

THE CRAB CRACKER

ISSUE 420
December 26, 2025 -
January 8, 2026

NEW YEAR EDITION



Events, Information, and Entertainment in the Port Susan Area
Camano Island • Stanwood • Warm Beach • Silvana • Conway



2026

Winter Speaker Series

WSU Snohomish County Master Gardener Foundation 23rd Annual Sustainable Gardening Lectures

All are invited to attend!

\$110 for the series or
\$30 per single session
Fridays, 9:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m.

Everett Station
Weyerhaeuser Rm, 4th Floor
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(Free parking at train station)

For more information, registration
and payment options,
www.gardenlectures.com

Questions? Call Snohomish County
WSU Extension Office Monday–
Friday, 11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
(425) 357-6010

All proceeds go to the Master Gardener Foundation of Snohomish County, a 501(c)(3) organization, which provides major funding support to the Snohomish County Master Gardener Program.



WSU EXTENSION
Snohomish County

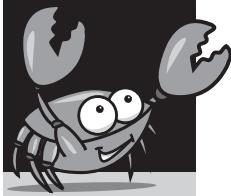


Parks &
Recreation

Extension programs and policies are consistent with federal and state laws and regulations on nondiscrimination regarding race, sex, religion, age, color, creed, national or ethnic origin; physical, mental or sensory disability; marital status, sexual orientation, or status as a Vietnam-era or disabled veteran. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local Extension office.
Reasonable accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities and special needs who contact Mary Watts at 6705 Puget Park Dr., Snohomish, WA 98296;
(425) 357-6001; mary.watts@wsu.edu at least two weeks prior to the event.



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Welcome to The Crab Cracker! Here's What's Crackin'...

The Crab Cracker is a community magazine created **BY** local residents **FOR** local residents. It is a **FREE** publication printed every two weeks and distributed throughout the communities of Camano Island, Stanwood (and Warm Beach area), Silvana, and Conway. It contains an extensive calendar of events, original stories, feature articles, fun and interesting sections, community news and announcements, tide tables, and more. Please send us any material you want our communities to know about for possible entry into this publication. It is content provided from **YOU** that makes this publication the popular source of information and entertainment that all of our friends and neighbors enjoy.

Cover image: Happy New Year from The Crab Cracker Community Magazine!



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James and Malynda Shipley, owners, proprietors
thecrab@thecracker.com or 425-299-7892 / 425-299-7893
P.O. Box 2535, Stanwood, WA 98292 • www.thecracker.com

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Submission DEADLINE: JANUARY 1 for Next Edition (January 9-22)

Calendar of Events



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26

FRIDAY NIGHT KARAOKE

WITH MARCUS. 8pm at Stanwood Hotel Saloon. 26926 102nd Ave NW, Stanwood. 360-629-2888.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27

FAMILY BINGO



at the American Legion Hall ON CAMANO ISLAND, 609 W. Camano Drive. "Camano Island American Legion Bingo is pushing it up...Now with \$150 and \$250 blackout jackpots!" Doors open at 4:30 P.M. and Bingo starts at 6pm. Snacks and beverages available.

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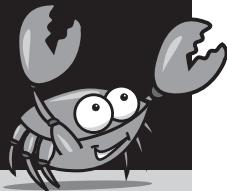
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Calendar of Events



DID YOU KNOW?

The most common New Year resolutions include 'quit smoking', 'lose weight', 'stay healthy and fit', 'save more money'.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27

STACY JONES

7:00 PM – 11:00 PM at Pub 282, 370 NE Camano Dr #6, Camano. Blues, rock, and soul like you've never heard before—Stacy Jones is bringing her powerhouse vocals, killer guitar, and raw energy to Pub 282! Get ready for a night of electrifying music, deep grooves, and unforgettable vibes.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27

WINTER HOLIDAY BIG BAND COMMUNITY SWING DANCE



with lessons, at Stanwood's Floyd-Norgaard cultural center, 6:30-9:30PM. Dance to the music of a 16 piece big band with some of the best musicians in the Northwest. Free dance lesson at 6:30pm. Dance starts at 7PM with dance lessons continuing during intermissions. \$12 for adults. \$10 for students, cash, check or Venmo (No credit card).

