

The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley

Concrete Herald

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50 cents

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Concrete's new Civil Air Patrol flight is composed of, from left, Kadin Cockrum, Nathaniel Cockrum, Robert Rushin, Christian Joens, Jonathan Akers, Claus Joens, Dolores Elliott, James Cockrum.

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From the editor

Farewell, Mr. Funk

On p. 34 of this issue you'll find an obituary for Wallie Valentine Funk. Read it and you'll understand why I was so pleased and humbled in 2009, when the *Concrete Herald* resumed a regular publishing schedule and a fellow named Funk contacted me from Anacortes with his support. I'd only lived in Concrete about four years, I was still figuring out the lay of the land, and I didn't know Wallie, but he gave me his time and wisdom, and even bought a subscription. I figured out in a hurry that this was a fellow worth listening to.

I met with Wallie a handful of times since then, always enjoying his wit. He treated our newspaper seriously and made me feel like I was on equal footing with him—which, of course, is utterly ridiculous.

Farewell, Mr. Funk. I miss you already.

—J. K. M.

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Opinion

Letters to the editor

Thanks to Cascade Days Committee

We would like to thank the Cascade Days Committee for giving us the honor of being the Grand Marshals in the 2017 Cascade Days Parade.

Thank you very much! It was an honor and a pleasure.

Rich and Rosie Philips
Concrete

The miracle of Cascade Days

Every day we have opportunities to be part of a miracle. I realize how corny that sounds to many people, but I truly believe that. On the surface, many of those opportunities appear to only benefit others, but the act of giving of yourself, if done with the right attitude, allows miracles to occur within you.

The planning, organization, and execution of all the activities associated with Cascade Days is a prime example. Such community activities simply would cease to exist without the numerous volunteers who step forward to create that miracle. They all deserve our thanks.

As one of the organizers of the annual Upper Skagit Library Foundation's Book Sale, I am also amazed by the number of people willing to give their time, efforts, and books to ensure the success of the Foundation's primary fundraiser to support the activities of the community library. They are the key to making this miracle happen every year.

The success of a fundraiser is traditionally measured in dollars and cents and by that measure, the sale was a big success thanks to all those who generously donated to support one of our most valuable resources—the public library. On behalf of the Upper Skagit

Library District, the Library Foundation, and the library patrons who benefit from such sales, I wish to thank everyone who aided immeasurably to this year's success.

John Boggs
Concrete

Gates comes through again

Thanks to former U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates and his wife, Rebecca, Concrete Food Bank now owns our building. Not only did Robert buy the building then donate it back to us, he has reached out to the food bank with a new way to help: He has offered to match any donation made to the Concrete Food Bank's building repair fund up to \$10,000! He wants to encourage others to help keep the food bank's doors open.

Donations can be made to the Concrete Food Bank Building Fund account at any Columbia Bank branch or by mail to Concrete Food Bank, P.O. Box 53, Concrete, WA 98237.

Repairs are under way on the failing foundation in the back of the building. The funds would help with the repair of the roof and maybe the purchase of badly needed new freezers; the old freezers are so outdated and not energy efficient.

Thank you to everyone who has

See **Letters**, p. 39

Letters policy

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

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Message from the mayor

By Jason Miller

A new school year has begun, and that compels me to remind all drivers to slow down and pay special attention at the intersection of SR 20 and Superior Ave. During the first three days of school, Councilmember Rob Thomas and I joined long-suffering crossing guard Tracie Meacham at that intersection and held signs reminding people that it's the law to stop for people who are waiting to cross, not only those who are in the crosswalk. Please set a good example and slow down or stop for our children, as the situation warrants.

I'm pleased that our efforts to upgrade our wastewater treatment plant continue to move forward. Of the three problem spots—the blowers, the membranes, and the screen at the headworks—we've replaced the blowers and will replace the membranes this month. We're about a year to a year-and-a-half out on the screen at the headworks. With these three elements addressed, we should see the plant returning the kinds of numbers that will make the Dept. of Ecology happy.

Also slated to start this month is the West Main Street renovation project. This is a continuation of the work on Main St. that has been going on since the early 2000s, starting in our Town Center. I'm particularly

excited about this final stretch of restoration, because it represents a return to the original neighborhood design and helps to address the downright scary situation on the south side of the street, where cars can (and do) park on top of the sidewalk, and children can dart between them, immediately into the travel lane.

Finally, after two attempts to find a contractor for our spray park project, we'll go out to bid again late this year. Here's hoping the third time's the charm.

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



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Community Action aims to increase employment, training in Concrete

By Joseph Calabro

Community Action's East County branch is working to develop a series of community-based programs that are designed to bolster the Concrete economy while providing goods and services for travelers to North Cascades National Park (NCNP).

Nearly 1 million people visited NCNP in 2016. Community Action hopes to bring more of those tourism dollars to Concrete, a gateway community to the park. The nonprofit organization envisions increased employment and job-training opportunities for locals as the town welcomes NCNP travelers.

East County Manager Claudia Marken and Direct Service Specialist Cheryl Cunningham said their goal is to help revitalize the Concrete community.

"Our vision and hope is to increase employment and training opportunities in Concrete so that it helps stabilize the lives of participants in our programs," said Marken.

The proposals include a culinary training program, a thrift store, a branded food item, and a bike rental and repair shop. The group is measuring the public's interest in these potential programs with a five-question survey titled "The Future of Concrete: Your Opinion Matters." The survey asks respondents to rank the four programs by how effective they believe they would be. The survey can be completed online at the Concrete Community Center Facebook page or

in person at the East County Resource Center at 45770 W. Main St., Concrete.

So far, the culinary training program and the thrift store have received the most interest of the proposals introduced in the survey. Marken speculated that the demand for year-round jobs and a nearby source of discounted merchandise accounted for the popularity of those two options. The branded food item (likely a snack or a sack lunch) would come from the culinary program and be sold wholesale, while the bike rental and repair center could provide specialized training to employees.

With the implementation of one or more proposals, Community Action hopes to continue the success it has seen from the Concrete Community Center's meal program, which serves lunch noon to 1 p.m., Monday through Friday. The meal program began shortly after Community Action East County took over operation of the center more than a year ago. Since then, nearly 6,000 meals have been served to residents of all ages, Marken said.

Some of those who take advantage of the meal program give back by volunteering. "We're giving them an opportunity to contribute in a way that they can," Marken said. "Through that experience they sometimes start to feel self confidence that they haven't had in a long time ... it starts snowballing."

See **Community Action**, p. 5

Community Action, cont. from p. 4

Good fit

Community Action's vision aligns with Town of Concrete's economic development plan, which was developed by an Economic Development Task Force from 2014-16 and formally adopted by the Town Council in 2016. The plan, which is being executed by the newly formed Economic Development Commission, includes 16 goals, two of which are directly addressed by the Community Action proposal:

- Goal 6: Identify education and training needs.
- Goal 11: Create innovative partnerships to support existing businesses and new businesses.

"I'm intrigued by Claudia and Cheryl's ideas, and encouraged by how well they dovetail with our efforts to revive our economy," said Concrete Mayor Jason Miller. "I look forward to collaborating

with them to bring their ideas to life."

Northwest Innovation Resource Center (NWIRC), a Bellingham-based nonprofit that works with entrepreneurs in Northwest Washington to bring their products and business ideas to life, is advising the East County office on its strategy.

"We are excited to work with Claudia, Cheryl, and Community Action to develop the right strategies to make their vision for economic vitality in Concrete real," said NWIRC Program Manager Lara Merriam-Smith.

Community Action of Skagit County is a private nonprofit organization established in 1979 and headquartered in Mount Vernon. The East County branch provides more than 20 core services, including critical needs services, veterans' services, housing assistance, mental health service partnerships, and Skagit County services.



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Sisters Wilder (left) and Goji Jones of Taproot Farm, Van Horn, provide fresh produce to local food banks for the Fresh Bucks program from Taproot and Blue Heron Farm. Submitted photo.

Fresh Bucks program feeds locals in need

By Christie Fairchild and Betty Seguin

The “Fresh Bucks” program is alive and well this summer, with the addition of Upper Valley communities as recipients.

Designed to provide healthful food choices to shoppers and reimburse vendors who grow and sell fresh fruits and vegetables, the program is made available by a “Food from Farms” grant to the Skagit Valley Farmers Markets Coalition (SVFMC), which has the following goals:

- Support sustainable agriculture education.
- Lessen the burden on government through incentive programs that bring affordable, local produce to under-privileged community members and benefit local farmers.
- Combat community deterioration through economic incentives.

The Fresh Bucks program works through three steps:

1. Users visit their local food bank in Lyman, Hamilton, Concrete, or Marblemount.
2. They ask for a Fresh Bucks coupon/postcard.
3. They take the postcard to an Upper Valley Farmers’ Market (the Concrete Saturday Market or the Marblemount Community Market) and redeem it for \$30 worth of fresh, organically grown produce.

This season, more than \$250 worth of fruits and vegetables already has been distributed at the two Upper Valley markets, and although the Concrete Saturday Market closed for the year after Labor Day (with a couple reopenings planned for September and October), Marblemount’s Community Market will hold one last “Harvest Faire” on Sun., Sept. 10, from noon to 4 p.m. (see article, p. 26).

THIS AND THAT

By J. K. M.

Women can learn the basics of fishing, hunting, and other outdoor skills in a **September weekend workshop** that includes sessions led by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) experts and other certified instructors.

Scheduled for Sept. 15–17 at Camp Waskowitz in North Bend, the annual workshop is coordinated by Washington Outdoor Women (WOW).

Experienced instructors at the workshop will teach 21 classes on skills such as archery, outdoor survival, fly-fishing and fly-tying, big-game hunting, and wilderness first aid. Instructors who have volunteered to share their skills include WDFW biologists Stacie Kelsey (basic freshwater fishing), Laura Till (map and compass reading), and Shelly Ament (wildlife awareness and tracking).

Workshop participants must be at least

18 years old. Those planning to participate in the fly-fishing and freshwater fishing sessions must have a current Washington recreational fishing license.

More information about the workshop, including attendance fees and online registration, is available at <http://washingtonoutdoorwomen.org/>.

The **WSU Livestock Advisor program** begins a 10-week series of classes Sept. 12 at the Burlington WSU Skagit County Extension office. Livestock covered include sheep, goats, beef, swine, rabbits, poultry, and livestock guardian dogs. Topics covered range from housing needs, feeding, breeding, and fencing to raising livestock sustainably, mud and manure management, and weed management.

Cost of the 10-week course is \$125, with a second person from the farm or family free. Offered Tuesday evenings from Sept. 12 through Nov. 28, from 6 to 9 p.m., classes are held at WSU Skagit County Extension, 11768 Westar Lane, Ste. A, Burlington. Download an application at <http://skagit.wsu.edu>.

For more information, call 360.428.4270 ext. 240 or e-mail joand@wsu.edu.

Council summary

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

Aug. 14 regular meeting

- **Public Safety:** Sgt. Chris Kading reported on a break-in that occurred at a property near the post office. He also reported the train car fire is still under investigation. He also stated the Community Closet had also been broken into.

Mayor Jason Miller stated that he believes there is asbestos under the railcar, which will make it more costly for the owners to dispose of.

- Town engineer Cody Hart reported the grant application for Cedar St. is proceeding. He stated that preliminary plans were left for staff review and comments last week. He stated that he is proceeding with finalizing the cost proposals and grant application. He stated the application needs to be submitted before Aug. 18. He stated they will also put together and submit a grant application for the East Main St. sidewalks.

Town Planner Marianne Manville-Ailles explained where the town is at with the property that George Theodoratus would like to donate to the town so that it can begin to develop its plan for a primitive campground/day use area/boat launch on the west side of the confluence of the Baker and Skagit rivers. She stated that town attorney David Day had completed a lot of research regarding this item and discovered a route that will allow the town to annex the property for municipal purposes. She stated the resolution before the council will allow for town staff to begin the process.

She stated they will most likely do a boundary line adjustment first, then Theodoratus will donate the property. She stated after that, the town will grant him a small easement and then move forward with annexation and the zoning of the property. She stated once this is all completed, it will allow the town to move forward with its plans for this area.

Council approved the resolution, allowing town staff to begin the

described process.

- **Economic Development Commission:** Councilmember Ginger Kyritsis reported the commission met last week and discussed the following:

Web site: The Web site is very close to being completed; online utility payments is the final task.

Branding: Two workshops have been held, and they are working through all the information and data that was gathered.

Broadband: Town will work with EDASC and the Port of Skagit to get broadband to Concrete, which is about three years from now.

Community Action: Claudia Marken attended and presented information on its apprenticeship programs proposal (see article, p. 4).

Flag Contest: The contest is under way; Eric Archuletta and Tyler Nibarger will staff a Town of Concrete Flag Contest booth during Cascade Days.

Adaptive Reuse: Mayor Miller reported that on July 31, he and Archuletta had met with members of EDASC and the Port to tour the Town Center and discuss the different vacant buildings. He stated they made it to the old fire hall, and they began to discuss adaptive reuse possibilities for this building. He stated that Archuletta is working on a feasibility study for this building.

Aug. 28 regular meeting

- **Public safety:** Sgt. Greg Adams reported there were approximately 64 calls in the month of July. He stated only two of those really stood out: One was a robbery, and the other was what he believed to be a road rage issue.

Council inquired when Sgt. Adams began with the East Detachment. Sgt. Adams and Mayor Miller updated the council on Sgt. Kading’s move to the Pro-Act Unit. Sgt. Adams was a prior sergeant of the East Detachment for many years prior to Sgt. Clark and Sgt. Kading.

—Compiled from staff minutes

Keep track of your council

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

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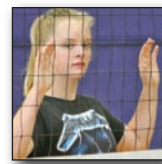
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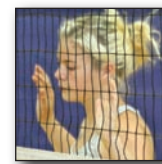
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Sports



Volleyball team starting young players

By Kevik Rensink, head coach

A new season for the Concrete High School volleyball program is under way, and the emphasis is on the word "new."

