

The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley

Concrete Herald

Vol. 98, No. 10

October 2015

concrete-herald.com

50 cents

Clear Lake • Sedro-Woolley • Lyman • Day Creek • Punkin Center • Hamilton • Birdsvie • Grasmere • Concrete • Cape Horn • Sauk City • Sauk Valley • Rockport • Van Horn • Darrington • Corkindale • Marblemount • Bullerville • Newhalem • Diablo

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Galbraith



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Shuler



Kelley

Snohomish County

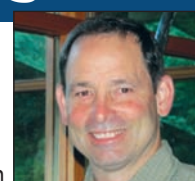


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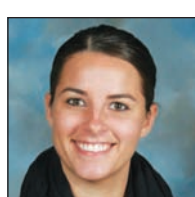


Rankin

Lyman



Saunders



Kitchen



Ganga



Swanson

Hamilton



Coker



Cromley

Tires LES SCHWAB

Pat Rimmer Tire Center

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Concrete Herald

The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley



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

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Concrete Herald is published the first Wednesday of each month and distributed via newspaper racks and retail businesses from Clear Lake to Newhalem and Darrington, Wash. A complete list of distribution points is posted online at www.concrete-herald.com/about-the-herald/distribution-points. Mail subscriptions are \$27 annually for U.S. addresses, \$39 for Canadian addresses. Other subscription options are listed on the "Subscribe" page at www.concrete-herald.com. Physical address: 7674 Cedar Park, Concrete, WA 98237. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Concrete Herald, P.O. Box 682, Concrete, WA 98237. Printed by Skagit Publishing, Mount Vernon, Wash. Contents © 2015 Concrete Herald LLC.

From the editor

Vote yes for library—and our future

A very wise town planner and architect once told me that urbanism is a “long game.” “We shouldn’t focus solely on the next five, 10, or even 20 years,” he said. “We need to pay attention to how our decisions will affect the citizens of towns and cities 100 years from now.”

The time has come for Concrete voters to make a decision that could affect Concrete citizens for decades: whether or not the town should join the Upper Skagit Library District.

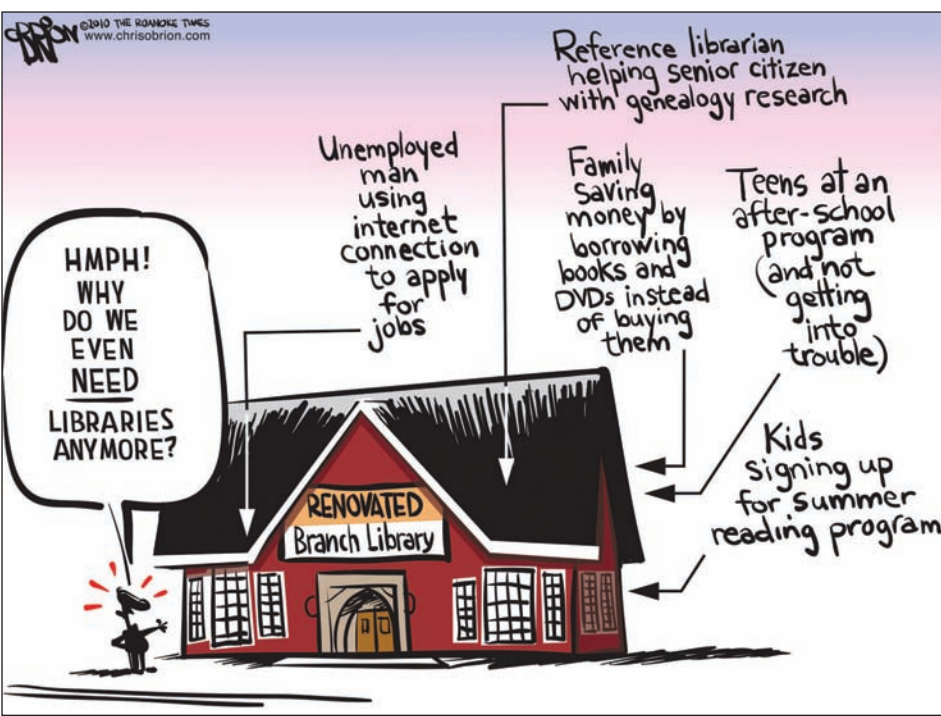
The current situation hamstrings any Concrete citizen who cannot afford a library card. This is especially detrimental to children who live inside town limits. The library sends children away empty-handed every week, because they don’t have a card. That’s a problem, but it’s one that we can fix if we think in terms of community.

Have you seen that poster titled “How to Build Community”? It’s a list of everything citizens should do in order to knit themselves together socially. Near the top of the list you’ll find this entry: “Use your library.”

We have an opportunity to make sure *all* Concrete citizens can use the Upper Skagit Library and have access to *all* the services it offers. A “yes” vote on Proposition 1 would provide that full access, while sending more money directly to the Upper Skagit Library (nowhere else), allowing it to improve its services, hours of operation, and more.

Please vote YES on Proposition 1. A vote for the library is a vote for our future.

—J. K. M.



Opinion

Letters to the editor

Love of books informs support

I support Concrete’s joining the Upper Skagit Library District because I love books. Books have kept me entertained and informed since I was a child borrowing from the Snohomish Library.

Today’s libraries have print books, e-books, audio books, and much more. By voting for annexation in November, I’ll help open this world of books to everyone in Concrete. To me, this vote is especially important for Concrete’s youth, all of whom should have full and free access to library books so they can pursue their own interests and develop their own creativity.

Doris Pollack
Concrete

A good library is a gem

From my earliest memories, the library has always been an important part of my ability to explore the world through books and publications. Learning to read at school was one thing, but checking out my very own library book to read at home was magic. I still remember some of my favorite first library books.

In later years, the library helped me navigate through school reports and term papers. I learned to research answers and explore ideas as far as I could reach. I was fortunate to be able to access larger libraries surrounding my smaller town library through a library card system that granted me access everywhere.

When I moved to the Upper Skagit Valley in the 1970s, it was still fun to come into the Concrete Library, stuffed to the ceiling with books and a helpful librarian. My kids were able to check out books without any problems no matter whether we lived in Marblemount or in Concrete. That ability changed when the town’s


Letters policy

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

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Message from the mayor

By Jason Miller



As the Economic Development Task Force and I work through conversations about how to revitalize the Concrete economy, one necessary ingredient for success continues to be obvious: an educated work force.

I believe there’s no single way to develop that local work force, but making a hub of information available to all of our citizens is certainly a key component.

That’s why I plan to vote **YES on Proposition 1**—Town of Concrete joining the Upper Skagit Library District. Bringing the town on board will level the playing field for citizens of all ages, providing them another avenue to increase their knowledge and improve their station in life.

We’re all in this together. Please join me and vote YES on Proposition 1. It’s a wise choice with significant long-term payoffs.

We’ve lined up our ducks for the **Park and Ride** at the west edge of Silo Park; that project has now entered the design phase.

We had an unexpected setback with regard to funding for our proposed **Water Spray Park** next to the Park and Ride, but we continue to work with the state to address that situation. Keep your fingers crossed.

Sealing our newer streets is a priority this month. Please be patient while the Public Works crew deals with the cracks.

Public Works also is assembling **new playground equipment** for the Silo Park playground. It’s a time-intensive task, but I can tell the new additions are going to be popular!

The **Concrete Town Council** meets on the second and fourth Mondays of each month, at 7 p.m., at Town Hall. I encourage you to visit a meeting whenever you can.

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



Letters, cont. from p. 2

and raised their children in Concrete and have lived here for more than 20 years. Rob is our friend and pastor of the church we attend. He would be an asset to not only the town, but to the Upper Skagit community in general.

Please cast your ballot for Rob Thomas for Town Council in November.

Oh, and don’t forget to vote YES for the library! Voting is a privilege; please show your support and VOTE!

Gene and Maureen Ford
Rockport

Deputies do a great job

What great Sheriff’s deputies we have up here! They do a great job serving and protecting the Upper Skagit communities. They got right on finding most of the stuff that was stolen from the Concrete Food Bank last month. Thank you!

Gladys Silrus
Concrete

Support Shuler for Port Commissioner

We in Skagit County have been blessed with a group of Port Commissioners that have managed our resources well and helped to create good paying jobs and a decent return on our investments in Port-managed properties. I strongly support our District 3 Commissioner William (Bill) Shuler and thank him for his hard work in managing our resources. Please vote and when you do remember Bill’s contributions to our community.

Your Port of Skagit is the proud steward of approximately 2,075 acres of land within the port district – 1,964 acres on Bayview Ridge, 65 acres at the La Conner Marina, 42 acres at Conway, and a small plot outside La Conner. These lands comprise light industrial property, heavy industrial property, agricultural land, high-value wetlands, and open space. Approximately 485 acres (25 percent) of Port-owned property is developable land. Currently, 221 acres are leased, leaving lots of room for future development.

The average book value of one acre of developable land at the Port of Skagit is \$65,898.

Why is this important? Because for

See Letters, p. 8

Take Your Girls Out Night

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 5:30 TO 7 P.M.

PeaceHealth United General, Sedro-Woolley
Diagnostic Imaging Lobby, no reservation necessary

Bring your sisters, mothers, aunts and friends to an evening just for you and your girls. Tour the breast center, schedule your mammogram, enjoy tasty treats, lattes and seated massages.



Election 2015

Concrete elections: Opposing views on library district annexation, withdrawals shake up council races

By Haley McNealey
Edited by Katy Tomasulo

In the Nov. 3 election, registered voters in Concrete will have the opportunity to voice their stance on Proposition 1, annexation of Concrete into the Upper Skagit Library District. Residents have met the proposal with mixed responses, with some expressing strong support for the move and others expressing strong opposition. Ultimately, voters have the power to determine the outcome, and it is their responsibility to fully understand what annexation would entail and the

reasons for and against such a move.

If approved, annexation will require a tax increase, with a maximum annual increase of 50 cents for every \$1,000 of assessed property value, or \$50 for every \$100,000. The tax money collected would eliminate the need for each individual to pay a fee to purchase a library card (currently \$8/three months, \$30/year, \$25/year for senior and handicapped residents, and \$10/year for an additional family member), providing services and access

to an assortment of media and resources to the entire community with no direct associated cost.

Concrete resident Crissie Wilson, who contributed to the statement opposing the annexation, stated the importance of understanding where funding for the annexation would come from. "This is not a free service," she said. "You will be taxed." Wilson also said that the additional tax would not only affect property owners, but also those who rent: Landlords facing increased property taxes from the measure could pass those costs along to residents via higher rental fees.

Annexation proponents advocate that the library provides a safe place for youth to assemble for studying, although opponents argue that school libraries already are accessible to students at no cost. Nevertheless, the library would also be accessible to residents of all ages who are not students.

Another item up for debate are library hours; while Internet service and materials that can be used remotely are available at all hours, the library is only open four days a week when many people are at work or school. However, it can also be argued that annexation and additional funding could present the possibility of increasing open hours. Annexation may also present more opportunities for grants and donations by demonstrating community support, enabling the library to provide more quality services to all town residents. In addition, residents would expand their resources, gaining access to other local libraries, including the facilities in Burlington and Darrington, without purchasing a card. The argument for annexation also includes compelling families to remain in Concrete, as well as attracting tourists and increasing local business activity.

Neither side sees eye to eye on the wireless Internet issue: While the committee opposing annexation suggests having the "security and availability" of WiFi at home, annexation supporters refer to the library's WiFi service as a "lifeline for residents without Internet at home."

Council race

Along with Proposition 1, Concrete residents will vote on four Town Council positions. Primary elections narrowed the field to two candidates for each position.

For Council Position 1, Rob Thomas and Bill Sullivan will appear on the ballot, though Sullivan has announced his withdrawal from the election, citing medical reasons. For Council Position 2, the names of current representative Dave Pfeiffer and Marianne Holbrook will appear on the ballot, although Holbrook also has announced withdrawal from the election because of relocation. If either Sullivan or Holbrook receives the most votes in the general election, they will be presented with the option of immediately declining to take office or taking the oath and resigning from the position. In each of these cases, the Town Council will appoint a person to fill the position. Current councilmembers Ginger Kyritsis and Marla Reed also are up for reelection; each is running unopposed. Current councilmember Mike Bartel and mayor Jason Miller are not up for reelection; their terms expire at the end of 2017.

General election ballots should arrive in mailboxes by Oct. 20; they must be postmarked by Nov. 3 or dropped off in a drop box or scheduled van drop by 8 p.m. Nov. 3.

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

Port race, cont. from p. 4

Community Action Association legislative committee chair, four years. Chair of the Housing Authority of Skagit County, Skagit Community Foundation, Sedro-Woolley Rotary, others.

In his words:

"I am a true believer in the port mission, 'good jobs for our community.' I believe my extensive management experience and very broad community involvement have given me the tools to be an effective commissioner, which I believe I am or I would not be running. The Port of Skagit has never been more successful. I am very proud of our accomplishments and want to continue to make the valley even better for our children and grandchildren."

What challenges does the Port face?

"Infrastructure: Much of the Port infrastructure is connected to our La Conner marina. Lack of proper attention for many years has taken its toll. The current commission will continue to take significant steps to address this issue, along with the infrastructure of our airport and industrial park. We must never forget that good infrastructure is the key to the Port's existence."

"Budget: The commission and executive director spend much time ensuring that revenues grow faster than expenses. We have recently developed a long-term plan of finance, which we believe will take care of this now and into the future without new taxes."

What are the Port's strengths?

"A very experienced and well-educated commission that works well together. Their harmonious relationship is founded on mutual respect and fairness to all, and, most important, each is committed to the port mission and interests of all Skagit citizens. Major decisions are deliberated carefully."

"Although the Port has been a pioneer in forging successful partnerships, I think we can and should do better. Recently the commission initiated a policy that should help. When asked, we are now committed to working on any qualified project in Skagit County that is consistent with the Port's mission, whether or not it is on Port property."

Pola Kelley

Age: 65

Occupation:

Executive Director, Sedro-Woolley Chamber of Commerce since July 2009.

Public office experience:

None.

Community service experience:

PeaceHealth United General Medical Center Governing Board. United General Hospital Advisory Board. Founding member of Skagit Business Alliance. Skagit County Chamber of Commerce Executive Directors Assn member and former president. Boys and Girls Club Community Advisory Board. Sedro-Woolley Leadership Group partner. Cascade Loop Assn Board of Directors. Member of Economic Development Assn of Skagit County, the Association of Washington Business, the Washington Chamber of Commerce Executives, the Washington Tourism Alliance, and the Sedro-Woolley Rotary Club.

In her words:

"I am running because our community is on the verge of a major manufacturing breakthrough, with the Port assisting in the redevelopment of the former Northern State site. The mission of the Port is providing good jobs for the community. We can do this and still offer a beautiful



Kelley

place to live. The Northern State campus is vital to sustainable and controlled growth in the Skagit Valley, particularly District 3. The Skagit Valley can become the 21st century leader in world-changing technology."

What challenges does the Port face?

"The challenges facing the Port include managing the current infrastructure while stretching resources to fulfill the commitment to the adaptive reuse project at the former Northern State site. The current infrastructure components owned by the Port include the airport, the La Conner Marina and RV Park, and the 83 tenants in the Bayview Business Park. There is also an obligation on the Port, with the other government entities and the tribes, to keep the Swinomish Channel open. But the Port District encompasses most of the county and also has an obligation to serve all the way to Marblemount."

What are the Port's strengths?

"The Port's strengths include an excellent staff, a wealth of knowledge of the area, and a proven performance in working with EDASC to attract

See Port race, p. 5

★★★★★ **Elect Rob Thomas** ★★★★★

Concrete Town Council Position 1

- ★ Seeking to secure the people and financial resources needed to help move Concrete forward.
- ★ Seeking to improve the infrastructure while promoting economic development.

23 YEARS serving and living in Concrete!

Paid for by Rob Thomas

VOTE POLA KELLEY

PORT COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 3

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Pola Kelley

Election 2015

Port of Skagit candidates eye Dist. 3 Commissioner seat. *Concrete Herald* invited them to share their views—in their own words.

Bill Shuler (incumbent)
Occupation: Retired CEO.
Public office experience: Sedro-Woolley City Council, eight years. Port of Skagit Commissioner, 5.5 years.
Community service experience: Sedro-Woolley Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, five years. United Way Board of Directors, eight years. State



Shuler

See Port race, p. 5

Continuing A Legacy of Quality Care and Dependable Service



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Skagit Regional Clinics is excited that the experienced providers from **Physicians Care Family Medicine** have joined our organization and remain in the community, continuing their legacy of providing quality care and dependable service in Sedro-Woolley.

Dr. Jacobsen will be moving from Burlington to join the Family Medicine team at our Mount Vernon location. Our Family Medicine departments welcome patients of all ages, and work collaboratively with you to address your family's long-term health care needs.

Quality care and dependable service, from the providers you know and trust is right here at Skagit Regional Clinics Sedro-Woolley Family Medicine. Schedule your appointment today!



Gilson Giroto
DO



Robert Jacobsen
MD



Edwin Stickley
MD



Tiffany Johns
PAC



Kimm Layland
PAC



Skagit Regional Clinics
Sedro-Woolley Family Medicine
A department of Skagit Valley Hospital

Contact us at 360-856-4141 or visit our office at 1990 Hospital Drive, Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284

srclinics.org

Rebuttal to the Statement Against Proposition 1 for the library

Editor's note: The Washington State Voters' Pamphlets will be mailed in mid-October. The following commentary is a personal rebuttal to the "Statement Against" Concrete joining the Upper Skagit Library District that will be found in the Voters' Pamphlet.

The proposal before the Concrete voters is whether they should join the Upper Skagit Library District (USLD) and pay their fair share of the facility, which is conveniently located in town. Concrete is unique, in that it actually has a lower total tax rate than its neighbors in the surrounding county taxing district. That will remain true even with the proposed addition of the levy for the library district. The "Statement Against Concrete joining the Upper Skagit Library District" that appears in the Washington State Voters Pamphlet makes some false statements, some misleading ones, and a very one-sided view when it comes to paying taxes.

False statements

The measure before Concrete voters is whether to join the Upper Skagit Library District, which includes your neighbors in essentially the same area as the Concrete School District. It is not to join any larger, nonexistent "County Library system" as the opponents would have you believe. A countywide rural library system was on the ballot in 1997 and 1998. Although this measure failed countywide, it passed in the rural precincts of Eastern Skagit County within the Concrete School District. That measure was specifically for a rural library district and so the issue was not on the Concrete ballots. Later, a ballot measure created the Upper Skagit Library District, which has essentially the same boundaries as the Concrete School District (CSD), minus Concrete. At that time, the residents of Concrete were not included in the vote because the Town Council wasn't quite ready to give up hope of re-funding its own library.

The statements that "local equity to be moved to the county" and "your local taxes would be moved to support all the county libraries" are totally false. The Upper Skagit Library District has not and does not fund any other libraries in any way.

Paid commentary

The reason the Concrete Library closed is because the Town Council could no longer afford to fund it. The Upper Skagit Library (USL) did not "move in" and push the town's library out as implied. The Town Council faced problems balancing its budgets and simply decreased the library's funding year after year until it was no longer supportable, and finally the library was closed. A check of the archived Town Council minutes or an interview with previous council members or mayors will support this fact. The same sort of budgetary constraints has caused the Concrete School District not to place the school libraries at the top of its priority list. The district still tries to do its best, but funding for its libraries is not protected or fenced off from other expenses.

Misleading statement: Funding the library through a mill levy versus simply buying a library card.

The USL has made every effort to keep fees for library cards reasonable. That doesn't mean the current card fees actually provide equitable compensation to keep the doors open, the lights on, the shelves stocked, or the staff paid. Nor are holders of the cards that are purchased eligible to use all the services available to the other residents of eastern Skagit County.

Let's compare the funding for the USLD to that for the Emergency Medical Services (EMS). The EMS tax levy is only slightly lower than the proposed library levy, but that system cannot exist without an across-the-board tax on everyone. Many people understand that to make a quality service available for everyone, everyone needs to help pay for it whether they use it or not. However, there is a major difference between the EMS and the library. If you call EMS out, they will still bill you for whatever services are provided on top of whatever you already paid via your property taxes. The library has no such additional fees to contend with.

Misleading question: Why not support the school library?

I strongly believe we should support the school libraries, just as all the other supporters of this measure do, but school libraries are not replacements for public libraries as they imply. Considering the complaint made in the Statement Against about the limited "bankers' hours" of the USL, it's strange that the statement proposes placing even more constraints on access. Contrary

to the implication, the school libraries are not available to students whenever they want to use them and are obviously closed during nonschool hours. When they are open and available, they are open only for students. I believe it would be far more productive for the CSD and the USL to work together cooperatively to provide more and better learning opportunities for all students. I understand those efforts are already under way and we should not start needless petty turf wars that are not in the students' or the community's best interests.

