system, but the workers did not know how to work it. They said they would call someone who could work the system and let the Sheriff's Office know if it shows anything.

Trespassers were reported in the 46000 block of Baker Loop Rd. in Cedar Grove. Deputy Moore responded, but before he could arrive, the caller advised that the trespassers were actually her neighbors and that there were no problems.

Deputy Wiggins responded to an ongoing issue with the neighbor near the Vogler Lake boat launch, reporting people trespassing. He determined that once again the subjects were not trespassing, but were lawfully using the Washington Fish and Wildlife launch.

Sept. 30

A resident in the 47000 block of SR 20 near Concrete called to advise that a vehicle prowling was occurring at her residence. The caller said that someone was taking things out of a trailer and she didn't know the person. When Sgt. Adams arrived, he contacted a female who said she was collecting her belongings and that she used to live in the trailer with her boyfriend. When Sgt. Adams contacted the reporting party, she said that there was an active order restricting the girlfriend from being near the residence.

Deputy's Corner

Tips to prevent mail theft

By Paul Wolfe

This month's topic is preventive tips for a crime that is on the rise, especially during this time of year: mail theft. Use these tips if you plan to use the post office or any other online retailer during the holidays. Here are the basics in no particular order:

1. Don't send cash. If you plan to send a holiday card with cash, know that this is exactly what thieves are looking for. An alternative method would be sending the money electronically through a bank or app such as Venmo.
2. If shipping or picking up through U.S. Postal Service (USPS), use the "Hold for pickup" option. Packages left on your doorstep or mailbox are vulnerable to theft. Thieves are usually opportunistic; if a package is left in the open, it increases the chances of it being stolen.
3. Pick up mail in a timely manner. When expecting something of importance through the mail, track the package. Ensure you or someone you know will be available to pick up the item once it's delivered.
4. Request a signature confirmation. This is typically an option that USPS will allow once a price threshold is met on the package. The signature ensures the person receiving the package verifies who it is for.
5. Notify family or friends if you'll be out of the town when expecting

a package. If you are one of many who are traveling during the holiday season, contact the post office and give them notice. Mail or newspapers piling up on the doorstep is a good way to advertise that no one is home. If you know your neighbors, make arrangements for daily deliveries to be picked up.

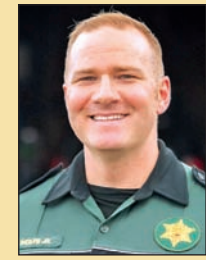
6. Purchase a locking mailbox. There are a variety of locking mailboxes. They add an extra layer of security and make it more difficult for thieves to access any mail.
7. Get to know your postmaster. Stop by the post office or speak to your postmaster in person to discuss any issues.

Unfortunately, mail or packages still can be stolen from people who are taking extra precautions. If this occurs, the USPS recommends contacting the postal inspector, who can investigate stolen mail. If ordering directly through a site like Amazon, contact them directly and ask if you need to report this to another department.

Last, if you dial 911, you will speak to a deputy, who will write a report and provide a case number.

I hope this information is helpful. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the Sheriff's Office in Concrete.

Paul Wolfe is a deputy with the Skagit County Sheriff's Office. He is assigned to the East Detachment Office in Concrete, a field training officer, a member of the Skagit SWAT, and active with Skagit County SAR.



Worship directory

Assembly of God

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

Citipoint Church North Cascade

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

Lutheran
Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
46372 Main St., Concrete / 360.853.8814
www.uprivergrace.com
Sun. worship: 10 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.

Mormon
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
Concrete Group Meeting
7879 S. Superior Ave., Concrete (Pilots Lounge at Mears Field), 360.853.5417
Meeting Every Sunday, 1:30–4 p.m.
Potluck after services

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
YouTube: Concrete Community Bible Church
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

Presbyterian
Mount Baker Presbyterian Church
45705 Main St., P.O. Box 246, Concrete
Church 360.853.8585; office 360.826.3849
Pastor: 360.901.4520
<https://mountbakerpres.wordpress.com/>
Sun. worship: 9 a.m.

CONCRETE HERITAGE MUSEUM NEWS

"Storms a'comin', Ma!"

My favorite Gary Larson cartoon is captioned thusly. Visualize a snow globe scene of a log cabin with two homesteaders outside peering up at the sky above them, a dark shadow in the shape of a huge hand overhead ... Yep, storm's a comin' indeed!

November is storm month in the Skagit, the month when more than half of all our known floods have occurred.

Long before written records have been kept about this river, storms and floods have been a fact of life here. As the second largest watershed in the state, the Skagit's reach spans 3,130 square miles from southern British Columbia to Puget Sound. It is an enormous funnel, collecting water from springs, side streams, rain, snow, and melting glaciers to create a mighty river.

Systems of downstream dikes and Upper Valley dams have attempted to tame the Skagit, but the flood waters still come.

Most of us have memories of the floods of November 1990. Down the valley, thousands of people and cattle were evacuated from the Skagit flats after heavy rains burst a 200-foot gap in the dike on the north end of Fir Island.

Upriver, Concrete reported waters rising to more than 12 feet above flood stage, and even farther upstream, south Rockport and Marblemount saw residents on their rooftops hoping to be rescued. Kenneled dogs and pastured livestock drowned and roads became impassable, especially SR 530. Neighbors were seen canoeing up to porches to retrieve people and pets.

Thirteen days later, that pattern repeated: warm, heavy rain (a "Chinook") saturating and melting on recent snow, and another flood event.

