

The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley

Concrete Herald

Vol. 103, No. 9

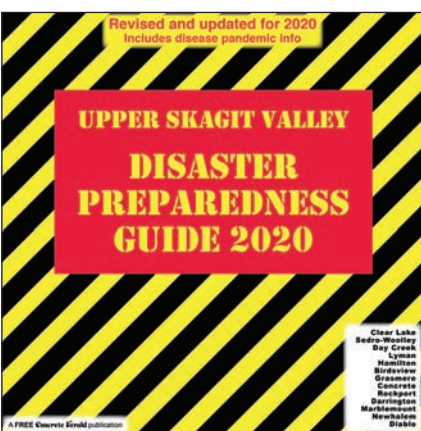
September 2020

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Photos by Tahlia Honea.



ELECT **TOM**
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Primary Winner by 7,000 Votes!

Thank you! Next vote is Nov. 3!



Concrete Herald

The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley

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Jason K. Miller, publisher and editor

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From the editor

Facebook is fleeting, but can do lasting damage

Every month I paw through my Facebook news feed, gathering hilarious posts and comments from locals to include in the “Funny as Facebook” column on p. 36 of *Concrete Herald*.

Rarely is it a challenge to find funny posts. But last month, for the first time, I found myself spending long minutes wading through some decidedly unfunny stuff in order to find a few humorous gems. I saw grievances aired publicly, openly libelous statements, businesses lambasted for a lapse in service or quality, individuals’ reputations torn to shreds, photos of vehicle accidents posted without a thought for the family members of the deceased, COVID-19 positive tests speculated upon with vicious denigration, and family squabbles strung up like so much dirty laundry.

We can do better than this. It’s possible to be social, not sociopathic.

My social media presence is limited to Facebook, so I can speak only to that platform. What I’ve found during the past 10 or so years is a gradual decline in civility. It reminds me of a sweet, precocious 7-year-old for whom a college friend was a nanny. We drove to the shores of Lake Superior and watched the waves crashing into the rocks. Little Mary seemed lost in a reverie, so my friend asked her what she was pondering. “Entropy,” she sighed.

Entropy indeed. Facebook interactions have become the very definition.

Facebook’s biggest strength is also its biggest weakness. Like Concrete Town Center, the good and the bad are magnified. The scale of our town center means that poorly maintained buildings or illegal or bad behavior are front and center, spoiling the scene for the rest of the businesses and their patrons, and sending a toxic message to visitors. The scale of Facebook—which puts memes and comments in front of millions—can lead to the same result. We can choose to follow the Golden Rule when we post or share or comment, or we can choose not to.

In the past, disagreements and misunderstandings were resolved face to face. If they weren’t resolved, the damage was relatively minimal, because it was unlikely that either party would set out on a worldwide tour to malign their opponent’s name. Today, however, that level of damage is possible because of Facebook’s reach.

A common sign in brick-and-mortar businesses reads, “If we made a mistake, tell us. If we do well, tell your friends.” Why not adopt this strategy for social media? If you have a problem with someone, why not seek to resolve it with them, rather than excoriating them on Facebook? What possible good can come of that?

Of course, this doesn’t excuse businesses, for example, who abuse their customers as a matter of course. And it doesn’t excuse the trolls among us, who seem bent on “watching the world burn” or, as I like to say, “hide behind junipers and lob grenades.” But those businesses are few and far between, and those trolls are in the minority.

A few months back, I wisecracked on Facebook that I had discovered a good way to save time, energy, and brain cells: Spend as much time on Facebook as you do brushing your teeth. I have since been trying to observe that guideline as often as possible.

Try it. You’ll like it.

—J. K. M.

Opinion

Letters to the editor

KSVU needs a miracle

As many of you have realized, KSVU Upriver Community Radio has been off the air for some time. It was decided that our tower rent with American Tower Co. was not sustainable, and we have been seeking another tower on which to put our antennae/transmitter.

For reasons too lengthy to explain (including COVID-19 shutting down meetings and other efforts), we have not yet accomplished this, and our deadline is quickly approaching.

KSVU has, in the past, asked for money and community support in order to keep our station going, and we were grateful when we managed to “pull a rabbit out of the hat.” However, at this time, there doesn’t appear to be rabbits hiding in the hat. We are down to a couple of slim possibilities, and may need a miracle ... which leads me to my request.

If those of you out there believe in the power of prayer, as I do, then please send one up to help keep our community radio station on the air.

I don’t think God would mind, knowing how valuable it has been to us. It has been an important voice for our unique community as a whole, and to each other. Besides musical entertainment hosted by local DJs, it has been an effective way of communicating important local news, issues, and events, and interviews about local residents doing interesting and important things—things we don’t hear about from “downriver.” We even had the Boys and Girls Club kids on the air and learning about radio. (I miss their young voices and giggles.)

If not a prayer, perhaps you could send an e-mail to our manager at Skagit Valley College, Ed Jaramillo (ed.jaramillo@skagit.edu) or call 360.416.7719 and let him know how much you value KSVU

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Upriver Community Radio and that you want it to continue. Perhaps this will buy us a little more time. Comments and ideas can be directed to ernabaude@frontier.com or go to our Facebook page.

I may be old fashioned, but I miss turning on that radio dial.

Thank you, again, for your support. We will keep you posted.

Nancy Weaver
Concrete

Back when we were “great”

Some people would choose to go back to an earlier time, back when America was “great.” Some would even choose to return to those times and ignore all the things that weren’t so great for everyone.

I’m not ancient, but I grew up in a time that seemed less complicated, at least to a child insulated from life’s many grim realities. I remember what happened when

See Letters, p. 3

Corrections

Well, doggone it. In the cover story for the September 2020 issue of *Concrete Herald*, I stated Gladys Silrus’ community of residence as Cedar Grove. Duh. I know better: It’s Cape Horn. Sorry, Gladys.

Letters policy

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

Letters, cont. from p. 2

I was caught calling someone a name. I recall two instances quite vividly because I was given reason to reconsider my actions.

Even a child who often makes and unmakes friends several times a day can see the error and the hurt caused by name-calling. I learned those untamed outbursts revealed more about my own character than they did about the person I was trying to dishonor.

During those “great” times, even adults who revealed their character by persistent name-calling were called childish. Today, we no longer call such offenders childish; we call them “Mr. President.” There is something seriously wrong with that.

John Boggs
Concrete

Solar energy: a wise solution

Solar power, coupled with other renewable energy sources like wind, has deep potential of powering our world in the new green economy.

In many places, it already is. My family owns a farm with a rooftop solar array and a battery backup system, which proves handy in sporadic power outages. With climate change-related storms on the rise, it’s good to have solar electricity stored in batteries for use, whether or not our electric utility is functioning.

I encourage our lawmakers to incentivize battery-backup systems so that homeowners and businesses can have reliable, clean solar electricity during power outages.

Additionally, to reverse climate change, we need to sequester much of the carbon we’ve already emitted. Thus, I ask our lawmakers to promote forest and wetland protection. These ecosystems store tons of carbon in the form of plants, roots, and decayed organic matter. They filter water, oxygenate our air, and provide other essential ecosystem services, thus saving our county thousands of dollars on water treatment and other necessities. They provide critical habitat for wildlife and immense outdoor recreation and enjoyment for humans. Let’s preserve our state’s treasured ecosystems for their economic, ecological and intrinsic value.

Thank you.

Rebecca Canright
Rockport

What I learned from COVID-19

My quarantine is ending. I’m going to retest for my own peace of mind, although the test is no longer required under the

CDC guidelines. I want to return to work with confidence that I am indeed now negative.

My family and friends are doing well. One negative test has already come in from a former positive.

I have learned several things about COVID-19 from our experience:

- I believe masks help. They are not a be-all-end-all prevention, but they are one layer of prevention. I did not give COVID-19 to my customers as I wear a mask at work. I also did not give COVID-19 to my coworkers, who were also masked, even though we worked in close proximity for hours at a time. The mask order in my case likely prevented other infection.
- You will likely not get COVID-19 from a stranger or give it to a stranger if you are using caution in your own behaviors. You will get COVID-19 from and give COVID-19 to your closest friends and family members. My source is presumed to be a close friend who came to borrow something one evening before she knew she had COVID-19. I gave COVID-19 to my loved ones that I kiss and hug, and they gave it to the ones they kiss and hug.
- COVID-19 is very much like the flu; however, for some it develops into a serious life-threatening illness. If you or a loved one gets COVID-19, you will not fully rest until everyone is past the possible threat of serious illness. Pay attention to subtle changes in energy level and the feeling that you have overdone it. That might be your only symptom for the first few days. Don’t be afraid of the nasal swab test. It’s not that bad.
- With COVID-19, things change quickly. You can go from being fairly well one day to quite sick the next, and then much better the following day. Up and down—it is a bit of a roller coaster.
- You will have a better understanding of the people around you. By far the vast majority are abundantly kind and helpful. Even people you rarely see will shower you with kind thoughts and offers to help if they can.
- To taste and smell is a rich blessing that we all take for granted.
- Having enough supplies on hand—including vitamins and pain

See Letters, p. 5



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Concrete, EDASC to provide grants to in-town businesses

Economic Development Alliance of Skagit County (EDASC) on behalf of Town of Concrete is accepting grant applications worth \$5,000 each, supporting small businesses affected by COVID-19.

A total of \$25,000 is available, provided by the Town of Concrete through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, better known as the CARES Act.

Eligibility requirements include having 35 or fewer employees measured as full-time equivalents, a reduction in business revenue greater than 25 percent due to COVID-19, and the business be a brick-and-mortar establishment located within town limits, among other requirements.

The grant deadline is 5 p.m. on Wed., Sept. 9.

Eligible expenses include costs of goods and general administrative expenses necessary to respond to business interruptions, facilities payments, and

supplies and expenses associated with safety improvements.

"The pandemic closures occurred just as our small businesses were entering the season that can make or break them each year," said Concrete Mayor Jason Miller. "I asked our Town Council to use the town's CARES Act funds as grants for our businesses because every bit of extra revenue this year can play a significant role in the survival of our small town's economy."

EDASC, which already has coordinated five small-business grant programs for local governments, is administering the grant.

"As a destination town on the path to the beautiful North Cascades, Concrete's economy is driven by small businesses," said EDASC CEO John Sternlicht. "We at EDASC are honored to assist Concrete Mayor Jason Miller and the town council in putting to work their CARES Act funding to support businesses impacted by

COVID-19."

The application is online at https://www.skagit.org/media/userfiles/subsite_26/files/Town%20of%20Concrete%20CARES%20Assistance%20Application%20Final.pdf. Applicants should download the application and open it in Adobe Acrobat to fill it out on their computer, and should not fill out the application in their Web browser.

Submit completed applications or questions to EDASC at concretgrant@skagit.org.

EDASC will prioritize applications based on severity of the impact the business is facing, including from being forced to close by government-mandated closures, social distancing measures, or illness. Awards will be approved on a case-by-case basis and are dependent on the availability of funds.

—Submitted by EDASC

Town of Concrete increases public access to Town Council meetings

Town of Concrete is using FreeConferenceCall.com for off-site access to Town Council meetings. The options are listed below:

Call in:

- Dial-in number: 1.720.740.9752
- Access Code: 6372507 followed by # (pound sign).

Online:

- <https://join.freeconferencecall.com/townofconcrete>
- International call-in: <https://fccdl.in/i/townofconcrete>
- Or text "Call Me" to the dial-in number above and you will be called into the meeting. Message and data rates may apply.

Concrete Town Council meets on the second and fourth Mondays of each month, at 6 p.m., at Concrete Town Hall.

For more information, call Concrete Town Hall at 360.853.8401.

Skagit County prioritizes testing at drive-through site

Beginning Aug. 31, use of the drive-through COVID-19 testing site at Skagit Valley College was limited to those who live or work in Skagit County. Those who do not reside or work inside the county will need to seek testing in their own communities or through their medical provider.

A new screening station will be added to the test site to verify that patrons either work or live in Skagit County. Those who reside in neighboring counties, such as Whatcom or Snohomish, are encouraged to call their own county's health department about testing opportunities in their area.

"This was an extremely difficult decision for us to make," said Public Health Director Jennifer Johnson. "We want to be good neighbors, but we're in a place where our current testing level isn't sustainable. In order to protect this vital service for Skagit County residents, we have to ask that those who do not live or work here seek testing elsewhere."

During the last three months, around half of the people using Skagit's drive-through testing site have lived in another county. The testing site currently costs around \$60,000 per week to operate, and Skagit County does not receive funding from neighboring jurisdictions.

"COVID-19 is going to be with us for a long time, and we have to be practical," said Board of County Commissioners Chair Ron Wesen. "We are sworn to serve the people of Skagit County first, and unfortunately, this action is necessary to preserve our local resources and sustain COVID response activities for the duration of the pandemic."

The test site will continue to operate from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. No appointment is necessary, and the site will continue to test both symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals who live or work in Skagit County.

More information on the testing site can be found at www.skagitcounty.net/coronavirus.

For more information, call Skagit County Public Health at 360.416.1500.

—Submitted by Skagit County

Election 2020

Certified Primary Election results for Skagit County

Legislative District 39 State Senator

Keith Wagoner (R) 70%
Kathryn Lewandowsky (D) 30%

State Representative Pos. 1

Robert Sutherland (R) 63%
Claus Joens (D) 37%

Legislative District 39 State Rep. Pos. 2

Carolyn Eslick (R) 44%
Ryan Johnson (D) 36%

Skagit County Commissioner District 1

Mark Lundsten (D) 48%
Ron Wesen (R) 46%

Skagit County Commissioner District 2

Peter Browning (NP) 41%
Mary Hudson (D) 30%

Skagit Superior Court Judge Pos. 3

Tom SeGuine 45%
Elizabeth Yost Neidzowski 28%

Skagit County PUD Commissioner Dist. 1, Commissioner 1

Andrew Miller (NP) 27%
Kenneth Goodwin (NP) 26%

Congressional District 1 U.S. Rep.

Suzan DelBene (D) 48.63%
Jeffrey Beeler, Sr. (R) 39%

Congressional District 2 U.S. Rep.

Rick Larsen (D) 48%
Timothy S. Hazelo (R) 16%

Washington State Governor

Jay Inslee 44.07%
Loren Culp 36%

Darrington School District No. 330 Proposition No. 1

Levy No 56%
Levy Yes 44%

Birdsview Precinct Committee Officer (Democratic)

Haley McNealey 63%
Micheal Bauter 37%

Letters, cont. from p. 3

- relievers—is very important, since immediate quarantine means you will not be able to go to the store.
- It is helpful to plan how you will quarantine if one family member—especially a minor son or daughter—remains negative while others in the household are positive. This requires two separate quarantines. Thinking through the different scenarios will help you know what you should do

if positive and negative tests start coming in. It is very hard to think clearly in the midst of learning you have COVID-19. If you have a plan in advance, it will help.

I hope everyone reading this remains well and healthy. We feel tremendously blessed that we are all doing good.

Angie Holm
Birdsview

**Local merchants bring you
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Please support them!**

Skagit County announces funds, partners to help Skagitonians pay rent during pandemic

Skagit County has announced the availability of \$1.4 million in Eviction Rent Assistance for Skagitonians affected by COVID-19.

The grant funds were provided by Washington State Department of Commerce and funded by federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act dollars. The program is intended to prevent evictions by paying past due and current/future rent for people needing relief.

"COVID-19 has created difficult situations for all of us, but especially so for renters," said Chair of the Board of County Commissioners Ron Wesen. "We're thankful for the opportunity to provide Skagitonians who are housing insecure with a little help to keep the roof over their heads."

Skagit County is partnering with four local agencies to help serve the diverse populations in Skagit County:

- Samish Indian Nation will receive \$75,000 targeted for tribal members. Reach the Samish Indian Nation at 360.726.3366.
- Housing Authority of Skagit County will receive \$77,970 targeted for Section 8 housing voucher holders and farmworkers. Contact the Housing Authority at 360.424.8655.
- Catholic Community Services (CCS) Farmworker program will receive \$395,360 targeted for farmworkers and families in CCS apartments. For Spanish-language information and assistance, contact Aileen Gonzalez at 360.428.1959, ext. 200. For English-language information and assistance, contact Alice Marshall at 360.418.1959, ext. 202.

- Community Action of Skagit County will receive \$836,343 for the broader community. Contact Community Action at 360.399.3006.

Groups of people who historically have been denied equitable access to rent assistance and those who have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak will be prioritized. Basic eligibility requirements are that a household is behind on or unable to pay current rent. The household also must be low-income, defined as 50 percent or below of area median income (AMI). For a household of two, AMI is \$2,617 per month; for a family of four, AMI is \$3,267 per month.

"Stable and secure housing is one of the most important indicators of good mental and physical health," said Commissioner Ken Dahlstedt. "While we're taking on the pandemic, it's important we keep people housed and prevent other, unintended health outcomes from the necessary economic slowdown."

Commissioner Lisa Janicki said, "We're thankful to have great partnerships with the Washington State Department of Commerce and our housing providers in Skagit. This would not be possible without their tireless work advocating for the housing unstable."

The program is first come, first served and will operate until Dec. 31, 2020, or until funds are exhausted. Any questions regarding the application should be directed to the servicing agency.

Questions about the program in general or who to contact at the agencies should be directed to Skagit County Public Health at 360.416.1500.

—Submitted by Skagit County



Cascade Days wants to *thank* our sponsors!

- SaviBank
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- Sedro-Woolley Family Dental Center

With their generosity, we transferred the donations to the nonprofits that receive funding at our event!