Misleading question: Why not have the security and availability of your own Wi-Fi?

Immediately after the complaint about the library currently only being open "bankers' hours," the next statement is about the unlimited Wi-Fi and it being accessed at all times of the day and night. The two complaints are contradictory. In some ways the Wi-Fi is like the bank's ATM or night depository. They are both available at "all times of the day and night." Should we ask the bank to shut its services down at night? Exactly what's the difference?

The biggest complaint: taxes

The biggest issue in the opponents' statement appears to be the issue of taxes, so let's take a look at that from varying perspectives.

All of the town's major projects (costing over \$250,000) and many of its smaller ones have received a significant portion of their funding from grants. The money for those state and federal grants comes from taxes paid by people living outside the town's taxing district. Some of those taxes were paid by people like me, who, although they live outside town limits, think of Concrete as their community and do their best to support it. Many more taxes were paid for town projects by people who have never even heard of Concrete and will never set foot in it. Why should nonresidents pay anything to support any of the Town's projects? Because civic-minded people value community in the greater sense of the word. These people believe in not only the town, but the people who live here. Those people are willing to help Concrete become a better place to live by providing much of the funding for such things as the wastewater treatment plant, water system upgrades, re-paving streets, renovating the Thompson Bridge, and the new fire hall. Outside district funding is also a significant part

of the Concrete School District budget.

The same implied logic used in the "Statement Against" is based on the concept of "I don't use it, so I shouldn't have to pay for it" and can be expanded to many other areas:

- I don't use EMS, so I shouldn't pay for it.
- I've never had a fire, so I shouldn't pay for a fire department.
- I never call the police, so I shouldn't pay for them.
- I don't have any kids, so I shouldn't pay for schools.
- I don't drive on that road, so I shouldn't have to pay to repave it.

The list could go on and on.

If this is truly a valid thought process, then at what point will the authors rise up and demonstrate against paying any taxes for any reason, or from accepting outside tax monies to build the local infrastructure they enjoy?

Taxes, although not a popular word, are what citizens use to finance all essential services, whether that be roads, hospitals, or fire and police protection. Why consider the library essential? Probably one of the biggest reasons is because there aren't many, if any, other things left that bind our community together. Concrete historically was home to almost a dozen community social and fraternal organizations that served the community as hubs, providing services and a spirit of community cohesion. These organizations are gone; only their empty or re-purposed buildings remain. In many ways, Concrete no longer exists as a community because we all go our separate ways doing separate things without any established common bonds or interests. The unique thing about public libraries is they provide that unifying thread through their variety of books, magazines, reference materials, videos, and programs. In this manner, we can have both our individuality while sharing the common desire to explore our own interests.

Will Rogers, the popular humorist, philosopher, and social commentator from the 1920s and '30s will be forever remembered for having the knack of making sense of sometimes complex issues with simple yet profound statements. He made such a statement that is appropriate with regard to the statement against:

"It isn't what we don't know that gives us trouble, it's what we know that ain't so."

Please vote "YES" on Proposition 1 to support our community and the Upper Skagit Library District.

—John Boggs

These people know how much the library adds to our community, so they support it.



If you don't already know, we invite you to find out.

Join us for a public forum to answer any questions on this issue on **Wed., Oct. 21, 7 p.m.** at 5b's Bakery, 45597 Main St., Concrete

~ or ~
Visit the **Upper Skagit Library**, 45770B Main St., Concrete www.upperuskagit.lib.wa.us 853-7939

Sun.-Mon. closed,
Tue. & Wed. 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.,
Thur. closed,
Fri. 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.,
Sat. 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Vote YES to join the library district!

every acre of port land that was leased in 2013, the community received these returns:

- \$1,013,575 in direct business revenue
- 5.2 direct jobs, with salaries 6.3 percent above the Skagit County average
- Seven indirect jobs
- \$50,679 in state and local tax revenues
- \$6,911 annual land rent

The Port of Skagit uses the revenue generated by its leases to pay overhead and to invest in income-producing assets. To ensure the Port of Skagit can continue to produce a high return on investment in the years to come, our economic development strategy focuses on recruitment of high-caliber companies that will create sustainable household wage jobs for people in Skagit County.

Lynn Torset
Sedro-Woolley

Creating life-long learners

Do I support Concrete joining the Upper Skagit Library District? Of course!

The old saying, “books are the gateway to the world,” may be a little cliché, but it’s true. Some of my fondest childhood memories revolve around books. From my first trip at 4 years old to Saturday storytime at a little library back in West Virginia, to staying up all night in middle school reading under the covers with a flashlight, I traveled the universe and explored strange worlds. Books opened up my eyes to greater possibilities than could be found in the little town I grew up in. My access to the library transformed me into a life-long learner, and I have worked diligently to inspire all my students never to stop being willing to learn.

Although I’ve changed the location where I now teach, I still strongly support providing all the students in the Concrete School District the tools they need to succeed in whatever they choose to do. In today’s world, access to information and the curiosity to seek it out has become the deciding factor that separates the achievers from the nonachievers.

Vote “YES” to join the library!

Mike Criner
Concrete

Current library fee a barrier for kids

As a local educator, I urge the citizens

of Concrete to support the current library initiative.

For my third graders, I encouraged a reading program in conjunction with the Upper Skagit Library for the summer, to continue the gains they made over the school year. It is critical to understand what a barrier the library fee can be for many students. Most expressed concern in wondering whether they would have access to check out the library materials; some would and some would not.

The more we can reduce barriers and equalize the playing ground for all students, the better off we all will be in the long run. Not too far from now, these children will be our mathematicians, writers, scientists, artists, and teachers—to name but a few of their options. Some will be parents and all will be citizens.

A vote yes and an increase in taxes is an investment in these children, who will have not known any barrier to the joy of reading and access to the materials that stimulate and excite them to continue their growth and pursue their interests. This could be the door that opens their world to a future otherwise unknown.

Mia Roozen
Rockport

Independent water resources agency would be beneficial

Skagit well owners will get another opportunity to put Ecology in the rear-view mirror.

Skagit Citizens Alliance for Rural Preservation (SCARP) reported on Sept. 24 that Senator Kirk Pearson’s office has promised to pursue restoration of Washington State’s original “Water Resources Department,” which was seized by Governor Evans in 1970.

SCARP believes citizens are entitled to have a voice regarding management of this precious resource, which, according to local law, belongs to “the people of the state.”

Last January the Columbia-Snake River Irrigators Association gave SCARP permission to re-introduce a bill it submitted in 2000, which reads in part, “The Water Resources Program should be functionally removed from under the broad regulatory umbrella of the Dept. of Ecology. An elected Water Resources Commission should be formed with bifurcated representation between Eastern and Western Washington.”

With many other issues on their agenda, the “Irrigators” were pleased that SCARP promised to ensure that the proposal is

THIS AND THAT

By J. K. M.

The **Concrete Trail System Committee** will host a workshop in the Concrete High School Commons room on Sat., Nov. 14, from 9:30 a.m. to noon.

The committee was formed with guidance and assistance from the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program to assist Concrete as it develops an integrated series of multi-use trails in town, with the intent to connect that system to adjacent county, state, and federal public lands.

The workshop is free and open to the public. Participants are invited to share their ideas, concerns, and visions for the trail system.

For more information, contact Jason Miller at goodwords@frontier.com or 360.853.8213.

Skagit Transit has announced service changes effective Nov. 2:

- Flex Route 8 to Concrete will be replaced by Fixed Route 717 and complementary paratransit service.
- Route 717 will begin operating on a new schedule and adjusted route.
- Local fares will be charged on Route 717: \$1 Regular, \$0.50 Youth, and \$0.50 Reduced or Disabled. One-day and 31-day passes are also available.
- Skagit Transit will begin offering one additional morning round trip per weekday to Concrete.
- Flex Route 750 will begin operating on a new schedule.

Details on the Nov. 2 service changes can be viewed at www.skagittransit.org.

Port race, cont. from p. 5

new business. I believe the Port could be improved upon by increasing its partnerships with nongovernment entities. The current Northern State project has clearly demonstrated what can happen when government entities join together to see a project completed, but there should be other groups with vested interests encouraged to be involved as well. The public can often best be served when the private sector is an actively engaged partner. In the end, it’s all about jobs.”

Council summary

Concrete Town Council met for regular meetings on Sept. 14 and 28, with a 2016 Budget Workshop preceding the Sept. 28 meeting. The following is a summary of those three meetings. Complete and council-approved minutes for every council meeting are posted on the town’s Web site at www.townofconcrete.com/cminutes.php.

Sept. 14 regular council meeting

- **Public Safety:** Sgt. Chris Kading reported that deputies have been monitoring the crosswalk at SR 20 and Superior Ave., and that he feels the safety level is just average. He stated that there have not been any near misses, but he does not feel that the lights are very visible. Councilmember Dave Pfeiffer stated that he felt the zigzag markings on the street were distracting, but not in the intended way: He said they made him stare at the road surface, rather than looking for people in or near the crosswalk.
- **Parks Committee:** Committee Chair Marla Reed reported that the playground equipment has arrived

and needs to be installed. Reed also reported that the committee is working on plans for Knott Hill Park for 2016.

- Mayor Jason Miller reported on a CERT program that is being established in town. The program gives six weeks of training for anyone who is interested in volunteering during an emergency in the community. Anyone interested should contact Marcie Pierce at 360.853.7420.

Sept. 28 Budget Workshop: Utility Rate Fees

- Council discussed the proposed increases in utility rates. It was stated that water rates are being proposed to increase by a little more than the usual annual increase, which was believed to be because of the decrease in sales to Niagara Bottling.
- Councilmember Marla Reed asked about the Swap Meet and if there should be any fees added for this. Discussion ensued regarding this business. Deputy Clerk Corrina Hart stated that she and Town Planner Marianne Manville-Ailles are working on putting in place some

rules and regulations for licensing next year. She reported when the Swap Meet was originally licensed, there were no specific rules and regulations in place for oversight.

Sept. 28 regular meeting

- **Public Safety:** Sgt. Kading reported on a break-in at the Concrete Food Bank. He said a laptop had been stolen. He reported that one suspect is in custody and a second possible suspect may also be in custody tomorrow.

Sgt. Kading also reported on some graffiti done in nail polish on a bench at the library.

Sgt. Kading stated he’d have a deputy make contact with school crossing guard Tracie Meacham, for her notes on any issues at the school crossing. Mayor Miller reported that he had sent an e-mail to the Department of Transportation reporting the concern with the lights not working. Reed asked if the town can get the center light with the overhang crosswalk sign back. Sgt. Kading also reported that he does not believe the zigzag marks are working. Mayor Miller stated the

zigzags are meant to make drivers slow down. Sgt. Kading stated the Sheriff’s Office would also like to see the center light with the overhang crosswalk sign put back.

Sergeant Kading reported there was also some malicious mischief at the library, with undesirable items put into the book slot.

Mayor Miller reported Marblemount residents have told him of an increase in crime in the Marblemount area. They will hold a community meeting to discuss this issue on Oct. 4.

- Alan Wilkins reported that he witnessed a car casing the area around his neighborhood today and called 911.
- Town Engineer Cody Hart reported on the town’s pursuit of grant funding for the Spray Park and wastewater infrastructure projects.

Keep track of your council

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

RE-ELECT BILL SHULER PORT OF SKAGIT COMMISSIONER POSITION 3



“A strong economic base is vital to the health of Skagit County, and begins with a robust, active port. We must create new sustainable, family-wage jobs; I believe the port’s role is central to that task. If re-elected, I will do my best to ensure the Port of Skagit keeps all projects and future projects moving forward, and that full use of the Northern State site becomes a reality.”

Paid for by Bill Shuler

PROVEN LEADERSHIP ★ EXPERIENCE ★ COMMITMENT

Population Health group releases quality-of-life survey results

A 108-page report is being called a vital first step toward helping community leaders identify concerns and hopes for improved health in Skagit County.

Released on Sept. 28, the report summarizes the results of a “quality of life” survey that gathered feedback from more than 1,500 Skagit County residents.

Completed by volunteer respondents between June 21 and July 10, the survey was conducted on behalf of the Skagit County Board of Health, a public policy board made up of the county’s three elected commissioners. Sponsors of the survey were the 28 members of a countywide health advisory panel operating as the Skagit County Population Health Trust Advisory Committee, which formed in January 2015.

Population Health Trust Advisory Committee Project Director David Jefferson said that those engaged in the process, including private and public sector

representatives, plan to identify and act on quality-of-life issues ranging from housing and employment to education and health care.

“Our advisory committee members have invested enthusiastically in this process, starting with this quality-of-life survey,” said Jefferson. “This survey represents a vital element of our commitment to help leaders in our communities identify and take action to address issues that most directly impact our quality of life.”

With qualitative elements of the community-wide survey now complete, the Population Trust Advisory Committee has solicited the aid of a consultant to compile quantitative data, such as percentage of residents with health insurance, employment rate, and number of people spending more than 30 percent of household income on rent.

In November or December, the Population Health Trust will host a series of public meetings around the County. Full results of the quality of life survey are available www.skagitcounty.net/PHTAC/Documents/survey2015/PHT%20Health%20summary%20report.pdf.

Come see the latest addition to the North Cascades Vintage Aircraft Museum!



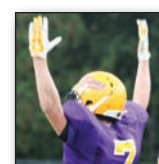
We just acquired the iconic N25K 1944 Beech D17S Staggerwing and it's a sight to behold. Stop by and see for yourself! Winter hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am – 3 pm and weekends by appointment only.

info@vintageaircraftmuseum.org





Sports



Football team one of three eyeing playoff spot

By Ron Rood, coach

Concrete's football Lions finished September with a record of 3-1 overall and 2-1 in league. The NWB League has only one playoff spot this year; after the first round of league play, it appears that there are three contenders for that berth.

League-leading La Conner defeated the Lions 40-23 in the opening game for both schools. Concrete held a 15-14 lead at halftime, but La Conner sped away from the Lions in the second half. Concrete was hurt somewhat when county rushing leader Dylan Clark (89 yards in the first half) and slotback Randall Beacham (first touchdown) both had to drop out of the game with injuries early in the second half. La Conner, which finished runnerup to the defending league champion Lions last season, is a very strong team again.

Week two saw the Lions travel to Friday Harbor and defeat the home team 43-8 to even their league record. A strong Lion defense held the Wolverines to only 78 yards rushing and picked off four interceptions. Linebackers Donnie Olmstead, Clark, and defensive end Jesse Stewart led the defensive effort. Clark had more than 200 yards of total offense, ran for two scores, and threw to Tyler Labrousse for two more. Beacham was an extra point machine, rushing for two PATs and kicking three others.

Orcas-Lopez came to town next, and the new combination gave Concrete all it could handle before the Lions

prevailed 40-38 in the last minute of the game. Orcas added 10 Lopez athletes when they combined, including speedy 210-pound running back Vinny Kramer. Orcas already returned all-NWB quarterback Miles Harlow, who shredded the Concrete defense for 297 yards and four touchdowns in the game. Concrete led 16-0 after the first quarter, but two Lion fumbles fueled an Orcas scoring explosion. The Vikings held a 38-24 lead after three quarters, but a gritty Concrete defense refused to fold and shut out the Vikings in the fourth quarter to allow the comeback. The Lions unleashed a bruising ground game that appeared to wear down Orcas-Lopez in the fourth quarter led by five bulldozers named Nevin, Lerma, Olmstead, Bergsma, and Hansen who masqueraded as Concrete's front line. Olmstead ran for 102 yards in the game and Clark 195. Clark passed 10 yards to Labrousse to knot the game at 38 all and ran for the conversion to put the Lions up 40-38 with only 52 seconds left. However, two Viking passes and an untimely penalty put Orcas-Lopez in position to score until Labrousse intercepted a pass to seal the victory with 12 ticks left on the clock.

The month wound up with Concrete hosting AAA Mission Secondary school from British Columbia in a nonleague game won by the Lions 44-18. The Roadrunners packed the front line with



Lion Tyler Labrousse steps in front of an Orcas receiver and snags an interception in the waning seconds of the Sept. 18 matchup on home turf, sealing a 40-38 Concrete win.

defenders to stop the Lion's rushing attack, but fell victim to a Lions air raid. Clark and Labrousse connected for four touchdown passes of 38, 53, 57, and 25 yards—all in the first half. Cole Meacham led a balanced rushing attack, and the Lions amassed more 500 yards of total offense.

Concrete had a bye for the week of Sept. 28 since Darrington dropped its league schedule and the Lions were unable to schedule replacement games.

On Oct. 9, Concrete travels to La Conner for a crucial league matchup to begin the second round of league games.

Soccer seeks playoff berth

By Adam Woodworth, head coach

At mid-season, the Concrete Lions find themselves with a steep but not impossible challenge ahead. A goal of this year's team is to make it to the playoffs, something that has eluded the squad for a number of rebuilding years. This year the postseason will allow for the top three teams in the league to battle in bi-district play. Currently the Lions sit just below that third seed, but have proven to be more than a bump in the road for the league's top teams.

When this group is clicking and playing as a team, they've had more quality chances than can be recalled from recent seasons. With six goals in their first seven games, and allowing 34, it raises some concerns without a doubt. Compare that

to a year ago, when at this same point in the season the team had scored six and allowed 32, the similarity in numbers doesn't look like a marked improvement. That being said, this team is built differently and the defense has been given a huge challenge, defending with only three backs for the last 17 goals allowed. The opposition's scoring frequently has come in quick bursts, interrupted by long periods of quality shutout defense and goalkeeping by the Concrete ladies.

The attacking third of the field, where much of team's practice has been focused early in the season, is feeling much more confident and challenging defenses in new ways with creative combinations and excellent through passes. Set pieces and strong challenges earning penalty kicks have been when the Lions find their most success, all because of the hard work and emphasis on a possession-oriented style of play.

While the second half of the season holds its share of challenges, including five games in 10 days—two of which require trips to King County—the focus will be shifting back toward what is already a strong defensive base, building the trust among the group, and climbing toward that third playoff seed. This is a group that has the ability to shine if they take their fate into their own hands and rediscover their passion for their teammates, for the school, and for the game.



Above: Iris Nevin drives between two Orcas Island opponents on her way to the Vikings' goal during a Sept. 10 home game.

Below: Chloe Stidman tangles with an Orcas player during the Sept. 10 game.



Below: Nora Towner challenges a Vikings opponent during the Sept. 10 home game.



Lion defenders swarm a Viking runner during the Sept. 18 home game.

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www.edwardjones.com

You're invited to attend a Trail System Workshop

Learn more about efforts to develop a trail system in Concrete!

WHEN:

Sat., Nov. 14, 9:30 a.m. to noon

WHERE:

Concrete High School
commons room

WHAT:

Presentation by Concrete
Trail System Committee

Concept maps and plan, lots of chances to provide feedback to the team. Refreshments provided.

If you'd like to improve Concrete's trail system, you're invited!

For more information, contact Jason Miller at
goodwords@frontier.com or 360.853.8213.

Bar is high for volleyball competition

By Kevik Rensink, coach

The Concrete High School volleyball program has had some early success through September and is gearing up for another run at the post-season by finishing strong in October.

We started off the season with a 3-0 win over Mount Rainier Lutheran, winning all three games by two points in overtime.

It was a crazy start to a crazy season. It came with a lot of anticipation, we learned some new things about our team, and the girls were filled with emotion. That first match set the stage for a fun season, but it also set the bar for a competitive season.

We have been having both.

After finishing third in the Shoreline Tournament, we started league play by dropping our first three matches to Friday Harbor, Darrington, and Shoreline Christian. We competed very well against Darrington, we were overpowered by Friday Harbor, and lost a heartbreaker to Shoreline Christian. It was a tough way to start out league, but the players have done an amazing job of bouncing back

and persevering. Since that time we have beaten Orcas Island twice (home and away), and own the tie-breaker if it is needed for seeding in the playoffs. Both wins were obviously huge for us after starting out 0-3.

We won 3-1 at Orcas, where Jasmine Hopfield recorded 12 kills and two blocks, Cassidy Cargile had 24 assists, and Ellie Grass went 26-26 from the serve line while recording six aces.

On Oct. 2 we won 3-1 again, but in more dramatic fashion as the scores were 29-27, 25-23, 13-25, and 25-21. This time Jaycelyn Kuipers took over at the net, recording 10 kills, while Cargile led us with 11 assists. Katelin Pritchard had her best match of the season, going 18-18 from the serve line while recording three aces (including the game winners).

Both the varsity and JV teams are playing well; both have recorded five wins on the season. The JV is 5-4, while varsity is 5-6. Our players continue to get better, and it is so fun to watch them come

together. "Together" is how we need to finish the season because "together" is our only chance to be great.

