

The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley

Concrete Herald

Vol. 101, No. 9

September 2018

concrete-herald.com

50 cents

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

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Concrete Herald

The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley



Washington Newspaper Publishers Association
EST. 1987

Jason K. Miller, publisher and editor 360.853.8213 / editor@concrete-herald.com

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Guest editorial

Clarifying McCleary

By Phil Brockman, superintendent, Sedro-Woolley School District

I would like to clarify details regarding recent state legislative action that will provide more funds to schools, and about our request for levy funds last spring. The McCleary Court decision determined the state would collect more funds statewide and redistribute them. Small districts like Sedro-Woolley, which do not have a large tax base, will receive some of these statewide funds. As a result, in 2019, Sedro-Woolley School District taxpayers will see their local school tax rates decrease from \$4.23 to \$1.99 per \$1,000 of assessed property value.

The Sedro-Woolley school community has a long tradition of supporting our schools. To continue that tradition, our district needs to address facility needs specifically to replace Evergreen Elementary School. The current building is antiquated and unsuitable for continued student learning and success. It opened its doors in 1972 to serve 300 students. It had 580 students in the 2017–18 school year. Building a new school to serve up to 700 students will cost an estimated \$46.8 million. The state will match up to \$8 million, giving the district flexibility for construction escalation costs, paying down the bond, property acquisition, and/or facility preservation projects. A new Evergreen construction bond of \$44.5 million will add an estimated 74 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value during the next 20 years. This bond will expire in November 2039.

The Sedro-Woolley School District is a strong and successful district as evidenced by Sedro-Woolley High School's consistent extended graduation rate of 92 percent during the past several years. As we work together to improve our school facilities and provide opportunities for our students, I welcome your comments. Please contact me at 360.855.3500 or bond@swsd101.org.

We thank you and appreciate your continued support of the Sedro-Woolley School District and its mission of "every student graduates with the knowledge and skills for future learning and success."



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Opinion

Letters to the editor

Gratitude from Skagit County Fire District 16

Thank you to everyone who came to the Day Creek Fire Department Fundraising Garage Sale! We appreciate your support, and it was a successful event. The sale earned close to \$2,400!

A special thank-you to Handheld Harvest for donating all the wonderful floral arrangements we sold at the fundraiser.

Your neighbor and firefighter ...
*Bev Riesland
Day Creek*

Many thanks to all

Many thanks go to all of the volunteers who made the Upper Skagit Library Foundation's annual book sale during Cascade Days such a huge success. It took a lot of "people hours" to donate, sort, haul, set up, sell, and clean up.

Also, thanks go to the Cascade Days Committee who spent many months planning the fun weekend. Without them, the library book sale would not have happened.

*John and Gail Boggs
Concrete*

Support free and fair journalism

Trump's new budget proposal is calling for the shutdown of public broadcasting. If this occurs, hundreds of millions of Americans will lose their access to free and fair news, as well as educational and inspirational programming.

As we know, public broadcasting is noncommercial by definition and design. It is never beholden to advertisers' demands or corporations' pockets and/or politics. It is nonpartisan and nonprofit, and has been known since its

inception in 1967 as "the peoples' voice": programming that is free, fair, factual, and without bias.

On public television, some of those free programs include BBC World News, PBS News Hour, Frontline, NOVA, Masterpiece Theatre, Antiques Roadshow, America's Test Kitchen, Sesame Street, and Arthur, just to name a few.

Public radio includes NPR, PRI, PRX, CBC, and many others, including every "community" station in the country, such as KSVU 90.1 FM right here in the Upper Skagit. As a nonprofit, each station's existence is dependent on both memberships and grant monies (awarded via the Corporation for Public Broadcasting: CPB) to stay afloat. That means that radio and TV station members and underwriters—the public—support the station's work and content. Many stations, like Concrete's own KSVU Upriver Community Radio, are run entirely by volunteers in the local community, holding fundraisers and annual pledge drives to pay for rent, utilities, and equipment, as well as—in KSVU's case—applying for CPB grants in conjunction with KSVR at Skagit Community College.

The Foundation for Public Trust rates

See **Letters**, p. 3

Letters policy

Letters of 200 words or fewer may be e-mailed to letters@concrete-herald.com or sent to Concrete Herald, P.O. Box 682, Concrete, WA 98237. Writers must include their 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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the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) No. 1 in all of the country's media, and for good reason. In a world of increasing distrust, misinformation, media hacking, and governmental dishonesty, PBS

Commentary

No excuse for fake news rhetoric

By Fred Obee

The plight of a grieving orca who continues to carry her dead calf for weeks is reported by the *Seattle Times*. The *Spokane Spokesman-Review* lets people know for the first time the Legislature is forming a task force to exempt lawmakers from portions of the Public Records Act. The *Columbia Basin Herald* in Moses Lake warns that air quality for the county fair may be unhealthy because of wildfire smoke pollution. The *Omak County Chronicle* reports that Wally Richards is this year's Omak Stampede grand marshal. The *Nisqually Valley News* in Yelm tells its readers where ballot drop boxes will be located so they can participate in the primary election. In the *Port Townsend Leader*, we learn about firefighter Reece Chambers and ways the community can support his family following his heart transplant.

These stories and many more all appeared recently in the pages of newspapers across Washington State as they chronicled the history of the communities they serve. For more than a century, they have informed, celebrated, and lamented the good and bad of the schools, governments, and people in their coverage area.

And these are the enemy of the people? This is fake news?

Of course not.

Yet in one way or another, all journalists are being tossed into the anti-media waters being chummed by President Trump and others.

I do not write this to choose sides on the right or left of national politics. Instead, I write today on behalf of the more than 80 newspapers of the Washington Newspaper Publishers Association as we join others

retains its integrity in all it does. As a membership organization that serves the American public with programming and services of the highest quality, it uses media to inform, educate, inspire,

across the nation in defense of our profession.

We witnessed President Trump's June 27 rally in Fargo when he taunted the media seven times, inciting jeers from the audience. This month at a rally in Pennsylvania, he pointed at reporters and called them "horrible, horrendous people."

"They can make anything bad, because they are fake, fake disgusting news," he said.

During a speech at a VFW event in Missouri, the president said that what Americans are reading "is not really happening."

Even the VFW winced, saying it was "disappointed to hear some of our members boo the press. We rely on the media to help spread the VFW's message. ... We were happy to have them there." Yet some people believe the president and, unfortunately, the ugly rhetoric is sifting downward, settling even on small newspapers.

Yes, even in Washington State, newspapers are being called "fake news" by candidates, public servants, and the people we cover as they seek to discredit news reports and create their own smokescreens in the face of news coverage they see as critical of themselves or their political beliefs.

Do not fall for it.

Newspapers are the first to admit they are not perfect, but on all levels they are serious about what they see as their core roles: documenting the daily and weekly history of our towns and serving as watchdogs to protect the public interest. If President Trump wants to dispute the criticism he gets from the press, he should try countering with facts and well-supported arguments that support his policies instead of spewing unfair and dangerous rhetoric from a rally podium.

Our free press supports the rights of people expressing every imaginable political viewpoint. It's not fake. It is very real and it's time our President recognized and supported this very basic and central concept of our democracy.

Fred Obee is executive director for the Washington Newspaper Publishers Association.

entertain, and express a diversity of perspectives.

Decimating funding for public broadcasting is yet another attack on our First Amendment rights, so the attackers can flood the airwaves with their own propaganda. Because Trump can't control the CPB, he is seeking to eliminate that voice. That act is an effort to suppress the independent voice that we, as taxpayers, depend upon and have paid for. And if that somehow sounds vaguely familiar, remember that this was one of Hitler's tactics when his authoritarian control became the horrendous dictatorship that tried to rule the world.

So pay attention, friends! Our democracy is under attack. To learn more, go to: <https://petitions.moveon.org/sign/tell-congress-save-public>.

*Christie Fairchild
Rockport*

"Drama & Desserts" well received

Once again, the residents of the Upper Skagit Valley demonstrated the depths of their talents by performing their original works of words and music at the special presentation of Drama & Desserts at the Concrete Theatre. Not surprisingly, the

audience numbered more people than often show up for a slick Hollywood movie production, and they cheered their neighbors on. The kind of support shown clearly marks those in our community not just as neighbors, or friends, but family.

*John Boggs
Concrete*

Volunteers/staff built a great fence

This is to send a heartfelt thank you to everyone who pitched in to replace our Main Street fence leading into Concrete Town Center.

Public Works employees Rich Philips and Jimmy Luttrell provided the heavy lifting, joining with volunteer Tom Jones to set the new posts in place and mount the stringers. Volunteer Josh Maureaux showed up out of the blue to lend a hand with staining and pickets. Thanks, Josh!

And let's not forget the work that went on behind the scenes: Councilmember Beth Easterday led the effort to prep more than 300 pickets that were left over from the community garden project, with volunteer Matt Murphy at the saws.

*Jason Miller, Mayor
Town of Concrete*

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Town of Concrete state audit reports reveal room for improvement

By Chazlyn Lovely
Edited by Katy Tomasulo

Town of Concrete received the results of its most recent audit, performed by the Office of Washington State Auditor Pat McCarthy. The audit covers three different reports: an accountability audit for 2016-2017, a financial statement audit for 2016-2017, and a federal grant compliance audit for 2017.

In the reports, the state auditor's office found multiple areas for improvement in the town government's policies and procedures. Overall, the town seems to not be up-to-date in both state and federal financial statement reporting standards, policy adoption, and general financial health. While the town admits to certain deficiencies in its processes, Clerk-Treasurer Andrea Fichter challenged other findings, citing the limited scope of knowledge the auditor's office has on the town's resources, differing interpretations

of rules, and the challenges that come with being a small-town government.

Accountability Audit Jan. 1, 2016-Dec. 31, 2017

In this audit, the state auditor's office found Town of Concrete to be in a tenuous financial situation. According to the report, the town's "declining financial condition increases the risk of not being able to meet its financial obligations." Increased spending on construction projects to repair and improve the town's infrastructure have taken their toll, causing the decline.

Fichter says that it's important to note that the report only covers 2016-2017 and that, at this point, things have already begun to improve.

The auditor's office came to its conclusion by looking at three different "health indicators"—the town's cash position, which has declined in the past three of five years; the town's cash

sufficiency, or the number of days the general fund can operate, which was down to one in 2017; and the percentage of money set aside for USDA loan payments. In this third indicator, the town is required to set aside 10 percent of the loan, or around \$167,479; currently, only \$61,056 is set aside. Fichter explains that the town has tried to set aside as much as it possibly can, but that it can't afford the required amount. The USDA is aware of the situation, having been reported by the town, and has chosen not to invoke penalties so far.

The state auditor's office is still concerned, however, noting that the Town does not have the cash balance to cover one month of average expenditures. In 2015, the town received a recommendation letter designed to help it improve its financial situation, and Fichter said the town is currently in the process of finalizing a plan to address those recommendations, including increased

utility taxes and updates to its investment policy.

By the end of the year, the hope is to see improvement without further burdening town residents. Funds from the sewer rate increases will contribute to USDA loan obligations; should that not suffice, according to Fichter, the plan is to "do smaller increases across the board annually so that we do not have to do anymore larger increases all at once in the future."

Fichter, who has also been deep in financial management policy research and development in addition to her regular duties, does disagree with the audit team's finding with regard to the town's supposed inability to pay more than one month's expenses. "They have their own complex formula they use, but I do not believe that it truly accounts for all the funds available."

Financial Statements and Federal Single Audit Report Jan. 1, 2016-Dec. 31, 2017

One major finding of this report is a discrepancy between accounting systems: currently the town uses the

See Audit, p. 19

Election 2018

Narrow gaps separated several candidates after votes were tallied for the primary election on Aug. 7. Here's a brief look at the standings for races affecting the *Concrete Herald* coverage area as of Sept. 2, according to the Skagit County Elections Office.

Proposition No. 1 Continuation of Emergency Medical Services Levy (Skagit County EMS System)

Yes 66%
No 34%

U.S. Senator

Maria Cantwell (D) 52%
Susan Hutchison (R) 31%

Congressional Dist. 1 U.S.

Representative (Skagit County results)
Suzan DelBene (D) 58%
Jeffrey Beeler (R) 26%

Congressional Dist. 2 U.S.

Representative (Skagit County results)
Rick Larsen (D) 65%
Uncle Mover (GOP) 9%

Legislative Dist. 39 State Senator (Skagit County results)

Keith Wagoner (R) 40%
Claus Joens (D) 37%

See Election 2018, p. 19

Commissioners authorize vote on charter and election of freeholders

At an Aug. 19 meeting, Skagit County commissioners passed a required resolution authorizing the vote and selection of freeholders, a required step toward a county charter for Skagit County.

On Aug. 3, the citizen group Home Rule Skagit submitted 3,333 signatures to the County Auditor petitioning for a county charter. During the Aug. 19 meeting, county commissioners heard a report on the petition from county Elections Supervisor David Cunningham. He stated that sufficient valid signatures had been submitted to get the measure on the ballot in November.

Cunningham stated that voters will be posed a "twofold question" on the ballot. The first part of the ballot measure will ask whether a charter should be prepared by a board of freeholders. This question will be a straight yes/no vote.

The second part will be the selection of freeholders. Regardless of whether a voter answers yes or no to the first question, they can still vote for freeholders. There will be seven freeholder positions in each commissioner district, for a total of 21. Voters will vote only for the seven freeholders in their district. If a majority of voters vote yes to the first question,

the elected freeholders will meet and draft a proposal for a new form of county government. This proposal will come back to the voters for consideration at a later date. No change occurs to county government unless voters approve the freeholders' proposal.

Filing for freeholder positions was open from Aug. 27 through 31. Candidates for freeholders were to file in person at the Skagit County Auditor's office, had to have lived in Skagit County for at least five years, and must be a registered voter in the district in which he or she is seeking office. The position is nonpartisan, volunteer, and uncompensated. Candidates must declare for one of the 21 positions.

Kathy Kuba of the Home Rule Skagit steering committee, said, "We would like to see a slate of freeholder candidates that reflects Skagit's rich demographic and geographic diversity. This is an exciting opportunity to be a part of Skagit County's future, and it is grassroots democracy at its best."

Home Rule Skagit is a group of nonpartisan county residents seeking to update county government as provided by the Washington State Constitution. The charter process is the only way that county government can be updated. Kuba stated that Home Rule Skagit "plans to hold many events and forums around the county in the coming months to educate voters about this exciting opportunity to create better local government."

—Submitted by Home Rule Skagit



You're invited!

PeaceHealth

PeaceHealth Sedro-Woolley Clinic Grand Opening and Community Wellness Fair

We're celebrating the opening of our new Sedro-Woolley Clinic and invite you to join us. Enjoy these family-friendly activities:

- Free health information and screenings
- Walk-through colon educational exhibit
- KAPS 102.1 FM live broadcast and prizes
- Food carts (purchase fees apply)

Take a tour and learn about expanded services available for you and your family:

- Walk-in Clinic
- Family Medicine
- Specialty care
- Schaffner Pharmacy
- Quest Diagnostics (lab services)

Clinic Grand Opening and Community Wellness Fair

Saturday, Sept. 22 ■ 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
1990 Hospital Drive, Sedro-Woolley

This event is **free** to attend and open to the public.
peacehealth.org/sedro-woolley-clinic

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THIS AND THAT

By J. K. M.

Another fundraiser is in the works for KSVU 90.1 FM.

September 15 will find local country musician Marcia Kester donating her talents as a KSVU fundraiser at Birdview Brewing Company. The fun starts at 3 p.m.

We hope to see you there. Be sure to pick up a current radio program schedule in various Upper Valley locations, including the KSVU Studio in Portable B behind Concrete Elementary School, Albert's Red Apple Market (Lotto counter area), Concrete Chamber, Upper Skagit Library, Rockport Pub, and the Marblemount Community Hall. Enjoy a diversity of music, views, and news.

Call the station anytime: 360.853.8588.

During the week of Oct. 8, Waste Management will change the service

days for 143 of its residential customers in eastern Skagit County. Two weeks prior to that date, letters of notification will be mailed to affected customers.

Some customers will experience a seven-day or more gap in service. Others will experience a day change that is less than a week. The letters will provide details on how customers should respond.

WSU Extension is offering a Diabetes Prevention Program.

The Diabetes Prevention Program will give you a chance to learn how to change your lifestyle and improve your health. A trained lifestyle coach will present this 16-week class series starting on Wed., Sept. 26, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at WSU Skagit County Extension at 11768 Westar Lane, Suite A, Burlington. Directions can be found at <http://extension.wsu.edu/skagit/location>.

