

Concrete

The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley

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August 2022

Clear Lake • Sedro-Woolley • Lyman • Day Creek • Punkin Center • Hamilton • Birdsview • Grasmere

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Concrete Herald

The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley



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Concrete Herald owes its success to citizen journalists and photographers. Town of Concrete government reporter: Janet Clark; Town of Concrete government editor: Katy Tomasulo. Content Builders: Madison Tobisch; Ad Production: Guy Corp; grafix CORP; Bookkeeping: Univer Bookkeeping Services. Local contributions are welcome; call or e-mail Jason Miller at 360.853.8213 or editor@concrete-herald.com. Fax to: 360.853.8434.

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Building Healthier
Communities

Washington State
Health Care Authority

Opinion

Letters to the editor

What kind of world do we want?

As a young person I am absolutely appalled at the Supreme Court's recent decisions that limit both women's reproductive rights and the power of the EPA to regulate air pollution. This is unacceptable as we need to move forward in our country, not backward toward some unhealthy vision of the future. I thank the three justices who voted in support of women's reproductive rights and clean air. As for the other six, I would like to ask them, what sort of world are you looking to create? Do you think a world in which more people are dying of asthma and other pollution-related health issues is a desirable one? Do you think that a select few justices should decide what girls and women of any age should be able to do with their bodies? As a young woman, this is maddening and unacceptable.

If these recent rulings make you angry, please get out and vote. Vote this

November and in the future, for people and measures that will stand up for clean air, clean water, and a livable planet. Vote in support of reproductive rights for all, no matter their class, race, or otherwise.

Rebecca Canright
Rockport

Thankful while grieving

I want to thank all my family and true, caring friends for all your support during this difficult time. Your true friends care

Corrections

A photo caption on p. 27 of the July issue of *Concrete Herald* magically changed Skagit County Commissioner Lisa Janicki's name to Susan. Her name is Lisa. Duh.

The newspaper regrets the error.

to show up and it means the world to me. You certainly know the true, loyal friends at a time like this.

For those not aware, I have been battling to get my son Brandon the help he needs for his paranoid schizophrenia. For three and a half years I have battled to get him hospitalized in a psychiatric hospital because he was becoming violent and a danger to himself and others.

The system failed my son and he murdered someone. It's a crime that shouldn't have happened. A mental health team and law enforcement tried also, but our terrible laws and judges just kept releasing him, knowing he was very sick. Located in the Community Action office within the East Skagit County Resource Center at 45770 Main St. in Concrete, the offering allows residents to access the same high-quality mental health services available at physical Compass Health locations in Mount Vernon and cities farther away, without having to make the commute.

Now another family who my heart goes out to has lost someone forever. He can't be brought back and my heart breaks for them. We as a community need to fight to change laws, to make judges accountable for this revolving door of releases of dangerously mentally ill people. It's happening all over our country; every day more people die because the government is not doing anything to keep the public safe.

Thanks again. I love you all, and I know I am able to provide a physical location that is practical and accessible for residents of Concrete and nearby rural areas to receive ongoing care," said Judy Heinemann,

Compass Health director of Skagit, Island, and San Juan County Outpatient Services.

Clients will engage with mental health providers via Compass Health Bridge, a mobile video solution that allows for effective, private treatment in secure community and home settings while remaining HIPAA-compliant. To use the service, community members visit the Community Action office at designated appointment times and log in to a video chat via a secure link on the computer provided.

Since Compass Health first rolled out Bridge in 2019, the organization has continued to expand the footprint of the service, providing more clients across Northwest Washington with access to quality, personable care remotely.

Skagit County residents interested in scheduling an appointment or learning more about the services offered at the concrete telehealth station are encouraged to call 360.419.3500.

Compass Health, Concrete Community Action agency to open local mental health telehealth station

Compass Health and Community Action of Skagit County are pleased to announce the opening of a new telehealth station in Concrete. The station enables local community members to connect virtually with therapists and other mental health professionals via secure video chat for counseling, psychiatric evaluation, and case management.

Located in the Community Action office within the East Skagit County Resource Center at 45770 Main St. in Concrete, the offering allows residents to access the same high-quality mental health services available at physical Compass Health locations in Mount Vernon and cities farther away, without having to make the commute.

Services provided via the telehealth station are available to adults and children who qualify for Medicaid / Apple Health benefits. Skagit County residents interested in scheduling an appointment or learning more about the services offered at Compass Health's Concrete telehealth station are encouraged to call 360.419.3500.

"Through this telehealth station, we are able to provide a physical location that is practical and accessible for residents of Concrete and nearby rural areas to receive ongoing care," said Judy Heinemann,

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Skagit 911 pulls sales tax increase from General Election ballot

The Board of Directors for Skagit County 911 will not run a one-tenth of one percent sales tax increase (the equivalent of \$0.10 on a \$100 purchase) on the November General Election ballot.

For two years, the agency has discussed how to raise additional revenue to fund infrastructure improvements to cybersecurity, technology, and equipment to ensure reliable 911 coverage throughout Skagit County.

Skagit 911 dispatches all emergency calls in Skagit County for fire, emergency medical service, law enforcement, and disaster agencies. In order to be on the ballot, all its partners have to sign a revised interlocal agreement (ILA) for Skagit 911 to collect up to two-tenths of one percent sales tax, if passed by the voters of Skagit County. The agency was waiting on one, possibly two, cities to sign the ILA so the proposal cannot move forward to the November ballot unless they are signed in time.

"It makes more sense to fund the 911 system with sales tax instead of increasing user fees because visitors to Skagit County for shopping, dining and recreation also would pay their fair share," said Helen Rasmussen, Director of Skagit 911. "The only option now is to increase user fees, which will take more revenue away from services that cities and all our partners can provide to residents."

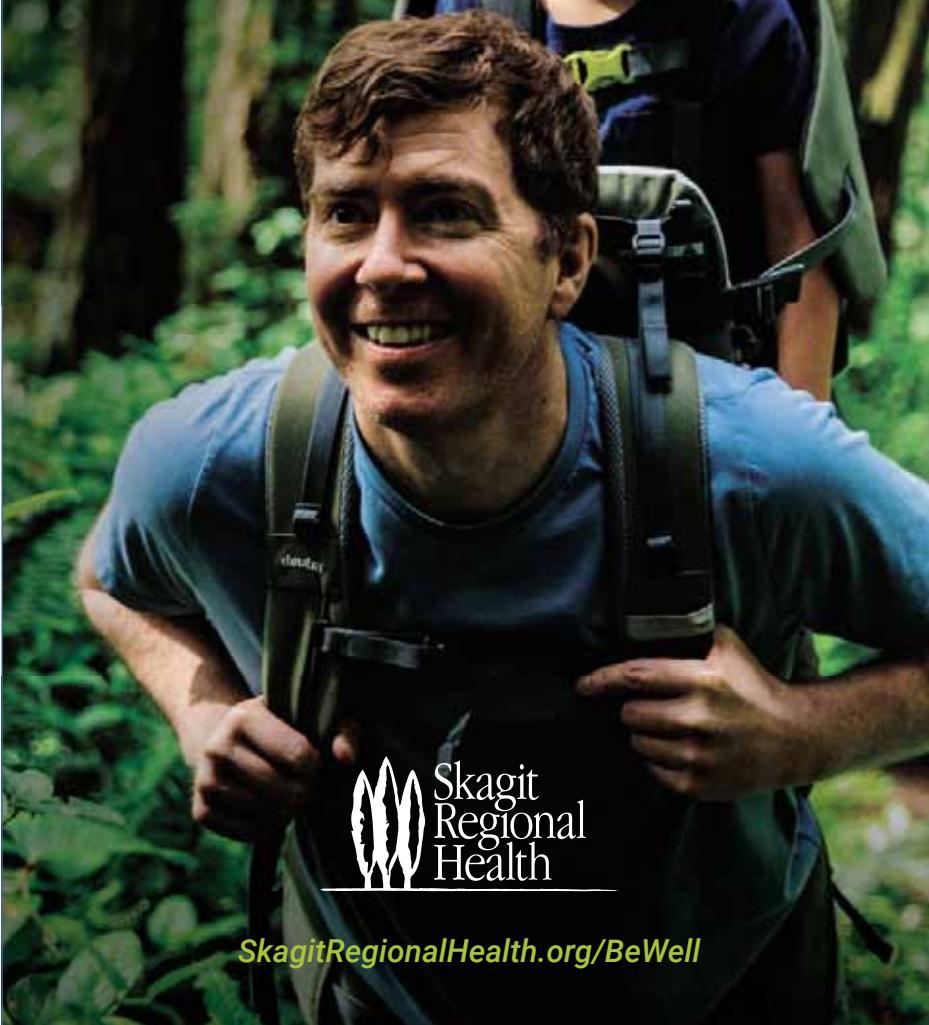
If voters had been able to vote on the sales tax increase, and if it had passed, sales tax in Skagit County would be lower than in Snohomish County.

Skagit 911 is currently funded by a one-tenth of one percent sales tax, a 911 tax on phone bills, and user fees that come directly from the general fund budgets of individual jurisdictions. The agency operates under a balanced budget and actively applies for grants to stretch tax dollars further. That funding model no longer meets the needs of first responders or the communities they serve.

With a 13 percent population increase in the last 12 years, Skagit 911 has become the ninth busiest dispatch agency in the state. It requires additional space for operations and infrastructure improvements to keep pace with the emergency calls of Skagit County residents and visitors who call 911.

"It all starts with 911," said Director Rasmussen.

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SkagitRegionalHealth.org/BeWell

Volunteerism booms in Concrete

By Theresa Shreffler
Edited by Katy Tomasulo

Town of Concrete is experiencing an unprecedented volunteer boom. More Concrete and Upper Valley residents than usual are turning out for local volunteer projects to contribute to town beautification.

According to Town of Concrete Parks Committee Chair Marla Reed and Co-chair Jeremy Akers, the influx of volunteers started at the beginning of the year, but has become most noticeable since the beginning of summer as the town prepared for tourist season.

The town communicates volunteer opportunities by word of mouth, via an e-mail chain of about 30 people who are connected with the Parks Committee, and through the Chamber of Commerce and other Concrete organizations, as well as



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Continue the cycle
Please recycle this newspaper

through individuals. It's typical to see about 10 volunteers per project, but that number has been increasing.

Recent projects completed by or in partnership with volunteers include:

- Cleaning, weeding, and fixing the fountain in Payne Plaza in Concrete Town Center.
- Mayor Jason Miller began improving the "World's Smallest Park" across Main Street from Payne Plaza.
- Cleaning the Henry Thompson Bridge.
- New plants and improvements to the Angele Cupples Community Garden.
- New plantings and hardscaping in the landscaped area beneath the carved bear at the municipal parking lot in Town Center, with elbow grease and materials courtesy of Dawn Newkirk, John Boggs, Carol Rohan, and



Mears Field tenant Jeff Ference pressure washes the historic Henry Thompson Bridge during the first of two work days at the site. Photo by Jeremy Akers.

- Cascade Supply.
Power washing sidewalks along Main Street.

Cascade Supply has donated materials and time to every project.

The Concrete Heritage Museum also has seasonal projects and welcomes volunteers.

Upcoming projects are not yet scheduled, but may include improvements to Silo Park and the historic Superior Portland Cement Building.

"I think the volunteer spirit will continue to grow, with many new people joining our community," Akers said. "Now that remote work is possible, we are seeing a lot of new faces around town."

Freelance writer Theresa Shreffler lives in Arlington.

Freelance editor Katy Tomasulo lives on Bainbridge Island.



Dawn Newkirk of Dawn's Floral & Gifts works to renovate the landscaped area at the base of the carved bear in the southwest corner of the municipal parking lot in Concrete Town Center. Dawn's efforts were followed by volunteer John Boggs, who is replacing the pavers in front of the bear so people will have a more stable surface to stand on while snapping selfies with the bear. Mayor Jason Miller worked with local voiceover actress Marta Rensink to script and record a new, motion-activated recording at the bear.

Salary Commission created; Economic Dev. Commission appointments blocked

By Theresa Shreffler
Edited by Katy Tomasulo

During the July 11 Concrete Town Council meeting, Mayor Jason Miller appointed five people to form the town's first Salary Commission: former town councilmembers Mike Bartel and Jude Dippold, and town citizens Bill Sullivan, Leatha Sullivan, and Jeff Maher.

The commission's first meeting was held on July 28, when its members elected Mike Bartel as chair and Bill Sullivan as chair pro tem.

The commission is charged with reviewing the salaries of the town council and determining necessary increases or decreases to current salaries. Salary increases are effective immediately after council approval. Salary decreases are effective with the commencement of a councilmember's next term in office.

Speculation occurred over the amount of time given to applicants to apply to the EDC positions. Earlier this year, the advertisement for two EDC vacancies

Commission members are residents and registered voters within Concrete town limits. Commission members cannot be officers, officials, or employees of the town or their family members.

The Salary Commission will have 90 days from its appointment to review the town council's current salaries and submit any amendments to the town clerk. All meetings of the commission are governed by the Open Public Meetings Act and are open to public attendance. Minutes will be posted on the town Web site.

Economic Development Commission appointments disputed

The Economic Development Commission received five applications for two open positions. Mayor Miller appointed two of the applicants, but they

were disputed by four out of five town council members, who then voted to cancel the EDC meeting scheduled for July 13, because the chair and chair pro tem positions were scheduled to be elected during that meeting. The EDC chair and chair pro tem will be elected at a later date.

Councilmember Rob Thomas challenged the selections. He stated that another applicant, Ger van den Engh, had the most experience in economic development and had shown commitment to the community. He asked why the applicant was not chosen. Mayor Miller stated the two candidates chosen are qualified for the open positions. He acknowledged existing tension around the EDC, and said he did not want to further that tension.