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- Youth Dynamics
- Lions Club

This project received funding from Skagit County. www.VisitSkagitValley.com



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Market wraps season Sept. 5

Concrete Saturday Market will complete its 35th season on Sat., Sept. 5 (Labor Day weekend).

Like most businesses and farmers' markets, 2020 was a challenging season for the market, said market secretary/treasurer/"fruit peddler" Betty Seguin. "Advance planning for the upcoming market season had to be replaced with revised procedures adapted to COVID-19 safety requirements," she said.

Those procedures were something of an obstacle course for market organizers. Since farmers' markets are essential businesses, the Saturday Market opened as scheduled at the end of May with produce vendors only, providing drive-in pickup for customers. When Skagit County progressed to Safe Start Phase 2, other vendors joined the market. Shoppers following required safety protocol are allowed to walk in to purchase produce, limited packaged foods, or handcrafted items from vendors observing Skagit County Dept. of Public Health guidelines. A handwashing station is provided; face

coverings are required.

"The outdoor venue, with plenty of room for social distancing, is a safe environment for customers," said Seguin. Curbside pick-up is an option, but "we miss live music, nonprofit bake sales, and hot food vendors."

Recently the market received a grant from Skagit Community Foundation that provides fresh produce to qualified Upper Skagit households. East County Resource Center (Community Action) distributed \$1,000 worth of vouchers to applicants for purchases of fruit and vegetables to supplement meals. In addition, food and produce vendors always accept EBT/SNAP, and SNAP Market Match coupons, WIC and Senior FMNP vouchers, and FVRx vouchers from United General District 304 programs.

"We are gratified to be able to bring supplemental food to folks who need it," said Seguin.

Community members use the market as a source of local, fresh, high-quality produce. They've also discovered unique handmade products from area artisans and crafters.

For more information, go to the Concrete Saturday Market Facebook page or concretesaturdaymarket.com.

THIS AND THAT

By J. K. M.

Mount Baker Presbyterian Church in Concrete, along with its partners, has decided not to pursue a **cold weather shelter** in Concrete this fall, citing "careful consideration and a recommendation from Skagit County Department of Public Health. "Because of lack of space to adequately social distance, [we won't host the shelter] because of COVID-19 concerns, Pastor Kevin Riley told *Concrete Herald* in an e-mail. "Our partners at the Dept. of Public Health are actively pursuing other ways to help those in need and the most vulnerable in the East County area."

Riley said he would continue to share more information about the shelter as future decisions are made.

The **Sedro-Woolley Museum** plans to reopen on Fri., Sept. 11, according to

museum president Carolyn Freeman. Its new hours will be Fridays and Saturdays from noon to 3 p.m.

Freeman said the museum will limit the number of guests in the museum at any given time, and will direct guests to physically distance from each other. Masks are required.

"We've been hard at work, and are excited to show our guests what's new and newly redone," said Freeman.

Private tours are still available upon request. For more information, go to www.sedro-woollemuseum.com.

Martin Ranch Rd. is closed through Sept. 18.

The road closed for culvert replacement at milepost 0.46 on Aug. 31 and will be closed until 5 p.m. on Sept. 18. The road is closed to all vehicles, including emergency vehicles.

A signed detour route is available between Martin Ranch Rd. and Rockport Cascade Rd.

More information about Skagit County road closures is available online at <https://www.skagitcounty.net/reporting/roadclose/>.

Council summary

Concrete Town Council met for regular meetings on Aug. 10 and 24.

The following is a summary of those meetings. Complete and council-approved minutes for every council meeting are posted on the town's Web site at www.townofconcrete.com/cminutes.php.

Aug. 10 regular meeting

- Mayor Miller and Councilmember Rob Thomas brought up an issue with vehicles parking in the traffic lane across from 5b's Bakery. Mayor Miller stated that he will talk with the 5b's owner and let her know of the concern so she can watch for this happening. Discussion ensued on where they could park, and it was stated the council does not want to take away from the business, but just needs to make sure the traffic lanes are not blocked.

- Clerk-Treasurer Andrea Fichter reported on information regarding The Hub, including an e-mail that was received from an interested buyer stating his issues with The Hub's kitchen hood, the letter that was sent to the owner of The Hub from the town's building inspector and fire chief, the certified letter stub showing the owner of The Hub had received the letter, the stop work order and the letter received from The Hub signed by the owner and the manager stating they would not continue to use the hood until corrected. Fichter stated she wanted the council to be aware of the background on this item, since a post on Facebook had inferred something different.

- Mayor Miller also reported on the letter he received from the Liquor and Cannabis board regarding their reasoning for not denying the renewal of The Hub's liquor license. Mayor Miller read from the letter received, as well as his e-mail response. He stated that he has requested a clearer definition from them on what constitutes "chronic illegal activity." He stated the town has a new contact, Nicola Reed, and he will follow up with her.

- Councilmember Marla Reed stated her desire for the town to get one more quote for the proposed new gate at Mears Field.

- Councilmember/Parks Committee Chair Reed reported on that evening's Parks Committee meeting, which

centered largely on the community garden and ideas for renovating it. Reed stated that she would like to discuss adding a part-time, year-round position to focus on the community garden and its maintenance. She stated this person could also be used at other parks and garden areas in town. Council asked Fichter to develop the numbers for such an idea.

Aug. 24 regular meeting

- This meeting was conducted by Mayor Pro-tem Elizabeth Easterday. Mayor Miller was quarantining after his wife tested positive for COVID-19.

- Public Safety:** Councilmember Thomas stated that he has noticed an increased number of vehicles parking overnight in areas along Main Street, as well as the library parking lot. Mayor Pro-tem Easterday requested that Andrea send an e-mail to Sgt. Adams, making him aware.

- CARES Act grant funding:** Fichter reported that she and Mayor Miller had developed a mailing list for all the businesses located within town limits that would meet the brick-and-mortar definition for applicants, and that each business will be mailed a copy of the announcement and application to ensure they are aware of this opportunity.

After review of the application and the announcement, the council agreed to move forward with this announcement, with no changes to the application.

- Community garden maintenance position:** It was the consensus of the council to move forward with advertisement of this position and to have Andrea bring a salary amendment back to council at its next meeting.
- Fichter stated a representative from Waste Management will be at the next council meeting to discuss proposed changes to the town's contract and answer any questions.

—Compiled from staff minutes

Keep track of your council

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



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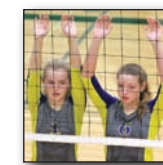
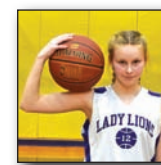
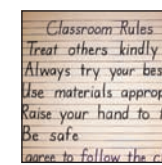


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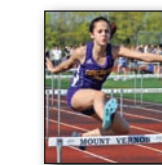
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Academics



Sports



Back-to-School in the time of COVID

With the start of school upon us, families, educators, and health professionals have been hopeful that in-person learning could resume when classes started in the fall. But as COVID-19 infections continue to climb, that outcome was recently put to rest with announcements from school districts in Whatcom, Skagit, and Island counties, calling for remote learning to start the school year.

This isn't surprising to Dr. Thomas Rand, a pediatrician who practices at PeaceHealth Medical Group in Bellingham—and it's disappointing for him and his fellow colleagues.

"Childhood education is probably the most important thing to get on track in the phase that we're in," said Dr. Rand.

The public health risks, however, outweigh the benefits of children going back to school right now. "It's just not going to be possible when the control of COVID-19 is at a tipping point, where that could be the one thing that pushes the number of infections leading to intensive care that overwhelms the hospital."

Dr. Rand acknowledges that remote learning can be a hardship on families and students. Not all parents have the time or ability to help their children, and not all families have adequate technology to make online learning work smoothly. Children who need special assistance also are adversely affected.

"Our hats are off to both parents and teachers, because this ends up being a really, really hard job," he said.

Proceeding cautiously

Whether children take part in traditional homeschooling, remote learning, or a hybrid of remote and in-person education, Dr. Rand said consistency is key.

"It's important for kids to have a schedule," he says. "The actual learning can be completed in less time online, but they need to have a time devoted to learning and have that structure."

One reason pediatricians have recommended getting students back in school as soon as it's safe to do so is because they recognize the isolation can reinforce unhealthy habits, which may cause them to avoid school work and withdraw from family.

"Without the structure of school, students actually feel awful about the whole thing," says Dr. Rand, adding that the in-person connection is irreplaceable.

Once we get to a place where it's safe to return to school in some fashion, families and schools will still need to proceed with caution, he notes.

"We knew that kids going back to school, no matter how everybody does following precautions, that there would be some increase in cases," he says.

Dr. Rand says studies have shown that children with the same amount of exposure to COVID-19 are less likely to

get the infection, and of those who get the infection, fewer children are hospitalized. "But some kids will still get the virus, and the nature of that infection tends to be unpredictable in that age group. We have to proceed really cautiously."

And we will have to continue to proceed with caution as schools and other activities open up, Dr. Rand said. "There could be collateral damage with increased transmission when policies for school attendance change," which could lead to infections in school staff or adults at home.

Dr. Rand said he hopes everyone will become used to taking the necessary precautions, from safe distancing to wearing masks to washing hands, that will help cut down on transmission and allow us to resume everyday activities, at least in a modified form.

Stay healthy and see your doctor

Meanwhile, life continues its forward march and children grow, come down with typical childhood illnesses, and need to visit the doctor once in a while.

Dr. Rand encourages parents to continue taking their children to their doctor if they aren't well and to keep well-child appointments. He encourages families to keep their regular appointments for childhood immunizations, as well, and encourages all family members to get vaccinated for influenza this year.

"The more people who are immune to influenza is that many fewer individuals who need to be evaluated for illnesses with fever and chest symptoms that could be COVID-19," he said.

Dr. Rand acknowledged how hard the pandemic has been for families.

"We're as disappointed as families are that the course of the COVID-19 pandemic has been different than we had hoped for," says Dr. Rand.

It's been a difficult adjustment, but he managed to find a silver lining: "We end up spending more family time, and a lot of that is quality time."

Adapted from an article by Hilary Parker for Skagit Talk.

YD update

I'm writing this on the morning after our annual Youth Dynamics Golf Marathon fundraiser, and I am sore—very sore.

However, I have been doing this for many years, and it is always worth it. I get the opportunity to raise money for Concrete Youth Dynamics by seeing how many holes of golf I can do in a day. This year I was able to golf 151 holes in the 10.5 hours they allotted each golfer. It started out raining at my 6:10 a.m. tee time, but after the first 27 holes, the sun broke out and it was a beautiful 73 degrees and sunny.

My son, Jonas, was my caddy for the day, and it made for a great time together as we were able to raise nearly \$8,000 dollars for Concrete YD in one day. Most sponsors make a flat donation, but there are still a few people out there who pledge per hole, and thus keep me running all day.

We all come together as a community to be part of this event because it benefits our young people who live here: 100 percent of the funds raised go straight our program, for the kids. None of our staff is paid, and I can't thank our wonderful group of volunteers enough. I don't know what the 2020–21 school year is going to look like, but after seeing local sports and our local youth ministry taken away last spring, I don't want to go back to that. Right now, more than ever, our teens need something to do. They need someplace to be. They need to belong to something that is bigger than themselves, their bedroom, and Netflix.

Youth Dynamics has always been able to offer that. We pride ourselves in providing a safe place, a positive place, a place to be challenged, and a place to grow. YD does this through weekly events, weekend retreats, and extended summer adventures.

After spending a week on the Salmon River in Idaho in July with 12 high school students, and seeing the incredible joy on their faces, and the beautiful changes in their hearts, I am inspired to follow-up with those students and their peers. Our students need positive interaction

Athletes will play a waiting game

For school districts all over Washington, sports are playing the same game as academics: waiting to see how the virus dictates their seasons.

"We live in a 'kinda' world right now," said Concrete School District Athletic Director Randy Sweeney. "We've entered our own phase of grim resignation, because the virus runs the whole show. It dictates what we're gonna do and when we're gonna do it. We're not the bosses."

The Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA), which oversees all prep school sports in the state, has laid out its game plan for the 2020–21 school year—subject to change.

Each sports will be given seven weeks of competition. The sports calendar begins Sept. 7, 2020, and ends June 26, 2021. No competitions will be held from Nov. 2 through Dec. 27.

Schools must comply with all COVID-19 requirements. Teams/individuals that do not qualify for their

sport's culminating event may continue to compete/practice during the culminating event week (also called "WIAA" week).

The schedule

The 2020–21 sports schedule developed by WIAA aims to make up for last year's lost competition time while trimming this year's seasons across the board. The schedule allows for 70 percent of allowable contest limits.

Here's what the schedule looks like for schools in the *Concrete Herald* coverage area:

- Cross Country (Boys & Girls) (alternate season): Sept. 7 to May 1
- Slowpitch Softball (alternate season): Sept. 7 to May 1
- Golf (Boys & Girls) (alternate season): Sept. 7 to June 26
- Tennis (Boys & Girls) (alternate season): Sept. 7 to June 26

- Basketball (Boys & Girls): Dec. 27 to Feb. 27
- Boys Swimming & Diving: Dec. 27 to Feb. 27
- Gymnastics: Dec. 27 to Feb. 27
- Wrestling (Boys & Girls): Dec. 27 to Feb. 27
- Football: Feb. 17 to May 8
- Cheerleading: March 1 to May 1
- Volleyball: March 1 to May 1
- Girls Soccer: March 1 to May 1
- Girls Swimming & Diving: March 1 to May 1
- Cross Country (Boys & Girls): March 1 to May 1
- Slowpitch Softball: March 1 to May 1
- Golf (Boys & Girls) (alternate season): March 1 to April 24
- Tennis (Boys & Girls) (alternate season): March 1 to April 24
- Track & Field (Boys & Girls): April 26 to June 26
- Tennis (Boys & Girls): April 26 to June 26

- Golf (Boys & Girls): April 26 to June 26
 - Baseball: April 26 to June 26
 - Fastpitch Softball: April 26 to June 26
 - 1A-4A Boys Soccer: April 26 to June 26
 - Dance/Drill: April 26 to June 26
- September will kick off Season 1 on Sept. 7, with cross country, slowpitch softball, golf, and tennis on the agenda. Season 2 will begin the sports seasons in earnest on Dec. 28 for 2B schools like Concrete and Darrington, with basketball and wrestling on tap.

Football, volleyball, softball, baseball, and track and field will wait for seasons 3 and 4.

The WIAA Executive Board added clarification on the allowable coaching period from Sept. 28 to Nov. 30 for football. The policy of 20 allowable football practices, with 10 of those being in pads and full contact, will extend from the summer window into the new fall coaching window without resetting.

—J. K. M.

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YD, cont. from p. 8

and engagement. Concrete YD wants to provide that.

We don't know what our future holds, but we know who holds our future. We trust there will be some form of YD meeting or gatherings. They will need to be smaller than the large group meetings we are accustomed to, but we have the desire to meet with students nonetheless this fall. There will be more to come once we figure out what the details, so standby for now, but in the meantime, be excited about the opportunities that await our students in the coming months.

I am excited, and I want you to be excited with me! Let's go! Let's get out and do some fun activities together! Safely—of course.

—Kevik and Marta Rensink
area directors

Concrete Herald
The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley

See YD, p. 9

There's no such thing as the Poop Fairy

Only you can make your pet's waste disappear.

Pet waste contains harmful bacteria and parasites that make people and pets sick. When it is left on the ground, it washes down storm drains and contaminates our streams and rivers.

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Logos for Skagit Conservation District, City of Mount Vernon, City of Rainier, City of Skagit, City of Burlington, Port of Skagit, and Oak Harbor.

Passing the plow

After 41 years, Anne Schwartz of Blue Heron Farm hands annual crop operation to next-gen farmers.

Story and photos by Tahlia Honea

Anne Schwartz is a self-described rabble-rouser.

The 66-year-old blueberry and raspberry farmer has dedicated her life to growing organic food, fighting all the way to the international level for organic food standards and better farming practices.

Against the backdrop of Sauk Mountain, plump, perfect blueberries hang from rows of blueberry bushes she planted 15 years ago at Blue Heron Farm, across the Skagit River from Rockport. They're on the cusp of harvest, destined for the Skagit Valley Food Co-op in Mount Vernon.

Schwartz has been supplying the Co-op, and coordinating with other growers that

supply the Co-op, for more than three decades. At the peak of her farming days, she was selling 30 crops there, plus a popular community supported agriculture (CSA) effort of her own. Over the years, she has become a fixture in Rockport and the larger farming community with her passion for organic, ethical farming, and her ability to survive as a small, independent farm in the upper Skagit Valley.

"It hasn't been easy doing it way up there," said John Roozen, a founder of Washington Bulb Company, one of Skagit Valley's most well-known tulip farms. "She's worked her absolute living butt off up there."

On a recent 90-degree summer morning,

Schwartz filled buckets of berries from her 15-year-old plants, her signature long, gray braid resting against her back. She is keeping her two acres of raspberries and blueberries, but is passing on her annual crop operation to a younger generation of farmers who share her vision. It's now called Long Hearing Farm, and is run by two young women. Both consider themselves activist farmers as well.

Schwartz grew up on the East Coast, attending Rutgers University in New Jersey, planning to become a veterinarian. But on a road trip to California in the mid-1970s, she happened to stop here in the Skagit, and the universe had other plans.

"The Skagit Valley hooked me," she said. "The red carpet was laid out for me. Work was easy. Everything was easy. I found my tribe."

After working a short time as a lab tech at the grains lab at Washington State University in Pullman, she moved to Skagit Valley to work with local dairy farmer John Mower, caring for cows and learning what it was like to be a farmer.

"I fell in love with it," she said.