This is not a weight loss program; it is a lifestyle program to help reduce the chances of getting Type 2 diabetes. Cost is \$60.

To enroll, call Laura DeFreese at 360.428.4270, ext. 224.



Participants at a WSU Invasive Weed Practicum practice rolling up ivy mats. Submitted photo.

Learn to fight invasive weeds

Invasive and noxious weeds are the bane of forest property owners. Blackberries, ivy, holly, Scotch broom, reed canary grass, nightshade, and knotweed are just a few of the culprits.

The Washington State University Extension Forestry program will offer a day-long invasive forest weed control field practicum to equip property owners with everything they need to know to get a leg up on these invaders that do serious economic and ecological harm. The workshop will be held Sat., Sept. 15, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Skagit River Woods, about 10 minutes east of Concrete.

At this completely field-based and hands-on workshop, participants will learn how to use herbicides safely, including what products to use and where to buy them, how to read and follow labels, and pesticide laws. Participants will practice putting on protective gear, tank mixing with water and dyes, sprayer

calibration, and proper cleanup and storage.

Participants also will get to try stem injection and cut stump treatments. There will be plenty of organic, nonchemical options taught as well, with hands-on practicing of multiple techniques, such as using a weed wrench, cutting, mowing, digging, and sheet mulching.

Pre-registration is required and must be done before 5 p.m. on Sept. 13. The cost to attend is \$15 per person or \$25 per couple before Sept. 7, and \$25 per person or \$35 per couple thereafter.

To register or learn more, go to http://forestry.wsu.edu/nps/events/weeds_skagit or contact WSU Extension Forestry at 206.263.1128.

—Submitted by WSU Extension

Council summary

Concrete Town Council met for regular meetings on Aug. 13 and 27. Following are summaries 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. 13 regular meeting

Representing *Concrete Herald*, Mayor Jason Miller presented a proposal for a \$100 sponsorship from the town to help fund publication of a *Disaster Preparedness Guide* to be published by *Concrete Herald*. Mayor Pro-tem Rob Thomas sat in the mayor's seat during the presentation. Council supported the idea of the project, but voiced concern that it may present a conflict of interest. Mayor Miller withdrew his request.

Local music teacher Gretchen Hewitt shared with council her attempts to find a new location for her music studio.

George Theodoratus shared his concern with council regarding the Lorenzen Creek spoils pile encroaching on his land at the Swap Meet field. He asked that he be allowed to place vendors on the unopened S. Rietze right of way. Council agreed to allow this use.

Garrett VonKemnow reported an inaccuracy in the meeting minutes from the July 9 council meeting, and requested a response to his request for the nonuse of chemical pesticides and herbicides within town limits.

During a vote to choose the mayor pro-tem for the next six months, council deadlocked, with Rob Thomas and Beth Easterday each receiving two votes after Thomas abstained from voting. Mayor Miller broke the tie with a vote for Easterday.

Council approved grant agreements with USDA for a new snow plow/sander truck and new bunker gear for the fire department.

Council chose Oct. 6 and 27 as dates to hold Budget Workshops for 2019. The workshops will be held at 8 a.m. at Town Hall (see notice, p. 39).

Council approved transfers of one hangar and the fuel system from the aircraft museum to Town of Concrete. Town Planner Marianne Manville-Ailles reported on the SEPA application by CalPortland to correct

drainage issues along Limestone Street and A Ave.

Mayor Miller reported that he and the Public Works team had been working on the fence along Main St., and they have also been completing items at the Spray Park when they can, as well as keeping up with the wastewater treatment plant.

Aug. 27 regular meeting

Lynn Murphy and Matt Blanton from PSE presented an update on current PSE projects, including repairs to the Lower Baker dam, early warning system upgrades, and the proposed Baker Clubhouse Visitors Center.

Garrett VonKemnow asked the town to publicly disclose the amount of Roundup in the town's possession, and asked the town to publicly notify all residents of the date, location, intent, amount, and purpose of using neurotoxins in public areas.

In Councilmember Bartels's absence, Mayor Miller stated that he had spoken with Julie Hubner, who wanted to assure the town the fuel station has been well maintained since it was installed.

Community Garden: Co-manager Easterday said that she planted 100 strawberry plants donated by Finney Farm. She also reported two yellowjacket nests in the greenhouse. Mayor Miller said he'd contact Seth Smith for nonchemical options for yellowjacket removal. Easterday also said that she will plan another weeding party to get those beds cleaned out that had not been rented this year. Mayor Miller stated the damaged greenhouse window was worse than he thought. Easterday said that she harvested two pints of cherry tomatoes, which she will take to the food bank tomorrow.

Mayor Miller announced that a town flag ceremony had occurred on Aug. 18, and thanked all those involved in making that happen, especially flag designer Becky Azure.

—Compiled from staff minutes

Keep track of your council

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

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Skagit Regional Health

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SkagitRegionalHealth.org

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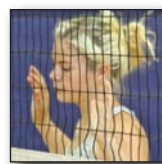
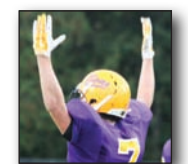
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Sports



Volleyball season is here

I am always excited when we start up a new year of Concrete Volleyball. I am so proud of where this program has been, where it is heading, and the girls who put in all of the hard work every day.

This year's team is no exception. We have proven leaders on this team. We return three seniors to our varsity team this year: Grace Clemons, Maddy Pritchard, and Jaidyn Swanson. Clemons plays defensive specialist and outside hitter, and has been a leader in this program since her freshmen year. She will finish her career at Concrete having lettered all four years on varsity. I am looking forward to her voice, her example, and her experience as she leads us into another great season.

Pritchard is one of the strongest athletes I have coached, and it is not just her

physical strength that is intimidating. She can play multiple positions for us, and play them well. Her greatest strength is her serve, and she has a great opportunity to lead her team this year.

Swanson will be one of our two setters, and brings with her setting experience from last year. She loves the game, knows what needs to be done, and is really good about directing traffic on the court. She is respected by her teammates and will be a difference maker for us this season.

We have three other varsity returners from last year's squad: junior Lexi Denley and sophomores Kassidy Smith and Kylee Clark.

Denley brings a lot of spunk, fire, and hustle, and will play right side for us this season. She plays hard all the time, is a good communicator, and another strong

serving arm for our team.

Smith is our returning varsity libero and will own that position again this year. She plays this position extremely well and will be a fun one to watch this season. Smith has the potential to be one of the greats at this position if she continues to really work at it.

Clark gained some setting experience on JV last year and was a valuable sub for our varsity team throughout the year. Clark will be moved to play middle for us this year, as both of our middles from last year's team are gone.

Joining Clark in the middle this year will be newcomer Josie Acevedo, a senior who played middle on JV last year. She came on strong at the position near the end of last year, and has improved her serve. She will be a welcome addition to

the varsity team this year.

The other newcomer is sophomore Sierra Rensink. Sierra played one of the setter positions on JV last year and has worked on her game to earn a spot on varsity this year. She has great hands and knows how to feed her hitters.

Other players who will be looking to contribute on varsity this season are senior defensive specialist Faith Daniels, sophomore libero Autumn Neece, sophomore middle Rebekah Rider, and freshman setter Ashley Parker.

I like this team's attitude and work ethic, and I am excited for you all to see it played out on the court. Take a look at our schedule and make a point to see what all of the excitement is about with the Concrete Volleyball Program.

—Kevik Rensink, head coach

Back-to-school backpack safety tips

It's the time of year when kids gear up for the start of school, filling their backpacks with new textbooks and school supplies. But they may be carrying more than just educational materials with them. Backpacks can be the source of neck, shoulder, and back strain.

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), in 2016, emergency departments, doctors' offices and clinics treated 35,937 people for backpack-related injuries.

"Children and teenagers are at risk for musculoskeletal injuries by wearing backpacks that are too heavy, worn incorrectly, or don't fit properly," said a PeaceHealth physical therapist. "Parents can help ensure that their kids avoid unnecessary strain and pain."

Monitor backpack weight and use

PeaceHealth clinical specialists, including physical and occupational therapists, encourage parents to remain vigilant about overloaded backpacks. "Check frequently that your child is not carrying more than 15 percent of his or her body weight in the backpack," they advised. To calculate the maximum weight recommendation, multiply your child's weight by .15. The backpack should not weigh more than this number. Clinical specialists also offered the following advice:

- If the backpack seems too heavy for the child, have them remove some of the books and carry them in their arms to ease load on the back.
- Encourage your child to store as many items as they can in their locker, rather than their backpack.
- Educate your child on how to properly wear a backpack by keeping straps on both shoulders, adjusting the straps to fit snugly, and using the

waist strap.

- Help your child understand how to distribute the weight properly by putting the heaviest items low and near the center of the back.
- The backpack should be positioned evenly in the middle of the back, near the wearer's center of gravity. It should not extend below the lower back.
- When picking up a backpack, lift properly by bending at the knees and hips.

Tips for choosing a backpack

Having the right backpack is also key. Parents should keep the following in mind when shopping for a new backpack:

- Shoulder straps should be wide and padded to help distribute the weight evenly.
- Choose sturdy material to help prevent sharp objects from poking through.
- Use a waist strap to hold the pack close to the body.
- Multiple compartments help with organization and even weight distribution.

A crossbody bag can be a good alternative for carrying books and supplies.

Attentiveness and prevention

Parents should not ignore any back pain in a child or teenager, and should evaluate backpack use immediately if numbness, tingling, or discomfort in the arms or legs are reported. It's also important to encourage children to be active. This can promote better muscle strength and flexibility, which makes it easier to carry a backpack.

—Submitted by PeaceHealth



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Hamilton's next big move

After decades of hoping and dreaming, this Upper Valley town finally has a path toward moving itself out of the flood plain.

After decades of stop-and-go progress, Town of Hamilton might soon be able to realize its years-long dream of moving the town out of the flood plain.

Most of the town's footprint south of SR 20 is prone to flooding. But a 45-acre site on the north side of SR 20 and within the town's Urban Growth Area is outside of the flood plain and a prime location for starting anew, with a clean slate. The greenfield site is farmland, and the owner is willing to sell.

Hamilton Mayor Joan Cromley said the latest path to realizing the dream is almost too good to be true. More than a year ago, she chatted with a former Association of Washington Cities staffer at an AWC meeting, who pointed her to Forterra, a Seattle-based land-use advocacy organization. "We connected and voila! We had a developer in place and a handshake deal, but three months later, the developer walked away. I went back to Forterra and they picked up right where we had left off. They didn't give up on me."

Cromley said she's been making connections ever since then, one by one, filling in the blanks.

Vision for a new town

Hamilton was established in 1872 and incorporated in 1891. Mining and logging kept the town alive, and the area flourished during the first half of the 20th century. *Concrete Herald* started in Hamilton as the *Hamilton Herald*.

"We've always been here," said Cromley.

"We have a huge history with this area; unfortunately, most of that history has involved the river."

Floods are a common occurrence in Hamilton, so much so that the town has specific guidelines for residents who live south of SR 20. RVs, for example, are acceptable living quarters, but they must be in an RV park. All utilities need to be quick-disconnect.

The RV needs to be road-ready and you need to have a road-ready vehicle to pull it if needed. Nothing can be attached to the RV. RVs need to be able to move when it floods.

Those residents who live in single family homes? They just get wet. Repeatedly.

Cromley's vision for a new town center would provide relief for those residents who are weary of fleeing from the Skagit River almost every winter. On the new land she sees a commercial center with mixed-use buildings,

community gathering spaces, a new location for the food bank to better suit its needs, green spaces, a variety of building densities, lot sizes, and housing types with varying price points to help address

the county's affordability concerns—and fiber optic lines throughout the new development, allowing people to telecommute or run a home business more efficiently.

And she wants all this without sacrificing Hamilton's old town feel. "We're an old town; it would be nice if our buildings reflected our heritage without going full-on Bavarian," she said.

"These days, our heritage is shifting to aerospace," said Cromley, referring to the Janicki facilities in town. "We have a cutting-edge major employer, so it would be nice if we had a town that reflected some of those qualities as well. In some ways, this business of town-building requires the same kind of mindset: You need to be forward-thinking, imagining what the next phase could be and look like, and how do we get there."

Just in time

For Cromley, the good news couldn't have come at a better time, and there's not a moment to lose. "I want Hamilton to have a future and not dwindle away into nothing, but that's what we've been doing, slowly. We haven't had population growth in decades; everybody else is growing

See Hamilton, p. 11

Below: This 45-acre parcel of farmland on the north side of SR 20 and within Town of Hamilton's Urban Growth Area could be the answer to the town's decades-long dream of relocating its core out of the Skagit River flood plain.

Hamilton, cont. from p. 10

and developing, and we haven't had those opportunities. This location is our only opportunity for that.

"I would like to see a small amount of growth, but much of the focus is getting people out of the flood plain. We don't intend to increase the town population drastically. This will take time, and we're not going to force people to leave [the flood plain area]. There may be some residents who never leave."

Cromley recognizes that some residents will choose not to move, and said they won't have to, but that federal and state constraints regarding flood plain properties will, in time, force their hand.

"People who don't want to move don't have to, but houses have lifespans. They'll have to maintain building codes and safety measures, and if a flood destroys more than 50 percent of the current market value of a home, FEMA won't allow it to be rebuilt. FEMA also forbids us to expand footprints or remodel and make a home worth more than 150 percent of its current market value. The building codes are really strict in flood plains. We won't force anyone to move, no eminent domain—the mindset isn't there for that—but we also know what the risks are, and the likelihood of Mother Nature taking over is great. It always has been."

Reason for hope

Moving forward, Cromley lists two major challenges: money, of course, and finding the right people at the right time to move the project forward. The cash-strapped town is ponying up some of the funds to buy the land; Forterra is providing the rest. Cromley declined to comment on exact dollar amounts.

"It's been a lot of learning for me, in terms of what's needed for what phase, and how to go about doing it. It's definitely pushing my comfort boundaries, but this is how you grow as a person as well," she said.

Cromley is getting a fast-forward course in zoning and density issues (the land currently is zoned for agriculture),

and credits the Skagit County Planning Dept. for its support and guidance. The department is working on an interlocal agreement to clarify the role the county may play in the project. And Cromley is learning that building a new town is about more than throwing up new buildings.

"As we move forward, we'll also have to remove buildings that belonged to people in the flood plain after they move across the highway. Individual sewer services will need to be removed. Reducing water lines, reducing infrastructure maintenance for roads ... not only are we planning for a newer community, we need to figure out what to do with the existing community. We want the people who stay in the flood plain to still feel like part of the community, not living in no man's land."

Next steps

The initial purchase and sale agreement for the property runs through September, with an option to extend it for another

one to two months. Forterra is doing the due diligence on it; including site testing and trying to determine how much a development of that scale would cost. "I'd love to close on time; that's one fewer thing that can go sideways," said Cromley.

The planning and design phases will include plenty of public input—an necessity for Forterra's involvement. "They're interested in a sustainable, net-zero community, so if they have support, they'd like to see that happen," said Cromley.

Cromley has an ever-growing list of people and organizations with which she'll collaborate along the way. Talk to the Upper Skagit Tribe about flood plain work. Ditto Skagit Land Trust and Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group.

And all the while, never stop dreaming. "I never stop thinking about the things that could be," said Cromley. "How cool this could be for my kids and their kids. Some kids came in the office a few days ago when the rumors starting flying, and

they saw some concept maps, and they were so excited that they could come back years down the road and see some of the things that people have been working on for actual decades. Some of the people who've worked on this have died. Some of this could be real. This could be real."

—J. K. M.