Of the 20 players who are turning out this year, nine are freshmen. Only seven players have more than three years of experience playing volleyball. Of the five years I have been coaching volleyball at Concrete, this is the youngest and most inexperienced group.

For obvious reasons, this bodes well for the future. However, this also benefits the present. We have a great core of returners from last year's varsity squad. Those four players are seniors Alyssa Roberts, Jalayne Hastings, and Kaitlin Earheart and junior Grace Clemons. Clemons was our best defender last season and will lock down the role of defensive specialist on this year's team. She brings great leadership, is very vocal on the court, and has the most playing experience.

Earheart returns to the middle for us and will be a strong presence for us as a middle hitter/middle blocker. She has a powerful swing and really good hands, and will be able to dominate the net.

Hastings finished the season last year as our top server, recording the highest serving percentage and the most aces on the team. She ranked top five in the league in serving and will continue to set the standard for serving in our program. Her entire game has improved greatly during her career, and she will perform well playing right side for us.

Roberts was our starting libero last year and will play the same position this year. She is a strong back row player and is an exceptional passer.

This nucleus of four will be a big part of our success this season. They are all very confident players at their positions and have been a part of the post-season during their entire careers. In order for us to get back there this year we will count on some of our younger players to step in and play a major role on this team right away. Kylie Clark and Cassidy Smith (both freshmen) look to fill the role of setters. They both have great hands and a willingness to find the ball quickly. I believe they will catch up to the level of play that is required of them and be a tremendous asset to our team.

Sam Mitchell, a sophomore who played JV last year, should see some court time this year with the varsity team. Her height (5'10") will be key in the middle for us when Earheart rotates to the back row. She is another power arm we can bring into the match that can be a game changer for us.

Lexi Denley has been one of the biggest surprises so far. Denley, also a sophomore, is only in her second year of volleyball, but has been outstanding from the serve line so far in practice. She has the potential to do some good things for us this year, and will play outside hitter.

I look forward to the challenge of developing a young team and blending them with the more experienced players we have. It may not be a sprint out of the blocks this season, but look for this team to round into shape soon. Once they do, this is going to be a really fun team to watch. These girls are working hard every day, and I know they want to do a good job of representing our volleyball program and our school. We should be very competitive this year, so take a look at our schedule and make plans to come watch these girls play.



Faith Daniels taps one over the net during an August practice.

Good numbers, size for football squad

By Jason Miller

Concrete football Head Coach Marcus Carr can breathe just a little easier this year. His team that numbered in the twenties last year has grown to 36 jerseys on the field, with a good balance of size and speed—and coachability.

"They're eager to learn," said Carr. "They follow instructions well, and they want to be better."

Returners Riley and Marshall Fichter, Tyler Hansen, and Cole Meacham should factor heavily in this season's performance. Riley is the team's starting

quarterback, and Marshall already is racking up rushing numbers worthy of the No. 17 jersey he wears—his brother Gibson's jersey.

Schedule wise, Carr is optimistic and realistic. "We have to play La Conner twice, and they've been a thorn in our side, but everything else stacks up pretty well for us," he said. "We even have a couple 1A schools on the list, but conference wise, we should be near the top."

Season opener win

The Lions clashed with the Life Christian Academy Eagles for their season-opening game on Sept. 1, crushing the Eagles 41-0. Life Christian is a 2B school outside of Concrete's league.

Carr said he was particularly pleased with the Lions' defensive play. "Probably the best tackling we've done," he said. "We swarmed the ball well, didn't let them get any big plays. Offensively we looked sharp, even with a few pass plays that didn't go well. The running game looked strong too."

The team next faces Friday Harbor for a home game on Fri., Sept. 8 at 6:30 p.m. The game will be preceded by a tailgate barbecue at the east end of the high school complex at 5:30 p.m.

The remaining September lineup looks like this:

- Sept. 15: at Vashon Island, 7 p.m.
- Sept. 22: vs. Darrington at home, 7 p.m.
- Sept. 29: at La Conner, 7 p.m.



The Concrete Lions football team kicked off its season with a 41-0 win over Life Christian Academy on Sept. 1. During a practice leading up to the season opener, clockwise from top, the offensive line gets into position, Vincent Wenneker pulls in a pass, and Head Coach Marcus Carr remains optimistic. Carr is aided this year by assistants Josh Fichter, Don Olmstead, and Arthur Sanchez.



Junior Josabet Acevedo-Lara listens to direction from Coach Kevik Rensink during practice.

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Women's soccer looking aggressive, cohesive

On a withering August day, a group of soccer players gathered on the practice field near Concrete Elementary School. This year the high school team will start a little thin, but by their third game, all 13 players should be eligible for field time.

The team almost didn't have a season this year, after outgoing coach Jessica Filtz's position remained unfilled until the last possible day. But new coach Madison Garding calls her crew of 13 "solid" and said she's aware of a couple 8th graders who might join the team.

"I'd love to pull some 8th graders, because I'd like to have a really good number of girls, training more, learning more, so that by the time their freshman year comes around, they're comfortable," she said. "That's the goal."

Returning senior forward Mary Spangler and returning junior forward Nora Towner will play key leadership and performance roles this year, said Coach Garding. "I'm excited to see those two work together this year. Mary used to play defense, but I think she'll be way better up front with Nora."

The team will face a challenging schedule again this year, including powerhouses Friday Harbor and La Conner. "All the teams we'll play are good; we'll have to feel them out and find their weaknesses," said Garding.

The soccer season kicks off on Thur., Sept. 7 at 4:30 p.m., with Concrete hosting Friday Harbor.

—J. K. M.



Scenes from soccer practice: This year's team has "a solid 13 girls," said Coach Madison Garding, who hopes to add a few 8th graders to the mix this year.



New coach on the soccer field

Trying to spot the new CHS women's soccer coach? Just look for the pink hair!

Madison Garding, 21, is a 2014 graduate of Sedro-Woolley High School and brings 13 years of soccer experience to her first coaching gig, after playing mostly on premier teams throughout Washington.

"I try to be structured when I'm coaching, but I also like to make it fun and challenging," said Garding of her coaching style. "I want my players to love the sport, so I try to find different ways to make practice interesting, such as games."

So far, Garding likes what she's seeing on the field. "Our players are very driven," she said. "We had a few players who started late, and we didn't have a coach until the last minute, so we are trying very hard to catch up, and we're getting there."

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

UP AND AWAY

Civil Air Patrol flight launches in Concrete.

By Jason Miller

The Civil Air Patrol has come to Concrete. On Aug. 1, a new "flight" was formed within the existing Skagit Composite Squadron, which was established in Burlington in 1942.

What's it all about? Civil Air Patrol (CAP), the longtime all-volunteer U.S. Air Force auxiliary, is the newest member of the Air Force's Total Force, which consists of regular Air Force, Air National Guard, and Air Force Reserve, along with Air Force retired military and civilian employees.

The Concrete flight is led by Concrete High School teacher Claus Joens, along with locals Dolores Elliott and James Cockrum, a Purple Heart-decorated veteran and a retired Army medic with the 101st Airborne.

The fledgling, all-volunteer group counts just five members so far, which Joens hopes to double during this school year and again next year. The intrepid cadets are Christian Joens, 14; Robert Rushin, 13; Jonathan Akers, 16; Nathaniel Cockrum, 15; and Kadin Cockrum, 14. Every one of them seems to be aiming for one particular plum: the opportunity to eventually enter the Army, Air Force, Navy, or Marines at a higher pay grade from the start.

"I am in CAP because I want to serve my country," said Rushin, "but I would also like to get as far as I can, hopefully past one of the big program milestones, so that when I join the Air Force, I can go in as an E3 instead of an E1—better money right off the bat."

"Locally we generally have more students enlisting in the military than enter a four-year university, this program provides students a head start on a military, STEM aviation, or leadership career," said Captain Joens. "Since 15 percent of the U.S. economy is aviation based, and Boeing contributes more to the U.S. gross national product than any other U.S. company, the benefits of a CAP-aided career are obvious."

The new flight has the full support of the Concrete School District and other

officials who recognize Civil Air Patrol as a way for youth ages 12–18 to learn aerospace education, ground search and rescue, and emergency services skills, and programs designed to develop them into responsible citizens who are leaders in their communities. In addition, each youth member is eligible to receive five instruction flights in a powered aircraft and an additional five in a nonpowered glider with one of the program's Certified Flight Instructors.

CAP also is a great way for adults of all ages (with or without military experience) to give back by volunteering their time and expertise. Active and retired military personnel typically find CAP to be a positive way to share with those who may or may not be looking for an armed services career but benefit from that experience nonetheless. Leaders hope the new flight will draw new members in from well beyond Concrete.

To contact a member of Skagit Composite Squadron or the new Concrete Flight, e-mail skagit@wawg.cap.gov or call 360.853.4015.

First Lieutenant Robert Shupe, public affairs officer for Skagit Composite Squadron, contributed to this article.



Above: Members of the Concrete flight of the Civil Air Patrol experience the interior of a Chinook helicopter at the Burlington Regional Airport. The crew took 45 minutes to lead the cadets through the helicopter. "The military personnel have a lot of respect for the cadets; they bent over backwards for them," said Captain Joens. **Below:** Cadets Kadin and Nathaniel Cockrum learn more about a Cessna at Mears Field in Concrete. Photos courtesy of Civil Air Patrol Skagit Composite Squadron.

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Academics



New superintendent hits the ground running

The Concrete School District 2017–18 school year began on Aug. 30 and included an assembly where some students saw their new superintendent for the first time.

In his new role, Wayne Barrett shared his collaborative approach to education. The state is judging our performance, he said, and you students have a role to play. “I want to see you raise your percentages by 10 percent across the board. Do that, and we’ll celebrate at the end of the year.”

Then he had all the students stand up if they were involved in any extracurricular activity. He exhorted those who remained sitting to get involved in something, whether it be a club, a sport, or any other activity. “Be involved in something

positive,” he said.

Barrett is walking the talk. Since joining the district on July 1, he’s focused on the appearance of the school campus and its less-visible operations and culture. All exterior trim on the high school and middle school has been painted. The elementary school gym floor was scrubbed and sealed, and the bathrooms outside that building were renovated.

He met with the teachers’ union and other groups, and held a staff day on Aug. 29 that included breakfast and focused training for all teachers.

“Each and every student counts,” said Barrett. “Every decision we make is going to be in the interest of the students.”



Concrete School District Superintendent Wayne Barrett’s first day on the job was July 1. He spent his first two months readying the facilities and staff for the 2017–18 school year, which began Aug. 30. Barrett’s focus out of the starting gate is building relationships and making wise spending decisions.

CONCRETE MIDDLE SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

The following students at Concrete Middle School received a grade point average of 3.2 or higher for the second semester of the 2016–17 school year. An asterisk after a name denotes a student with a perfect 4.0 GPA.

Grade 7 Honor Roll

Charlie Bartel, Briar Cain, Corbin Coggins, Kylie Driver, Georgia Gregush, Jasmyne Hansen, Carlen Herz, Christian Joens*, Ashley Parker, Anja Roozen*.

Grade 8 Honor Roll

Kylie Clark, Brandon Downing, Collin Martin*, Leona Martinez, Autumn Neece, Hunter Olmstead, Rebekah Rider, Cassidy Smith, Lily Whitford.

CONCRETE HIGH SCHOOL

The following students at Concrete High School received a grade point average of 3.2 or higher for the second semester of the 2016–17 school year. An asterisk after a name denotes a student with a perfect 4.0 GPA.

Grade 9

Elizabeth Buchta*, Mariah Casteel, Lexi Denley, John Hansen, Jacquelyn Jackson, Izabela Ramos, Troy Schmidt, Devin Wilbur-Blankenship.

Grade 10

Josabet Acevedo-Lara, Jonathan Akers*, Tiana Brookshire, Shanon Clemons*, Tyler Coffell, Faith Daniels, Mellydee Howry, Dalton Newby, Charles Parent*, Jaidyn Swanson*.

Grade 11

Carlee Brigham, Chaqula Davis, Riley Fichter, Lee Fleming, Asusena Fregoso, Chace Harris, Hannah Haskett*, Rebeckah McClure, Emily Schmidt*, David Swain, Tanner Tygret.

Grade 12

Diane Bergsma, Emily Bridge*, Jordan Chassaniol, Tessa Coffell, Ashlee Gilbert*, Jaycelyn Kuipers, Grayson Luttrell, Tate Mathis*, Riley Pritchard*, Hannah Rensink, Blaine Storms.

Back-to-school nutrition

By Nadya Volsky, MD

To set your children up for a great school year, make sure their bodies and minds are fueled with the right stuff throughout the day.

Start with a good breakfast

Everyone knows breakfast is important, but for school-age children, it’s even more important to ensure that they have a good breakfast before going to school. Multiple research studies have shown that children who eat breakfast tend to concentrate and perform better at school compared to those who don’t eat breakfast.

Pack a lunch

Kids get only 20 minutes of lunchtime at school. Packing a lunch saves them from standing in line to wait for their food. Plan a week’s worth of lunch menus to save you time thinking what to pack for the day. Pack their lunch the night before. Have your children get involved or help decide what they want to eat. Respecting your child’s opinion helps reduce power struggles. Build a balance between nutritious foods and drinks and those that are just for fun.

Here’s an idea: Allow your child to choose between two options already approved by you. For example: “Do you want apple slices or grapes in your lunch today?” When children are involved in making their own lunch, they may also be more likely to eat it.

Think healthy food groups. Make sure to pack a lunch that includes:

- Grains/whole grains (preferred)
- Meats or meat alternatives
- Vegetables
- Fruit
- Dairy

Pack a snack

Children are active at school. They often get hungry, and a snack can be handy and prevent them from going to the vending machine for a candy bar or chips.

Lunches don’t have to be cold

When you think of a lunch box, you might automatically think cold lunches (salad, lunch meat, sandwiches). While there’s nothing wrong with cold foods, a hot lunch can be more satisfying.

Consider it an option. You can use a thermos to pack hot food or leftovers from dinner. This will open a whole world of selections on the types of food you can make for your kids.