Schwartz started working for Cascadian Farm, moving to her forever home in Rockport. During her 11 years at Cascadian Farm, running crews of up to a 100 people, she learned what she needed to start her own farm.

Along with Martha Bray, Schwartz started Blue Heron Farm in 1979, just across the Skagit River from Cascadian Farm. Part of the farm is on her 10-acre homestead, and two other small pieces of land from nearby landowners.

Blue Heron Farm quickly gained a reputation internationally for its innovative organic and regenerative farming practices. Schwartz was featured in several documentaries, including "Global Gardner," hosted by Bill Mollison, a documentary film series about sustainable farming throughout the planet.

Just like the legacy of her own farm, Schwartz also has left her mark on the greater farming community. While Schwartz has strongly voiced her opinions



Anne Schwartz of Blue Heron Farm pounds in a fence post on the property she manages near Rockport. After 41 years, the Upper Valley icon has handed her annual crop operation to a pair of young farmers. "I don't really think of myself as retired, since I'm still farming," said Schwartz, who will continue to grow blueberries.

to area farmers about using fewer chemicals and more natural farming practices, she has done so with a civility that has endeared her to many of the Skagit Valley's conventional farmers.

"Anne has been a great one for togetherness," said Roozen. "She's been so involved with issues that need to come out in agriculture. She's never been shy on her opinions and the difficult things that have to be said sometimes. She has a deep sense of stewardship."

Schwartz and Roozen's lifelong friendship is somewhat unlikely, but grew out of a mutual respect for nature, agriculture, and hard work.

"We can't afford to lose any farmers," Schwartz said. "We all need each other to survive, so though I have always advocated for organic and sustainable systems, I also know, respect, and appreciate how difficult it is to survive in agriculture. We need everyone to survive and support all the necessary services that growers need: equipment, crop inputs, lime, etc."

Roozen said Schwartz has changed his mind and practices over the years, along

Farm, cont. from p. 10

with other farmers in the area.

When Schwartz's barn burned down in 2001, destroying a huge crop of garlic and much of her equipment, Roozen had a tractor delivered to her doorstep to borrow indefinitely, said Schwartz, who teared up with emotion as she retold the story.

In the rare moments when Schwartz wasn't working on her farm, she's served on a wide range of regional and national boards. She also is a volunteer firefighter with Fire District 19, responding to emergency calls throughout the rugged Upper Valley, day or night, including first response to the Oso landslide.

"She just gives and gives to the ag community," said Dave Hedlin, a farmer in the lower part of the valley. "And she gives and gives to the whole community."

Throughout the decades, she took

numerous trips to Washington D.C., helping to craft the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990, the original national-level organic legislation, including organic livestock standards, as well as serving as the first woman on the board of the Northwest Agricultural Research Foundation. Schwartz also served for many years on the Organic Farmers Association Council, working to harmonize organic standards across the United States and Europe, and also served on the Washington State Department of Agriculture Organic Advisory Board, guiding state organic policy, definitions, and labeling. She's served for 37 years on the Tilth Alliance. She has served on the board of the Washington State University's Center for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources (CSANR) since 1989. She continues her work there, building "the three-



See Farm, p. 11 Anne Schwartz with some of her famous blueberries.

legged stool" of sustainable agriculture programs—research, teaching, and outreach—to the ag community.

The advocacy work goes far beyond those listed as well.

"It's a huge commitment," said Hedlin, who has served on some of those boards with her, made even more time consuming by her remote location. "We all drove 10 miles. She drove 80."

As Schwartz looks back at her legacy, she is most proud of her work on these boards. She made life-long friendships there, all the way up to White House staff.

"It was more than life changing. It was life building," she said. "We're all looking at how we can treat the soil better, and how we treat the earth better."

She has felt a sense of loss giving up growing for the Co-op, and the joy of being known in the community for her carrots or greens.

"People loved my stuff," she said with a laugh.

Now, Schwartz says she'll focus on all the other things on her land that she's cultivated through a lifetime of hard work. She also plans to remain, as she describes it, an "activist rabble-rouser."

Long Hearing Farm

As Anne Schwartz scales back, two young farmers have stepped up to work the soil that Schwartz has loved for decades.

Their love of the land runs just as deep as the rich, alluvial dirt beneath Sauk Mountain, rising 5,541 feet, rugged and steep, towering above the confluence of the Sauk River with the Skagit.

They pause to address their attention toward the peak.

"What would Sauk Mountain think of what we are doing here?" Kelly Skillingstead said she commonly asks herself this question while making decisions about the farm.

Skillingstead, is petite, 30 years old, her appearance in equal measures that of her Japanese and European ancestors. She delicately cuts the stems of a salad mix she is harvesting to sell at the Co-op that Schwartz served for so many years, kneeling between rows of produce as she works. Her passion for farming is coupled with a responsibility to do it in a way that's positive for the environment, she explains.

"This place is a gift to me," said her farming partner Elizabeth Bragg, 31, who identifies with her Blackfoot, Cherokee, Gros Ventre, and European ancestors, and tries to incorporate the ideas and ideals of what she calls "indigenous farming" into



Kelly Skillingstead of Long Hearing Farm harvests peas on the land formerly tended by Anne Schwartz. She and her farming partner, Elizabeth Bragg, took over Schwartz's annual crop production in 2019.

their farming practices.

They consider themselves "guests" on the historical territories of the Sauk-Suiattle, Upper Skagit, and Stillaguamish tribes.

The two young farmers recently took over Blue Heron Farm's annual crop production, carrying on the farm's tradition of respect for the beautiful, fertile, organic soil, as well as the deep community relationships and longtime buyer accounts that Schwartz has cultivated.

"It was 40 years of hard grind and relationship building," Bragg said of Schwartz, as she pulled bright white turnips from the ground and bunched them.

Schwartz continues to mentor the two women through the handover period.

"They're doing a beautiful job," said Schwartz. "I love having them around, and the arrangement is working out super well."

The farm is now called "Long Hearing Farm," so named after Bragg's great-great-grandmother, Long Hearing Woman, who suffered through violence, trauma, and racism, but was nevertheless always joyful and compassionate, her sweet disposition earning her the nickname "Peaches."

"We want to live up to her name and her values," Bragg said.

See Farm, p. 12

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Farm, cont. from p. 11

Bragg's trail to becoming a farmer was an unlikely one. With her sights set on becoming a lawyer, she earned her bachelor's degree from Whitman College in politics, as well as a master's degree in Law Development and Globalization from SOAS University of London.

She began working at a nonprofit, but quickly realized that many people working in the more intellectual side of social justice work seemed to become "unhappy, jaded, and cynical." She wanted something more hands-on. She started volunteering at an urban farm, which felt more fulfilling.

"I realized I can have it all. I can be an activist and a farmer," she said.

She worked at several farms until her life partner, Reed Rankin, brought her to Darrington, where his family has lived for four generations. Bragg worked for Blue Heron Farm for a summer, just as

Schwartz was thinking about handing off her farm. Everything aligned between the two, and Bragg took over in 2019.

"It was a steep learning curve," Bragg said.

She was managing five acres of more than 30 crops, and the logistics of the farm's 50-member Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) operation, which distributes fresh organic produce to individual local customers. She also slogged through the laborious process of organic certification for the farm operation. Rankin helped establish the farm, building critical infrastructure, but the two soon realized they needed help. Bragg reached out to Skillingstead, a longtime friend from their post-college Americorps days. Skillingstead started out helping a couple days a week and soon became a part owner. It is now considered a cooperative, with the two women as the main owners, and Rankin continuing to help with infrastructure and other bigger

farm projects.

Asked to explain the concept of indigenous farming, the two farmers say it's first and foremost a high-level concept, grounded in the idea that humanity must return to an existence in symbiosis with the land, giving and taking in mutuality and balance.

They also take specific steps to honor the agriculture that existed prior to European colonization, like using corn, tomato, pole bean, greens, and squash seed obtained from the Cherokee Nation Seed Bank, as well as chilies and dry beans derived from Oaxacan indigenous agriculture. The farm uses a raised bed/mound system with added organic matter, a practice used by the Cherokee and other agricultural tribal nations "since time began," Bragg said. And the two are working with the Native American Student Union at Western Washington University to educate its members about subsistence farming and wild-tending.

The center of their effort, however, involves providing seasonal, local produce to the Upper Valley areas of the Skagit ecosystem, an area with limited healthful food options. The grocery stores nearest the farm carry a small amount of organic produce, almost none of which is local—a great irony, considering that the Skagit is one of the most fertile agricultural valleys in the world.

Bragg and Skillingstead say they're motivated by the goal of establishing "food sovereignty" in the community. According to the U.S. Food Sovereignty Alliance Web site, "food sovereignty is the right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems."

It's an idea in opposition to the concept that a few large corporations should

See Farm, p. 13

Farm, cont. from p. 12

control the food supply.

Long Hearing Farm's landlord, Lois Canright, shares the farmers' passion for local, organic farming. Not only does she give the farmers an affordable lease, she is committed to keeping the farm producing food without using toxic chemicals and other industrial inputs. Canright, whose family owned one of the first certified organic farms in New Jersey, purchased the 40-acre Rockport property in 2005, at which point Schwartz's Blue Heron Farm was already established on the land.

Canright is excited about the transition to the two beginning farmers.

"It takes grit and resilience to weather the unexpected of farming," Canright said. "Long Hearing Farm is proving their capacity to problem-solve, engage the public and volunteers on the farm, and grow great food. I am so pleased to have found energetic young farmers to carry on, and to keep this beautiful silt loam in organic production."

Long Hearing Farm sometimes has to sacrifice and make tough business decisions to carry out their mission – such as running local farmers' market stands, which is not a profitable activity, in order get their food into the hands of the people that most need it, like SNAP and EBT recipients.

"It takes so much more effort to do the right thing. Why?" Skillingstead asked.

For Long Hearing Farm, it's worth the extra effort to make it right with Sauk Mountain.

This story was originally published as two articles by Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland (SPF) as part of its ongoing "Meet a Farmer" series. It is republished here with permission.

Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland works to ensure the economic viability of Skagit County agriculture and its required infrastructure through farmland protection, advocacy, research, education, and public awareness.

SPF's Meet a Farmer series documents the hard work being done by Skagit County farmers every day to create a resilient and sustainable food system.

To find more stories about the women and men farming in Skagit County or to learn more about Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland, visit <https://www.skagitonians.org/> or follow them on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter.



Kelly Skillingstead of Long Hearing Farm uses a propane torch to suppress weeds organically, in preparation for planting.



Kelly Skillingstead and Elizabeth Bragg of Long Hearing Farm pause for a photo during another day of rewarding work in their fields.



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Clear Lake



HISTORY CORNER

In July 1925 the Clear Lake Lumber Company (CLLC) had a picnic for its employees. A string of flat cars with wooden benches was parked the length of town. CLLC employees and their families rode on the flat cars.

The picnic train went up the south side of the Skagit River to a location near Potts Station, a nice spot along the river. A band provided entertainment. There were banners swaying in the breeze and lots of good food such as BBQ salmon and a special treat: ice cream. There wasn't any booze; it was Prohibition time.

Governor Roland H. Hartley gave a short address and some company executives spoke regarding forestry and the mill.

Then the climax of the day: CLLC declared bankruptcy. Shortly after this, forest fires spread in the hills. Night after night the skies were pinkish-red and the fires continued until there was a good rain. That was the end of the CLLC era. *Photo courtesy of Clear Lake Historical Association.*

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

—Deanna Ammons, historian
Clear Lake and Day Creek

The Clear Lake Historical Association has new office hours: Thursdays, from 10 a.m. to noon, and by appointment. For more information, send an e-mail to clha1987@gmail.com or call 360.856.6798.

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Community Calendar



SEPTEMBER

- 1 Concrete School District first day of school; see article, p. 8
- 2 Sedro-Woolley School District first day of school; see article, p. 8
- 5 Concrete Saturday Market—FINAL MARKET OF SEASON—Concrete Community Center, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; see article, p. 6; info at concretesaturdaymarket.com or concretesaturdaymarket1@gmail.com
- 5-6 Sasquatch Conference and Festival, Marblemount Community Hall, Marblemount, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days; see notice, p. 26

OCTOBER

- Concrete Ghost Walk—CANCELED
- 31 KSVU Harvest Festival and Halloween Dance, Marblemount Community Hall, Marblemount, 6 to 10 p.m.; see notice, p. 26

NOVEMBER

- 21 Community event at Marblemount Community Hall, 6 to 9 p.m.

DECEMBER

- 6 Holiday Bazaar at Marblemount Community Hall, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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

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Flag design by Becky Azure, CHS 2018

Community meetings

Cascade Days planning meetings are held the third Mon. of every month at 7460 S. Dillard Ave., Concrete, at 5:30 p.m. Meetings are not mandatory for volunteers. Info at pr@cascadedays.com.

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

Coffee Talk with Concrete Mayor Jason Miller meets the third Friday 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 2 p.m., in the conference room of the East County Resource Center. 360.853.8347.

Concrete Chamber of Commerce meets the second Thur. of each month at 11:30 a.m. Meetings are held at Annie's Pizza Station in Grasmere Village. 360.466.8754 or concretechamber@mac.com.

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 Heritage Museum Board meets the third Wed. of each month, at 6 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 September board meeting notice had not been posted at press time. Call 360.853.4000 for more information.

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

Darrington Strong meets the third Wed. of each month, 7 p.m., at Cascade Senior Center, 1115 Darrington St., Darrington. 360.436.2167.

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

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 Thur. of each month in the Pilots' Lounge at Mears Field in Concrete, at 7 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.

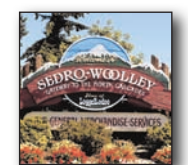
Marblemount Community Hall board meets the second Wed. of each month at the hall, at 6:30 p.m. 360.873.2323.

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

Sedro-Woolley School District Board: Info at kcargile@swsd.k12.wa.us or 360.855.3500.

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

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Sedro-Woolley



Sedro-Woolley wastewater treatment plant earns outstanding performance honors

City of Sedro-Woolley pulled in another honor last month as its wastewater treatment plant was honored by the Washington State Department of Ecology with an Outstanding Performance Award.

The department has bestowed the award for 25 years, and only about a third of Washington's treatment systems earn the top-performing status each year.

Wastewater treatment plant operators play a critical role in keeping Washington's water clean. The plants deal with everything homes and businesses dump in or flush down the drain. This includes items sewage systems were not made to deal with, like disposable wipes, face masks, gloves, oils, and grease.

In spite of such hurdles, Sedro-Woolley's plant and 125 other wastewater treatment plants across the state earned the award by achieving full compliance with

their water quality permits in 2019.

"Wastewater treatment plant operators are some of our unsung heroes," said Vince McGowan, Ecology's water quality program manager. "They work hard to protect our water quality every hour of every day. I'm proud to recognize these outstanding operators and their facilities."

Ecology evaluated more than 300 plants operating in Washington to determine how they were meeting the state pollution limits, monitoring and reporting requirements, spill prevention planning, pretreatment, and operation demands outlined in their permits.

Treatment plants can apply for state funding to help upgrade and improve their systems. Ecology also provides technical assistance to help plants operate successfully.

—J. K. M.

Skagit Transit delivers food for Helping Hands

Skagit Transit (SKAT) is assisting food banks with home food delivery during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Skagit Transit delivers bags and boxes of food from the Helping Hands Food Bank facility in Sedro-Woolley, to Skagit County home locations. Helping Hands Food Bank operates the C.H.O.W. program (Cutting Hunger on Weekends) for area youth and provides meal boxes for families.

As long as SKAT has available drivers (operators) it will partner with Helping Hands Food Bank and the National Guard to serve community members in need of

food delivery, the transportation service said in a press release.

Buses are still operating on a reduced service plan to all the locations it's always served except Marblemount during the COVID-19 crisis. Riders are encouraged to ride the bus only for essential reasons.

The food bank delivery is authorized as a legitimate service by the Federal Transit Administration during the pandemic. Funds for these services are federally reimbursable expenses, so local tax dollars are not used.

—Submitted by SKAT



A Skagit Transit driver loads food into his van at the Helping Hands food bank site in Sedro-Woolley during an August delivery run. The transportation service is assisting food banks with home food delivery during the COVID-19 pandemic. Submitted photo.

Community Savi

It's not by chance we are a community bank. We love our community. That's why our mission is to bring long-term success to our clients and this community. It's who we are down to the core.



Concrete
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SaviBank.com

Thunder Creek trail and camp relocation project advances

The Environmental Analysis (EA) for the Lower Thunder Creek Trail and Camp Modifications project has been completed, and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) has been released.

The FONSI documents the National Park Service (NPS) determination that no significant impacts to the quality of the human environment will occur, as well as the decision to adopt Alternative 1, to repair and reroute a portion of the lower Thunder Creek Trail, relocate a hiker camp, and create an administrative camp along the trail within the Stephen Mather Wilderness. This alternative was evaluated against Alternative 2: No Action. The FONSI also contains NPS responses

to substantive concerns received during the public review period of the EA (June 15 to July 14, 2020), a summary of mitigation measures, a list of corrected errors, and a Determination of No Impairment, which finds there will be no impairment of park resources and values from the project.

Project construction was expected to begin on Aug. 19.

The FONSI document is available at <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/thunderrelo2020fonsi>.

—Submitted by NPS

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Troopers seek witnesses to a hit-and-run collision

On July 30 at approximately 5 p.m., Washington State Patrol (WSP) troopers responded to an injury collision that occurred on northbound Interstate 5 (I-5) near milepost 224 in Skagit County.

The vehicle that caused the collision fled the scene and continued driving northbound. The victim vehicle, a maroon Jeep Wrangler, rolled and the driver sustained serious head injuries.