Councilmembers Thomas and Marla Reed disagreed with the applicants

was placed on hold while the council considered changing from a seven-member to a five-member commission. In response to some speculation about the timing of the advertisement of the EDC vacancies, Mayor Miller stated he was following procedure, not trying to buy time for anyone to apply. Such speculation is unfounded, he said.

According to the EDC bylaws, the mayor appoints chosen applicants to the EDC and the council approves. Miller said he appointed Katheryn Krogh and Stephanie Semro for the vacant seats based on skill, collaborative spirit, and how they would work with existing councilmembers. Mayor Miller discussed his decision with EDC Commission Chair Eric Archuleta.

Councilmember Rob Thomas challenged the selections. He stated that another applicant, Ger van den Engh, had the most experience in economic development and had shown commitment to the community. He asked why the applicant was not chosen. Mayor Miller stated the two candidates chosen are qualified for the open positions. He acknowledged existing tension around the EDC, and said he did not want to further that tension.

Councilmembers Thomas and Marla Reed disagreed with the applicants

appointed to the EDC seats, and were joined in their dissent by Councilmembers Jeremy Akers and Jon Gunnarsson. Mayor Miller said that he would consult with the town clerk for next steps, because this was the first time a decision regarding EDC appointments had not been approved by the council.

Audience member John Boggs requested to speak on this item, but stated he was willing to hold off until the next meeting on two conditions: that the council

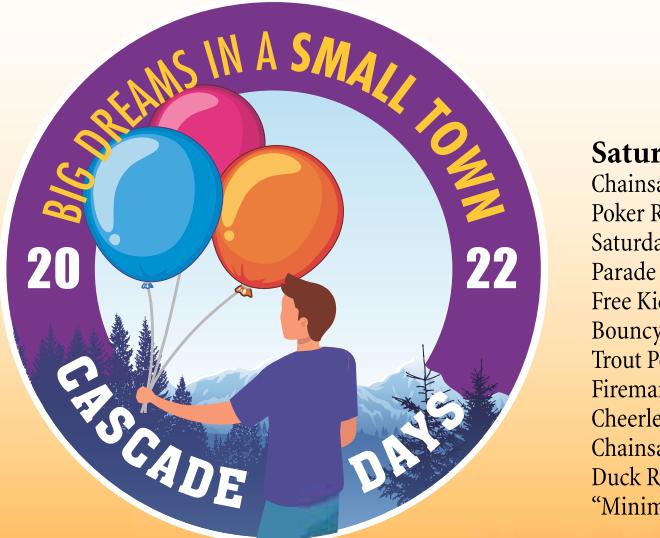
wouldn't confirm or select any new EDC members until the next council meeting, and that they would cancel the next EDC meeting. Boggs said that as soon as the EDC fell below seven members, which was sometime last year, the vacant positions should have been advertised.

Councilmember Rob Thomas challenged the selections. He stated that another applicant, Ger van den Engh, had the most experience in economic development and had shown commitment to the community. He asked why the applicant was not chosen. Mayor Miller stated the two candidates chosen are qualified for the open positions. He acknowledged existing tension around the EDC, and said he did not want to further that tension.

Councilmembers Thomas and Marla Reed disagreed with the applicants

See Commissions, p. 6

CASCADE DAYS Celebrate our Community AUGUST 20-21, 2022



Veteran's Memorial Park – CONCRETE, WA

Saturday

- Chainsaw Carvers 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM
- Poker Run 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM
- Saturday Market & Book Sale 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
- Parade 11:00 AM
- Free Kids' Art Activities Noon to 4:00 PM
- Bouncy House Noon to 4:00 PM
- Trout Pond Noon to 4:00 PM
- Fireman's Muster 12:30 PM
- Cheerleading Expo 2:00 PM
- Chainsaw carvers auction 3:00 PM
- Duck Race 3:30 PM
- "Minimum Wage" Street Dance 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Sunday

- DinoCrew 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM
- Car Show w/ DJ Noon to 4:00 PM
- Logging Competition 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM
- Family Fun Activities Noon to 4:00 PM
- Water Slide Noon to 4:00 PM
- Bouncy House Noon to 4:00 PM
- Pie/watermelon-eating contests 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM
- Jam/jelly/pickle contest 3:00 PM
- Raffle 4:00 PM

www.CascadeDays.com

Visit our website for the most up-to-date information.

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

Cascade Days Grand Marshals named

Dalton Blodgett and Cheri Cook-Blodgett are this year's Grand Marshals for the Cascade Days Parade.

The couple live in the Van Horn area and are active in the Concrete and Upper Valley community. Dalton is retired from the City of Everett as a construction engineer, while Cheri worked for the National Park Service and Skagit County during her career years.

Cheri is an accomplished pianist and spent 30 years as an accompanist with the Skagit Valley Chorale, plus an additional 10 years with Cantabile, another choral group.

Both are members of the Concrete Heritage Museum; Cheri helped to found it 26 years ago.

Never one to seek the spotlight, Cheri said "I'm going to hide" when asked to comment on their role as grand marshals. "No, no, we promise to be in the parade," she added. "Concrete is a great little community and we are honored to

Headed to Baker Lake or Lake Shannon this summer?

Make sure to stay safe, stay cool and stay hydrated.

- Drink plenty of water
- Be aware of your surroundings (in and out of the water)
- If you plan to swim; know the conditions of the water
- Never swim alone
- Have a plan for emergencies

Enjoy the new Lake Shannon Day-Use Park, now open from dawn to dusk, along with a variety of recreational activities in the area, including hiking, camping, hunting, fishing, swimming and water sports.

Reminder: The Lower Baker Dam continues to be an active construction site as the Seepage Reduction Project continues through the summer. Use caution when traveling around the Dam and Lake Shannon Day-Use Park as heavy trucks and machinery are present and utilizing the roadways.

For more information regarding PSE's Baker facilities please visit: pse.com/bakerriver.



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THIS AND THAT

By J. K. M.

receive the honor of being chosen. I'm overwhelmed."

Two days of fun

An All School Picnic will be held at Silo Park in Concrete after the Cascade Days parade on Aug. 20, hosted by the class of 1972.

The event again will be held on the third weekend in August—Aug. 20–21—and will split two of the bigger draws, with the parade on Saturday and the car show on Sunday.

Look for kids' activities after the parade, as well as a trout pond, chainsaw carvers, a first-ever cheerleading exposition, firemen's muster, and a street dance.

Sunday starts with dinosaurs, followed by the car show, more fun for kids, and the return of the log show, as well as pie- and watermelon-eating contests, and a jam/jelly/pickle contest.

For more information and a complete schedule of events, go to cascadedays.com.

—J. K. M.

All School Picnic

An All School Picnic will be held at Silo Park in Concrete after the Cascade Days parade on Aug. 20, hosted by the class of 1972.

Meet and greet begins around 1 p.m., with a potluck picnic lunch at 2:30 p.m. All Concrete High School graduates, students, and teachers are welcome. Bring a lawn chair; canopies will be provided. And of course, bring some food to share.

Finney Creek closed at Upper Finney Creek Bridge

Finney Creek Rd. closed on Aug. 1 and will remain closed through 5 p.m. on March 1, 2023, at the Upper Finney Creek Bridge so that crews can conduct seismic retrofit and make other improvements.

The specific area of the closure is between milepost 4.6 to milepost 4.7. The road will be closed to all vehicles, including emergency vehicles. There will be no signed detour route, because the connecting road network is composed of U.S. Forest Service logging roads.

More information about Skagit County road closures is available online at skagitcounty.net/reporting/roadclose.

Early-warning siren system testing at Baker River Dam

Puget Sound Energy will test its early-warning siren system at the Baker River Hydroelectric Project during the week of Aug. 29. The testing plan includes sounding the sirens.

Siren testing is scheduled to take place on Aug. 29, Aug. 31, or Sept. 1, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

The purpose of the test is to conduct operational assessments as a follow up to the early-warning siren system that was installed in 2018.

As part of PSE's Dam Safety Program, PSE upgraded its early-warning siren system, expanding the sound coverage warning area and increasing the siren system from three sirens to eight. In the event of a dam breach, the siren system would provide early-warning and immediate mass notification to Concrete and the surrounding communities of Van Horn, Grasmere, Cape Horn, and Birdsview.

Exact locations of the sirens and siren tone and verbal messages can be found at pse.com/bakerriver.

During the tests, the sirens will produce a tone and two verbal messages. This is a scheduled test and only a test of the siren system; residents are not called to evacuate.

If the sirens sound at any other time, without prior notice to *Concrete Herald* and other local media, it is not a test. Residents are to evacuate and head for higher ground, in the north and south direction, away from the Skagit River.

For more information or questions about the siren test, e-mail damsafety@pse.com or call 888.404.8773.

Sockeye limit in Baker Lake increases to three

The daily sockeye limit in Baker Lake has increased to three, according to a press release from WDFW.

The increase took effect on July 22 and will remain in effect through Aug. 31.

Minimum size is 18 inches. Two-pole fishing is allowed with a two-pole endorsement. Each angler aboard a vessel may deploy salmon angling gear until the daily limit for all anglers aboard has been achieved.

The 2022 sockeye run size has been increased to 30,176. During public sockeye workshops held in 2014 and 2015, anglers established run size tiers to guide the daily limit allowed in the lake. Based on the tiers, if the forecast or an in-season run size update exceeds 29,999 sockeye, the daily limit would be three sockeye.

Fishers must have a current Washington fishing license, appropriate to the fishery.

Commissions, cont. from p. 5

seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

At the July 25 council meeting, council-members further deliberated next steps, with town attorney David Day suggesting they start over with a new slate of candidates. Council instead chose to change the bylaws for the EDC and other town commissions, to allow for candidates to appear before council and the mayor during a regular council meeting to answer questions, among other changes.

Freelance writer Theresa Shreffler lives in Arlington. Freelance editor Katy Tomasulo lives on Bainbridge Island.

Council summary

Concrete Town Council met for a special meeting on July 11, in addition to its regular meetings on July 11 and 25. The following are summaries of those meetings. Complete and council-approved minutes for every council meeting are posted on the town's Web site at www.townofconcrete.com/cminutes.php.

Keep track of your council

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

transients when he can or when he knows they are in town.

- Town engineer Cody Hart reported on the proposal to place benches against the south end of the municipal parking lot in Concrete Town Center. Public safety concerns and regulations around street/sidewalk furnishings were discussed. Councilmembers decided to each visit the site and better acquaint themselves with the area.
- Economic Development Commission appointments: See article, p. 5.
- Salary Commission appointments: See article, p. 5.
- Councilmember and Parks Committee Chair Marla Reed presented an idea for an "Adopt a Spot" program, which would allow private citizens and/or businesses and organizations to adopt a portion or all of a park or other public area, and keep it looking presentable. After discussion, council decided to move the idea forward.
- Audience member Val Stafford shared her concerns about the parks in town.
- Council voted to appoint Councilmember Jeremy Akers as co-chair of the Parks Committee.
- *Health care:* Councilmember Drew Jenkins reported there still is a rising issue with fentanyl in Skagit County and people should be aware of this. Discussion ensued on the use and availability of Narcan as well.

July 25 regular meeting

- *Public comment:* Cynthia Omdahl Beck presented to council a proposal to name the skatepark in honor of deceased skateboard enthusiast Scott Forrester. Council requested administration to research criteria used by other entities for these types of requests.
- Council discussed vacant seats on the Planning Commission and the plan for filling those seats and restarting the meetings.
- Mayor Miller reported that a beta version of the new town website was expected by July 29.

—Compiled from staff minutes

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Sale ends 8/31/22

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and

doitbest.com



Academics



YD Update

I have two very exciting things to share with you this month.

We recently returned from our big summer adventure trip (The Four River Tour), where we took 13 students from Concrete Youth Dynamics on a thrilling six-day, four-river kayak trip. This was an adventure of a lifetime, and one I had been working on with the river guides for two years. We took high school students places where no students had ever gone before in the history of YD. It was the maiden voyage of what may be more adventures to come for other students, from Concrete and other areas around the Northwest. It was special.

I love these trips because it gives our local teens an opportunity to get out, have a ton of fun, seek adventure, be challenged, and gain great knowledge and

understanding of our Creator. Everyone was challenged in different ways, and everyone overcame fears, as well as other life obstacles. It was, and always is, a beautiful thing to witness. More than the river, the waves, the mountains, and the sunsets—life change, courage, and perseverance are incredible to be a part of, and I am always grateful for the relationships built as a result of these powerful adventures together.

Kayla Knuth, Kendra Knuth, Charlie Bartel, and Devon Howard (all graduated seniors) took their last trip with Youth Dynamics as students. It was emotional. It was awesome. It is memories they will take with them forever. These students are of great influence and encouragement to their peers, as well as us leaders. They give me hope for this generation and the next. I know that wherever they go, they will take their experiences with YD and apply them to their jobs, their marriages,

and hopefully their kids (so they can enjoy some of the same adventures their parents did). There is nothing quite like spending an entire week on the river with a group of people you really care about. I cherish these trips. I always do.

These trips are not free. It takes a lot of coordination, food, fuel, and sunscreen to make something like this happen. I am grateful for everyone who came alongside our young people in support.

Our one big fundraiser is coming up Mon., Aug. 22 at Avalon Golf Course in Burlington, and I ask you to come alongside us again. Whether you have donated in the past, are a monthly supporter, or you have never financially supported us, this is the best opportunity to do so. The Youth Dynamics Golf Marathon is a full day of me golfing 100 holes to raise support for Concrete Youth Dynamics. The money we raise each year from this charity event goes to provide

another full year of food and drinks for our students for our Monday Night events: fuel, insurance, and maintenance of our two passenger vans; insurance and activity fees for all of our fun and games, and yes, our many retreats throughout the school year. Please consider sponsoring me for this event, and help our Upper Valley students continue to enjoy these opportunities.