Hopfield and Cargile continue to do a great job of leading this team. They are keeping everyone focused and involved on every play. Taylor Aldridge and Grass continue to show a toughness and competitive spirit that is contagious in late-game situations. Pritchard gets better every day, and has developed great communication and leadership skills beyond my expectations. Kuipers, Hannah Rensink, and Emily Bridge bring a lot of heart and hustle, and they are easy to feed off of when they are making amazing plays all over the place. Meanwhile, Grace Clemons grows with leaps and bounds, and is really starting to show off her skill set that earned her a varsity roster spot as a freshman.

I am so proud of this team, and I look forward to what the next month has in store for us: only good things. I know there is no other option.



Lion Jasmine Hopfield (in front) and teammate Taylor Aldridge soar to reject a Lady Braves spike as Concrete hosted La Conner on Oct. 1.

Middle school volleyball kicks off new season

By Rob Thomas, coach

On Sept. 9, 14 girls committed themselves to each other as teammates as they began the 2015 season for Concrete Middle School volleyball. For those girls not able to take advantage of playing in the springtime with Concrete High School volleyball Coach Kevik Rensink, this is their first exposure to competitive volleyball.

The goals for this season are:

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

Since there are five 8th graders and nine 7th graders, one or two 7th graders will be moved up to the 8th grade team for each

match.

The first match of the season was against Orcas Island. As expected, many of the girls were nervous with this being their first opportunity to play against another school. Added to that were the dynamics of playing in an unfamiliar gym, as well as traveling on the ferry (a first for some of the players). The 8th grade team started strong with a 25-14 victory, in which 21 of 25 of their serves went in. They lost their second game 23-25 in a back-and-forth affair. Down by three points and with no room for error, the girls stormed back to win the game and the match 17-15. Although the 7th grade team came up short in all three of their games, they showed improvement throughout the match. This was especially evident in their hustle to get to the ball.

The second match of the season was at home against Mount Vernon Christian. A traditional powerhouse, MVC excelled in serving and controlling the ball. Concrete's 7th graders fell short in the first game 23-25. Although they lost their remaining two games, a highlight was scoring 10 aces against the Hurricanes.

The 8th grade team seemed to be somewhat intimidated in the first game by the power of MVC's serves. In the second and third games, Concrete's girls responded by being much more effective in returning the serves. Even though the 8th graders lost all three games, they played with great intensity and enthusiasm. From a coaching perspective, the players brought their A game when it came to attitude and effort.

The season will consist of 10 matches: five at home and five away. This year's schedule includes Mount Vernon Christian, Orcas Island, La Conner, Darrington, and Friday Harbor. The girls are looking forward to a competitive year, especially with getting to go to the islands (Orcas and Friday Harbor) for two of their matches.

Matches are normally on Tuesdays and Thursdays, with the first game starting at 4 p.m. (Please contact the high school for a current schedule.) The Concrete Middle School girls would love to have you come and support them throughout the season, which will end on Oct. 27.



Lexi Denly reaches high to send the ball back to the La Conner side, while teammate Michelle Samuelsen looks on. The two middle school teams battled on the Lion home court on Oct. 1.



OCTOBER

IN CONCRETE

Join us in Concrete for a month-long celebration of fall and Halloween, with a variety of activities for young and old.

SCARECROW CONTEST

October 1-7
Families, businesses and clubs: Help decorate Main Street with scarecrows! Register to enter at Sb's Bakery and get your scarecrow's "bones." Cost is \$20, or a donation of \$20 worth of shelf-stable food. Donations will be used for holiday food baskets for needy local families. Information at Sb's Bakery or email: info@5bsbakery.com.

October 10-31
Vote for your favorite scarecrow at Sb's or on Facebook (See: October in Concrete). Prizes \$25 gift certificate from Sb's Bakery, movie tickets from Concrete Theatre.

PUMPKIN PAINTING

Saturday, October 24
2:00-5:00 pm
Cupcakes, local fresh apple cider, hot chocolate and face painting.

CONCRETE GHOST WALK

Every Saturday at 6:00 p.m.
Starting at the Concrete Theatre. Tickets: www.concrete-wa.com. Adults only. Note: Sb's Bakery is open for dinner till 6:00 p.m., October Saturdays only.

GHOST STORIES

Thursday, October 29 at 7:00 p.m.
For tickets: www.concrete-wa.com. Adults only.

TRUNK-OR-TREAT

Saturday, October 31 at 3:00 p.m.
Join in the sidewalk parade from Sb's Bakery to Trunk-or-Treat in Bear Square.

HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA 2

Movie at the Concrete Theatre October 30 at 4:00 & 7:30 p.m.. See: www.concrete-theatre.com
Special ticket price at 4:00 p.m.

HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL

Saturday, October 31
5:00 - 7:00 p.m. at the Elementary School Gym sponsored by Concrete Lions Club.



OCTOBER events are sponsored by the Concrete Chamber of Commerce, Concrete Herald, Concrete Heritage Museum, Sb's Bakery, Concrete Theatre and Concrete Lions Club.



Academics



Concrete Elementary School students gathered for a Sept. 30 Recognition Breakfast in honor of their special efforts. Front row, from left, Jacob Oliver (always doing his best work), Alex Hammond (big improvement in maturity and behavior), Conner Patton (working hard and doing the Extra Models Growth Mindset), Eva Ramos (always works to learn, even when it's difficult), Riley Nieshe (writing his name and being able to identify the letters). Back row, from left: Rylee Baker (consistently works on tasks; shows excellence), Natalie Lahr (reading maps test performance), Alex McGreck (top speller; on to 3rd grade list), James Lockrem (most progress in math), Rylee Morgan (outstanding effort), Alejandra Peterson (stepping up to the game for reading), Payton Dickinson (uses time in class appropriately; works toward goals daily).



Concrete Elementary students were honored Sept. 25 at a "Character Assembly" that celebrated the ways they demonstrated respect. Front row, from left, Chloe Landweer, JJ DeVries, Jonah Kuipers, Willa Whitford, Matilda Meyer, Guadalupe Cardenas, Hayden Maloy. Back row, from left, Trevor Howard, Jade McAdam, Tiffanie Hendry-Conrad, Christian Joens, Vanessa Aiken. *Photo by Jaci Gallagher.*

YD update

We had our first Youth Dynamics meeting of the school year on Sept. 28 at Veterans Memorial Park, and we are so excited to see what the rest of the school year brings. More than 40 Concrete High School students showed up to our annual YD Barbecue Kick-Off event at the park, and we barely had enough food to feed all of them (note to self: bring more food).

There was a game of Ultimate Frisbee that went well after dark (short tosses, everyone), and then we brought the kids together to talk about upcoming events and what the rest of the school year holds.

The students then broke into small groups and discussed what they wanted to get out of Youth Dynamics this year. It was a great time, and I saw some students really step up and take on some leadership roles during this activity. Cool stuff!

On Oct. 5 we will host a Monday Night Football Party (GO 'HAWKS!') for any of the high school students who want to come enjoy some food, time with their peers, and watching some football. We will also have games and other activities available for those nonfootball fans.

Other upcoming events include:

- Cardboard Gladiator Night on Oct. 12
- Shark Night on Oct. 19
- Harvest Party on Oct. 26

If your son or daughter is high school age and looking for a fun, positive, encouraging place to be on Monday nights, please send them our way!

If you have any questions about Concrete Youth Dynamics or any of our upcoming events or retreats, please call us at 360.630.6063. We are just getting started, and there are so many activities planned throughout the school year.

Come be a part of it all!

—Kevik and Marta Rensink, directors

Continue the cycle

**Please recycle
this newspaper**



Flu clinics in two school districts

The Concrete and Sedro-Woolley school districts are partnering with the Seattle Visiting Nurse Association (SVNA) to provide flu shot clinics at their respective locations.

According to the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), the single best way to protect you and your family from influenza is to receive a flu shot each year.

Concrete School District

The Concrete flu shot clinic will be held at Concrete Elementary School on Wed., Oct. 28, from 3 to 6 p.m.

The Clinic is open to all Concrete School District faculty, staff, students, and their families (children 4 years of age and older). Students under 18 years old will need a Patient Consent Form signed by a parent or guardian. Forms will be available at the clinic.

All participants will be asked to provide their health insurance information (card) to receive an immunization. SVNA will electronically bill the insurance plan for flu shots, with the exceptions of Cigna, TriCare, and Kaiser. Flu shots are considered preventive care and normally are not subject to deductibles or co-pays.

Students 18 years and under without current health insurance coverage will be offered a flu shot at no cost. Adults without current insurance coverage may pay the \$28 immunization fee with cash or check.

Sedro-Woolley School District

The Sedro-Woolley flu shot clinic will be in the Sedro-Woolley High School cafeteria on Thur., Oct. 22, from 3 to 7 p.m.

All S-W School District children 4 years and older, and their families, are invited.

Students under 18 years old will need a Patient Consent Form signed by a parent or guardian. Patient Consent Forms will be available at the clinic or at each child's school.

All participants will be asked to provide their health insurance information (card) to receive an immunization. SVNA will electronically bill the insurance plan for flu shots, with the exceptions of Cigna, TriCare, and Kaiser. Flu shots are considered preventive care and are not subject to deductibles or co-pays; this means no out-of-pocket expense for participants.

Adults without current insurance coverage may pay the \$28 immunization fee with cash or check.

Please contact the appropriate building nurse with questions.

Lyman Elementary recognizes cross-age tutors

Lyman Elementary School has named its cross-age tutors for the 2015–16 school year. These students will help teachers with various tasks, such as filing, getting papers ready to go home, and working individually with students.

Helping Ms. Fath in kindergarten are Jada Christensen, Abigail Werner, Shelby Lee, Georgia Collins, Erin Hurlbutt, Linda Brothers, Jacob Blanken, Kiah Trammell, Amber Gant, Autumn Ford, and Soren Massingale.

Helping Miss Claybo in first grade are Hailey Shultz, Cameron Dreyer, Lydia LaCount, Lotus Blue, Stacy Griffith, Luci Miller, Jenna McCall, Raven Storie, Beau Mitchell, Ozzy Eriksen, and Cooper Daley.

Helping Mrs. Mayer in second grade are

Traci Bates, Searrah Martin, Ashley Lee, Gabe Skiles, Otto Tesarik, Kylie Evans, Nathan Hackett, Jacob Young, Michael Eriksen, Eddie Young, Killian Moore, and Jacob Jepperson.

SWSD tutoring applications ready

Sedro-Woolley School District Title I Supplemental Educational Services (SES) tutoring applications are now available. Tutoring is free and provided by an Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)-approved provider. The service is only available for students attending at Evergreen, Mary Purcell, and Central Elementary schools, and who qualify for free or reduced lunch. There are a limited number of tutoring spots. Applications are available at the elementary schools or on the district's Web site at www.swsd.k12.wa.us. For more information or questions, call 360.855.3879.

Kiddies Halloween Parade in Downtown Sedro-Woolley

Saturday October 31

4 pm



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Clear Lake



Community Calendar



OCTOBER

10, 17, 24, 31

- Concrete Ghost Walk (every Saturday in October), Concrete Town Center; see ad, p. 13; info at www.concrete-wa.com
- 10 Emergency Preparedness Fair, Sedro-Woolley LDS church building, 1122 McGarigle Rd., Sedro-Woolley, 10 a.m. to noon
- 10 Join the Library Committee Bake Sale, Red Apple, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- 10 Mansford Grange Harvest Festival, 1265 Railroad Ave., Darrington, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; see notice, p. 27
- 10 Darrington Community Dance, Mansford Grange (north of IGA), Darrington; potluck at 5:30 p.m., dance from 7 to 9:30 p.m.
- 10 Autumn Arts Festival (fundraiser), St. Joseph Center, 215 N. 15th St., Mount Vernon, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; info at slukner@gmail.com
- 11 Merv Peterson birthday celebration (no-gift), Marblemount Community Hall, 1 to 4 p.m.; see notice, p. 28
- 13 WSU Know & Grow Workshop: Plants for Weaving, WSU Mount Vernon NWREC Sakuma Auditorium, 16650 SR 536, Mount Vernon, 1 to 2:30 p.m.; admission by donation
- 15 Meet and Greet Candidates for Public Office in Lyman, Lyman Community Center (old Town Hall), 6:30 to 8 p.m.; coffee and dessert refreshments provided
- 17 "Fall Into Art" studio show, 605 S. Emens Ave., Darrington, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; see notice, p. 27
- 22 "The inventor's process and the impact of inventions," a presentation for entrepreneurs, Sedro-Woolley City Hall Council Chambers, 325 Metcalf St., Sedro-Woolley, 3 to 5 p.m.; free admission, register at www.nwrc.com/events; info at 360.255.7870 or dkamionka@nwrc.com
- 24 Join the Library Committee Bake Sale, Red Apple, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- 31 Kids' Trunk-or-Treat Parade and treats starts at 5b's Bakery and travels east to Bear Square, Concrete Town Center, 3 p.m.; free admission; see ad, p. 13
- 31 Kiddies Halloween Parade in downtown Sedro-Woolley and merchant trick-or-treating, 4 p.m.; info at www.sedro-woolley.com
- 31 Concrete Lions Club Halloween Carnival, Concrete Elementary School gym, 5 to 7 p.m.; free admission
- 31 KSVU Fall Fundraiser: Harvest Fest & Halloween Dance, Marblemount Community Hall, potluck dinner at 6 p.m., dance and raffle from 7 to 10 p.m.

NOVEMBER

- 3 General Election. Ballots must be postmarked by today or placed in a drop box by 8 p.m. today
- 7 Sedro-Woolley Senior Center Holiday Bazaar, 715 Pacific St., Sedro-Woolley, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; info at 360.855.1531
- 11 Veterans Day
- 14 Trail System Workshop presented by Concrete Trail System Committee, Concrete High School Commons room, 9:30 a.m. to noon; see ad, p. 9
- 14 2nd Annual Pearls for My Girls fundraiser, hosted by PeaceHealth United General Auxiliary in memory of Charlene Ovenell; The Skagit Lodge & Casino, 11 a.m.; \$25 admission, tickets at 360.724.3075 or mmcilmoyle@gmail.com
- 26 Sedro-Woolley Community Thanksgiving Dinner, Cascade Middle School, 905 McGarigle Rd., Sedro-Woolley, 12:30 to 3 p.m.; free admission, donations accepted; info at 360.855.0231 or slokkebo@yahoo.com

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

Sedro-Woolley, cont. from p. 19

S-W School District Director, District 3

Gary K. Johnson, M.D.

Age: 72

Occupation:

Ear, nose, throat, and facial plastic and reconstructive surgeon.

Public office experience:

None. I do not consider myself a politician. I am more like a concerned grandfather.

Community service experience:

Head Start Provider of the Year, trips to volunteer as doctor for an orphanage in Mexico, presenter at physician seminars in Mexico, led service trips to California and Mexico, instructor for Pacific Northwest Medical School for four years, licensed foster parent.

In his words:

"As a graduate of SWHS class of 1961, and having both parents, my wife, daughter, and sons-in-laws in teaching and administration, I have been part of education for a long time. I have an active interest in seeing that my 10 grandchildren in the Sedro-Woolley School District and all the other students have a quality education and develop a life-long interest in learning, which is the paradigm for success today."

—Deanna Ammons, historian
Clear Lake and Day Creek

What challenges does the school district face?

"In discussions with the school administrators and teachers in the district, I have learned:

1. Financing, and proper allocation of our limited resources. The school board members spend several hours per month studying the options, talking to administrators, and making choices. This requires an interest and experience in difficult decision-making. It is not that different than what our board at the office does in making decisions.
2. Listening to and gaining knowledge from the students, teachers, and staff about problems, successes, and the needs and desires of all parties needed to make a smooth road for the ultimate success of this education process."

What are the district's strengths?

"The ultimate success of any organization depends on the people, and currently there is a very competent group of administrators, teachers, and support staff present and committed. The student body has kids with great potential. The graduation rate is high. Advanced courses with college credit are available in the high school, and the local college offers a huge advantage of which students can take advantage. I see a very good education platform in Sedro-Woolley and am looking forward to helping as much as possible to continue this trend."

**Area businesses bring you Concrete Herald
each month. Please support them!**

HISTORY CORNER

Mr. Gillette proudly stands atop his hay wagon, which has been loaded with the help of two neighbors. All three farmers have

pitchforks, which were used to throw the hay up onto the hay wagon, a very labor-intensive job. The farmer on the far right is Fred Bennett. The farm was located near the Nookachamps Bridge south of Clear Lake. 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

County planners ask citizens to weigh in

Skagit County planners will host

four workshops at which county residents are invited to help shape the future of their communities.

The county is conducting a review and update of its comprehensive plan and development regulations to ensure consistency with local conditions, state laws, and population

and employment projections for the next 20 years.

The County must complete a comprehensive plan update by June 30, 2016.

The first 30 minutes of each workshop will be an "open house" format. Sessions are scheduled from

5:30 – 8 p.m. on Oct. 8 and 27, and Nov. 10. The sessions will be held in Concrete, Big Lake, and Edison, respectively.

For more information, go to www.skagitcounty.net/2016update.

—Submitted by Skagit County Planning Dept.

Community meetings

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Concrete School Board will hold a work session on Oct. 26, at 6 p.m. in the high school Commons. The board will hold its regular monthly meeting on Oct. 29, at 6 p.m., in the Commons. 360.853.8141.

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

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

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

Forest Park Cemetery District No. 5 meets

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

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

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

KSVU 90.1 FM radio training, second Wed. of each month at Portable B behind Concrete K-8 School, 1–4 p.m., open to public. Call 360.416.7001 to confirm appointment.

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

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

Marblemount Community Hall board and staff meet the second Wed. of each month at the hall, at 6:30 p.m. 360.873.2048 or 360.873.2323.

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

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

Sedro-Woolley 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 for a regular meetings on Oct. 12 at 7 p.m. at the Support Services Bldg., and on Oct. 26 at 7 p.m., at Evergreen Elementary. 360.855.3500 or kcargile@swsd.k12.wa.us.

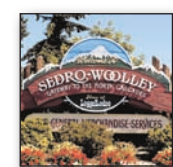
Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center Board meets the second Tue. of each month, 6:30 p.m., at Annie's Pizza Station in Grasmere. Open to the public. sauksister@frontier.com or www.skagiteagle.org.

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

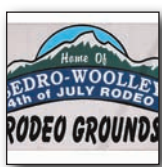


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Sedro-Woolley



Election 2015

With the general election coming Nov. 3, *Concrete Herald* invited Sedro-Woolley opposition candidates to share their viewpoints—in their own words.

City of Sedro-Woolley Mayor

Editor's note: Kevin Loy and Keith Wagoner are running for outgoing Mayor Mike Anderson's seat.

Kevin Loy Public office experience:

Eight years on Sedro-Woolley Planning Commission. Fourteen years on Skagit County Parks Board (current member). Current Sedro-Woolley City Councilman.

Community service experience:

Challenge Day/Cub Strong at Sedro-Woolley High School. Judge senior projects at Sedro-Woolley High School. Organize and emcee "Cheer at the Fair" for high school cheerleaders. Organize and emcee high school cheerleading competition and dance team exhibition. Umpire high school baseball/softball and Little League baseball/softball. Organize "Sedro-Woolley Skateboard Challenge."



Loy

President of Skagit Umpires Association.
In his words:

"Sedro-Woolley continues to raise every tax possible while the people struggle every day to get by on fixed and limited incomes. Sedro-Woolley is not a rich population as evidenced by nearly 60 percent of the students in the Sedro-Woolley School District receiving free/reduced lunches. As mayor, I will strive to take the pressure off increasing residential taxes. I will focus on creating an atmosphere that develops a positive business climate. This will attract new job opportunities in our community.

"With the City Council and the public, I will set priorities and develop a plan for the direction the city should pursue, instead of reacting to what comes next."

What challenges does Sedro-Woolley face?

"Revenue is the biggest problem. If you research the sales tax revenue over the past 10 or 15 years, you will find that the city's sales tax income has risen less than the rate of inflation or CPI. That means the city has less revenue via sales tax than in the past. That creates a scenario for raising and adding new taxes just to get to where

you used to be. I will focus on creating an atmosphere that develops a positive business climate. This will attract new job opportunities in our community.

"Sedro-Woolley has to stop being reactionary and become proactive. I will work with the City Council and the public to set priorities of what we should strive for and develop a plan (and follow it) to achieve those goals. Sedro-Woolley is lacking an identity and that needs to change."

What are Sedro-Woolley's strengths?

"Sedro-Woolley is a great town for families. Sedro-Woolley has great schools. Sedro-Woolley's library is struggling and neglected. I will make it a priority to work with the public and council to decide what the library should be, and develop a plan and timeline to accomplish that goal. Sedro-Woolley is woefully short of parks space when compared to other cities in Skagit County. Again, I would work with the public and City Council to increase and maintain our city parks. To be a healthy city, we must have adequate parks for adults and youth, we must have a modern thriving library, and we must have amenities for the citizens of our city."