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27

JIMMY WRIGHT BAND

7pm at Conway's Pub & Eatery.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 29

NAUGHTY BINGO

8pm at Beauty Bar Salon + Lounge. Always free to play. Come have some naughty fun and maybe win some prizes! 360-629-2324.

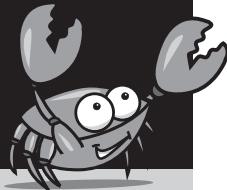
Kwanzaa
December 26 -
January 1

NATIONAL FRUITCAKE DAY



DECEMBER 27

Calendar of Events



"If you want an interesting NYE party, combine cocktails and a fresh box of crayons for everyone."

Robert Fulghum

MONDAY, DECEMBER 29

ALL AGES MONDAY NIGHT TRIVIA

6pm at Rockaway, Camano Island. An exciting night of prizes, great food and drinks, and the chance to win big. This is a family friendly trivia, so grab your little ones and join us!

MONDAY, DECEMBER 29

TRIVIA NIGHT

with Darren. 6-8pm at SAAL Brewing Company, 10209 270th St NW, Stanwood. It is free to play with prizes. Always a lot of fun!

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31

NOON YEAR'S EVE STORYTIME

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM at the Stanwood Library. Celebrate the New Year at the library and before bedtime at our Noon Year's Eve Storytime! Dress up in your New Year's finest (sequins and pajamas, anyone?) and join us for play, music, art activities, and a New Year's countdown at 12pm.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31

WEDNESDAY NIGHT TRIVIA!

7-9pm at Pub 282. Test your knowledge on music, history, current events, pop culture & more! All ages and free to play!

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31

NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION

with The Opines, Cats Like Us and The StageHogs at 8 PM - Arcadian Public House, 18444 Spruce Street, Conway. Come celebrate the end of 2025 and the beginning of 2026 with three awesome bands. - The Opines - Cats Like Us - The StageHogs This year the theme will be a bit retro with an appreciation for the evolution of music. The three bands represent this beautifully. Doors at 7:30 PM Show at 8 PM Tickets: \$30 ADV / \$35 DOS A ticket purchase includes entry and a champagne toast at midnight. Presale online tickets end at noon on the day of show. All ticket sales are final on show day. 21+

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1

KARAOKE NIGHT - ALL AGES WELCOME!

7-11pm at Pub 282, 370 N East Camano Drive, Camano Island.

National Bacon Day



December 30



Calendar of Events



"Be at war with your vices, at Peace with your neighbors, and let every New Year find you a better man."

Benjamin Franklin

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1
**2026 NEW YEAR KICKOFF SMOKESTACK
OUT'N BACK 5K**



Event by LeED Ventures Running. Join us for the 2nd Annual New Year Kickoff Smokestack 5K Out'N Back — a fun, family-friendly run and walk to celebrate health, community, and new beginnings. Location: Hamilton Landing Park | 26810 98th Ave NW, Stanwood. Packet Pick-Up: 10:00 AM. Start Time: 11:00 AM. Event Highlights: Chip-Timed Race ; Finisher Medals for All Participants; Family & Dog Friendly; Light Post-Race Refreshments; Awards & Recognition. Top overall male, female, and kid finishers will receive awards. Age group recognition for: 13–19, 20–29, 30–39, 40–49, 50–59, 60–69, 70–79, and 80+. Optional Cold Plunge Station at the finish line — a fun, refreshing way to welcome the New Year!

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1

GATHERING PLACE DINNER

5-6pm at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Stanwood. A weekly free meal, provided by 10 area churches. This is a ministry to those in need. All are welcome.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4th | 2:30 PM

Bronn Journey Concert

**BENEFITING THE CARING
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Sunday, January 4th at 2:30pm
(Offering for Caring Place will
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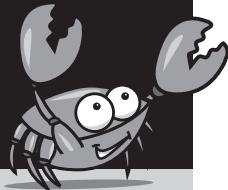
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Calendar of Events



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www.TheCrabCracker.com

or on
[Facebook](#).

Download
current or past
editions.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 2

STANWOOD HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Boys Basketball vs Marysville: C Team: 2pm. JV: 3:30pm. Varsity: 6:30pm.