As early Euro-Americans began to settle in the lower Skagit about 1878, they were warned by the area's original inhabitants, as indigenous people had lived with—and learned from—thousands of years of Skagit floods. Some no doubt noticed

that the bark on the oldest firs and cedars was stained up to a great height, and that remained a mystery to the newcomers until a tribal elder explained it was because of an extremely high flood when he was just a child. He went on to explain its very sudden and destructive appearance in the middle of the night, washing away entire villages, all food and supplies, and many people. After estimating the elder's age, it was guessed to have occurred in about 1815.

Written records of Skagit River floods begin from that point and include the following years: 1879, '82, '83, '87, '94, '96, and of course the Mother of All Floods in 1897. The 20th century shows 1906, '09, '17, '21, '32, '49, '51, and more recently 1975, '80, and 1990. Since the new millennium, 2003 stands out as a major event. All others so far are a "drop in the bucket" by comparison.

We are overdue for a big one, so let's not grow complacent. Winter is soon upon us and it's time to prepare. Read and keep on hand the *Skagit River Flood Awareness* paper you received last month. Read and keep on hand the *Upper Skagit Valley Disaster Preparedness Guide*, published by *Concrete Herald* every September and included in that issue.

Have a plan: an escape route, what to take, and how to take it. Have pets or livestock? What is your plan for them? Contact the county's Dept. of Emergency Management for help in developing your plan. Join your local volunteer fire department. Know your neighbors. Discover our history. And of course, consider joining the Concrete Heritage Museum. Visit our exhibits virtually online until COVID-19 restrictions are lifted—www.concreteheritagemuseum.org—and get some great ideas for your family's educational opportunities this school year!

Small, private, in-person tours may be accommodated with advance requests.

—Christie Fairchild

At the Upper Skagit Library

On Nov. 2 we increased our curbside service hours: Tuesdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Wednesdays and Fridays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. You can place holds online at (www.upperskagitlibrary.org), by e-mailing (info@upperskagitlibrary.org), or by calling 360.853.7939. If you want to browse our newest items, you can do so from the walk-up service side of our library (closest to the entrance for the Resource Center).

We continue to offer new books and DVDs, as well as many other nontraditional items. If you would like to join us for virtual programming, you can find our calendar of events on our Web site. We have programming for all ages, both prerecorded (so you can attend when convenient for you) and live.

Our annual budget hearing will be held online Nov. 12 at 5 p.m., and will be followed by the regular Board of Trustees meeting. If you would like to join, visit our Web site for the meeting link.

Things are moving along with the new library and updates can be found on our website at www.upperskagitlibrary.org/web/new-building-project-progress.

I was notified in October that the Upper

Skagit Library District is on the list of recommended projects for the Library Capital Improvement Program. We were one of 15 projects selected from 33 applications. If the funding is authorized by the Washington State Legislature, the Upper Skagit Library District will receive \$209,273. The total amount of grants received in 2020 is \$224,725.

After reviewing the submitted bids, the USLD Board of Trustees awarded the New Library Tenant Improvement contract to Trico Company. They are a local company located in Burlington, with a good reputation and lots of positive references concerning similar work. The contract has been written and work is scheduled to begin Nov. 2. To see the progress of the work, go to www.upperskagitlibrary.org/web/new-building-project-progress.

If you have comments or questions about our collection or programs, or if you would like to make a public comment at our monthly Board of Trustees meetings, you can e-mail, call, or send a letter to P.O. BOX 99, Concrete, WA 98237.

—Amanda Perez, director
Upper Skagit Library



Lions roar

The holidays are coming and your local Lions Club will be selling Christmas trees again this year!

We will have trees available for sale from Dec. 5–6 and Dec. 12–13 at the Cement City Swap Meet field just west of Loggers Landing Shell Station in Concrete. Prices and types of trees have not yet been decided upon; however, check our Concrete Lions Club Facebook page for those details to be announced in

November.

Currently we remain unable to meet per COVID-19 guidelines for Skagit County. Even so, we are still taking applications for membership to Lions Club International and welcome new members. If you would like information on how to join the Concrete Chapter, feel free to contact us through our Facebook page or our club secretary, Barb Hawkings at 360.391.1384. We would love to talk with you and see you at an upcoming meeting. There are always projects to be completed and the more hands to help, the better we can serve our community.

Come join us!

—Lion Kelly Siebecke Smithhart



Concrete Chamber of Commerce News

By Valerie Stafford

The Concrete Chamber of Commerce met Oct. 8 with guest speaker Andrew Entrikin, Broadband Manager at the Port of Skagit, who provided an update on the Skagit County Community Fiber Optic Network Project.

"The project will bring high-speed Internet to the citizens of Skagit County for the purposes of economic development, education, public health and safety, and transportation," said Andrew. A video recording of Andrew's update can be found at <https://vimeo.com/466646239>. We appreciate the support from the Port of Skagit and look forward to new developments related to high-speed Internet in eastern Skagit County.

We recently welcomed two new members to the Concrete Chamber. PeaceHealth United General Medical Center, in Sedro-Woolley, is a new Gold Member; and Lonestar Restaurant and Waterin Hole, in Concrete, is a new

Bronze Member. We will share more information about all of our members in future issues of *Concrete Herald* and on our Web site: www.concrete-wa.com. If your business or organization would like to join the Concrete Chamber, please contact Cheryl Weston at concretechambermembers@gmail.com.

At their most recent meeting, the Concrete Chamber board members created the "Community Improvement Council." The goal is to "encourage and facilitate donations, volunteerism, and in-kind support to help local entities be more successful." For-profit businesses usually do not qualify for grants and often struggle to find funding or assistance with small projects. Nonprofit organizations sometimes need help recruiting volunteers or securing in-kind donation. The Chamber will create a section on its Web site dedicated to community improvement projects, and will help promote these on social media. For more information about the Community Improvement Council,

please contact one of the members: Anne Bussiere, Cindy Kleinhuizen, Helen Ovenell, Valerie Stafford, or Cheryl Weston.