Nadya Volsky, MD practices at PeaceHealth Medical Group-Family Medicine in Sedro-Woolley.

YD update

In August, Concrete Youth Dynamics took 16 of our high school students on a seven-day raft/kayak adventure down the Salmon and Snake Rivers in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. We traveled 72.6 miles of river, seeing tons of wildlife along the way, and hitting several big rapids. I have been a part of YD for more than 20 years, and this trip is probably my all-time favorite. It wasn’t just being out in God’s creation, a different location, the bighorn sheep, the deep canyons, the beautiful night sky, or the whitewater in my face. It was the group of people. It was the times at the end of the day when we all got to sit around on the beach and talk about our highlights and build relationships. I am so grateful for our guides and for everyone who helped to contribute to this trip either financially, in prayer, or both. These types of adventures do not happen community support.

Your commitment to our young people was on display again during our Annual Golf Marathon Fundraiser on Aug. 28. I golf once a year to raise another year’s support for Concrete YD. I am not good at golf, and I am starting to get better at fundraising, but asking people for money remains one of my least favorite things to do. However, asking people for money so we can run Youth Dynamics in the Upper Skagit Valley one more year is always worth it. It is our only fundraiser, and 100 percent of the money raised goes right back to the kids. None of our staff are paid, including me. Marta and I have been volunteering as the Area Directors of Concrete YD for the last 18 years, and we have a wonderful group of volunteer staff around us that cares deeply for the teens of Concrete. The money that comes in is used to pay for insurance, gas for our passenger vans, food, our Monday Night meetings, and our many retreats and adventures throughout the school year. Thank you again for your pledges and sponsorships for the Golf Marathon. I golfed 144 holes that day, and although I was a little sore the next day, it is always a



Concrete Youth Dynamics Area Director Kevik Rensink tees off at the Avalon golf course in Burlington during an Aug. 28 Annual Golf Marathon Fundraiser for Concrete YD. Rensink collected per-hole and flat-rate sponsorships, all of which go into the local program. Rensink and other YD leaders are volunteers. Rensink started just after sunrise and played most of the day, dropping the ball in the hole 144 times. Chauffeuring Rensink during the fast-paced day was YD colleague and Concrete High School graduate Colton Maloney.

great day, and our kids are worth it!

We are starting the planning process for the 2017–18 school year, and will have our first Monday Night kick-off event on Sept. 25, at 7 p.m. at Veterans Memorial Park.

If you have a son or daughter in high school and you think they would be

interested in meeting other teens, playing games, and eating food in a positive and safe atmosphere, please send them our way. We accept everyone, and we want this next school year to be the best ever for every student. Come be a part of it all!

—Kevik and Marta Rensink
Concrete Youth Dynamics

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Concrete Community Scholarship Fund accepts donations in cash, personal check, or credit card. Your gift is tax-deductible! Receipts are sent by e-mail, mail, or text.



Clear Lake



HISTORY CORNER

The house in this month's picture was built by Johnny Johnson in Clear Lake in the 1890s. As was sometimes the case in those days, large cedar stumps were used for the foundation.

Johnny sold the house and acreage to Jake and Christina Bartl in 1903. Jake remodeled and enlarged the farmhouse before selling it to L. J. and Minnie Boyd in 1913. The farm was located on what is now Old Day Creek Rd. and was known as the "Boyd Ranch." Unfortunately, the house burned down many years ago. *Photo courtesy of Clear Lake Historical Association.*

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

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

—Deanna Ammons, historian



Community Calendar



SEPTEMBER

- 5 School year begins for Sedro-Woolley School District
- 6 School year begins for Darrington School District
- 7 Barnaby Reach Stakeholder Advisory Committee meeting, Concrete High School Commons, 6 to 8 p.m.
- 9 Celebration of Life gathering for Jeffery Peers Witham, Marblemount Community Hall, 1 to 4 p.m.; see notice, p. 30
- 9 Flat Track Motorcycles, Quads, and Karts at Skagit Speedway; see ad, p. 8
- 10 Marblemount Community Market Harvest Faire; see article, p. 26
- 13 Film & Discussion: Saving the grizzly and protecting our federal lands in Skagit County, Burlington Library, 820 E. Washington Ave., Burlington, 7:30 to 9 p.m.; RSVP to gtaylor@npca.org; see notice, p. 35
- 15 Barr Creek Conservation Area (Rockport) annual trail maintenance and hiking, 9 a.m. to noon; directions/details at www.skagitlandtrust.org, 360.428.7878, or lisam@skagitlandtrust.org
- 15–17 Kurt's Cause Garage Sale, Eagle Haven Winery, 8243 Sims Rd., Sedro-Woolley, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- 16 Kurt's Cause Vendor & Craft Fair, Eagle Haven Winery, 8243 Sims Rd., Sedro-Woolley, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- 16 Nicola Pearson author event at Upper Skagit Library, Concrete, 3:30 p.m. see notice, p. 35
- 16 Championship and Giant Fireworks at Skagit Speedway, see ad, p. 8
- 16–17 Whidbey Island Kite Festival, Camp Casey, Coupeville; free admission (parking is \$1 donation to Boys & Girls Club); info and schedule at www.whidbeykites.org
- 18–23 Concrete High School Homecoming Week
- 23 Concrete High School Homecoming Dance
- 23 Women HAND in Hand event: Stephanie Fast, Inspire Church, 805 Township St., Sedro-Woolley, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.; see ad, p. 19
- 23 Para-Con 2017, Concrete (various locations), 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; info at <https://forestmoongrove1.wixsite.com/paracon2017>
- 23 Memorial service for Wallie Funk, First Baptist Church, 2717 J Ave., Anacortes, 1 p.m., reception following; see obituary, p. 34
- 30 Truck & Tractor Pull Challenge at Skagit Speedway, 7 p.m.; see ad, p. 8
- 30 Burlington Harvest Festival and Pumpkin Pitch, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Skagit River Park, Burlington; free admission; info at 360.755.9649 or <http://www.burlingtonwa.gov/index.aspx?NID=441>

OCTOBER

- 1 Truck & Tractor Pull Challenge at Skagit Speedway, 2 p.m.; see ad, p. 8
- 7–28 Concrete Ghost Walk, every Saturday in October; see ad, p. 5
- 28 KSVU Benefit Halloween Dance, Marblemount Community Hall

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



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Community meetings

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

Christian Motorcyclists Assn Morning Star Chapter 39 meets the first Mon. of each month at Royal Star Buffet in Mount Vernon. Optional dinner at 6 p.m.; meeting at 7 p.m. 425.770.6154 or cmchapter39@gmail.com.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Concrete School District Board: The board will hold a workshop on Sept. 25 at 6 p.m. in the high school commons room. The board will hold its regular monthly meeting on Sept. 25 at 6 p.m., same location. 360.853.4000.

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

Darrington Strong meets the third Wed. of

each month, 7 p.m., at Cascade Senior Center, 1115 Darrington St., Darrington. 360.436.2167.

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

Forest Park Cemetery District No. 5 meets the second Tue. of each month at the cemetery office on Compton Lane in Concrete, at 6 p.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 staff and volunteer meeting, second Tue. of each month at Portable B behind Concrete Elementary School, 4 p.m., open to public. 360.853.8588.

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

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

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

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

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

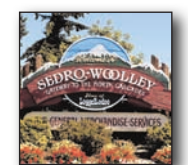
Sedro-Woolley School District Board: A work session is planned for Sept. 11 from 5 to 7 p.m.; location TBD. A regular meeting is planned for Sept. 11 at 7 p.m. in the Support Services Bldg. A regular meeting is planned for Sept. 25 at 7 p.m. at Mary Purcell Elementary. 360.855.3500 or kcargile@swsd.k12.wa.us.

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

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

Upper Skagit Writers Group meets the third Mon. of each month at 6 p.m., at 5b's Bakery, Concrete. Open to the public and all skill levels. em@5bsbakery.com.

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



Sedro-Woolley



Ready for the worst

Live shooter drill helps school district plan for the unthinkable.

Gunfire and screams filled the halls of Sedro-Woolley High School on Aug. 22 as the school district, first responders, and students collaborated in a live shooter drill.

The drill was the culmination of a series of safety measures instituted by the school district and paid for by its safety and technology levy, which passed three years ago.

"We started looking at safety first," said Superintendent Phil Brockman. "We installed cameras, electronic doors, fencing."

The district has contracted with Krista Salinas Consulting to fine-tune all of its emergency plans, from floods to an active shooter. It started with tabletop drills in several of its schools.

The active shooter drill brought together the district, the Sedro-Woolley police and fire departments, and several other emergency response entities, including Skagit County Sheriff's Office, Skagit County Dept. of Emergency Management, Washington State Patrol, and several others. It allowed all participants to review and refine their protocols during a worst-case scenario, which the district played out twice that day.

"I thought it was great to go through it

twice," said Brockman, who was based in the command center at the district office during the drills. "We went through the roles and responsibilities for us. The first time around was a little bumpy: We knew what we wanted to do, but we seemed hesitant. The second time was smoother and felt better. We're much more comfortable now with our roles, and we plan to have monthly 'mini drills' from now on, during our monthly meetings, to keep it fresh in our minds: What does each person do, and how do we communicate with one another?"

"Training goes a long way," said Krista Salinas. "Physically walking through it helps people remember what to do; it's a reference point. Doing a production like this puts all the pieces together so they can see it. They've been talking about it; they're less afraid. They're empowered."

Brockman said the exercise showed him the quality level of the city's first responders.

"Our police and fire both are a really great crew. They work really well with us and the kids; it was obvious they know what they're doing. It's an honor to be working and partnering with them, because of their expertise and knowledge."

—J. K. M.



Members of the Clear Lake Volunteer Fire Dept. transport a "wounded" student to a waiting ambulance during the active shooter drill at Sedro-Woolley High School last month.



Law enforcement, firefighters, and EMTs make their way through the halls of Sedro-Woolley High School during the drill, tending to students in green shirts who were pretending to be wounded or killed by the shooter. Photos courtesy of Sedro-Woolley School District.

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Flash of Silver award goes to two who nourish children

Maureen Pettit (above) and Michael Frazier (below) were honored Aug. 23 with Flash of Silver awards for their efforts to make sure every child in Skagit County has access to three meals a day all year long — 1,095 meals.

The awards were presented by local celebrity Graham Kerr during a ceremony at the Sedro-Woolley Farmers' Market, on behalf of 1095 Skagit Coalition, a program of WSU Extension.

Each fall, 1095 Skagit Coalition awards one brightly polished silver dollar to

the 1095 Skagit Coalition member who, in the eyes of its members, has best exhibited compassion, commitment, and consistency in helping to clear the way for nourishment to flow like a river to Skagit County children, three times a day, every day of the year: 1095.

By 2020, the organization's vision is that it will fully nourish all children in Skagit County so that they will grow and prosper.

—J. K. M.



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Lyman



Day Creek



Skagit County farm, Dept. of Ecology settle irrigation fine

A blueberry farm on Cockreham Island along the Skagit River near Lyman will restore habitat on a nearby stream under a settlement agreement with the Washington Department of Ecology.

U.S. Golden Eagle Farms appealed a \$16,000 penalty from Ecology in 2016 for irrigating fields without proper authorization. Now the company will spend that same amount on two nearby restoration projects along a Skagit River tributary. U.S. Golden Eagle Farms will

place large woody debris for fish habitat and plant native vegetation to improve the stream bank area.

In a separate action, the company last year secured proper authorization from Ecology to irrigate its acreage.

"This restoration work, combined with coming into compliance, brings this case to a positive and productive close," said Tom Buroker, Ecology's Northwest Regional Director. "We are encouraged that the farm is committing to protect fish habitat and water resources."

Ecology oversees Washington's water rights system to ensure that water is available for people, farms, and fish.

—Submitted by DOE

Nick VanJaarsveld
Financial Advisor

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING



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Community notes

Vote YES on new levy this fall

It has been 14 years since the Day Creek community approved a bond that allowed Fire District 16 (Day Creek) to purchase a 2003 fire engine. This engine has rendered assistance for hundreds of calls since. The Day Creek Fire Dept. and community have benefited from the use of this engine and will continue to do so until 2033.

Currently, the Washington Insurance Rating Bureau and the NFPA rules only allow a fire department to use a fire apparatus for 30 years, and then it must be retired. Because of this regulation, District 16 asks the Day Creek community to provide the support it always has counted on to vote "Yes" to continue the current taxing bond, which will allow the fire department the funds required to maintain its fire tender (water truck) and second-out fire engine.

This vote is not for a new tax, simply the continuation of the current tax rate for the next 20 years. The Day Creek Fire Department needs this bond to provide funds to maintain compliance for its fire insurance rating because its current fire tender is 29 years old and its second-out engine is 21 years old.

Approval of this bond will provide resources to cover and achieve the following:

- No new tax.
- Upcoming maintenance needs of two fire apparatuses.
- Provide a more capable water source since the community does not have any fire hydrants.
- Improve firefighter safety.
- Maintain the district's current fire rating with the Washington Insurance Rating Bureau.
- Ultimately provide improved services for the Day Creek community.

Friendship House Helping Hand

Together we can reach out to the homeless and serve a monthly dinner at the Friendship House. Prep is at 3 p.m. and dinner at 5 p.m. on the last Sunday of each month.

For more information, call 360.391.1709.

WOMEN HAND in hand

AREA FOOD BANKS

Clear Lake

Community Covenant Food Bank

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

360.826.4090

Lyman

Shepherd's Heart Food Bank

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

Concrete

Concrete Food Bank

45942 Main St., Concrete
Second and fourth Tue. each month,
Noon–3 p.m.
360.853.8505

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

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.

*Changes? Call 360.853.8213.

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Stephanie Fast comes to Sedro-Woolley on Sat., Sept. 23. Abandoned as a child and left to fight for survival on the streets in a war-torn Korea, Stephanie's existence was hopeless. Her cries were heard by a God she did not know. Because of His love, Stephanie has made it her life's work to try to help rescue every orphan out there. For details, see ad, this page.

Kingdom Builders

Kingdom Builders works together with the help of our community, reaching out to be a help to those in need of trips to the doctor, hospital visits, store runs, and more. Drivers are needed and donations are always welcome.