Concrete Youth Dynamics is locally based, and is made up of an all-volunteer staff, so all of the money goes back into the programs and trips for the kids. If you would like to sponsor me for the Golf Marathon, go to youthdynamics.yd.org/fundraiser/4001316. I appreciate your support in advance, and appreciate everything this community does for its young people.

—Kevik and Marta Rensink, area dir.
Concrete Youth Dynamics basketball head coach Levi Stewart.

—J. K. M.

Youth Sports Assn basketball players practice and play

This summer the Concrete Youth Sports Association boys basketball team had four intrasquad games and one skills camp with the high school basketball team.

The youth team, led by coach Paul Bianchini, has shown tremendous growth and has had incredible support from the parents and families.

"It's great to see these kids competing and working hard in the gym. Our community and young student athletes are so lucky to have a person like Coach Bianchini. I'm awfully proud of these kids and their families for the support throughout the season," said CHS basketball head coach Levi Stewart.

Sports



Submitted photos

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National suicide and crisis lifeline launches

A new suicide and crisis lifeline number, 988, went live on July 16. The number will route people via call, text, or chat to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and serve as a universal entry point so that, no matter where you live, you can easily reach a trained crisis counselor who can help.

This free, confidential service is available to anyone experiencing mental health-related distress, whether that is thoughts of suicide, mental health, or substance use crisis, or any other kind of emotional distress. When someone calls or texts 988, they will be directly connected to trained, compassionate counselors who listen, provide support, and connect callers to resources if necessary. People can also call or text 988 if they are worried about a loved one who may need crisis support.

Call services will be available in English

and Spanish, along with interpretation services in over 250 languages. Spanish speakers may reach the Spanish Language Line by pressing 2 after dialing, and Veterans and service members may reach the Veterans Crisis Line by pressing 1 after dialing. People who are deaf, hard of hearing, and TTY users should use their preferred relay service or dial 7.1.1, then 1.800.273.8255. Text and chat services are available in English only. Soon, Washington will launch a Native and Strong Lifeline dedicated to serving American Indian and Alaska Native individuals.

988 will not replace the National Suicide Prevention phone number, but will provide another, easier way for people to reach more crisis centers. Call either 988 or 800.273.8255 to get connected and receive support.

For more information about 988, go to 988lifeline.org.

For additional resources, go to Skagit Health Connection, skagithelps.org, or contact Skagit County Public Health at 360.416.1500.



—Skagit County

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Above left: Concrete Youth Sports Association boys compete during a Saturday morning game.

Left: A group photo from the Youth Kids camp with the CHS basketball team. Submitted photos.

A gentle care

Terry Gifford's chamomile farm offers rest, comfort, calm, and healing

By Jason Miller

Willowbrook Manor is one of the best-kept secrets in Sedro-Woolley, if not all of Skagit County.

The elegant mansion rests on nine acres of a working chamomile farm a few miles east of the city proper, looking like something plucked from the English countryside. Owner and proprietor Terry Gifford serves tea and scones, and gives guests a quiet place to sleep.

But Willowbrook Manor is much more than a bed and breakfast inn.

In the beginning

Gifford and her former spouse, Matt, didn't intend to design a tea house. "It was never on our radar," she said.

The couple attended University of Washington together and loved old Tudor architecture, the feel of the houses and the campus. "We'd walk the neighborhoods at night and ooh and ah" over the architecture, she said.

They graduated and subscribed to English Home Magazine; they tore out pages and dreamed. In 1996 they purchased the property and escaped to it. On summer days she'd garden while the kids played. They lived in a tent trailer for four months with four kids, then lived

in the garage. They added two more kids, then finally the house was ready.

The plan was to raise the kids, then enjoy grandkids and country living. They created a "gentleman's farm"—"no animals, because kids," said Gifford. They planted fruit trees, picked berries, worked on the landscaping, and tended to the plants.

But the fairy tale hit a brick wall: "Divorce came and took me places where I didn't think I'd be," said Gifford, "a single mom with five of the six kids."

She knew she'd have to get a job or have the farm support itself. She started planning it as a wedding venue; every summer they'd do a large landscaping project with "Willowbrook Wedding Venue" as the end game. Another hurdle presented itself: The property was zoned agricultural.

"I had to tie in my business to the agriculture, so I decided to buy a tractor and till up the field, and I planted chamomile," said Gifford. "And suddenly I had it: a chamomile farm and tea house. It was a road block that took me to a much better place, because I prefer the more intimate settings of English tea and glamor camping and bike tours—much preferred to the stress and expectations of weddings and bridezillas and mothers of

See Willowbrook, p. 11

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Willowbrook, cont. from p. 10

5,000 square feet, its exterior massing and interior finishes are designed to make guests feel like they're stepping into a human-scaled home—100 years ago. She and Matt did all the woodwork themselves—"the more bunged-up errors the better." They poured the concrete without expansion joints and let it crack. They finished the house in 2004.

The main floor of the manor holds four large rooms and includes an industrial production kitchen. The Tea Room adjoins the kitchen and is surrounded by windows. "We wanted to bring the outside in, so every wall has large windows," said Gifford.

All the rooms are named after herbs: The Lavender Room was once the rec room; now it has a crystal chandelier and is ready for cozy gatherings. The Saffron Room transforms into a tea house four times a year. The Sage Room joins the Saffron Room as the two sitting rooms. The Tea Room and Lavender Room are always tea rooms.

A curved wood staircase beneath a jaw-dropping chandelier leads to a landing and the upper-floor bedrooms, which include the master suite, the English Thyme Room, the French Tarragon Room, the Anise Room, and the Rosemary Room.

Windows saturate all four facades of Willowbrook Manor with natural light and views to farmland and mountains, pastoral overlooks of the foothills of the North Cascades. The front yard is a sweeping lawn; Gifford is transforming the backyard into a formal garden.

The East Lawn lies to one side of the home and is the site of the biggest landscaping project, with a wisteria arbor, a rock firepit with views of Sauk Mountain, patios at each end of the lawn, and the tea tent. "It's the perfect landscape for weddings, but it's a beautiful place for tea, too," said Gifford.

To the west are more gardens: an English rose garden, a vegetable garden, raised beds, and a tulip planting area for Gifford's Tea & Tulips event each April. The cottage greenhouse is transplanted from the farm she grew up on in Ferndale. "It was going to rack and ruin, and we saved it," said Gifford.

A reflecting pool hosts tadpoles and frogs every summer. The Cascade Trail runs alongside the property, with Coal Creek on the other side. The trail gave Gifford the idea for bike tours combined with tea and scones. "It's quite the unique experience," she said, "bikes, tea, scones, scenery, and area history."



Submitted photo

Giving back

Gifford has a history of humanitarian service, and she uses Willowbrook Manor to further her goals.

She has in her past humanitarian work in Bolivia and Kenya. When she was only six months old, her grandparents traveled to Afghanistan and ran a restaurant with a staff of 15 Afghani men. Fast forward to 9/11, when news from Afghanistan was overwhelmed by reports of war and terrorism. Gifford published her grandmother's "Letters from Afghanistan" and toured with the book.

"We met a woman at a presentation who ran Opportunity Fund for Developing Countries," said Gifford. "We decided we should use the book as a fundraiser for peasant people. So we set up a microlending opportunity for impoverished women. I baked bread for the farmers markets in Bolivia. We set up a nonprofit there—Serving Women Across Nations—and provided business training for women, along with microloans."

As the 100th loan went through, though, Gifford's "world crashed down" with her divorce and she mothballed her SWAN Foundation. Years later, though, after her youngest child graduated, she saw the need again, locally.

"So I took the foundation out of mothballs and linked it to our farm," she said.

The foundation raises money in support of numerous nonprofits and local organizations. In March each year, she hosts "seeding and tea," which includes

chamomile seeding and tree propagation.

Bellingham. Gingerbread tea in fall helps to support Lighthouse Mission. Teacup sales around Christmas raise funds for Skagit Domestic Violence and Sexual

See Willowbrook, p. 12

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Willowbrook, cont. from p. 11

Assault.

During the Blast from the Past event in June, a bike ride event transforms a leisurely bike ride (or walk) into a history lesson for Sedro-Woolley. Bring your own bike, drop a \$25 admission fee, get smarter about the city, and support Helping Hands Food Bank.

"Every year it grows a little bit," said Gifford of the event. "And I really want that fundraiser to take off. I want to see that grow to 150 people getting on their bikes and heading into town."

Most recently, gatherings for seeding, planting, and harvesting chamomile raise funds for homeless shelters.

"That's probably been the most gratifying part of the farm—the outreach that we're able to do," said Gifford.



Above: A sitting area provides a place for tea for two inside Willowbrook Manor.

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We can give a voice to the needs in our own area. You don't have to run away to Bolivia to find the need; it's right here."

Gifford's nurturing approach is almost a philosophy unto itself.

"What I love about my work is that it's an extension of my role of being a mom: making food, doing laundry, keeping up the farm ... but there's something about tea that feels like you're giving care.

There's something about sitting down to a fine china teacup with a close friend or family, or alone, and having the yummy scones and little sandwiches ... It's a form of care. It's a gentle care. It's an extension of nurture that you do when you're a mom. Everyone who comes for tea feels that 'yum.' I love what I do; I feel spoiled that I can host people in my home for special occasions and for everyday events.

"If people have something in them that isn't well, they find wellness here. That's what I love about my job. Two women visited once; one was caring for her elderly husband, who was failing. She sat with her tea and said, 'I feel like I want to weep.' It was a gift for her."

Future plans

Terry Gifford dreams with the ferocity of a 20-year-old. She's carved out a niche, but wants to whittle out a bigger space. She serves English Tea four times each year—and that's perfect, she says—but she wants Willowbrook's reputation as an inn to grow.

"When you have out-of-town guests and you want them to have a beautiful experience, I want Willowbrook to be known as the place to stay for overnight guests in the area," she said.

She hopes her "tea and tour" offering, which provides electric bikes for guests, becomes known in the Skagit Valley as "the thing to do."

Some of her plans aren't quite "ready for primetime" yet, but other elements of



Above: The Lavender Room is Terry Gifford's favorite place to enjoy tea.

the farm are out there for consumption.

"Most people who come say, 'I've been in the valley all my life and I've never known about this,'" said Gifford. "I feel

it's the best-kept secret in the Skagit Valley. I like that, but I want more people to know about it. People have to know it's there to be able to bring their guests there."

This fall, Gifford will send mailers to businesses, encouraging them to choose

Willowbrook, cont. from p. 12

very challenging topics in an atmosphere that's calming and effective."

Willowbrook Manor is located at 27420 Minkler Rd., Sedro-Woolley. It is a working farm, so visits are by reservation or appointment only. For more information, go to teatandtour.com, call 360.218.4585, or e-mail teatime@teatandtour.com.

For more information about SWAN Foundation, go to www.SWANfoundation.org.



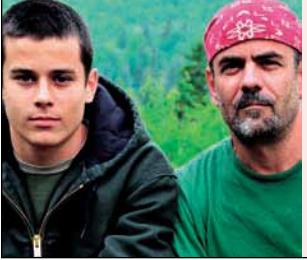
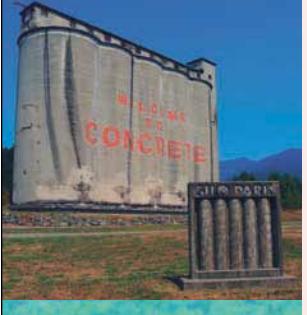
Above: The tea tent overlooks a grassy area to the east, with the chamomile field and North Cascades foothills beyond.

Left: Terry Gifford stands near the willow tree that her mother gave her when she first bought the property. "That's why I called it Willowbrook, because we have Coal Creek and my mom's willow," said Gifford.

A nearby solar array installed in 2019 lets the property generate more power than it uses.



Above: Terry Gifford stands in a field of chamomile with dog companions Squidge and Georgie. Submitted photo.



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Clear Lake



HISTORY CORNER

This small house, situated where the Clear Lake Food Bank is today, was the oldest house in Clear Lake.

Robert Pringle, one of the earliest homesteaders, built the simple structure using split cedar boards. He sold the house and 20 acres to Jake Bartl in 1886, who later platted the Town of Mountain View (now known as Clear Lake) in 1890.

Many families lived in the house prior to it becoming the office of Charlie Smith, a local insurance and realty salesman. The building was torn down circa 1975 to make room for Chuck and Rose Pendergrast's mobile home. Included in the photo at right are, from left, Alexander Smith, George Smith holding oldest son of Charlie Bartl (George), and Charlie Bartl's wife, Harriett. 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

Big Lake Historical Society will present an exhibit of photos, maps, and artifacts in the Community Room at the Big Lake Fire Department, located at 16822 West Big Lake Blvd., on Aug. 13–14, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. A PowerPoint presentation at noon will feature Baker Heights, Big Rock, Big Lake, Walker Valley, Montborne, Ehrlich, Finn Settlement, and McMurray. A tour of old Big Lake will follow at 2 p.m.