Keith L. Wagoner

Age: 54

Occupation:

Retired Naval Officer; Helicopter Pilot (does not imply endorsement by the DOD or DON).

Public office experience:

Sedro-Woolley City Councilman for five years. Mayor Pro Tem for two years.

Community service experience:

Sedro-Woolley Rotary Club, American Legion Post 43, S-W Youth Football League Equipment Director/Board Member, SteelClaw Wrestling Club, Sedro-Woolley School District Bond/Levy Advisory Committees and Task Force, S-W School District Principal-for-a-Day, Senior Parents Group (2010, 2012, 2016), Founding Board member for the creation of the Denny Engberg Memorial Youth Football Field, S-W Gridiron Club supporter.



Wagoner

In his words:

"Sedro-Woolley is on the cusp of a renaissance; business starts, building permits, home sales are all up, and there is finally progress at Northern State after decades of stagnancy. We need strong, decisive leadership to move forward during this exciting time. With more than 30 years of public service, proven leadership ability, and the vision Sedro-Woolley needs to succeed, I will work hard to help us grow responsibly while respecting the unique character and heritage of our home. Go CUBS!"

What challenges does S-W face?

"Every challenge we face relates to limited resources to provide desired services to our citizens. With sufficient funds we would have few problems, but that just is not reality. The city has just two basic sources of money: its share of property and sales taxes. We have said "No!" to property tax increases for the past six years. That leaves sales tax. We must grow that pie. How do you do that? Provide a safe, secure, appealing city environment, catch up and keep up on infrastructure improvements, and, when opportunity knocks, open the door and get out of the way."

What are S-W's strengths?

"Our city, school district, and citizens make up an integrated community. People who live here love their city and are justifiably proud of our schools and our small-town-America atmosphere. We can capitalize on these strengths and cultivate a variety of jobs so our children can use their education to make a decent life without leaving the valley. Development of the Northern State property can be the catalyst that not only provides jobs, but also allows us to leverage new concepts in education to the benefit of our youth. I will ensure a cooperative environment between all parties toward that goal."

City of Sedro-Woolley City Council, Ward 4

Editor's note: Candidate Julia Johnson did not submit a response.

See Sedro-Woolley, p. 19

Sedro-Woolley, cont. from p. 18

Robert Hickman

Age: 56

Occupation:

Self-employed plumber/pipefitter for more than 30 years. Currently a plumber/pipefitter for Sedro-Woolley School District.

Public office experience:

Sedro-Woolley School Board Director, District 2, 1995–2002.

Community service experience:

Has coached youth sports for 20 years through the YMCA, SWISH Basketball League, and Sedro-Woolley Little League. Also spent time as a volunteer member of the Sedro-Woolley Little League board. Has been a member of the Sedro-Woolley Eagles and judged senior projects at Sedro-Woolley High School.

In his words:

"I would like to represent the citizens of Sedro-Woolley and be more involved in the decision process of our city.

"As a plumber and business owner for more than 30 years, I truly know what hard work is. We have a lot of hard-working people in Sedro-Woolley who I would be proud to represent as a council member."

What challenges does S-W face?

"Lack of business growth in our community. Business growth is essential for alleviating the increasing tax burden on our citizens. I would address this by determining and addressing the barriers preventing businesses from choosing to operate in Sedro-Woolley."

City of Sedro-Woolley City Council, Ward 5

Hugh Galbraith (incumbent)

Age: 67

Occupation:

Retired teacher, coach, business owner.

Public office experience:

City Councilman, church deacon, Vice President of Foothills Condo Assn, Janicki Cove board member.

In his words:

"I am running for City Council to secure the future of Sedro-Woolley. There are four areas that I want to work toward.

1. Paving and repairing every road and sidewalk in Sedro-Woolley.



Hickman

2. Fill every storefront in Sedro-Woolley and make it a thriving city center once again.
3. Continue being visible and open in our city government. We show all our issues on our city's Web site. Public hearings are announced in the local paper too, four weeks ahead of time.
4. Keep working on major land and business developments, keeping Sedro-Woolley's best interests at the center of all decisions.

"Voters should vote for me because I have the education and business background, as well as a true heart for the city. I attended a military institute during my first two years of college. It was there that I first learned leadership skills. I became an officer at the academy and was in charge of an entire platoon.

"I continued on, becoming a teacher and coach. Over the years teaching 3,500 students, my leadership continued to be used. In 1984 my family and I opened a restaurant, Jeremiah's Drive In.

"During the last 12 years, I have served the Sedro-Woolley City Council, making many decisions. Some of the big decisions that I made were:

1. Voting against the garbage recycling plant next to the high school.
2. Voting against increasing property tax.
3. Preparing for our infrastructure improvements.
4. Hiring more police officers.

"I always vote for making Sedro-Woolley the best place to live. I believe that I would be the best candidate and you should cast a vote for me."

Charles "Chuck" Owen

Age: 67

Occupation:

Retired.

Public office experience:

None.

Community service experience:

Volunteered at Sedro-Woolley Senior Center, Helping Hands Food Bank, Meals on Wheels, Citizen Patrol, worked at the City of Sedro-Woolley Yard Waste and Recycle Facility.

In his words:

"I am running for this position to be a voice for the people of my community. I care about the people, and I care about the present and the future of our city. I want to do my part to improve the standard of living here."

What challenges does S-W face?

"I believe most of the challenges facing Sedro-Woolley are hinged on economic development. Two of the top challenges

are generating greater revenue without putting all of it on the backs of the citizens, and building a prosperous and safe community for the citizens and young people, including a robust job market and local businesses and stores."

What are S-W's strengths?

"There are many strengths in Sedro-Woolley. The biggest strength we have is our people. There is a true sense of community here, and I believe most of the citizens truly care about each other and our city. One way to improve upon this is for the elected officials to be more transparent, open about policies and projects, and to truly listen to the concerns and ideas of the people of our fine city. If elected, I will listen to the people and be a voice for them.

S-W School District Director, District 3

Rich Weyrich (incumbent)

Age: 66

Occupation:

Skagit County Prosecuting Attorney.

Public office experience:

Sedro-Woolley School Board member, 2004–present. City of Sedro-Woolley Prosecutor. **Community service experience:** Central Skagit Rural Partial County Library Board of Trustees 2012–15, Washington Assn of Prosecuting Attorneys Board of Trustees and VP Elect, Sedro-Woolley Rotary Club and Auction Chairman 2015 and 2016, youth soccer and baseball coach, Big Lake Parent Group member; founder of Big Lake Parent Group auction, Board of Directors Skagit Recovery Inc.

In his words:

"Education of our children is an important issue facing Sedro-Woolley. I have served the people of Sedro-Woolley for 12 years and great strides have been made, but much is left to do. Sedro-Woolley High School has a 90 percent graduation rate, and we have made consistent progress in our testing scores thanks to our teachers and administrators. We have a new middle school and turf field for the community. I want to continue this work for our citizens."

What challenges does the school district face?

"The top two challenges for the district are the implementation of Common Core Standards and funding of schools.



Weyrich

The Common Core is the new way of delivering education through professional learning, new curriculums, and testing that will better prepare students to compete in the world. The STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) program will increase their job skills and give them a head start toward employment. Through these programs, all of us in the educational system will be accountable to our students. The issue of funding will need to be addressed by the legislature, with the board providing input."

What are the district's strengths?

"The greatest strengths of the school district are the people. When you go around the district, you see the sense of pride, from the custodians, maintenance people, cooks, bus drivers, teachers, paraprofessionals, administrators, nurses, and office staff. They all want to do their best for the students and work hard to accomplish that goal. Everyone knows the mission, and they all realize they have an important part to play in the education of our children and an impact on the rest of their lives. They take this responsibility seriously. We can encourage them to become even better role models."

See Sedro-Woolley, p. 16

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Lyman candidates, cont. from p. 22

What challenges does Lyman face?

"Town budget is my first concern.

Money is moved/borrowed from fund to fund with no explanation as to why and is very difficult to track. I agree with fellow candidate Dick Saunders, who feels 'The Town of Lyman is a business and should be managed as one. Projects need to be discussed, prioritized, and voted on each year.' General maintenance on town equipment and infrastructure should be done every year and planned for in the budget.

"The other top challenge will be Lyman citizen distrust of the elected officials.

Again, I agree with Mr. Saunders, who says that 'Lyman citizens need to be informed, and it's the mayor and council's job to make sure that is done. Policy, procedures, and town business are public record, and citizens have the right to know what is going on in their community.'

Agendas prior to the meeting and meeting minutes should be made available to the citizens electronically."

What are Lyman's strengths?

"The school system in Lyman has received the School of Distinction award recognizing it as one of the top schools in the state, and I would continue to support all efforts to sustain or improve the town's relationship with the school district. I support Mr. Saunders' statement: 'I would like to see the "Back to School Parade" start in town (to include all town citizens), like it did for many years. These children are the future and we need them to share in the ownership of our community. Lyman is a town with families that have lived here for generations' and are proud to call this their home. I would be honored to represent you as a Lyman Councilmember and ensure your voice is heard."

September in pictures



Above: Volunteers James and Ashlyn Morgareidge, along with Paul, Rebekah, Josiah, and Elijah Rider, teamed with Concrete Mayor Jason Miller Sept. 27 to plant and replant seven flowering cherry trees along the western edge of Veterans Memorial Park in Concrete. Four more trees will be planted in spring 2016 to complete the row.



Above: September found Concrete Assembly of God Pastor Bruce Martin doing a bit of touch-up painting on the church's prominent facade on Main St. in Concrete. Photo by John Boggs.
Right: Volunteer retired carpenter Chuck Harris nails up OSB sheets to seal the ceiling and walls in the new shed at Angele Cupples Community Garden in Concrete. Harris was assisted by his wife, Jodi, and Concrete Mayor Jason Miller. Next year the shed will be available to anyone who rents a bed in the garden, and will be stocked with seeds, fertilizers, gardening magazines and books, tools, and more to help gardeners grow successfully.



Below: From left, Jim and Josh Fichter, Tom Wilken, and Ray Hambleton formed the Bare Feet band for a benefit supporting Eastern Washington fire victims. Hosted by Birdsvie Brewing Co., the fundraiser pulled in more than \$5,000.

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Lyman



Day Creek



Election 2015

With the general election coming Nov. 3, *Concrete Herald* invited Town of Lyman opposition candidates to share their viewpoints—in their own words.

Town of Lyman Town Council Position 3

Mike Swanson (incumbent)

Age: 63

Occupation:

Construction superintendent, Snelson Companies Inc.

Public office experience:

Twenty years as Lyman Town Councilmember, Position 3.

In his words:

"I'm running again to continue the work that has brought Lyman to where it is as a family-based community."

What challenges does Lyman face?

"The challenges for the future are:

1. Maintain the level of service and community involvement, and
2. Attract commercial interest while keeping the small-town livability."

What are Lyman's strengths?

"I believe Lyman's strength centers around its community involvement with our school, the local food bank/library, and the Town Park, as well as the general attitude of the people of Lyman and the surrounding area to maintain a clean and safe place to raise their families."

Charles "Dick" Saunders

Age: 78

Occupation:

Retired; 32 years with the City of Mount Vernon, serving 25 years as Wastewater Dept. Superintendent.

Public office experience:

None.



Swanson



Saunders

Community service experience:

Relay for Life Cancer Walk, United Way, Hospice, YMCA member and active Lyman community member for five years.

In his words:

"I feel that Lyman has issues pertaining to town policies, procedures, financial well-being, and the overall community climate. The entire council needs to be informed when making decisions for the town and keep citizens aware of those changes. The Town of Lyman needs council members who will listen, follow through, and stand up for what is right. Currently that is not the case."

What challenges does Lyman face?

"Town finances are my first concern; fund balances are low with no explanation as to why. The Town of Lyman is a business and should be managed as one. Projects need to be discussed, prioritized, and voted on each year. General maintenance should be done yearly on town equipment, buildings, and vehicles, along with street, water, and cemetery upkeep. Lyman citizens need to be informed, and it's the mayor and council's job to make sure that is done. Policy, procedures, and town business are public record, and citizens have the right to know what is going on in their community."

What are Lyman's strengths?

"The school system in Lyman is great, and I would continue to support all efforts to sustain and/or improve that relationship. I would like to see the "Back to School Parade" start in town like it did for many years. These children are the future and we need them to share in the ownership of our community. Lyman is a town with families that have lived here for generations. I can assure you that you'll never find neighbors better than the ones I have. I would be proud to represent you as a Lyman Councilmember."

What are Lyman's strengths?

"The school system in Lyman is great, and I would continue to support all efforts to sustain and/or improve that relationship. I would like to see the "Back to School Parade" start in town like it did for many years. These children are the future and we need them to share in the ownership of our community. Lyman is a town with families that have lived here for generations. I can assure you that you'll never find neighbors better than the ones I have. I would be proud to represent you as a Lyman Councilmember."

Town of Lyman Town Council Position 4

Editor's note: Incumbent Councilmember Mike Couch did not submit a response.

Ryein Kitchen Age: 27

Occupation:

Secretary for Sedro-Woolley School District.

Public office experience:

None.

Community service experience:

Lyman School carnivals, Cemetery Beautification Volunteer 2000, Alumni Float for Lyman Back to School Parade 2012, Minkler Mansion painting volunteer 2012.

In her words:

"I am running for Town Council because I love where I live and want to promote a sense of community pride and togetherness. Growing up in Lyman my entire life, I am passionate about enhancing the quality of life for our community and eager to learn more about the political world. I listen with an open mind and analyze the facts before reaching a decision. I'm a researcher and fully committed to the best outcome and interest of the town."

What challenges does Lyman face?

"Maintaining a town budget that lives within our means and communication with town citizens are things I feel can definitely be improved upon. Evaluating our expenses and priorities toward the town is something I would like to address to help maintain the quality of life for Lyman. Citizen communication and input are something that can easily be improved. It was recently stated there wasn't enough time to continue the town newsletter. I would like to find time or take on the task so the community knows what is going on and can give input."

What are Lyman's strengths?

"Lyman School and community are by far the town's biggest strengths. Constant support is necessary for continued growth. Communication with the town and school groups on promoting events can

only make our town stronger and united. Kids are our future and anything that promotes education will benefit Lyman. I fully intend to promote community input and involvement if elected. I would be honored to have your support for Lyman Town Council."

Town of Lyman Town Council Position 5

Gail Ganga (incumbent) Public office experience:

Town Councilmember since 2012.

In her words:

"I have lived in Lyman since 2005. I do this to be involved in my community and to learn about this beautiful area and how to preserve it. I am always learning, but I do bring 35 years of business management to the table, and I want to use my knowledge to help in any way I can."

Donald Frye

Age: 45

Occupation:

Mechanical Integrity Inspector, Phillips 66 Ferndale Refinery.

Public office experience:

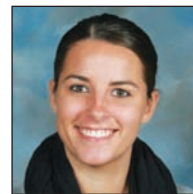
None.

Community service experience:

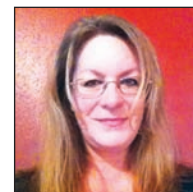
Youth soccer and baseball coach, United Way, Skagit County Search and Rescue, and active Lyman community member for 45 years.

In his words:

"I feel that the elected officials of Lyman haven't done a good job of representing the citizens. There are issues following town policies and state guidelines around open meetings. The entire council needs to be informed when making decisions for the town and keep citizens aware of those changes. The Town of Lyman needs council members who will listen, follow through, and stand up for what is right."



Kitchen



Ganga

not forgotten. On the other hand, Skagit County well owners stand to benefit from adoption of Senate Bill 5801 during the 2016 Legislative session. That goal, of course, will only be met if there's strong citizen support on both sides of the Cascades.

Although the 2013 State Supreme Court decision seriously curtailed water availability to many rural property owners in Skagit County, Ecology's failure to address the issue as promised fell far short of the mark in 2015. Cancelled Water Resource meetings and an unprecedented number of staff resignations eventually led the agency's David Christianson to declare publicly that the Department "has lost its institutional knowledge." Meanwhile, there is no apparent indication that either Ecology's Director Maia Bellon or Governor Inslee are poised to correct the situation.

On a positive note, we the people have been handed a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to take control of our water resources. But we first must convince our lawmakers that our plan is a viable one. That will require a positive attitude and a concerted effort to eliminate skepticism and selfish behavior, which has prevented a solid commitment to restore the state's original water management department.

We trust Commissioner Janicki will join residents in the county's 3rd District as they gather support for Senate Bill 5801.

This would include soliciting signatures on a previously circulated petition that proposes to re-create a water resources

Community notes

Day Creek Chapel Sunday School News

Community Movie Night is slated for Oct. 10 at 6:30 p.m. For movie choices and information, call 360.826.3522.

Day Creek Kids will host a fundraiser lunch on Sun., Oct. 11, at noon. Plans are to raise money to send "Shoebbox Christmas Packages" to children overseas in war-torn countries. Any kids wanting to participate are welcome. For more information, call 360.391.1709.

The 3rd Annual Day Creek Harvest

Party will be held on Oct. 24. For more information and times, call 360.826.3522.

AA meeting

A weekly AA meeting is held at Day Creek Chapel on Thursdays from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Contact Diane at 360.770.3984 for more info.

Kingdom Builders

Donna Pulver and Kathy Henderson, co-directors of Kingdom Builders, are developing a community directory. For more information, call 360.826.3003, 360.826.3581, or 360.826.3822.

Letters, cont. from p. 8

department managed by publicly elected representatives from around the state. Several counties east of the mountains, as well as Clallam County residents, have shown their enthusiasm in the past. Now is the time to begin educating our state representatives about the benefits of re-establishing an independent water resources agency.

Skagit County residents have the good fortune of being represented by the nine legislators who serve the 39th, 40th, and 10th districts. In order to make reasonable decisions about this proposal, these individuals will want to learn as much as they can from their constituents between now and January. If you need assistance in this regard, please call SCARP at 360.856.2290.

*Diane Freethy, president
Skagit Citizens Alliance
for Rural Preservation*

Thomas an analytical and objective choice for Town Council

I was pleasantly delighted at the amount of candidates who took the time and ran for office before this year's August primary election. No matter their party affiliations or political leanings, it definitely says a lot about a person to stand up and offer to serve others within their community.

One such candidate is Rob Thomas, who is running for Position 1 on Concrete Town Council. As a former Concrete Town Councilman, I wholeheartedly endorse Rob. He has been involved in our

WOMEN HAND in hand

The group's next event will be Sara Hill on Nov. 19–21. Follow WOMEN HAND in hand on Facebook. For more information or to join, call 360.826.3067.

Day Creek Book Club

The club meets at Cedar Springs Lodge on Barben Rd. on the third Monday of each month. Call 360.661.0247 for details.

News and tips should be sent via e-mail to winningcircularanch@gmail.com.

—Compiled by Kathy Henderson

community for well over two decades, not only as the pastor of Community Bible Church, but also as a coach and mentor to our youth. I believe his experience in pastoral and youth leadership gives him a unique skill set that would greatly benefit our community if elected as a member of the Town Council.

One of the most impressive things about Rob is his penchant for the details. While most people let some "little" things get lost in the shuffle, figuring it doesn't mean much of anything in the big picture, Rob has the ability to see these often-overlooked items and uses them to reveal the real issues within a problem. This attention to detail gives him the great ability to analyze things and be objective at the same time. This is just one of the many qualities that Rob would bring to the table as a Town Councilman.

I urge those who live in Concrete, and are registered to vote, to cast their vote for Rob Thomas in November's General Election.

And for those of you who have always thought about getting involved in your community, whether it is running for office, becoming a volunteer at a local school or fire department, or just being a better neighbor, I can think of no better thing that you can do with your spare time. Get out there and be that difference-maker your community needs!

*Paul Rider
Concrete*

Students should have free access to library

We support the town of Concrete joining the Upper Skagit Library District. As elementary school teachers, we were surprised to learn that not all students could access the library's resources, especially those who may live the closest in town. Financial barriers exist in all communities, but our young students should have free access to our public library no matter where they live.

We are aware of the increases in taxes that this proposes, but the assets here are our children's future, as well as our community's. Though we are county residents residing in Sedro-Woolley, we too pay library, medic, fire, and school taxes. As educators in the Concrete School District, we hope that our community can provide all of our students and their families library access, along with the many programs and opportunities it brings.

Please vote yes on the annexation of the Town of Concrete into the Upper Skagit Library District.

*Paul and Mary Bianchini
Sedro-Woolley*

Public libraries help students meet their future goals

Concrete gave us our first teaching jobs, but we have stayed in the community because we want to make a difference for our students. Helping students meet their



Hamilton



Rockport



Election 2015

With the general election coming Nov. 3, *Concrete Herald* invited Town of Hamilton opposition candidates to share their campaign aspirations—in their own words.