Kingdom Builders and the Friday Morning Bible Study Group have assembled Homeless Giveaway Bags. Anyone who wishes to keep a few in their car should call 360.826.3581.

Anyone interested in becoming available to be a community helper may call 360.826.3003 or 360.826.3581.

Report illegal dumping

If you see anyone illegally dumping garbage in or near our community, try to write down their vehicle license plate number and then report the activity by calling 360.428.3211.

Cowboy Church

Casual, country, and encouraging, Cowboy Church is held in the clubhouse at the Sedro-Woolley Rodeo grounds every Wednesday evening at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call 425.395.4014.

Friday Night Lights

If you are interested in getting involved with the Sedro-Woolley Rodeo Riding

2017 Community Potluck dates

September 19, 6:30 p.m.

October 17, 6:30 p.m.

November 21, 6:30 p.m.

December 19, 6:30 p.m.

Club's barrel-racing nights, just show up at 5 p.m. for dinner and 7 p.m. for races on Sept. 8.

For more information, call 360.826.3581.

If you have an idea for community gatherings, call 360.826.3003 or 360.826.3581

—Kathy Henderson

Women HAND in Hand

A Cry for HOPE

Women's Conference

Stephanie Fast

Abandoned as a child in the streets of war-torn Korea, Stephanie's existence was hopeless. Her cries were heard by a God she did not know. Because of His love through others, she was rescued. Now she works to rescue every orphan--terrified, hungry, hurting, abused. You will want to hear Stephanie's amazing story.

Sedro Woolley
Saturday, September 23rd
9:30 am - 4:00 pm
Inspire Church
805 Township Street

TICKET INFO:
Go to our website
womenhandinhand.com
& follow the
Eventbrite
link to purchase your tickets!

COST: \$20
for ALL DAY Saturday
& includes lunch!

**** Saturday features 3 sessions with our speaker! ****

For further Info
Call Deborah at 360-853-3066

August in pictures



Above: Andy Aiken snapped this photo of Tommy Dellinger's rail car fully engulfed in flames shortly after 4 a.m. on Aug. 10. The rail car had lain abandoned for several years, with periodic efforts to maintain or restore it.

Left: After the Concrete Volunteer Fire Dept. extinguished the fire, a scorched, easily accessible hulk remained. The cause of the fire has not yet been determined and is still under investigation. *Photo by Loren Brothers.*



Above: Firefighters train their water streams on a suspended tire during the familiar yet unique tug of war held every year at the Firemen's Muster during Cascade Days. *Photo by Susan Carter.*



Above: Leonard Hornbeck Trucking took first place in the Log Truck category during the Cascade Days Parade on Aug. 19. *Photo by Susan Carter.*



Above: Rich and Rosie Philips held the title of Cascade Days Parade Grand Marshals this year. They were conveyed along the parade route in style by Darrell Coggins, who drove them in his 1966 Ford Galaxy convertible. Joining Rich and Rosie were Rich's sister, Nikki Long, and his niece, Peggy Philips.



Above: Ameresco Construction Project Manager Marcus Eidal cleans a basin as it drains during a deep-clean project at the wastewater treatment plant in Concrete. The maneuver was part of larger efforts to replace filtration membranes at the plant during September—the second of three needs identified to make the plant run more efficiently.



Above: Concrete cheerleader Payton Dickinson takes one for the team during a pie-eating contest at the Skagit County Fair. Dickinson took on a marionberry pie—and won!



Above: Public Works staff Rich Philips and Jimmy Luttrell paint crosswalk stripes in Concrete Town Center in August. Street and curb painting takes place in town every other year.

Find more Cascade Days photos on p. 38 ...

Cascade Days winners

Duck Race

1st place: #18
2nd place: #93
3rd place: #179

Button Drawing

(Prizes are at Albert's Red Apple for pick up)
167 190 617 58 742 343 82 696
215 402 518 668 658 13 80 499
774 322 136 604 278 704 296 439
669 366 295 626 579 333 329 563
303 638 457 549 235 1 768 354
541 461 448 671

Jam & Jelly

1st place: Virginia Hartz
2nd place: Virginia Hartz
3rd place: Cambell Clan

Pet Show

1st place: Cammy
2nd place: Ziggy

Parade

Farm Vehicle: Northern Redneck, Steve Getchell
Patriotic: Fallen Soldiers
Vehicle: 1977 Cadillac Biaritz, George Theodoratus
Musical: Hewitt Music Studio
Drill/marching: Concrete Youth
Cheerleaders
Log Truck: Leonard Hornbeck
Float: Josh the Dragon Slayer
Animal: Lonesome Valley Ranch, Leon Gifford
Church/community: Community Bible Church
Novelty: 1911 Stanley Steamer
Judges' Choice: Peace Wizard John Bromet
Commercial/business: PSE Fish Taxi

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Hamilton



Rockport



From the Mayor

"What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make."

—Jane Goodall



A person commented at the last council meeting that council members should be required to help in their community. Many people help in our community, in a variety of ways, including myself and council members. I think if you have to call attention to your actions so someone will acknowledge that you did something good, you're doing it for the wrong reason. Council members are on the fire department, frequently help other people in town, and care enough to sit at the table to try

to make our town better while being berated for their lack of interest. I do a variety of things, including sitting through meetings on a variety of subjects so our small town perspective has a voice and advancing my emergency training. We don't do it so you'll pat us on the back, or for the photo-ops. We're not that kind of politicians. If you are actively looking for people who are doing good and not seeing it, you are looking in the wrong way, or in the wrong places.

A good place to start is the Hamilton Food Bank or a Hamilton Volunteer Fire Department meeting. Keep looking, and you'll start to see how other people are doing things, quietly, to help.

If you need ideas for ways you can help make a difference, please come visit the office. If you are in school and need volunteer hours, please let us know. We can brainstorm ideas to suit your interests.

—Mayor Joan Cromley

Council summary

The Hamilton Town Council held a regular meeting July 11. Following is a summary of that meeting.

- Mayor Cromley was absent as she was attending a meeting with the Town of Lyman. Councilmember/ Mayor Pro-tem Kirkpatrick called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.
- Council approved Resolution 03-2017, approving the interlocal with Town of Lyman to begin street repairs.

- Animal ordinances:** Some fees were decided. Further discussion was postponed.
- Water Dept.:** Cas Hancock reported 5 percent loss.
- Fire Dept.:** The two fires from the previous weekend were discussed. Scott Bates informed council that there were interested recruits. A burn ban is in effect; call in all fires to 911.
- Street Dept.:** Mowing and efforts to clean up town are under way.

—Compiled from staff notes



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Birdsview Buzz

Happy fall, everyone.

Kids are back to school and we in the Upper Valley had to say goodbye to one of the coolest (and tallest) vicars I've ever met, Lowell Chilton. Will miss his humor. Good luck with your next endeavor in Alaska. Hope you will come back to visit.

Birdstock 2017 was a great success. The fire department either had a record year for food and donations or came close.

The weather cooperated, as did most of

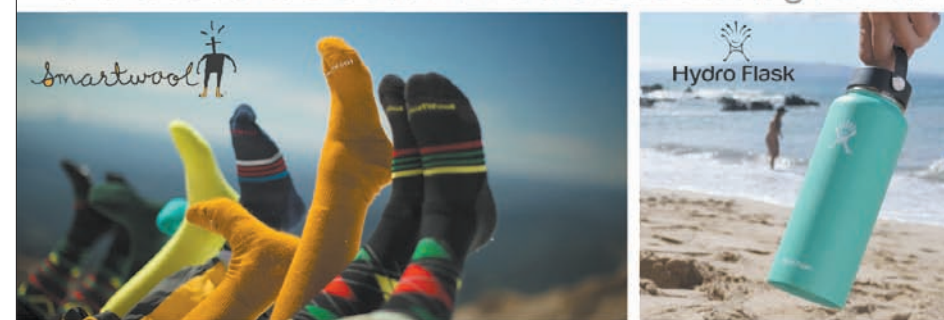
the people. The bands were awesome as usual, donating their time and talents, as did Mat Solomon doing sound. Thanks to all our volunteers; couldn't do it without you. Not sure of the exact count, but well over 700 attended during the day.

In brewery news, Daddy's Little Pumpkin is back on tap. And soon, our fresh hop beer from our own hops and from two other locals who have hops. Plus later on, It's the Porter will be back.

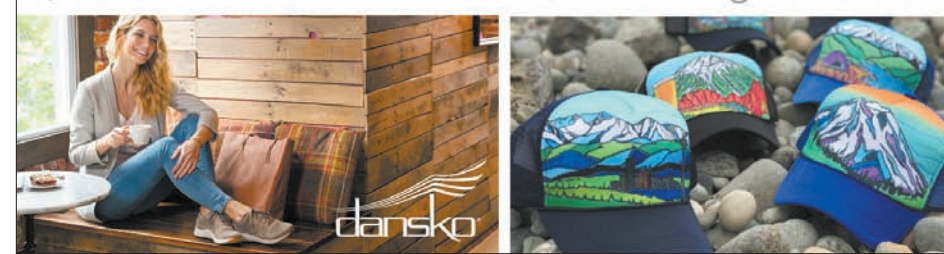
Happy 42nd anniversary to Brewmaster Bill!

—Kris Voigt

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Barnaby Reach Habitat Project update

Technical work is in full gear on the project now, including the following:

A ground and surface water monitoring network has been established, and portions have nearly one full year of data that will inform the project analysis on the ground/surface water interactions.

The consultant team (NSD) is currently working on the Local Flood Assessment in the south Rockport area to better understand the source of local flooding problems, seeking to identify opportunities to lessen flood impacts in that area from local drainage and flood sources.

The Green LiDAR base map has been delivered by the independent contractor, and the project team is conducting quality

control by checking elevation points against ground-surveyed elevations. NSD is working with the Technical Advisory Committee to develop and review hydraulic modeling parameters and inputs, including what river flow scenarios will be examined.

A Stakeholder Advisory Committee meeting will be held on Thur., Sept. 7, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Concrete High School Commons Room, to discuss the work described earlier. While the meeting is primarily for the advisory committee representatives, it is open for all to attend. A community meeting will be scheduled in the next two months.

For more information, contact Cynthia Carlstad at 206.661.2110 or cynthia@carlstadconsulting.com, or Project Manager Devin Smith at 360.391.1984 or dsmith@skagitcoop.org.

—Cynthia Carlstad



Recently retired NPS employee Russ Dalton is now spending his summers up at the Miners Ridge Lookout for the USFS. This is up the Suittale River Road (trailhead to the Glacier Peak Wilderness) and is a 16-mile hike to get up to his "duty station." Dalton, 70, lives in Rockport and is very active in the community and volunteers for a variety of organizations, as well as being an avid outdoorsman. He's keeping a journal and is an excellent writer and local historian. The photos above and below were snapped by Heather Swanson, the packer for the USNPS who resupplied Dalton in August. *Photos by Heather Swanson.*



Dist. 19 Garage Sale a success

The Dist. 19 Volunteer Fire Dept. (Rockport, Marblemount) held its annual garage sale from Aug. 4-6 at the Rockport station.

Organizer Jessica Moore reported the sale pulled in \$5,189 for the volunteer fire department.

"Gretta, Tara, and Sue Moore were the heroes," said Moore. "Ruth and Randy Haverfield played a big role in helping this year too."

The sale is organized and staffed entirely with volunteers from the Rockport and Marblemount communities. All proceeds benefit the Skagit County District 19 Volunteer Fire Department.

The success of the garage sale starts with generous donations and with everyone in the Upper Valley doing what they can to spread the word about the sale. The more customers during the sale, the better the result.



Rockport's own Peace Wizard paused for a photo during Cascade Days in Concrete on Aug. 19. *Photo by Susan Carter.*



Darrington



Darrington Cruise In a success

Story and photos By Marla Skaglund

The First Annual Darrington Cruise In proved to be a success for both visitors and car owners.

On Aug. 19, Darrington St. became a showcase for new and old cars, trucks, and motorcycles. Sponsored by Mountain Loop Books and Coffee, the Redtop Tavern, and River Time Brewing Co., visitors came from around the area to view classic treasures, including vintage Mustangs, Ford station wagons, Buicks, a GMC classic pickup, and other fine

vehicles featuring classics from the members of Street Freak Kruzrs, a local group of car enthusiasts.

The Red Top Tavern also offered dessert treats and coffee, and hosted a horseshoe competition. River Time Brewing Co. brought out its special selections, and Mountain Loop Books and Coffee offered up their special coffee and tea brews.

Jim Metz, owner of the Red Top Tavern, said, "This was a great success and we plan on having another show next year."



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Council summary

Darrington Town Council met for a regular meeting on July 12. The following is a summary of that meeting. Complete and council-approved minutes for every council meeting are available at Darrington Town Hall.

July 12 regular meeting

- Council voted to allow NCFS to install a disc golf course at Harold Engles Park.
- Discussion of water rights proposals ensued around three proposals from WA Water Trust.

Councilman Kevin Ashe stated that he is only for selling water rights if they stay within our community so that we can take care of our community. Other councilmembers agreed. Council wanted Mayor Dan Rankin to start at \$10,000 per water right during negotiations.

Council approved the Toby Creek Proposal from WA Water Trust and moved to allow the town to start negotiations.

- Mayor Rankin encouraged all councilmembers to attend an Introduction to the Incident Command System (ICS) and National Incident Management System (NIMS)

class on Aug. 23, at the Darrington Community Center, hosted by Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management (DEM). This is an education on how incident command operates. It is free to all community members.

- Councilmember Judy O'Connor stated there is a complaint about a home in town. O'Connor advised the citizens to make a formal complaint to Town Hall.
- Jim Hale indicated that the yellow house and shop property by the airport was purchased from aviation grants. He would like to see the properties brought within the borderline of the airport boundary and part of the airport district.
- Todd R. asked if the pump track is finished. Councilmember Gary Willis also indicated that the gravel/dirt from the track is getting on the sidewalk. He would like to see that fixed so it doesn't get the sidewalk dirty.