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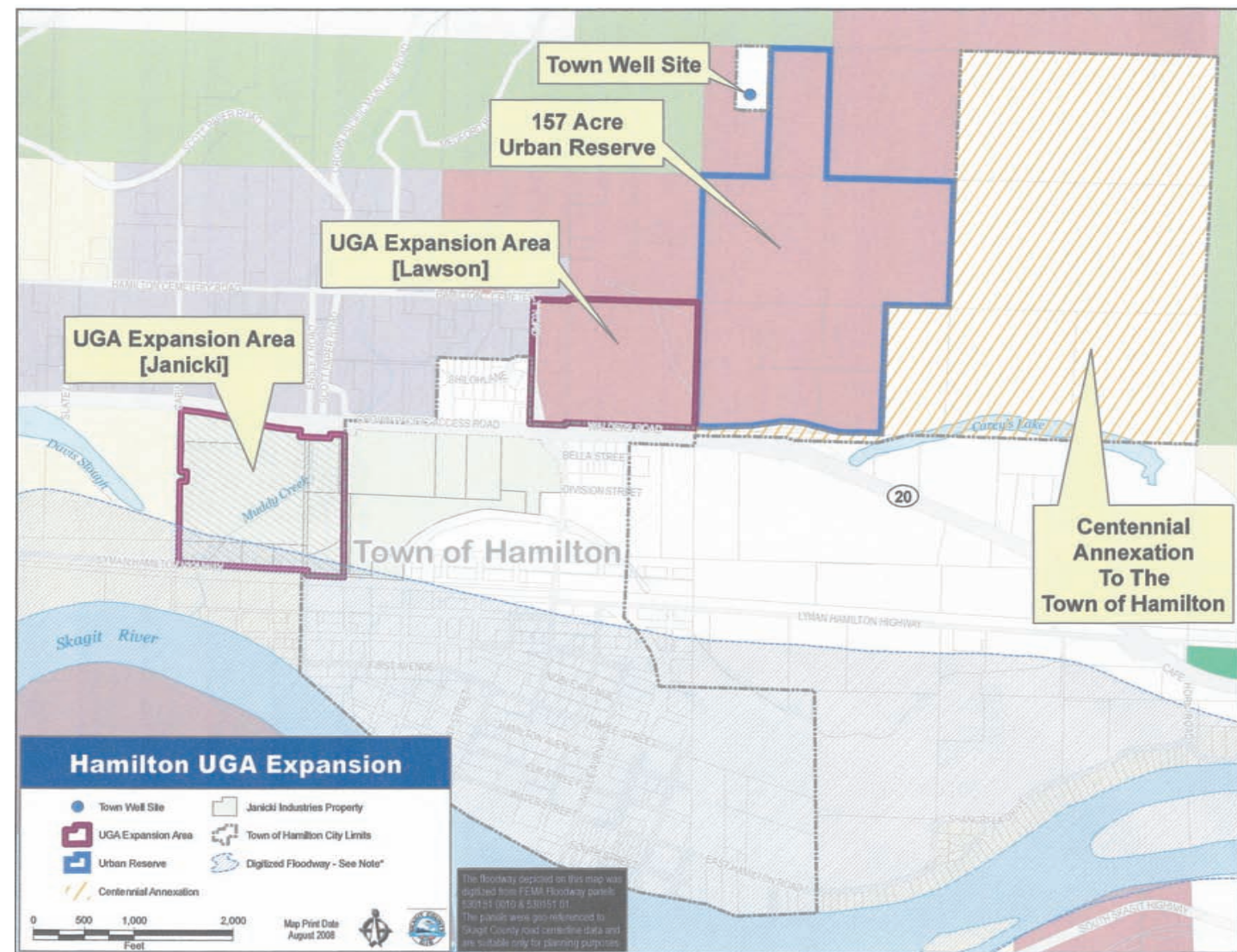
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Right: This Urban Growth Expansion graphic shows the various UGA options that are or might become available to Town of Hamilton in the future. The 45-acre parcel currently being pursued is labeled "UGA Expansion Area [Lawson]" on the graphic. The 157-acre urban reserve area was at one time part of the current expansion proposal, but has since become entangled in a lawsuit. Graphic courtesy of Town of Hamilton.





Academics



Concrete teachers reach tentative agreement on salary contract

On Aug. 31 the Upper Skagit Valley Education Association (USVEA) reached a tentative agreement with the Concrete School District. The agreement still needs to be ratified by the 36 members of the USVEA; that decision is expected to be made on Sept. 4.

If ratified, the agreement would avert a strike that was scheduled to begin on Sept. 4, the day before the school year is slated to begin.

The Aug. 31 agreement comes after a month of bargaining that culminated with mediation, during which Concrete teachers called for salaries that they said would keep Concrete competitive with neighboring districts. The agreement will provide a 16 percent increase in teacher salaries for the 2018-19 school year, followed by a 5 percent increase for 2019-20. The agreement also includes \$1,000 per teacher for professional development, plus \$350 for classroom supplies.

“Concrete educators are thrilled the District has bargained in good faith and provided substantially higher salaries to attract and retain quality educators for Concrete students,” said fourth grade teacher and USVEA Spokesperson Renata Mapes. “I’m excited to spend my weekend setting up my classroom instead of preparing for a strike.”

Concrete, like other districts, received a funding increase in coming years because of the Supreme Court’s McCleary decision, which ordered the state to increase K-12 funding. At least \$2 billion of the new statewide funding is for teacher salaries.

“A nightmare for every district”

Concrete School District Superintendent Wayne Barrett doesn’t have many nice things to say about the McCleary decision, which he called “an unfinished law that was dropped in everyone’s lap.”

“It’s a nightmare for every district; we



have to figure out how to pay for it,” he said.

Barrett told *Concrete Herald* that in order to give the teachers what they asked for, the district will tap its reserve funds and cut programs, because the district already had spent the money from the state on the teachers themselves.

The district has several veteran teachers on staff who command high salaries, said Barrett. “We’re already paying more to several teachers who make an average of \$73,000 annually,” said Barrett. “They think they’re entitled to more than their fair share, but the extra money also was for administrative staff, paraeducators, bus drivers, mechanics, custodians. The net increase that we got for the teachers was about \$33,000, and we spent that in a heartbeat.”

Barrett said the legislature also tied school districts’ hands statewide by limiting levy amounts. Concrete’s school district levy currently is \$2.78 per thousand. As of Jan. 1, 2019, the levy will be limited to \$1.50 per thousand. The legislature raised the state property tax, but limited local school levies, collecting more money overall and giving it to the school districts.

But Barrett said the increase isn’t as impressive as the state would have districts believe. “We got \$644,000 in additional funds, but we’ll lose \$549,000 of that because of the levy limit. You can’t

collect the difference after January 2019, so next year we lose that \$549,000. For a district our size, that’s a killer. That money funds our music program and more. I took this job because they wanted programs, not to cut them. But that’s where we’re going to find ourselves in order to balance this budget.”

Earlier on Aug. 31, Concrete teachers authorized its bargaining team to call for a strike. “There is simply no excuse for not negotiating the salaries we need,” Mapes said during the lead-up to the tentative agreement. “Educators in more than 40 school districts across Washington already have negotiated double-digit percentage pay raises. Without comparable compensation, Concrete will lose wonderful teachers to surrounding districts that have already negotiated substantially higher pay raises.”

Barrett feels the comparison is unfair because of the district’s limited resources. “The challenge you have is when everyone around you starts breaking the bank—La Conner, Sedro-Woolley—you have no choice. It’s a domino effect. It’s going to be ugly.”

Pending a successful ratification of the tentative agreement, school will begin on time on Wed., Sept. 5.

The Concrete School District has some 500 students. Its academic performance is in the bottom 5 percent in the state.

—J. K. M.

Concrete School district teachers, students, and supporters gathered outside the school district office before a district board meeting Aug. 16. Most of the attendees wore red and carried signs in support of the teachers’ bid for a salary increase they said was due to them after the state added \$2 billion to its statewide fund for educator salaries.

PTO plans Community Football Night

Concrete Elementary PTO will host a “Community Football Night” on Mon., Sept. 10, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the high school football field.

Come together for an evening of community spirit. Young and old are invited to run drills with past and current Concrete High School football players.

Come with an empty stomach; a barbecue will be available by donation.

If you haven’t purchased your spirit gear for the season yet, this is the place to get it. Spirit gear by Embroidered Creations and Concrete Elementary PTO will be available, as well as snacks from Concrete Youth Cheer, Baked goods by the class of 2019, and raffle baskets from the high school football team. Be there! GO LIONS!

YD update

A huge thank-you to all who helped to support Concrete Youth Dynamics for the 2018 Golf Marathon Fundraiser held at Avalon Golf Course in Burlington last month. Whether you supported financially, prayerfully, or through your positive words of encouragement, it was all very much appreciated.

Because of all of you, we were able to raise more than \$18,000 dollars for Concrete YD. I am thrilled to know we have a full budget to work with this next school year, and that every dime goes into the program for our local teens. Our entire staff is volunteer, and I wouldn’t have it any other way. We love giving our time to the youth of this community for one simple reason: to help make a difference in the lives of our young people.

Last year, 124 high school students participated in Concrete Youth Dynamics. This includes our weekly Monday night meetings and our four adventure trips. We meet every Monday from 7 to 9 p.m. during the school year at various locations, supply food, have entertaining games and activities, ask someone to share a personal life lesson for thought and feedback from the students, and then provide transportation home for those who need it. We provide a safe place for all students to come, feel accepted, loved, and have a ton of fun at the same time.

Youth Dynamics is a big positive in our community, and I have seen it change many lives over the years. Marta and I have been volunteering as the Area Directors for the past 19 years, and although there have been trials, exhaustion, and frustration from time to time, the reward is huge. I hear from our students all of the time how it is the one day a week they look forward to the most.

However, it is the students who come back after being out of high school for some time, and talk about the deeper impact it had on their lives, their families’ lives, and how much different their life would be without the investment they received in high school. Those are my paychecks. It feels great to raise money for Concrete YD, but to think how we can help to mold and shape lives with it—that is the feel-good part of all of this.

The first Monday Night events will be coming soon, so keep an eye out for the 2018 Fall Schedule.

Thanks again for your continuous and amazing support! We are forever grateful.

—Kevik and Marta Rensink
Area Directors

Concrete Resource Coalition



Welcome back to all the students and staff at Concrete School District.

During the summer our wonderful Prevention Intervention Specialist, Dana Whitney, accepted a new position at Marysville School District. We wish her all the best, but will miss her energy and support she provided for students and the coalition.

On July 13 we held our 11th annual Concrete Youth Activity Day. The weather was hot and sunny and we had a great turn out. A big thank you to all the volunteers who made it happen!

As we start the new school year, we have two parenting support programs coming up. Incredible Years is for parents with one child between 1 and 5 years of age. We meet weekly on Wednesday nights starting Sept. 12 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in Portable D (Skagit/Island Head Start) portable. This program includes free childcare for your children and we will cover topics such as social/emotional development, praise, and academic coaching. For questions or to sign up, my contact info is below.

Our next program is Strengthening Families. This program is for families with at least one child between 10 and 14 years old. This will be on Tuesday nights at the elementary school from 5:30 to 8 p.m.

Finally, our next coalition meeting will be Thur., Sept. 20, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. in the high school library. We will discuss the 2017 community health survey trend data, share our approved action plan for the school year, and give an orientation about our coalition. These meetings are always open to the public.

For more information, please feel free to contact me at stephanie.morgareidge@unitedgeneral.org or 360.854.7179.

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

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Clear Lake



Community Calendar



SEPTEMBER

- 1-15 Back-to-School Guessing Jar, Upper Skagit Library, see p. 32
- 5 First day of school for Concrete School District, grades 1-12
- 5 Welcome Back to School Assembly, Concrete Elementary gym, 8:30 a.m.
- 5 Ribbon-cutting ceremony for Illabot Creek Habitat Restoration Project, 1 p.m.; see article, p. 23
- 8 Storytime at Upper Skagit Library, Concrete, 11 a.m.
- 8-9 Whatcom County Dahlia Society Flower Show, Bloedel-Donovan Park, 2114 Electric Ave., Bellingham, noon to 5 p.m. (Sat.) and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Sun.); free admission
- 10 First day of school for Concrete School District, kindergarten and Preschool
- 10 Community Football Night, Concrete High School, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., see notice, p. 12
- 11 Rain Garden Open House, Bay View UMC, 11117 Third St., Bay View, 6:30 to 8 p.m.; info at 360.428.4313 or kristi@skagitcd.org
- 15 WSU Extension Forestry Invasive Weed Control practicum, Skagit River Woods (Birdsview area), 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; see article, p. 6; info at 206.263.1128
- 15 Living Proof simulcast with Beth Moore and Travis Cottrell, sponsored by Women HAND in Hand, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; see ad, p. 13; info at 360.853.3066
- 15 KSVU Fundraiser with musician Marcia Kester, Birdsview Brewing Co., Birdsview; 3 p.m.; info at 360.853.8588
- 18 Day Creek Fireman's Appreciation Potluck planning meeting, Day Creek Fire Hall, 6:30 p.m.; info at 360.826.3234
- 19 Drop-in Pirate Treasure Hunt, Upper Skagit Library, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- 19 DSHS Mobile CSO at Citipoint Church North Cascade, 59850 SR 20, Marblemount, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- 19 Computer tutoring at Upper Skagit Library, drop in between 1 and 5 p.m.
- 20 Lyman Elementary Back to School Parade, 5:45 p.m.; see notice, p. 18
- 22 3rd Annual Forest Moon Paranormal Convention, Skagit Valley Grange, 21273 Cook Rd., Burlington, WA, 10 a.m.; \$5 admission; see ad, p. 3; info at www.fmparacon.com
- 22 PeaceHealth Sedro-Woolley Clinic Grand Opening and Community Wellness Fair, PeaceHealth United General Medical Center campus, Sedro-Woolley, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; free admission; see ad, p. 4; info at www.peacehealth.org/sedro-woolley-clinic
- 22 Storytime at Upper Skagit Library, Concrete, 11 a.m.
- 22 Upriver Kids Daycare 1st Annual Slug Races and Friendraiser, Marblemount Community Hall, 1 to 4 p.m.; see notice, p. 26; info at www.upriverkids.org
- 26 WSU Extension Diabetes Prevention Program begins, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., see notice, p. 6; info at 360.428.4270, ext. 224
- 27 "Social Media and PR Strategies for Business, Artists, and Entrepreneurs," Concrete Community Center, 45821 Railroad Ave., Concrete, 5 to 6 p.m.; free admission, register at www.nwirc.com/events
- 29 15th Annual Burlington Pumpkin Pitch & Harvest Festival, Skagit River Park, 1100 S. Skagit St., Burlington, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; info at 360.755.9649, recreation@burlingtonwa.gov, and burlingtonwa.gov/pumpkinpitch

OCTOBER

Concrete Ghost Walk every Saturday night in October; www.concrete-wa.com
20, 27, 31 Sideshow Spectacular, hosted by Dist. 10 Fire Dept.,
44872 SR 20, various shows; more details in October issue

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

Community meetings

Cascade Days planning meetings will be held the third Mon. of each month, at 7460 S. Dillard, Ste. A (corner of SR 20 and Dillard), at 5:30 p.m. Meetings are not mandatory for volunteers. Info at ember@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 cmachapter39@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 Community Center Committee meets the third Friday of each month at 10:30 a.m., at the East County Resource Center in Concrete. Meetings are open to the public. 360.416.1733 or claudiam3@communityactionskagit.org.

Concrete Economic Development Commission meets quarterly at 6 p.m. at Concrete Town Hall. Call 503.333.2406 for the date of the next meeting.

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 2 p.m., in the Concrete High School library.

Concrete School District Board: The board will hold a work session on Sept. 24 at 6 p.m. in the high school Commons room. The board will hold its regular monthly meeting on Sept. 27 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 third 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.

Ohana Support Group meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month at Concrete Community Center, 45821 Railroad Ave., Concrete, at 6 p.m. 360.416.1733.

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 Aug. 27 from 5:30 to 7 p.m., at the Support Services Bldg., followed by a regular meeting at 7 p.m. at the same location. 360.855.3500 or kcargile@swsd.k12.wa.us.

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

Upper Skagit Library District (USLD) Board meets the second Thursday of each month, 6 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.

HISTORY CORNER

Our picture this month shows Clear Lake pioneer Fred Bennett and two helpers using a two-horse hitch and wagon to haul cedar shingle bolts near Big Rock around 1910. The shingle mill was located near the Nookachamps bridge south of Clear Lake. Fred and his wife, Hannah (Jorgenson), lived

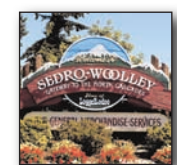
on their small farm on what is now Highway 9 near Big Rock. *Photo courtesy of Clear Lake Historical Association.*

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

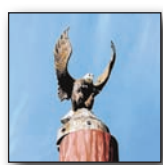
Like the Clear Lake Historical Association on Facebook at www.facebook.com/clearlakehistory.

—Deanna Ammons, historian

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



Sedro-Woolley



Iron Skillet closes

A large crowd gathered outside the Iron Skillet on Aug. 30 to mark the second-to-last day of the Sedro-Woolley staple's operation and show support for owner Reba Sines.