The fleeing vehicle was described as a 2010 or newer red/maroon Honda Civic V-Tech 4-door sedan with a spoiler and tinted windows. The driver of the

Honda was described as being a heavyset Hispanic male, approximately mid-30s to early 40s in age, with a shaved head and close-cropped beard. The Honda did not have a license plate and was described as having a temporary registration in the rear window. Based on the evidence collected at the scene, it is believed that the Honda sustained damage to the left front side.

Washington State Patrol troopers are seeking any witnesses who may have information pertaining to this collision. The WSP received several 9-1-1 calls just prior to the crash, reporting the Honda driving erratically. Anyone who has information about this collision or knows someone who does is encouraged to e-mail or call Trooper Jennifer Wilcox at jennifer.wilcox@wsp.wa.gov or 425.923.7274.

—Submitted by WSP

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Lyman



Town of Lyman, EDASC award \$22,000 in COVID-19 relief grants to small businesses

Town of Lyman and Economic Development Alliance of Skagit County (EDASC) on July 28 awarded a total of \$22,000 in relief grants to support small businesses impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak.

Two Lyman businesses applied for the grant, and each received \$11,000 to help pay for expenses such as consulting, marketing, and training, as well as operational expenses like rent, supplies, utility bills, and more.

The grant recipients were Lyman Tavern and North Cascade Sports Bar & Restaurant.

"I'm overwhelmed with joy and gratitude," said North Cascades Sports Bar & Restaurant owner Andrea Dunn, who said she used the grant funds to pay back taxes. "I work in a wonderful, wonderful community that really supports me."

Concrete Herald was unable to reach Lyman Tavern owner Erika Koon for comment.

"It's hard to imagine the struggles these two businesses have faced," said Mayor Hills. "The restaurant industry has been hit hard, and we are happy to give these businesses some relief and a greater chance to remain open."

The grant opportunity was provided by the Town of Lyman through funding from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, better known as the CARES Act. EDASC administered the grant.

Businesses eligible to apply were those located within Lyman town limits and with 12 or fewer employees.

"EDASC was proud to administer this program on behalf of the Town of Lyman," said EDASC CEO John Sternlicht. "Kudos to the town and Mayor Eddie Hills for making these grant funds available."

—EDASC, J. K. M.

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Lyman charity lines up coming events

Lyman-based Heart to Heart Charity will hold a yard work party on Sat., Sept. 5, from noon to 3 p.m. for a senior in Rockport who needs assistance with yard chores she can no longer do. The charity is looking for volunteers to help with tasks such as trimming berry bushes and ivy, piling trimmings on a burn pile, and basic yard work. This is a family-friendly event, and the client will provide lunch for all who come to help. For safety reasons we are not publishing the address, but anyone interested is encouraged to contact hearttoheartcharity@gmail.com for more information and confirm their attendance so the client knows how much food to prepare.

Heart to Heart Charity's Christmas Angel Tree is now accepting applications for this year's program. Forms are due back by Oct. 31; however, the program is very popular and typically fills up in

September, so interested applicants are encouraged to apply early.

Applications are available by e-mailing hearttoheartcharity@gmail.com. The charity is accepting applications for seniors as well. When asking for a form, please state if you need a senior application.

The charity will help as many families and children as it can, depending on how much support the charity gets. The Christmas Angel Tree is designed for families, groups, businesses, and more to celebrate the season by adopting a child or family for Christmas. Families of all sizes can be helped; contact the charity for more information.

For more information, contact organizer Tammie Werner at hearttoheartcharity@gmail.com. Donations of cash/checks are greatly appreciated to help with additional needed items. Checks need to be made payable to Heart To Heart Charity and can be mailed to Heart to Heart Charity, P.O. Box 1372, Lyman, WA 98263.

—Tammie Werner

www.chazlynlovely.wordpress.com

chazlynlovely@gmail.com

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Sheriff's Blotter, cont. from p. 35

Rd. The caller said that someone was on the back side of his property cutting wood and stealing tools. When Deputy Wolfe arrived he contacted the caller, who said that the property in question was owned by his roommate's father. He said the father came over and was yelling at them for a "fort" they had built on the property. When Deputy Wolfe contacted the property owner, he said that he told the caller to remove the fort because it was a fire hazard and he had not given him permission to build it on the property. He said that the only tools he took was a wheelbarrow belonging to him. Deputy Wolfe explained to both parties that it was a civil matter and the Sheriff's Office would not be involved.

Aug. 9

While patrolling Fir St. in Concrete, Deputy Wolfe observed a vehicle eastbound on Fir St. He ran the registration and it showed that the registration had expired in 2018. He stopped the vehicle and contacted the driver. The driver said that he had recently acquired the vehicle as an inheritance and didn't have insurance or registration. When Deputy Wolfe checked the driver's license status, it showed that his driving license was suspended. Deputy Wolfe issued the driver a citation for driving with a suspended license and no insurance.

Deputy Clark was dispatched to check on the welfare of a teen on S. Superior Ave. near the airport in Concrete. He located the teen sitting on a curb. He shook the teen, who appeared to be sleeping. The teen said he had been at a party with some friends, but had left before it got out of hand. Deputy Clark asked if the teen knew where he was and he stated no. The teen appeared to be disoriented. Deputy Clark called for aid to check the teen. After arriving and assessing the teen, it was decided that a medical unit would transport the teen to the hospital for evaluation.

Dispatch reported that they had received a call of people going through a Dumpster in front of a residence in the 45000 block of Benjamin St. in Concrete. Deputy Rogers contacted the suspects, who told him they were not going through any dumpster but were going through a pile of items which was out front marked as free.

A resident in the 10600 block of Evergreen Hill Lane reported a possible car prowler at her house. When Deputy Rogers arrived, he found the dome light on in the car, but no evidence of anyone prowling the car. He checked the house

and surrounding areas, but found nothing out of the ordinary.

Aug. 10

An aggressive dog was reported in the 7200 block of N. A Ave. in Concrete. Animal Control Officer Diaz spoke to the reporting party, who said that the neighbor's dog had been acting aggressive toward her child and has a history of growling at her husband. Since the dog had not bitten anyone, Officer Diaz referred the issue to the Town of Concrete's code enforcement officer.

Deputy Dalton investigated a possible domestic disturbance in the 7200 block of B Ave. in Concrete. The reporting party said that she wanted her 20-year-old son removed because he doesn't have a job and he leaves the house a mess. She advised that he is verbally abusive toward her and refuses to look for a job. The son admitted that he has submitted only one application for employment in the last several months, and has nowhere to go other than to live in his car. After talking to both parties, it was determined that this was a civil issue and they would have to figure it out.

Deputy Wiggins contacted two suspicious people believed to be involved in drug activity at the Concrete Community Center. They advised that they were parked at the community center so they could charge their cell phones. Deputy Wiggins advised them that the area is closed at 9:30 p.m. and that they would need to leave by that time. They agreed.

A concerned citizen in the 46000 block of Baker Loop in Cedar Grove called to report that just minutes before calling, she had overheard someone threaten to have sex with a child. She said that the comment came from her neighbor's house across the street. There are several RVs parked on that property and a registered sex offender lives in one. Deputy Wiggins responded and contacted the subjects living in the RVs on the property. No one admitted to making the threat or hearing it. Deputy Wiggins made an information report and documented the incident.

Aug. 11

As he was patrolling the area west of Concrete, Sgt. Adams noticed a vehicle pull out in front of him and travel westbound on SR 20 near Concrete Rd. He saw that the vehicle didn't have a rear license plate. He stopped the driver, who said that he had just purchased the vehicle. Sergeant Adams advised the driver that he knew that was not true because he had observed the driver driving the vehicle on SR 20 in Lyman about three weeks

before. The driver then admitted he had gotten the vehicle several weeks ago, but had no money to register it. When Sgt. Adams checked the driver's driving status, it showed he was suspended and that an interlock device was required in any vehicle the driver was using. The driver was cited by Deputy Mullen for driving with a suspended driver's license and no interlock device. Deputies stood by until a licensed driver arrived.

Two racing vehicles were reported to have gotten involved in a motor vehicle collision on Burpee Hill. The vehicles, described as a silver Dodge Durango and a black S10 pickup, were seen to be racing on Burpee Hill Rd. when they collided. Deputy Moore arrived in the area and checked for the vehicles. He checked the area from Burpee Hill to Baker Lake Rd. and back to SR 20, but was not able to find either vehicle.

A motor vehicle accident was reported on Concrete Sauk Valley Rd. near Haystack Rd. It was reported that the driver and lone occupant was attempting to get out of the vehicle and leave. When Deputy Slack arrived, the aid crew had already removed the driver and was in the process of taking her to the hospital for evaluation. Deputy Slack recognized the driver as a person he had arrested a few months ago for DUI. He investigated the accident and requested that Deputy Koback contact the driver when she arrived at the hospital to evaluate whether she was intoxicated. After contacting the driver at the hospital, Deputy Koback developed enough probable cause to apply for a search warrant for the driver's blood. He was granted a warrant and blood was drawn. The driver was arrested for DUI and was taken to jail after being discharged.

Aug. 12

A female called to advise that she was stuck behind a gate in Lake Tyee. She said she was let in by a friend who had already left. When contacted by Deputy Moore, it was discovered that the female was a U.S. census worker who admitted to sneaking into Lake Tyee behind another car and now had no way to get out. She was advised to contact the office and request that they allow her out. She was also advised by Deputy Moore to contact the office next time to be allowed into rather than try to sneak in behind another member.

The wife of a man claiming to have been assaulted called to report that their neighbor had come over their house and assaulted her husband over a dispute involving the neighbor's dog. When

Deputy Wiggins arrived, he contacted the alleged victim. The alleged victim said that the neighbor's dog had come onto his property and he and his neighbor got into a heated argument. The neighbor picked up a plastic garden stake and attempted to break the window of his car and then struck him across the face. He said that is when he took her to the ground to restrain her. He let her up and she left. Deputy Koback interviewed the neighbor and her friend who witnessed the incident. They both said that they had gone over to the alleged victim's house after hearing him scream about killing her dog. As the alleged victim was screaming about killing her dog, she picked up a plastic garden stake and told him if he killed her dog she would break the windows out of his vehicle. She then touched the window with her hand to indicate the window she was going to break. After she touched the window the alleged victim charged her and put her into a choke hold and took her to the ground. She tried to strike him and started kicking and biting his arm to let her go. When he let go, she and her friend left the property. After reviewing all the information they could gather, deputies determined that it was the alleged victim who was the primary aggressor and he was the one who started the fight. He was cited for assault and told not to contact his neighbor.

A resident in the 45000 block of Baker Dr. in Cedar Grove called to report that someone was prowling around her camp trailer. Deputy Mueller checked the area, but did not locate anyone.

Aug. 13

Deputy Clark investigated a possible domestic disturbance in the 45000 block of Robertson Court in Concrete. The caller said that her ex-boyfriend was breaking things in the house. When Deputy Clark arrived, he contacted both parties. The suspect said that he had accidentally dropped a pot of coffee he was holding. The caller advised that the suspect was telling the truth and wasn't actually breaking things intentionally. Deputy Clark stood by while the suspect collected his belongings, then left.

The clerk at the Concrete Liquor store called to report that sometime overnight an air compressor that was stored in the back of the store was taken, along with about 50 feet of air hose. There were no suspects.

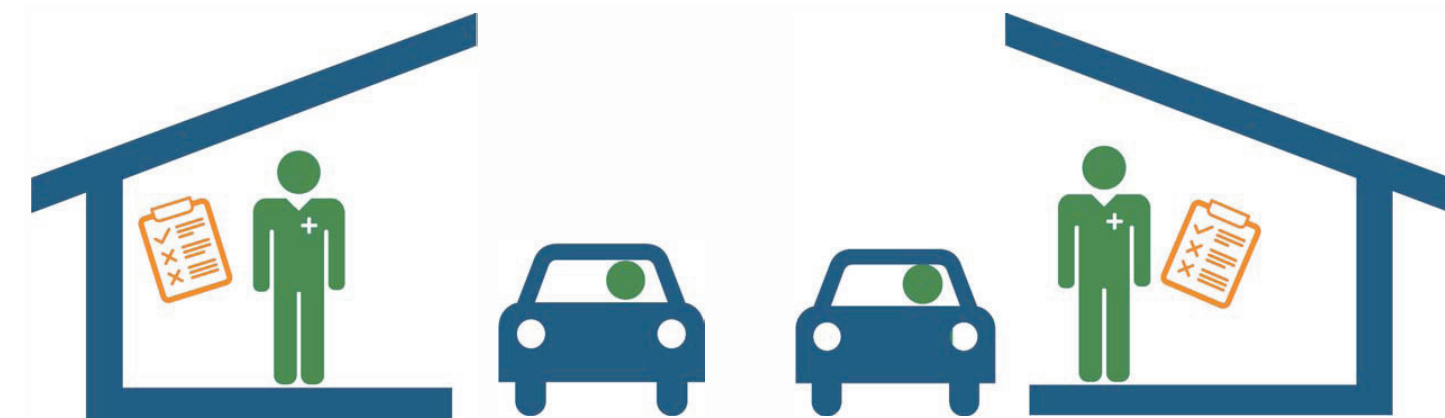
The driver of a motor vehicle accident called and advised that he had rolled his vehicle somewhere near the Texas pond

See Sheriff's Blotter, p. 22

August in pictures



Concrete Grounds Maintenance worker Dale Angell performs his annual task of painting all the appropriate curbs in town on Aug. 10. His effort earned a shout-out from Concrete Town Councilmember Rob Thomas, who clearly appreciates a freshly painted curb, and said that it "presents a very clean and nice look for Main Street."

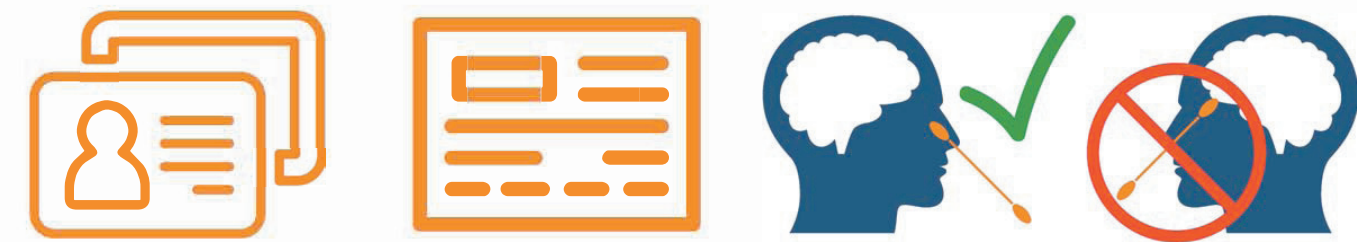


COVID-19 drive-through testing

No preregistration required!

Drive-through testing is open to anyone who is a close contact of a confirmed case or who has COVID-19 symptoms. Learn more: skagitcounty.net/coronavirus.

The testing site is open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday in the east parking lot of Skagit Valley College, 2501 E. College Way, Mount Vernon.



Bring photo ID and insurance (if you have it) to the testing site. Public Health won't ask about immigration status. The test is a nasal self-swab. The entire process should take 20 minutes or less.

If you have a fever higher than 100° and/or difficulty breathing, please visit a clinic or your health care provider.

Skagit Regional Clinics - Urgent Care Riverbend
2320 Freeway Drive Mount Vernon
M-F 7:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Sat-Sun 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Island Hospital
2601 M Ave, Suite C Anacortes
Daily 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Call 360-293-3101 before arriving

Peace Health Sedro-Woolley Clinic
1990 Hospital Drive, Suite 110
M-F 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
360-856-8830

skagitcounty.net/coronavirus





Hamilton



Rockport



Sheriff's Blotter, cont. from p. 19

area south of Rockport and was now attempting to hike out. He said that he was now lost and couldn't find his way out. Deputy Rogers called the driver's cell phone and, using coordinates off the phone, determined that the driver was about 1/2 mile west of the Old Concrete Sauk Valley Rd. Deputy Rogers arrived in the area and was able to locate the driver, who was walking down the Old Sauk Valley Rd. He was given water and a ride to a friend who could take him home.

Deputy Rogers responded to a possible theft in progress at the Cedar Grove Community Park. The caller said that two males were attempting to take a sign from the park. When he arrived, Deputy Rogers contacted a male who was at the park. The male said that he was not involved and didn't know anything about the theft. Deputy Rogers checked the area but did not locate the suspects. The signs were still at the park, undamaged.

Aug. 14

An intoxicated driver drove his vehicle off the road at the boat launch at Lake Shannon. The vehicle was currently stuck at the end of a point overlooking the lake. Rather than taking a chance of the driver driving into the lake, Deputy Murdock conducted a welfare check to make sure the driver was OK, then made arrangements to have the car moved after the owner sobered up.

Aug. 15

Loud music coming from a vehicle parked across from the Assembly Of God Church in Concrete was reported to the Sheriff's Office. Deputy Rogers contacted the suspect, who was warned to turn the music down.

Aug. 17

A generator and chainsaw was stolen from a residence in the 46000 block of Baker Loop Rd. in Cedar Grove. The victim said that she had heard noises last night around 10 p.m. or a few hours after, but had not checked on the noise. Today

she found that her generator was missing, along with the chainsaw.

Near the 33000 block of Hamilton Cemetery Rd., a suspicious vehicle was reported to be parked at the entrance to the new tribal cemetery. A neighbor had asked that the driver move along, but the driver refused. Deputy Clark responded, but was unable to find the vehicle.