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Community Calendar

AUGUST

- 4 Skagit County Pioneer Association Picnic and General Meeting, Rainbow Bridge, La Conner, 11 a.m.; see article, p. 34
- 6 Concrete Farm to School Kids at Concrete Saturday Market, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- 6 Birdstock, Birdsview Brewing Company, 38302 SR 20, Birdsview; noon to 8 p.m.; no entry without pre-purchased tickets at <https://m.bpt.me/event/5447709>; info at 360.826.3406, [www.birdsviewbrewingcompany.com](http://birdsviewbrewingcompany.com), or find them on Facebook
- 6 Heart to Heart Charity 8th Annual Motorcycle Poker Run fundraiser, starts at Bingham Park, Sedro-Woolley; registration from 10 to 10:45 a.m. and kickstands up at 11 a.m.; info at hearttoheartcharity@gmail.com or 360.708.4662
- 6–7 Salmon Bar-B-Que fundraiser, Marblemount Community Hall, noon to 6 p.m.; see notice, p. 23
- 10 Friends of North Mountain open house for North Mountain Lookout, at the lookout; see article, p. 24
- 10–13 Skagit County Fair; see ad, p. 27
- 12–13 Remembering Northern State, Coleman Building, Hub Dr., SWIFT Center, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; see ad, p. 17
- 13 Concrete Heritage Museum Bake Sale at Concrete Saturday Market; 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- 13 Let's Give It A Try! Teen Crafting Club, Upper Skagit Library, 3 p.m.
- 13–14 Big Lake Historical Society exhibit and tour, Big Lake Fire Dept., 16822 West Big Lake Blvd., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; see notice, p. 14
- 17 Budgeting Basics Workshop (ages 16+), Upper Skagit Library, 6 p.m.
- 19 Teen Mystery Box Game, Upper Skagit Library, 2 p.m.
- 20 Upper Skagit Library Friends Amazing Book Sale, Concrete Saturday Market, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- 20 Live music by Richard Myers at Concrete Saturday Market, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- 20 All School Picnic, Silo Park, Concrete, after Cascade Days Parade; see notice, p. 6
- 20–21 Cascade Days, Concrete; see ad, p. 5
- 20–21 Big August Hoobajoob art show, 605 S. Emens Ave., Darrington; see article, p. 24
- 24 Bike N Build, Marblemount Community Hall; see notice, p. 23
- 25 Adult Craft Night, Upper Skagit Library, 6 p.m.
- 26 Homeschool Hangout at Upper Skagit Library, Concrete; 5:30 p.m.
- 27 Skagit Master Gardeners Plant Clinic at Concrete Saturday Market, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- 27 Mountain Day Celebration, Darrington Community Center, 570 Sauk Ave., Darrington; 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; see notice, p. 24
- 27 Darrington Car Show, Red Top Tavern, 1020 Darrington St., Darrington, 11 a.m. (registration at 10:30 a.m.); entry fee \$15; see notice, p. 24
- 27 Write On! Teen Writing Club at Upper Skagit Library, Concrete; 3 p.m.
- 27–28 Sasquatch Festival, Marblemount Community Hall; see notice, p. 23
- 31 Stuffed Animal Sleepover at Upper Skagit Library, drop off before 5 p.m.

SEPTEMBER

- 7 Winter and Disaster Preparedness Fair, Swap Meet field, Concrete, 2 to 7 p.m.; info at medicyne_eagle@yahoo.com
- 26 "Get to Know Your Neighbor" potluck and dance, Marblemount Community Hall, 6 p.m.; see notice, p. 23

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

Community meetings

Cascade Days planning meetings are held on the third Monday of each month at 7460 S. Dillard Ave., Concrete, at 5:30 p.m. For more info, contact pr@cascadedays.com.

Christian Motorcyclists Assn Morning Star Chapter 39 meets the third Saturday 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 Lone Star Restaurant, 45930 Main St., Concrete. 360.630.4303.

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

Concrete Chamber of Commerce meets the second Thursday of each month at 1 p.m., at Act One Ice Cream Parlor, 45924 Main St., Concrete. 360.466.8754 or concretechamber@mac.com.

Concrete Economic Development Commission meets the second Wednesday of each month, at 6 p.m. at Concrete Town Hall. Call 503.333.2406 for the date of the next meeting.

Concrete Heritage Museum Assn meets the third Wednesday of each month, at 6 p.m. at the museum, 7380 Thompson Ave., Concrete.

Meetings are open to the public. 360.853.7439.

Concrete Resource Coalition meets the third Thursday of each month, at 3 p.m., via Zoom. There is no meeting in July and August.

Concrete School District Board meeting(s) for August were not available on the district Web site at press time.

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 andreat@concretewa.gov. For information regarding remote attendance via Zoom, go to www.townofconcrete.com.

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

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

Lyman Town Council meets the second Tuesday 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](mailto:lyman@msn.com).

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

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

Sedro-Woolley Town Council meets the second and fourth Wednesday of each month, at 7 p.m., via Zoom. To learn more about how to attend, go to www.ci.sedro-woolley.wa.us/governing_bodies/city_council/meetings.php. More info at 360.855.1661.

Sedro-Woolley School District Board will meet for a regular, in-person meeting on Aug. 22 at 6 p.m., at the Support Services Building, 317 Yellow Lane, Sedro-Woolley. Info at jtrammell@swsd101.org or 360.855.3500.

Skagit River Bald Eagle Awareness Team meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m., at the Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center, Rockport. More info at sauksister@frontier.com.

Upper Skagit Library District (USLD) Board of Trustees meets the third Thursday of each month, 6 p.m., at the library. Info at upperskagitlibrary.org, info@upperskagitlibrary.org, or 360.853.7716.



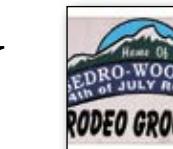
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Sedro-Woolley



Sedro-Woolley School District offers free meals to kids

Police-shooting report sent to county prosecutor

On July 27, Skagit-Island Multiple Agency Response Team investigators sent to Skagit County Prosecuting Attorney Rich Weyrich their report regarding the Feb. 16 Sedro-Woolley Police shooting of a Concrete man. The man, David A. Babcock, 51, of Concrete, died from injury.

Weyrich will review the report for any criminal charges, according to a SMART press release.

SMART detectives previously reported that the events of Feb. 16 began with Babcock fleeing from law enforcement in Mount Vernon and Sedro-Woolley.

At approximately 11:19 p.m. that evening, Mount Vernon Police Department attempted to execute a traffic stop for a possible stolen vehicle at College Way and Interstate 5. The vehicle failed to stop and entered northbound I-5. Mount Vernon Police stopped its pursuit when the vehicle fled.

A Skagit County Sheriff's Office deputy located the suspect vehicle and at approximately 11:46 p.m., Sedro-Woolley Police officers attempted to reengage the vehicle at N. Fruitdale Rd. and McGarigle Rd. in Sedro-Woolley.

Sedro-Woolley Police Sergeant Paul Eaton and Officer Maxwell Rosser were off the roadway on the west shoulder.

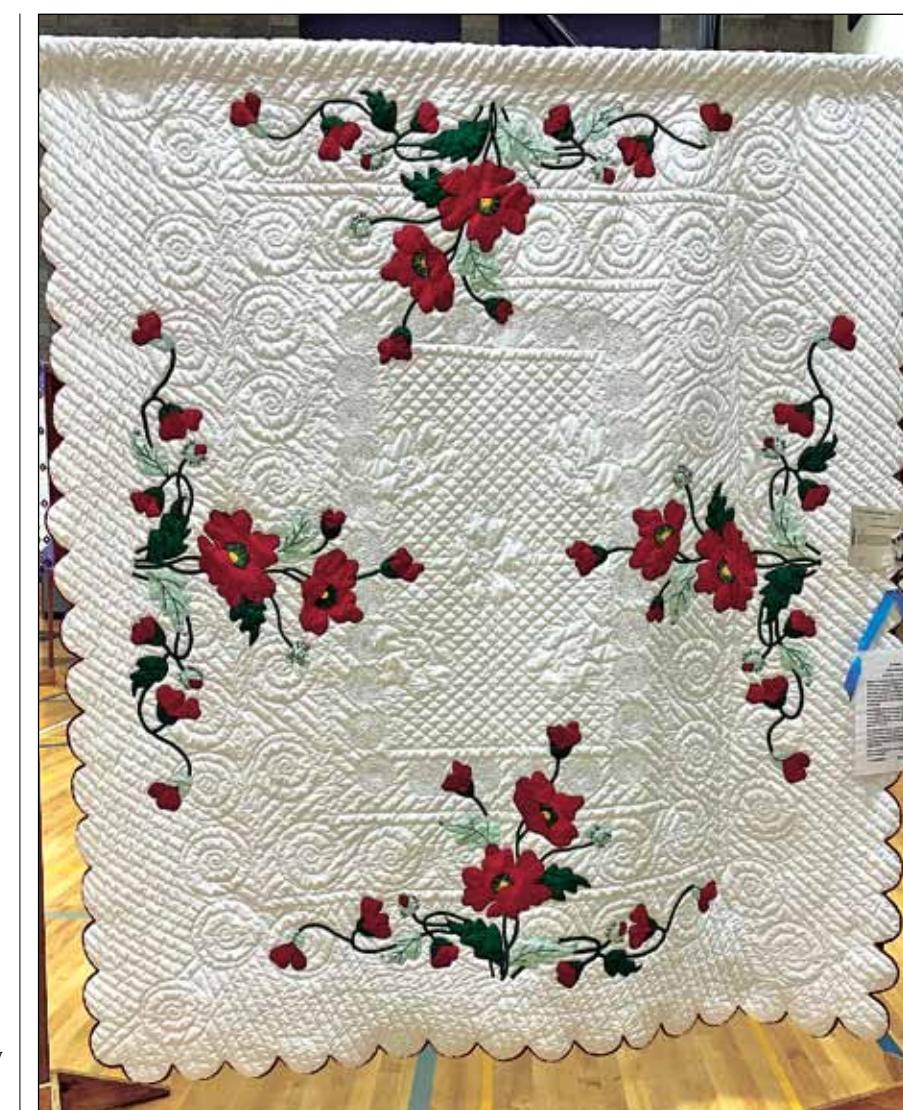
They deployed spike strips from the west side of the road as the vehicle Babcock was driving approached the intersection. The vehicle left the roadway on the west shoulder and continued southbound toward the officers' location. Officer Rosser fired multiple rounds at the oncoming vehicle. The vehicle slowed and hit a Sedro-Woolley Police car parked near the intersection. The vehicle then rolled backward and stopped, and both officers contacted the driver.

Babcock was airlifted to St. Joseph's Hospital in Bellingham, where he died.

SMART is the lead investigative agency for investigations where a Washington State Peace Officer uses deadly force in the capacity of his or her law enforcement duties.

With the passage of Washington State Initiative 940 in 2018, and Substitute House Bill 1064 in 2019, incidents where the use of deadly force by a peace officer results in death, substantial bodily harm, or great bodily harm require an independent investigation. This investigation must be conducted in the same manner as a criminal investigation, and state law now requires an "independent investigation" completely independent of the involved agency.

—J. K. M.



Above: Anita McFarland of Concrete won 1st place in the "Large" category for her "Poppies Floating Under the Sea" entry during the Woolley Fiber Quilters Quilt Show at Cascade Middle School on July 15. For a complete list of quilt show winners, see p. 38. Photo by Elinor Nakis.



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The Sedro-Woolley School District will operate the United States Department of Agriculture Summer Food Service Program this summer. The program allows the district to serve breakfast and lunch meals to any child under the age of 18 free of charge.

Meals will be available at the following locations:

- Mary Purcell Elementary School, 700 Bennett St., from June 27 to Aug. 12, Monday-Friday, with the exception of July 4. Breakfast: 9 to 9:30 a.m. Lunch: 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- Cascade Middle School, 905 McGarigle Rd., from July 6 to Aug. 19, Monday-Friday. Breakfast: 9 to 9:30 a.m. Lunch: 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- Sedro-Woolley High School, 1235 Third St., June 28 to 30, Tuesday-Thursday. Lunch: 11:30 a.m. to noon.

Meals also will be served to students enrolled in the summer school program at State Street High School from Aug. 1 to 19 through the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program. Questions about the program can be directed to the Food Service Department at 360.855.3515.

—Ruth Richardson

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



Lyman



Dianne Brown from Sedro-Woolley proudly poses with her 1961 all-original Corvette during the Lyman Car Show on July 16.

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Lyman sports bar closes

North Cascade Sports Bar in Lyman has served its last drink.

Owner Andrea Dunn offered an emotional social media post in July, announcing the pending closure and inviting area residents to visit the restaurant during the week leading up to its last day in business, July 17.

Calling the moment "tearful, emotional,

**Town of Lyman
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(Don't call the mayor. Call the number.)**

and bittersweet," Dunn recalled the sports bar's three years of operation with its "ups and downs, laughs and tears, the unknowing of what will happen next."

"We made it this far with the support of our loyal customers, employees, family, and friends," wrote Dunn. "We appreciate everyone for everything, the kind words, the laughs and the return business week after week."

"We want to thank everyone from the bottom of our hearts for the friendships and most of all the memories made here with all of you!"

—J. K. M.

Council summary

The Hamilton Town Council held a regular meeting on July 12. Following is a summary of that meeting.

- Mayor Travis Patrick called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.
- **Public comment:** Debbie Ulrich asked for an update on the post office. Mayor Patrick said that at this time there are no options for the post office to reopen. It was suggested to bring in some outside lock boxes. Mandy Bates said that by law the town is eligible for some way to get its mail.
- Mark Denham topic has been moved to the workshop meeting.
- Council approved Ordinance No. 360 regarding all-terrain vehicles.
- Discussion of Ordinance No. 361 regarding credit card policy was moved to the workshop.
- Citizens Action Request No. 1 was moved to the workshop.
- Citizens Action Request No. 2 was moved to the workshop.
- Council approved the Permit Pre-Application Checklist, with changes.
- The Criminal Justice invoice was moved to the workshop.
- The town needs more bids for its window repair project.
- Council waived fines associated with a dog incident, since the event in question was the first occurrence.
- Council waived late fees for a water account that was late because of an error in billing.
- Discussion of an ordinance for code enforcement moved to the workshop.
- Discussion of an ordinance for the clerk's wages was moved to the workshop.
- Scott Bates talked about security cameras at the fire department. He wanted to make sure he had access to video of them.
- **Water report:** Water loss of 13 percent, possibly because of a water leak.
- **Street/public:** A well part was ordered and has been delivered to town.
- **Fire:** Chief Scott Bates appointed and pinned Mark Adams as Fire Lieutenant.
- Mayor Patrick resigned as mayor of Hamilton effective immediately after this council meeting. Mayor Patrick handed the gavel and papers to Mayor pro tem Mandy Bates.
- Meeting adjourned at 9:47 p.m.