The Haunted Town Tours that took place on Oct. 24 and 31 were a resounding success, with more than 150 carloads of visitors safely enjoying the drive-through event. The Chamber, along with co-sponsors Concrete Heritage Museum, Concrete Theatre, and Fire District 10 Association, thanks all the Main Street businesses and dozens of volunteers who made the event possible. As one audience member remarked, "So many volunteers—that spirit is great for the town to have them supporting the community!"

The Chamber is currently evaluating ways to safely celebrate the upcoming holiday season, and we are looking at reformatting some of the activities previously planned for the 2021 Skagit Eagle Festival. Your ideas are welcome.

To share your thoughts or get more information about the Concrete Chamber, contact: chamber@concrete-wa.com, or call/text Valerie Stafford, president, at 360.466.8754.

Valerie Stafford is president of Concrete Chamber of Commerce.



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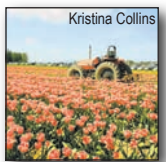
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Out & About



Mt. Vernon

New look for Festival of Trees: Take a stroll

Skagit Valley Hospital Foundation's 32nd Annual Festival of Trees will look a little different this year while organizers aim to retain its commitment to keeping the holiday tradition special and focusing on supporting excellence in healthcare services in the community.

As with many fundraising events this year, Skagit Valley Hospital Foundation had to pivot and revise plans to ensure the safety of guests, donors, and volunteers.

In partnership with the Mount Vernon Downtown Association and Festival of Trees Title Sponsor Heritage Bank, the Festival will showcase 21 elaborately

themed Christmas trees that will be presented in downtown Mount Vernon storefront windows. Friends of the Festival of Trees and downtown Mount Vernon guests can enjoy a "Tree Stroll and Silent Auction" from Nov. 9 through 28. The community will have the opportunity to bid for a tree outright at a guaranteed price or bid for a tree online via a silent auction from Nov. 20 through 26.

Additional Festival of Trees online giving opportunities will include:

- Give a donation to the Festival of Trees Fund.
- Purchase a 26-inch fresh noble fir wreath with a gold bow.
- Purchase one or more Christmas-red glassybabys. This year's collectable glassybaby is named "The Gift" and it features an etched image of a gift in gold.
- Purchase a "Kids' Holiday Gift Box"

filled with activities, cookies, a small gift, and more.

- Purchase raffle tickets for a chance to win a classic Christmas-themed tree, a \$100 Amazon gift card, or a holiday wreath.

"We are so thankful to be working with the Mount Vernon Downtown Association to carry on the Festival of Trees tradition and support Skagit Regional Health in a particularly challenging year," said Linda Frizzell, Executive Director of the Skagit Valley Hospital Foundation.

Proceeds from this year's event will support Skagit Regional Health's projects and programs for patient care. Photos of the decorated evergreens may be viewed beginning Nov. 9 on the Foundation's Web site: www.skagitfestivaloftrees.org.

For more information, contact the Foundation office at 360.814.5747 or foundation@skagitregionalhealth.org.

Festival updates also may be viewed on the Skagit Valley Hospital Foundation's Facebook page.

Ginkgo Petrified Forest State Park.

Wildlife biologists removed the domestic ewe with the owner's permission on Oct. 6. Subsequent testing at Washington State University's veterinary diagnostic laboratory confirmed the ewe was a carrier of Mycoplasma bacteria, which causes fatal pneumonia in bighorn sheep.

"At this time, we know the ewe was with wild bighorns in the most southern portion of the herd's range, where approximately 50 bighorns are located," said Mike Livingston, WDFW Region 3 director. "What we have to find out is whether any of the wild sheep have contracted the disease from her. It's an unfortunate situation, but the operation, which will primarily target rams, should have minimal effect on the overall population."

The disease, which is caused by the bacteria, is often fatal in wild bighorn sheep and can reduce the survival rate of lambs born to surviving animals for many years after the initial outbreak. There is no treatment for bighorn sheep, and no preventative vaccine.

"Once we know if Mycoplasma has infected the herd, we will have a better understanding of how to move forward," added Livingston. "We must move quickly because the breeding season has started and will peak within the next few weeks."

During breeding season, rams within the herd often cover vast areas in search of a mate, which would substantially increase the probability of them infecting other bighorn sheep within the Quilomene herd.

Past outbreaks among bighorn sheep in Washington and other parts of the western United States have been linked to contact between wild sheep and domestic sheep or goats that carry Mycoplasma, but are unaffected by the bacteria. In 2013, state and federal wildlife managers removed the entire Tieton bighorn sheep herd to prevent the disease from spreading to other bighorn herds.

—Submitted by WDFW

State

Bighorn sheep to be lethally removed to prevent pneumonia outbreak

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife took steps in late October to assess whether a deadly pathogen has infected the Quilomene bighorn sheep herd in Kittitas County.

The Quilomene is one of the state's largest bighorn sheep herds, numbering between 220 and 250. WDFW biologists anticipate having to lethally remove 15 sheep, and test 10 to 15 additional animals using nonlethal means, to assess if the entire herd is infected.

Wildlife biologists were notified on Oct. 1 that an off-duty Kittitas sheriff's deputy had observed a domestic ewe with seven bighorn rams in a remote area of the

Sheriff's Blotter, cont. from p. 31

from the 30000 block of Lyman Hamilton Rd. The ATV was taken from behind the residence. The victim told Deputy Wiggins that the ATV belonged to her husband and described it as a yellow Suzuki Ozark with front and rear baggage racks.

Deputy Moore contacted a transient female with mental issues who had been dropped off on Limestone St. in Concrete. She was asking that her belongings be transported to another location because she was not allowed at the residence. To assist the female and to avoid future issues, Deputy Moore transported the items and the female to the location she requested.