Town of Hamilton Mayor

Joan Cromley (incumbent)

Age: 46

Occupation:

Mayor of Hamilton 2013–present; mother and wife.

Public office experience:

Hamilton Town Council, 2007–12; Mayor, Hamilton 2013–present.

Community service experience:

Booster Team for Evergreen Elementary in Sedro-Woolley (Treasurer, six years), Girl Scouts (Leader, Event Director, five years), helped create Hamilton Library.

In her words:

“I want to help make our community a better place for people to live and raise families. Our kids deserve that. If our community is safe and enjoyable for kids, it will be that for most everyone else too.”

What challenges does Hamilton face?

“Hamilton has the same challenges as larger communities, but two challenges that are unique to Hamilton are being a small community with an extremely limited budget while having to meet the same requirements that others handle with more staff; and creating a thriving community while being in a floodplain and the regulations that brings. We need to make Hamilton a better place for everyone. Hamilton doesn’t have staff to spare, so the mayor needs to be able to learn about everything, such as development, public records, economic development, computer programs, and budgeting. We need people willing to help



Cromley

Hamilton improve.”

What are Hamilton’s strengths?

“One of Hamilton’s strengths is the adaptability and resourcefulness of its citizens. I’d like to be able to use that to improve Hamilton’s disaster preparedness and find more ways to protect our community from flood damage. Some of our citizens take great pride in maintaining their properties, and I’d like to encourage that in others. Hamilton is in an area with great natural recreation, and I’d like to find a way to increase that and use it to create local income.”

Mathew Coker

Age: 38

Occupation:

Truck driver, equipment operator, father to two sons and two stepchildren.

Attended Sedro-Woolley High School and completed Westcoast Training Center.

Public office experience:

Hamilton Town Council.

Community service experience:

Volunteer firefighter.

In his words:

“I have no party preference. I am an active member of the Hamilton Volunteer Fire Department, been involved in some community events, such as our annual Easter egg hunt and Christmas program that the Hamilton Fire Dept. puts on every year for the kids and families of our community.

“No campaign Web site here; just going on the support of my friends and family members of the community. I am running for mayor because I like my community and want to see it grow and prosper—after all, it’s my home. I would like to be a part of cleaning up and making this a great



Coker

and safe place to grow up and grow old. I feel it needs a change around here for the better, such as more programs with community involvement, cleaner streets and park areas, and all-around a nicer look and appeal.

“This community has way more potential than is being taken advantage of, and I would like to see that change! It’s time for a change, Hamilton, and I am here to offer a hand in making our home beautiful again! Please help me to make it happen!”

Also on the ballot

The only other contested race on the Hamilton ballot is for Council Position 5, with Mike Brockman and Lisa Johnson running for the seat. Neither candidate submitted a response to the *Concrete Herald* questionnaire.

Timothy Morrison is running unopposed for Council Position 1.

Brian Kirkpatrick is running unopposed for Council Position 2.

Bethany Betlem is running unopposed for Council Position 3.

James Bates is running unopposed for Council Position 4.

—J. K. M.

Birdsview Buzz

Last month our fundraiser for the east side fire victims raised more than \$5,000. Thanks to everyone who attended and donated. Our next fundraiser is under way: the annual Cardiack Arrest. We will raise money all month for the new cardiac unit at Skagit Valley Hospital. A portion of every glass and growler sold of our seasonal Cardiack Arrest will be donated as well as any other donations received.

On Oct. 24 we will have our annual Cardiack Arrest Fest.

October birthdays

6	Pat Erwin
7	Jim Fichter
14	Dennis Russell
17	Josh Fichter
25	Ryan Gillian

Our saga with the county regarding our re-zone continues. Not sure when the next hearing with the commissioners will be. Thank you to everyone who attended the last meeting and spoke in our favor or emailed or wrote letters of support. We will let everyone know when the next meeting is and what you can do to help.

—Kris Voigt

Camp Stillwater hosts Salmon Slam for Wounded Warriors in Action

Wounded Warriors in Action Foundation (WWIA) along with John and Dawn Koenig and friends of “John’s Guide Service” hosted another group of Purple Heart Recipients for “Salmon Slam 2015” at Camp Stillwater, Sept. 25–28.

Their prey this year? Humpies! Averaging about 4 to 5 pounds, Pink salmon (Humpies) are the smallest of the five salmon species, but the most abundant. It is not uncommon to catch more than 100 of these hard-fighting salmon per day. All tackle, bait, and gear

was provided by Rockport-based John’s Guide Service during this fully guided event for veterans Brian, Elisandro, Steven, and Patrick.

Hosts John and Dawn Koenig and owners of WWIA Camp Stillwater Bunkhouse are seasoned pros at providing an awesome experience for the veterans.

“We started out with a simple mission: to say thanks to these Wounded Warriors for their sacrifices,” said John Koenig. “We ended up getting as much out of these events as the heroes seem to. We are facilitators in creating an opportunity for the healing to take place. If you give them a reason to get together, you can just watch the magic happen.”

—Submitted by WWIA

Letters, cont. from p. 23

future goals takes an entire community.

Public libraries are valuable partners in this effort. Students in our community need to have the opportunities public libraries offer to satisfy their curiosity, fuel their imagination, and help them do well in school.

Concrete voters have an opportunity this November to make Concrete part of the Upper Skagit Library District. Doing so would give students who live in town the same free borrowing privileges at area libraries as their peers who live elsewhere in the Concrete School District.

Please vote yes to help students succeed.

Jim and Carrie Newby
Concrete

Library a key to success

If I truly knew what I was getting into, I would have said I was insane just contemplating it! But I said “we can do this.” And so we began the 15-year journey of homeschooling. After two weeks of chaos that would make James Gleick dizzy, I went to the library with a list of books, periodicals, and a dozen documentaries to borrow.

Fifteen years and 4,539 library check-outs later, we are completing the primary phase of filling minds with ideas to propel

them into the known and unknown. Did I set their minds on fire? Yeah, I think I did.

As always in my life, “my” library (I’ve made many libraries “mine” over the years) was the quintessential key to our success in this journey. Ask a question and somewhere in a library you will find an answer—at times two or three. Every week I would load up the kids, lunch, and a hip-hugging laundry basket with sturdy handles, and off to the library we would go for the day and a fresh load of books and videos. We would be met by familiar faces eager to tell us of a new book they’d read, or share an experience.

Our day trips to the library as a group have sadly ended. Now, with our busy schedules, we utilize the library’s digital services. Like a rite of passage, it brought a smile to my face and tears to my eyes this past week to walk into “my” library with yet another generation to fill out her very own library card, knowing the answers are patiently waiting for her too.

As a mother, grandmother, business owner, library trustee, and insatiable answer seeker, I want to make the Upper Skagit Library belong to everyone and be there for everyone.

Vote YES this Nov. 3.

Em Beals
Concrete

Rockport State Park hosts Fall Native Plant & Mushroom Adventure

Join local naturalists Terri Wilde and Marlee Mountain, and other Pacific Northwest mushroom enthusiasts, as they explore the abundant verdancy at Rockport State Park.

Wilde and Mountain will discuss edible and medicinal properties of local plants, and search for and attempt to identify some of the many mushrooms that pop up in the park.

The Native Plant & Mushroom Adventure will be held on Sun., Oct. 11, at 1 p.m. Participants should meet in the shelter near the bathrooms, and are encouraged to dress for the weather. Potluck snacks will be served after the event.

For more information, contact Terri Wilde at 510.926.0468 or Don Smith at 360.770.7677.

—Submitted by Don Smith



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Darrington



Election 2015

With the general election coming Nov. 3, *Concrete Herald* invited Darrington and Snohomish County opposition candidates to share their campaign aspirations—in their own words.

Town of Darrington Mayor

Editor's note: Incumbent Mayor Dan Rankin's opponent, Todd Ronning, did not submit a response.

Dan Rankin (incumbent) Age: 54

Occupation: Current mayor, sawmill owner.
Public office experience:

Four years as mayor, eight years on Town Council.

Community service experience:

Twelve years hunter education instructor, coached DJAA Little League baseball for 12 years, coached DJAA basketball for four years, member of Darrington Intervention Prevention Coalition, and member of Darrington Collaborative on Forestry.



Rankin

In his words:

"I want to continue to work with my community and with federal, state, and local governments to improve our infrastructure to bring new businesses and opportunities to our town and get more jobs back in the woods. I want to ensure that initiatives, such as the renovation of Old School Park, match the expectations of our community, and that Whitehorse County Park/Trail get the amenities they need. I also want to maintain and preserve our quality of life in Darrington."

What are the top two challenges facing Darrington?

"Employment diversity and opportunities for our youth. Diversification of our economy is key to providing living-wage jobs for our residents. I will continue to support our existing businesses so they remain successful, work to recruit other businesses in technology, recreation, and the wood products industry to provide more employment opportunities. We need more opportunity for our young people. I will continue to work with our

schools, North County Family Resource Center, and Glacier Peak Institute for outdoor learning to ensure that our youth have the tools to move forward and have opportunity to thrive in their community."

What are Darrington's strengths?

"Who we are, our people, our history, and our independent spirit, are our strengths. There is no improving. Where we live, natural beauty and resources are limitless. I will continue to foster our unique opportunities and partnerships with private and public entities so that we can realize our full potential to become leaders in sustainable forest practices, outdoor recreation, and leaders in forestry and outdoor recreation education. I will continue to make sure that public safety, our water system, parks, streets, and sidewalks, remain a priority."

Snohomish County Assessor

Two candidates—Marty Glaser and Linda Hjelle—are vying to take over Snohomish County Assessor Cindy Portmann's seat next year.

Marty Glaser Age: 51

Occupation:

State-certified residential real estate appraiser for the past 29 years. Owner of Martin Appraisal Service since June 1993.

Public office experience:

None.

Community service experience:

"I have led five teams on mission trips to Mexico to help with housing and feeding the poor, and building a church camp. I also led a trip to Montana to help remodel and set up a free store on an Indian reservation. Over the years I have coached several Little League teams, led a youth ministry outreach to help senior citizens with yard work and fall cleanup, and served on a local church finance board.

In his words:

"I am running for the Snohomish County Assessor position because I see large inequities between sale prices and assessed values. I became passionate

about running when the market crashed in 2008 and assessed values continued to climb until 2010, just before the last election. I was doing tax appeal work and the assessor was unwilling to lower values even though market evidence clearly showed prices had dropped. I realized you can't fight government, so the only way to make changes is to get involved."

Challenges facing Snohomish County:

"The issues that need to be addressed in the Assessor's Office are the inconsistency of the assessed values in relation to market values. In some plats I have appraised I see huge differences between the assessed values of similar homes on the same street that are the same in age and size. Also, some areas in general seem to be assessed low in comparison to other areas that seem to be assessed high. These are things only an appraiser who is in the field would notice; however, they affect everyone because if someone is paying less than their share of the tax burden, that means someone else is paying more than their share, and that's not fair."

"I also believe the Assessor's Office needs to be more aggressive in keeping the taxpayers informed about market trends, tax issues that will affect their mortgage payment, and senior citizen discounts. When a new levy is proposed by a local school board, fire district, or a library system, etc., the assessor should be the one to keep you informed about the financial consequences of your vote if the levy is passed before you go to the polls. That way when the tax bill comes in February, no one will be upset at the assessor for higher taxes, because they made an informed decision."

"I believe ongoing training of the appraisal staff is critical to providing accurate assessments, and that is what I will be doing as the assessor. I believe the assessor's Web site has a lot of room for improvement to make it more user-friendly. Also, putting out a quarterly newsletter, frequent news articles in the local papers, and visiting the local high school and colleges to share market trends and explain how the Assessor's Office works will also be something I plan to implement."



Glaser

Election, cont. from p. 26

Linda Hjelle

Age: 52

Occupation:

Snohomish County Chief Deputy Assessor.

Public office experience:

Twenty-six years in the Assessor's Office. Eleven years as appointed Chief Deputy.

Community service experience:

Soroptimist International of Everett, League of Women Voters, SCFPD 17 Christmas House, Relay for Life, Granville Grange, Tiger Paws and Maws Booster Club.

In her words:

"I find being a public servant, providing a service, and helping the public accomplish their goals rewarding and would like to continue to do so. I have 26 years of experience working in various positions in the Assessor's Office, with the past 11 years serving as the appointed Chief Deputy. I have comprehensive experience and knowledge of mass appraisal, ad valorem taxation, and the various responsibilities of the office. I also enjoy what I do and the people I work with."

Challenges facing Snohomish County:

"Reductions in the budget and staff while the workload increases is one challenge. Second is making sure the public has the information they need in order to be confident in their assessed values and the processes we use."

"I would like to continue to look for and support technological solutions, such as more integration of GIS mapping with our appraisal system in order to develop tools to increase auditing efficiencies and analysis. I would also pursue voluntary electronic notification of assessed value changes."

"We have recently updated our Web site and continue to make enhancements. I will continue to include FAQ documents with our mailings."

County strengths:

"I believe one of the county's main strengths is its professional workforce and the ability to come together to accomplish shared goals. I believe it's important to provide employees with what they need to be successful, so I support education, technology resources, avenues of open communication, and cooperation in approaching and resolving challenges."



Hjelle

Snohomish County Sheriff's Report

Sept. 21

Snohomish County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue located an injured 17-year-old female and transported her to the hospital. Around 6:30 p.m., Search and Rescue was notified that a personal locator beacon was activated near the White Chuck Glacier, south of Glacier Peak. Hikers with the girl reported that she fell and sustained a spinal injury. SnoHAWK10 located the group around 7 p.m., hoisted the injured woman, and transported her to Providence Regional Medical Center around 9 p.m.

Sept. 20

Three men were injured when a pipe bomb they were assembling detonated in an outbuilding in the 23000 block of 106th Dr. SE in Woodinville.

Sheriff's Office deputies were notified of the incident around 5:15 a.m. when witnesses called 911 to report the sound of a large explosion. The 34-year-old man who was assembling the device had his hand severed by the explosion. He was transported to Harborview Medical Center. Deputies confirmed that he had an outstanding warrant for escape from the Department of Corrections.

A 42-year-old man assisting in the assembly of the device suffered a severe leg injury and was transported to Evergreen Hospital. A 52-year-old man assisting also suffered leg injuries.

The Sheriff's Office bomb unit is investigating the incident.

Sept. 25

Sheriff's Office detectives are seeking the public's help in locating two men suspected of shooting and beating a 38-year-old Monroe man during the week of Sept. 14, during a home invasion-style burglary and assault on Florence Acres Rd.

Christopher Joseph Cardinale is a 6'3" 53-year-old white male with brown hair and brown eyes, who escaped from deputies earlier during the week of Sept. 21. During that incident in Mountlake Terrace, Cardinale dragged a Sheriff's deputy more than 20 feet in his vehicle, causing injuries to the deputy. That vehicle, a cream-colored sedan, has been recovered, but Cardinale is still at large.

Jordan Jensen-Green is a 5'9" 31-year-old white male with brown hair and hazel eyes. He is believed to be driving or riding in a maroon 1999 Ford F-150 4x4 shortbox extended cab truck. Jensen-

Green's last known addresses are in Index and Kirkland.

Both men are believed to be armed.

Two Mountlake Terrace men, 33-year-old Troy Russ and 49-year-old Michael Bruce, have been arrested on charges also related to the assault in Monroe.

Anyone with information about the suspects or suspect vehicles is asked to call 911 immediately.

—Compiled from Snohomish County Sheriff's Office reports

Silver Alerts begin in Washington

Law enforcement agencies in Washington on Aug. 27 began using a new notification to alert the public of missing persons who fit the criteria for a "Silver Alert."

A Silver Alert will be activated when a missing person 60 years of age or older, suffering from a form of dementia, is not able to return to safety without assistance.

For more information on how to subscribe to Silver Alerts, go to www.wsp.wa.gov/index.htm.

Harvest Festival, art show headline October

The Mansford Grange Harvest

Festival kicks October in fun fashion on Sat., Oct. 10, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Enjoy old-fashioned fun, with activities such as an Autumn Bake Sale, a Pumpkin Carving for the kids, the Giant Zucchini Contest, "Veggie Critter" creation, and more. Mansford Grange is located at 1265 Railroad Ave. in Darrington.

On Sat., Oct. 17, local artists **Ron Wolff**, **Gordy Beil**, and **Holly Cannell** will host their second annual fall studio show titled "Fall Into Art." Many new works have been created especially for this event. The studio address is: 605 S. Emens Ave. in Darrington. The show runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The **Darrington Community Dance** will be held at Mansford Grange on Oct. 10. Potluck at 5:30 p.m.; dance from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Enjoy an evening of live and lively old-time music and dance for the whole family.

—Marla Skaglund

Would you hire a contractor who has never swung a hammer?

Probably not.

Why elect an Assessor who has never appraised a house?

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Marblemount



Mules get their day this month

By Art Olson

Editor's note: Oct. 26 is National Mule Day, so it seemed fitting to include a story about mules in this issue. Enjoy.

cinch until an animal could barely breathe, but his loads weren't always the best. That's why, right after we had traversed past the deadly, narrow, cliffy section of trail on the east bank of Ross Lake, Steamboat's (the first mule in the string) load rolled around under his belly and the sheer weight of it pulled him off the trail.

The three horses behind him came unglued! Steamboat, having fallen down the hill, tried to get up, but couldn't. He gave a big sigh and then lay there for the duration while the horses above him up on the trail commenced to freak out, jump, run, and bash into trees. Jack, the last mule in the string, recognized the equine pandemonium for what it was. I watched him intentionally lean forward, jerk his head back to break the tieback rope connecting him to the panicking horses, take a few steps backward, and, while keeping one eye on the show, commence to graze. I was sold. (By the way, once the horses quit their panicking, I climbed down to Steamboat and cut his load off him, and he sprang back up to the trail, unscathed.)

Not unlike Washington's time, mules haven't changed much. It still takes a horse mare and donkey jack to make one, starting over each time because the offspring are usually sterile. But despite this extra effort of creation, advantages include their "hybrid vigor" for which they are famous. And Washington knew that if he wanted to improve agriculture in his new country, and if he wanted tough, smart, reliable riding, driving, and pack animals for his army, he needed mules, not horses. He sold his stallions, kept his mares, and you know the rest.

His first jack was named Royal Gift, a present from the king of Spain. Reaching the shores of North America on Oct. 26, 1785, that date has since become National Mule Day. It was unheard of for the Spaniards to part with their jacks, as they were the Sherman tanks of the day, but Washington managed to get the king to part



Art Olson drives Tucker and Junior on a manure spreader in the pasture and hayfields at Glacier View Ranch near Rockport, in 2000. Photo by Steve Philbrick.

with another one soon afterward, as well.

So, mules are cool. Smart, sensible, tough, and each one a true character. But what about the stubborn part, you say? Well, let's just say they have a very strong

sense of self-preservation. Enough said.

Art Olson co-owns Glacier View Mules. He lives in Rockport.

KSVU fundraiser on tap this month

Saturday, Oct. 31 marks the 5th annual Harvest Fest and Halloween Dance, KSVU Radio fundraiser.

The event again will be held at the Marblemount Community Hall. The evening's activities include a harvest pole raised and colorfully wound at 6 p.m., followed by cider pressing and a potluck supper. Live music will fill the hall around 7 p.m., and a raffle of local goods and services will continue all evening. Organizers hope to host a costume contest too.

Tickets are \$6/adult or \$10/couple, with kids 12 and under free. All proceeds go to support KSVU, 90.1 FM. Volunteers are needed for a variety of tasks; to help, call 360.853.8588 and leave a message.

—Christie Fairchild

Cascade River Rd. closed through Oct.

Cascade River Rd. is closed to all vehicle and foot traffic through late October. The road closure begins at the Eldorado parking area near milepost 20 and will affect hikers and climbers approaching the area from either the east or west side. Eldorado Peak and other peaks accessed via Eldorado Creek are not affected by the road closure.

The road was significantly damaged at Boston Creek in 2009 and again in August 2013, when a washout left more than 70 visitors temporarily stranded.

Cascade River Rd. provides access to Cascade Pass, Horseshoe Basin, and Sahale Arm Trails, as well as a scenic route for visitors hiking across the park to Stehekin. The temporary road closure will ensure access to these areas in the future, with less potential for road failure.

For up-to-date information, go to www.nps.gov/noca. For assistance with trip planning and suggestions for alternative autumn hikes or climbs, contact the Wilderness Information Center at 360.854.7245.

The good news is ...

By Sasa and Starwalker

Quote du jour: "Raise your words, not voice. It is rain that grows flowers, not thunder." —Rumi

California dreams are coming true, at least for 500 students at Bayside MLK Jr. Academy in Marin City and Willow Creek Academy in Sausalito.