—Compiled from staff notes

Patrick resigns mayor seat, Bates assumes mayoral duties

Former Hamilton Mayor Travis Patrick resigned from the position at the end of the July 12 town council meeting, handing the gavel to Mayor pro tem Mandy Bates.

In a memo to Hamilton councilmembers dated July 15, Bates acknowledged Patrick's resignation and explained other changes at Hamilton Town Hall.

"Clerk/Treasurer Leah Jones has been terminated from her position with the Town of Hamilton due to not following her job description," wrote Bates. "I have placed Kym Eldridge as the Clerk/Treasurer and brought Theresa Boots back

to help get this issue resolved. Theresa Boots was not fired from the town. She left due to things going on in the office that seemed to be wrong and unlawful. Theresa Boots had been employed at the town for a long time prior with knowledge to help Kym in the office."

Patrick was appointed by the Skagit County commissioners on March 11. The appointment came after former Hamilton Mayor Carla Vandiver was deemed by the Skagit County Prosecutor's Office as ineligible to hold office. In a Dec. 13, 2021, letter to the town, Skagit County Prosecuting Attorney Rich Weyrich said the office of the mayor of Town of Hamilton remained vacant since May 8, 2020, when Vandiver changed her voter registration to an Island County address.

—J. K. M.

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July in pictures



Left: Cheryl Taylor from Concrete shows off her 1956 Ford F-100 at the Lyman Car Show on July 16. The truck's front license plate frame is dripping with attitude: "Not just boys drive bad-ass toys." **Above:** Concrete Food Bank directors Adrienne Smith and Marty Smith, and volunteer Bill Bridge pause for a pic during the Skagit Transit "Stuff the Bus" event at Concrete MarketFresh on July 15. The fundraiser pulled in \$330 and 250 lbs. of food donations for the Concrete Food Bank. **Right:** Reece Construction crews prepare to overlay another cross street between Limestone and Main Street in Concrete on July 25. Every cross street between Limestone and Main Street got the overlay treatment, including Superior Ave. N., which connects to SR 20.

Feeling under the weather?

Visit PeaceHealth Sedro-Woolley Walk-in Clinic for help getting on top of minor illnesses and injuries. Simply walk in (no appointment is needed) or schedule a video visit to meet with a provider from the comfort of home.

For more information, call **360-230-1105**.

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peacehealth.org/sedro-woolley-walk-in



Rockport



Marblemount



Modified burn ban in effect July 16

Ahead of forecast weather conditions, a modified burn ban for all residential and land clearing fires in unincorporated Skagit County went into effect at 8 a.m. on July 16. The ban will continue until further notice. Skagit County will no longer issue permits for these activities and existing permits are suspended.

Recreational fires

Recreational and cooking fires, limited to 3 feet in diameter and 2 feet high, remain allowed in unincorporated Skagit County within enclosures and when safety precautions are followed. Recreational or cooking fires can consist only of charcoal, seasoned firewood, or propane-fueled firepits and must meet the following requirements:

- Enclosures must be at least 14 inches high, no wider than 3 feet, and made

of cement blocks, stones, or No. 10-gauge steel.

- Burned material must be kept below the top of the enclosure.
- Always have a charged garden hose or two 5-gallon buckets of water or a 5-gallon Class A fire extinguisher and shovel present.
- Fires must be 15 feet away from combustibles, standing timber, or overhanging tree branches.
- Someone 16 years old or older must always be present to monitor and/or extinguish the fire.

If you are within the city limits of any of the incorporated cities or towns, check with your municipal fire department for current burning restrictions.

More information about open burning in Skagit County is available at skagitcounty.net/firemarshal or 360.416.1840.

Summer slowdowns

expected during WSDOT road work on SR 20

Washington State Department of Transportation WSDOT continues emergency repairs along Highway 20 east of Sedro-Woolley this month, with construction continuing through October, potentially longer.

Along with emergency repairs made necessary by winter flooding, crews also will perform maintenance and preservation work, including fish passage culvert construction.

Guardrails along four stretches of SR 20 were damaged between mileposts 101 and 116 (east of Rockport) during this past winter. Significant damage that closed the eastbound lane at milepost 113 has yet to be repaired. A steel-reinforced wall will be erected to repair this area, with construction expected through October. Eastbound drivers will be diverted to share the undamaged westbound lane that is currently controlled by a temporary traffic signal.

Also planned are minor pavement repairs to Highway 20 in Sedro-Woolley near Helmick Rd. and through a one-mile stretch between Neilson Lane and Pinelli Rd. Construction will occur through September. During this time, traffic will be reduced to a single lane at certain points.

Removal of two fish passage barriers located between mileposts 91 and 95 near Concrete began in June to meet a federal requirement. This project may run into October. Drivers will be diverted to a temporary bypass while culverts are installed and the affected roads are rebuilt. Single-lane access is expected until the bypass is complete.

WSDOT alerts travelers to expect significant travel delays. These projects are necessary to ensure the short- and long-term safety of travelers and regular commuters on SR 20. Drivers are urged to follow all posted signage and directions of traffic control officers.

For more information, contact WSDOT's Northwest Region Office at 206.440.4000 or nwpublicaffairs@wsdot.wa.gov.

For Skagit County construction projects, contact Public Works at 360.416.1480.

—J. K. M.

Marblemount happenings

Salmon Bar-B-Que

On Aug. 6 and 7, our annual fundraiser Salmon Bar-B-Que will be held from noon to 6 p.m. We welcome all, the meals are great, and so is the fun and music. We also need volunteers for this event. Please call or go to our Web site to sign up as a volunteer.

Bike N Build

Marblemount Community Club will host Bike N Build on Aug. 24. Bike N Build is affiliated with Habitat for Humanity, which is a global nonprofit housing organization working in local communities across all 50 states in the U.S. and in approximately 70 countries.

We will provide the hall for bikers from

across the U.S. to enjoy a meal and have a place to sleep overnight. Volunteers are welcome to help with the meals and sponsor food for approximately 50 bikers.

Sasquatch Festival

The Marblemount 2022 Sasquatch Event is slated for Aug. 27 and 28. Guest speakers include Thom Cantrall, Dr. Robert Alley, Thomas Sewid, Kevin Carney, Sandy Nelson, and Dennis Day. The event also will feature an outdoor area for vendors, games, raffles, and door prizes.

General admission tickets are available for either day. A VIP ticket allows guests to attend both days. Included in the VIP package is a meet-and-greet with the speakers over a prime rib dinner. VIP tickets are limited to 30 guests. General admission tickets also will be sold at the door on a first-come basis.

Food, and Sasquatch- or camping-related vendors are still being sought.

Anyone who wants to participate in this year's event or who knows someone who would be encouraged to call 360.873.2238 or e-mail nwsasquatch2@yahoo.com for more information.

Thanksgiving Dinner

The Marblemount Community Thanksgiving Dinner will be Nov. 19, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. or until the food is all gone.

Helping Hands Food Bank

Skagit Helping Hands Food Bank leaps into action every Wednesday inside Inspire Church in Marblemount, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. If there is a delay or change because of weather, look for a post on the Marblemount Locals Facebook page. The food bank helps support Marblemount with food and sometimes hygiene needs too.

—Syvella Kalil

year's attendance! Costumes, treats, and games are on the agenda. All are welcome.

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Shalom!

I am Cindy Curtis Myatt, pastor of the North Cascades Wild Church located in the foothills of the stunning North Cascades. We gather outside under the most beautiful of steeples—the sky—with the forest as our building. Together, we—the Nones, Dones, and Too Busy to Comes—find the Sacred in the greatest of all Cathedrals. Bundling up on a winter afternoon, we gather along the Skagit River and hike around the forest, finding the Holy everywhere. Soon we find ourselves around a fire talking about how the Divine has and does move in and around each of us.

This month we will meet at Rockport State Park on Sun., July 10 and Aug. 7, at 11 a.m. (Washington State Discover Passes are required for this park.) All are welcome; dress for the great outdoors; bring your lawn chair and an open heart. I look forward to seeing you there.



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Thur.: 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
3–6 p.m.
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Days and hours will be updated as needs change.

*Changes? Call 360.853.8213.



United General District 204
Building Healthier Communities
Washington State Health Care Authority



Friends of North Mountain plan open house

On Aug. 10, Friends of North Mountain will hold an open house from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Visitors can climb the stairs for a view of the surrounding landscape, with Mount Baker and Glacier Peak in the distance. The Osborne Firefinder, used by lookout staff to detect fires from a distance, is located inside the lookout. The view to the south includes Whitehorse Mountain and Jumbo. Extended views include Three Fingers, Liberty Bell, and the Monte Cristos. To the east are Prairie and Pilchuck mountains. To the west is Mount Higgins, which had a lookout that was dismantled in the 1960s.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony will include a lineup of community contributors, including Representative Carolyn Eslick and Snohomish County Councilman Nate Nehring. Parking at Whitehorse Park is by registration only, with shuttles running all day from the upper lot to the summit.

Long road to restoration

North Mountain Lookout was built in 1965, on the summit at 3,824 feet, perched on a 41-foot tower.

In the 1990s North Mountain was abandoned. In 2009 plans were made to tear down the 41-foot tower, but budget cuts curtailed the plan.



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On May 30, 2013, two guest speakers attended a Darrington Strong meeting to discuss the plight of North Mountain Lookout. One of those speakers was Forrest Clark, recipient of the Everett Mountaineers Distinguished Service Award. He spoke of a group, The Mountaineers, whose mission is to restore abandoned lookouts.

The rest is history. Friends of North Mountain was formed and an eight-year restoration began with the help of two dozen organizations and close to 100 volunteers, some with experience, others without, but willing to help.

It was a painstaking journey replacing the windows, floor, catwalk, stairs, and everything in between.

Volunteer opportunities for the event are available, including parking assistants, grill masters, chair pick-up and delivery, guides and representatives to educate the public, and volunteer crew wrangler, to name a few. Interested parties can check the Friends of North Mountain Facebook page for details. Further inquiries can be made on that Facebook page.

More than 200 original paintings will be on display, including never-before-seen artwork. The Big August Hoobajoob is Darrington's longest running art show. It's a great place to find one-of-a-kind, handmade artwork by local artists Ron Wolff, Gordy Beil, and Holly Cannell.

This year there will be two tents in the front yard, art in the carport, and more inside the house, located at 605 S. Emens Ave. (corner of S. Emens Ave. and Fir St.).

The event is free and family-friendly. Everyone is welcome. Light snacks will be served. For more information, call 360.436.0711.

Mountain Day Celebration Darrington Car Show

Two more family-friendly events are planned for Aug. 27.

Whitehorse Community Artisans will present a Mountain Day Celebration at the Darrington Community Center from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The center is located at 570 Sauk Ave.

Artists and crafters from around the area will offer wood creations, crotchet animals, soothing skin creams and butters, original paintings, unique clothing items, weavings, plants, and other offerings.

Live presentations by local artists will

Mountain Day Celebration, Darrington Car Show, Big August Hoobajoob on tap this month

August holds three popular events, with two of them falling on the same day.

Big August Hoobajoob

The 12th annual Big August Hoobajoob art show is planned for Sat., Aug. 20, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Sun., Aug. 21, from noon to 6 p.m.



be featured throughout the day. Food items will be available in the dining room. Children's activities will be available. Story telling and a shake-splitting demonstration will be featured outside.

Artists and crafters wishing to participate at the community center can access information on the Whitehorse Community Artisans Facebook page.

Over at the Red Top Tavern, located at 1020 Darrington St., cars and other vehicles will line the street for several blocks to celebrate the 5th Annual Darrington Car Show.

Registration is at 10:30 a.m.; the show starts at 11 a.m. The entrance fee is \$15. Dash plaques will be given to the first 50 registered. Food trucks will be available. This event is sponsored by River Time Brewery, with proceeds to benefit the Darrington School District.

Car enthusiasts can find more information on the Red Top Tavern Facebook page.

—Marla Skaglund, J. K. M.

Sheriff's Report, cont. from p. 24

feedback on their overall satisfaction.

"We are excited to launch this software throughout unincorporated Snohomish County," said Sheriff Adam Fortney. "This is one more layer of transparency that will give us the opportunity to communicate directly with community members and provide them real-time information and updates. At a time when it is crucial for law enforcement to engage with the public, this new technology will enhance our ability to keep residents informed, receive instant feedback, and better serve the residents of Snohomish County."

SPIDR Tech was founded in California by former law enforcement officers who wanted to help agencies leverage their own data to improve customer service and increase efficiency.

Snohomish County Jail launches new program to help inmates become career-ready upon release

Earlier this year, the Snohomish County Jail started a new program, IN2WORK, focused on reducing recidivism and preparing inmates for a successful post-incarceration journey. IN2WORK is a program sponsored by Aramark that allows inmates to enroll in a kitchen and food safety certification program (see top right photo this page).

The course is taught by the jail's on-site Aramark food team. Individuals accepted into the program have the opportunity to complete all the necessary training and education requirements prior to their release.

Once students complete the kitchen and food safety course requirements, they take a final test and earn a ServSafe certificate from the National Restaurant Association.

"We are very excited to participate in this groundbreaking inmate education program," said Sheriff Adam Fortney. "Aramark's training gives inmates an opportunity to learn new skills and provides them with the necessary tools to open new doors to a successful career post-release. We are hopeful that this program will lessen the likelihood of re-offending and give our inmates the ability to transition directly into the workforce."