Around 11:30 p.m., Deputy Wiggins received a report of prowlers in the 46000 block of Baker Loop Rd. in Cedar Grove. He responded and checked the area, but was unable to locate anyone.

Oct. 1

An employee from PSE called to advise that while he was parked at the lower Baker Dam, someone had broken into his vehicle and had stolen a Dell laptop computer and a Nikon D5600 camera. There are no suspects at this time. Deputy Brannon is investigating the case.

Deputies Wiggins and Struikma investigated a domestic disturbance in the 500 block of Cumberland St. in Hamilton. The parties involved said that the husband had found messages on the wife's phone suggesting she was having an affair. This led to an argument and a physical fight. After investigating the incident, it was determined that the husband was the primary aggressor. He was arrested and booked into jail for assaulting his wife.

Oct. 2

Sgt. Morgan received a call of a trailer fire near Baker Lake Rd. He determined that the trailer was parked on DNR property. He contacted Washington State DNR, which who handled the fire.

A local transient called to advise that his brother had pushed him, then backhanded him earlier at the brother's house on Division St. in Concrete. Deputy Clark responded to Logger's Landing in Concrete to contact the alleged victim. The alleged victim had left the area and Deputy Clark could not locate him. Deputy Clark then contacted the brother, who lives on Division St. The brother told him that the alleged victim had come over to his house drunk and acting very strange. He asked him to leave, but he refused, so he pushed him out of the house and shut the door. After getting a written

statement from the brother, Deputy Clark located the alleged victim walking down the street. The victim yelled obscenities at Deputy Clark. He then started talking to Deputy Clark, telling him he had hookworms and that his brother had stolen his tobacco and tried to poison him. He told Deputy Clark he was going back to his campsite. Deputy Clark trespassed the alleged victim from his brother's house.

Deputy Struikma responded to a possible domestic disturbance in the 46000 block of Baker Loop Rd. in Cedar Grove. The caller said that he had been assaulted by his wife. When Deputy Struikma arrived, he contacted the victim, who was unable to provide much information. He appeared to be intoxicated and gave conflicting information. Deputy Struikma attempted to contact the other person involved, but she had left the residence and could not be located. After talking to the caller, it was determined that an assault had not occurred.

Oct. 3

Neighbors called to report that a male had just thrown a rock through the window of the house next door. Deputy Wolfe responded to the 45000 block of Division St. in Concrete to investigate. He discovered that a transient male who was staying down by the river had come over to his brother's house on Division and thrown rocks at two windows, breaking both. The suspect then left. Deputy Wolfe contacted the victim, who advised that his brother had come over the previous night, high on what he thought was meth. They got into an argument and his brother left. He told Deputy Wolfe that he wanted to pursue charges for malicious mischief against his brother for breaking his windows. Deputy Wolfe searched the area for the suspect, but could not locate him. The suspect was referred for charges.

Oct. 4

A concerned citizen called to report possible prowlers in the 46000 block of Baker Loop Rd. in Cedar Grove. Deputy Wolfe responded to the area, but could not locate any criminal activity.

A resident of Hamilton called to report that he could hear shots from across the river. He wasn't sure, but thought that some of the shots could be ricocheting into town. Deputy Wolfe told him he would check the area. When he arrived in the area, Deputy Wolfe heard no shots.

A caller reported that her brother, who is a registered sex offender, was sending dirty videos to minors. The caller believed that the suspect was currently at the Burger King in Mount Vernon. Everett

Police called and advised that they had also received calls about the suspect sending videos to minors. Deputy Clark investigated the initial call and determined that no minors in Skagit County had been involved. Everett PD was still investigating and said they would call if they developed information that a crime had occurred.

Oct. 5

Deputies Mullen and Moore handled an overdue person report that occurred on Main St. in Concrete. The caller said that he and his wife had been involved in an argument this morning. He left to go get something and when he got back, she was gone. He hadn't seen or heard from her since. She had left her phone in the room, but took her purse. Deputies and local citizens checked the area, but could not locate her. Later she contacted Deputy Mullen and advised that she had returned to her home in Seattle and was not in danger.

A resident in the 500 block of Hamilton Ave. in Hamilton called to report that someone was burglarizing the Hamilton Town Hall. The reporting party called back and advised deputies that they could disregard—that it was only the town clerk going in and out of the building.

Oct. 6

Upon returning home, a citizen found that someone had broken into his house and stolen some medication. There was no sign of forced entry. Deputy Moore was advised that there were no suspects.

The employee at the Coffee Barn in Lyman called to ask that a male at that location be asked not to panhandle at the business. The employee didn't want the person trespassed, but asked that he not bother other customers. Deputy Moore contacted the subject and advised him that he could stay near the business, but he was not to bother the customers. He told Deputy Moore that he would finish eating then leave.

Deputy Wiggins responded to a suspicious report at the community garden on Main St. and Superior Ave. N. in Concrete. When he arrived, he determined that the lights on in the shed were activated by a motion sensor and that there was no problem.

Oct. 7

Early in the morning, Deputy Dalton attempted to investigate a report of a malicious mischief in the 46000 block of Baker Loop Rd. in Cedar Grove. The reporting party said that she had been gone on vacation for a few days, and when she returned she found someone had damaged her motor home. Deputy Dalton

tried to contact the caller but she did not answer her phone. He left a voice mail for her to call back when available.

The owner of Shop and Save on Fir St. in Concrete called to advise that a customer who was shopping in the store grabbed all the store flyers and proceeded to rip them up. She then walked outside and threw them all over the parking lot. He requested that the customer be contacted and trespassed from his business. He also asked that she be cited for destroying his store flyers. The owner was able to provide Deputy Brannon with a plate off a car that the suspect had been driving. At this time the case is still under investigation.