—Compiled from staff minutes

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

Snohomish County Sheriff's Report

July 31

Snohomish County Sheriff's Office deputies were investigating property damage and vandalism at the Darrington elementary and high schools. Three suspects—one 14-year-old female, one 13-year-old female, and one 10-year-old male—were identified and are believed to be associated with the vandalism, which caused significant damage in several school buildings.

The 13-year-old was arrested and booked into the Denny Juvenile Justice Center, and the other two were released to family members.

The damage was reported this morning to the Sheriff's Office just before 6 a.m. It appears that the three suspects had been in the school buildings for several hours.

Aug. 4

At 7:49 p.m. the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office received reports via 911 of a male who was seen jumping from the Centennial Trail pedestrian bridge into the river below. The pedestrian bridge is a defunct train bridge that spans the Stillaguamish River near the 1100 block of North West Ave. in Arlington.

The male was witnessed to have jumped in; he did not come to the surface. Witnesses called 911 a short time later, and approximately 15 individuals entered the river to try to locate him. Within four minutes, Sheriff's Office Dive and Search and Rescue had been summoned, but were called off when the subject was found and pulled from the river. The male was later pronounced dead at Cascade Valley Hospital in Arlington. The victim's age was not given at the time of the incident. The medical examiner will conduct an investigation, and identification will be

forthcoming.

The area is posted "No Swimming." Intoxicants may have been involved.

Aug. 11

Washington State Patrol is crediting a Snohomish County trooper for saving the life of a man who was suicidal.

Today at 7:38 p.m., Trooper Holodkov was dispatched to a man on the State Route 529 Snohomish River Bridge. When Trooper Holodkov arrived, he observed the man standing on the ledge of the northbound bridge, looking down toward the water. He approached the man and began talking with him, encouraging him to step down. The man crouched down on the ledge and as Trooper Holodkov walked up to assist him off the ledge, the man jumped over the side of the bridge. Trooper Holodkov reacted quickly and was able to grab the man's shirt, pulling him back to the ledge with one hand. The man was subsequently transported to the hospital to undergo a mental evaluation.

Aug. 12

The body of Susan Bennett, a 61-year-old climber from Bellingham who died on July 22 while descending the West Ridge of Forbidden Peak, was recovered today by search and rescue personnel from North Cascades and Mount Rainier National Parks. Her body was located in a crevasse on the Forbidden Glacier, which required technical teams to recover.

"Our heartfelt condolences go out to the family and friends of Susan Bennett," said North Cascades National Park Service Complex Superintendent Karen Taylor-Goodrich.

Recovery efforts were initially hampered by weather, location, and unstable crevasse conditions. Weather and conditions finally cooperated today, and the recovery was completed. Skagit

County Sheriff's and Coroner's Offices worked in partnership with National Park Service personnel to search, recover, and bring some closure to this accident.

The initial response to this incident was routed to rescue personnel from a satellite texting device used by Bennett's companions from the mountain. Devices like these can help facilitate prompt rescue operations in remote areas.

Aug. 21

Detectives from the North County Property Crimes Unit served a search warrant on a residence in the 27600 block of 45th Ave. NE in unincorporated Snohomish County. As a result of the warrant, one 22-year-old man was arrested on outstanding felony arrest warrants.

During the search, 13 firearms were seized, of which two were confirmed stolen. The following illegal drugs also were located and seized:

- 60 grams of heroin
- 2 grams of meth
- 7 grams of an unknown substance that is being tested.

A total of \$9,115 cash also was seized. The arrest resulted in the shutting down of a nuisance property.

Aug. 21

A 38-year-old woman was rescued from a ledge near Wallace Falls after falling and sustaining critical injuries this afternoon. Personnel from the Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue Unit, Gold Bar Fire (Snohomish County Fire District 26), and Washington State Parks, as well as volunteers from Snohomish County Volunteer Search and Rescue, were deployed this afternoon after an emergency beacon was activated in Wallace Falls State Park.

The beacon was activated after a woman, who had been "canyoneering" with others, lost control of "braking" her climbing rope and fell several feet onto a ledge near the falls around 4 p.m. Ground crews reached the woman on foot while the Sheriff's Office helicopter, SnoHAWK10, delivered a medic to the woman's location. She was transported by SnoHAWK10 to the grounds of a school in Gold Bar, where she was transferred to an AirLift Northwest helicopter. The woman was then transported to Harborview Regional Medical Center with critical injuries.

—Compiled from SCSO releases

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Marblemount



Newhalem



Harvest Faire at last community market

Fresh sweet corn, tomatoes, and cider, oh my! As a last hurrah of summer, the Marblemount Community Market will celebrate the season's end with a Harvest Faire.

Held Sun., Sept. 10 from noon to 4 p.m., the market not only will host a wide variety of local vendors offering fresh produce, artisan jams, herbs and plants, handspun yarns, original artwork, Okanogan fruit, handcrafted jewelry, and live music, but will offer cider pressing as well.

Thanks to the good folks at Finney Farm, the cider press will be in operation all afternoon and is a popular activity for both young and old alike. Use of the press is by donation; just bring your own apples and jugs to take home with you. Often,

extra apples and pears are donated by community members, so if you don't have your own trees, come with a jug anyway. Free tasting sample cups will be provided, as well.

For more information or for a vendor application, call 360.872.2323 and leave a message, or go to www.marblemountcommunityhall.org/events.

Community hall news

The governing board for Marblemount Community Hall recently chose Matt Del Bosque as its new president. The board plans to add new community events and activities in the very near future, following the final community market in September.

—Christie Fairchild



Diablo Lake drawdown scheduled after Labor Day weekend

Low lake levels on Diablo Lake in Ross Lake National Recreation Area will limit accessibility for boaters after the Labor Day weekend. Seattle City Light will begin drawing down Diablo Lake on Sept. 5, ultimately lowering the lake to approximately 1,193 feet, about 9 feet below normal operating conditions, by the end of the day Sept. 7.

Lake levels will begin to rise on Sept.

16, returning to normal conditions by Sept. 18. Low lake levels during this time will make the boat ramps at Diablo Lake and Colonial Creek Campground inaccessible to motorboats. Paddlecraft users will have difficulty launching and likely will need to walk through mud flats to reach the water.

The lower water levels are a part of a Seattle City Light project to build a boat launch near Ross Powerhouse to replace the one damaged in a 2010 rockslide. The new boat launch will allow entities such as Ross Lake Resort, U.S. Customs and Border Patrol, National Park Service (NPS), and Seattle City Light (SCL) to transport motorboats to and from Ross Lake for operational purposes.

For specific project information, contact Seattle City Light Project Manager Patricia Filimon at patricia.filimon@seattle.gov.

—Submitted by Seattle City Light

Skagit River Bridge to North Cascades Visitor Center to close

The one-lane bridge over the Skagit River to the North Cascades Visitor Center and Newhalem Campground will close for maintenance beginning Mon., Sept. 18. The week-long project includes resurfacing the bridge deck and rock stabilization on the bridge approach.

With the assistance of Seattle City Light, North Cascades Visitor Center will be temporarily housed in the town of

Newhalem across from the general store at the Skagit Information Center. Hours for the week will be 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

Newhalem Campground will close for the season on Sun., Sept. 17. All campers in the Newhalem campground must vacate the campground by noon. Goodell Campground and Colonial South Campground walk-up sites—numbers 64 to 73—will be available for camping.

The Rock Shelter Trail and River Loop Trail can be accessed via the Trail of Cedars, which begins in Newhalem.

The maintenance work is expected to be completed by Fri., Sept. 22; however, resurfacing is weather dependent and dates may vary.

For updated information, call 360.854.7301.

—Submitted by National Park Service

Concrete Welcomes You!

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



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

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

TOWN OF CONCRETE

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

CONCRETE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

45770 Main St., P.O. Box 743
Concrete, WA 98237
360.853.8784

"Come discover why Concrete is the place to be!"



Jason Miller
Mayor

"Skagit's Own" FISH MARKET
Northwest's Finest Seafood

Dungeness Crab ~ Oysters ~ Fresh Fish ~ Mussels
Shrimp ~ Scallops ~ Clams ~ Smoked Fish

Dungeness Crab sandwiches, fresh fish or
prawn tacos, Washington's best oyster burgers,
homemade clam chowder, oyster shooters, and more.

360.707.CRAB (2722)
Toll-free: 866.707.2722
Mon. - Sat. 10:30 - 6, Sun. 11 - 4

18042 Highway 20, Burlington, WA 98233

Northwest Garden Bling

- Gift shop
- Stained glass & glass supplies
- Souvenirs

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

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



Seniors



Coffee Break

No senior discount

By Patrick M. Kennedy

Now that I'm older, here's what I've discovered:

1. I started out with nothing, and I still have most of it.
2. My wild oats are mostly enjoyed with prunes and All-Bran.
3. Funny, I don't remember being absent-minded.
4. Funny, I don't remember being absent-minded.
5. If all is not lost, then where the heck is it?
6. It was a whole lot easier to get older than it was to get wiser.
7. Some days you're the top dog, some days you're the hydrant.
8. I wish the buck really did stop here; I sure could use a few of them.
9. Kids in the back seat cause accidents.
10. Accidents in the back seat cause kids.
11. It is hard to make a comeback when you haven't been anywhere.

12. The world only beats a path to your door when you're in the bathroom.
13. If God wanted me to touch my toes, he'd have put them on my knees.
14. When I'm finally holding all the right cards, everyone wants to play chess.
15. It isn't hard to meet expenses—they're everywhere.
16. The only difference between a rut and a grave is the depth.
17. These days, I spend a lot of time thinking about the hereafter ... I go somewhere to get something, and then wonder what I'm here after.
18. Funny, I don't remember being absent-minded.
19. It is a lot better to be seen than viewed.
20. Have I sent this message to you before ... or did I get it from you?

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

Read Concrete Herald
The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley

Way Back When

100 years ago

Sept. 8, 1917: Wednesday morning between 9 and 10 a.m., a fire was discovered in the Grasmere schoolhouse. The teachers immediately called the fire drill and the pupils were marched out in safety before they had time to realize that the house was on fire. A call for help also was sent to Concrete, which was responded to as quickly as possible, but the lack of water prevented any attempt to extinguish the fire, which burned very slowly at first and could have been easily extinguished, only for lack of water.

Most of the men living in Grasmere were away at work, but the women and those arriving on the scene later succeeded in saving all the books, desks, and furniture except one stove. They also saved most of the windows.

The fire started from the stove pipe where it entered the chimney. The chimney was built entirely on the outside of the schoolhouse, which was built entirely of wood; consequently, the stove pipe had to pass through the wall, and it is thought that the pipe had worked out of the chimney in some way. When the fire was lighted to burn out a stove full of paper, the dry lumber quickly ignited.

The loss is estimated at \$3,000, partially covered by insurance.

Arrangements are being made to carry the children to the Moss Hill

Concrete Community Center

September 2017

Activities

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

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

Monday through Friday

Jigsaw puzzles, walking group, games, more

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

Monday

9/4 Community Center CLOSED
9/11 6 p.m. Dinner Talk: Opioids

Tuesday

Wednesday
9/27 6 p.m. Seed-saving class

Thursday

All 1 p.m. GED prep
9/7 12:30 p.m. Pinochle
9/21 12:30 p.m. Pinochle

Friday

9/8, 29 1 p.m. GED prep
9/8 12:30 p.m. Commissioner Janicki

Saturday

All 7 p.m. AA meeting

Read Concrete Herald
The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley

Way Back, cont. from p. 28

schoolhouse, as the two districts had planned to consolidate, and the pupils from there were attending the Grasmere school. It is expected school will begin again next Monday.

Luckily for A. F. Carlson, there was no wind blowing at the time, or his house and store would also have been destroyed. The bucket brigade kept the house wet on the roof and side next to the fire until all danger was passed.

70 years ago

Sept. 19, 1947: While Concrete and most other points of the valley enjoyed sunshine and calm weather Wednesday, other parts of the valley had a wind storm that really caused trouble. The storm hit Lake Shannon, doing considerable damage among the house boats and whipping the lake into a froth of whitecaps.

30 years ago, Puget Power biologists Bruce Brown, Mel Walters, Brian Lampman, and Tony Fuchs struggled to move a heavy osprey nest into a boat from its precarious location on a short stump in Lake Shannon. Pictured here from the Sept. 3, 1987, issue of *Concrete Herald*, the men were to store the nest until the following year, when it would be placed on a tall artificial nest structure in the lake, similar to other nests erected by Puget Power for the large birds. Lake Shannon and Baker Lake serve as summer homes for the largest population of osprey in the state. The birds winter in Mexico or Central America, and feed on live fish caught with their talons. Puget Power biologists were trying to protect the birds, once on endangered species lists, while also taking care of other species dependent upon the Baker River ecosystem. Archive photo by Anne Bussiere.

The wind also tore at power and telephone lines between Concrete and Rockport, causing the power to be off for several hours and breaking the phone lines a number of times.

60 years ago

Sept. 19, 1957: A lone fisherman, John C. Ranger of Seattle, was found Wednesday morning in the mountain area east of Marblemount after he had failed to return on schedule from a fishing trip to high lakes. The man was in good condition and had plenty of food, but had encountered fog and completely lost his sense of direction.

He was found by Deputy Glenn Whittaker and Game Protector Morris Thomas, who left early yesterday morning toward Martin Lake in the Falls and Jordan Lake area. They ran across him about four miles from the road.

50 years ago

Sept. 20, 1967: The Washington Telephone Co., working to end the present jamming of the long distance lines from the Upper Valley, reported last week that they now have the necessary microwave equipment, and all that remains is the installation to provide the much-needed full complement of lines for this area. The project will cost around \$182,000 and will give Concrete 10 long-distance lines, plus direct lines for Marblemount and Newhalem.

The new microwave unit will operate from a 6-foot disc mounted on the tower above Main St. in Concrete. It will take the place of the two small units now being used. Installation is expected to take about 45 days, after which Concrete trunk capacity will double at the time of cut-over.