Girls Basketball vs Marysville Getchell. C Team & JV: 2pm. Varsity: 5pm.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 2

ARTIST RECEPTION FOR ANNIE HAYNES



5-7pm at Beach 1 Gallery. Annie Haynes, (Golden Goose Chase Art) paints vibrant Pacific Northwest watercolors and acrylics of recognizable Northwest locations and unique abstracts that are often landscapes or neurographics. She's drawn to ethnic history & art with a story. Her art will be displayed and for sale the entire month of January. The Gallery is open 7 days a week. We will be serving pop, wine, bottled water and individual bags of chips for the reception. Beach 1 Gallery in Camano Country Club. 1243 Beach Drive, Camano Island.

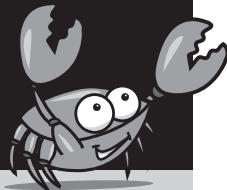
FRIDAY, JANUARY 2

FRIDAY NIGHT KARAOKE



WITH MARCUS. 8pm at Stanwood Hotel Saloon. 26926 102nd Ave NW, Stanwood. 360-629-2888.

Calendar of Events



DID YOU KNOW?

In America alone, during the holiday season, 360 million glasses of sparkling wine are consumed every year.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3
CHARLIE PARTIN
7pm at Conway's Pub & Eatery.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3
SCOUT TREE-CYCLE AT IGA



9am-3pm. Support Outdoor activities for scouting! Hiking, biking, canoeing, and more! Troop 46 are ready for action! IGA parking lot - drop off. Pick ups- via request only. Troop46Camano@outlook.com. 425 344 8544 for pick up requests, and special arrangements. The famous Lenz Blenz will be offered - limited supply. 1st come first serve. Recycle your tree, and get the product back from last year's trees- as rich tree-dirt! Donations accepted on the tree, drop off, or mailed in to BSA Troop 46, 49 S. Sunrise Blvd., Camano Island, WA 98282. Accepting wreaths, swag, garlands, and decorations. - These will be deconstructed and given to Kristoferson Farm for Reuse. Trees: No stand, no ornaments. Curbside by 9am - 3pm. Missed? Call 425-344-8544.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3
GAME NIGHT

WITH KEVIN, 5pm-9pm at Camano Island Library, 848 N Sunrise Blvd Suite D, Camano. Beginners welcome. Bring Favorite games.

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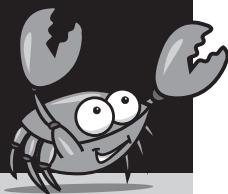
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Calendar of Events



DID YOU KNOW?

For ancient Greeks, flooding of Nile every year marked the beginning of New Year.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3
FOCIP GUIDED WINTER HIKE



CAMANO ISLAND STATE PARK: Meet with Friends of Camano Island Parks at 9:45 at the picnic shelter near the boat ramp. The walk includes 1 significant 100 ft. stairway climb and 2 elevation gains of about 50 ft. with the rest of the walk having some short rises and downs. The trail is 3 miles long with excellent views of Saratoga Passage and Elger Bay including a walk through a beautiful "fern grotto" and ravine. State park Discover Pass is required. Join FOCIP members and Backyard habitat stewards on these walks. The walks take place rain or shine. Walks are cancelled if there is snow, extremely high winds, or lightning. Please wear appropriate clothes for the weather and sturdy shoes or boots. No dogs please.

JANUARY



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STANWOOD • CAMANO HISTORIC SITES AUDIO TOUR ALL YEAR ROUND



1909 Swing Bridge to Camano Island

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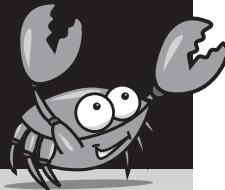
For more information, maps, and videos,
visit our website at historicsitetour.com

Start the tour from Pioneer Hwy and enter East Stanwood by the train station. Stops #1 and #5 have open restaurants.



1. People's Union
2. S. A. Thompson House
3. I.O.O.F. Public Hall
4. D.O. Pearson House
5. Stanwood Volunteer Fire Dept
6. Camano Lutheran Church
7. Camano Lutheran Cemetery
8. Kristoferson Farm
9. Barnum Point Preserve
10. Camano Island State Park
11. Cama Beach Historical State Park
12. Camano City Schoolhouse
13. Camano Island American Legion
14. Utsalady Ladies Aid
15. Camano Pioneer Cemetery

Calendar of Events



DID YOU KNOW?