Dispatch received a call of a neighborhood dispute on Baker Dr. in Cedar Grove. Deputy Moore called the reporting party. She said that she and an unknown neighbor had gotten into an argument about burning. She said that she had believed that the burn ban was still on and her neighbor had been out burning illegally. When she confronted the neighbor, he said he had rat poison and a sling shot for her dogs. The reporting party did not want the neighbor contacted at this time but did want it documented. Deputy Moore advised he would do an information report so it was on record.

Deputy Brannon talked to a person who reported she had come home to find someone had climbed up on the roof of her trailer which was parked at Lake Tyee and attempted to gain access through the roof vents. The vents had been damaged, but no one had been able to gain access to the inside of her trailer. She had no suspects. She reported the incident to Lake Tyee security.

Oct. 8

A student called to report that a laptop belonging to Skagit Valley College had been stolen out of his car about 5 days prior. The computer had been in a case in his vehicle overnight, and he discovered that it was missing. The vehicle had been locked, but the rear canopy window couldn't be locked. He believed that someone had crawled through that window to take the laptop. The victim told Deputy Wolfe that the computer was a silver Microsoft Surface and said that was the only item taken.

Deputy Clark investigated a possible domestic disturbance in the 46000 block of Baker Loop Rd. in Cedar Grove. The victim said that he and his girlfriend had been arguing earlier. As she was collecting her belongings, she walked by him and

See Sheriff's Blotter, p. 30

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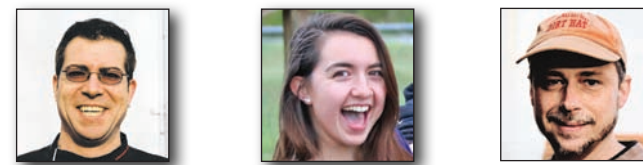
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Ask Yolanda

Odd advice. Think twice.

With all the crime in town and no town police, why don't we have some sort of volunteer or citizen patrol to even the balance?

Lawful, Concrete

Dear Lawful:

Great point! Why not volunteer police? Although, I do feel like all forms of normal police have already been done. My advice is we start up something new and unique, like some super hero action. A whole league of townspeople dedicated to justice. Masks are all the rage right now; maybe some masked avengers are just what our community needs. It would definitely intimidate some criminals. We have so many other sirens going off though, in order not to get confused we may need our mayor to climb up on the old school and light up the night sky with a signal letting us know where the ruffians are. All we need is a rich benefactor to finance cool gadgets. No matter how it turns out, let's make one thing clear: I call shotgun on the invisible jet!

How do I learn to fly?

Justina, Birdsvie

Dear Justina:

By catching pixies and shaking them really hard! Practice by first running through your yard flapping your arms. It'll also keep away trespassers. Win-win.

With politics heating up, how can I stay close with friends and family when they all seem so adamant that you're either for or against them? The holidays are coming and I don't know how to explain to them that I'm not interested in picking sides.

Apolitical, Marblemount

Dear Apolitical:

It's rough right now; I won't deny it. With that in mind, I have some suggestions for getting out of the many uncomfortable topics that can arise during the holidays, from well-meaning aunts who question when you're going to settle down and parents wondering why you didn't choose a different career path, to dodging Great-Uncle Herbert, who is straight-up drinking mustard, and avoiding the annoying siblings watching your hairline a little too closely every year.

Any unsavory topic can be fixed with one quick solution: music. Life is a stage and the world is your audience, so my advice is to embrace it! I have learned that if you burst into song at any given moment, people tend to back off and stop talking. The best songs to sing are, of course, parodies. ("wink wink") You can also take the last thing someone said and turn it into a song. For best results, add some Carlton Banks dance moves. I hope you have a musical holiday season!

I want your advice on how to be truly happy in life, Yolanda.

Rita, Rockport

Dear Rita:

I could fill your head with beautiful platitudes to bring peace of mind, but that's not what we do here. My advice to be truly happy in life is: a daily dose of shenanigans. I'm not talking just little chuckles. I'm talking creating real fun each day until you're belly laughing so hard you have no choice but to be happy. Wear something odd in public, then blow bubbles at those who notice it. Attach cans on strings to the back of your significant other or BFF's car with a window message "Just Hairy! #NoShaveNovember." Put a goose egg inside the holiday turkey and watch the most gullible at dinner start crying. Call in sick to a place you don't even work saying you have a bad case of Yolanda-itis, then go on a midweek adventure! Every time you visit a family member this season, start leaving weird little gifts for them to find later, such as a creepy dolly that to them appears under the covers, or a rubber chicken in the freezer. Life is way too short to go even one day without laughter.

'Ask Yolanda' comes from the mind of Yolanda Allard, an international bestselling author of numerous fantasy novels. A mermaid who seeks adventure wherever she goes, she likes to drag her family along for all of her crazy shenanigans. E-mail questions to her at yolandaallard@yahoo.com.



Collin's realm of truly awful jokes

There's a kid running around kicking people in the leg. I don't know about you, but I'm sick of his shinanigans.