Deputy Clark investigated two vehicle prowls at the Monogram Lake trailhead. Deputy Clark found two vehicles that had their windows broken out and appeared to have been rummaged through. He checked the vehicles, then left cards for the owners to call. Later that afternoon, one of the owners called. He said that he had left the vehicle there the previous day to go on a two-day hike. A fellow hiker advised him that his vehicle had been broken into, so he returned to his vehicle. At this time there are no suspects.

Aug. 18

A camper at Bacon Creek near Marblemount reported that she had gone for a hike earlier in the day and when she returned, her entire camp was missing. The victim told Deputy O'Reilly that someone had taken her tent, mattress, camp chair, clothes, and sleeping pad. She said she had seen a small, blue, lowered truck driving up and down the road the past couple days, but she had no other information regarding who might have been involved.

Aug. 20

Lake Tyee security called and advised of possible drug activity occurring near the gates going into the property. The security

officer advised that a white van was seen parked near the gates multiple times. The van will sit there until contacted by other vehicles, then leave. Deputy O'Reilly advised that he would create an information report and let other deputies know of the activity. He was able to check the area, but did not locate the van.

A caller advised Dispatch that there were a large number of loose pigs on his property in the 8000 block of Lyman Ave. When Deputy Serna arrived, she was told that the neighbors had been able to round up the pigs and return them to the owner.

Aug. 22

Deputy Dalton contacted a victim of a possible burglary in the 46000 of Baker Loop Rd. in Cedar Grove. The victim said that he had found a female sleeping in a spare bed. The female doesn't live at the house. When he confronted the female and told her to leave, she became enraged and started breaking items in the house. The victim said that the female doesn't live at the residence and they are not in any type of relationship. The victim said he has had issues with the female coming onto his property, and has told her numerous times not to come onto his property. Deputy Dalton checked the area for the suspect, but could not locate her. He will be referring her for burglary charges.

—Compiled by Sgt. Greg Adams

Read Concrete Herald
The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley

State Parks offers free day in September

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission has announced a Sept. 26 free day, on which the public can visit state parks at no charge. On "free days," visitors don't need a Discover Pass for day-use visits by vehicle.

In the *Concrete Herald* coverage area, the free day affects Rasar State Park and Rockport State Park.

On Sept. 26, the Discover Pass is still required on lands managed by Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Free days are in keeping with legislation that created the Discover Pass. The pass costs \$30 annually or \$10 for a one-day permit, and is required for vehicle access to state recreation lands managed by Washington State Parks, WDFW, and DNR.

The Discover Pass legislation provided that State Parks could designate up to 12 free days when the pass would not be required for day-use visits to state parks. The free days apply only at state parks; the Discover Pass is still required on WDFW and DNR lands.

The remaining 2020 State Parks free days are as follows:

- Nov. 11
- Nov. 27

—Submitted by WA State Parks

State Parks asks visitors to avoid crowded parks this summer

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission is asking the public to follow the Guidelines for Responsible Recreation when planning a trip to a state park this summer. When parks are crowded, and parking lots are full, visitors should go somewhere else.

Popular state parks across Washington have been experiencing high numbers of visitors this summer. Large crowds are a concern because it makes social distancing difficult for park staff and visitors.

State Parks also is concerned about the impact large crowds have on parks' natural resources. If a parking lot is full,

visitors should avoid parking on local roads to access the park on foot.

Visitors should check what's open before heading out, avoid crowds and be prepared to go somewhere else if the park is at capacity. There are 124 developed state parks in Washington.

State parks reopened day-use areas in early May after a five-week closure due to the coronavirus pandemic. Camping began reopening June 1. To date, not all state parks have reopened.

Free Day in September

State Parks will offer a free day on Sept. 26. Locally, Rasar and Rockport state parks will be accessible without using a Discover Pass.

The free days are in keeping with legislation that created the Discover Pass. The free days apply only at state parks; the Discover Pass is still required on WDFW and DNR lands.

—J. K. M.

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Darrington



Remote learning in Darrington

By Marla Skaglund

COVID-19 is dominating the lives of everyone, and it's history is constantly being rewritten. As a result, the Darrington School District has released a comprehensive learning plan for the 2020–2021 school year.

In July, the Snohomish Health District issued a recommendation that all schools start the year with remote learning. A school board meeting was held in August to answer questions about the school year and reopening plans, accessing Chromebooks and Internet hotspots, lunch protocols, mask requirements, and getting extra help for the students who need it.

The school district published a district calendar that noted Sept. 1 as the first day of school and June 11 as the last day of school. The hours of instruction are subject to change because of the remote learning/hybrid approach, and each school released student schedules.

The district's Facebook page is one point of access for details and answers to

common questions.

Governor Inslee, OSPI (Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction), and the Snohomish Department of Health have issued a six-step plan for reopening schools. Darrington School District will open during step 3. Individual students with the greatest need for support will receive in-person instruction determined by district teams. All other students will participate five days a week in Distance Learning 2.0. All staff will be on site for planning purposes and instruction. The district will continue with remote learning through the first academic quarter—Nov. 6—and make assessments for adjusting academic programs accordingly.

A Reopening 2020 work group has attempted to address each step to keep students, staff, and the community safe. The governing body of high school sports in Washington state, Washington Interscholastic Activities Association, has decided to move the football season to spring of 2021 because of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

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Council summary

Darrington Town Council met for a regular meeting on July 8, 2020. The following is a summary of that meeting. Complete and council-approved minutes for every council meeting are available at darrington.com and online at townofdarrington.com.

July 8 regular meeting

- Council scored and awarded relief grants for local businesses and organizations. Six of seven applications were complete and eligible for this funding. Discussion included extending the deadline for the grant, which morphed into creating a second round of grants with a second application deadline. Council agreed that the businesses who submitted their complete applications by the initial deadline should receive their funding. Clerk-treasurer Dianne Allen suggested that any remaining funds could be used as donations to the food bank and to North Counties to help residences with their bills.

There were no objections to rewarding the funding to the six businesses that submitted complete applications. Allen will send out notices to the remaining businesses, with a two-week extension. The notice will inform the businesses that they can apply for \$750, with a maximum of \$1,000, depending on the number of applicants.

- A public hearing was held regarding the proposed updates and changes to the municipal code for critical areas regulation and frequently flooded areas.
- After the public hearing, council approved Ordinance 754 (flood plain) and Ordinance 755 (critical areas).
- Mayor Dan Rankin reported that the Conservation Futures grant application was submitted, and he had heard the previous Friday that the town was awarded funding, pending council approval. The money will help to build a trail connecting Whitehorse Community Park and the Whitehorse Trail.
- Discussion continues between Town

of Darrington and the Dept. of Ecology regarding the proposed water bank. Burlington is still interested in leasing water rights. The town has "semi-approval," but is still trying to finalize the arrangement.

- The bidding process for the town's planned water line projects is being pushed out by a couple months because of the furloughs at Town Hall.
- The pending contract with the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office (SCSO) was discussed. Mayor Rankin and Allen have a meeting on July 16 with the SCSO to discuss and negotiate the contract. Councilmember Gary Willis wants to see what it would cost to get a sergeant back in town, but having a sergeant would double the cost of the contract. A councilmember will also attend the July 16 meeting. The contract must be signed by Jan. 1, 2021.
- Councilmember Willis asked why there are other agencies in town that will set up public meetings, but council cannot. The county is still operating under Phase 2, which allows only five people to gather. Once the county is in Phase 3, the council should be able to meet in person. Councilmember Willis disagreed that Darrington, which has always stayed in the "less than five" category, should be mandated to use masks, being penalized when the town has stayed ahead of the COVID-19 cases, unlike other cities and towns in the county. Mayor Rankin said he would like to continue to encourage the community to wear masks and adhere to social distancing.
- Darrington Internet Association is bringing high-speed Internet to Darrington. Council discussed the logistics of allowing the association to put poles in the town's rights of way.

—Compiled from staff minutes

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

Snohomish County Sheriff's Report

Aug. 4

At approximately 3 a.m., Snohomish County Sheriff's Office deputies responded to a fatal vehicle vs. pedestrian hit-and-run crash in the 2000 block of 236th St. NE, in Arlington.

The victim, a 44-year-old Marysville man, died at the scene. Collision Investigation Unit detectives believe the victim was in the lane of travel at the time of the collision. The suspect vehicle left the scene.

Witnesses described the suspect vehicle as possibly being an SUV traveling westbound on 236th St. NE. The victim was wearing a bright orange "construction type" hoodie and camouflage shorts at the time of the incident. If anyone saw this individual walking on 236th St. NE around 3 a.m. on Aug. 4, believes they may have struck this individual while driving, or has any information regarding this incident, call 911 or the Sheriff's Office tip line at 425.388.3845.

Identification of the decedent, as well as cause and manner of death, will be determined by the Snohomish County Medical Examiner.

Aug. 20

Around 1:40 p.m., the Snohomish County Violent Offender Task Force

(VOTF) arrested a 46-year-old man for dealing and possession of child pornography. In June the Lynnwood Police Department requested assistance from the Snohomish County Violent Offender Task Force in locating the suspect. Lynnwood Police held probable cause to arrest him for dealing and possession of child pornography. In addition to this probable cause, he was wanted by Washington State Department of Corrections for violating conditions of his release.

The case was assigned to a Snohomish County Sheriff's Office deputy assigned to the Violent Offender Task Force. During a two-month period, the deputy worked to locate the suspect. The 46-year-old suspect was known to be transient, with limited ties to Snohomish County. He also was known to frequent the Seattle neighborhoods of Ballard and Fremont, and had ties to Alaska as a fisherman.

On Aug. 20 the deputy developed information that the suspect was in the Belltown area of Seattle. VOTF responded to Seattle in search of the suspect. At 1:40 p.m. he was spotted walking along a sidewalk in Belltown. He was contacted and taken into custody without incident.

The suspect was transported and booked into the Snohomish County Jail for the pornography charge, a DOC warrant, and an additional felony warrant out of King County.

syndrome monitoring effort, WDFW biologists collected feces samples from areas frequented by bats around the state. WDFW sent guano samples to the U.S. Geological Survey National Wildlife Health Center for testing.

USGS scientists recently confirmed the presence of Pseudogymnoascus destructans, the fungus that causes white-nose syndrome, in samples collected from a mixed Yuma myotis and little brown bat colony in Snohomish County, and a little brown bat colony in Chelan County.

As predators of night-flying insects, bats play an important ecological role in preserving the natural balance of properties and neighborhoods. Washington is home to 15 bat species that benefit humans by eating tons of insects that can negatively affect forest health, commercial crops, and human health and well-being.

First seen in North America in 2006 in eastern New York, white-nose syndrome has killed millions of hibernating bats in eastern North America and has spread to 35 states and seven Canadian provinces.

—Submitted by WDFW

Aug. 14

The Sheriff's Office Collision Investigation Unit (CIU) responded to a serious crash near Hidden Valley Rd. and N. Lake Roesiger Road around 4:45 p.m. today. An Eagle Talon passenger car was attempting to pass a white pickup truck when the Eagle Talon lost control and rolled off the roadway.

The driver, an 18-year-old male, the front passenger, a 16-year-old female, and the backseat passenger, a 14-year-old male, were transported by aid to Providence Regional Medical Center.

The 14-year-old male was ejected from the vehicle and suffered serious injuries. Shortly after arriving at Providence, the 14-year-old was transported to Harborview Medical Center.

CIU is still working to determine the cause of the collision, but detectives believe speed and possibly road rage were contributing factors. Anyone with information about this crash or anyone who witnessed the Eagle Talon and white pickup truck driving prior to the crash is asked to call the Sheriff's Office Tipline 425.388.3845.

—Submitted by SCSO

Read Concrete Herald
The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley

Treasures of the night sky

By Stephen Somsen

We celebrate the autumnal equinox this month when the most direct rays of the sun strike the equator on Sept. 22. On that day it is possible to observe the sun rising due east and setting due west.

Another natural way to determine cardinal directions arrives on Sept. 24. The terminator (line between light and shadow) on the first quarter moon provides a nearly true north-south line when that moon is highest in the southern sky. The terminator will then be in a vertical line, pointing down to south and pointing up to north. This is the case when the quarter moon is viewed close to either the vernal equinox in March or the autumnal equinox in September each year.

The four brightest planets remain easily visible in September. Jupiter and Saturn appear to remain relatively close to each other to the east of the "handle of the teapot" of the Sagittarius constellation. The moon passes close to Jupiter on Sept.

WSP troopers ramp up enforcement at Eagle Falls

As summer winds down, locals and tourists alike are looking for areas to enjoy the sun. This summer a local hotspot has been Eagle Falls in Index. The popularity of this area has posed a dangerous parking issue along US 2 most of the summer. There have been cars parked over the white fog line, cars parked in the roadway, and pedestrians nearly struck as they ran across the roadway.

At the beginning of August, Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) painted "No Parking" areas in hopes of deterring the illegal and dangerous parking situations that have been occurring. WSP troopers have been patrolling the area, issuing parking tickets when necessary and, in some rare cases, towing vehicles.

Because the illegal parking problems continue, additional WSP troopers will be on duty to patrol the Eagle Falls area. If you're going to visit the area make sure you do not park in areas where parking is restricted.

—Submitted by WSP

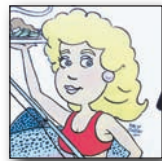
24, and close to Saturn the following night.

Late-night sky watchers will see the moon pass close to Mars on Sept. 5. Early morning viewers will see the moon close to brilliant Venus on Sept. 14.

The time of the new moon for the Skagit and Stillaguamish River Valleys is 4 a.m. on Sept. 17, and 12:30 p.m. on Oct. 16.

A challenge to all readers of this column: Note the time and dates of the new moon in September and October. (The new moon occurs when too close to the sun to be seen.) Then, look for the earliest opportunity after sunset to view the razor-thin crescent moon that follows. Take extreme care to avoid viewing the sun directly if you start your observing session prior to sunset. Feel free to report the date and time of your "young moon" observation to ssomsen@aol.com.

Amateur astronomer Stephen Somsen is a volunteer for the North Mountain Lookout project and a member of Darrington Strong. Reach him at ssomsen@aol.com.



Marblemount



Newhalem



News from the hall

New playground swings, Salmon Bar-B-Que, Sasquatch Conference

The playground at Marblemount Community Hall has new equipment: New swings have been installed for all those who love to see children have fun while enjoying an event at the hall. They were installed in August by volunteers, and they look great. Come out and enjoy some fun with the kiddos while taking advantage of the hall's free Wi-Fi.

Salmon Bar-B-Que

The Marblemount Annual Salmon Bar-B-Que was a big success this year, even during a COVID-19 pandemic. All volunteers wore masks and followed CDC guidelines. The wonderful music by JP Falcon Grady and band went on all afternoon, while guests sat on the lawn with blankets or in lawn chairs. Some stayed to listen to his music for hours, all while eating the salmon dinner. The event was so popular this year that everything was sold out prior to the closing hour of 6 p.m. A big thank-you for all your support, and a thank you to the volunteers who helped make this event a success.

Northwest Sasquatch Conference 2020

The Sasquatch Conference will still happen in Marblemount, but with some changes.

The Sasquatch Conference is scheduled for Sept. 5-6, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days, at the hall. The public is invited. The cost is \$12 per day or \$20 for both days.

The Sasquatch Conference will be on schedule while adhering to CDC guidelines. This year's event will be outdoors, with Sasquatch vendors in booths 6 feet apart. Parking and attendees will be limited. Dress for the weather. We recommend masks: Vendors will sell them, and the first 10 attendees will get free masks. Hand sanitizer also will be available.

This year's lineup includes author Thom Cantrall as keynote speaker. Cantrall is a mainstay of the Bigfoot community. His ideas have shaped current thoughts on Sasquatch, and he has mentored many

Bigfoot researchers, including conference host Syvella Kalil. Cantrall's Sasquatch interest began after the 1958 Jerry Crew incident on Bluff Creek. His first experiences happened on the Olympic Peninsula. Cantrall is a prolific writer and a popular speaker for Sasquatch conferences. He has a wicked sense of humor and incredible insight into the world of Sasquatch people. He will speak on Saturday in the afternoon and Sunday in the morning.

The second speaker is Dr. J. Robert Alley, who will speak on Saturday morning and Sunday afternoon. Dr. Alley has researched Sasquatch for more than 40 years. Working with leading Bigfoot investigators, Alley has focused on forensic evidence, eyewitness reports, and historical Native American lore. As a field investigator, the Alaska resident has examined reports from Canada, the Pacific Northwest, and Florida. He also has analyzed Washington police reports of Sasquatch sightings. Dr. Alley is a retired professor of Anatomy and Physiology at University of Alaska Southeast Ketchikan.

An open mic will be available during intermissions; both speakers will be available for questions and answers during a town hall session.

In addition to the speaker lineup, Kalil plans a Sasquatch calling contest, Sasquatch Corn Hole, a Sasquatch costume contest, and raffles and door prizes.

During the lunch hour we will be entertained by JP Falcon Grady and band, with lunch provided by Patriot Cotton Candy Concession, and shaved ice from KONA ICE.

For tickets, go to: www.brownpapertickets.com, or pay at the door with cash or credit card.

Event updates will be announced via e-mail from nwsasquatch2@outlook.com and on the event Facebook page, [nwsasquatch2](https://www.facebook.com/nwsasquatch2).

For more information, e-mail nwsasquatch2@outlook.com.

—Syvella Kalil



Above: Connie Clark and Sallie Larsen accept a \$50 novelty check from Kona Ice, a donation from the company to the Marblemount Community Hall.