SPIDR Tech has the ability to advise callers of a delayed response time and provide callers with their incident numbers for follow-up information. When an incident concludes, the caller will receive an optional short survey to provide feedback on each person's experience in real time.

"It has been an honor to work alongside

our partners with Aramark as we launch this new program inside our jail," said Major Alonzo Downing. "It would not have been possible without our incredible kitchen managers and their commitment and dedication to serving our inmate population."

The Snohomish County Jail's first group of IN2WORK students are scheduled to complete their training and take the ServSafe test at the end of July.

Upon release, many of the individuals who receive their certificate through Aramark's program are later hired to work for the Aramark Corporation.

Three kayakers rescued on Snoqualmie

On July 11 at 2:30 p.m., Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue and Duvall Fire received a water rescue call on the Snoqualmie River just downstream of the Crescent Lake Rd. overpass.

Three adult female kayakers were thrown off their kayaks and into the Snoqualmie River after hitting a strainer. All three were stranded, with one trapped more significantly against the strainer.

A strainer is wood debris in rivers that create a natural obstruction, such as a root ball or collection of fallen trees. It allows the water to pass through but strains out other objects coming downstream, essentially trapping them in the obstruction. Strainers are extremely dangerous obstacles in rivers and can hold a person against the obstacle by the force of the water flow.

SRFR was the incident command and Duvall Fire crews used their rescue boat (see photo at right) to retrieve the kayakers and bring them to shore. SRFR medic crews transported one of the kayakers for treatment and the other two were reported as healthy. All three kayakers were wearing their lifejackets, which helped the rescue attempt end with success.

—Compiled from press memos



Submitted photo.

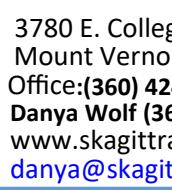


Photo courtesy of Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue.



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Newhalem



Softball tournament returns to Newhalem

After a three-year hiatus, the Newhalem Jack-and-Jill Softball Tournament arrived back in town on July 16, with all the raucous fun fans and players have come to expect.

After the dust settled, Handy's Heating came out on top, relegating Utter Chaos to second place, followed by Blue Ox in third and Pounders in fourth. The sportsmanship award went to Maggots and the consolation award to Rabbits.



The tournament descends on Newhalem the third weekend in July, every year. This year it raised \$1,000, which will be donated to the Concrete Food Bank.



Visitor center and campground closed through Aug. 4

The North Cascades Visitor Center and Newhalem Creek Campground is closed for a repaving project through Aug. 4. The project began on July 24.

The center and campground will reopen for reservations on Aug. 5 unless the project completes at an earlier date. There will be no access beyond the Skagit River Bridge.

Reservations can be made at other park campgrounds along State Route 20 at www.recreation.gov. Park rangers will be available in the town of Newhalem during the closure. Retail items are available in the Skagit Information Center.

WSDOT announces work in East County

A two-day project will complete crack seal and pavement repair in the area. On Aug. 1-2 from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., eastbound and westbound traffic on SR 20 at Diablo Dam Road (MP 126-127) will alternate through a single lane.

From Aug. 2–10, a temporary signal will control traffic on eastbound and westbound traffic on SR 20 at Van Horn Lane in Concrete through a single lane for work on the SR 20 Skagit River fish passage project.

—WSDOT



www.skagitcounty.net/fair

360-416-1350



Seniors



Way Back, cont. from p. 28

would finance the project, but benefiting taxpayers would return the costs.

90 years ago

Aug. 25, 1932: Funeral services for D. D. Dillard, who was killed in an auto accident at the Rock Cut on Tuesday last week, were held in the Presbyterian church in Concrete on Thursday afternoon. The funeral was the largest ever held in Concrete, the church being filled to capacity and many being unable to enter.

The services were conducted by Rev. L. H. Pedersen of Bellingham. Burial was made in the Forest Park Cemetery in Grasmere.

—Compiled from archives

Verna's Kitchen

By Verna McClure



Freezer Cucumbers

Ingredients

2 small onions, sliced thin and separated into rings
3 ½ cups thinly sliced cucumbers
1 Tablespoon salt
1 cup sugar
½ cup white vinegar
3 Tablespoons water

1. Combine first three ingredients in a large bowl and set aside.
2. Cook sugar, vinegar, and water in a saucepan over medium heat, stirring until sugar is dissolved. Pour over cucumbers; mix and cover.
3. Chill in the refrigerator 48 hours. Spoon into half pint jars or freezer containers, seal, label, and freeze.
4. Thaw in the refrigerator before serving. Use thawed pickles within a week.

Yield: Three pints. These pickles may be kept in the freezer for up to six months.

Editor's note: In memory of our dearly departed Verna, this column will continue until her recipe inventory has been exhausted. It could take awhile.

Way Back When

80 years ago

Aug. 6, 1942: The sewage disposal problem of Main Street was before the town council again Monday evening, with a communication from the State Division of Public Health asking that immediate action be taken.

The sewage problem in this section is becoming a health menace, as the sewage has for years been taken care of by individual septic tanks and cesspools until the soil has now reached the saturation point. Present tanks refuse to drain properly and the ground is so full of old tanks that installation of new ones is impossible.

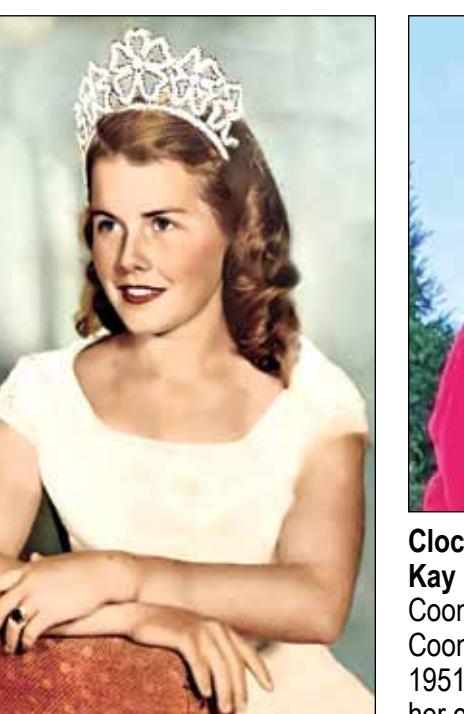
Many complaints from nearby residents brought action by the state department, which has investigated and suggested a large system to handle the entire block.

To start the ball rolling, the council has invited the public health department to have a person at the next council meeting, or a special session before that time, to work out detailed plans to submit to the property holders.

As the situation concerns only the business houses on the south side of Main St., the council does not feel that the town should install a publicly operated system, but plans to work with the state department in setting up an adequate system under a local improvement district plan. Under this plan the town



70 years ago, Aug. 21, 1952: Queen Dolores Keller cuts the white ribbon signifying the opening of the new Skagit River Bridge at the Dalles, near Concrete, at the formal dedication held Aug. 9 during Cascade Days. Editor Chuck Dwelley, master of ceremonies, assists. Archive photo courtesy of Mount Vernon Argus, by Glenn Dixon.



Clockwise from left: August 1951: Kay Coonc, Queen of Cascade Days. Coonc today, still full of life and joy. Coonc in the Cascade Days Parade in 1951, seated in front. Coonc donated her crown back for the next queen, because they did not have one for her. Submitted photos.

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Tomas hablas un poco Espanol tambien!



THE GOOD NEWS

The two Brandons

By Rebecca Miller

Brandon Brown is a professional NASCAR driver. He won the 2021 Sparks 300 in Nashville, his first win. Brown gained infamy last October when he took home the cup after an improbable win in the equivalent of NASCAR overtime.

His notoriety does not stem from the win, aside from a reporter possibly mishearing, or maybe attempting to soften the chants of an unruly group of Joe Biden protesters at a post-win interview. Either way, "Let's go, Brandon," has become an unofficial political statement for critics of the sitting president. It's a clever and family-safe way of digging on the president without using a four-letter word.

It also has wreaked havoc in Brandon's personal and professional life. Flags waving all over the country advertise his name in a way that he never would have chosen. His family hesitate to yell his name at his races and sponsors have chosen to distance themselves from such a controversial figure.

But the skies brightened a little when the innocence of one child shined through the cloud that had settled over Brandon Brown's life.

"

Brandon Brundidge is a 9-year-old boy from Cottage Grove, Minn. He and two of his three siblings are autistic. He struggled with anxiety. He feared falling from his bike and water in his eyes, and did not like to make eye contact or talk to strangers.

His life changed after a family trip to Houston, Texas, where, at an RV park, Brandon was uncharacteristically outgoing. Brandon changed his tune when he spotted signs with his name, encouraging him to try the things that he feared the most. He told his mother that he wanted to swim in the pool. He asked to have the training wheels removed from his bike. He made new friends in the RV park.

Brandon's mother, Sheletta Brundidge, wondered what was going on with her boy.

"Do you spot my signs?" Brandon enthusiastically cried one day to her as he pointed at a "Let's go, Brandon" sign. Sweet, innocent Brandon was blissfully unaware of the political powder keg surrounding the signs. He was instead convinced that the Texas residents were all there to see him and encourage him to try all the things that previously had intimidated him.

"My son just came alive," said Sheletta.

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.

Inspire Church North Cascades campus

59850 SR 20, Marblemount
360.856.0871
Sunday service: 10:30 a.m.
www.icskagitvalley.org
E-mail: pastorj@icskagitvalley.org

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

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UPPER SKAGIT LIBRARY



Thanks so much to everyone who participated in Concrete Youth Activity Day last month, especially those who came to say "hi" to us at our booth or came up to the library for activities there. Looks like we had more than 300 folks join us for all the fun! We also thank those who joined us for the opening day of the Barr Creek Storytrail that we partnered with Skagit Land Trust to make, where Emily and Loly led walks and helped read "Finding Wild" in English and in Spanish. The Storytrail will be available until the end of August, so if you missed opening day, you can still enjoy the experience on your own. Details are on our website.

We have a month left in this year's Summer Reading Program and so far we have 70 participants. It's not too late to join and become eligible for one of our grand prizes by turning in reading logs and BINGO cards. Kids and teens who participate also get free books and tote bags. Our website has all the details on prizes, programs, and more. This program

ends on Aug. 31.

Also on our website: a link to our community survey, which also runs until Aug. 31. We're trying to gather information on our services and the community at large from folks who use the library and those who don't, so that we know what we're doing right, what needs to improve, and what we can add. You can take the survey online or on paper, and any input you give us helps tremendously.

This month we're going to debut two new adult programs. On Aug. 17 we'll host a Budgeting Basics workshop for those 16 years old and over. Starting on Aug. 9 and continuing every Tuesday, local author and presenter Nicola Pearson will lead a casual English Pronunciation practice group. You'll also be able to catch our Upper Skagit Library Friends (and maybe some staff) at the Concrete Saturday Market during Cascade Days.

We hope to see you there!

—Chazlyn Lovely
Marketing Specialist/Teen Librarian

Good Jobs for the Skagit Valley

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Concrete Saturday Market

We're excited about Cascade Days this month. Watch for our entry in the Cascade Days parade! Friends of the Upper Skagit Library will host an Amazing Book Sale at the Concrete Center on Aug. 20. We hope our produce customers will enter the Jam & Pickle contest on Aug. 21 to win great prizes and local fame.

Several new vendors have joined us recently: Woolley Dogs gourmet hot dog cart serves great eats. Kris offers soy candles, scrubs, lotion bars—all from natural ingredients with subtle scents. Casie Jo brought the very first blueberries of 2022. If you have not been to the market recently, be sure to visit and see other new items by our vendors.

Farmers and produce vendors will have artichokes, blueberries, carrots, corn, cucumbers, honey, melons, peaches, summer squash, and tomatoes for you this month. Remember, when you use your EBT benefits you'll receive up to \$40 in

Market Match coupons each time. We also accept WIC/Senior FMNP vouchers, FVRx vouchers, and East County Fresh Bucks for produce purchases. If your current grocery budget is tight, visit the East County Resource Center to sign up for Fresh Bucks.

The first weekend of each month, Concrete Farm to School Program offers kid's activities. The last weekend of each month, Skagit Master Gardeners is onsite with garden wisdom. Our Scholarship Fund is growing; thanks to all who contributed. To make a donation, see Marti at the manager's booth or Athena at Northwest Garden Bling, or stop in at our local SaviBank.

The market is every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Concrete Community Center on north side of SR 20. Visit us soon!

—Betty Seguin

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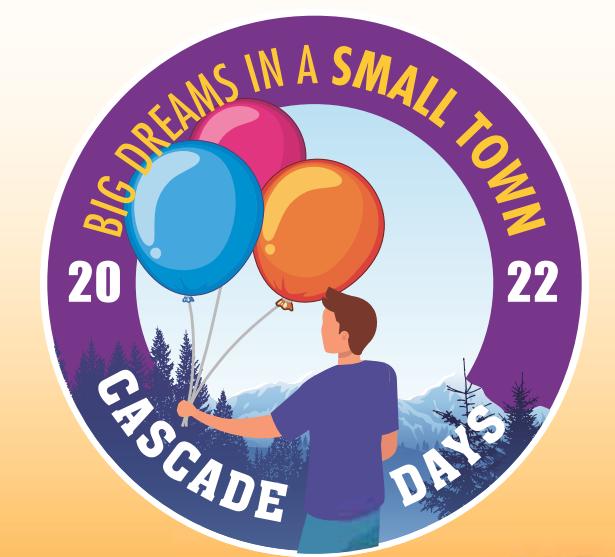
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CASCADE DAYS

Celebrate our Community

AUGUST 20-21, 2022

Veteran's Memorial Park – CONCRETE, WA



Saturday

- Chainsaw Carvers
- Poker Run
- Saturday Market & Book Sale
- Parade
- Free Kids' Art Activities
- Bouncy House
- Trout Pond
- Fireman's Muster
- Cheerleading Expo
- Chainsaw carvers auction
- Duck Race
- "Minimum Wage" Street Dance

Sunday

- DinoCrew
- Car Show w/ DJ
- Logging Competition
- Family Fun Activities
- Water Slide
- Bouncy House
- Pie/watermelon-eating contests
- Jam/jelly/pickle contest
- Raffle

11:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Noon to 4:00 PM
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM
Noon to 4:00 PM
Noon to 4:00 PM
Noon to 4:00 PM
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM
3:00 PM
4:00 PM

www.CascadeDays.com

Visit our website for the most up-to-date information.