Family owned since February 1980, the Iron Skillet was known for its tongue-in-cheek sign, "great food, lousy service" that belied its delicious homestyle menu.

Amid tears and laughter, the Iron Skillet closed its doors on Aug. 31.



Photo by Pola Kelley

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Supporting Sedro-Woolley as a place to live, grow and work

New quilt shop opens downtown

Entrepreneur Denny Fox is taking her successful online fiber arts business to the street.

"Quilting Foxes" will open a storefront in downtown Sedro-Woolley on Sept. 5, specializing in quilting fabrics and supplies for the strong creative community in Skagit County.

"I want to fill a niche here; to help people meet their quilting needs locally and affordably, without sacrificing quality," said Fox. "Of course, I'll continue to carry the Japanese-themed fabrics, patterns, and threads that have been the core of my business so far. But I'll also carry major brands and quilting fabric lines not found elsewhere in the region."

The bright, lively space promises to be a haven for classes with local teachers, open sewing opportunities, and inspirational

displays. Fox is building a "color wall" to show off bolts of fabric in the variety of hues and textures that quilters crave. "I will also be able to keep some late evening hours for my customers who work day jobs and want to shop and quilt after they get off work," she said.

"After my 28-year military career, I wanted to start a business of my own," said Fox. "Sedro-Woolley is a great town with its annual quilt show, community festivals, and welcoming main street. I want to live here and be a part of the growing business climate."

Quilting Foxes will hold a Grand Opening on Wed., Sept. 5, from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at 822 Metcalf St. in Sedro-Woolley. A ribbon-cutting ceremony with Mayor Julia Johnson is scheduled for 4 p.m.

**Sedro-Woolley merchants
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Woolley Fiber Quilters "Shades of the Northwest" 2018 winners*

Fiber Art

1st: Linda Smith, Mount Vernon, "Fish"
2nd: Carol Addington, Burlington, "Blessing Dress"
3rd: Teri Bever, Sedro-Woolley, "Dragon Flies in my Garden"
HM: Teri Bever, Sedro-Woolley, "Kinda Bad Socks"

Extra Large

1st: Judy Hutchings, Concrete, "Mom's Star"
2nd: Virginia Learned, Sedro-Woolley, "Dresden Sampler"
3rd: Virginia Thogersen, Mount Vernon, "Tree of Life"
HM: Anna Shepler, Sedro-Woolley, "Stained Glass"
HM: Della Ward, Richland, "Dear Jane 30s"
HM: Della Ward, Richland, "Dear Jane Civil War"
HM: Jennifer Adams, Sedro-Woolley, "A little bit of this"

HM: Jan Schuurman, Sedro-Woolley, "Bethlehem Star"

Holiday

1st: Chris Horner, Anacortes, "Merry Christmas"
2nd: Roxanne Freberg, Sedro-Woolley, "Merry Merry Snowmen"
3rd: Noni Moody, Sedro-Woolley, "My Nativity"
HM: Judy Hutchings, Concrete, "Candy Cane Lane"

Large

1st: Mary Ann Musgrove, La Conner, "Soaring with Friends"
2nd: Dianne Lowe, Burlington, "Winding Ways"
3rd: Dianne Lowe, Burlington, "Anna's Foxes"
HM: Judy Steen, Bow, "Vintage Valentine"
HM: Sharylann Zylstra, Lynden, "Block of the Month"
HM: Deb Kanske, Mount Vernon, "Black Starburst"

United General District 304 and SWSD partner on Farm to School grant

community support for farm to school activities in the School District.

"This grant gives the school district the chance to work with a great local partner and work to increase our ability to better serve our students' nutritional needs," said Phil Brockman, superintendent of Sedro-Woolley School District.

In addition to streamlining current processes, at the end of this two-year planning grant, United General will submit an action plan that outlines steps for implementing more farm-to-school activities throughout the district.

"The hope is that the entities will be funded for an additional two years for a Farm to School Implementation Grant," said Danika Troupe, a program coordinator at Community Health Outreach at United General.

District 304 already has been partnering with the school district to bring Harvest of the Month and local food taste tests to several in-town elementary schools. This grant is part of a natural progression to increase the school district's capacity to buy and process local foods.

There were 290 eligible applications and only 73 were funded. Lower Columbia School Gardens in Longview was the other Washington state recipient.

"During the past two years, United General District 304 has been working closely with the food service staff of the Sedro-Woolley School District," Troupe said. "We have built strong relationships that made applying for this grant very natural. I am thrilled to continue our work with the school district and bring even more fresh, local fruits and vegetables to the schools for the kids to enjoy."

—Ruth Richardson

HM: Anna Shepler, Sedro-Woolley, "Sunbonnet Sue"
HM: Kay Streeter, Sedro-Woolley, "Helping Hands"

Medium

1st: Grace Hawley, Arlington, "Nursery Rhyme"
2nd: Judith Hitt, "Baltimore Lessons"
3rd: Della Ward, Richland, "Insomnia"
HM: Della Ward, Richland, "Wild Hare Moon Dance"
HM: Judy Irish, Arlington, "Geese in the Garden"

Patriotic

1st: Dianne Lowe, Burlington, "Stars for Dan"
2nd: Chris Horner, Anacortes, "Freedom"
3rd: Virginia Learned, Sedro-Woolley, "Scrappy Betsy Ross"
HM: Mary Ann Musgrove, La Conner, "Stars and Stripes"

Small

1st: Judith Hitt, Freeland, "Birtie"
2nd: Julie Anderson, Sedro-Woolley, "Star in a Star"
3rd: Donna Carley, Blaine, "Quilting the Bottom of the Sea"
HM: Dory Miller, Sequim, "House on Fire"
HM: Barbara Dahl, Bellingham, "Ombre Dresden Houses"

Theme: "Shades of the Northwest"

1st: Natalie Hunsdor, Big Lake, "Natalie's Northwest"
2nd: Dianne Lowe, Burlington, "Washington Waters"
3rd: Donna Carley, Blaine, "Seattle Dreamin"
HM: Kris Bulcroft, Bellingham, "Kumugwe's Kingdom"

Extra Small

1st: Pat Jacobsen, Sedro-Woolley, "Pansy Pineapple"

2nd: Grace Hawley, Arlington, "Victorian Rose"
3rd: Donna Carley, Blaine, "Celebration Times Two"
HM: Pat Jacobsen, Sedro-Woolley, "Autumn Leaves"

Youth

1st: Molly Collins, Bellingham, "Fabric Frenzy"
2nd: Alister Gardner, Anacortes, "Aleece is the Best Baby Ever"
3rd: Marcie Bishop, Sedro-Woolley, "Miss Wanda's Pretties"
HM: Marcie Bishop, Sedro-Woolley, "Hello Kitty Quilt"
HM: Marcie Bishop, Sedro-Woolley, "Blue Meow Quilt"
HM: Marcie Bishop, Sedro-Woolley, "Marcie's Meow"
HM: Marcie Bishop, Sedro-Woolley, "Blue Meow and Puppy"

Other

1st: Judy Garrison, Sedro-Woolley, "Camden Bag"
2nd: Carol Walker, Sedro-Woolley, "Flora Dora doll"
3rd: Carol Walker, Sedro-Woolley, "Seniorita de Dia de los Muertos doll"
HM: Dianne Lowe, Burlington, "Flower"

Judge's Choice (selected by Denny Fox, Quilting Foxes)

Judy Johnson, Sedro-Woolley, "Sunbonnet Mew"

Judge's Choice (selected by Kris Norton, Fabric Fix)

Judy Steen, Bow, "Quilting Witches"

Judge's Choice (selected by Judy Johnson, Threadmongers)

Donna Bybee, Bellingham, "Strawberries"

*261 total entries for consideration.

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Lyman



Cathy Bellinger of Sedro-Woolley puts her best foot forward during the Aug. 18 Wilderness to Wellness Poker Hike-a-thon organized by Billie Hills of Lyman. Bellinger was one of many hikers who trekked the Park Butte Trail through Schreiber's Meadow to the Park Butte Lookout, all in the service of raising money for research into Borderline Personality Disorder. The event raised more than \$2,000, which will be donated to the Linehan Institute in Seattle, a mental health treatment facility. The hike took place entirely within the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest.

The Lyman Elementary Back to School Parade is scheduled for Thur., Sept. 20.
West to East Main Street will be closed from 5:45 p.m. until parade is over (around 6:15 p.m.).

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Election 2018, cont. from p. 5

Legislative Dist. 39 State Rep. Pos. 1 (Skagit County results)

Ivan Lewis (D) 46%
 Robert Sutherland (R) 43%

Audit, cont. from p. 4

State Auditor's Budgeting, Accounting and Reporting System (BARS) manual, while the national requirement is to use GAAP—Generally Accepted Accounting Principals. The report issues “an adverse opinion on the fair presentation on fall funds” because “the financial statements are prepared using a basis of accounting other than GAAP.” Fichter explains that the town has not made the switch because of the history of an allowance via RCW 43.09. “GAAP is a form of double-entry accounting, and we are single-entry cash basis. I believe that we have always been cash basis (BARS).”

This audit also found the town to be in violation of the Davis-Bacon Act, which requires “contractors and subcontractors to pay federally prescribed prevailing wage rates to all laborers and mechanics working on federally funded construction projects of \$2,000 or more” and demands that the town “include a provision in the construction contracts/subcontracts that are subject to wage rate requirements that the contractor or subcontractor comply with these requirements.”

In practice, this requires the town to receive and review copies of payroll reports seven days after the payment date in order to ensure that the contractors/subcontractors for projects such as the W. Main St. renovation are in compliance with regulations. Instead, the town allowed the engineering firm it contracts with—Tuttle Engineering—to oversee the process and report back to town staff. While Tuttle's project engineer did comply with wage rate requirements and other regulations, it is the lack of direct town oversight that has violated the Act. The Town had planned to review the weekly documents after completion of the project, but, as the audit team pointed out, this method does not allow for timely response to potential violations. In its response to the audit, Fichter stated that town staff “were not aware of the level of monitoring they were required to perform.” Fichter further notes that they had “interpreted the rule differently, and

Legislative Dist. 39 State Rep. Pos. 2 (Skagit County results)

Carolyn Eslick (R) 52%
 Eric Halvorson (D) 48%

Skagit County Assessor

Dave Thomas is running unopposed.

believed we were covered by having the engineer review the certified payrolls.”

Exit recommendations

The report also noted several other deficiencies, including a draft cost allocation plan that no longer adheres to current standards and does not include source documents. Twelve utility adjustments were reviewed, five of which were noted as “not having adequate approval or support.” Fichter explains that out of the 50-plus adjustments done each year, five of the 12 reports randomly selected for review had either not been signed by both herself and the Deputy Clerk or could not be found at all.

In addition, the state auditor's office asked that the town create a procurement and conflict-of-interest policy, provide additional documentation for and detail the breakdown of how state grant funds are used to fulfill match requirements on federal grants, and include fees/costs and excluded parties record notice documents when requesting quotes for highway planning and construction projects.

The audit team also noted that because “one employee is creating all financial statements and schedules, this weakness in internal controls increases the possibility of misstatements occurring without being detected in a timely manner,” citing a review of 2016's financial statements that didn't identify all of the misstatements for the year, such as several understated expenditures, and the fact that no review occurred in 2017. It is important to point out, however, that all errors in the 2016 statements have been corrected.

The full audit reports are available online at <http://portal.sao.wa.gov>; look for Town of Concrete Report No. 1021799 from June 23, 2018. The next scheduled audit should be conducted in 2019.

Chazlyn Lovely is a freelance writer from Corkindale.

Katy Tomasulo is a freelance editor from Bainbridge Island.

Skagit County Auditor

Sandy Perkins (D) 61%
 Mike Urban (D) 39%

Skagit County Clerk

Melissa Beaton is running unopposed.

Skagit County Commissioner Dist. 3

Lisa Janicki is running unopposed.

Skagit County Coroner

Hayley Thompson is running unopposed.

Skagit County Prosecuting Attorney

Rich Weyrich is running unopposed.

Skagit County Sheriff

Don McDermott is running unopposed.

Skagit County Treasurer

Jackie Brunson (D) 58%
 Bradley Whaley (R) 22%

Court of Appeals, Div. 1, Dist. 3, Judge Position 1

Tom Seguire 43%
 Cecily Hazelrigg-Hernandez 20%

Skagit PUD Dist. Commissioner 2

Joe Lindquist 53%
 Robbie Robertson 25%



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August in pictures



Left: Xavier Martin of Marblemount shows a couple small versions of Concrete's new town flag.

Right: Two willing volunteers lead flag designer Becky Azure (carrying flag) down Main Street in Concrete during the Cascade Days Parade on Aug. 18, after a flag-raising ceremony at Concrete Town Hall. Azure designed Town of Concrete's new flag, winning the flag design competition from a field of 114 entries. Azure's design references the concrete silos, Sauk Mountain, and the green hills that flank the Upper Skagit River valley.

Below left: Andris Vezis and his daughter, Vija, from Marblemount, roll along the Cascade Days Parade route in Vezis' creation, a five-wheeled, solar-powered ... um ... conveyance. Vezis almost was a no-show after discovering a flat tire just minutes before the parade began, but the good folks at Cascade Supply fixed him right up with a spare inner tube.



Above: Carol and Don Rohan of Cascade Supply fame were named Grand Marshals for this year's Cascade Days Parade on Aug. 18. The couple has owned and operated the Concrete hardware store since 2003, and have built the business into a one-stop shop for Upper Valley patrons. "We were so honored to be chosen," said Carol. "We've met a lot of great people during our time here, and we're so thankful for their support for the business. We plan to be around for many more years—Don said he's going to be buried in the basement!" The couple was driven along the parade route by volunteer Jarrod Lee, driving a Ford Mustang GT lent for the Cascade Days event by local Doug Ide.



Right: Concrete High School Class of 1968 graduates wave from their float during the Cascade Days Parade on Aug. 18.





Hamilton



Rockport



From the Mayor

Basic Hamilton Rules*

- Your dog should be under your control. If it leaves your property, the dog must be on a leash with a person on the other end. Dogs caught roaming without a dog tag will be taken to the Skagit Valley Humane Society, and you will be responsible for paying any costs. Hamilton has the same limit as the rest of the county: No more than five pets, not counting fish, birds, and baby critters that still



need their moms.

- If you are interested in having anything other than dogs and cats, please check with the office on the requirements before bringing them home. Hamilton may be surrounded by farmland, but the parcels are not the size of farms within town.
- Fires need to be in fire rings. Do not burn garbage or yard debris. We have to follow the same rules as the cities for burning.
- You can live in an RV IF you are in an RV Park (Renee, Donna, Gary) or you own the parcel and there is NOT a house, but there IS water, septic, and power. No one should be living in an RV if there is a house already on the parcel! There is a limit of two RVs per parcel for all residential areas. All utilities need to be quick-

disconnect. The RV needs to be road-ready and you need to have a road-ready vehicle to pull it if needed. Nothing can be attached to the RV. RVs need to be able to move when it floods—be prepared for it. All RVs should have a permit sticker. We are required to do RV inspections.

- Floodplains have very strict building rules. We will gladly give you a building permit form and direct you to the three people we have on contract for permits and inspections. It is easier to check first and meet any requirements than have to remove it later. That goes for outside of floodplain too.
- The limit on inoperable vehicles is one. If you have more than one inoperable vehicle, put it in a garage, behind a screened fence, or get rid

of it.

- Normal property maintenance noises are OK from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. weekdays, and from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. weekends. Music should be quiet enough that you can't hear it 50 feet from the source. Please be considerate of your neighbors.
- If it's not yours, and not in your yard, don't touch it without permission.
- Please contact the office if you need a dog license, livestock permit, RV permit, building permit, etc.

* This list is the beginning of a page we would like to give any new members of our community. If there is something that you think should be added, please let me know.

—Mayor Joan Cromley

Ribbon-cutting planned for Illabot Creek restoration project

A ribbon-cutting ceremony is planned for the Illabot Creek Habitat Restoration Project near Rockport on Wed., Sept. 5, from 1 to 3 p.m.

Illabot Creek is one of the most productive tributaries to the Skagit River, supporting Chinook, Chum, Coho and Pink salmon, native Char and Steelhead trout. The goal of this project is to restore natural processes and improve habitat conditions in the Illabot Creek by removing a flood control levee and restoring natural channel migration on the floodplain and alluvial fan.