Dwelleysms:

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

"Becoming well known seems to be a mania these days, but too many are cheating. Hard work is very unpopular when you can accomplish the same result by shooting your wife or stealing a lot of money—and there is always the chance you'll not get caught."
—Feb. 11, 1960

"We note that top union leaders are again moaning over high prices and profits for businesses. Maybe they could set an example by reducing dues and cutting down on the amassed wealth that they leave around as temptation for wholesale theft."
"Tomorrow's plans have a way of getting canceled if you wait. Do the things you want to do today. Few obituary columns list the big things a man didn't find time to get done."
—Feb. 18, 1960

Crossword

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

Across

- In the past
- Debate position
- Slip (into)
- Tries to win
- Marvel Comics super villain
- "How ____!"
- "The King's Speech" problem
- Water tester
- Guitar part
- Jazz component
- Pound
- Laughing dog
- Con's explanation
- US mountains
- Fruit with slippery rind
- French, melancholy
- Hold
- Commercial maker
- Manner of speaking
- Kind of tissue
- Vinegary
- Change course

Down

- Harry Potter's mailman
- Film genre
- Truncheon
- See
- Terse
- Lodger
- Buck
- Lab burner
- The god of War
- ____ is life!
- Comic character comment
- The magician made it appear out of ____ (2 words)
- Schtick
- Section in the newspaper (abbreviation)
- Forget
- Perjure
- Network of nerves
- Clever
- Picnic buster
- Board member

Across

- Make knotted patterns
- "____ so fast!"
- "20/20" network
- Thai language
- Place to stay
- Belfry denizen
- Cincinnati or Karate?
- Theory
- Greek vowel
- Member of Cong.
- Stand by
- A B vitamin
- Group of eight
- Wimbledon contest with final
- Provide a top to
- Creative
- Ripped your shirt
- Wild goat
- Mention
- Promise
- Taking after
- Detective, for short

Sudoku

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

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

*Solutions to both puzzles are on p. 39

Funny as Facebook

The following funnies were pulled from original Facebook status updates in October:

- "PSA: A reminder. Again. If you are interviewed on radio or TV, you are only allowed ONE use of the word 'absolutely' per interview. Thank you."
- "For all my friends who don't have babies. My 1-year-old is looking for a job. Pay is reasonable. She is a subject matter expert at the following:
Feeding the dog her food from her high chair.
Taking everything out of every container and spreading it around the house.
'Needing' whatever is currently in your possession because it's more interesting than all the crap she just pulled from the bins.
Silently ninja crawling around until your warning bells are going off because of how quiet it is, to find her halfway up the stairs that she just scaled.
We are open to competitive bidding for her starting wages into preparing you for father and motherhood. PM me on here if you are interested."
- "Wanna know how much I love my husband? I left him half of my bubble wrap from a package so he could pop some too. That's true love right there."
- "I never thought I'd get dumber watching a presidential debate."
- "So what is everyone up to a week out from our second Civil War?"
- "I found a broomstick on the beach ... looks like engine trouble, but no casualties."
- "I know I said I would only keep one puppy, but ... the four that are here so far ... I miight have to keep them all and hide them from my husband."
- "Vikings on History channel is soooo good. I wish the history wasn't soooo bad."
- "Five days till the election. Six days till the end of the coronavirus. #Sh*tDummiesBelieve"
- "New toilet: \$100. Self-installation: \$0. Finding out the water supply line is too short: Priceless."
- "Blippi is on the TV. Blippi is on the tablets. This Blippi speaks. Blippi is taking over my life. Help."

Public Service Announcement

By Stig Kristensen



AT THE END OF THE DAY, TIM ALWAYS FOUND IT SURPRISING HOW MUCH CRAP HIS EARS HAD BEEN FILLED WITH

A history of the Upper Skagit Valley

By Paul C. Pitzer
Retyped by Gail Boggs; edited for style
Republished from Concrete Herald archives, 1966–197

Chapter 2 THE HOMESTEADERS AND THE FOREST SERVICE

Discussion over Lot Six ended when a location notice, filed in 1898 by August Dohne for Goodall's Placer Mine, was found. It proved that Dohne had held the land for the required length of time and that he had been the first resident on the land.

Park and Conrad continued to investigate Dohne's claim. They talked with William Thornton, who lived west of Dohne and outside of Forest Reserve boundaries. In January 1909, Conrad described Thornton as "not quite responsible, sometimes." Park, however, hoped to take Dohne to court for a hearing on the claim and wanted Thornton to testify on behalf of the government. Park commented that he would, "use Thornton for all he's worth." An affidavit was obtained from William Thornton, which stated, "Mr. Dohne to my certain knowledge did not include in his agricultural claim Lot Six at all, but held it as a placer claim, that he purchased the place where he now resides from a Mr. Harry Dennis."

Conrad felt that a statement from Harry Dennis saying that Lot Six had not been in the original claim and that site had not been sold to Dohne would be conclusive. In April Conrad received a letter from Dennis, who wrote, "... the boundaries extended from the mouth of Skagit Canyon, down the Skagit River southerly on the west bank to a creek known as Goodall's Creek thence up the creek on the North bank to the base of the mountains thence along the front of the mountains northerly back to the canyon." The claim included Lot Six.

Park next requested information from Washington, D.C., on whether Dohne had ever obtained other claims. While he waited for an answer, the situation was further complicated when it was discovered that the boundary of Dohne's main claim overlapped Ranger Station Administrative Site No. 33, which was established after Dohne had filed for his claim. Since the ranger site was located by metes and bounds, and Dohne's claim

with the rectangular survey system, the conflict had not been noticed. Although this was quickly settled and proved to be only a minor point, each inquiry seemed to further complicate the case, but the issue of the Skagit Power Company and the \$5,000 was usually mentioned in each letter.

In September Park received information from Washington on Dohne's activity in the 1880s. He wrote the Portland Office: "Dohne made entry in North Dakota in 1885—on January 27—and investigation may show that Dohne has no right to a second entry." But an investigation was carried on in Portland, which revealed that Dohne had relinquished his North Dakota claim and was entitled to his Skagit claim. Park then attempted to discredit Dohne's claim on the grounds that he was not a citizen, but the attempt collapsed when Dohne proved that he was a naturalized citizen. Forest Service officials pointed out to Park that citizenship was not necessary prior to making a claim anyway. The date of the hearing was set for December and Park had proved nothing, except that Dohne was probably entitled to his claim.