1st January was accepted as New Year in 46 BC by Julius Caesar. England and the American colonies of England adopted the date long time later in 1752.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3

FAMILY BINGO

at the American Legion Hall ON CAMANO ISLAND, 609 W. Camano Drive. "Camano Island American Legion Bingo is pushing it up...Now with \$150 and \$250 blackout jackpots!" Doors open at 4:30 P.M. and Bingo starts at 6pm. Snacks and beverages available.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3

AKTION CLUB'S E-CYCLE



10am-2pm, across from Stanwood Middle School on 94th Ave., follow signs. Accepting all TVs, monitors, computer towers & laptops only (for recycling). This is put on by Stanwood-Camano Aktion & Kiwanis Clubs & donations benefit their many local service projects.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4

BRONN JOURNEY CONCERT



CARING PLACE...A local ministry clothing bodies and souls in Jesus' Name! Hosts BRONN JOURNEY (Harp and Voice) in Concert at OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, 9901 272nd Street NW, Stanwood at 2:30pm. (Offering for Caring Place will be received.).

Calendar of Events



DID YOU KNOW?

New Year gifts also date back to ancient times when the Persians used to gift eggs symbolizing productivity.

MONDAY, JANUARY 5
NAUGHTY BINGO

8pm at Beauty Bar Salon + Lounge. Always free to play. Come have some naughty fun and maybe win some prizes! 360-629-2324.

MONDAY, JANUARY 5

ALL AGES MONDAY NIGHT TRIVIA

6pm at Rockaway, Camano Island. An exciting night of prizes, great food and drinks, and the chance to win big. This is a family friendly trivia, so grab your little ones and join us!

MONDAY, JANUARY 5

TRIVIA NIGHT

with Darren. 6-8pm at SAAL Brewing Company, 10209 270th St NW, Stanwood. It is free to play with prizes. Always a lot of fun!

TUESDAY, JANUARY 6

TEEN CHILL & RECHARGE: GAMING

3:00 PM – 5:00 PM at the Stanwood Library. Swing by to unwind, charge your devices, and have fun! This week, we are jumping into the world of gaming with the XBox Series X and various board games. (Teens will be expected to take turns with the XBox and do other fun activities while waiting for their turn.) Bring a friend, meet new people, or just hang out solo. We'll have snacks and plenty of space to socialize. Feel free to bring your own favorite games or activities. This informal program is designed for teens and tweens ages 9 to 18. No registration. Drop in any time between 3:00 and 5:00 pm, recharge, and enjoy some free snacks. It's a win-win!

TUESDAY, JANUARY 6

STANWOOD HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Varsity Boys Swimming vs Edmonds Woodway. 3pm at YMCA.
Boys Wrestling vs Monroe. JV: 5:45pm. Varsity: 7pm.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7

WEDNESDAY NIGHT TRIVIA!

7-9pm at Pub 282. Test your knowledge on music, history, current events, pop culture & more! All ages and free to play!



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Calendar of Events



DID YOU KNOW?

Greece, Mexico and Netherlands go for ring-shaped pastries and cakes which signify that the year has come to a full circle.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7

STANWOOD HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Boys Basketball vs Cascade. C Team & JV: 5:30pm. Varsity: 7:15pm.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7

BLUEPRINT FOR FINANCIAL SUCCESS



If something happened to you tomorrow, would your family be financially okay? I'm excited to share that I'll be hosting a free educational seminar called Blueprint for Financial Success -- a conversation designed to help individuals and families build a strong financial foundation. What We'll Cover: Managing and reducing debt - Growing and protecting your savings - Preparing for life's unexpected events - Building long-term financial security. Time: 5:30 pm. Location: Stanwood Library. How to RSVP: Email: sbrogli@ft.newyorklife.com. This seminar and insurance sales presentation is for informational purposes only. Neither New York Life Insurance Company nor its agents or affiliates provide tax, legal, or accounting advice. Please consult your own tax, legal, or accounting professional before making any decisions.



January 7

NATIONAL BOBBLEHEAD DAY

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WE WIN

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Calendar of Events



DID YOU KNOW?