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

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Out & About



The family of Emil and Anna (Dalan) Nelson is the 2022 Skagit County Pioneer Family of the Year. Descendants of the Nelsons will be honored at the Aug. 4 picnic. Submitted photo.

Skagit County

Pioneer Association picnic planned for Aug. 4

The 118th annual Skagit County Pioneer Association Picnic and General Meeting is scheduled for Thur., Aug. 4, at 11 a.m. at Pioneer Park near the Rainbow Bridge in La Conner.

There will be live music provided by the Leif & Sunnie Accordion Duo, historic photographs, biographical accounts displayed for this year's Pioneer Family of the Year, Skagit County historical information, and opportunities to reminisce with old-timers and newcomers.

Skagit County Historical Society & Museum staff will be on hand with a variety of publications, including the 2022 edition of the Skagit River Journal. All are welcome to attend, especially those interested in Skagit County and its heritage.

Elections for the Association's 2022-23 administrative year also will be held.

The public is invited to visit the Skagit County Historical Museum in La Conner afterward. The Pioneer Picnic ribbon allows free admission to the museum through the weekend.

Skagit County North Star Project Call to Action signed by local elected officials

Earlier this year, Skagit County launched the North Star Project, a multi-phased whole-of government effort to address behavioral health and homelessness in Skagit County. Subsequently, in March, the mayors and commissioners issued a public statement in which they committed to join forces and align their efforts to work toward a healthy and thriving community to ensure the well-being of every Skagitonian.

Signatories of the Call to Action acknowledge that government alone cannot solve the current crisis, but recognize an obligation and an opportunity to lay a foundation for the systems change work that is necessary.

"Only with a coordinated effort among Skagit County leadership will we be able to have the positive impact on these societal ills that our citizens desire and deserve," said City of Burlington Mayor Steve Sexton. "The North Star Project is a by-product of unprecedented collaboration among the leaders of Skagit County. We must not let this moment pass us by."

The signatories of the Call to Action individually and collectively make the following commitments:

- To actively participate in and remain engaged at a leadership level with the North Star Project.
- To provide county and city resources that may be necessary to execute the work plan. Such resources will include staff time and expertise, and funding as jointly determined to be necessary.
- To promote a collaborative, inclusive, and transparent process that builds trust throughout the community.
- To approach the work from a county-wide perspective, understanding that needs vary from city to city and between unincorporated areas of the county, and that it is in the collective interest of all jurisdictions to support and invest in solutions that show the most promise for the county as a whole.



Sheriff's Blotter, cont. from p. 31

Deputy Ayala responded to a traffic enforcement in the Cedar Grove area. The reporting party described a vehicle driving at a high rate of speed through the area. Deputy Ayala located the vehicle parked on Concrete Sauk Valley Rd. He contacted the driver, who advised he was having a mechanical issue.

July 11

Deputy Grant was dispatched to a suspicious complaint in the Concrete area. The reporting party called to advise that they were seeing fishing nets in the river. They were told that tribes were fishing.

July 12

Deputy Willis responded to a verbal domestic in the Concrete area. The reporting party said that her boyfriend was yelling at her and possibly intoxicated. Deputy Willis contacted both parties, who were separated. After investigating he learned it was verbal only and both parties would remain separated.

Sgt. Dills

Deputy Case attempted to stop a vehicle for a traffic violation in the Rockport area. The vehicle failed to stop; however, Deputy Case learned the vehicle was stolen. He was able to develop a suspect in the case. Investigation is ongoing.

July 13

Deputy Arndt responded to a welfare check in Concrete. The reporting party advised there was an intoxicated subject yelling for help. Deputy Arndt contacted an intoxicated female. She said that nobody was yelling and no one was on her property. Deputy Arndt checked the area and everything appeared fine.

Deputy Ayala was dispatched to a suspicious complaint in the Hamilton area. The reporting party said they believed subjects to be doing drugs in the area.

Deputy Ayala responded to the area and all vehicles had left prior to arrival.

Deputies responded to a violation of a no contact order in the Hamilton area. They contacted both parties involved. They learned there was a valid order against the male. They developed probable cause to arrest the male for the violation. He was booked into the Skagit County Community Justice Center.

July 14

Deputy Kahns was dispatched to a citizen dispute in the Grasmere area. The reporting party said that her neighbor was a suspicious vehicle parked in the parking lot of his business. Deputy Kahns contacted the vehicle and learned the subject had a dead battery. The business owner requested the subject be trespass.

Deputy Kahns was able to assist the motorist and then trespass him per the suspect without incident.

Deputies were dispatched to a welfare check in the S. Skagit Hwy and Cape Horn area. The reporting party advised that there was a female standing in the roadway. The female was requesting a ride. Deputies responded to the area, located the female, and gave her a ride to her residence.

July 15

Deputy Kuzminsky was dispatched to an alarm complaint near Darrington. While en route he requested a Snohomish County Deputy respond as well. Deputy Kuzminsky learned there were no issues, and it was an accidental trip of the alarm.

July 16

Deputies responded to a burglary

complaint in the Hamilton area. They were advised that a subject known to the reporting party had just broken a window and entered his residence. He believed the subject to be high on drugs. Deputies arrived, conducted their investigation, and developed probable cause for burglary. The suspect was taken into custody and booked into the Skagit County Community Justice Center.

Deputy Olberg was dispatched in response to a person who wished it documented that a male subject had been trespassing onto the property, but had since left. Deputy Ayala provided the reporting party with a case number and documented the incident. He advised the reporting party to call back when the subject is on the premises.

July 17

Deputy Kahns responded to a civil complaint in the Lyman area. The reporting party wanted a renter removed from the property. The reporting party was advised that they would need to contact the courts for an eviction.

Deputy Keyes responded to a verbal domestic in the Hamilton area. The reporting party said that her boyfriend was yelling at her and possibly intoxicated. Deputy Keyes contacted both parties, who were separated. After investigating he learned it was verbal only and both parties would remain separated.

Deputy Ayala was dispatched to a motor vehicle collision in Concrete. The reporting party said they were parked at the grocery store and their vehicle was struck. They obtained photos of the vehicle with a license plate. Deputies were able to respond to the registered owner's house, who said they had sold the car to Commuter Cars. Investigation is continuing into why Commuter Cars did not process the registration and determining who the vehicle belongs to.

July 18

Deputy Arndt responded to a welfare check in Concrete. The reporting party advised there was an intoxicated subject yelling for help. Deputy Arndt contacted an intoxicated female. She said that nobody was yelling and no one was on her property. Deputy Arndt checked the area and everything appeared fine.

Deputy Ayala was dispatched to a suspicious complaint in the Hamilton area. The reporting party said they believed subjects to be doing drugs in the area.

Deputy Ayala responded to the area and all vehicles had left prior to arrival.

Deputies responded to a violation of a no contact order in the Hamilton area. They contacted both parties involved. They learned there was a valid order against the male. They developed probable cause to arrest the male for the violation. He was booked into the Skagit County Community Justice Center.

July 19

Deputy Kahns was dispatched to a citizen dispute in the Grasmere area. The reporting party said that her neighbor was a suspicious vehicle parked in the parking lot of his business. Deputy Kahns contacted the vehicle and learned the subject had a dead battery. The business owner requested the subject be trespass.

Deputies were dispatched to a welfare check in the S. Skagit Hwy and Cape Horn area. The reporting party advised that there was a female standing in the roadway. The female was requesting a ride. Deputies responded to the area, located the female, and gave her a ride to her residence.

July 20

Deputy Kahns responded to a civil complaint in the Lyman area. The reporting party wanted a renter removed from the property. The reporting party was advised that they would need to contact the courts for an eviction.

Deputy Keyes responded to a report of a verbal domestic in the Hamilton area. The reporting party requested that her adult daughter be removed from the residence because she was creating problems.

Deputy Keyes spoke to all parties and determined no crime had occurred. The parties agreed to stay away from each other for the rest of the evening.

July 21

Deputy Case attempted to stop a vehicle for a traffic violation in the Rockport area. The vehicle failed to stop; however, Deputy Case learned the vehicle was stolen. He was able to develop a suspect in the case. Investigation is ongoing.

July 22

Deputy Arndt responded to a welfare check in Concrete. The reporting party advised there was an intoxicated subject yelling for help. Deputy Arndt contacted an intoxicated female. She said that nobody was yelling and no one was on her property. Deputy Arndt checked the area and everything appeared fine.

Deputy Ayala was dispatched to a suspicious complaint in the Hamilton area. The reporting party said they believed subjects to be doing drugs in the area.

Deputy Ayala responded to the area and all vehicles had left prior to arrival.

Deputies responded to a violation of a no contact order in the Hamilton area. They contacted both parties involved. They learned there was a valid order against the male. They developed probable cause to arrest the male for the violation. He was booked into the Skagit County Community Justice Center.

July 23

Deputy Olberg was dispatched in response to a person who wished it documented that a male subject had been trespassing onto the property, but had since left. Deputy Ayala provided the reporting party with a case number and documented the incident. He advised the reporting party to call back when the subject is on the premises.

Deputy Kahns responded to a civil complaint in the Lyman area. The reporting party wanted a renter removed from the property. The reporting party was advised that they would need to contact the courts for an eviction.

Deputy Keyes responded to a report of a verbal domestic in the Hamilton area. The reporting party requested that her adult daughter be removed from the residence because she was creating problems.

Deputy Keyes spoke to all parties and determined no crime had occurred. The parties agreed to stay away from each other for the rest of the evening.

Deputy Kuzminsky was dispatched to an alarm complaint in the Concrete area. He found that an employee had set off the alarm and there were no issues.

Deputies responded to a report of a collision in the Rockport area. They found the vehicle had been there for some time and nobody was around. The determined that it had occurred on DNR property and the call was referred to their agency.

July 24

Deputy Rogers responded to an alarm complaint in the Concrete area. He found that an employee had set off the alarm and there were no issues.

Deputies responded to a report of a collision in the Rockport area. They found the vehicle had been there for some time and nobody was around. The determined that it had occurred on DNR property and the call was referred to their agency.

July 25

At around 5:50 a.m., Skagit County Sheriff's deputies and EMS responded to the 46000 block of Washington St. in Concrete after receiving a 911 call reporting that a 52-year-old male at that location had been stabbed with a sword by another person.

The injured male was transported to Skagit Valley Medical Center by medical transport, where he was later pronounced deceased.

Detectives from the Skagit County Sheriff's Office, Sedro-Woolley Police Department, and Washington State Patrol responded to the scene to conduct an investigation and process the crime scene.

Detectives established probable cause to arrest a 26-year-old male. Deputies and detectives, with assistance from a Homeland Security helicopter, located the male suspect near Concrete Town Center. Deputies were able to take custody of the suspect without incident.

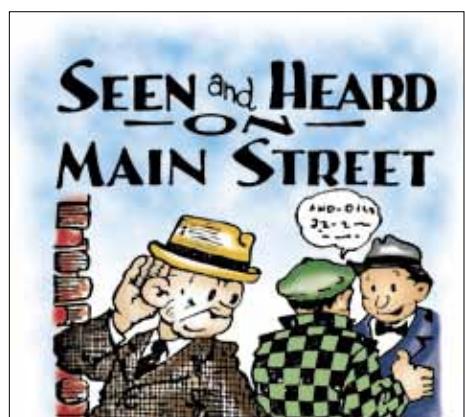
The suspect will be booked into the Skagit County Community Corrections Center on an investigative hold pending formal charges.

The investigation into this matter continues.

—Compiled by Sgt. Steven Dills



Smile



Dwellleyisms:

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

"A woman saved from suicide by doctors is now suing them for damages. After reading the daily papers, it may be she has a point."

Peace is just around the corner, diplomats tell us. Then the military announces a gun that will shoot around one."

—Jan. 3, 1952

"This is the time of year when income gets confused and turns up as a liability instead of an asset."

"Pain serves its purpose. Think of how many dentists would starve if there were no toothaches."

—Jan. 17, 1952

"Too many confuse morality and mortality on the grounds that a guy with no moral problems must be dead."

"Today was a good example of how a country looks with modern, quick-freeze processing."

—Jan. 24, 1952

"The new Mt. Palomar telescope is finding millions of new stars, thus giving hope that someday we may be able to discard this old world and move to a more happy one."

"The next goal of the working man is a guaranteed annual wage—of which government will guarantee to take at least one third."

"Weather forecasting has become so efficient that they now predict weather 30 days in advance—and still miss it just as a far."

—Feb. 7, 1952

"The voter is still king, if only during an election year."

"Great men often get that way simply by proving their own opinion of their capabilities."

"Don't be alarmed at the various presidential 'booms' set off by admirers. All most of them are hoping for is an echo."

"Success has its negative side: knowing how, where, and when to say 'no.'"