The first phase of the project was completed in 2013 and included removing

approximately 650 linear feet of levee, installing log jams, and constructing pilot channels. The second phase was to be completed in August, and includes constructing two new 100-foot span bridges on Rockport Cascade Rd., removing an additional 850 linear feet of levee, installing log jams, and reconnecting Illabot Creek with historic channels. This is expected to increase spawning and rearing habitat for salmon, trout, and other species.

The Illabot Creek Habitat Restoration Project is a partnership between Skagit River System Cooperative, whose members include Swinomish Indian Tribal

Community, the Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe, and Skagit County. It has been made possible with the participation of landowners Ryan Tree Farm LLC., Seattle City Light, Skagit County, and Sierra Pacific Industries. Funding for the project came from the RCO Salmon Recovery Funding Board, Seattle City Light, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Pacific Salmon Commission, among others.

To reach the ceremony site, follow SR 20 to Rockport and turn south onto SR 530. Turn east onto Rockport Cascade Rd. Travel approximately 5 miles eastbound on Rockport Cascade Rd. to the ceremony site.

Fire Dept. garage sale raises thousands

The annual Rockport Volunteer Fire Department garage sale, held last month, raised \$4,777 for the squad, according to organizer Jessica Moore.

"Thank you to everyone in the community who donated to our garage sale this year and previous years," said Moore. "If it was not for them, we could not put this event on. This year we had some great help from returning and new volunteers from the community with the hard work of setting up and helping to raise needed funds for the fire department."

Moore accepts donations for the event year-round, and can be reached at 360.708.8594.

—J. K. M.

Birdsview Buzz

Happy fall, everyone! Last month's Birdstock was the largest crowd ever. During the day, we had more than 1,000 people enjoying the food and music. The fire dept. raised more than \$6,000, which will go toward scholarships, etc.

Thank you to all of our volunteers, because without you, we couldn't do it. And thanks to the bands that donated their time and talents. We had some new groups this year, such as The Last Resort, Eddie

Spaghetti and the Meatballs, Li'l Joe Argo, and Wes Jones and Lazy Acres. We also had crowd favorites Bare Feet and our closer, Jack Mattingly and Whiskey Fever. Thank you to everyone who came out to support our local fire department.

Join us Sept. 15 for the KSVU fundraiser. We will have music by Marcia Kester, and Li'l Joe. There's a \$5 cover that all goes to the radio station. There will be 50/50 raffles, so make sure to bring cash. The fun will start around 3 p.m. and last till closing at 9 p.m.

—Kris Voigt

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Darrington



Snohomish County Sheriff's Report

Aug. 6

The Sheriff's Office Collision Investigation Unit responded to a double fatal collision near Clear Creek Rd. and Mountain Loop Hwy. Just before 3 p.m. today a passenger vehicle crashed into a large piece of construction equipment parked on the side of the road.

The driver, a 19-year-old male from Aberdeen, and the passenger, a 17-year-old male from Darrington, were both pronounced dead at the scene. The Collision Investigation Unit is investigating the cause of the collision and believes speed may have been a factor. No other vehicles were involved. The road remained closed while CIU investigated.

Aug. 12

The Sheriff's Office Marine Services Unit responded to a boating accident on the Snoqualmie River, near the 23500 block of High Bridge Road, just after 2 p.m. Witnesses reported an adult male was operating a jet boat at a high rate of speed when he lost control and was thrown from the boat into the river. Witnesses on the riverbank searched for the male in the water and began CPR. Aid units responded to the scene and transported the male. He was pronounced dead on the way to the hospital. He was not wearing a life vest.

Identification of the deceased, as well as cause and manner of death, are pending from the Snohomish County Medical Examiner.

Aug. 22

A rollover accident sent a Darrington driver to jail today. At about 2 p.m., Curtis Misanes, 30, of Darrington, rolled his 2001 Ford Focus near milepost 51 on SR 530. Misanes was eastbound when he crossed the centerline, lost control, and rolled the car, which came to rest on its top in the westbound lane.

Misanes was injured and charged with driving under the influence and booked into the Snohomish County Jail. His car was totaled.

Aug. 23

Search operations have been suspended for the Vesper Peak hiker, 28-year-old Samantha Sayers, who had been missing since late Aug. 1. Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue (SAR) personnel will continue to conduct spot checks of the area as snow continues to melt, and as weather and

other conditions safely allow.

Since Aug. 2, preliminary numbers show the search operations included:

- 357 hours for air operations, including flight time for both Sheriff's Office helicopters, as well as air support from other agencies.
- 105 hours for drone operations in the search area.
- 82 hours for the Marine Unit to support search teams going into the search area from Spada Lake.
- 329 hours for Sheriff's Office SAR personnel.
- Thousands of volunteer hours from SAR agencies across Washington State, including Snohomish County Volunteer Search and Rescue, Everett Mountain Rescue, Seattle Mountain Rescue, Tacoma Mountain Rescue, Olympic Mountain Rescue, and the Soup Ladies.

Assistance and/or volunteers were also provided by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center, Washington State Emergency Operations Center, U.S. Coast Guard Station Port Angeles, U.S. Navy NAS Whidbey Island, U.S. Air Force 304th Rescue Squad, King County Sheriff's Office Guardian 2, Snohomish County PUD and SAR teams from King County, Pierce County, Kitsap County, Kittitas County, and Skagit County.

"We have exhausted all leads and tips. We've interviewed all witnesses who have come forward. We have checked and double checked the possible routes we believe Sam could have taken," said Search and Rescue Sgt. John Adams. "If there was a place we thought she could get to, we put people there to look for Sam, often putting our volunteers and personnel at great risk due to the rugged, remote, and dangerous terrain."

All witnesses who came forward that said they were on the mountain the same day as Sayers, including several climbers and hikers, have been extremely cooperative. Each has provided detailed information about where they saw Sayers on Aug. 1. No witnesses reported seeing her return or come back down the trail.

Private search parties continue to search the area for Sayers.

Further information will be provided if there is anything new to release.

Aug. 29

The Snohomish County Sheriff's Office recovered the body of a missing 88-year-old Edmonds woman in the Puget Sound just after 11 a.m. today. Family members

woke up this morning to find their 88-year-old grandmother missing from their residence. She was reported missing to the Sheriff's Office at 8:30 a.m. today. She had been suffering from dementia.

Identification of the decedent, as well as cause and manner of death, will come from the Snohomish County Medical Examiner.

The Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue (SAR) team responded to a call for an overdue hiker near Blanca Lake just after 12 a.m. this morning. A 33-year-old Lynnwood man left on a solo day hike to Blanca Lake around 1 p.m. yesterday. When he didn't arrive home last night, family members went to the trail to look for him.

Just before 10 a.m. this morning, SAR located the 33-year-old man deceased in a nearby stream that connects to Blanca Lake. His death appears to have been accidental.

—Compiled from SCSO and WSP reports

Needle clean-up held in Smokey Point

On Aug. 4, representatives from the Snohomish County Democrats and the Snohomish County Republican Party participated in a needle clean-up event in the Smokey Point area. The effort was organized by Snohomish County Councilmembers Stephanie Wright and Nate Nehring, working with Arlington Mayor Barb Tolbert and Police Chief Jonathan Ventura.

To highlight the bipartisan effort to combat the heroin and opioid epidemic in Snohomish County, precinct committee officers from both parties joined Councilmembers Wright and Nehring to safely pick up and dispose of dirty needles around businesses and public places in Smokey Point.

Arlington Mayor Barb Tolbert also joined the effort. "I thank Councilmembers Wright and Nehring for this non-partisan approach. Combating the effects of the opioid epidemic will take all of us working together" she said.

"Secondary health effects of the opioid epidemic, like exposure to unsecured needles, have impacted all of our families and neighborhoods," said Councilmember Wright. "Working together is the only way to address this community health crisis."

Meeting charts progress of Mountain Loop Highway feasibility study

A small but curious crowd came to the Darrington Community Center on Aug. 21 to check the progress of the feasibility study on paving the 14-mile stretch of the Mountain Loop Highway.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in partnership with Snohomish County and the United States Forest Service (USFS), is developing a feasibility study of the Mountain Loop Highway (MLH). The study limits begin at milepost (MP) 10.76 near the Forest Service boundary at Robe (Verlot), east of Granite Falls, and end at MP 50.87 near the Forest Service boundary (Clear Creek), south of Darrington. The length of MLH being evaluated is 40.11 miles, with special focus being made on the 14-mile gravel section of roadway between Barlow Pass and the White Chuck River.

In February 2016, Snohomish County and the USFS submitted a Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) grant application seeking funds to develop the feasibility study.

According to the information provided online at fh.fhwa.dot.gov/projects/wa/mountain-loop, the study will identify feasible improvement options to improve access to recreational opportunities by improving operational safety and reducing maintenance. The study will examine a number of factors, including geometric characteristics, crash history, and existing

and projected operational characteristics of the highway. Existing and projected physical constraints, land uses, recreational and economic opportunities, funding constraints, and environmental resources also will be analyzed.

The study will include short- and long-term recommendations intended to address the access, maintenance, and transportation needs of the MLH throughout the planning horizon (2038). These recommendations will assist the study partners in targeting the most critical needs and allocation of resources.

The Mountain Loop Highway was established on March 23, 1936. Before the highway was built, primitive and very rough wagon roads connected Monte Cristo with the small towns of Darrington and Granite Falls. A narrow wagon road, known as Wilmans Trail or Pioneer Trail, or simply the Sauk Wagon Road, was built from Sauk City on the Skagit River to Monte Cristo in 1891.

That same year, surveyor M. Q. Barlow discovered the feasibility of access to Monte Cristo via the South Fork Stillaguamish River. Mining interests funded a wagon road from Silverton to the Sauk Wagon Road through Barlow Pass. These roads roughly followed the current route of the Mountain Loop Highway, along with some railroads.

Construction of the road started in 1936

and finished in 1941. The road was closed in 1942 because of World War 2.

The Mountain Loop Highway Feasibility Study is a pre-National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) planning-level assessment that can occur before project-level design and/or development is identified and initiated. FHWA uses this process to provide a better link between early transportation planning and environmental compliance efforts. The process involves conducting a planning-level evaluation of safety, operational, maintenance, and environmental conditions to identify needs and constraints.

The Mountain Loop Highway is the gateway to one of the most visited areas in the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. The MLH covers 52 miles from Darrington to Granite Falls, and provides amazing views with access to trails, campgrounds, picnic areas, and a large amount of varied use recreational opportunities.

The public is encouraged to participate in the planning process. Meetings have been held in Granite Falls and Darrington. Individuals who would like to be added to the study e-mail list should contact Michael Trafallis, FHWA Project Manager, at michael.trafallis@dot.gov.

Among the attendees at Aug. 21 meeting were Snohomish County Executive Director Ken Klein, Washington state Representative from the 39th Legislative District Carolyn Eslick, Darrington Mayor Dan Rankin and Keith Wagoner, 39th Legislative District State Senator.

—Marla Skaglund

Council summary

Darrington Town Council met for a regular meeting on Aug. 8, 2018. The following is a summary of that meeting. Complete and council-approved minutes for every council meeting are available at Darrington Town Hall.

Aug. 8 regular meeting

- Water Supply Agreement: Discussion included a proposed private water bank owned by Town of Darrington. A Sept. 12 meeting is planned with Dept. of Ecology to discuss running a water bank. Cascadia Law would like to see a signed contract prior to the Ecology meeting. Mayor Dan Rankin suggested creating an ad hoc committee to review the agreement. There was a public comment that the compensation may be inadequate in the future. There was further discussion.
- Council discussed a proposed location for a new food bank building. There are safety issues with the current facility. Food Bank managers are setting up a 501(c)(3); once that is in place, they will be able to go after grants to help fund the new building. Council voted to hold Parcel #32091400404500—a Town of Darrington-owned property—for the Darrington Food Bank to explore funding opportunities for up to 24 months.
- The State Legislature passed a law that all municipalities must be under one of two programs for business licensing by 2020. The transition will start in fall 2018. There is no cost to the town. DOR will collect the town's fees for the town. Council voted to approve the agreement.
- The gateway signs continue to be under construction.

—Compiled from staff minutes

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

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Marblemount



Newhalem



Three riders with Bike & Build wave as they cross the Dalles Bridge after a stop at 5b's Bakery in Concrete on Aug. 22. The group crossed the northern U.S., helping at construction projects along the way, and ended its journey Aug. 24 in Bellingham.

“Bike & Build” passes through Marblemount

Bicycling and building from New Hampshire's Atlantic shore, crossing the entire northern U.S., 28 young people and their leaders were hosted by the Marblemount Community Hall for the second year in a row in August.

One of dozens of hosts, the hall provided supper for them, use of the kitchen, bathrooms, and a floor to lay their sleeping bags on, out of the worst of the smoke from B.C.'s hundreds of wildfires.

The group had to evacuate Omak three days early because of the intense smoke and a resulting respiratory illness. Unfortunately, they had to forgo the long-awaited ride over the North Cascades Highway and Washington Pass as a result.

A service organization, Bike & Build invites applicants to raise money and

awareness for affordable housing throughout the country by organizing summer-long expeditions across the country, with participants stopping in predesignated communities to raise a hammer and pound some nails.

To learn more about Bike & Build, go to www.bikeandbuild.org and look up the NUS (northern U.S.) for this group's route and trip journal.

The expedition ended on Aug. 24 in Bellingham, where the riders dipped their bike tires into the salty waters of the Salish Sea, ending their summer-long adventures with Bike & Build.

We hope we can host them again next year.

—Christie Fairchild

Daycare effort begins with slug races

An effort to get a daycare off the ground in the Marblemount/Rockport area will kick off with a Sept. 22 get-together.

The **Upriver Kids Daycare 1st Annual Slug Races and Friendraiser** is slated for Sat., Sept. 22, from 1 to 4 p.m. at Marblemount Community Hall in Marblemount. For more information, go to www.upriverkids.org.

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.

The good news is ...

By Sasa, Starwalker, and Two Hats

Within this troubled world, it is often difficult to see beauty. Everyone is tense and defensive. What can one do to shift our world from fear to love?

For my birthday this year I ran away to the circus—well, just for the weekend—with the New Old Time Chautauqua peeps. They toured Washington State Parks this year. I traveled to Blaine. At Birch Bay State Park I arrived with great anticipation to learn more about juggling, hoola hooping, and clowning around.

“We believe that life is best when infused with laughter, creativity, and inspiration, and that those qualities flourish best in dynamic, active communities. Because of this, we reach out to audiences across cultural, socioeconomic, age, and gender backgrounds, sharing our unique brand of arts education, world-class performance, and celebratory community events like parades, potlucks, and free-to-the-public mini shows”—so says the New Old Time Chautauqua group.

Since 1981, the New Old Time Chautauqua has inspired and inspired communities that have long been underserved, from rural communities and tribes to nursing homes and prisons. They visited Concrete a few years back, and I will never forget my son saying it was the

best birthday ever ... we felt like we fit.

We were so honored to be at Birch Bay to witness the healing initiated through Chautauqua bringing Native voices back to the land and life where it can be heard once again. If we are to make it through this stage of the game, we need to reach out to each other. Do we have peeps in our communities that need loving help? I believe the answer is yes. If you do not see it just start looking around and asking questions. Disconnection and fear are factors we need to shift from. Creating connection and love are extremely important, especially right now in light of all things in the world. Peeps seem too busy hating the bullies when we can get busy and help each other out and start the healing process. Only hurt peeps will hurt peeps, so maybe it's about helping each other work through the pain together and not expecting everyone to do something about it on their own. I see the light of love coming our way ... it is our choice to continue looking into the dark or move our way toward love and light, ushering in a new paradigm of inclusiveness and cooperation with competition and exclusiveness honored and released from our patterns of behavior.

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

Five fires burned in North Cascades National Park in August

Five lightning-ignited fires were burning or being monitored in North Cascades National Park Service Complex in August. Four fires were located in the North Unit of the Park Complex, and one in the Flat Creek drainage. In addition, a fire in British Columbia, Canada, had closed vehicle access to Hozomeen as of Aug. 9.

The Arctic Jim Fire was located in the Arctic Creek drainage north of Mount Prophet and was about 400 acres. The fire had moved to the north side of the ridge and was held at a rock scree terrain feature. Firefighters were monitoring movement in relation to the Little Beaver and Big Beaver trails.