—Compiled from archives

Verna's Kitchen

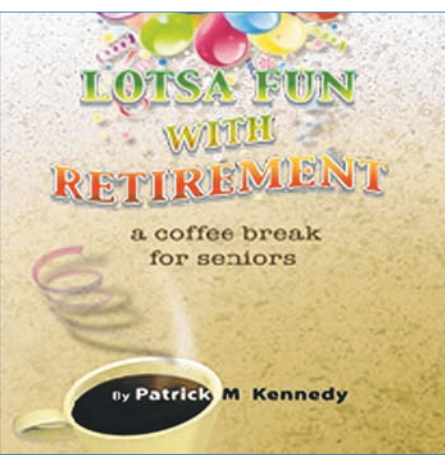
By Verna McClure

No-bake Ritz cookies

This is quick, easy, and fun.

- 1 jar peanut butter
- 2 tubes of Ritz Crackers
- 1 cup chocolate chips, melted

1. Spread peanut butter on one cracker side and put another cracker over the top of the spread side (making a cracker sandwich).
2. Frost the top cracker with the melted chocolate chips.
3. Put on cookie sheets and place in the refrigerator to harden the topping.



"Skagit's Own" FISH MARKET
Northwest's Finest Seafood

Dungeness Crab ~ Oysters ~ Fresh Fish ~ Mussels
Shrimp ~ Scallops ~ Clams ~ Smoked Fish

Dungeness Crab sandwiches, fresh fish or
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See Way Back, p. 29



Obituaries

Jeffery Peers Witham Celebration of Life

A Celebration of Life memorial gathering is planned for Jeffery Peers Witham on Sat., Sept. 9, from 1 to 4 p.m., at Marblemount Community Hall in Marblemount.
Potluck dishes are welcome.

Obituaries published in Concrete Herald

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

Sunday School lesson

Choosing what is better

By Bruce Martin

Imagine for a moment that Jesus was coming to your house for a visit. Would you change anything? What would you serve Him for lunch? This is the setting of the story we are told in the gospel of Luke 10:38-42. As Jesus and His disciples were traveling, they were invited as guests of a humble family in the village of Bethany. Martha, Mary, and their brother Lazarus opened their home to Jesus to refresh

and bless Him and His disciples on their journey.

While Martha was busy making preparations for her guests, her sister Mary was sitting at Jesus' feet, listening to what He had to say. Martha, upset that Mary was not helping her, appealed to Jesus for some support: "Lord don't you care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"

"Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

Sometimes our greatest challenge as believers is not in choosing what is good or bad or even what is right or wrong, but in choosing what is better and what is best. Martha chose a good thing. She opened her door to Jesus; she wanted everything to be just right and to please her guests.

There are always many good things to be involved in. There are more choices than there are time, resources, and energy. There are a host of needs to fill and people to serve. Again, the harder choices have to do with choosing between "good things" and "God things." We must be careful that we don't get so caught up in "good things" that we miss "what is better."

There is an end to all "good things"; in fact, we have a saying: "All good things must come to an end!" When we shop for food, we are always mindful of the expiration date printed on each item. Once that item is past its expiration date, we are hesitant to buy it.

The Bible tells us that all "good things,"

as good as they are, may have an expiration date. The Apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians 4:18 reminds us that because of this fact "... we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." All the physical world around us will one day pass away, but the unseen spiritual world is eternal and will last forever. The sum of many "good things" seems cheap by comparison to the humblest of "eternal things." Jesus asked the question, "What would it profit a man to gain the whole world and lose his own soul?"

Instead He encouraged us to "... store up for yourselves treasures in heaven"; that is, invest in things of eternal value.

Jesus showed Martha and us what is better by focusing on Mary's choice: "Mary has chosen what is better and it will not be taken away from her." Mary did the right thing at the right time, while her sister Martha did the right thing at the wrong time. In all the busyness of our lives, may the Holy Spirit help us to choose "what is better." To choose each day to focus our lives on eternal things rather than be distracted by all the preparations that need to be made. May we invest our lives in prayer and intimate time with God. May we spend time daily reading and meditating on God's Word, the Bible. Then let us invest our lives in serving the Lord and one another by putting what we learn into practice, for "what is better" cannot be taken from us and will last forever.

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

Worth repeating

"To love God does not mean to meet His needs, but rather to delight in Him and to be captivated by His glorious power and grace, and to value Him above all other things on earth. All the rest of the commandments are the kinds of things that we will do from our hearts, if our hearts are truly delighted with and resting in the glory of God's grace."

"Money exerts a certain control over us because it seems to hold out so much (false) promise of happiness. It whispers with great force, 'Think and act so as to get into a position to enjoy my benefits.' This may include stealing, borrowing, or working. Money promises happiness, and we serve it by believing the promise and walking by that faith."

"Exultation that does not flow from education, affections that do not flow from knowing, savoring that does not flow from seeing, feeling that does not flow from thinking—are hollow and rootless—noisy gongs and clanging cymbals. And God is not glorified by artificial and empty passions. True delight is rooted in true doctrine. God-centered Exultation is rooted in God-centered Education."

"If we walk away from risk to keep ourselves safe, we will waste our lives."

"Sin gets its power by persuading me to believe that I will be happier if I follow it. The power of all temptation is the prospect that it will make me happier."

"I don't so much pray that my death will be without pain, but that it will be without doubt."

—John Piper

Skagit County Sheriff's Office Blotter

Aug. 1

Deputies responded to the SeaMar Community Health Clinic in Concrete to investigate a complaint. An employee said a female was at that location being loud and disorderly and was refusing to leave. The female, who is known to law enforcement, left prior to their arrival.

Aug. 3

Deputies Ken Devero and Josh Case responded to Main St. in Concrete in reference to a domestic assault that occurred in the area of South Dillard St. The victim told deputies she had been assaulted by her boyfriend. Deputies attempted to locate the suspect, but he had fled the area. The suspect was referred to the prosecutor's office for assault charges.

Deputy Joshua Struiksma was patrolling the area of Cape Horn Rd. just east of

Hamilton. He observed a subject driving who was known to have multiple felony warrants. He attempted to stop the vehicle, but the driver drove off at a high rate of speed, finally crashing his truck on SR 20 near O'Hara Rd. The suspect fled north into the woods. Deputies were unable to locate the suspect, but a pistol and several stolen items were recovered from the truck.

The Sheriff's Office received two related calls. A female had made threats to blow up a house near Limestone St. in Concrete. She then left and proceeded to go to Main St., where she attempted to assault citizens by throwing objects at them and making threats. Citizens were able to detain her until deputies arrived. She was taken into custody.

Aug. 4

Deputy Devero investigated a report of a sex offender who had failed to register living in the Marblemount area. He confirmed the information, and a referral for charges was sent to the prosecutor's office.

Aug. 6

Deputy Beau Montgomery responded to a possible domestic disturbance in the Hamilton area. He determined that no crime had occurred, but two subjects were arrested for numerous warrants. Both were taken to jail.

Aug. 10

A fire was reported near Concrete Town Hall. The old train car at that location was fully engulfed in flames. The Concrete Fire Department, deputies, and the Skagit County Fire Marshal responded. The fire department was able to extinguish the fire. The investigation is still active and has been turned over to the Fire Marshal.

Deputy Devero, Deputy Terry Esskew, and Deputy Brad Walton investigated a weapons offense in Lyman. A subject called to advise a male had pulled a gun on him while he was attempting to serve civil papers. The suspect fled when deputies arrived. The suspect was referred to the prosecutor's office for charges.

Aug. 11

A burglary was reported in the area of Carpenter Rd. in Lyman. Someone had broken into the victim's garage and taken numerous items. No leads at this time.

Aug. 12

The manager of the Cascade River Park reported several burglaries believed to have been committed within the last week. The Sheriff's office has suspects, and the investigation is still active.

Aug. 13

A cold burglary was reported on Coffell

St. in Concrete. The property owner discovered that someone had forced entry into his shop and taken several items. Using the property owner's surveillance camera, the owner and deputies were able to identify the suspect and arrest him for theft.

Aug. 14

Deputy Esskew took a report of a stolen travel trailer and vehicle prowling in the area of Clark Rd. in Marblemount. A travel trailer was stolen, along with an ATV. Also taken in a related vehicle prowling were several items, including a revolver. The trailer was later recovered, but the other items are still missing.

Aug. 15

While patrolling the area of Sauk Valley Rd. near Compton Ln. in Concrete, Deputy Paul Wolfe observed a vehicle fail to use its turn signal. Deputy Wolfe stopped the vehicle. The driver was arrested for driving with a suspended driver's license, and the passenger was arrested for two outstanding warrants out of Skagit County District Court.

Aug. 16

Deputy Esskew investigated a burglary in the area of Foxglove Ln. in Marblemount. Using images from a surveillance camera, he was able to

identify the suspects. One suspect was later arrested, and the other is in hiding at this time.

Aug. 17

Deputy Struiksma investigated a report of a violation of court order that occurred in the Concrete area. After investigating the alleged incident, Deputy Struiksma was able to establish that the violation occurred. He attempted to contact the suspect to arrest him, but was unable to locate him. Deputy Struiksma referred the suspect for charges.

Aug. 19

Deputy Glenn Backstrom and Deputy Jason Slack investigated a reported domestic dispute in the area of Superior St. in Concrete. The suspect was arrested and taken to jail for assault, malicious mischief, and interfering with reporting of domestic violence.

Deputy Case and Deputy Kyle Wiggins responded to a fight on Main St. in Concrete. Several subjects were involved in the fight. Deputy Case arrested the suspect.

Aug. 20

Deputy Backstrom investigated a trespass at Logger's Landing in Concrete.

See Sheriff's Blotter, p. 33

Worship directory

Assembly of God

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

Citipoint Church North Cascade

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

Baptist

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

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

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

Catholic

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

Covenant

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

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

Episcopal

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

Free Methodist

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

Methodist

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

Presbyterian

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

Lutheran

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
46372 Main St., Concrete / 360.853.3714
www.uprivergrace.com
Sun. worship: 10 a.m.

Nondenominational

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

Community Bible Church

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

The RIVER Gathering

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

Rockport Christ the King Comm. Church

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

Wildwood Chapel

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

Level 2 Sex Offender NOTIFICATION

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

**Massingale,
Shamus Conner**

Age: 23
Race: W
Sex: M
Height: 6' 4"
Weight: 212
Hair: Brown
Eyes: Brown
Address: 113xx
Foxfire Ln., Sedro-Woolley

Massingale convicted of possession of depictions of minors in 2012. He was a juvenile at the time.

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

Source: Skagit County Sheriff



[Chief Darrel Reed]

Concrete Volunteer Fire Dept. needs firefighters!

- Do you have a heart for your community?
- Willing to volunteer?
- Free training!

Interested?

Call Town Hall at **360.853.8401**
or drop in to fill out a quick application.



Applicants may live inside or outside town limits.

CONCRETE HERITAGE MUSEUM NEWS

This month will end another season for regular hours to be open. Please visit us any Saturday this month from noon to 4 p.m.

We recently acquired some **more photos**, so continue to check our Web site for new additions: www.concreteheritagemuseum.org. Special tours can always be arranged, with enough advance notice, by contacting John Lloyd at autohistory@hotmail.com or John Boggs at jboggs@washingtonpost.com.

For those who participated in our **Annual Museum Benefit Yard Sale** on Sept. 2, we thank you—every little bit helps as we continue to improve and expand our buildings and exhibits.

Now it's time for us to change gears, and even personas, to prepare for the **Ghost Walk** season. Several of our stellar cast members have moved out of the area, so we're ready to bring some new characters from Concrete's illustrious past back to life. To make that possible, we also require some physical bodies for them to channel their stories through. Are

you up for the challenge? If you can talk to people, you're qualified. We try to fit a script with the person playing the part, so please don't hesitate to step forward—it takes some time to research and write a new script. Believe it or not, the stories told are based upon fact, though possibly slightly embellished and exaggerated—who knows for sure?

Don't forget that every Saturday evening in October—all four of them—the museum crew and volunteers will be presenting the **Annual Concrete Ghost Walk**. Be sure to reserve at least one evening for a night of fun and entertainment. See the Concrete Chamber of Commerce Web site for details and reservations, which are required. See the chamber's Web site at www.concrete-wa.com under Annual Events.

The next **monthly business meeting** will be on Sept. 21 at 7 p.m. at the museum. The public is always welcome, and we will appreciate your input.

—John Boggs

September at the Darrington Library

Children and family programs

- Family Storytime, Wed., Sept. 6–27; 11 to 11:45 a.m.; all ages welcome, caregiver required.
- LEGO Engineering, Wed., Sept. 6; 3 p.m.; LEGO WeDo Robotics kits available.
- LEGO Free Play, Wed., Sept. 13; 3 p.m.
- Evening Family Storytime, Mon., Sept. 25; 6 p.m.; all ages, caregiver required

Tweens and Teens programs

- Darrington Teen Book Group, *The Fault in Our Stars*, by John Green; snacks provided, Mon., Sept. 11, 5:30 p.m.
- Half-Day Movie Matinee: "Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl," Wed., Sept. 20; 1 to 3

p.m.; prizes for trivia winners

Adults

- Introduction to Meditation, Sat., Sept. 9; 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.
- Business Pros: Make the World's Biggest Buyer Your Customer: Government Contracts; Sat., Sept. 16; 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Business Pros: The Four Secrets to Growing Your Business, Sat., Sept. 23, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- Friends of the Darrington Library meeting, Wed., Sept. 13; 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

At the Upper Skagit Library

The Upper Skagit Library heartily thanks the Upper Skagit Library Foundation for doing another bang-up job with its annual **Book Sale during Cascade Days**. A special shout-out to John and Gail Boggs for completing (with aplomb) the marathon of ongoing book sorting and book sale coordination. All proceeds from the sale will go back into library programs and events.

Thank you to our **Summer Reading** sponsors who helped make our awesome children's programming happen: Friends of Skagit Libraries and the Upper Skagit Library Foundation. Thanks also to Cedar Country Lumber for donating a Jumbo Jenga set to the library. We had 80 kids sign up and set reading goals for the summer. Attendance to summer programs was high this year, and Scott Petersen the Reptile Man, as usual, was the biggest draw with over 100 attendees!