On Dec. 16, 1909, testimony on the claim was taken from August Dohne, Burton Babcock, and John McMillan. The results of the hearing were declared inconclusive and the officers involved postponed a decision until they could obtain more detailed evidence. Park wrote to Portland and said that he could provide no new information, and that without such, "further prosecution of the case would be useless."

Early in 1910 the Skagit Power Company decided not to build a power house on the debated claim. Furthermore, the company postponed development of the Skagit in favor of the Cascade River. A few days after the announcement, the District Forester in Bellingham sent the following letter to Washington D.C.: "Considerable time has been spent investigating this case, since Lot 6 had been recommended for withdrawal as an administrative site and a special Use Permit issued to the Skagit Poser Company to occupy a portion of this lot." It was reported early in the investigation

that Dohne had, upon being informed that Lots 6 and 10 would be valuable as a power site, changed the boundary lines of his claim to include those lots and after entry, demanded a rental of \$3,000 per year from the power company. Upon investigation, M. Freeman, secretary of the company, denied any knowledge of this rental having been asked by Dohne: "Since they are now constructing their power plant of the opposite side of the river above Lot 6, as is shown on one of the enclosed maps, the inclusion in Dohne's claim will not seriously interfere with that company's operation nor with the permit which it has from the Forest Service for occupancy of Lot 6.

"From the evidence it is somewhat doubtful that Dohne did not include Lot 6 in his original claim, and not having been able to secure any positive evidence to the contrary—I have prepared the enclosed letter for the signature of the Secretary." By March all papers were signed and on March 4, 1910, Dohne was informed that his claim had been approved. The final documents arrived with the patent on July 15, 1912.

In 1913 Dohne's roadhouse again burned. It was rebuilt and remained for some years. Dohne developed intestinal troubles in 1918 and was taken down the valley to a hospital. He died on Dec. 18, 1918, in Seattle and was buried in Sedro-Woolley. His homestead was sold in probate court in November 1919 by W. J. Romaine, who was the attorney for the estate. Two bids were received for Dohne's land. The low bid by Sadie Silverling of Marblemount was for \$2,775. The Bingham Investment Company of Sedro-Woolley obtained the property with its bid of \$3,000. Two months later the City of Seattle, which had already started work on its hydroelectric project, decided to acquire the Dohne property so that its work camp might be placed close to the site of the Gorge power house. Condemnation proceedings were begun in Whatcom County Superior Court and after a three-day jury trial, the Bingham Investment Company was awarded \$27,000 for the land. The City Light Newhalem Camp is located there today. August Dohne encountered difficulties

with his claim because of technicalities in the law heightened because of the conflict with the Skagit Power Company. A friend of his, John McMillan, experienced no problems with the Forest Service over his claim, which was so isolated that apparently no one was interested in his land.

McMillan was born in Ontario in 1854 and settled on the Upper Skagit in 1884. He moved to Ruby Creek looking for gold and worked for a few years carrying supplies in from Fort Hope. McMillan loved the country and settled in a shack above Big Beaver Creek north of Ruby Creek and far from the centers of Upper Skagit activity. He never applied for his land and was so isolated that the Forest Service did not bother him. He had an Indian wife, but around 1900 he went to Seattle, where he married Miss Emma Love. They returned to the homestead and McMillan drove away the Indian woman and her friends. He and his wife managed to avoid the Forest Service and the claim was abandoned when McMillan died in 1922.

Less fortunate than McMillan was Tommy Rowland. He settled on a bar above Big Beaver Creek around 1895 and was even farther from civilization than McMillan. Rowland raised vegetables and hay, which he sold to miners during the gold rush of the 1890s. He had the idea that he was an incarnation of the Prophet Elisha and he called his homestead the New Jerusalem. He was a subject for discussion among the miners because he was odd, and rumors circulated that he had a rich gold mine located on his homestead. A number of miners lured Rowland downvalley to Sedro-Woolley and had him committed to the mental hospital there. He later escaped and returned to his home, where the prospectors had discovered that he had no mine at all. A few years later Forest Service officers returned Rowland to the hospital and he never again saw the New Jerusalem. When they took him down the valley for the last time, he asked that his home be destroyed, for if he could not live there, he did not want the place to exist. Today the land is covered by Ross Lake. Tommy Rowland was not the only homesteader who lost his land. Burton Babcock also experienced difficulties with his claim. Babcock was born in Iowa in 1858 and moved west in the 1880s. Eventually he settled on a claim just downstream from Goodell's Landing. Between 1893 and 1897, Babcock

See History, p. 39

History, cont. from p. 38

was usually someplace in the valley prospecting or working as a hired helper. He seldom stayed on his claim.

To be continued next month.

NOTICE OF 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 resident to serve on the Town Council.

Applications and letters of interest must be submitted to the Town of Concrete Clerk-Treasurer at andrea@concretewa.gov, hand delivered to 45672 Main Street, Concrete, WA 98237 or by mail to PO Box 39, Concrete, WA 98237 no later than Wednesday, November 18, 2020 by 12:00 PM. For more information, please contact Andrea Fichter at (360) 853-8401.

Applicants may be requested to attend a 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, November 23, 2020 at 6 p.m. and an appointment decision may be made during this meeting.

Published in the *Concrete Herald* November 2020 edition.

To place a Classified ad, call 360.853.8213 or e-mail ads@concrete-herald.com. Cost is \$5 per every 10 words, rounded up to the nearest 10. Deadline for the December 2020 issue is Nov. 23.