When they return to school, they will be served 100 percent organic meals, sustainably sourced and free of GMOs (genetically modified organisms) thanks to the Conscious Kitchen, a project of the environmental education nonprofit Turning Green.

They started testing the program in August 2013 at MLK Jr. Academy and during two years, sources say disciplinary cases decreased and attendance increased. EcoWatch reports the program "the first to take a stand against GMOs. While the long-term effects of GMOs are still uncertain, a growing body of evidence links them to a variety of health risks and environmental damage. An estimated 80 percent of items on most supermarket shelves contain GMOs, and they are ubiquitous in school food programs."

Not only will children receive organic, nutritious foods, they also will learn about nutrition and gardening.

As Justin Everett, consulting chef with the Conscious Kitchen, explained, "By embracing fresh, local, organic, nonGMO food, this program successfully disrupts the cycle of unhealthy, pre-packaged, heat-and-serve meals that dominate school kitchens."

We are very excited and grateful that our very own Concrete School District has a community garden program at the Angele Cupples Community Garden, as well as a Farm to School program and other similar efforts.

We look forward to more and more schools providing organic meals for kids.

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

There should be signs everywhere back east stating that "George Washington's mules slept here." As the first president of the United States, Washington toured the young country with his newly acquired Spanish breeding jacks to encourage and enhance the mule population. The Father of America should also be known as the Father of the American Mule.

A few years ago, while listening to NPR, I heard a story about Washington. The date was Oct. 26 (which, as all mule lovers know, is National Mule Day), but they said nothing about mules. I was incensed. I called the radio station to say that although his wooden teeth and amorous lifestyle were interesting, shouldn't they have included his contributions to the huge improvements in agriculture and military/cavalry made by introducing the mule to America? They ignored me.

I'm not surprised that the latte-sipping, keyboard-clicking Seattleites didn't seem to care. But here in the Upper Skagit, anybody who has been around for a while knows someone who was a muleskinner.

Being from New Jersey and only a stone's throw from Manhattan, it wasn't until my early 30s that I was introduced to the wonderful world of mules. By then I was working as the wrangler on the North Cascades National Park trail crew, and part of my job was to hike behind the pack string, ready to help out if and when trouble would strike.

The packer at that time was a large, handy guy named Leigh, who rode his horse out front, leading the string of heavily packed horses and mules behind. He always led a mule first and last, with the packhorses sandwiched in between. Leigh's biggest asset was his brute strength, not so much his packing and load-balancing skills. He could tighten a

Burn bans end

The outdoor burn ban was lifted for all of the unincorporated areas of Skagit County as of 8 a.m. on Tue., Sept. 22.

Effective Sept. 25, the burn ban on all lands within North Cascades National Park Service Complex was lifted. This includes all National Park Service lands and campgrounds in Stehekin, along SR 20, and the Ross Lake area.

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

Darrington

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

Hamilton

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

360.826.4090

Lyman

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

Marblemount

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

Sedro-Woolley

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

*Changes? Call 360.853.8213.

Happy birthday, Merv! There will be a no-gift celebration honoring longtime Marblemount citizen Merv Peterson (above) on his 90th birthday. The event will be held on Sun., Oct. 11, from 1 to 4 p.m., at the Marblemount Community Hall. Family members encourage anyone with photos of Merv at any age and/or their favorite "Merv story" to bring them for an album they're assembling.



Seniors

Coffee Break Don't worry!

By Patrick M. Kennedy

When you are about to retire, there are only two things to think about: your health and your finances. That narrows it down to a mess of problems that must be handled. But don't worry.

"Worrying is like a rocking chair. It gives you something to do, but it gets you nowhere," said athlete Glenn Turner. Fretting gets you nowhere, so it is best to get out of that rocking chair and act.

Many seniors wear rose-colored glasses when they plan for the future, but they need to begin viewing retirement more realistically. They seem to think dreaming about the good life is the path to reality. When they stop working, their major sources of income dry up. And as they get older, it is obvious that their health will deteriorate to some degree.

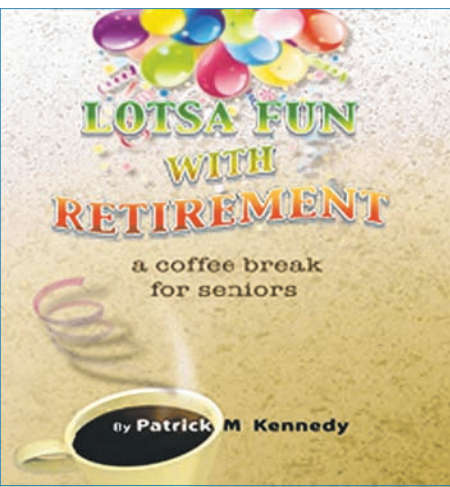
So why are so many people underestimating the difficulties of retirement? It is best to plan for these two problems while still working, with good income.

Analysts have estimated that some 22 percent of pre-retirees predict that their finances will suffer after retirement, and 35 percent of retirees say their finances have gotten worse. That means about 43 percent of seniors are OK. The rest have some options: getting a job to supplement their retirement income, getting a strong shopping cart to roam the neighborhood collecting recyclables, or waiting to retire at 83.

Thirty-nine percent of retirees report that it's true that they think their health will decline in retirement, but there are many lifestyle choices they can make to maintain good health. Smoking and excessive drinking cause many future health problems, such as cancer, liver disease, and diabetes. It's best to moderate enjoyment of these vices to give your future self a better chance at staying healthy. This may not be easy, but the healthier you are now, the less likely you are to have to deal with costly health problems later.

Stay active. That doesn't mean you have to go to the gym and push tons of weights every day. Start walking instead of driving. Start your own walking group. Try new walking techniques, interval strategies, and ways to increase calorie burn; calories burned are weight off the body, and the less weight, the healthier you'll be. Worrying doesn't burn enough calories to make a difference in health, and definitely won't make you financially self-supporting.

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



Way Back When

80 years ago

Oct. 24, 1935: Albert K. McClellan, 47, well-known Concrete resident and employee of the local cement company, died today from loss of blood and exposure following being shot while hunting yesterday morning.

McClellan died in the Mount Vernon hospital this morning as his friends in town were on their way to that city to lend their blood in an effort to save his life by a transfusion.

The shooting occurred near Bear Creek yesterday morning. McClellan had been at work at the Bear Creek



30 years ago: Robert Bruce (Bob) Fader, publisher of *Concrete Herald* for 15 years, died at his home on Oct. 25, 1985, following a lingering illness. He was noted for his award-winning and sometimes controversial editorials, with topics ranging from current events to praise for the community. He was publisher of *Concrete Herald* from 1970 to 1984, when illness forced his retirement. *Archive photo.*

power station and after his shift had started out to do a little hunting. He had not been out long when another hunter, Scott Wiley of Concrete, heard him moving in the brush. McClellan wore a suede leather jacket and as he stooped over to look at some tracks, Wiley mistook him for a deer and fired. The bullet struck McClellan in the neck and passed around through his shoulder.

50 years ago

Oct. 28, 1965: Two young boys, Greg Gerrits, 17, of Birdsvew, and Lewis Bradley, 18, of Newhalem, were injured early Saturday morning when Gerrits' car left the highway near the Dalles bridge, struck a large rock, and went end over end out in the field. Both boys were thrown clear of the wreck.

Most seriously injured was Gerrits, who is still in the hospital with a pelvic injury and other complications. Bradley received severe cuts and bruises, but was able to leave the hospital on Saturday evening.

The car was a total wreck.

40 years ago

Oct. 2, 1975: Measurements taken by scientists atop Mount Baker periodically during the past several months have indicated a slight decline in the pull of gravity at the 9,500-foot level of the peak.

"This gravity data confirms that the increase in steam activity first observed in March is indicative of a fundamental change in the volcano," said Dr. Steve Malone, University of Washington geophysicist. "However, there is no reason to suspect that an eruption is imminent."

—Compiled from archives

Concrete Center October 2015

Activities

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

Mondays

10 a.m. Jigsaw puzzles
Noon Soup & Salad Bar
12:30 p.m. Skip Bo
2 - 4 p.m. Needle exchange bus on site, 10/19

Tuesdays

10 a.m. Jigsaw puzzles
Noon Lunch
12:30 p.m. Skip Bo

Wednesdays

10 a.m. Jigsaw puzzles
10:30 a.m. Advisory Board mtg., 10/14
Noon Lunch
12:30 p.m. Skip Bo
Bingo, 10/14

Thursdays

10 a.m. Jigsaw puzzles
Noon Lunch
12:30 p.m. Skip Bo
12:30 p.m. Pinochle, 10/15, 10/29
Halloween Bingo, 10/29

Fridays

10 a.m. Jigsaw puzzles
Noon Lunch
Noon Salmon Barbecue, 10/16
12:30 p.m. Dominoes, Skip Bo
1 p.m. Watercolor painting

Brother of 1955 plane crash victim offers another perspective

Responding to the 1955 "Way Back When" entry about a fatal plane crash into Lake Shannon, published in last month's issue of *Concrete Herald*, Patrick Hayden of Helena, Mont., wrote the newspaper with his take on that fateful day.

"I read the article with interest because the dentist who died in the crash was my older brother, Dr. Frank Hayden," wrote Hayden.

"The article was correct in stating that my brother and the pilot died in the crash, while two other dentists survived. The Concrete Sherriff's office did not find the plane. My other brother Jack and I found the plane.

"On learning of the crash and that my brother was still not found, Jack and I travelled from Seattle (where I was attending the U of WA), rented a row boat, and searched the lake and shoreline. The pontoons from the plane were tied to pilings, where the Sherriff's deputy had towed them from the crash site. The plane struck floating logs on landing in the lake,

and the force of the crash sheared the plane from the pontoons. (The two surviving dentists had already been rescued from the lake by the time Jack and I began our search.)

"We rowed to the pontoons, and I climbed onto them. Looking down, I could see the yellow shape of the plane. The plane was attached to the pontoons by a cable, and the deputy had unknowingly towed both the pontoons and the plane to the pilings.

"My movement on the pontoons caused the plane to break free of the pontoons; it sank in the shallow water, and oil and debris came to the surface.

"We drove down to Concrete and told the Sherriff's office of our finding. They returned to the lake (as did I and my brother Jack) and pulled the plane to shore. The bodies of my brother, Dr. Mackay, and the pilot were still in the plane. Jack and I had the sad task of telling Frank's wife and family that he indeed did not survive the crash.

"Ironically, my brother Frank was a WWII Air Force veteran who had survived being shot down over Europe and six months in a German POW camp."

—J. K. M.

Verna's Kitchen

By Verna McClure

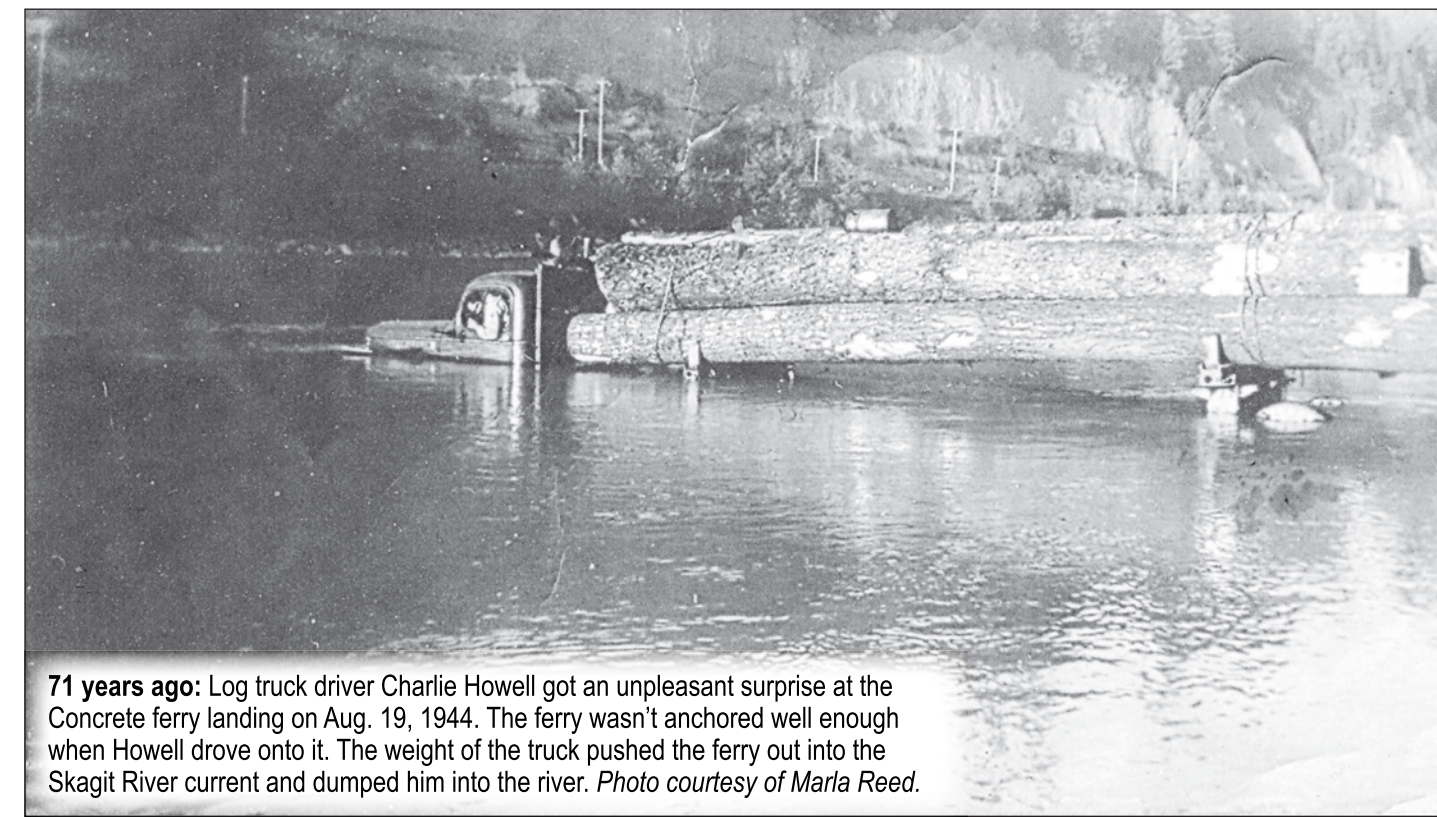


This beef barley soup gets better (if you can believe it) each time you reheat it, as the flavors have a chance to blend together. I'm lucky to have a friend like Pat Blunt, who gave me this recipe. Thank you, Pat.

Beef Barley Soup

- 1 lb. ground beef
- 5 cups water
- 1 can diced tomatoes
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 1 cup chopped carrots
- 1 cup chopped celery
- 1/3 cup barley
- 1/4 cup ketchup
- 3 cubes beef bouillon
- 2 teaspoons seasoning salt
- 1 teaspoon fried basil
- 1 bay leaf
- Salt and pepper to taste

Mix everything together and cook until the vegetables are done.



71 years ago: Log truck driver Charlie Howell got an unpleasant surprise at the Concrete ferry landing on Aug. 19, 1944. The ferry wasn't anchored well enough when Howell drove onto it. The weight of the truck pushed the ferry out into the Skagit River current and dumped him into the river. *Photo courtesy of Marla Reed.*

Continue the cycle

Please
recycle
this
newspaper



Obituaries

Charles (Chuck) Clinton Daves,

also known by the local CB handle of "Charlie Weyerhaeuser," was born April 8, 1942, in Sedro-Woolley. Chuck peacefully passed away and was guided home by his angels on Sept. 5, 2015, at the PeaceHealth United General Medical Center in Sedro-Woolley.

Chuck was preceded in death by his parents Vernon and Mildred Daves, as well as his brother Larry. Surviving is his wife Dorothy S. Beck-Daves of 52 years; his daughters Shana Daves-Squifflet (Edmond) of Spanaway, Wash., and Debra Daves (fiance William) of Poulsbo; grandsons Vincent Charles Emery of Fall City and Danny Squifflet of Spanaway; sisters Verna Jean Claybo of Yakima and Nelda Daves-Smith of Kennewick; many extended family members and a great number of dear friends.

Chuck lived in Fall City and worked for Weyerhaeuser of Snoqualmie for 20 years before retiring and returning to the Birdview area, where he and Dorothy owned a small farm and he bought his first logging truck. After several years of driving for himself, Chuck began driving for Bob Hillier and enjoyed working with Bob and his crew. He was with Bob 13 great years, where he made lifelong friends throughout Washington and Oregon in the timber industry.

On Dec. 10, 2014, Chuck was told he had bone cancer and was forced to retire. Since that time, Chuck fought a hard battle and lost the fight with cancer and



other medical complications. His family extends a special thank-you to Dr. Muff and Dr. Mathey of the Oncology Department of PeaceHealth United General Medical Center and to all the wonderful nurses who were so professional and loving to our loved one.

An open house memorial service will be hosted by the family at the Park Village Clubhouse in Mount Vernon on Sat., Oct. 24, at 1 p.m.

Obituaries published in Concrete Herald

from May 2009 to present are posted online at:

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

Sunday School lesson

Living water

By Bruce Martin

We are blessed in our valley with an abundance of good, clean drinking water. In fact, our city water comes from a spring. Our water is so good, it is bottled and shipped to people far from its original source. When it comes to choosing something to drink, the choices are endless. But the truth is there is nothing that quenches and satisfies our thirst like good, clean, cold water.

In the fourth chapter of the Gospel

of John, Jesus meets a woman in the Samaritan city of Sychar who had come to draw water for her household. Jesus asked her for a drink and spoke to her about "Living Water," recognizing the spiritual thirst in her heart.

Spiritual thirst is present in every heart

The people of Jesus' day understood the term "Living Water"; it meant a body of moving water, such as a spring, a brook, or a river. "Living Water" was always the best kind of water. Jesus was speaking in spiritual terms and the woman did not understand fully what he was trying to say to her. She was very religious and devout in her worship. She understood and followed the traditions of her family, yet there was an unsatisfied spiritual thirst present in her heart.

Spiritual thirst is not satisfied even by the purest of physical water. Speaking of the water drawn from that well that day, Jesus said, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water I will give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of living water, welling up to eternal life" (John 4:13-14). There is a spiritual thirst in the heart of every human. There is a desire to know the truth about spiritual matters. The Bible tells us that God created us with such a capacity so we could know and relate to him in a personal way.

There is no substitute for living water

Perhaps the fact that we are 65 to 70 percent water would help us to understand

our great physical need for water. In fact, we lose so much water from our body every day, we are encouraged by those in the medical field to drink 8 to 10 glasses of water daily. Sometimes the things we drink to satisfy our thirst actually make us more thirsty. Sodas and other popular drinks contain so much salt and sugar that we become thirstier than ever. There is no substitute for good clean water. In the same way, there is no substitute for the "Living Water." Jesus speaks about. Jesus is the "Living Water." He answered the woman's question that day by revealing to her that the spiritual Messiah she was seeking was standing in front of her. "I who speak to you am he" (John 4:26).

Our spiritual thirst can only be quenched and satisfied by Jesus the "Living Water." He is always ready to reveal himself to us and to meet us at our point of need.

Are you spiritually thirsty today? Drink deep of the "Living Water." Jesus will satisfy your thirsty heart.

Bruce Martin is pastor of Concrete Assembly of God in Concrete.

Worth repeating

"Judging others makes us blind, whereas love is illuminating. By judging others we blind ourselves to our own evil and to the grace which others are just as entitled to as we are."

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer
The Cost of Discipleship

Skagit County Sheriff's Office Blotter

Sept. 5

A deputy responded to an address on Cockreham Island near Lyman to mediate a civil issue. It seems a recent divorce decree had awarded a lawnmower to one party, but the terms of how it was to be picked up were not clear. The deputy was able to ensure both parties were clear this was a civil issue, but the mower did end up leaving on a trailer.

A deputy responded to the Howard Miller Steelhead Park area near Rockport for a public indecency issue.

A man had been seen nude sunbathing across the river from the campground. A deputy contacted a nude couple across the river. The woman was cooperative, but the man was not. He thought he could be naked anywhere, anytime, in front of anyone. He was issued a ticket for

indecent exposure. I bet he wears clothes to court.

Sept. 6

A vehicle parked on the side of Hwy 20 near Prevedal Rd. in Lyman had two of the windows shot out. This looks to have occurred in the late evening hours. A deputy observed two separate holes in the front windows of the SUV. Someone may have fired a shot from SR 20 in passing, breaking both the front driver- and passenger-side windows. Had the SUV been occupied, someone could have been hurt or killed by this random act of stupidity. If anyone has any information, please contact Deputy Sonabend.