Below: Steve Wilson and Rick Larson cooked up a delicious salmon feast on Aug. 2. The annual Salmon Bar-B-Que hall fundraiser was so popular that all food was sold out before the event wrapped up at 6 p.m. Photos by Syvella Kalil



SR 20 collision claims motorcyclist's life

A fatal collision occurred on SR 20 east of Newhalem on Aug. 23.

The accident involved two vehicles—a truck/trailer and a motorcycle, and occurred at approximately 11:19 a.m.

According to an accident report released by the Washington State Patrol (WSP), the driver of the motorcycle, George Shufelt, 33, of Bellingham, was traveling eastbound when he crossed the center line at high speed and struck a truck and trailer driven by Kirk Rowan, 55, of Mount Vernon.

Shufelt and his motorcycle came to rest

in an embankment. Rowan pulled his rig to the shoulder.

Shufelt was wearing a helmet, but he was pronounced deceased at the scene and next of kin was notified. Rowan and his passenger—his wife, Gail Rowan, 54—were wearing their seatbelts and were not injured. All vehicles involved were totaled and towed.

Drugs or alcohol were not a factor in the accident, according to the WSP report. The cause for the incident was listed as “speed, crossing center line.”

—J. K. M.

Statewide target-shooting ban in effect for all WDFW lands

To help prevent wildfires, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has announced a temporary target shooting ban on all department-managed lands statewide.

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) also announced target shooting restrictions on Aug. 15 for all DNR-managed lands.

“With increasing fire danger and several recent incidents of human-caused fires in southwest Washington, we want to emphasize that the target shooting ban includes Western Washington,” said Cynthia Wilkerson, Lands Division Manager for WDFW.

The ban applies to the approximately one million acres of land managed by WDFW, including wildlife areas and water access areas throughout the state. The temporary rule does not restrict lawful hunting.

All temporary restrictions will remain in effect until the risk of wildfire decreases, Wilkerson said. Any changes to these restrictions will be posted on the department's Web site at wdfw.wa.gov.

Discharging firearms poses a greater risk in dry conditions as bullets pass through decayed wood, cause sparks off rocks, or break into fragments in dry grass.

Fire danger on most of the east side is rated as “high” or “extremely high.” A modified burn ban for all residential and land clearing fires in unincorporated Skagit County went into effect on July 24, and will continue until further notice. Recreational and cooking fires, limited to 3 feet in diameter and 2 feet high remain allowed within enclosures and when safety precautions are followed.



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10AM-6PM

(MAY-OCTOBER)

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Seniors

Verna's Kitchen

By Verna McClure

Chocolate peanut butter bars



- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup corn syrup
- 1 cup peanut butter
- 6 cups rice crisp cereal
- 2 cups (12 oz.) chocolate chips, melted

1. In a large pan, combine the sugar, corn syrup, and peanut butter. Cook over a medium low heat until the sugar is dissolved.
2. Remove from heat, add cereal, and stir until coated.
3. Spread into a greased 12 x 9 x 2-inch pan and press lightly.
4. Pour and spread the melted chocolate over the peanut butter mixture. Chill.

Yield is 1½ to 2 dozen bars.

Editor's note: In memory of our dear Verna, this column will continue until her recipe inventory has been exhausted.

60 years ago, Sept. 15, 1960 (right): Forms went up on the new Skagit River bridge just below Diablo. The bridge would become the link between the Newhalem- Diablo Rd., with the new section of the North Cross State Highway under construction between Diablo and Thunder Creek. *Archive photo.*

Way Back When

50 years ago

Sept. 2, 1970: *Concrete Herald* is under new management as of this week with the sale of the newspaper, job printing plant, and building by Charles M. Dwelley to Robert and June Fader of Anacortes.

Transfer of the property was effective Sept. 1.

The Faders are experienced

newspaper and printing people. Mr. Fader has been manager of the *Anacortes American* print shop and Mrs. Fader resigned as news editor at the *Whidbey Island News* of Oak Harbor to join her husband in their man-and-wife team management of the *Concrete* newspaper.

Dwelley relinquishes the title of editor-publisher of the *Concrete Herald* after 41 years of publishing, writing, and printing the hometown newspaper for the Upper Skagit Valley. He came to *Concrete* in September 1929, barely out of high school, to take over the bankrupt printing plant

then housed in a shaky old building on stilts, located on what is now an empty lot down the hill west of the present Benfield building.

In the 41 years that Dwelley has published the *Concrete* newspaper, he has become one of the best-known weekly newspaper men, not only in the state but throughout the entire country. He gained a reputation as one of the decreasing breed of fearless editors, guided only by his own conscience in what he considered the best interests of his community.

—Compiled from archives



East County

September 2020 activities

Concrete Community Center Meal Program

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

Take-out only.

Must be present to pick up a meal.

Donations always appreciated.

East County Resource Center

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

360-416-1733

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

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

Saturday, Sept. 5

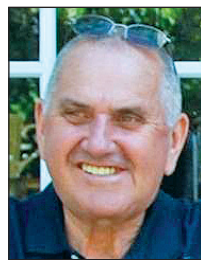
Concrete Saturday Market, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

40 years ago, Sept. 18, 1980 (right): The *Concrete Indian Shaker Church* is being renovated, inside and out, with a lot of volunteer labor and funds raised by the church group's salmon barbecue during Good Olde Days. The bell tower has been restored, the front is being repainted, and interior painting has been completed. Volunteer carpenters include Lawrence (Oakie) Joe and Sullivan Jones, pictured here with church pastor Floyd Baker, and Clifford Edwards, Walt Williams, and Dickie Williams. The church is more than 60 years old. *Archive photo.*



Obituaries

Larry G. Weston, age 69, lost his battle with cancer on August 16, 2020.



Larry lived life to the fullest, found humor everywhere, and had a huge love for people. If someone was in need, he helped. It didn't matter if he knew you or not. He spread love everywhere he went with a smile that lit up his whole face. He fought hard to beat the many illnesses he had later in life, always with determination and strength, and never complained. The world is less bright with him gone and he will never be forgotten by those who knew and loved him.

Larry was the office manager at Hamilton Community Food Bank, Chaplain for CMA Morning Star Riders, a licensed pastor, and a co-founder of Heart to Heart Charity. He moved to Lyman, Wash., when he retired from Washington State Dept. of Transportation as a regional supervisor in 2006. He worked his way up to this position and his crew loved him. He never asked more of them than he was willing to do himself. He was a hard worker his whole life and loved to build things and do home improvements, and never found a gadget or tool he didn't need or want.

Larry is survived by the love of his life, his wife of 51 years, Kathy Weston; his daughter, Tammie, who was his world; her husband, Stan Werner, who he loved as his own son; his two grandsons, Austin Werner and Brandon Werner, who were the absolute joys of his life; and future granddaughter Cassandra Smith, Brandon's fiancé, who he simply adored; and a special sister-in-law, Marlene Skelton; as well as many nephews, nieces, and extended family members and numerous friends.

Larry was preceded in death by his beloved mother Nellie Weston and all his siblings: Dale, Peggy, Wanda, Donald, Roland, and Robert.

Larry requested that memorial gifts be made to Heart to Heart Charity to continue the good works and helping others with the charity he helped create in memory and honor of his mom, Nellie. Gifts can be sent to Heart to Heart Charity, Attn: Tammie Werner, P.O. Box 1372, Lyman, WA 98263, or via PayPal or debit/credit card to hearttoheartcharity@gmail.com.

A celebration of Larry's life will be held at a later date, and those wishing to attend can e-mail hearttoheartcharity@gmail.com for more information. "Never miss an opportunity to help others and spread God's love anywhere you can."

Sunday School lesson

Is your burden heavy?

By Kevin Riley

As our community sifts through the upcoming school year, elections, and the various other aspects of what lies ahead, I look at the stress of 2020 and how it has not been an easy year for any of us.

For me, the uncertain future feels like a heavy burden to bear. Kids can't go to school, we can't frequent normal public hangouts in the way we are accustomed, and the steady stream of misinformation can at times be debilitating, overwhelming, and paralyzing. I even saw something on Facebook where people were calling out the school district and their choice

to start 2020 with a distance model. The weight of that decision is not lost on me, as it should not be lost on the community.

I don't know about the rest of you, but I am weary, I am heavy laden with all of the burdens of 2020, and I need rest. Jesus understands these burdens all too well, and he wants to trade us places and give us rest.

Matthew 11:28-30, English Standard Version, says:

"28 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

The above scripture says for all who are weary and burdened with the struggles

of life, that if they come to Him, He will give us rest. I know the logical side of my brain questions how that is possible when I can't just go lie on His couch and let all my frustrations go, and walk away feeling heard and inspired, as well as not alone.

Or can I? See, that's where our friends and family and our inner-circle community is so important. We as students of His Word and deed have the unique ability to help and share in the burdens of our loved ones, as well as inspire each other with the words of Jesus and embody the teaching of love for your neighbor as yourself.

Together we can do all things through Christ, who is our strength, refuge, healer, redeemer, advocate, and ever-present friend.

Kevin Riley is pastor for Mount Baker Presbyterian Church in Concrete.



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Skagit County Sheriff's Office Blotter

July 30

A domestic disturbance was reported at Loggers Landing in Concrete. The reporting party said that a male and a female were in the parking lot, yelling and screaming at each other. It was reported that the male left on a bicycle and the female left walking on SR 20 prior to deputies arriving. Deputy Montgomery checked the area, but did not find either of the involved parties.

Around 6:30 a.m., a concerned citizen called to report that an RV was seen in the area of North Shore Lane in Cape Horn. The citizen was concerned because the owner has been warned numerous times by deputies not to trespass on properties in the area. The owner of the RV has been parking on private properties in the area. Deputy Clark checked the area, but did not locate the RV.

Deputy Brannon checked on a suspicious vehicle parked at the river near the Eagles Nest apartments in Concrete. When the owner was contacted, she refused to provide Deputy Brannon with her identity, but said she was visiting friends at the apartments and had parked at the river.

Later this evening, the owner of Loggers Landing in Concrete called to report that a window to his business had been broken earlier in the day by two subjects who had been arguing outside. This incident was

part of the earlier domestic that Deputy Montgomery had responded to and found that both of those involved had left. The owner reviewed video of the incident and found that one of the people involved had hit and broken the window during the altercation. Deputy Serna reviewed the video and was able to discover the identities of the two involved. She and Deputy Rogers responded to the address where the two suspects were reported to be staying. Deputy Serna contacted the female suspect. She said that she and her boyfriend had been at Loggers Landing early that morning. Her boyfriend was sexually frustrated and they were arguing. She explained that arguing and physically pushing and shoving each other aroused them and led to better sex. Both parties stated there had been no assault, but admitted that they had probably broken the window during their altercation. The suspects agreed to return to make arrangements to pay for the window.

While at the Lake Shannon boat launch, a citizen observed a person drinking alcohol and then getting into his truck to leave. The citizen called and advised that the suspect had headed back to Concrete. Deputy Serna located the truck and stopped it near Concrete. The driver said that he had drunk a couple beers while at the lake, but was not intoxicated. He showed no signs of intoxication. Deputy Serna asked if he would be willing to take some voluntary sobriety tests, which he performed and passed. A driver's check showed that the suspect did not have a current license. He was cited by Deputy Serna for driving with a suspended license, and released after being told not to drive.

July 31
The Sheriff's Office responded to a fraud call on Ronald Ave. in Concrete. The victim advised Deputy Serna that he had received a message on Facebook from a female by the name of Abigail Caoile, who said she had a "video" of him and threatened to release it unless he paid her \$800. He received a second message from someone called Tular Jones making the same threats. The victim does not know either of the suspects and believes it may be the same person trying to extort money from him. Deputy Serna checked the names of both suspects, but did not find any information on either. Deputy Serna advised the victim that this was a common scam on Facebook. The victim blocked both of the suspects from his Facebook page.

Deputy Serna was advised that a citizen had called and reported that a person that law enforcement was looking for was at Loggers Landing in Concrete. He advised Deputy Serna that law enforcement had been out at the suspect's house the day before, looking for him. Deputy Serna contacted the suspect and ran him for warrants. After waiting for information, she finally released the suspect since she had not received any information that he was wanted. Later, after the suspect had left, dispatch advised that they had received information that the suspect had a warrant out of the Department of Corrections for his arrest. Several days later, the suspect was arrested by deputies on his warrants during an unrelated call.

As he was patrolling the Marblemount area, Deputy Brannon observed a female known to have a felony warrant for her arrest. The suspect was in a car with a male driving. When the driver saw Deputy Brannon, he attempted to flee in the vehicle. Deputy Brannon was able

Deputy's Corner Civil disputes

By Paul Wolfe

Perhaps the most common call the Sheriff's Office receives is for civil disputes. Civil disputes can be about personal property, landlord/tenant relations, or property lines. As a patrol deputy, I am often the bearer of bad news for people who think I can help them recover property or damages, when instead I have to explain to them that because their issue is "civil," I cannot take any action.

When a deputy informs someone that the dispute is civil, they are saying that we as law enforcement are not able to take any immediate action. We are saying it is up to the individual to take action, civilly.

Taking action civilly is typically bringing your issue in front of a judge in civil court. It can also entail taking legal action: "suing" someone for damages. Both are decided in front of a civil judge.

Property lines

Property line disputes are not uncommon. Picture a neighbor building a fence along a property line and the other neighbor taking issue. In this case, a deputy would respond, document the complaint, and explain to the reporting party that this is a "civil" property line dispute that would need to be addressed in court. The Sheriff's Office does not enforce property line disputes or issue any trespass orders for these kinds of disputes. Deputies also will not interpret a property survey. Parties will be advised to seek legal counsel and take the case to court.

Property disputes

Personal property can be difficult to enforce. If an unknown person takes something that belongs to you, we would call that a theft. If a roommate or family member borrows a piece of property and fails to return or damages it, that might not be theft. Once you

give someone permission to use or borrow something that belongs to you, you are entering into a civil agreement with that person with regard to the property.

Once someone enters into that civil agreement, it takes law enforcement's ability away to take any action regarding the property.

Landlord/tenant

Disputes between landlords and tenants are almost always civil in nature. Deputies respond to multiple complaints where they will document the incident with a report, but will take no action against either party without a court order in place. The most common court order between a landlord and tenant would be a civil eviction.

As a homeowner, be very careful who you allow to stay at your residence. Washington State does not define "residency" as a set number of days at a household. Once you allow someone to stay at your house, you are opening up the possibility that you may not be able to remove them without a court order such as an eviction.

This is just a snapshot of a few common civil disputes the Sheriff's Office routinely handles. Civil disputes can be difficult, and law enforcement's reach is limited if the incident is civil in nature. Although a deputy may not be able to take action, if you follow through with the courts, the incident eventually will be resolved. The Sheriff's Office will document all incidents and provide you with any information they have at that time.

As always, feel free to contact dispatch and speak to a deputy if you have and questions or concerns.

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



Worship directory

Assembly of God

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

Citipoint Church North Cascade

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

Baptist

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

Hamilton First Baptist Church

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

Lyman Church

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

Catholic

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

Covenant

Community Covenant Church
12605 Highway 9, Clear Lake
360.856.1023 // covenant@wavecable.com
www.clearlakecov.org
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Sun. worship: 11 a.m.

Call for weekly youth group/Bible studies

Episcopal

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

Free Methodist

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

Lutheran

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

Methodist

Central United Methodist Church
1013 Polke Rd., Sedro-Woolley

360.856.6412 / centralumcsw@yahoo.com
http://centralumcsw.org

Adult Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Sun. worship: 11 a.m.

Mormon

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

Nondenominational

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

Community Bible Church

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

The RIVER Gathering

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

Rockport Christ the King Comm. Church

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

Wildwood Chapel

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

Presbyterian

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

to catch up to the vehicle and stop it at a residence in the 59000 block of SR 20 in Marblemount. He contacted the female and arrested her for the warrant. The male driver also had warrants, but the jail

would not take him. The driver was cited for driving with a suspended license and released. The female was taken to jail and

CONCRETE HERITAGE MUSEUM NEWS

Readin', 'ritin', and 'rithmatic

Think our current school-at-home situation is rough? Read on ...

Although the lower Skagit Valley was settled by Euro-Asian and African-Americans in the 1860s, it wasn't until the late 1880s and '90s that the middle and upper valley saw the influx arrive.

Solid with old growth forests, wild rivers, and the infamous log jams that prevented water travel, the Upper Skagit was virtually unknown to the newcomers until the rumor of "gold!" was heard.

By 1889, fledgling communities were springing up in what is now Lyman, Hamilton, Birdview, Concrete, Van Horn, Sauk, Rockport, and Marblemount, with families arriving soon after.

From the time of the earliest settlements, Skagit Valley families had been starting schools, using makeshift buildings and any teacher who could be found, some as young as 16 years old. After Washington statehood in 1889, the central government had some money to support it as the federal government reserved one township of national lands for the support of public education.

The school year was then just three months long because of weather and the importance of children's work on the homestead. Teachers were paid \$40 per month and often boarded with a student's family. One such teacher, Mima Kerr, was highlighted in the July issue of his column titled "Hay and Roses." Another was Marblemount's Otto Pressentin, who was teaching school when the big summer flood of 1897 hit.

Pressentin recalled some 60 years later: "I was boarding with the Barratt family on the east side of the river, crossing each morning and evening on their cable-operated ferry as the school was on the west side just south of town. Just after 4 p.m., we crossed back—Mr. Barratt, his three children, the Witham children, and myself.

"The next morning, early, the river bank was full and still rising. It had been quite hot and the mountains were shedding melting snow like crazy. I knew there

would be water in the schoolhouse and my pupils' books and papers would be ruined. So I got into a canoe, the current being much too swift for the ferry. I wanted to save their work, my dictionary, and the school bell.