Crossword solution

1	O	N	C	E	5	P	R	O	8	E	A	S	11
12	W	O	O	S	13	I	O	N	14	T	R	U	E
15	L	I	S	P	16	T	O	E	17	N	E	C	K
18	R	H	Y	19	T	H	M	20	M	A	S	H	
21	H	Y	E	22	N	A							
23	A	L	I	24	B	I	27	R	O	C	28	K	31
32	B	A	N	A	N	33	A		34	T	R	I	S
35	C	O	N	T	A	I	N	36		37	A	D	M
38	I	D	I	39	O	M							
40	S	C	A	42	R	43	A	C	E	44	T	I	C
47	V	E	E	R	48	A	C	T	49	O	B	I	T
51	O	M	I	T	52	L	I	E	53	R	E	T	E
54	W	I	L	Y	55	A	N	T	56	E	X	E	C

Classifieds

Movies & Events at the Historic Concrete Theatre

in Town Center, Concrete, WA
24-hour PhoneLine: (360) 941-0403
Office: (360) 466-8754
www.Concrete-Theatre.com

Owners: Valerie Stafford, Fred West

EMPLOYMENT

Freelance Reporter. *Concrete Herald* seeks a freelance reporter to cover the Town of Concrete government.

Qualified candidates must demonstrate their facility with the English language; attend Concrete Town Council meetings on the second and fourth Mondays of every month, at 6 p.m., at Concrete Town Hall; and hit their deadlines (reporter will usually have at least one week to produce a story from start to finish). Candidate also must provide his/her own reliable transportation.

This is a freelance position; reporter will be paid per article, minimum one article per month, sometimes two. Other articles assigned as the need arises.

Interested? Send your resume or a letter that explains your qualifications, plus two of your best writing samples, to editor@concrete-herald.com or via U.S. mail to:

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

Headstones. Traditional & One-Of-A-Kind. Now offering headstone cleaning. TODD'S MONUMENTS, 360.708.0403. www.toddsmonuments.com.

Sudoku solution

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

NOTICES

CALL FOR BIDS

Lake Tyee Recreational Community has put out a call for bids to renovate two clubhouse change rooms. Work is targeted to begin Jan. 2021 and to be finished in March 2021. Bids are due by 5 p.m. on Nov. 6, 2020. Documents are available at: www.laketyee.org/clubhouse-change-room-renovation-rfp

TOWN OF CONCRETE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Concrete Town Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, November 23, 2020 at 6:00 PM or as soon as possible thereafter at the Concrete Town Hall located at 45672 Main Street, regarding **Fees and Utility Rates for the 2021 Budget Year.**

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

TOWN OF CONCRETE
Andrea Fichter, Clerk-Treasurer
45672 Main Street, P.O. Box 39
Concrete, WA 98237
(360) 853-8401 FAX (360) 853-8002
email: andrea@concretewa.gov

Published in the November 2020 issue of *Concrete Herald*.

TOWN OF CONCRETE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held by the Town Council of the Town of Concrete in the Town Hall at 45672 Main Street, Concrete, Washington, on Tuesday, November 23, 2020 at 6:00 PM or as soon as possible thereafter.

The purpose of the public hearing is to review the **proposed 2021 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.

TOWN OF CONCRETE
Andrea Fichter, Clerk-Treasurer
45672 Main Street, P.O. Box 39
Concrete, WA 98237
PHONE (360) 853-8401
FAX (360) 853-8002

Published in the November 2020 issue of *Concrete Herald*.

TOWN OF CONCRETE

NOTICE OF 2021 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 Tuesday, November 23, 2020 and Monday, December 14, 2020 at 6:00 PM.

The purpose of the public hearing is to review the **proposed 2021 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) hours advance notice. Contact Andrea Fichter at the Concrete Town Hall (360) 853-8401.

TOWN OF CONCRETE
Andrea Fichter, Clerk-Treasurer

Published in the November and December 2020 editions of *Concrete Herald*.

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR ELK-RELATED ISSUES:

Report elk-related issues to private property, damages, intrusions, and safety issues at home: WDFW Mill Creek office 425-775-1311. Director: Brendan Brokes. Conflict specialist: 360-466-4345, ext. 247.

Report Collisions with elk including near misses, school bus, and emergency vehicle safety issues with elk in or crossing roadways: WSDOT Habitat Connectivity Biologist, (360) 705-6963 Glen Kalisz.

SERVICES

Gladys' Upholstery Shop. Quality work, reasonable prices. 360.826.4848.

Hydronic Heating Design: Energy Consultation and System Design. 360-929-2502 www.hydronic-heating.com

Landscaping and landscaping supplies, dirt, gravel. Ray, 360.540.2619.

Lovely Content. Advertising and social media consulting, copywriting, proofreading, graphic design, photography, and videography. I can write or edit words for you, design flyers, book covers, and other things you print or share on the internet, take photos of people, products, and places, and help you set up your social media accounts or basic websites. Marketing, especially online marketing, is increasingly vital to small businesses, even in rural areas. I want to help you get the word out about that thing you sell or that thing you do! www.lovely-content.com chazlynlovely@gmail.com.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteers Needed. The Upper Skagit Library is growing and evolving and we're excited about our move to the new location next year. The library is looking for two new Trustees to help us continue this important and challenging work as we provide the best library services and products for our community. For more information, email the library at libraryboard@upperskagitlibrary.org.

Smuggler Brothers

Marijuana Mercantile

Recreational Cannabis & Sundries

These products have intoxicating effect and may be habit forming. Marijuana can impair concentration, coordination, and judgment. Do not operate a vehicle or machinery under the influence of this drug. There may be health risks associated with consumption of this product. For use only by adults 21 and older. Keep out of reach of children.

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