—Dec. 13, 1962

ALLELUJAH

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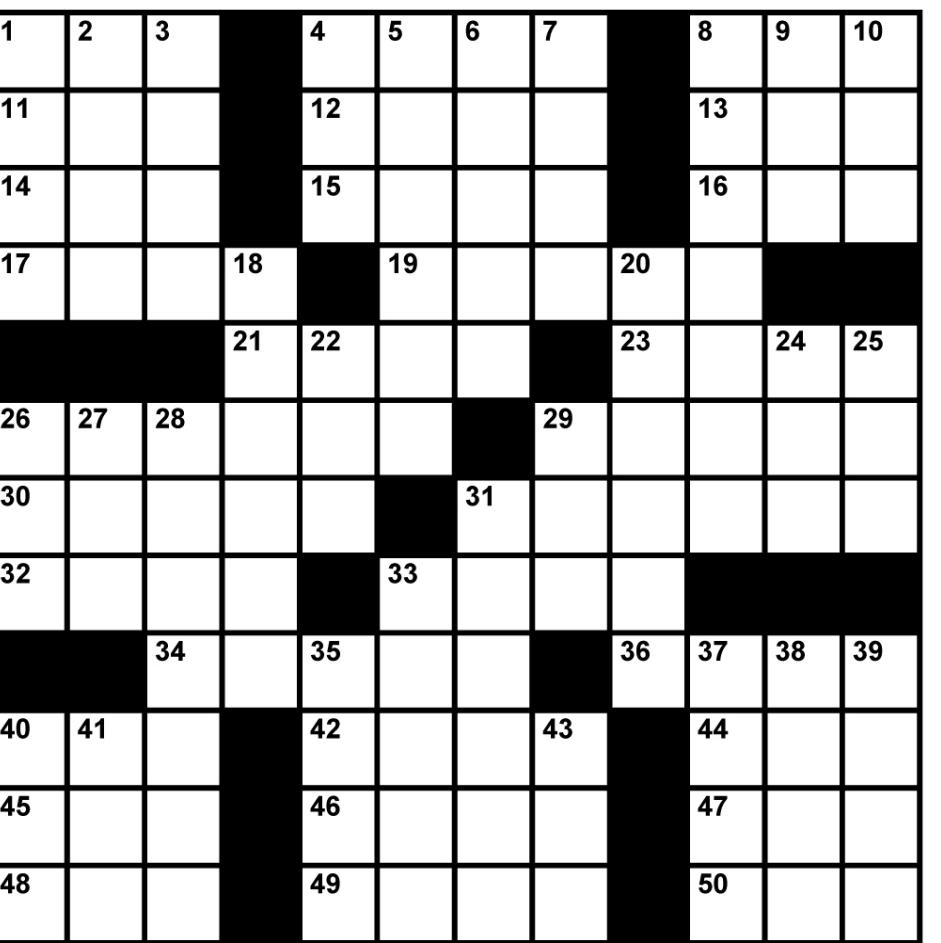
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**Collin's
realm of
truly awful
jokes**



My doctor said I'm overweight. I asked for a second opinion and he said, "OK, you're ugly too!"

Crossword



Across

- 1 Enjoy a slope at Whistler
- 4 Hemingway's "The Sun _____ Rises"
- 8 Obstruct
- 11 Shadow receiver
- 12 Shower suds
- 13 Vintage
- 14 Dined
- 15 Give birth to
- 16 Chow checker
- 17 Bartlett
- 19 Crowded
- 21 Brought into play
- 23 Outlet connection
- 26 Gave a heads-up to
- 29 Yellowstone creature
- 30 Insurance seller
- 31 Aladdin's transportation
- 32 Multiflora
- 33 Oil measure
- 34 Take care of
- 36 Greenland or

Down

- 10 Tumbler's surface
- 18 Skate blade
- 20 Newspaper section
- 22 Fixed
- 24 Get mileage out of
- 25 Receive
- 26 Battle of nations
- 27 Past
- 28 Touch up
- 29 Homo sapiens
- 31 "A Tale of Two _____ Dickens
- 33 Wallop
- 35 Bridge position
- 37 Vittles
- 38 Ground
- 39 Host's request
- 40 Word after big, middle, or little
- 41 Manner
- 43 Well-chosen

Sudoku

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



*Solutions to both puzzles are on p. 39

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Woolley Fiber Quilters Quilt Show winners

Woolley Fiber Quilters has announced the People's Choice voting winners from its quilt show in Sedro-Woolley July 15–17.

Category: Challenge

1st: Linda Dills, Marysville, "Fantasy Fish"
2nd: Natalie Hunskor, Mount Vernon, "Sew Sated with Rain"
3rd: Virginia Thogersen, Mount Vernon, "Fish Fish Shark"
Honorable Mention: Judy Ducken, Mount Vernon, "Ocean Stars, Ocean Waves"
Honorable Mention: Noni Moody, Sedro-Woolley, "Water Water Everywhere"
Honorable Mention: Sharyn Erickson, Sedro-Woolley, "Protecting H2O Travelers"

Category: Extra Large

1st: Judy Garner, Sedro-Woolley, "Reunion"
2nd: Cheryl Treadway, Burlington, "Mystical Prism"
3rd: Kris Norton, Bellingham, "Winding Ways"
Honorable Mention: Donna Bybee, Bellingham, "Double Wedding Ring"
Honorable Mention: Judy Garner, Sedro-Woolley, "Sweet Pea – Moonstone"
Honorable Mention: Judy Garner, Sedro-Woolley, "School Girl Sampler"
Honorable Mention: Kathleen Rathvon, Sedro-Woolley, "Blindman's Fancy"
Honorable Mention: Lynette Etter, Burlington, "Madis Magic"
Honorable Mention: Sharyn Erickson, Sedro-Woolley, "Waving Star"

Category: Extra Small

1st: Jeannie Cossette, Burlington, "A Quilt for Baby Doll"
2nd: Joy Neal, Mount Vernon, "My Portal"
3rd: Charlotte Furchert, Sedro-Woolley, "Minineighborhood"
Honorable Mention: Judy Johnson, Sedro-Woolley, Penguin Playtime

Category: Fiber Art

1st: Sharyn Erickson, Sedro-Woolley, "Rooster Being Circled"
2nd: Lonnie Keown, Sedro-Woolley, "Wool Ensemble"
3rd: Velva Prouty, Sedro-Woolley, "Vintage Nantucket Afghan"
Honorable Mention: Beth Ward, Burlington, "Crocheted Shawl"
Honorable Mention: Gayle Benthin, Camano Island, "Wool Cat Pillow"
Honorable Mention: Lonnie Keown, Sedro-Woolley, "Knitty Kitty"
Honorable Mention: Sandra Takaro-Miller, Sedro-Woolley, "Blossoming Heart"
Honorable Mention: Sherry Bunn, Mount Vernon, "Lily Pad"

Category: Holiday

1st: Virginia Learned, Sedro-Woolley, "Starry Day"

2nd: Renee Swanson, Lyman, "And So this is Christmas"

3rd: Debra Kay Cohenour, Sedro-Woolley, "Totally Christmas"
Honorable Mention: Charlotte Furchert, Sedro-Woolley, "Snowmen by the Dozen"
Honorable Mention, Jahr Huber, Mount Vernon, "To All a Good Night"

Honorable Mention, Leola Stomierski, Camano Island, "Orange Pumpkins"

Honorable Mention: Noni Moody, Sedro-Woolley, "Holy Family"
Honorable Mention: Virginia Thogersen, Mount Vernon, "Valentine Posies"

Judge's Choice: Country Meadow Village
Judy Johnson, Sedro-Woolley, "Summer Salute"

Judge's Choice: Dan McIlraith, City of Sedro-Woolley Police Chief
Linda Dills, Marysville, "Woodland Creatures"

Judge's Choice: Merrily Farrell
Nancy Oemick, Anacortes, "Northwest Grandeur"

Judge's Choice: SaviBank Sedro-Woolley
Julie Anderson, Sedro-Woolley, "Perfect Form"

Category: Large

1st: Anita McFarland, Concrete, "Poppies Floating Under the Sea"
2nd: Linda Dills, Marysville, "Guns and Roses"

3rd: Linda Dills, Marysville, "Autumn the Fox"

Honorable Mention: Betty James, Bellingham, "My Cup of Tea"

Honorable Mention: Debra Phillips, Sedro-Woolley, "All About the River"
Honorable Mention: Jan Schuirman, Sedro-Woolley, "Celtic Dragons"

Honorable Mention: Jean Markus, Bow, "Northern Flora"
Honorable Mention: Nancy Oemick, Anacortes, "Must Love Dogs"

Honorable Mention: Renee Swanson, Lyman, "Cool Cars"

Honorable Mention: Roxanne Freberg, Sedro-Woolley, "Whimsical"
Honorable Mention: Roxanne Freberg, Sedro-Woolley, "Boomerang"

Honorable Mention: Sandee Olson, Burlington, "Alaskan Windows"

Honorable Mention, Virginia Thogersen, Mount Vernon, "Magical Unicorn"

Category: Medium

1st: Dianne Lowe, Burlington, "Playing with Taupes"
2nd: Laurali Larson, Belfair, "Wonder of the Night"

3rd: Naoma Tiffany, Burlington, "Fairies in the Ferns"

Honorable Mention: Becky Bunke, Sedro-Woolley, "Herd of Pink Elephants"
Honorable Mention: Cathy Callan, Arlington, "Blue Flowers All Around"

Honorable Mention, Joy Neal, Mount Vernon, Bobbie's Chickens.

Honorable Mention: Judy Ducken, Mount Vernon, "Kramer (Call of the Wild)"

Honorable Mention: Kellie Barlean, Bellingham, "Star Mystery"
Honorable Mention: Nancy Anders, La Conner, "Square Dance"

Honorable Mention: Renee Swanson, Lyman, "Simply Tilda"

Category: Other

1st: Natalie Hunskor, Mount Vernon, "No Place Like Home"

2nd: Laurali Larson, Belfair, "Bunny" "Holy Family"

Honorable Mention: Virginia Thogersen, Mount Vernon, "Valentine Posies"

Judge's Choice: Country Meadow Village
Judy Johnson, Sedro-Woolley, "Summer Salute"

Judge's Choice: Dan McIlraith, City of Sedro-Woolley Police Chief
Linda Dills, Marysville, "Woodland Creatures"

Judge's Choice: Merrily Farrell
Nancy Oemick, Anacortes, "Northwest Grandeur"

Judge's Choice: SaviBank Sedro-Woolley
Julie Anderson, Sedro-Woolley, "Perfect Form"

Category: Patriotic

1st: Dianne Lowe, Burlington, "My 4th of July"

2nd: Jennifer Adams, Sedro-Woolley, "In God We Trust"

3rd: Susie/Teresa Avery/Giltner, "Bow Quilt of Valor/Eagle"

Honorable Mention: Leola Stomierski, Camano Island, "Patriotic Stars"

Category: Small

1st: Betty James, Bellingham, "Bursting in Bloom"

2nd: Helma Borg, Seattle, "Dutch Tiles"

3rd: Charlotte Furchert, Sedro-Woolley, "Minicountry"

Honorable Mention: Dianne Lowe, Burlington, "Playing with Circles"

Honorable Mention: Judy Garrison, Sedro-Woolley, "Quirky Owl"

Honorable Mention: Karen Dambacher, Seattle, "We Are All In This Together"

Honorable Mention: Linda Dills, Marysville, "Nature Meets Modern"

Honorable Mention: Lonnie Keown, Sedro-Woolley, "Purfectly Content"

Category: Teen

1st: Rue Schoenberger, Mount Vernon, "Rue's Original"

2nd: Victoria Cohenour, Colorado Springs, "The Way of Color"

Category: Theme

1st: Peggy Coburn, Eastsound, "Dolphin Duo" "Friendship"

2nd: Jennifer Adams, Sedro-Woolley,

"3rd: Peggy Coburn, Eastsound, "Googly Eyes"

Honorable Mention: Jeannie Cossette, Burlington, "The Underwater World"

Honorable Mention: Peggy Coburn, Eastsound, "White Tip Reef Shark"

Category: Youth

1st: Molly Collins, Bellingham, "My First Quilt" (won a sewing machine from show sponsor Learned Commercial, Inc.)

2nd: Rowan Davis, Mount Vernon, "Junglemania"

Out & About, cont. from p. 34

"Our community has worked and sacrificed for generations to protect the Skagit for agriculture, so it's a problem when outside corporate interests look to mitigate distant environmental impacts by purchasing Skagit Valley farmland and taking it out of production," said Skagit County Commissioner Ron Wesen. "The Skagit produces a significant portion of the world's vegetable seed in a time of escalating food prices, so protecting the world's best farmland is more important than ever."

Skagit County prohibited mitigation banking on Skagit farmland in 2009, and county officials have continued to consider potential code updates. Seattle City Light, which supplies electricity to the City of Seattle, recently expressed plans to acquire and convert a significant amount of Skagit Valley farmland as mitigation for the impact of its hydroelectric dams, which are not located in Skagit County.

"Skagit County government fully supports well-planned and well-executed habitat projects on the Skagit Delta to meet our collective recovery goals under the 2005 Skagit Chinook Recovery Plan," said Skagit County Commissioner Lisa Janicki. "But it is a very different thing when an energy production concern looks first to private Skagit farmland as mitigation for its environmental impacts 70 miles away, rather than mitigating on the public lands where Seattle's dams are located."

As the interim ordinance reflects, the board's action is motivated in part by concerns about the integrity of prior offsite compensatory mitigation within Skagit County.

"Mitigation needs to be good, not just sound good. We're a natural resources community grounded in fishing, farming, and forestry, with close connection to nature, so actual outcomes matter to us," said Commissioner Peter Browning. "Ultimately, we think that local and indigenous knowledge, working together, is the best way to protect the Skagit for future generations."

The board anticipates adopting a permanent ordinance after hearing from the public and interested stakeholders. Skagit County will hold a hearing to accept public testimony on this matter on Tue., Sept. 6, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. The public is invited to attend and express their views on the issue.

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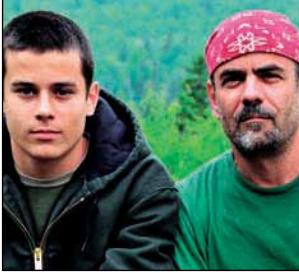
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