The Little Fork Fire was located in the Little Fork of the Little Chilliwack River and was about 75 acres. The fire was located Aug. 17 while fire management was on a reconnaissance flight of the North Unit Fires. The fire was not spotted

previously because of heavy smoke and haze in the area. Firefighters monitored movement in relation to the Copper Ridge and Chilliwack trails.

The Prophet Fire started as a single-tree ignition and grew to about 5 acres. It was located west of Ross Lake in a saddle west of Mount Prophet, on the ridge between Arctic Creek and Big Beaver. Firefighters were monitoring movement in relation to the Big Beaver Trail.

The Nodoubt Fire was located on the southwest aspect on the upper third of Nodoubt Mountain. There had been minimal growth and firefighters were monitoring movement in relation to the Chilliwack Trail.

The Flat Fire was located in the drainage above the confluence of Flat Creek and the Stehekin River, and was about .2 acres. Firefighters began active suppression with helicopter water drops. A three-person

hand crew composed of North Cascades firefighters hiked in and utilized minimum impact suppression techniques to suppress the fire. Firefighters worked the fire for four days and hiked out.

Because of fire activity in the park and surrounding areas, entry to the park via Hozomeen was not possible. Permits were not issued for backcountry trips starting in Hozomeen. Hozomeen Campground remained open to boat-in or hike-in camping for trips originating from the south.

Additional lightning storms were predicted. Firefighters are monitoring fire movement in relation to trails and camps and the park may again close areas if conditions warrant.

For up-to-date information on closures, go to Web alerts on the park Web site, www.nps.gov/noca, or call the Wilderness Information Center at 360.854.7245.

Climbing accident and recovery on Forbidden Peak

At approximately 4:15 p.m. on Aug. 4, North Cascades National Park Service Complex dispatch received a report from the International Emergency Response and Coordination Center (IERCC) by emergency personal locator beacon (PLB) for assistance with a climber fall in the Forbidden Peak area.

Eric Lindblom, a 60-year-old man from Cashmere, Wash., was climbing unroped on wet rock slabs above the upper bivvy site when he slipped and fell approximately 100 feet. Lindblom was climbing with a group of three other climbers.

The National Park Service helicopter and rescue crew was dispatched from Marblemount. Weather conditions were very challenging, with rain, wind, and lightning occurring throughout the incident.

Lindblom survived the initial fall and was cared for by bystanders and rescue personnel. Despite the concerted efforts of bystanders and rescue personnel, however, Lindblom succumbed to his injuries. The cause of death was ruled an accident by the Skagit County Coroner.

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Verna's Kitchen

By Verna McClure

Chili for Two

1/4 pound hamburger
3/4 cup chopped onion
1 garlic clove, minced
1 can chili beans undrained
1 1/2 teaspoons chili powder
1/2 teaspoon ground cumin

1. Cook beef, onion, and garlic until no longer pink. Drain.
2. Stir in remaining ingredients, then bring to a boil.
3. Reduce heat, cover, and simmer 10 to 15 minutes or until heated through.

Makes 2 servings.

May each day be a good day.



Seniors

Way Back When

70 years ago

Sept. 9, 1948: Jack Johnson, a worker at the quarry of Superior Portland Cement, Inc., was taken to the hospital by ambulance Wednesday morning after an accident at the quarry above Lake Shannon.

Johnson was handling the sluicing hose when the hose broke loose from its standard. The big nozzle whipped around and struck Johnson, throwing him some distance against the rock pile.

Reports late yesterday were that he was not seriously injured and would recover quickly from bruises and cuts.

Sept. 23, 1948: The 1948 football season will get under way at the Concrete Memorial Athletic Stadium tomorrow night at 8 p.m., with the program including the opening game with Oak Harbor High School, a formal dedication of the new lighted field, and inauguration of the new covered

grandstand. The game will get under way promptly at 8 p.m.

During the halftime intermission, a program will be presented in formal dedication of the field as a memorial to the valley's war dead.

60 years ago

Sept. 4, 1958: A steel stack replaced the old brick chimney at Concrete Grade School last week.

See Way Back, p. 29



30 years ago: Students in Paul Bianchini's special skills class were shown on p. 1 of the Sept. 29, 1988, issue of *Concrete Herald*. The class was a new program at Concrete Elementary School, designed to supplement physical education classes with other areas of study. The students were listening intently to a presentation by Skagit County Search and Rescue. Other demonstrations and lectures were presented to 4th through 7th graders that day by Skagit Chapter Red Cross, Grasmere Volunteer Fire Dept., Concrete Police, and AeroSkagit. The students were able to tour emergency vehicles in addition to learning valuable emergency and safety information as part of their unit on first aid. *Archive photo by Anne Bussiere.*

Concrete Community Center

September 2018

Activities

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

Monday through Friday

Jigsaw puzzles, walking group, games, more

NOTE: GED instruction is now being held at the East County Resource Center.

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

Monday

All 10 a.m. Community Closet

Tuesday

9/11 6 p.m. WSU Food Preservation Class

Wednesday

All 10 a.m. Community Closet
All 1 p.m. GED Preparation (at Resource Center)
9/12 6 p.m. Ohana Support Group
9/26 6 p.m. Ohana Support Group

Thursday

9/6 12:30 p.m. Pinochle
All 1 p.m. GED Preparation (at Resource Center)
9/20 12:30 p.m. Pinochle

Friday

All 10 a.m. Community Closet
9/21 10 a.m. Concrete Community Center Advisory Board meeting
9/21 12:30 p.m. Commissioner Janicki

Saturday

All 9 a.m. Concrete Saturday Market*
All 7 p.m. AA meeting

*Saturday Market will be open through September, depending on weather and customer support.

Way Back, cont. from p. 28

A tall crane made quick work of the task of erecting the new stack for the school furnaces. One 20-foot section was set in position on the base; the other three sections were bolted together on the ground and then lifted into place in one piece. The new steel stack replaced the old brick chimney, which had cracked and settled. The stack was purchased as surplus from

the Ferndale refinery. While the crane was still in position, men in boatswain's chairs were hoisted aloft and the stack was painted in short order.

40 years ago

Sept. 28, 1978: A search for a distinctive logo or symbol to be used in community promotions is being launched this week by the Retail Merchants Committee of the

Concrete Chamber of Commerce.

All persons in the Concrete trading area are invited to submit logo suggestions, a brief community theme in words and/or art form. Entries will be judged on cleverness, brevity, and suitability.

A \$25 Series E savings bond will be awarded to the winner.

—Compiled from archives



30 years ago, Sept. 1, 1988: At least 400 circus fans crowded on bleachers under the tent of the King Royal Circus last Saturday in Concrete. Hosted by Concrete Lions Club, which raised \$480, the circus included two trained elephants, a llama, several appaloosa ponies, two trapeze artists (one a very young girl), three trained lions, a magician, and, of course, a clown. Also under the Big Top were circus snacks, souvenirs, and rides on one of the elephants. Lions Club President Richard Frank and club members were highly pleased with the turnout on a hot Saturday afternoon, and hope to bring the circus back to town in a future year. *Archive photo by Anne Bussiere.*



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Rick Lemley
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Obituaries

Celebration of Life for Tommy Harrison

Come and share stories, events, foods, flute presentation, with family and friends of Tommy. Saturday, Sept. 8, at 4 p.m. at the Howard Miller Steelhead Park in Rockport.

RICHARD "DICK" RIEHL July 1932 – August 26, 2018

Richard "Dick" Riehl was born and raised in Tacoma, Wash., to parents Lock and Bernice Riehl and spent many a summer on Vashon Island at the family's beach house. After graduating from Stadium High School, Dick married his wife of 67 years, Barbara Bemis. They lived in Tacoma, where Dick owned and operated a Richfield gas station until he decided to finish his college teaching degree at Western in Bellingham. After graduation he accepted a job teaching wood shop, metal shop, and various other classes, along with coaching for the Concrete School District, where he retired after 28 years of teaching. Once retired, Dick and Barbara moved to Grand Coulee, Wash., where they spent many happy years enjoying camping, swimming, gardening, or in his shop working on some kind of woodworking project. Dick was well known for his handmade crosses. Dick was a life member of Lions Club and a Concrete



volunteer fireman. Dick was preceded in death by his parents and two sisters, Rhea Wesson and Nancy Hoff. Dick is survived by his wife Barbara; his four children Bobbi Kempkes, Allison Puntene (Pat), Missy Bruce (Michael), and Richard Riehl (Debby); along with 10 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. The family would like to thank Prestige Care in Burlington for the wonderful care and support they showed our Dad. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Allen United Methodist Church or Lion's Club Camp Horizon, 7506 Gemini Street, Blaine, WA 98230. A memorial service will be held on Sat., Sept. 8, 2018, at 11 a.m., with a small reception following, at Allen United Methodist Church, 16775 Allen West Rd., Bow, WA 98232.

Doyle Woods of Concrete was born Jan. 29, 1964, and passed away Aug. 11, 2018.

Doyle is preceded in death by both parents, but leaves behind numerous brothers, sisters, nieces, nephews, and many great friends. A memorial service will be held on Sept. 8, 2018, at 11 a.m. at Community Bible Church, 45672 Limestone St., Concrete. Pastor Rob Thomas, officiating. Funeral arrangements are under the care of Jerns Funeral Home, Bellingham.



Sunday School lesson

How healthy are you?

By Rob Thomas

This past Feb. 1, I found myself on the way to the emergency room at PeaceHealth United General Medical Center, with significant chest pains. This was not supposed to happen to me. I work out on a regular basis. I eat healthy. (Okay, I eat somewhat healthy.) I coach multiple middle school sports. In other words, I'm very active and conscious of my physical health. So what am I doing in the emergency room with chest pains at age 57? The good news? The care by the physicians and staff at the hospital was excellent. After a battery of tests during the following week, I was given a clean bill of health. The bad news? Healthcare is not cheap.

Let me take this to the next (and more important) level. How healthy are you spiritually? Here's what I believe and here's what the Bible teaches. None of us are getting out of this world alive. No matter how much care and attention we put into our physical bodies, we all will die. But what will not die and what will last for eternity is our spirit/soul. As such, I come back to my question: How healthy are you spiritually?

This is the question I have been asking my Adult Sunday School class (9 a.m. at Community Bible Church) for the past couple of months. Each Sunday I ask a

different question to evaluate our spiritual health. The purpose is not condemnation. Instead, I want to follow the words of Hebrews 10:24: "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and good works." Here are some of the questions we've asked and answered thus far:

- Do you thirst for God?
- Are you governed increasingly by God's Word?
- Are you more sensitive to God's presence?
- Do you have a growing concern for the spiritual and temporal needs of others?
- Do you delight in the Bride of Christ?

At the end of the day and at the end of our lives, our standard for spiritual growth is not one another. Our standard is Jesus Christ. (Consider Luke 6:40; Galatians 4:19; 2 Peter 3:18.) Therefore, let us not settle for anything less. Let us have the courage to ask and answer the necessary questions that move us beyond a complacent faith and motivate us to experience the fullness as promised by Jesus Himself in John 10:10: "I have come that they (you) might have life, and that they (you) might have it more abundantly." The spiritually healthy life is the abundant life and the abundant life is the spiritually healthy life.

So ... how healthy are you?

Rob Thomas is pastor of Community Bible Church in Concrete.

Skagit County Sheriff's Office Blotter

July 25

Citizens reported a suspicious vehicle parked behind the buildings near the Lyman Mercantile in Lyman. Sgt. Adams responded to investigate. While contacting the subjects in the car, he determined that the male subject had a warrant for his arrest. While the male suspect was being arrested, the female fled. A brief search of the area failed to find the female, who was later discovered also to have a warrant for her arrest. The male suspect was booked into jail.

July 26

Deputy VanHolsbeck and Sgt. Morgan responded to a possible domestic assault on Baker Dr. in Cedar Grove. The reporting party said that a person was at that location swinging a baseball bat at people. When deputies arrived they located the suspect near the residence. After investigating they determined the suspect was upset over the Internet speed and assaulted her sister by grabbing her by the hair and punching her repeatedly. When another person attempted to intervene, the suspect picked up a bat and attempted to hit others at the residence. Deputies arrested the suspect and booked her into jail.

July 27

Campers at Rasar State Park reported several thefts from their campsites. Deputy Devero responded and discovered that someone had stolen a large amount of food and several other items. On July 29 park rangers were able to use video to identify two possible suspects. Deputies Tweit and Esskew assisted the park rangers to arrest the suspects and recover the cooler, which had been stolen earlier.

July 28

A citizen reported that she had interrupted a vehicle prowler. The suspect fled on a bicycle. Deputy Passovoy located the suspect and determined that she was having mental issues and had not committed a crime at the time. She refused assistance and was allowed to leave.

July 30

A concerned friend called to request that deputies check on a person living on Pinelli Rd. near Birdview. The caller advised that her friend had been having domestic issues with a male who lived at that address with her. Sgt. Adams

responded first. While talking to the victim, he observed the suspect pull into the driveway. When he contacted the suspect, he discovered that the suspect had been drinking and appeared to be intoxicated. Deputy Wiggins and Deputy Mullen also responded to assist. Deputy Wiggins arrested the suspect for DUI. After further investigation the suspect was also arrested for fourth-degree assault domestic violence, for an incident that had occurred a few days before. The suspect was arrested and taken to jail.

July 31

Deputies responded to a burglary and possible assault on Main St. in Rockport. When deputies arrived they discovered no one at the residence. The next day deputies further investigated the incident and determined that a possible robbery had occurred. The investigation will continue.

A report of a motor vehicle accident was reported on Baker Lake Rd. near milepost 5. Deputy Moore initially investigated the accident, which had resulted in the death of both passengers in the truck. Witnesses said they were following the vehicle from Baker Lake. They said that there were no issues, but as they approached milepost 5, the vehicle drifted to the left and went off the road, striking a large tree. The accident scene was transferred to WSP for investigation.

Aug. 1

A report of a prowler in the 46000 block of Baker Dr. in Cedar Grove was checked by Deputy Wolfe. The reporting party said a male subject was in his yard, but had since jumped the fence and left. Deputy Wolfe checked the area, but was unable to locate anyone.

While patrolling the Lake Shannon quarry area, Deputy Wiggins located two individuals who were trespassing on the property. After further investigation he discovered that one of the suspects had been painting graffiti on the old Lone Star building. Both suspects were arrested for trespass and one of the suspects was also arrested for malicious mischief.

Aug. 3

Deputy Wolfe stopped a car on Cedar Grove Ave. in Cedar Grove for a nonfunctioning license plate light. The driver was arrested for driving with a suspended license, expired vehicle license over two months, and no insurance. He was allowed to find a licensed driver to drive the vehicle home.

After running a license plate on a vehicle travelling on Cedar Grove Ave. in Cedar Grove, Deputy Tweit discovered

that the driver had a suspended license and a warrant for her arrest. He stopped the car and confirmed the identity of the driver. The driver was arrested for driving with a suspended license and for the warrant.

Aug. 8

The Upper Skagit Library called to advise that a person who had previously been trespassed from the building was in the library drinking alcohol and had urinated on a chair. Deputy Moore and Sgt. Adams contacted the suspect, who said he didn't know he had been trespassed from the library, but had thought he was only trespassed from the resource center. He was advised he was trespassed from both areas of the building. The suspect left without incident.

Concrete Liquor & Convenience Store reported a possible theft. Deputy Moore contacted the owners and will investigate the theft.

A resident on North Wilde Rd. in Birdview advised that a subject he had allowed to shower at his house had stolen some tools from his house. He advised that after the suspect had showered at his house, he gave the suspect a ride to her parent's house. He said he had contacted the father of the suspect, who said that

the suspect said the victim had given the tools to her and asked that he pawn them for money since she didn't have a license. Deputy Koback was able to recover the items and will refer the suspect for charges.

Deputy Hendrickson and Sgt. Adams investigated a road rage incident in Cape Horn. The reporting party said that a small black car had rammed a truck, forcing it off the roadway. Several witnesses were contacted, who suddenly developed amnesia regarding the past three hours. Since no one could remember what had occurred, Deputy Hendrickson towed the truck, which was still in the ditch, and ended the investigation.

Aug. 9

As he was patrolling the Lake Shannon quarry, Deputy Wiggins located three subjects trespassing on the property. All three were cited for trespassing and warned not to return.