"Once I reached under water for the doorknob and got inside, I paddled up to the floating desks pulling their contents into the canoe, working fast as there was no telling when the schoolhouse itself might start downstream!"

Needless to say, there's a lot more to this story when Otto risked his life for his students and his books. The rest of this harrowing story can be found in the online Skagit River Journal. And it's a doozy!

The Marblemount School operated until 1969, when all the little one-and two-room schoolhouses upriver became part of the consolidation efforts of the Concrete School District. Highway 20 was being built, and the resulting bus rides from Diablo in the east to Mansford in the south to Baker Lake in the north and Birdview to the west made for the longest school bus transport in the state. They still do.

A few of these old institutions still stand today, although they have a different purpose: The Rockport school now houses the volunteer fire department and Newhalem's school houses Seattle City Light's administrative offices and the U.S. Post Office, while Diablo's school is the cookhouse. Post WWII surplus quonset huts were added in the early 1950s for a bus garage and gymnasium space, and many of those still stand, even though the schoolhouse itself may be gone (as with Marblemount's). Remember, until the 1930s and '40s, roads and cars were uncommon upriver; kids made their way to school by canoe, pony, or mostly on foot each day.

For more information on our early Euro-American history, log onto www.concreteheritagemuseum.org to virtually experience the numerous authentic displays until the museum physically reopens post-pandemic.

You won't be sorry!

—Christie Fairchild

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

At the Upper Skagit Library

August saw an increase in curbside service users. We are glad that more of our patrons are finding the service convenient. If you do not have Internet access at home or are unfamiliar with how to place holds, you can use our walk-up service. Each month our newest acquisitions are placed in the windows for you to browse. Our curbside service hours are Tuesday and Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

In addition to regular monthly additions to the catalog, we also now offer more nontraditional items this month. You can borrow a Check Out Washington Discover Pass for 7 days, once a month.

Also, LEGO fans of all ages will be happy to learn that there are two new kits available for check out. We now have a total of four LEGO kits available for check out. Also, do not forget that you can pick up craft kits during curbside service hours. For more information on new items for check out and our craft kits, please visit our Web site: <https://upperskagitlibrary.org>.

We continued to offer virtual programs

in August. Our big event was a Humanities Washington Event called "From Homer to #hashtags: Our Changing Language with Christine Hemp." Check out our events calendar for our September virtual programming.

August was also a big milestone in the New Library Capital Project. On July 30 the Upper Skagit Library District Board of Trustees voted to accept the final proposed contract from SHKS. At that time SHKS began the permitting process. On Aug. 24 the new library was opened to interested contractors for the pre-bid site walk-through.

On Sept. 7 the Upper Skagit Library Board of Trustees and SHKS will begin reviewing the bids and contractor information. Later in September the notice of contract will be awarded.

For more information on new library building progress, check out the timeline on our Web site: <https://upperskagitlibrary.org/web/new-building-project-progress>.

—Amanda Perez, director
Upper Skagit Library



Concrete Chamber of Commerce News

By Valerie Stafford

Concrete Chamber of Commerce will meet online on Thur., Sept. 10 at 9 a.m. (note the new time). The meeting topic is, "Planning for Next Steps in Our Businesses & Community," and will include ideas from local leaders, business owners, and community organizations. We welcome your input:

- What have been the biggest adjustments you've made this year?
- Is your business surviving just fine or struggling to get by?
- What changes do you see coming this fall and winter?
- How can we help the community stay connected?
- What can we do to assist businesses and organizations?
- What Chamber events would you like to plan for?

At our Oct. 8 meeting, Andrew Entrikin

from the Port of Skagit will be our guest speaker and will provide an update on broadband access in Skagit County.

Concrete Chamber job opening

The Office Manager position is open at the Concrete Chamber of Commerce. This employee is the lead person in offering vehicle licensing services to our community, as well as staffing our visitor information desk and providing assistance to the Chamber Board of Directors.

Job requirements include: strong organizational skills, above-average computer experience, and the ability to multitask, while providing professional services to the public.

For more information or to receive an application, please send an e-mail to chamber@concrete-wa.com.

For more information on Chamber membership or meetings, e-mail chamber@concrete-wa.com, or call/text Valerie Stafford, president, at 360.466.8754.

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Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284



AREA FOOD BANKS

Clear Lake

Community Covenant Food Bank

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

Every Tue., 11–noon and 1–3 p.m.
360.826.4090

Marblemount

Bread of Life Food Bank

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

Concrete

Concrete Food Bank

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

Darrington

Darrington Food Bank

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

Sedro-Woolley

Helping Hands Solution Center

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

Days and hours will be updated as needs change.

Hamilton

Hamilton Community Food Bank

951 Petit St., Hamilton

*Changes? Call 360.853.8213.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Bookkeeping

UpRiver Bookkeeping Services

360.853.7667 or 360.708.9761
upriver21@hotmail.com
Reasonable rates
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Brew pubs

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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.
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

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
com

Septic services

Cinema Septic

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Fred West, owner. 360.466.8753
fred@cinemaseptic.com
www.cinemaseptic.com

Towing services

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**To add your business to this
directory, call 360.853.8213 or
e-mail editor@concrete-herald.com**



Out & About



Skagit County

Toxic algae present in Pass Lake

Until further notice, people should not swim in Pass Lake, drink lake water, or allow pets to access the lake water because of the presence of toxic algae. Areas of scum should be avoided while boating. Pass Lake continues to be a catch-and-release-only lake.

In recent weeks, Skagit County lakes have been showing evidence of significant blue green algae blooms. Water samples at Pass Lake show the presence of blue green algae toxins, including Anatoxin-a and Microcystin. Anatoxin-a is an acute neurotoxin and Microcystin can cause liver damage.

To learn more about cyanobacteria and their toxins, go to <https://www.epa.gov/cyanohabs>.

To keep up to date on local monitoring efforts, see examples of harmful algae blooms, or report a bloom here: <https://www.nwtoxicalgae.org/Default.aspx>.

For more information, call Skagit County Public Health at 360.416.1500.

State

Skagit STEM Network expands to NW Washington STEM Network

The Skagit STEM Network is expanding.

"The new NW Washington STEM Network will work to be a catalyst for STEM education and Career Connected Learning in Island, San Juan, Skagit, and Whatcom counties," said Michelle Judson, NW Washington STEM director. "To support this expanded role, our new backbone agency will be the Northwest Educational Service District 189, which supports all K-12 school districts in those counties. We will continue to be part of Washington STEM's Network of partners that harness and employ STEM education best practices within their communities."

STEM education is an interdisciplinary approach to learning where rigorous academic concepts are coupled with real-world lessons as students apply Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). It also integrates language arts, computer science, social science, and the arts in a way that make connections between school, community, work, and the global enterprise.

Judson said that the current Skagit STEM Network will continue under the NW Washington STEM organizational umbrella, with its own Advisory Board composed of Skagit business, education, and government leaders.

"We are excited to host and support the NW Washington STEM Network," said Larry Francois, superintendent for Northwest Educational Service District 189. "We see this as a natural and beneficial extension of our existing career connecting learning and professional development work with school districts and community and business partners

across Skagit, Whatcom, Island, and San Juan counties."

"To grow capacity, we are fostering the creation of new partners, such as the Whatcom STEM," Judson said. "This new structure also will help to build stronger partnerships with local and regional organizations whose missions are aligned with ours, such as FuturesNW, which helps prepare students from high school through their transition into their college or training programs."

"We are in the planning process to develop Whatcom STEM, and we look forward to partnering with NW Washington STEM to increase STEM education access, interest, and career opportunities for all students in our Northwest Washington communities," said Michael Gan, executive director for Technology Alliance Group for Northwest Washington (TAGNW). "With Whatcom STEM, TAGNW expands our post-secondary programs to include PreK-12 education and broaden community partnerships to support STEM disciplines and Career Connected Learning."

The Skagit STEM Network formed in 2015 through the efforts of the Sedro-Woolley School District and the City of Sedro-Woolley. The goal was to create a process to align K-12 education, higher education, community, and business partners to support STEM and career-connected learning opportunities in Skagit County.

"Today, we work with all Skagit County school districts, involve stakeholders throughout the county, and our programs impact over a thousand students annually," said Shaun Doffing, program manager for Skagit STEM Network. "Through efforts such as STEM Like Me!, Spotlight on Women in STEM, and other events, we've been a catalyst in efforts to advance student access to science, technology, engineering, and math education and career opportunities throughout Skagit County."

"We are passionate about helping every student succeed in the 21st Century," Judson said. "Along with our partner organizations and stakeholders, our goal is to serve as a model for innovative thinking and action."

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

Sheriff's Blotter, cont. from p. 31

booked on her warrant.

As Deputy Clark was monitoring traffic on Rockport Cascade Rd., he observed a vehicle travelling at 63 mph on a posted 50 mph zone. As he watched, another smaller white car overtook the speeding car and passed it. He stopped the car that had passed the speeding car. The driver admitted he didn't have a driver's license, that it was suspended 1st degree, and that he didn't have the required interlock device in his car. Deputy Clark arrested the driver for driving with a suspended license and no interlock device.

Deputy Esskew investigated a domestic assault in the 7900 block of Slate Lane near Hamilton. The neighbor to the victim called to report that he saw a male prowling around the victim's house. Eventually the male knocked on the door and was let into the house. A few moments later he heard a female screaming for help. Deputy Esskew went to the victim's residence. She told him that her ex-boyfriend and father of her child had shown up at her house. She let him into the house and he started immediately accusing her of cheating on him and called her a whore and other names. He then got physical when she refused to respond to him. He slapped her several times and grabbed her around the neck. Eventually he left. Deputy Esskew was able to contact the Swinomish Tribal Police, who located the suspect and arrested him for assault. He was turned over to Deputy Esskew, who booked him into jail.

Aug. 1

Deputies Clark and Brannon responded to a report of a kayaker who was stranded on the bank of the Skagit River near milepost 93 in Concrete. The kayaker said that the bank was too steep to climb up and his kayak was floating down the river. Upriver Water Rescue responded to the area and was able to rescue the stranded boater from the bank and return him to the launch. His kayak was located and retrieved at a later time.

A bicycle was reported stolen from the 7200 block of Franks Place in Concrete. The victim said that sometime during the day his bicycle was stolen, and that the neighbor may have seen the suspects. He described the bike as blue and silver. Deputy Serna contacted the witness, who told her that he had seen a white Chevrolet truck pull up in front of the victim's house earlier in the afternoon. Two males of medium height and medium dark complexion got out of the truck and knocked on the front door. When they got

no response, they started looking around the property. He observed them take the bike and place it in their truck, then leave. He didn't know either one of the two suspects.

Aug. 3

Deputy Moore received a call from a citizen who lives in Lake Tyee regarding census workers. The caller asked Deputy Moore if there were any laws that restricted him from telling census workers to leave his property. Deputy Moore advised him that he was not aware of any law that would prevent a property owner from requesting that census workers leave his property.

Deputies responded to a call of a possible assault near the 11000 block of Martin Rd. in Rockport. The caller advised that they could hear a neighbor yelling at the person he cares for, and heard the suspect say something about killing him or hitting him. When deputies arrived, they contacted the suspect and victim. The victim, who is wheelchair-bound, advised that the suspect had head butted him. Deputy Wiggins determined that the suspect was a convicted felon and had been wearing a holster with a loaded magazine when first contacted. The suspect also admitted to possessing a pistol. After further investigation, a warrant was given to search for the gun. It was located in a truck parked outside where the suspect was originally contacted. The suspect was taken to jail and booked for felon in possession of a firearm and assault.

Aug. 4

The landlord of a rental property in the 45000 block of Nellie Lane in Concrete called to advise that his tenant had threatened him and at one point said he would "burn him out." Deputy Moore called the landlord, who told him that earlier in the day he had gone to the rental property to post a three-day eviction notice. The eviction was because the tenant was threatening to damage the property. After posting the notices, he was confronted by the renter, who made several threats including burning him out. The victim felt that the tenant was capable of carrying through on the threats. Deputy Moore attempted to contact a witness to the incident, but was unable. He will follow up on the incident later.

At approximately 11:30 p.m., a caller advised dispatch that a female was on his property, breaking windows. While responding to the call, Deputy Montgomery was advised that the suspect was walking away from the property on Baker Loop in Cedar Grove. When

Deputy Montgomery arrived, the victim showed him a broken car window. He said that he had observed the suspect standing on his property smoking, and then he heard what sounded like a window breaking. Deputy Montgomery advised the victim how to obtain a court order that would restrict the suspect from coming near the victim's property. When Deputy Wiggins arrived, he and Deputy Montgomery searched the area, but were unable to find the suspect. Deputy Montgomery referred the suspect for charges.

Near the intersection of Concrete Sauk Valley Rd. and South Skagit Hwy, Deputy Wiggins observed a vehicle with no rear license plate parked along the road. He contacted the driver who is well known to the Sheriff's Office. He told Deputy Wiggins that the vehicle had broken down and he was waiting for a person to come help him. Deputy Wiggins noticed that the vehicle had a punched ignition, which is an indicator that it might be stolen. Deputy Wiggins asked the driver where he had gotten the car, and the driver said that it was parked in front of a shop in Mount Vernon with a "free" sign on it. When Deputy Wiggins ran the registration, it came back to a person who lives in Bothell. He had Bothell Police Dept. attempt to contact the registered owner. Since the vehicle was not listed as stolen, Deputy Wiggins released the driver after taking all his information.

The victim of a stolen car called and advised Deputy Mueller that a person she knows had come over to her house and stolen her car. The car had several mechanical issues and she didn't believe it could have been driven very far. The next day, Aug. 5, while checking the Rockport area for the stolen car, Deputy Mullen located it. When he attempted to stop the car, it took off at high speed toward Marblemount. The person driving the car matched the description of the suspect.

About four hours later, deputies were advised of a gunshot near Ranger Station Rd. in Marblemount. Deputies arrived to a scene of complete chaos. Citizens had detained two males who they thought were involved, but later were determined only there to pick up food at the food bank. One of the men had felony warrants out of Dept. of Corrections (DOC). He was arrested and taken by DOC back to prison. Another person who fled through the woods was run down and detained by a citizen. This person turned out to be the suspect in the stolen vehicle report. The suspect advised he had been driving the car on SR 20 when the boyfriend of

the suspect chased him down and pulled a shotgun on him. The boyfriend pointed the gun at the suspect, and told him he didn't know who he was messing with. He then fired a shot from the shotgun over the suspect's head. When neighbors came out and said they were calling police, the boyfriend fled. He was later contacted at his residence west of Marblemount. The suspect who stole the car was arrested for theft of a motor vehicle and eluding law enforcement. He was booked into Skagit County Jail. The boyfriend was cited for carrying / exhibiting / drawing a dangerous weapon and then released.

Aug. 5

The suspect who was arrested for assault and felon in possession of a firearm during the Aug. 3 domestic disturbance on Martin Rd. returned to the residence in violation of a no-contact order he had signed in court when he was released. Deputies contacted the suspect, who was hiding in the bathroom. He was arrested again and booked into jail for violation of a no-contact order.

Aug. 6

A 1987 Ford F150 pickup was reported to be missing from a residence in the 46000 block of Baker Loop Rd. in Cedar Grove. Deputy Montgomery contacted the alleged owner. He advised that the truck had been parked at his house and was now missing. The truck was registered to a person in Snohomish County. The alleged owner said he had purchased the truck from "Dave," but had no other information on "Dave." He showed Deputy Montgomery an incomplete affidavit of sale with the registered owner's name, but no mention of a "Dave." The alleged owner said he had an idea of who took the truck and was going to see if they would return it. If they didn't, he would contact the Dept. of Licensing and see if he could get a title, then he would report it stolen.

Aug. 7

Deputy Brannon investigated a theft in the 8300 block of Cedar Grove Ave. in Cedar Grove. The victim said that within the last two weeks, someone had stolen numerous tools from him and that three of his vehicles were damaged. The victim has no suspects and no information about who might be involved. Deputy Brannon advised he would notify the East Detachment deputies to watch the area.

Aug. 8

Deputy Wolfe was assigned to investigate a trespassing complaint near the 45000 block of Concrete Sauk Valley



FARMSTAND HOURS:

THURSDAY - MONDAY
10AM-6PM

(MAY-OCTOBER)

Organic berries
Homemade ice cream
U-Pick
Groceries

VISIT US:
HWY 20, MP 101



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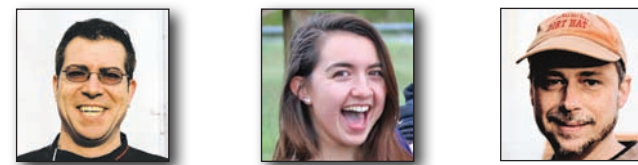
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44574 Highway 20 - Concrete, WA 98237



Smile



Collin's realm of truly awful jokes

Two guys walk into a bar. The third one was smart enough to duck.



Mrs. Whiffletree poked the old broom in the baby's face to get him used to kissing his grandfather.

— § —

Carpenter: "Well, Willie, have you sharpened all the tools?"

Apprentice: "Yes, all but the saw. I haven't got all the gaps out of that yet."

— § —

To avoid criticism:

Do nothing, see nothing, say nothing, know nothing.

Dwelleysms:

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

"Civic consciousness is at a low point, and the town government begs for volunteers. Looking around, it seems the women of the community are the most lively and busy group of citizens. Maybe now is the time for an all-women city hall. The door is wide open, ladies!"

"It is amazing the amount of energy expended in trying to convince the average voter that he will have a hand in selecting presidential candidates. You'd think the voting was done before conventions instead of after power politics has dictated the choice to be offered."