The month of January derives its name from a two-faced God named Janus. Janus' one face looked forward while the other looked backward.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7
READ WITH A THERAPY DOG



4:00 PM – 5:00 PM at the Stanwood Library . Practice your reading, de-stress, and learn about therapy dogs at the library with Linda and her registered therapy dog Preacher. Preacher is a 5 year old Great Pyrenees. With his partner Linda, he has made therapy visits to colleges, schools, libraries, nursing homes, and hospice facilities. Preacher and Linda are registered through Pet Partners. When not working with pet therapy, Preacher enjoys hanging out at his farm and watching over all the critters that live there.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7
JOIN US FOR CONNECT OVER COFFEE



An informal gathering open to everyone where we regularly meet to share perspectives and explore ideas that spark positive change within ourselves and our communities. 1:00 pm-3:00 pm at the Camano Island Library Community room. Hosted by Baha'is in Skagit and Island Counties, who believe in the oneness of humanity and strive to build unified, vibrant communities that promote spiritual and material well-being.

I CAN READ IT ! CAN YOU ???

fi yuo cna raed tihs, yuo hvae a sgtrane mnid too. Cna yuo raed tihs? Olny smoe plepoe can. i cdnuolt blveiee taht I cluod aulacly uesdnatnrd waht I was rdanieg. The phaonmneal pweor of the hmuani mnid, aoccdrnig to a rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it dseno't mtaetr in waht oerdr the ltteres in a wrod are, the olny iproamtnt tihng is taht the frsit and lsat ltteer be in the rghit pclae. The rset can be a taotl mses and you can stil raed it whotuit a pboerlm. Tihs is bcuseae the huamn mniddeos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe. Azanmig huh? yaeh and I awlyas tghuhot slpelng was ipmorant! if you can raed tihs sahre it.



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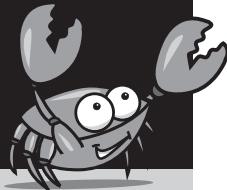
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Calendar of Events



THURSDAY, JANUARY 8
KARAOKE NIGHT - ALL AGES WELCOME!



7-11pm at Pub 282, 370 N East Camano Drive, Camano Island.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8
GATHERING PLACE DINNER
5-6pm at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Stanwood. A weekly free meal, provided by 10 area churches. This is a ministry to those in need. All are welcome.

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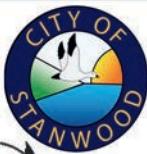
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Details!



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Dining Guide



DID YOU KNOW?

New Year is usually considered to be the best time for making resolutions. Resolutions usually mean people want to give up some bad habits and pick up some good habits but resolutions may not necessarily be about habits.

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COLD WEATHER TIPS FOR YOUR DOG

DOGS LESS TOLERANT OF COLD | DOGS MORE TOLERANT OF COLD



If short coat

If seek out warm spots in the house on a normal basis



Puppies, senior dogs, or dogs with a disease, like diabetes



If long coat

If seek out cool tile and cool parts of the house on a normal basis

COLD WEATHER TIPS

WATCH FOR COLD INTOLERANCE SIGNALS



1 SHIVERING

2 TAIL TUCKED BETWEEN THE LEGS

3 WHINING OR ANXIOUS

4 RELUCTANCE TO MOVE

5 LIFTING PAWS

6 SNOW/ICE BUILDUP IN PAW PADS OR COAT



Less tolerance to windy/overcast/precipitation/snow or ice covered paths.



Sunny and dry, but cold can be fine for many dogs.



Stay active to stay warm.



Be cautious walking on ice, as falls are bad for humans and dogs.



Post walk, remove from your dog deicer chemicals that are typically used on roads and sidewalks.

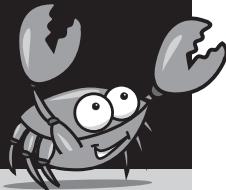


Consider using pet-safe deicers on your property to protect your pets and the others in your neighborhood.



www.TheLightofDog.com

Longevity Lens



*A Column About
Longevity and
Aging Well*

*In each issue of
The Camano
Health Column,
we explore prac-
tical, science-in-
formed insights
to help our
community age
well—at every
stage of life.*

Dr. Maria Cayabyab ("Dr. Maz") is a board-certified OB/GYN and founder of Kirra Health, an integrative medical practice on Camano Island. Learn more at www.kirrahealth.com

THE LONGEVITY LENS

A Column About Longevity and Aging Well. In each issue of The Camano Health Column, we explore practical, science-informed insights to help our community age well—at every stage of life.