Sept. 7

Some juveniles apparently gained access to the community garden in Concrete. They created their own tossed salad by throwing tomatoes and cucumbers onto the playground. A deputy responded and several nice folks were already cleaning up the mess.

A female partygoer from the Seattle area reported damage to her vehicle. She said she was camping with approximately 40 other people near Rockport and there was lots of alcohol consumed. When she awoke, her vehicle mirror had been torn off, the windshield was smashed, and there were several dents in her car. There are no suspects, but remember the part about lots of alcohol; it may have contributed to this.

Sept. 8

An employee of the Resource Center in Concrete found another nail in their car tire. This is becoming a little more than coincidental. Deputies are following up on some leads.

Sept. 9

A caller from the Les Hilde horse trail area near Hamilton reported shots in the area. A deputy responded and spoke to some subjects who had been shooting in the gravel pit area. This area is a popular and legal place for safe shooting to occur. It's also popular for horseback trail riding. Hopefully all parties can agree to watch out for each other, and remember one fundamental of shooting: Be sure of your backstop and beyond.

Sept. 11

A deputy responded to a possible stolen motorhome/food truck in Lyman. The current owner determined it was missing overnight from its normal parking spot. Upon further investigation, it had been legally repossessed and was accounted for; therefore, no crime had been committed.

A resident in an apartment complex in Concrete was concerned about possible

Sergeant's corner

Fall driving tips

By Chris Kading



As the leaves fall and we face winter seemingly just minutes away, remember these helpful travel tips, and as always, watch for elk.

Allow extra time to reach your destination during inclement weather. It takes only one unprepared or careless driver to slow or stop traffic. Protect yourself and your passengers. Do not be the driver who shuts down the road.

- Drive for the conditions: slower speeds, slower acceleration.
- Use your headlights.
- Do not use cruise control.
- Four-wheel and all-wheel vehicles do not stop or steer better on ice.
- Leave extra room between your vehicle and the vehicle in front of you. And remember, the larger the vehicle, the longer the stopping distance.
- Slow down when approaching intersections, off-ramps, bridges, or shady spots. We all know Burpee Hill can be tricky, and don't forget

about the bridge on SR 20 over the Baker River. Bridge decks always ice up faster than the roadway around them.

- Check your tires and make sure your chains fit before the first winter storm, and check tire pressure during cold weather. Remember, tire shops and mechanics are busiest just before and during winter storms.
- Get a vehicle winter maintenance check-up. Don't wait to check your battery, belts, hoses, radiator, lights, brakes, heater/defroster, and wipers.
- Keep your fuel tank full. Don't let it fall below half a tank on winter trips.
- Keep a basic winter survival kit in your vehicle: flashlight, batteries, blanket, snacks, water, gloves, boots, first-aid kit, tire chains, ice scraper/snowbrush, jumper cables, road flares.

Take a few minutes to visualize this scenario: It's late fall, it's getting darker earlier, it's colder outside, your car slides on the black ice into a snow-filled ditch, out of sight from passing motorists, and your cell phone is dead. Are you prepared to face Mother Nature alone?

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

drug activity. They feel nearby residents are getting higher than normal traffic in/out of their apartment. The neighbors requested extra patrol, which the SCSO is doing. We appreciate calls like this because it keeps crooks on their toes.

Deputies received information of a possible fight brewing after school in Concrete. Several deputies were in the area, and no fight ever occurred. School administration is aware of the issue.

Sept. 12

Deputies responded to a disorderly issue at Boots Bar & Grill in Hamilton. It seems a couple had shown up driving a street rod, and they ended up causing problems in the bar. Since the current procedure is to handle issues themselves, rather than call 911, bar patrons removed the couple. Deputies responded after the couple got back in their hotrod and were seen doing doughnuts in front of the bar. The couple was unknown to the local bar folks, and they were not located.

A deputy responded to a welfare check 18 miles up the Scott Paper mainline near Hamilton. A man had come across

a woman who said her car had run out of gas, but she had remained with the car for three days. Deputies interviewed the gal, and it seems she'd been reported missing from Sedro-Woolley. She was transported to the hospital to be checked out.

Sept. 13

Deputies responded to a possible burglary in the 53000 block of Concrete Sauk Valley Rd. near Rockport. A witness observed a male subject climb through a window of a house that was unoccupied and for sale. Unfortunately, the witness waited for nearly an hour to report this. When deputies arrived, the suspect was gone. Please call as soon as practical. The SCSO deputies are spread thinly in the Upper Valley, and time is critical for us to respond. Thank you.

Sept. 19

A deputy contacted three young juvenile males in Lyman. They were observed lingering in the area of the Lyman Baptist Church and trying car doors. They were run off by a neighbor who was concerned

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.

North Cascade Community Church

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

Baptist

First Baptist Church
12732 Hemlock St., Clear Lake
360.856.2767
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
Sun. worship: 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Wed.: 7 p.m.
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, noon

Free Methodist

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

Methodist

Central United Methodist Church
1013 Polke Rd., Sedro-Woolley
360.856.6412 // centralumcsw@yahoo.com

<http://centralumcsw.org>
Adult Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Sun. worship: 11 a.m.

Presbyterian

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

Lutheran

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

Nondenominational

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

Community Bible Church

45672 Limestone, Concrete; 360.853.8511
E-mail: cbcofconcrete@earthlink.net
Sun. School: 9 a.m.; Worship Svc: 10 a.m.

Childcare/Children's Ministries at both
Contact church for other ministries

The RIVER Gathering

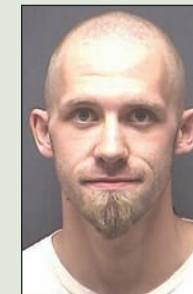
720 Puget Ave., Sedro-Woolley
Sun. worship: 10:30 a.m.
Wed. potluck/study: 6 p.m.
Thur. ladies group: 6:30 p.m.
Last Fri./mo. potluck/games: 6 p.m.
www.facebook.com/therivergathering
360.853.6676

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



Hemminger, Gregory Dean

Age: 22
Race: W Sex: M
Height: 5' 11"
Weight: 165
Hair: Blonde
Eyes: Green
Address: Concrete
A Level III sex offender, Hemminger was convicted of

second-degree child molestation in November 2009, in Skagit County. His victim was a 6-year-old female acquaintance.

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

Source: Skagit County Sheriff

CONCRETE HERITAGE MUSEUM NEWS

The museum is now closed for the 2015 season, which was successful, with lots of visitors. Thanks to all of our volunteers who kept us open and also to everyone who visited.

This month we will partner with the Concrete Chamber of Commerce for the annual **Ghost Walk**. It will be held every Saturday in October, beginning at the Concrete Theatre at 6 p.m. The cost is only \$10 per person. For more details and tickets, go to the chamber Web site at www.concrete-wa.com. For those who may not want to do the "walking" part of the tour, there will be a special performance with the "ghosts" coming to the theater on Thur., Oct. 29, beginning at 7 p.m. We hope to see you there.

It's not too early to begin thinking about

Christmas and the perfect gift. Our new **Museum Cookbook** is in the final stages of production and will be ready for sale in early November. We'll announce the price next month. Thanks to everyone who supplied recipes for this book; we got a nice variety.

Monthly meetings are held on the third Wednesday of every month, starting at 7 p.m. at the museum, always open to the public. We encourage everyone to join us.

For more information, contact museum President John Lloyd at 484.575.6374 or John Boggs at 360.853.8347. Our Web site is www.concreteheritagemuseum.org; it has archived *Concrete Herald* issues dating to before the 1920s.

—Gail Boggs

October at the Darrington Library

Children's programs

- Family Storytime, Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28; 11 a.m.; all ages welcome.
- Snap Circuits! Oct. 7, 1 to 2 p.m.; for children 8 and older.
- LEGO Club (free play), Oct. 14, 1 to 2 p.m. For ages 5 and older.
- Minecraft! Oct. 15, 3 to 4 p.m.; for ages 9 to 12.
- Ozobots: Haunted House Escape! Oct. 29, 3 to 4 p.m. For ages 8 and older.

- Fright Fest Fun Flicks! Oct. 28, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Movie fun with snacks.

Adult programs

- Darrington Bibliophiles, Oct. 7, 5:30 to 7 p.m. This month: *The Circle*, by Dave Eggers.
- Mason Bee Keeping, Oct. 12, 5:30 to 7 p.m.

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

—Asheley Bryson, branch manager

Teen programs

- Self-defense for Girls, Oct. 10, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.



Skagit County
Serving with pride

An Important Reminder

To All Skagit County Property Owners
SECOND HALF PROPERTY TAXES are due October 31, 2015

Katie Jungquist
SKAGIT COUNTY TREASURER
700 S. Second St. Room 205 Mount Vernon
WA 98046-416-1750
Credit Cards Accepted

visit our website at www.skagitcounty.net

Sheriff's Blotter, cont. from p. 35

going to miss her court date. She was transported to the hospital.

A deputy was sent to check on a possible trespasser in Hamilton. The reporting party contacted a female lurking around a barn, and the owner was currently out of the area. When the deputy arrived to look for the gal, he didn't find her, but he did spot several marijuana plants growing nearby. The deputy will be following up with the property owner about the garden.

—Compiled by Sgt. Chris Kading

At the Upper Skagit Library

Join us for our countywide reading program, **Skagit Reads 2015**. This year we are reading *Spare Parts* by Joshua Davis, a true story about four undocumented students, one ugly robot, and the battle for the American Dream. Pick up a free book at your Skagit libraries, attend the events, and discuss the issues.

- Book discussion: Oct. 22, 6 p.m., at Upper Skagit Library.
- Film viewing: Oct. 22, 7 p.m., at Concrete Theatre.
- Author visit: Nov. 10, 7:30 p.m., at Lincoln Theatre in Mount Vernon.

Events are free. View the reading guide at upperskagit.lib.wa.us.

The library will present a month-long writing challenge beginning Nov. 1, called **Upper Skagit Writes**, in celebration of National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo). We will challenge the public to write every day for 30 days in any genre or writing style. Throughout the month, participants will be able to reflect on their writing and share their work. Program guidelines will be posted on our Web site and available at the library.

The library thanks Christie Fairchild for another successful year at the Marblemount Market. Thank you for your hard work! The library is proud to have a presence in the Marblemount community.

Election Day is Nov. 3. If you haven't registered to vote, you can pick up a voter registration form at the library or the East County Resource Center. Don't forget to vote!

Storytime is the first Saturday of each month from October through June, at 11 a.m. Families with young children may join us for themed stories, songs, and a simple craft.

New arrivals

In adult fiction, *The Girl in the Spider's Web* by David Lagercrantz.

In adult nonfiction, *The Devil's Teeth: A True Story of Obsession and Survival Among America's Great White Sharks* by Susan Casey.

In children's, *Minions: The Junior Novel*.

The next Upper Skagit Library Board meeting will be Oct. 8 at 5 p.m.

—Cora Thomas, library associate

Lions ROAR

and Christmas tree sales start the weekend after Thanksgiving.

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

As we leave summer, it is the time to think about our commitment to ourselves and to others. I encourage members of our community to think about and **join your local Lions Club**. Our club is your club. We are a club to serve you and our community. Our hope for 2015 is to increase our membership numbers times two. We all have friends and family who have seen the outreach of your local Lions Club, so now is the time to give great thought about being a member!

Please continue to pray for the healing of our Concrete Lions Club members.

—Connie Smithhart

Our **next meeting** will be held on Oct. 7 at Annie's Pizza Station. The meeting starts at 6:30 p.m.; however, there is always a group that gathers around 6 p.m. to eat and socialize before the meeting starts. All existing members mark your calendar. For those interested in becoming a member, submitting a request, or just wanting to see what we are about, please feel free to stop in.

Our annual **Halloween Party** is planned for Oct. 31 from 5–7 p.m. in the Concrete Elementary School gym. Bring the family for loads of fun and candy!

Upcoming events for November are the **Sight and Hearing Van** and **Christmas tree sales**. The Sight and Hearing van will be at the Elementary School on Nov. 10,

Sheriff's Blotter, cont. from p. 33

they were breaking into cars. The deputy confirmed they were simply bored, checking around cars, but had committed no crime.

Sept. 21

A Lyman female reported her child's father is suspected of disabling her door locks by putting superglue in them. Certainly the ex-boyfriend is a suspect, and deputies are investigating, but it's kind of sticky situation.

A caller from Shular Rd. near Rockport reported a domestic assault. It appears a couple had gotten into an argument and she accused him of threatening her with a hammer, so she sprayed him with bear mace. No hammer or bear was ever found. Deputies have been in this area several times in the last week or so. It appears to be a magnet for criminals, so beware.

Sept. 22

A deputy observed a radio transmitter station building near Rockport had its door left open. The light was on and nothing appeared to be missing. Crooks are always looking for an opportunity to steal copper wire and this may have been just that.

Deputies are looking for the individual who used fingernail polish to scrawl an offensive racial slur on the bench in front of the Resource Center in Concrete. Deputies have a person of interest in mind and are following up on leads.

Sept. 24

A caller from Healy Rd. near Hamilton reported damage to her yard. It appears someone had tried to turn around and inadvertently rearranged some rocks near the driveway. After further review on video, the deputy determined this was an accident, and the rocks were reset.

Sept. 27

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Bookkeeping

UpRiver Bookkeeping Services
360.853.7667 or 360.708.9761
upriver21@hotmail.com
Reasonable rates
Payroll services to full-charge bookkeeping

Brew pubs

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Fresh micro beer brewed on our premises
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38302 SR 20, Birdsview // 360.826.3406
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360.826.6001 / allvalleystorageinc@live.com
Online: www.allvalleystorageinc.com

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31411 SR 20, Lyman, WA
Unique selection of handcrafted gift by local artists. Collectibles and antiques.
Sun. 11–4, Tue.–Fri. 11–5, Sat. 10–5
Facebook or rusticrooster20@gmail.com

Hair salons

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

Liquor stores

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

Pawn shops

Gold Nugget Jewelry & Loan
New & Used guns, ammo, sporting goods
We Buy, Sell, & Loan Guns, gold, coins
Corner of Hwy 530 & Mt. Loop Hwy, Darrington
Mon.–Fri. 10–6, Sat.–Sun. 10–5
360.436.1029 www.goldnuggetpawnshop.com

Pet grooming

Animal House Pet Grooming has been serving Skagit County for 23 years providing full service grooming for cats and dogs of all breeds. Conveniently located inside North Cascade Animal Hospital. Please call Germaine for an appointment. (360) 755-2108

Ranches

Double O Ranch, LLC
46276 Concrete Sauk Valley Rd., Concrete
360.770.5380, 9-5 M-F, by appt. weekends.
All natural, grass-fed, USDA inspected beef by the package, ¼ and ½ beef orders.
Burger available at Albert's Red Apple.

Restaurants

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

Perks Espresso & Deli

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

RV Repair

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

Self-storage

Concrete Self-storage
Located on Fir Street, Concrete
Heated and nonheated, security surveillance, coded entry, 4x5 to 15x32 units, locks for sale. Customer service is our top priority!
360.853.8100/concreteselfstorageinc@live.com

a few hours, deputies had one subject in custody for trying to sell the laptop computer. (The laptop was recovered and returned to the food bank.) The thief was picked up and arrested for burglary and trafficking stolen property, and he had warrants for his arrest. Several more arrests are pending. Talk about biting the hand that feeds you.

Sept. 30

A Lyman caller reported a suspicious phone call. The person calling said they had overpaid their taxes and they were due a return. The caller requested this person's bank account information and said they would send them a refund. The alert caller said no thanks to this obvious scam.

A deputy responded with medics to an address on Main St. in Concrete. It appears the underlying medical condition may have been the fact the patient was

See Sheriff's Blotter, p. 34

Septic services

Cinema Septic
Inspection, troubleshooting and pumping
Serving all of Skagit County
Fred West, owner. 360.466.8753
fred@cinemaseptic.com
www.cinemaseptic.com

Thrift stores

Second Floor Thrift Store
Antiques, Vintage, Collectibles, Thrift
Inside & upstairs at Gold Nugget Pawn Shop
Corner of Hwy 530 & Mt. Loop Hwy, Darrington
Tue.–Fri. 10–6, Sat. 10–5
360.436.1029 www.goldnuggetpawnshop.com

Towing services

Cascades Towing
Professional roadside assistance. Flatbed towing and winch-outs. Lockouts, jumpstarts, fuel delivery, and motorcycle towing. Licensed and insured. Lowest prices around!
360.853.8599 // www.cascadestowing.com

Dave's Towing 360.853.7433, Concrete, WA
For all your roadside service needs.
Call Dave's towing for fast, courteous response.
10 years' experience can get any job done.
We tow all motorcycles, RVs, and trailers.
Storage, cash for clunkers, remove junk autos.
Registered, insured, bonded. 360.853.7433

To add your business to this directory, call
360.853.8213

or e-mail
editor@concrete-herald.com



Smile



Dwelleysms

Wit from former
Concrete Herald editor
Charles M. Dwelley

"Little by little the dreams of progress held so firm in the minds of Upper Valley people are beginning to come true. New roads, new people, new projects. With the satisfaction of accomplishment suddenly comes the realization that maybe all these dreams were just carbon copies of what communities like ours are supposed to think. Maybe we really like the valley just as it is: no strangers, no crowding, or disturbing of our rural quiet? As one of our chief dreamers, we are having a few qualms already, so when the big boom arrives, don't be surprised if we suddenly echo the sentiment that it was sure nice around here in the good old days."

—May 19, 1955

"This is the strike season again, with the odds favoring another round of wage raises, which will mean higher prices, which will mean more taxes, which will show greater sales, which will prove the basis for more wages, which will be asked for next year."

"Chewing gum, which appears to be an exception to inflationary price rises, is now selling at the rate of 170 sticks a year for every person in the country. A double purpose confection, it is also used for undercoating theater seats."

"Life is a series of frustrations. The lawn that was so stubborn in showing green now can't be stopped from becoming a hayfield."

"Nobody has yet advanced a better way to end a speech than closing the mouth before eyes start to."

—May 26, 1955

"Incongruity: the 'Welcome' signs in the Lyman Park, just a short distance from the '25 mile speed limit, enforced' signs."

"Ever notice there are two kinds of suspicion: one you get when you try to borrow money and the other when you offer to lend some?"

"In spite of all the emphasis on sex these days, we can still enjoy breakfast without worrying about the gender of a

boiled egg."

"The season is approaching when a person can die from overwork brought on by a program of relaxation."

—June 2, 1955

"Horses are becoming more popular for pleasure these days. They would become even more so, except that the rider's headlong enthusiasm is generally vetoed by the horse, and every rider has to furnish his own upholstery."

"Counterfeiting continues to hold a fatal attraction for artistically inclined crooks. Here is one place where a perfect copy is regarded more highly than the original."

"There was joy in the streets this week and happiness in the hearts. The flutter of excitement was due to the long-anticipated return of our prodigal sun."

"Train 'em young. Next time your youngster asks for a dime for candy, give him 4 cents—and then hand him another 6 to take care of the hidden taxes."

—June 9, 1955

"There is no hope of ever licking unemployment. If we got everyone else working, there'd still be the unemployment and welfare people."

"With most people the main objective in life is to keep up with their neighbors at home—and be able to pass them on the highways."

—June 16, 1955

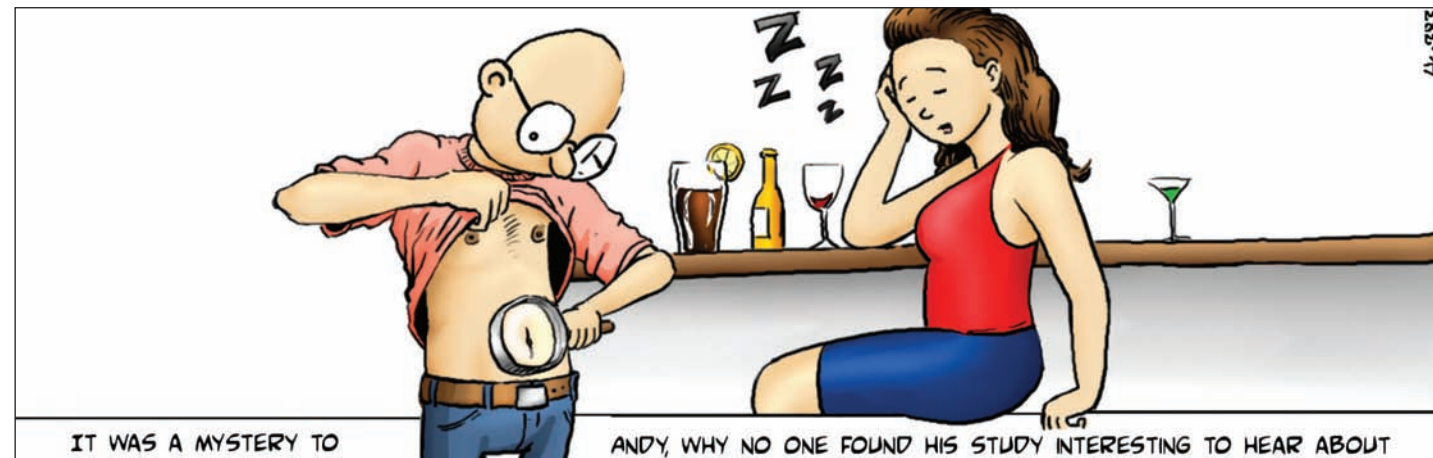
"If everyone in the world behaved according to your own principles, it would be so dull you'd probably get out and raise heck yourself."