Join us as we welcome **Nicola Pearson** to the Upper Skagit Library on Sat., Sept. 16, at 3:30 p.m. She will read from her new novel *Borrowed Ground: a Joe and Lucy Story* and discuss how the right (write) character can put a little humor—and maybe even some reflection—into a difficult situation.

Join us for **Craft Friday** at 5b's Bakery, always the first Friday of the month at 6 p.m.

Visit the library at the **Marblemount Community Market** on Sun., Sept. 10, from noon to 4 p.m. This is the last Marblemount Market of the season! Visit our booth to check out books, buy used books, apply for a card, and learn more about our services and programs.

New on our shelves

In Adult Fiction, *Y is for Yesterday* by Sue Grafton and *Glass Houses* by Louise Penny.

In Adult Nonfiction, *Hue 1968: A Turning Point of the American War in Vietnam* by Mark Bowden, and *This Fight Is Our Fight: The Battle to Save America's Middle Class* by Elizabeth Warren.

In Young Adult, *City of Saints & Thieves* by Natalie Anderson.

In Children's, *Mighty, Mighty Construction Site* by Sherri Duskey Rinker.

The next Upper Skagit Library Board of Trustees Meeting will be held on Thur., Sept. 14 at 5 p.m.

—Brooke Pederson, Library Director

Lions R-O-A-R



Concrete Lions Club will begin meeting again on Sept. 6 and 20 at Annie's Pizza Station. The meeting starts at 6:30 p.m.; however, there is always a group that gathers around 6 p.m. to eat and socialize before the meeting starts. All existing members, mark your calendars. Anyone interested in becoming a member or learning more about your local Lions Club, feel free to stop by.

Concrete Lions Club will sell hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, and soda starting at 6 p.m. on Fri., Sept. 8, prior to the **Concrete vs. Friday Harbor** football game. Find us near the entrance to the stadium.

The Concrete Lions Club has access to **medical equipment**, such as wheelchairs,

walkers, shower chairs, and commodes, which can be lent to help those in need. Contact any Lions Club member and we will do our best to help you.

I encourage members of our community to think about and **join your local Lions Club**. Our club is your club. We are a club to serve you and our community. Our hope for 2017 is to double our membership numbers. We all have friends and family who have seen the outreach of your local Lions Club, so now is the time to give great thought about being a member!

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

—Connie Smithhart

Sheriff's Blotter, cont. from p. 31

A female was harassing customers and refusing to leave. The business requested that the female be contacted and trespassed from the store.

Aug. 21

Deputy Wiggins and Sergeant Jeff Willard responded to a violation of a court order in the Carpenter Rd. area of Lyman. A suspect was arrested for felony violation of a court order, and burglary, and taken to jail.

Aug. 23

While patrolling in the area of Cedargrove, Deputy Case stopped a car for speeding. He took the driver to jail for a felony drug warrant.

Aug. 24

Deputy Backstrom, Sgt. Chris Kading, Chief Chad Clark, and Sgt. Greg Adams responded to a possible burglary in progress in the Rockport area. Two suspects were arrested on warrants and taken to jail.

Deputy Backstrom investigated a disorderly call at Logger's Landing

in Concrete. A female was at the store yelling and causing problems. Deputy Backstrom was able to locate the female and trespassed her upon the request of the owner.

Aug. 25

Deputy Esskew received a report of illegal drugs in the Concrete area. The reporting party advised she had purchased a purse at the Concrete Swap Meet. She later discovered needles and a piece of foil in the purse with a dark brown tar-looking substance on it. The items were destroyed.

Aug. 26

A citizen reported that he had his wallet stolen at Logger's Landing in Concrete. The citizen had left his wallet on top of a gas pump and surveillance cameras showed that a person had taken the wallet. Using images from the camera, Deputy Devero was able to identify the suspect. The suspect admitted to taking the wallet, but said it was empty when he took it. On Aug. 28, items from the wallet were found on the South Skagit Hwy. near Pressentine

Creek and turned over to the Sheriff's Office. The suspect was charged with felony theft.

Deputy Struiksma investigated a suspicious call on Dillard Ave., near Erickson Place in Concrete. He contacted a male at that location who was later arrested for a warrant out of Skagit County District Court.

Aug. 28

Deputies Wiggins, Case, and Jesse Koback responded to a fight complaint in Hamilton. A suspect was arrested for disorderly conduct and taken to Skagit County Jail.

Aug. 29

Skagit County deputies from the East Detachment, Pro-act Unit, and Detectives unit, along with officers from Anacortes Police Dept., Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, and U.S. Forest Service served several related search warrants in the Rockport and Day Creek areas. The warrants were a result of a joint investigation involving numerous

burglaries. Drugs, illegal firearms, and stolen property were seized and recovered, including five stolen vehicles. Several arrests are pending. The investigation is still active.

—Compiled by Sgt. Greg Adams

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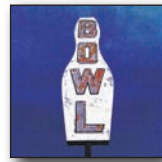
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Out & About



Anacortes

Wallie Valentine Funk April 29, 1922 – Aug. 12, 2017

Wallie Funk once said, "I have had very few dull moments in my life." Funk, a newspaper publisher, an arts advocate, and a man who loved Anacortes, passed away on Aug. 12, 2017, at age 95. His family assumes his afterlife will be no less dull.

Wallie Valentine Funk Jr. was born in Anacortes on April 29, 1922, to Wallie Valentine Funk Sr. and Irene Brown Funk. That he died in his hometown more than 90 years later speaks to the grip its artists, fishermen, Croats, refinery workers, and Anacortes Seahawks sports teams had on his soul. His favorite smell was of salt

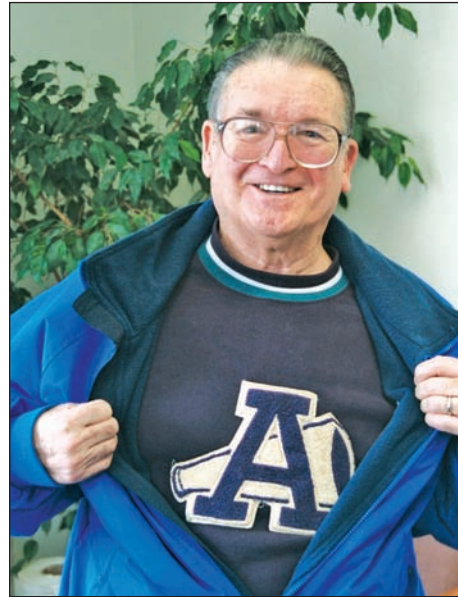


water and creosote at the port dock.

Funk's interest in newspapering started early, in the mid-1930s. To pass the hours, he assembled scrapbooks recording seasons of Seattle Rainiers' baseball, University of Washington football, and more. His first sports story was written after Anacortes beat Bellingham 3-0 in football. He wrote it by hand, then glued a splinter from the goalpost to his copy as a final touch.

Funk graduated from the UW. Like so many of his generation, he interrupted his studies to serve in World War II. He carried shrapnel in his hand from a small wound suffered at Leyte Gulf, but was otherwise uninjured. The post-war UW was a remarkable place; its influence on a small-town man profound. Funk sometimes attended classes, usually journalism. His highest education came from the Sigma Nu fraternity, the UW Daily student newspaper, and student government. As senior class president, he served with such future leaders as Wing Luke, Martin Durkan, and Brock Adams.

Home beckoned in 1950. Starting a business relationship that would last until 1988, Funk and fraternity brother John Webber bought the *Anacortes American*, a daily newspaper with a circulation so small that the Associated Press didn't bother charging for its service. Funk's first editorial: A call for an Anacortes history museum.



Love beckoned, too. Mary Ann Ringwall was a high school teacher newly arrived from Waitsburg, Wash., and Columbus, N.D. They met dancing at the Elks Club. But Funk nearly let Mary Ann get away. It was "Marry me or I go teach in Turkey." They wed in 1954. Within three years they had two sons, Mark and Carl.

Funk was an unapologetic homer when it came to high school sports. Local referees once gave him an embroidered crying towel. He never got over the back-to-back state championship losses Lincoln of Seattle dealt his Seahawks basketball team. Said Funk: "I hated Lincoln ... I hated the referees ... I hated ... the air ... in the ball."

Funk used the newspaper to advocate for his vision of Anacortes. The *American* campaigned vigorously for better schools, roads, and infrastructure. If you opposed these good things (and the tax increases) you were a "no-good-nick." Establishing the Anacortes Arts and Crafts Festival was a very good idea, indeed. In 1961, Funk and lifelong friend Dr. Eugene "Bud" Strom were in Miami Beach, Fla., to accept an All-America City award for Anacortes.

Not everyone shared Funk's vision. In a town that could barely support one newspaper, a rival popped up. Coin jars were placed in taverns asking for donations to drive off the Four Fs: Funk



the newspaper publisher, Fox the Chevy dealer, Fritz the radio station owner, and French the city manager. Loss of advertising dollars proved decisive; Funk and Webber sold the *American* in 1963.

At the same time, the *Whidbey News-Times* came up for sale. Funk continued his newspapering in Oak Harbor. Each edition was loaded with local names and photographs. On deadline mornings, reporters raced to Funk's home to pick up copy in what came to be known as "the pajama run," because that's what he was wearing.

Funk likely was writing about politics. The *American* was the first state newspaper to endorse Dan Evans, a Seattle lawmaker running for governor. Evans later appointed Funk to the Washington State Arts Commission, a post he would hold under the next two governors. Skagit Valley artists infused Funk's life; Graves and Anderson, two of the so-called Northwest mystics, lived close by. He befriended many others: Max Benjamin, Russ and Betty Frost, Phil McCracken, Ann McCool, Kevin Paul. Their works surrounded him until the end.

Funk's own tool was the camera: a Leicaco a newspaper (weekly, daily, doesn't or Nikon. He photographed NAS Whidbeymatter); buying a copy of Funk's *Pictures of the Past: Celebrating 125 Years of Anacortes History*, proceeds going to the Anacortes History Museum; or donating to the WNPA's Wallie Funk scholarship,

which meets expenses for reporting

Funk, cont. from p. 34

and the Rolling Stones, and hundreds of school band concerts. His most important photos, though, were taken in 1970 at the Penn Cove orca roundup, pictures graphically capturing the iconic mammals' treatment at whale hunters' hands. The photos remain in worldwide circulation, an Internet click away.

A family tree of newspaper people started with Funk. Several graduated to the *Skagit Valley Herald*, *The Seattle Times*, *The Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, and the *Everett Herald*. The *Wall Street Journal*'s London chief's first job was with Funk. Another alum holds two Pulitzers. Others rose to become weekly publishers in their own right. Funk presided over the Washington Newspaper Publishers' Association, a trade group of remarkable publishers. He enjoyed traveling to their homes: Lynden, Port Townsend, Stanwood, and Waitsburg. WNPA friendships extend into the next generation.

Upon "retirement," Funk turned to local causes. He raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for history museums in Anacortes and Island County, Oak Harbor's community playhouse, La Conner's Museum of Northwest Art, and, on the waterfront, the Northwest Center of Excellence for Marine Manufacturing & Technology. Almost every Anacortes High School class from the mid-1930s to the early 1970s regarded Funk as an honorary member.

Funk was preceded in death by his wife Mary Ann and two brothers, Jim and Charlie Funk. He is survived by his sons, Mark and Carl; their wives, Pam McGaffin and Mara Funk; and grandsons, Casey and Charlie. The family sends out a special thank you to San Juan Rehabilitation's staff, particularly Agnes Haller, whose friendship extended beyond care.

Funk was honored recently at Western Washington University, where thousands of his historic photographs have a home. He talked with the school's communications students. He told them, "Don't send flowers when I pass. Simply being here today, with you, is all the memorial I need." The family suggests honoring Funk's memory by subscribing to the WNPA's Wallie Funk scholarship,

which meets expenses for reporting

interns covering the state legislature.

A memorial service for Wallie will be held at the First Baptist Church, 2717 J Ave., Anacortes, on Sat., Sept. 23, at 1:00 p.m., with a reception following the service.

Arrangements are in the care of Evans Funeral Chapel of Anacortes. To share a memory of Wallie, sign the online guest register at www.evanschapel.com.

Burlington

Film & Discussion: Saving the grizzly and protecting our federal lands in Skagit County

The public is invited to come learn about the local fight for public lands in Skagit County and how it relates to ongoing efforts to recover grizzly bears in Washington's North Cascades. The evening's agenda includes a 10-minute film that documents efforts to save grizzly bears in Montana. Local community members will discuss our county commissioners' response to the proposed grizzly bear restoration plans. A Q&A period will follow.

The discussion is planned for Wed., Sept. 13, from 7:30 to 9 p.m., at the Burlington Library, 820 E. Washington Ave., Burlington.

RSVP to gtaylor@npca.org.

Burlington Dept. of Parks & Rec issues call for vendors

Burlington Parks & Recreation has issued a call for vendors at two upcoming events.

A Kids Giant Garage Sale is planned for Sat., Nov. 11, from 9 a.m. to noon, at the Burlington Parks and Recreation Center, 900 E. Fairhaven Ave. Open to kids ages 18 and under, the vendor fee is \$15.

An Evening Gift Show is planned for Wed., Nov. 15, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., also at the Burlington Parks and Recreation Center. The vendor fee for this event is \$25.

For more information, go to www.burlingtonwa.gov/recreation the office at 360.755.9649.

—Submitted by Burlington Parks & Rec

Nicola Pearson to visit Upper Skagit Library

Property line disputes are so commonplace in Skagit County, they provide local law enforcement with the second highest number of calls for help. For a writer, however, these disputes can add an interesting dimension to a story.

That's what Nicola Pearson discovered when writing her latest novel, *Borrowed Ground*, which brings back Joe and Lucy from *How to Make a Pot in 14 Easy Lessons* and pits them against their vindictive neighbor, Hilda, in a series of stomach-churning ordeals that they must overcome in order to keep their home, and their pottery business, viable.