Aug. 10

Deputy Wolfe stopped a truck on Sobek Lane for an expired vehicle license. The vehicle license had expired in June 2012. The driver did not have a valid license and had a warrant for his arrest. He was cited

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 a.m.
www.citipointchurch.com
E-mail: mattd@citipointchurch.com

Baptist

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

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

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

Catholic

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

Covenant

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

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

Episcopal

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

Free Methodist

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

Methodist

Central United Methodist Church
1013 Polke Rd., Sedro-Woolley
360.856.6412 / centralumcsw@yahoo.com
http://centralumcsw.org
www.clearlakecov.org
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

CONCRETE HERITAGE MUSEUM NEWS

For many years, a popular way for children to earn money was by harvesting cascara bark. In 1920 alone, 15.5 tons of it were shipped out of Concrete to Chicago. The most popular use for the bark was in the manufacture of laxatives.

Concrete was on edge for another reason that year when the Downes-Osborne Company announced plans to construct a large manufacturing factory here to build their Paragon tractor-plow. A contract had already been signed for the Skagit Steel and Iron Works of Sedro-Woolley to provide the necessary castings. The Paragon was aimed at the small land-owner, but the deal quietly fizzled out.

Making a much louder commotion in 1928 was the explosion on the Glitz farm immediately west of Crofoot Addition, when a storage shed containing a ton of blasting powder exploded, leaving a crater 15 feet deep and 30 feet in diameter. Pieces of a truck were found all over town and many windows were blown out.

In 1929, Charles Scales, a recent 1928 CHS graduate, died in the Sedro-Woolley hospital after being injured at a logging camp at Faber in March. Some things never change: Even in 1929 the Town of Lyman was asking for federal assistance to cope with the floodwaters of the Skagit River.

Probably the most unusual incident making the local news in the whole of 1929 is the following: Robert Wiseman of Rockport was driving down the road and in friendly gesture, reached out to wave at a milk truck traveling in the opposite direction. His arm was caught by the milk truck and torn off so quickly, he didn't

even realize it at first.

To round out the year, I would be remiss if I didn't relate that ownership of the *Concrete Herald* was transferred to Charles Dwelley in September 1929. Barely out of high school, Dwelley came to Concrete to take over the near-bankrupt paper. He then went on to become the owner and editor for 41 years before turning the reins over in September 1970 to Robert and June Fader of Anacortes.

The year 1940 saw President Roosevelt approve the funding for a new gymnasium at the Birdview School, which had been destroyed by fire the previous year.

The mid-1960s ushered in new environmental regulations and a 1965 air quality sampling measured 927 tons—yes tons—of cement dust per square mile in the air around Concrete. That year also saw the passing of Mrs. Rafella Frank, the matriarch of the Frank family. She married Guy Frank in Italy before emigrating to Concrete in 1910, where Guy worked for the cement company until his retirement. Rafella was survived by her husband, a daughter (Mrs. Theresa Bianchini), and 2 sons, Albert of Van Horn (founder of Albert's Red Apple) and Adolf of Seattle.

The museum will remain open Saturdays, noon to 4 p.m., through the end of September. Our Web page and online archives are always available for your viewing pleasure (www.concreteheritagemuseum.org). Special tours at other times may be arranged by calling 360.853.8347 or e-mailing your requests in advance to jboggswash@aol.com or autohistory@hotmail.com.

—John Boggs

Nick VanJaarsveld
Financial Advisor

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING



913 Metcalf Street
Sedro Woolley, WA 98284
Bus. 360-855-0239 Fax 866-816-2219
Cell 360-333-4849
nick.vanjaarsveld@edwardjones.com
www.edwardjones.com

At the Upper Skagit Library

The Upper Skagit Library thanks the Upper Skagit Library Foundation for doing another wonderful job with their annual **Book Sale** during Cascade Days. Thanks to John and Gail Boggs for being the coordinators extraordinaire, and to all who volunteered to be a friendly face during the sale! All proceeds from the sale will go back into library programs and events.

Congratulations to **Trenton Weston**, winner of the grand prize drawing for our Summer Reading Program — Libraries Rock! Trenton won a \$50 Amazon Gift Card. Congrats also to **Connor Burns**, who won a Kindle Fire, and **Lyla Heikell**, who won an Albert's Red Apple Gift Card. All summer reading participants won a free book, thanks to the Friends of Skagit Libraries. We had 104 kids sign up for our reading program and a total of 160 reading logs turned in. Each reading log represents 800 minutes read; this represents a little more than 2,133 hours of reading.

Summer Reading wasn't just for kids—adults were able to share in the fun as well, with our **Book Bingo** card competition. **Rebecca McAdam** was our grand prize winner and will receive a Kindle Fire 7 tablet. Runner-up winners included **Sacha Buller** and **Chelsea Allen**, who will receive nifty Upper Skagit Library book bags.

Upper Skagit Library is celebrating **Banned Books Week** all September long with great books and fun activities. "Get caught" reading a banned book. Come into the library anytime in September, pick up a banned book, and take a selfie

in our "Mugshot Booth." Post it on social media and tag the library using #USLBannedReaders if you like. You can also take a guess at the title of our "Banned Book In-a-Jar." Correct answers will win a prize.

Join the library all month long in celebrating access to information by filling out a notecard answering "**What Does the Freedom to Read What You Choose Mean to You?**" and display it in the library for others to read.

Need help with your computer or smartphone? Maybe how to set up an e-mail account, apply for a job online, or how to watch termite races in a biology class on YouTube? We can help! **Drop-In Computer Tutoring** every first and third Wednesday of the month from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Bring your questions.

The monthly **Upper Skagit Library Board meeting** will be held Thur., Sept. 13 at 6 p.m. The public is always welcome.

Storytime is back! Families are welcome to join Miss Beth every second and fourth Saturday of the month for stories and a simple craft from 11 a.m. to noon.

Back-to-School Guessing Jar: From Sept. 1 to 15, guess how many items are in the jar and win the jar of school supplies.

For a full list of events in September, check us out at www.upperskagit.lib.wa.us and on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, or stop in and pick up an events calendar at the library.

—Tess Carroll, Library Associate

September at the Darrington Library

All ages

- Sasquatch: Man-Ape or Myth? Sat., Sept. 15, noon.

Adults

- Friends of the Darrington Library meeting, Wed., Sept. 12, 5:30 p.m.; guests welcome.
- What's Going On In My Teen's Brain? Education and support for parents, Mon., Sept. 17, 5:30 p.m.

- Business Pros: Starting a Home-Based Business (advantages and disadvantages), Sat., Sept. 22, 1:30 to 3:30 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

Sheriff's Blotter, cont. from p. 31

for driving with a suspended license and arrested on his warrant.

Aug. 12

Deputy Walton investigated a motor vehicle accident on West Main in Lyman. The driver said that a dog had run out in front of him and caused him to wreck. The driver had told the tow truck operator that a deer had run out in front of him. After investigating the accident, Deputy Walton determined the driver was not being truthful. He also discovered that the driver's insurance policy had been cancelled. The driver was cited for driving too fast and for carrying no insurance.

Two suspects were arrested as a result of a domestic disturbance in the 41000 block of Challenger Rd. near Concrete. The suspects had gotten into an argument with the male suspect's son. The male suspect's girlfriend slapped the victim in the face. Then the father punched the victim in the face. Both suspects were arrested and taken to jail for assault.

Aug. 15

Cascade Supply in Concrete reported that they had recently received an order for roofing material worth several thousand dollars. They filled the order and shipped it to the address supplied to them. When they tried to process the payment, the bank advised them that the account was invalid. The bank was advised of the fraud. Deputy Keith Hill will follow up on the incident.

Aug. 16

Deputies Wolfe, Harrison, and Struiksma responded to a possible domestic disturbance on Baker Loop Rd. The victim said that her husband had become upset because she was sleeping in the bedroom with the children rather than in the bedroom with him. After arguing for awhile, the suspect poured water over the victim and at one point shoved her. The suspect was located and arrested for assault. He was taken to Skagit County Jail.

Deputy Devero investigated a trespass complaint on Littlefield Rd. in Rockport. He determined the suspect had trespassed onto the property and taken some beer.

The suspect was arrested for beer theft and warned not to trespass on the property again.

Aug. 17

Concrete Mayor Jason Miller called and advised deputies that he had received information that there had been some lights spotted on the hillside just below the school during the night. Deputy Devero responded to check the area to determine if there were people possibly camping in the area or conducting other suspicious activities. He was unable to locate any problems.

Aug. 19

Deputy Devero and Sergeant Morgan investigated a domestic that occurred on Oak Lane near Pressentine. They determined that a female had become agitated with her boyfriend and had struck him multiple times. They located her trying to evade them near the Pressentine Creek Bridge. She was arrested and taken to jail.

Aug. 20

Deputy Wolfe observed a vehicle westbound on North Shore Ln. in Cape

Horn. The vehicle didn't have a front license plate. Deputy Moses, who was also in the area, stopped the vehicle. During the investigation, Deputy Moses determined that there might be drugs in the vehicle. Using his K-9 he was able to get an alert on the vehicle. A warrant was applied for and received. The vehicle was towed and searched. Drugs were located, along with guns and stolen property. The suspect will be charged with several felonies.

A property owner near the 40000 block of Snowberry Ln. in Birdview discovered a male suspect running through his barn. The 75-year-old victim had chased the suspect a short distance, at which time a younger neighbor continued to chase the suspect. He chased the suspect east from the property, eventually losing him. As Deputy Devero arrived in the area, he observed a male matching the description of the suspect running toward the Thousand Trails campground. He attempted to chase the suspect, but lost

See Sheriff's Blotter, p. 35

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Bookkeeping

UpRiver Bookkeeping Services

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

Brew pubs

Birdview Brewing Co.

Fresh micro beer brewed on our premises
Great food! Family friendly!
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38302 SR 20, Birdview // 360.826.3406
www.birdviewbrewingcompany.com

Construction

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Complete family hair care, specializing in: PERMS / COLOR & CUTS / WAXING
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Call Kathy Monrad and Becki Hoover for appt
360.853.8684

Liquor stores

Concrete Liquor Store & Convenience Store

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

Pawn shops

Gold Nugget Jewelry & Loan

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

Ranches

Double O Ranch, LLC

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

Restaurants

Cascade Burgers

45292 State Route 20, Concrete
Featuring great burgers, fries, and milkshakes in a 1950s, family-style atmosphere!
OPEN DAILY: Mon.-Sat. 11–7, Sun. 11–6
Ask about our daily specials! 360.853.7580

Perks Espresso & Deli

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

Self-storage

Concrete Self-storage

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

Septic services

Cinema Septic

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

Thrift stores

Second Floor Thrift Store

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

Towing services

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Professional roadside assistance. Flatbed towing and winch-outs. Lockouts, jumpstarts, fuel delivery, and motorcycle towing. Licensed and insured. Lowest prices around!
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To add your business to this directory, call 360.853.8213 or e-mail editor@concrete-herald.com



Northwest
Garden
Bling

- Gift shop
- Stained glass & glass supplies
- Souvenirs

360-708-3279

nwngardenbling@frontier.com
44574 Highway 20 – Concrete, WA 98237



Out & About



Mount Vernon Fire Dept., and veterans organizations.

"Our craft fair is unique; we try to help the wonderful and talented crafters who put in a great deal of time, and we also raise funds for the three groups," said organizer Robert Longdon.

Longdon hopes to include 50 vendors at the nonprofit event this year. The rental fee is \$55, which includes an 8' x 10' space, one table, two chairs, and free coffee. Registration is due by Oct. 31. Checks should be made payable to T/Sgt. Robert Longdon.

Hero Craft Fair will be hosted by Mount Vernon Church of the Nazarene, located at 2710 E. Fir St. in Mount Vernon. The fair will be open:

- Fri., Nov. 9, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Sat., Nov. 10, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Interested vendors and anyone who wants to learn more about the event should contact Longdon at 360.360.399.3069 or rclmm2000@comcast.net.

Home Trust of Skagit announces fundraiser

The Second Annual Harvest for Homes Community Land Trust fundraiser for Home Trust of Skagit will take place on Fri., Oct. 12, at Maplehurst Farms, 18495 Dike Road, Mount Vernon.

Tickets are \$50 until Oct. 1, at which point they will be \$60. Tickets can be found at <https://my360tix.com/events/harvest-for-homes>.

Sponsorship packages are available. Sponsor tickets are available by calling 360.428.5972.

For more information, call 360.428.0014.

See Out & About, p. 35

Read
Concrete Herald
The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley

Sheriff's Blotter, cont. from p. 33

sight of him. Deputy Devero was able to locate the vehicle, which the suspect had left behind. Deputy Devero was able to identify and locate the person who had driven the car. He later located the suspect, who confessed to the burglary and an earlier burglary he had committed a few weeks earlier at the same residence.

Deputy Harrison responded to a report of squatters living in the 42000 block of North Shore Dr. in Cape Horn. The property owner said that they had discovered someone living on the property without permission. After investigating, Deputy Harrison determined that the suspects had moved onto the property without permission. They were given three days to leave or be arrested for trespass.

Aug. 22

Deputy Wolfe observed a subject he knew had warrants walk into Logger's Landing in Concrete. Dispatch confirmed that the suspect had multiple warrants for his arrest. Deputy Wolfe arrested the subject while patting him down for needles and drugs. He was arrested for the warrants and on several new charges.

Just after midnight, Deputy Wolfe saw a vehicle fail to stop at the intersection of Fir St. and Concrete Sauk Valley Rd. in Concrete. He stopped the vehicle and contacted the driver. The driver had a suspended driver's license and several warrants. He was arrested and taken to Skagit County Jail.

Later that night, Deputy Wolfe stopped a vehicle on Lusk Rd. for a modified exhaust that amplified the vehicle's exhaust noise. The driver tried to dispute with Deputy Wolfe regarding the legality of the exhaust system. Deputy Wolfe explained the law to him, then arrested him for driving with a suspended license, cited him for no insurance, and arrested

him on his three warrants.

Aug. 24

A victim of an earlier domestic violence incident called to advise that the defendant had been attempting to contact her by phone while he was incarcerated in jail. The victim has a valid no-contact order against the suspect. Deputy Hill was able to look at the call log history from the jail and determined that the suspect had indeed attempted to contact the victim twice. Charges for two violations of a court order were referred to the Prosecutor's Office.

Aug. 27

Deputy Devero was able to locate a suspect in a domestic violence incident from Aug. 13. The suspect was parked in a vehicle at Logger's Landing. In the earlier incident, the suspect had choked his girlfriend. The suspect was compliant, but tried to tell Deputy Devero that it was only a verbal argument and that he had not assaulted the victim. The victim exited the store a few moments later and confirmed to Deputy Devero that the suspect had in fact choked her on the night of the incident. The suspect was arrested for felony assault and taken to jail.

Aug. 28

An employee from the Mount Baker Hotel reported that there was a fight in progress on the street outside the hotel. Deputy Esskew checked the area, but was unable to find the suspects.

The manager from the Concrete Community Center called concerned about transients staying overnight on the property. Deputy Devero contacted a subject, who agreed to move to another location. Deputies will patrol the area and advise those contacted that overnight parking is not permitted.

—Compiled by Sgt. Greg Adams

Out & About, cont. from p. 34

La Conner

Museum offers "Preserving Family History" workshops

Skagit County Historical Museum staff will host a day of workshops introducing history and genealogy enthusiasts to techniques for properly documenting,

storing, and taking care of family heirloom collections.

Participants may sign up for one or both workshops to learn skills for recording oral histories, preserving old photos and documents from damage, properly storing quilts, hats, clothing, and more. Participants will learn what museum archivists and curators do to ensure that the stories with a treasured heirloom are passed on to the next generation.

The workshops are scheduled for Sat., Sept. 15:

- Introduction to Photograph &

Steps toward healthful food choices

By Pamela Hassler, PA-C

When it comes to choosing healthful foods, whether you are a child or an adult, practice makes perfect.

If you've spent much of your life snacking on junk food and ordering pizza for dinner, it may feel difficult to make the healthy changes you'd like. The key is to start slowly and keep practicing healthful behaviors.

Rather than eliminating all snack foods at once, try incorporating organic fruit and vegetable snacks into your diet each day. Over time, you can tip the balance, adding more healthful foods and fewer processed foods.

To shift away from sugary carbonated drinks, try replacing one soda a day with organic fruit juice—or better yet, mixing sparkling soda water with just a splash of fruit juice. It's a refreshing and low-calorie alternative. Unsweetened iced tea also is a more healthful choice than soda.

Here are a few more ideas to help you

- Document Care: 10 a.m. to noon
- Introduction to Preserving your Family Textiles: 1 to 3 p.m.