"Thinking is one of the most neglected pastimes with the average man. It's so much easier to just buy a copy of what somebody else thought."

"One dad grumbles that the first thing they seem to teach college kids is the touch system: a touch for five bucks here, 10 there."

—June 23, 1955

Public Service Announcement



Concrete Harold

By Joyce Harris



Across

- 60's do
- Hand-warmer
- Guitar stroke
- Surf sound
- Polo grounds?
- Anatomical fold
- Beyond the regular schedule
- Village in Belgium
- Spark
- Fingers
- Frightening: var.
- Recipe abbr.
- Engenders
- Feet, slangily
- Entertained, in a way
- Be human
- Omitted
- In a remarkable manner
- Tune
- It can be flipped
- Tangle
- Oolong holder
- Don Juans
- Till fill
- King or queen, e.g.
- Nigerian city

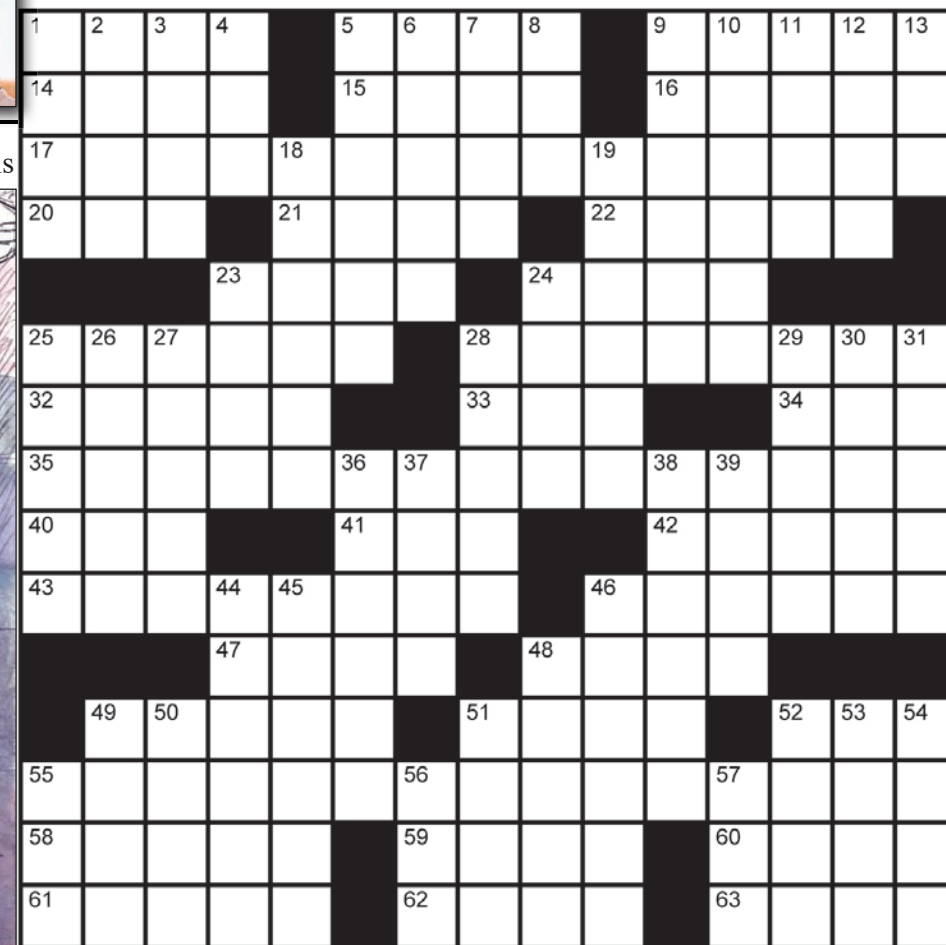
- lily
- Drench
- Go over
- Rial spender
- Trollope's "Lady ____"
- Guitarist Lofgren
- Gozo Island is part of it
- Drink garnish
- Keep in

Down

- It can be gray
- " ____ Brown" (1974 film)
- Have status
- "Catch-22" pilot
- Functionaries
- Bad loan
- Concern
- Word with cry or side
- Directed skyward
- Fluffs up
- Venom
- Wood sorrels
- Card game
- Menu
- Natural
- It has a big mouth

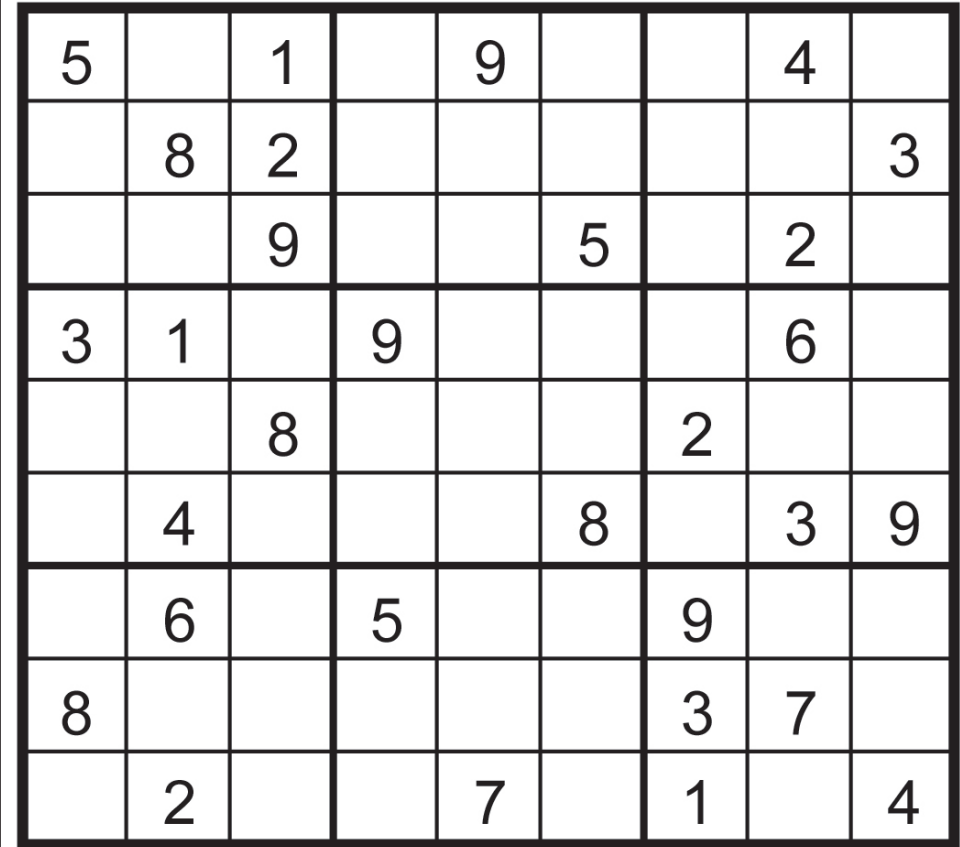
- Donut-shaped surfaces
- ____ suit
- Mischief-maker
- Bone cavities
- Pendergrass
- With gelidity
- Noted blind mathematician
- Eye sores
- Heir, sometimes
- Purges
- Bookseller
- Certain network
- Penetrating
- Lack of oxygen
- "All clear!" is one
- Saint-Germain's river
- Myrtle family plant
- Stage of development
- Compos mentis
- Hissy fit
- Look like a creep
- Call to attention
- Neighbor of Bulg.
- Bad-mouth
- Pulls

Crossword: "Read all about it!"



Sudoku

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



*Solutions to both puzzles are on p. 39.

Funny as Facebook

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

- "Criticizing a woman about her looks rather than her qualifications. Yeah, because that's never happened before. Just one morning I'd like to not hear the name Trump while enjoying my coffee and news."
- "Let the record show that the fact I don't have first-day pics of the boys to share doesn't mean I killed and ate my own young in the night. It just means I'm an under-achiever in the mom department. This is not news. They are both safe at school and the house is once again quiet for work. Thank you, teachers. I love you more than you know."

Join The Library This November!

Make the Town of Concrete part of the Upper Skagit Library District.

Give Concrete residents equal access to full library services.

Make a wise investment in the future of your community.

Learn more at
Town Hall or the library.

www.UpperSkagit.Lib.wa.us

The Man in the Mud Room

By Nicola Pearson

Editor's note: This is the 10th installment of a monthly serialized story by award-winning author and playwright Nicola Pearson of Sauk City. Future installments will appear on this page each month during 2015 until the story is complete. Previous installments are posted at www.concrete-herald.com.

The drive to Marblemount was much more pleasant than the interview with Breckenridge's girlfriend, Shelby. The fall colors on the trees rising up the ridges alongside the highway made brushstrokes of warm orange and soft gold through the landscape of evergreens. The field of blueberry bushes just before the farm stand was such a burnished copper-crimson that Lange made Suleka pull over so he could take a photo with his phone.

But Shelby, a petite, full-bodied brunette whose hair stood out from her head like she'd had an electric shock, took the mellow right out of Lange's mind with her surly tongue and abrasive manner. Pointing her finger at his chest, she made it clear that she had nothing to do with Margi Breckenridge, other than sleeping with her husband, and that she didn't intend to waste her time answering any of his questions, especially since they were probably the same questions that the Sheriff's Deputy had asked her last night. And she knew her rights!

Lange sighed inwardly. He probably had enough of an impression of this snippy young woman to leave it at that, but he felt compelled to push a little further. "Aren't you concerned for Sam Breckenridge that his wife is missing?" he asked.

"No," she retorted. "He was gonna leave her for me anyway."
"Are you sure about that?"
She put one hand on her hip and flashed her large, dark eyes at him, trying to appear alluring, Lange guessed. "Wouldn't you?" she said.

He held back the retort that came to mind and tried one last time to get the facts. "And you were in Eastern Washington Saturday morning?" he said. "I told you, ask that other deputy. I have to get ready for work."

Once Lange and Suleka were safely inside the Nissan again, she made her assessment. "If I were Sam, I'd stick with

Margi. She's much nicer than that little vixen."

"Maybe he'd already come to that conclusion," Lange mused.

Suleka stared at him, intrigued, as she turned the key in the ignition. "And if she knew that's what he was thinking ..." she added.

They let the idea hover as the Nissan crossed the green metal bridge over the Cascade River and started down Rockport-Cascade Rd., Lange with his eyes on the sunlight dancing on the surface of the water, and Suleka hunched over the steering wheel, her head tilted in contemplation. Having turned it over in his mind every which way, the ex-detective from NYC finally sighed. "But she was away all weekend."

"What if," Suleka theorized, "Shelby planned a meeting with Margi for when she got back?"

Lange faced her. "To what purpose?" "To talk about Sam."

"But then why would Margi go?" "What if it was Margi who wanted the meeting?"

Lange caught on immediately. "Because Sam was talking about leaving her ..."

"And she wanted to talk Shelby into backing off. Or at least leaving some room for her in the picture."

"So Shelby agrees, as long as it can be someplace in Marblemount ..."

"... Where she knows Margi goes wildcrafting ..."

"At a time when she knows Sam won't be home."

Suleka's enthusiasm for the idea rose. "I mean, there's nothing to say that she's been missing since Saturday morning."

Lange opened his mouth to agree, but then his enthusiasm deflated. "Except the dog food."

"What?"

He stared out the passenger window at the river again. If the bowl hadn't been so full he could believe Margi had left as late as Sunday afternoon.

"What about the dog food?" Suleka insisted.

But Margi must have been planning to be away to leave so much food out for the dog, Lange thought. No, there was no way she's only been gone since Sunday afternoon.

Suleka hit the steering wheel with the

heel of her hand and snapped, "Don't you know how frustrating it is when you leave me out of the discussion?"

"What's that?" said Lange, completely unaware of her torture.

She pushed her lips up to her nose indignantly; he could be so dense.

"Nothing," she mumbled.

Lange sat forward as Suleka swung to the left, pulling into a short gravel driveway with a brown, rambler-style house at the end of it. A silver Taurus with a yellow bumper sticker that said Grandma's Taxi was parked in front of the house and a woman, leaning into the trunk, stood upright as they arrived and gave them an unwelcoming glare. She was a stout, middle-aged woman with teased dark hair and red lipstick to match her red-and-black-checked jacket. "Is that Mary Lynn?"

"Uh huh," said Suleka.

"Has she lived upriver long?"

"A few years I think. Why?"

"I don't know. She looks more suburban than upriver."

Suleka laughed. "Well that's Mary Lynn for you."

She switched off the engine and they moved at the same time to get out of the Nissan. Mary Lynn marched toward them, her black pants flapping against her short heels. "What do you—?" She stopped as the stern in her face suddenly changed to delight. "Oh, hi, Suleka!"

"Hi, Mary Lynn."

"I didn't know you were coming over today."

"Well it wasn't planned." Suleka held her right hand out, palm up, preparing to introduce Lange, but Mary Lynn continued on as if he weren't there.

"Oh, I wish you could have come to the Women's Retreat up at Baker Lake. You would have really loved it."

"Is that right?"

"Everyone was so friendly and it was peaceful and relaxing. Plus the food was amazing. They made primarily vegetarian dishes, all organic of course, and—"

"I'm sorry to interrupt," said Lange, not feeling sorry at all but doing his best to sound sorry. "But we're under a time constraint here."

"It's about Margi Breckenridge," Suleka added. "You know she's missing?"

Mary Lynn's forehead creased. "Yes, I heard."

Lange reached his hand out to meet hers. "I'm Callum Lange," he said, "and I'd like to ask you a few questions." Her mouth made a little O of surprise and then her face lit up like a kid's on a merry-go-round. "You're Callum Lange!" she

gushed. "I've heard so much about you. I keep telling Suleka every time I see her, which is not that often because—"

Lange retrieved his hand from her grasp and interrupted again. "I believe you were the last person to speak to Margi Breckenridge before she went missing."

"Was I?"

"You spoke to her Friday night."

"I did," agreed Mary Lynn. "We needed to confab about whether she was coming to the retreat or not and how I'd find out what she decided, but I didn't know that made me the last person to speak to her. How spooky." She wrapped her open jacket across her chest in folded arms as if the thought made her want to hunker down against the cold.

"You told Deputy Collins that you waited for Margi's call to know whether you should stop by and pick her up for the retreat. When she didn't call, you just headed up to Baker Lake without her."

"That's right."

"Except you didn't."

Lange thought he saw a fissure of fear cross her face but it was gone so quickly he couldn't be sure. "What's that?" she said.

"You didn't just wait for her call and then leave when you didn't get one. You called her on Saturday morning."

Mary Lynn McCracken frowned like she didn't understand.

"There was a missed call from you on Margi's phone," Suleka explained.

Lange bit down on the urge to scold Suleka. She should have waited for Mary Lynn to give it up without prompting. Maybe some training was in order.

But Mary Lynn seemed grateful for the reminder. "That's right! I did call Margi. I guess I really wanted her to come with me and, well, you know how bad cell phone reception can be up here." She was looking at Suleka whose phone chirruped in her pocket at that very moment as if to disprove the point. Suleka looked surprised, then walked away to answer the call, coming to a stop next to the open trunk of Mary Lynn's car.

"Well it is," Mary Lynn argued to Lange. "People are always leaving me voicemails that I don't get until I'm closer to the cell tower in Concrete so I thought maybe I should check. But Margi didn't pick up." Her face became glum. "I wish she had come with me. We wouldn't be here now if she'd come."

Lange thought for a moment, watching the frost making big, silvery drips on the bottoms of the pendulous cedar tree

Mud Room, cont. from p. 38

branches as it melted in the morning sunshine. "If you were worried about cell phone reception," he said finally, bringing his focus back to Mary Lynn, "why didn't you just stop by on Saturday morning to see if Margi wanted to go?"

"I thought about it." She darted a look at Suleka, who was ending her phone conversation. "But I can be kind of pushy and I didn't want to make her come."

Lange nodded, as if he understood. Suleka walked back toward them and he could tell by the way she was looking at him that she had something important to relay. He just had one more question for Mary Lynn. "And you knew Margi was missing how?"

"I stopped at the grocery store on my way home and overheard someone talking about it."

"Albert's was open that early?" Suleka sounded surprised. She pulled her pocket watch out to check the time.

"I meant the gas station by the Baker Lake Highway," Mary Lynn put in quickly. "I stopped there to pick up a few groceries and the *Concrete Herald* because I knew it was too early for Albert's."

But Lange had seen the flush on her cheekbones, had heard the backpedalling in her voice, and he knew they'd just caught her in a lie. What baffled him was why would she lie about where she heard the news?

Continued next month ...

Letters, cont. from p. 25

Message from a mentor

I hope the citizens of Concrete fully appreciate the remarkable contributions being made by Jason Miller in his dual capacity as mayor and publisher of *Concrete Herald*.

As a publisher myself for the past 30 years, and another decade before that spent as an editor, I know the demanding and deadline-oriented work involved in publishing a monthly newspaper, which now includes the additional task of maintaining a Web site. Most importantly, the quality of the *Concrete Herald* editorial content has continued to improve with each issue. I trust that local businesses will recognize that and provide an even greater level of advertising support going forward.

As a lobbyist in Olympia for a number

of years, I also know the complexities of the political process and its inherent time demands. It's frankly hard to imagine how Jason can handle both the publishing and political responsibilities with such apparent effectiveness, at least from my outside perspective.

I mentored Jason in the early stages of his publishing career and take great pride in what he has been able to achieve, both journalistically and politically. The citizens of Concrete are the beneficiaries.

Larry Coffman, publisher
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NOTICES

NOTICE OF TOWN COUNCIL 2016 BUDGET WORKSHOPS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Concrete Town Council will hold workshops on the following dates in preparation for the 2016 Budget:

Sept. 28	6:00 p.m.	2016 Fees/Utility Rates
Oct. 13	6:00 p.m.	Review 2015 Budget
Oct. 26	6:00 p.m.	2016 Salary/Benefit Workshop
Nov. 9	6:00 p.m.	Review 2016 Proposed Budget
Nov. 23	6:00 p.m.	2016 Budget (IF NEEDED)

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

Published in the September, October and November 2015 editions of *Concrete Herald*.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Concrete Town Council will hold a public hearing on October 26, 2015 at 7:00 PM or as soon as possible thereafter at the Concrete Town Hall located at 45672 Main Street, regarding Fees and Utility Rates for the 2016 Budget Year.

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

Published in the October 2015 issue of *Concrete Herald*.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held by the Town Council of the Town of Concrete at its regular Council Meeting in the Town Hall at 45672 Main Street, Concrete, Washington, on Monday, November 9, 2015 at 7:00 PM or as soon as possible thereafter.

The purpose of the public hearing is to review the proposed 2016 Property Tax. Action may be taken at this meeting.

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

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Crossword solution, from p. 37

1	A	F	R	O	5	M	U	F	F	9	U	P	B	O	13
14	R	O	A	R	15	A	S	I	A	16	P	L	I	C	A
17	E	X	T	R	18	A	C	U	R	19	I	C	U	L	A
20	A	Y	E		21	G	E	R	M	22	N	A	M	E	S
23					24	E	E	R	Y	25	T	B	S	P	
26	S	P	27	W	N	S	28	T	O	29	O	T	S	30	I
31															
32	W	I	N	E	D	33	E	R	R	34	C	U	T		
35	E	X	T	R	A	36	O	R	D	37	I	N	A	R	I
40	A	I	R			41	L	I	D	42	M	E	L	E	E
43	T	E	A	C	A	44	D	D	Y	45	S	A	T	Y	R
47						48	O	N	E	S	49	S	I	Z	E
50	L	A	G	O	S	51	S	E	G	O	52	S	O	P	
53	R	U	N	E	X	54	T	R	A	I	N	55	I	N	G
56	O	M	A	N	I	57	A	N	N	A	58	N	I	L	S
59	M	A	L	T	A	60	P	E	E	L	61	S	T	E	T

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NOTICE OF 2016 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARINGS

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Published in the October and November 2015 editions of *Concrete Herald*.

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To place a Classified ad, call 360.853.8213 or e-mail ads@concrete-herald.com. Ads are \$5 per every 10 words, rounded up to the nearest 10. Payment is due at time of placement. Deadline for the November 2015 issue is Oct. 26.

Sudoku solution, from p. 37

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

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