The couple endures most of Hilda's shenanigans while trying to reason with her. But when Hilda sabotages the ancient apple tree growing in front of Joe and Lucy's house, they can't help but wonder if it's the property line that's truly bothering their neighbor, or something deeper.



Pearson

Join Pearson at the Upper Skagit Library on Sat., Sept. 16, at 3:30 p.m. as she reads from *Borrowed Ground* and discusses how the right (write) character can put a little humor—and maybe even some reflection—into a difficult situation.

For more information, go to www.upperskagit.lib.wa.us or call 360.853.7939.

—Brooke Pederson

Read
Concrete Herald
The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley

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Smile



... from the Concrete Herald archives ...

Jr. Hinch thinks the Golden Rule is a yellow yard stick.
— § —
Tubby Tyler says that some folks have brains, but he'd settle for money.
— § —
Every time Tod Bolton's wife leaves home for a minute, she's gone for an hour.
— § —
Every time Grandpa Hedges gets lost, he doesn't know where he's been, nor how he got there.
— § —
If you can't keep your basement dry, stock it with fish.
— § —
Some gals who buy kiss-proof lipstick never get a chance to prove it.
— § —
We bet that sometimes the early worm wishes he wasn't.
— § —
A priest walked up to a young man hanging on to a lamp post.
"Shame on you! What have you been drinking?"
"Three Fathers, Feather."
— § —
"My poor fellow," said the kind old lady, "it must be dreadful to be lame, but just think how much worse it would be if you were blind."
"You're right, lady," agreed the beggar. "When I was blind, I was always gettin' counterfeit money!"
— § —
They call our foreman "the devil." He's always finding work for idle hands to do.

Dwelleysms

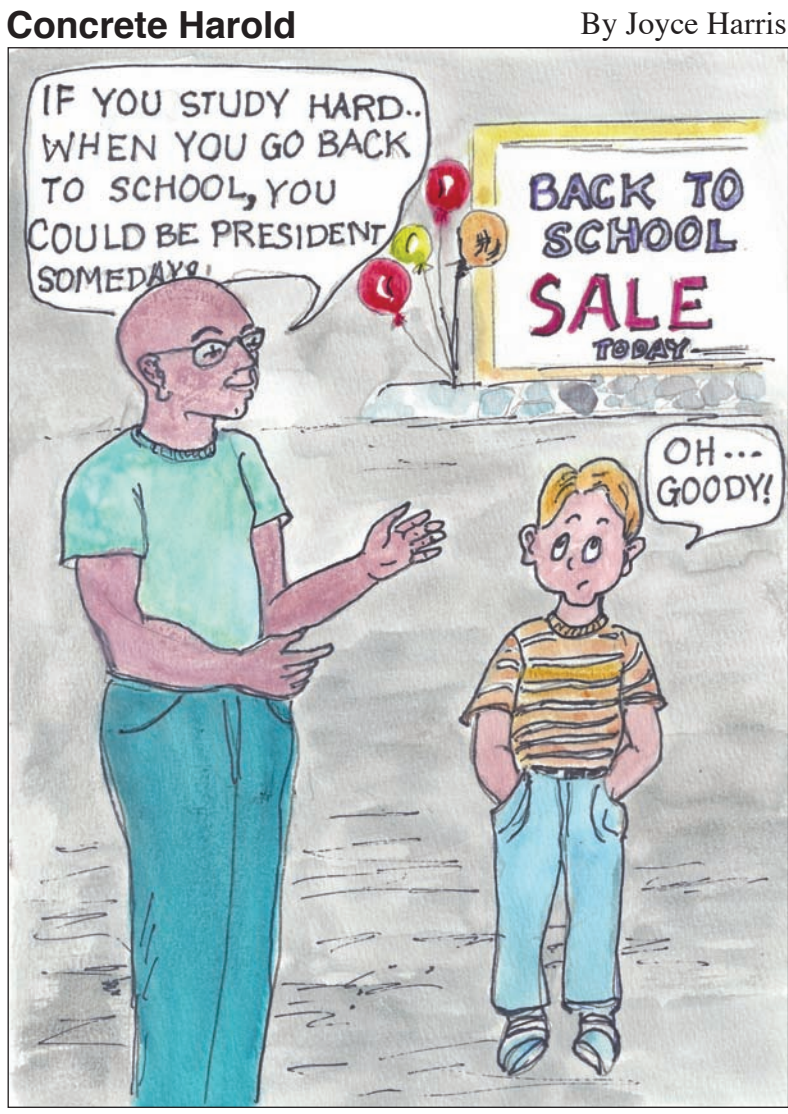
Wit and wisdom from former *Concrete Herald* editor Charles M. Dwelley

"Try to explain to the fellow who drives the car home after the weekend outing that Sunday is a day of rest."
"Our federal government is spinning like a point-and-take top. While one announcement screams of money being given away for foolish things, the release screams equally as loud that more money must be taken from the 4 taxpayers to keep them from spending it foolishly."
"Ever think that loneliness is impossible to share? Once you get help, it disappears."
— July 5, 1967

"The sky is still uncrowded. No one has figured out a way to hitch camping trailers to a plane."
"First plastic was expensive because it was new, then it was cheap because it was plentiful. Now it is mostly a trash item because it is harder to dispose of than the material for which it was substituted in the first place."
"Some people believe in trial marriages simply because after several years, they find theirs has become a continual one."
"Whenever we get caught in a war of words, how come other nations get to use all the threats, and we have to get by with the promises?"
— July 12, 1967

"We're afraid 'truth in lending' laws will not bring about that ideal state. In most cases, truth would be a bitter statement: 'You don't need it.'"
— July 19, 1967

Public Service Announcement



Concrete Harold

By Joyce Harris

Crossword: "Inclement Weather"

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

- Across**
- 1. Second baseman?
 - 5. In this way
 - 9. Comics sound
 - 14. Locks
 - 15. Anahat ____
 - 16. Come in second
 - 17. Sight from Taormina
 - 18. Magazine type
 - 19. Dog-____
 - 20. Jay Ferguson hit
 - 23. Start of a cheer
 - 24. Burn up
 - 25. When calm arrives
 - 32. Nescient
 - 34. Belgium village
 - 35. So out it's in
 - 36. Lassie portrayer
 - 37. Bilked
 - 39. Yeanling producer
 - 40. Type of shirt or jacket
 - 42. Perfectly fine
 - 45. Gaudy scarf
 - 46. Smoke
 - 47. Faint flash on the horizon
 - 54. Argus-eyed
- Down**
- 1. Sharpen
 - 2. Biblical verb
 - 3. Hokkaido native
 - 4. Manhattan ____
 - 5. Compose
 - 6. Appointed time
 - 7. Unattractive tangelo?
 - 8. Exhausts
 - 9. Catches, in a way
 - 10. Krypton, e.g.
 - 11. Piecrust ingredient
 - 12. One in a suit
 - 13. Poet Hughes
 - 21. "Likewise"
 - 22. Dissembled
 - 56. Just lying around
 - 57. TV's "American ____"
 - 58. Asian perennial herb
 - 59. Approach
 - 60. Campbell of "Party of Five"
 - 61. Small woods
 - 62. Rank
 - 63. Fed
- Down**
- 25. Doctor
 - 26. Move, in a way
 - 27. Start of a refrain
 - 28. "____ bells!"
 - 29. Woody
 - 30. They may be seeded
 - 31. Kind of room
 - 32. Organic compound
 - 33. Time piece
 - 37. Blue eyes or baldness, e.g.
 - 38. Taking a side
 - 40. ____ room
 - 41. Tell tale activity
 - 43. Old World herbs
 - 44. Col. Sanders feature
 - 47. Cord fiber
 - 48. American journalist Lisa
 - 49. It may be fixed
 - 50. ____ rock
 - 51. Footnote word
 - 52. Astronomer's sighting
 - 53. Secluded spot
 - 54. Electric ____
 - 55. Pathet ____

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.

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

*Solutions to both puzzles are on p. 38.

Funny as Facebook

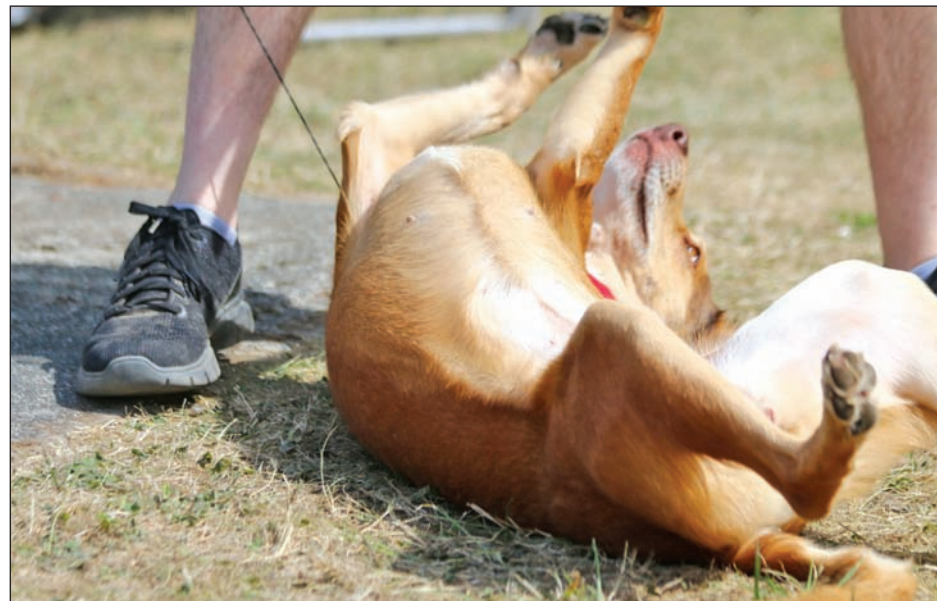
- The following funnies were pulled verbatim from Facebook status updates in August:
- "Conversation for the day (while bored and waiting for tires to be changed on the car): 'Excuse me, sir? I really like the line work done on your tattoo. I don't recognize the language though; may I ask what the words mean?' 'It is grease from my bicycle chain. On my calf. Thank you ...?' 'So is that in Sanskrit or High Valyrian?'"
 - "Jon Snow and I drink the same beer! We are basically best friends! You may bask in the glow of the company that I (vicariously through beer drinking) keep."
 - "Might as well ban children from cars as well, now that we can't eat or drink for fear of distraction."
 - "I'm so happy that I don't have to go back to the halls of hell this year."
 - "I just now realized we've been married for more than half my life. Jeepers, he's old."
 - "We were just called adorable by two women who happened to be high as kites, so it must be true. Happy 22nd anniversary, Mathew. There's no one I'd rather have hold my dress down in this wind but you."
 - "I'll just get my eclipse glasses when they go on sale tomorrow. Suckers!"
 - "Alright! Who just ding dong ditched me with some booze and limes at my door? Also, will you marry me?"
 - "I'm about 2.5 seconds away from taking every news source out of my feed simply for the fact that Facebook now previews the most disgusting, racist, Neanderthal 'top' comment before I even click on it. If only people would learn to stop feeding the trolls."



Above: Cascade Burgers' entry in the Cascade Days Parade included these two munchkins who matched their mothers. *Photo by Susan Carter.* **Below:** Dump Run organizer Becky Luttrell gets a taste of her own medicine while running the course on Aug. 20.



Above: Anna Spangler ponders one of her life choices during the pie-eating contest at Cascade Days on Aug. 20. **Below:** Cammy, a 4-year-old female mixed breed, plays dead during the Cascade Days Pet Show—for the win! Cammy belongs to "Bob" and Kelcie Crain of Oso.



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360.436.9603

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Hamilton Community Food Bank
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EMPLOYMENT

**Interpretive Center Coordinator and Education
Specialist.** The Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive
Center is an environmental education facility at
Howard Miller Steelhead Park in Rockport.

During winter bald eagle migration, the
facility opens to the public and provides various
educational opportunities to learn about bald eagles,
salmon, and the Skagit River with a mission of
conversation awareness and encourage restoration
of the Skagit River Watershed.

The center has an excellent employment
opportunity for the 2017–18 Winter Season:
Interpretive Center Coordinator and Education
Specialist.

The position requires public services or visitor
center operations experience; excellent people
skills; experience teaching and communicating
to children, adults, families; group facilitation
experience; and commitment to environmental

conservation education.

This position is Part-Time, Seasonal; Saturdays
and Sundays in December and January. Includes
at least two days during the week (Dec/Jan)
facilitating the K-12 School Program & Group Tours.
Pre-season assignments begin in September.
December–January: 15–25 hours per week.

To apply, send current resume and cover letter to
srbeatic@frontier.com. No phone calls, please.
Deadline: August 31, 2017. View the full job
description at www.skagitaeagle.org/employment.

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e-mail ads@concrete-herald.com. Ads are \$5
per every 10 words. Deadline for the September
2017 issue is Aug. 28.

Letters, cont. from p. 2

donated thus far. It is greatly appreciated!
Anyone with questions may call me at
360.826.4848.

*Gladys Silrus, president
Concrete Food Bank
Concrete*

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Sudoku solution, from p. 37

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

Crossword solution, from p. 37

1	W	H	A	T	5	T	H	U	S	9	S	P	L	A	T
14	H	A	I	R	15	Y	O	G	A	16	P	L	A	C	E
17	E	T	N	A	18	P	U	L	P	19	E	A	R	E	D
20	T	H	U	N	D	E	R	I	S	22	L	A	N	D	
23	S	I	S		25	A	F	T	E	R	26	T	H	E	S
27	U	N	L	E	T	28	P	A	L	29	T	A	K	E	N
30	R	E	T	R	O	32	C	O	L	L	A	R	L	E	S
33	E	W	E		35	G	H	T	A	36	S	R	A	I	N
37	B	O	A		39	C	I	G		41	H	E	A	T	
42	A	L	E	R	43	I	D	L	E	44	N	E	I	D	O
45	R	A	M	I	46	N	E	A	R	47	N	E	V	E	
48	C	O	P	S	E	49	G	A	M	50	G	M	A	N	

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