—Jan. 21, 1960

"We see where a state liquor control board member was fined for driving under the influence. It is reassuring to know that we have men in charge who are thoroughly familiar with the product."

"Along with the investigation into the high price of tranquilizers, somebody should probe the cost of getting so worked up that you need them."

"From this moment on, you will be wise to relieve all prospective political candidates from any responsibility for truth, fair play, and sportsmanship in their public utterances. Politics is a game, and by the rules, truth is to be shunned, fair play is granting comfort to the enemy, and sportsmanship is a form of cowardice. A lot of good men can remain so and still be good at the game. They don't believe have of what they say, yet hope the listeners will."

—Jan. 28, 1960

Funny as Facebook

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

- "There's a girl in Costco right now whose mask is completely see through! Isn't that so embarrassing? Should I tell this poor girl? I feel like I would want to know if it was me. Bless her stupid little heart."
- "Having allergies in the time of Covid is rough. So much side eye."
- "I look forward to the end of COVID-19, when I can freely cough from a dry throat without having the general public look upon me as if I'm expelling Black Death upon society."
- "Is there a surgery I can get that makes me look more Canadian?"
- "#1 Rule of berry picking, learned when I lived in southeast Alaska: If the bear is there first, it is HIS berry patch. #2 Rule: If you claim a berry patch, and a bear shows up, that is ALSO his berry patch."
- "This cat of mine is driving me crazy. She just loves the bathroom. She is now stealing my razors and bringing them out of the bathroom. I just caught her with one in her mouth coming out of bathroom. If it's not the toilet paper, it's the razors."
- "Has anyone replaced the brake pads on their old mountain bike? I sound like an old 727 overshooting the runway whenever I try to slow down."
- "I realized yesterday that I have a friend I've had for 13 years and the only subject we ever discuss is ... Darkwing Duck. No joke. This realization makes me ridiculously happy. I have some awesome friends!"
- "NOTE TO SELF: Next time, close mouth when hosing down chicken coop."
- "Me: 'Dona, nobis, pa-a-cem pacem'
Daphne: 'Mama, hear my song.'
Me: 'OK, I'll listen to your song.'
Daphne: 'Buttface, buttface, ABC ...'"
- "You would think the people in my neighborhood had never seen a 56-year-old woman running after the ice cream truck."
- "What a better thing to do than to organize your Hot Wheels by color!"
- "Why moms go insane in 5 easy steps: Step 1: Make grocery list (extra long one). Step 2: Kids take grocery list and hide it. Step 3: Lose your marbles over missing list. Step 4: Find list, rejoice! Step 5: Go to store and realize you forgot the damn list at home."
- "Best part of a curfew? I now have time to trim all those strings and whatnot from my towels. So there's that."
- "Feeling patriotic, might go reinstall some mail sorters at the USPS."

Public Service Announcement

By Stig Kristensen



BEN WASN'T QUITE SURE WHERE HE ENDED UP

Crossword

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

Across

- Strip
- TBS rival
- Junk pile
- It may be guided
- "Lucy in the ____ with diamonds" (Beatle song)
- Compound
- Voice level
- Hasten
- Mention
- Fair
- Winged
- Mix breed dog
- Thanksgiving spud
- Renders unclear
- Anticipate
- Going on in years
- Crowd disapproval sound
- In shock
- It might be cut by a politician
- Another name intro
- Street abbr.

Down

- Impale
- Droop
- Hatchback
- Denver player
- Bridal party members
- Word with mask or doo
- Nautical response, ____ captain (2 words)
- Pack up your tent and leave
- Division
- Speck of dust

Across

- Player on the links
- Dictator, e.g.
- Rephrase
- Do-it-yourself ____
- Still-life piece
- Hubs
- Roger Clemens' statistic
- "____ the Nation"
- Remnant
- Misty May obstacle
- Kindergartener

Down

- Implored
- Turned over ground
- Calif. airport
- Slithery creature
- Common street name
- Federal health agency
- Go back
- Gentle sound
- Large weight
- Rubenesque
- Live on the edge of existence
- Shade
- Short taps (2 words)
- Brown, e.g.
- Made desolate
- Neuter
- ____ Eaters
- Human parasite
- Traveling
- Throat
- Yard shader
- Infuriate

Sudoku

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

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

*Solutions to both puzzles are on p. 39

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Advertise in Concrete Herald



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*Websites *Logos
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Lovely
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Design.
Images.
Social Media.

Marketing, especially online marketing, is increasingly vital to small businesses, even in rural areas. I want to help you get the word out about that thing you sell or that thing you do!

A history of the Upper Skagit Valley

By Paul C. Pitzer

Retyped by Gail Boggs; edited for style

Republished from Concrete Herald archives, 1966–67

Chapter 2 THE HOMESTEADERS AND THE FOREST SERVICE

At Cedar Bar was the Davis homestead, and there another bridge crossed the Skagit, but it burned when a miner tried to rid the area of hornets and accidentally set fire to the bridge. Once past Cedar Bar, the trail ran along the side of Stetattle Mountain near the Box Canyon, which was later called Diablo Canyon, and then the trail descended into a hollow called the Punch Bowl directly east of the Box Canyon. There, where Thunder Creek joins the Skagit River, travelers could either turn south toward the silver mines, or follow the Skagit another six miles to Ruby Creek.

There was little organized work done on the Skagit Trail until the forest service became active in the area. On Feb. 22, 1897, Grover Cleveland signed an act under which the Washington Forest Reserve was created.

The Skagit Valley above Goodell's Landing was included in the reserve. The act failed to define the status of miners or homesteaders living with the boundaries of the reserve. In June 1906, the Forest Homestead Act was passed. Under this act, homesteaders in the Forest Reserve could apply for patents to their land if they had lived on it for five or more years prior to 1906. Each claim could contain up to 160 acres, so long as valuable timber land was not included. The land claimed was to be primarily agriculture. When Forest Service officials were satisfied that the claim was legitimate, it was surveyed, removed from federal control, and became the property of the settler. If the claim was rejected, the settler was evicted unless he obtained a special use permit, which allowed him to occupy the land on an annual basis for specified commercial purposes.

Among those who applied for Upper Skagit land under the Forest Homestead Act was Glee Davis. His mother, Lucinda Davis, was the daughter of a Methodist Minister in Pennsylvania. She had divorced her husband and in 1890, moved from her home in Colorado with her three children. She settled on the Cascade River

on the homestead of her brother, George Leach, who had drowned a few months before. The family stayed on the claim during the summer and moved to Mount Vernon in the fall so that the children could attend school.

On Nov. 17, 1897, the Cascade River flooded and destroyed the Davis homestead. Lucinda and her children moved to Cedar Bar on the Skagit and built a log house near an old cabin that once had been the house of an Indian named Charlie Moses. Cedar Bar was a convenient midway point on the Skagit Trail, and Lucinda Davis began operation of a roadhouse for miners traveling to the Ruby or Thunder Creek Mines.

Each year after 1898, the roadhouse was opened about April and closed in November. The family raised hay upriver at Beaver Creek and carried it down to sell to travelers. Glee Davis, Lucinda's youngest son, built a water wheel on Stetattle Creek and attached it to a gist mill for grinding flour. A flood carried away the water wheel a few years later and in 1900 the roadhouse burned, but was rebuilt the next spring.

In January 1907, Glee and Lucinda Davis traveled from Mount Vernon to Cedar Bar. The weather was bad and the trip upriver was dangerous. Lucinda described the trip in a letter written to her daughter Idessa who attended school in Tacoma:

"Glee met us at the Marblemount store at noon, Jan. 28. The stage had been run, mounted on a sled as it has been cold for so long. We got our belongings together and started up river and arrived at the Talc Mines before dark ... Leaving there, we walked the six miles to Babcock's cabin, where I cooked supper while Glee shoveled the snow off the roof. Mr. Babcock is working at the Talc, and his barn has already been broken down by the snow. We went the next three miles to Goodell's after dark, and it began snowing before we got there ... In the morning we started out in the deep snow that had fallen during the night and could hardly see the old tracks. Took us one hour to go the one mile to the canyon, but thought that might be the worst part, then three

hours to the Mason Bridge about two miles more. The slides were numerous and, in some places, we could hardly find the trail ... The Devil's Corner was icy, but not dangerous when we were careful. Twice I got an avalanche of snow from a big fir tree on me, it nearly suffocated me, but I just stood still and let it come ..."

They were unable to reach Cedar Bar in one day, and camped for the night near Midway Creek:

"... at four o'clock we built a fire under the big bluff at the foot of long hill, two and a half miles from home. Toward morning the snow came off the bluff about 300 feet high and came near, putting our fire out several times, but we slept some. We could hear snow slides all night. It began to rain about five a.m. and we started at seven. We were 30 minutes going up the long hill. We hurried all we could for fear of the slides, and were glad to find that Two-mile Creek had not slid at all. We got to the midway point where the trail was blasted into the rock, afraid every second that the ice would break and fall, then here the trail seems to have broken off, but we are not sure. We clung to the bluff till we reached the last section of the bridge and I could not see how we could get over, for the snow and ice was much higher than the bridge railings and up to a sharp point, but by bracing himself against the bluff, Glee got over the worst. Had he slipped, he would have gone between the bluff and the bridge and it was all ice to the river—about 60 feet."

Finally, the two came within sight of their cabin:

"When we got to the fishing hole, we saw a lot of smoke up at our place and were afraid that the house was on fire; the snow looked all brown through it. Jack Ring, a neighbor, was burning wet bark ... It was one hour and 20 minutes from the fishing hole to the cabin. I got my feet in hot water and drank a cup of tea and ate some beans and went to bed."

Despite bad weather and other difficulties, however, Glee Davis and his

mother enjoyed life on the Upper Skagit and hoped to maintain their homestead and roadhouse. In 1906 Glee filed for the claim under the Forest Service Homestead Act. In September 1907, Calvin Farrar, a Forest Service ranger, arrived at the Davis roadhouse and completed initial reports for the government.

Farrar suggested that part of the land be withdrawn to become a ranger station administrative site. On May 29, 1908, Reflector Bar, part of the land which Davis claimed, was withdrawn under the title of an administrative site and water power control site. There was no claim against the land except that of Glee Davis. In February 1908, Davis wrote the Department of Agriculture and asked about the status of his claim. He reduced his request from 100 acres to 60 acres. Farrar had recommended that he receive only 43 acres at most. Davis wanted to know what action was being taken on the claim. In March he was informed that the initial report had not yet reached Washington and that he should be patient.

Later in March, the acting supervisor of the Washington Forest Reserve, John Ames, wrote to the central office in Washington D.C., and stated that based on the report by Farrar, the Davis claim should be recognized and listed. No action was taken on this recommendation. Another ranger was sent to Cedar Barr and a second report was made on the claim. It recommended that only 43 acres be allowed to Davis, the remaining 17 acres being timber land, which did not qualify under the 1906 law. Furthermore, a right-of-way called the "Stetattle Right-of-Way" was created across the homestead. The report stated that in order to remove timber from the Upper Valley, a railroad would eventually have to be built into the area. The right-of-way would allow for this without making it necessary to obtain permission from the Davis family to cross their land.

Throughout 1908 the Forest Service debated about the number of acres to be allowed in the Davis homestead. Officials held that 43 acres was the maximum.

In January 1909, Lucina Davis wrote directly to Gifford Pinchot. She told about her move to Washington and her experience on the Cascade River, and added: "Last year I was charged for the privilege of conducting a road house on this piece of land and I know if the timber is of value to the government, I should be paid instead of being charged for. I have put out many fires left by campers

History, cont. from p. 38

or set by careless smokers and twice by lightning."

G. J. Cecil, a forester in Bellingham, responded that the Skagit Power Company, which was operating in the area, also had to pay for its special use permit, as did all commercial concerns in the Forest Reserve. He commended Mrs. Davis for actions in fire prevention, although he concluded others also did the same and did not require payment.

Glee and Lucinda Davis continued to complain about the reduced acreage and further maintained that the Forest Service had given special use permits to private companies for use of their land. This charge was answered by Ranger Alfred B. Conrad of Rockport in a letter to the Bellingham office in which he stated that only the Skagit Power Company operated in the area and that they had a permit for the land on the Reflector Bar Administrative site only. He concluded his letter, "Of course the Davis people will claim anything in sight there to keep the monopoly of their road house intact."

Late in February, Glee Davis made formal application of the 43 acres approved by the Forest Service. The claim took time to process, as the land had not been surveyed under the rectangular system. Furthermore, the Stetattle-Right-of-Way complicated the situation. In April, Supervisor Charles H. Park in Bellingham wrote to C. H. Flory and stated that the right-of-way was so large that only a minimum of land was left for the Davis family.

To be continued next month.

Crossword solution

1	S	2	L	3	A	4	B	5	U	6	S	7	A	8	D	9	U	10	M	11	P
12	T	O	U	R				13	S	K	Y			14	E	N	O	L			
15	A	L	T	O				16	H	I	E			17	C	I	T	E			
18	B	L	O	N		19	D	E		20	A	21	L	A	T	E	D				
						22	C	U	R		23	Y	A	M							
24	B	25	E	26	F	O	G	S		27	E	X	P	28	E	29	C	30			
31	O	L	D													32	B	O	O		
33	A	M	A	34	Z	35	E	36		37	R	I	38	B	B	O	N				
						40	A	K	A		41	A	V	E							
42	G	O	L	43	F	E	R		45	T	Y	R	46	A	47	N	48	T			
49	E	D	I	T				50	K	51	I	T			52	E	W	E	R		
53	L	O	C	I				54	E	R	A			55	F	A	C	E			
56	D	R	E	G				57	N	E	T			58	T	Y	K	E			

See History, p. 39

Classifieds

Movies & Events at the Historic Concrete Theatre

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

www.Concrete-Theatre.com

Owners: Valerie Stafford, Fred West

EMPLOYMENT

Parks Maintenance (part-time).

Town of Concrete will accept applications for the part-time position of Parks Maintenance until Wednesday, September 9, 2020, at 12:00 p.m.

Time commitment for this position is 10 hours per week. Compensation is \$15 per hour. Anticipated start date is Sept. 14, 2020.

Applications may be submitted to P.O. Box 39, Concrete, WA 98237, faxed to 360.853.8002, e-mailed to andrea@concretewa.gov, or hand-delivered to 45672 Main Street, Concrete, WA 98237, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Applications must be submitted by noon on Sept. 9, 2020. Applications are available at Town Hall or at www.townofconcrete.com.

Job Description: Duties include skilled and unskilled maintenance work, in the construction, operation, repair, and maintenance of the Angele Cupples Community Garden, with secondary work in the town's parks, park grounds, open spaces, and recreation facilities; other related duties as assigned. (Full job description available upon request.)

Necessary Knowledge, Skills and Abilities: The ability to operate and maintain various equipment used in park maintenance and repair, such as mowers, string trimmers, hedge trimmers, or other necessary equipment to perform construction

Sudoku solution

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

and maintenance work associated with the job; ability to communicate effectively, verbally and in writing; ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with other employees, other departments, and the public; must be organized and able to multi-task.

Education Requirements: Graduate of a standard high school, vocational school, or equivalent.

Contact Information:

Andrea Fichter
360.853.8401, andrea@concretewa.gov
www.townofconcrete.com
P.O. Box 39
45672 Main Street
Concrete, WA 98237

Town of Concrete reserves the right to cancel this notice at any time prior to or after the date of posting. Town of Concrete is an equal opportunity employer.
Published in Concrete Herald

NOTICES

Town of Concrete Surplus Auction

Notice is hereby given that a public auction for the below surplus items will start on Monday, August 24, 2020, with final bids made no later than 4:30 p.m. on the 21st day after the auctions begins.

- 1982 Dodge Ram Pickup: Minimum Bid \$1,000.00 — Auction #2620097
- Decanter Centrifuge, Sewer: Minimum Bid \$5,000.00 — Auction #2620123
- 1982 GMC Vactor Jet Truck: Minimum Bid \$2,500.00 — Auction #2620198
- 1988 Iveco Diesel Box Van: Minimum Bid \$1,000.00 — Auction #2620189
- Okidata Printer 320 Turbo: Minimum Bid \$5.00 — Auction #2623064
- Okidata Printer 321 Turbo: Minimum Bid \$5.00 — Auction #2620376
- Okidata Printer 390 Turbo: Minimum Bid \$5.00 — Auction #2620377

To view items, go to publicsurplus.com and search the above auction number associated with your item of interest. Contact Public Works Director Terry Coggins at 360.770.0394 or publicworks@concretewa.gov for specific questions regarding an item. For questions related to the Web site or bidding process, contact Clerk-Treasurer Andrea Fichter at 360.853.8401 or andrea@concretewa.gov.

Inspection of auction items by appointment only. Town of Concrete may require a bid deposit. Public Processing, LLC handles all payments for Town of Concrete. Acceptable forms of payment are: Wire

Transfer or Credit Card. NO CASH, CHECKS, OR MONEY ORDERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Payment for an awarded item must be received within five (5) business days after notice of award. A Buyers Premium of 10.5% may be added to the final sale price, with a \$1 minimum charge per auction for payment collections. This premium if applicable will be visible during the bidding process and added to the total bid. All sales are final. Public Processing will notify buyer of receipt of payment via e-mail. The successful bidder will be responsible for pick-up of item(s) from the agency's premises. Pick-up must occur within ten (10) business days after notification of award. The notice of award, payment receipt, and personal identification must be presented at time of pick-up, or the item will not be released. Pick-up hours by appointment only. The successful bidder will be responsible for packing, and/or loading any item(s) at pick-up, if necessary.

Published in Concrete Herald, September 2020 issue.

Contact information for elk-related issues:

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

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

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