The cost is \$40 per each 2-hour workshop, \$35 for museum members. Attendees must register by Sept. 10.

The museum is located at 501 S. 4th St. in La Conner.

For more information and to purchase tickets, call 360.466.3365 or go to my360tix.com.

Whidbey Island

Whidbey Island Kite Festival promises fun

This year's Whidbey Island Kite Festival is planned for Sept. 15 and 16, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Camp Casey, 1276 Engle Rd., Coupeville.

A family-oriented event, the festival promises lots of kites in the air, plus

take steps toward a more healthful diet:

- Eat one fewer meal at a fast-food restaurant per week. Make a sandwich at home or try a supermarket salad, for example.
- Eat an extra serving of fruit every day. Blend frozen fruit into a smoothie or add fresh berries to yogurt for a yummy dessert.
- Eat an extra serving of veggies every day. Add a side salad to your evening meal, for example.
- Eat one serving per week of seafood. Try a tuna salad sandwich instead of deli meat.
- Try to cut out one or two servings of potato chips or other salty snacks.
- Replace fruit for a sugary dessert.
- Try olive oil instead of butter for a rich, smooth taste without the "bad" kind of fat.

By making just one small change a day and building on that success, you'll empower your children to make healthful choices without feeling deprived. They will have the power in their hands to live a healthy life.

Pamela Hassler, PA-C, practices at PeaceHealth United General Medical Center in Sedro-Woolley.

activities. Learn to fly a kite, kitemaking for kids, a teddy bear drop, mass ascensions each day, single line challenges, sportkite competitions, team demonstrations to music, and an indoor kite flying competition on Saturday night are planned. Food is available. Bring a chair or relax on the grass.

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



Northwest Garden Bling

- Gift shop
- Stained glass & glass supplies
- Souvenirs

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

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FIRST 5000 LADIES FREE!
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AUG 18 & 19
7PM 2PM

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... from the Concrete Herald archives ...

"Money," solemnly intoned the good jode, "isn't everything. It is not money that will heal the pain of a broken heart or put together again the fragments of a broken dream. Money cannot bring happiness to a shattered home, nor repair the ravages of a misspent life."

The judge paused, then on a more cheerful note, he concluded: "I refer, of course, to Confederate money."

— § —

A man about to be electrocuted phoned his lawyer from the death chamber. "They are about to put me in the electric chair," he said. "You're my lawyer—what do I do now?"

The lawyer answered helpfully, "Don't sit down."

— § —

"Doctor, I just dropped in to tell you how much I've benefitted from your treatments."

"But you're no patient of mine."

"No, but my uncle was, and I'm his heir."

— § —

Pa: "It's 2 a.m., about time Sally's boyfriend went home."

Ma: "Now, Pa, remember how we used to court?"

Pa: "Yep. That settles it. Out he goes."

— § —

"If you refuse me," he wrote, "I shall die."

She refused him.

Sixty years later, he died.

Dwelleysms

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

"Trying to understand the other person's point of view requires concentration on how you could state it better in your own words."

—May 15, 1968

"Buildings that cost the taxpayers many dollars should not be abandoned without first giving their value to the community a second look. To be kept up, they must be used in a continuous manner. To ignore this fact is more waste of good money. The old high school, even in need of repair, would make an ideal City Hall, with space for the public library, firemen's quarters, police station, and clerk's office." Such a use should be considered instead of costly demolishing to secure a site of questionable value. There must also be some planning on the future of the other buildings, and now is the time to think ahead. The town has enough monuments to the past vacantly rotting away. Let's not purposely add to the graveyard look."

—May 22, 1968

"The world is full of people ready to offer good advice on any subject. It also is full of people who can't understand why somebody doesn't take it."

"The graduates are out in the world looking for all those promised advantages of a good education. Most will be disappointed to find that the first thing an employer will demand is willingness to work."

—June 12, 1968

Public Service Announcement



Concrete Harold

By Joyce Harris



By Stig Kristensen

Crossword: "At the Movies"

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

Across

- 1. Unable to flee
- 6. Choice
- 11. Not clerical
- 14. Popular wedding gift
- 15. Free from
- 16. Chemical ending
- 17. 1944 romantic musical
- 20. Suffix with auction
- 21. Memory unit, for short
- 22. Cereal grain
- 23. Biting
- 25. Most pretentious
- 29. Pizazz, var.
- 32. Ways in
- 33. Go over
- 34. Island in western Scotland
- 35. 50-50, e.g.
- 36. 1954 Oscar-winning drama
- 40. Axe, in Tokyo
- 41. Group of poems
- 42. Runs
- 43. Title defenders
- 46. Puddinglike dessert
- 47. Sets up
- 48. Herb in stuffing
- 49. "Prince ____" ("Aladdin" song)

Down

- 1. Climax
- 2. Quaker's "you"
- 3. Frame used for burials
- 4. Aardvark's morsel
- 5. Starchy tuber
- 6. Snooped
- 7. One year in a trunk
- 8. Driver's lic. and others
- 9. Conveyance
- 10. Recently
- 11. Moldovan moolah
- 12. Cuckoo bird
- 13. Cry of success
- 18. Qatari leader
- 19. Elevator man
- 23. Asian nurse
- 24. Endure

Across

- 25. Large amounts
- 26. Bars
- 27. Fishing nets
- 28. ____ fly
- 29. Place for a needle
- 30. "Mind Games" composer
- 31. Express overtly
- 32. Common carriers
- 34. Mocks
- 37. Most tearful
- 38. Thrash
- 39. Profligate
- 44. Complain
- 45. Greetings: var.
- 46. Construct
- 48. Indian caste
- 50. Stage of development
- 51. Italian bread
- 52. Fret
- 53. Henna and others
- 54. Morning moisture
- 55. Miner's load
- 56. Cup filler
- 57. Coolness
- 58. Automobile sticker fig.
- 59. Wimple wearer

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.

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

*Solutions to both puzzles are on p. 39.

Funny as Facebook

The following funnies were pulled verbatim from Facebook status updates in August:

- "The dreaded pumpkin spice season is upon us and I blame you."
- "Shopping for more durable, safer pollution masks for the family. Trying to decide whether the kiddo would prefer a more gender-neutral alphabet design or Peppa Pig. What a time to be alive!"

Re-elect

Robbie Robertson

Skagit PUD #1
Commissioner District 2 NP

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Paid for by the Committee to re-elect Robbie Robertson, 2409A Club Court, Mount Vernon, WA 98273.

THE BODY IN THE BLACKBERRIES

By Nicola Pearson

Editor's note: This is the 12th installment of a new serialized story by award-winning author and playwright Nicola Pearson of Sauk City. Future installments will appear on this page each month during 2018 until the story is complete. Previous installments are posted at www.concrete-herald.com.

They took both vehicles the short distance to Clarkson's double-wide and Michelle parked her Range Rover on the street because there wasn't enough room in the driveway next to the Nissan. Lange watched her hop down and tease some of her blonde hair back toward the braid at the back of her head. He looked away, so as not to intrude, and found Suleka watching him.

"You should ask her out," she muttered. Lange gave her a stern look: Enough! "Okay, I'll shut up," she said. Then she treated him to a smirk.

Lange puckered indignantly but found himself smiling in his own way, too. "We ready?" asked Michelle, coming up to join them.

Lange nodded. He led the way to the front door, which, like at Brandie's house, was wide open, the television blaring a baseball game in the background. "Hello!" he called out.

The game stopped abruptly and he heard a mechanical thwang, like the footrest on a recliner being pushed down. A tall, big-bodied man appeared in front of them. Clarkson was not fat so much as fleshy and out of shape, with unruly brown hair that covered the cut on his temple. But not the black eye that was beginning to emerge as a result of that cut. He had overnight stubble on his cheeks and chin, a diet soda in his right hand, and the left side of his mouth looked like it was holding a big wad of chewing tobacco, it was so swollen. "What?" he said, his eyes bouncing from Suleka to Lange. Then they bounced back to Michelle and he shifted his weight. "Did you find my brother already?" he asked, a worry-line creasing his forehead.

"Detective Collins is on his way to see if he can find him now," said Lange. "But we were hoping you might answer a few questions for us. My name's Callum Lange and this is —"

"I know who you are," interrupted Kyle. "And I already told Mike that I

don't know nothing about anything that happened up on Sauk yesterday."

This was the first time Lange had heard Collins called by his first name and he guessed that the two men had been in the same class at school. He knew Collins was raised in the Upper Skagit and it was possible he was the same age as Kyle. "The thing is, Mr. Clarkson," he said, staying on the doorstep. "Your daughter, Alice, does know something about the happenings on Sauk yesterday and —" "You talked to her?!" interrupted Kyle angrily. "I didn't say you could talk to her. Don't you need my permission or something?"

"We had her mother's permission." Kyle shook his head from side to side, like this bothered him. "She shoulda asked me first."

"She's worried about Alice," Suleka put in, "And you should be, too, Kyle." She stepped up into the trailer to stand next to him. Lange and Michelle held their places outside. Suleka touched Clarkson on the forearm, to get his full attention. "Whatever went down up there has got Alice scared and she's not her usual happy self. Is that what you want for her?"

Kyle shook his head no again, but didn't say anything. He'd been meeting Suleka's eye but now he looked away, ashamed. She stepped in closer. "If you don't tell us what happened," she said, "we're going to have to pry it out of Alice. You don't want that, do you?"

There was a long beat of silence, broken only by the sound of children shrieking happily as they played on the jungle gym at the park below.

"You think it would help if we told it together?" Kyle asked, bringing his eyes back to Suleka. "So she could say what scared her. Would that, like, help her get it out? And move on?"

"I think that would help a lot," said Suleka.

"Alright," agreed Clarkson and Lange saw his shoulders relax with relief. "Let

me get my shoes on."

Five minutes later they were all standing on Brandie's doorstep again, Lange holding Max in his arms, Kojak on a leash next to Michelle.

"Oh. You're back," said Brandie, coming around the corner from the kitchen. Her eyes fixed on Kyle, steely, hard, then she turned her head back toward the kitchen. "Alice," she said, "your dad's here."

The 8-year-old flew around the corner, hair flapping behind her. "Daddy!" she cried and landed with a bump into his belly, clasping her arms around his waist. He leaned down and pulled her into a fierce hug with his big arms. "It's okay, honey," he said, kissing her on the top of her head. "It's gonna be okay."

Alice looked up at him. "But ...?" "We're just gonna answer some questions for these guys, 'kay? We'll do it together."

Alice shifted her eyes from him to her mother. Brandie nodded. "Okay," Alice told her dad. He walked her over to the couch and sat her down next to him.

"Well, you'd better come on in," said Brandie to the rest of them.

"Is it okay if we bring the dogs in?" asked Michelle.

"Sure. I don't mind."

Lange set Max down and he scampered over to Alice, who immediately reached forward and stroked his ears, avoiding eye contact with everyone else. Lange and Suleka entered and stood to the left of the front door, at an angle facing the couch, in front of the TV, leaving Michelle the small armchair to one side of Alice. Michelle didn't hesitate. She made herself at home, putting Kojak between her and Alice. "Sit," she told the German shepherd. Kojak sat.

Brandie carried a kitchen chair over for Suleka.

"I'm fine," said Lange, one hand up in the air.

"You're sure?" she asked.

"Uh huh." He put a foot up on the back rung of Suleka's chair to show he was comfortable.

Alice sneaked a peek at Michelle's dog. "His name is Kojak."

"Can I pet him?" asked Alice, peeking at Michelle now.

"Sure. Thanks for asking."

"My dad said I should always ask," said Alice, her small hand gently dusting the fur on the back of Kojak's head. "'Cause not every dog is friendly."

"That's true," said Michelle. "Good advice."

Kojak tipped his head up, enjoying her

touch. Max stood on his hind legs, both front paws on Alice's knee, so she could pet him too. Kojak swung his muzzle around and placed it on her other knee, not to be left out. Alice giggled.

Everyone smiled at the sound, releasing some of the tension in the room. Kyle looked at Lange. Lange nodded. He turned back to look at his daughter. "Alice, honey, we have to tell these people what happened with Uncle Wayne yesterday."

Alice looked up at her dad, her face serious but trusting. "Even though Uncle Wayne said not to?"

Brandie bristled beside Michelle and Michelle slipped her hand in the young mother's. Brandie perched on the arm of Michelle's chair.

"Yeah, even though Uncle Wayne said not to," said Kyle. "Because we don't keep secrets like that, right?"

"Right," agreed his daughter. "Can I put Max on my lap?"

"I guess," said her father.

"I think he'd like that," said Lange and for the first time, Alice smiled across at him. She tapped her lap and Max leapt up, making her giggle again.

Kyle kept his eyes down on her petting Max as he started his narrative, obviously uncomfortable being in the spotlight. "So Alice and me were gonna go up to the fish hatchery yesterday," he said. "After we had our morning snack together. Then Wayne showed up. He said—he said," Kyle emphasized, looking at Lange now, like he wanted him to be sure this is how he heard the story, "that him and his girlfriend had gone up Sauk to see the sunrise and she accidentally hit a deer on the way down."

"Like your brother would drag himself outta bed for a sunrise!" scoffed Brandie.

"I know. I know," countered Kyle. "I figured they'd maybe got, you know ..."

He glanced at Alice, but she was busy playing with Max and Kojak, so he made a sign above her head, forefinger and thumb to his lips, to suggest they were stoned. "And that's how come they hit a deer. Either that or he poached one. Anyways, he said he needed my truck to go get this deer. I said, 'How come you didn't bring it out in Tosha's?'—his girlfriend's—and he said, "'Cause she couldn't wait. She had to get to work.' And I know his Jeep needs a new head gasket so I said, 'Okay, but you're not taking my truck. I'll drive you up there.' 'Nah, he said, just gimme the truck.' But I said 'No way! You'll be gone with

The Body, cont. from p. 38

it all day. And I won't even drive you if Alice says she don't wanna go because I'm not leaving her here by herself.'"

"I said it was okay. We could go," Alice informed the rest of them, in a very serious way for an 8-year-old. "Uncle Wayne looked kinda jumpy, like he had to go. And he was all red in the face." She nodded, as if she'd thought about her decision and was sure of it. "I wanted to help him."

Sudoku solution

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

Crossword solution

1	A	2	B	3	A	4	Y	5		6	P	7	R	8	I	9	M	10	O	11	L	12	A	13	Y
14	C	15	H	16	I	17	N	18	A	19	R	20	I	21	D	22	O	23	F	24	E	25	N	26	E
27	M	28	E	29	E	30	T	31	M	32	E	33	I	34	N	35	S	36	T	37	L	38	O	39	U
40	E	41	E	42	R	43		44	M	45	E	46	G	47		48	O	49	A	50	T	51		52	
53	G	54	L	55	A	56	M	57	O	58	R	59		60	A	61	C	62	C	63	E	64	S	65	S
66	R	67	E	68	C	69	A	70	P	71	J	72	U	73	R	74	A	75		76	T	77	I	78	E
79	O	80	N	81	T	82	H	83	E	84		85	W	86	A	87	T	88	E	89	R	90	F	91	R
92	O	93	N	94		95		96	E	97	P	98	O	99	S	100	L	101	O	102	P	103	E	104	S
105	V	106	O	107	U	108	C	109	H	110	E	111	E	112	S	113		114	M	115	O	116	U	117	S
118	E	119	N	120	T	121	R	122	A	123	P	124	S	125		126	S	127	A	128	G	129	E	130	
131	A	132	L	133	I	134		135		136	A	137	U	138	K	139		140	L	141	S	142		143	D
144	D	145	O	146	U	147	B	148	L	149	E	150	I	151	N	152	D	153	E	154	M	155	N	156	I
157	E	158	R	159		160	O	161	S	162	C	163	A	164	R	165		166	P	167	U	168	R	169	E
170	W	171	E	172	N	173		174	S	175	T	176	E	177	L	178	A	179		180	G	181	N	182	A



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See **The Body**, p. 39

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NOTICE OF TOWN COUNCIL 2018 BUDGET WORKSHOP

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Concrete Town Council will hold workshops on the following dates in preparation for the 2019 Budget:

- October 6, 8:00 a.m.: Review 2018 Budget, 2019 Salary/Benefit Workshop
- October 27, 8:00 a.m.: 2019 Utility Rates and Fees, Proposed 2019 Budget

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

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Andrea Fichter, Clerk-Treasurer
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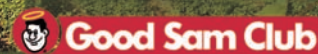


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