Hi, I'm Dr. Maz, founder of Kirra Health. My team and I live here, raise our families here, and—like many of you—care deeply about staying healthy enough to enjoy this community for years to come. We created Kirra Health with the goal of bringing a higher level of care locally—care focused on longevity, prevention, and aging well. Too often, people are told that feeling more tired, losing strength, gaining weight, or “slowing down” is just part of getting older. While aging is inevitable, we believe how we age is influenced by many factors that can be understood, supported, and improved. Our integrative medical practice is grounded in evidence-based medicine, functional wellness, and data-driven insights. We look at the whole picture—hormones, muscle mass, metabolic health, inflammation, stress, nutrition, and recovery—because these systems shape how we feel and function over time. We also wanted to bring this level of care closer to home. Many people seeking proactive, longevity-focused health are referred to clinics as far as Bellevue or Seattle. Our goal is to offer thoughtful, advanced care right here—without leaving the community you love. So why this column? Because health information should feel approachable, practical, and relevant to real life—and because our community deserves clear, science-informed insights, not trends or one-size-fits-all advice. In the months ahead, we'll explore topics such as: • Why muscle is essential for longevity and independence • What midlife women and men should know about hormones and body composition • Why the scale often misses the most important health signals • How early insight—from labs to body composition—can shape long-term health. We hope this column becomes a trusted resource—one that helps you ask better questions and feel more confident about your health. If there's a topic you'd like us to explore, we invite you to email ask@kirrahealth.com. We are grateful to be part of this community—and glad to be having this conversation together.

Dr. Maria Cayabyab ("Dr. Maz") is a board-certified OB-GYN, certified in menopause care, and a functional medicine practitioner. Learn more at kirrahealth.com.



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Moonshine Wisdom & Wit



Story by Jack Archibald.

For further moonshine wisdom and wet powder wit, check out the SKEETER DADDLE DIARIES at www.skeeterdaddle.net

FACING THE NEW YEAR WITHOUT RESOLVE

We'll Pass on the Resolutions, Thanks

Some of the boys down here on the South End were deep into a night of nog over at the Marina's Pilot House when the subject of New Year's Resolutions reared its ugly head. We'd pretty much solved most of the burning issues of the day that Congress can't or won't address, and with world peace close at hand and a solution for global economic recovery looming in our fevered LED's, we naturally turned to self-improvement, the final obstacle to Nirvana.

Self-improvement, in case you've never met a dyed-in-the-alpaca-wool South Ender, isn't high on his Honey-Do List. If it's on the list at all..... I'm not saying we don't think we could use some polishing, but all those so-called vices other folks resolve every January One to curb or cut back on or eradicate completely, are those very traits we hold in high esteem. We sure aren't in any hurry to canonize ourselves. We aren't aiming for perfection. Okay, maybe we could stand a bit of sprucing up, but we all know what a slippery slope that is. Mabana Mike quit the bottle for 13 weeks two New Years ago and by the 3rd week he was an insufferable convert not only to Sobriety but worse, Piety. Every day was like an AA meeting with Mike and he might as well have started his own church, passed out nicotine patches and offered up 3 more cups of decaf coffee to the gods of abstinence.

No, we decided long ago it's better to accept our little blemishes and move on the best we can. You live in a Shangri-La-La like we do, you don't want many more monks claiming blissful enlightenment. Next thing you know hordes of tourists seeking Truth, Wisdom and the South End Way will be clogging our backwash blacktop. Plus, the Pilot House isn't legally zoned for monasteries or temples. We'll probably just save everyone the grief and skip the resolutions again this New Year. Good luck, though, to the rest of you....



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Kids' Korner



DID YOU KNOW?

The dropping of the New Year Ball in NYC is a tradition that started in 1907.

NEW YEAR'S EVE WAND CRAFT



Ring in the New Year with this fun & festive wand craft! This is an easy paper craft that requires very little prep work

Supplies: Pencil crayons or markers; Paper straws; Small craft bells in gold or silver; String (we used gold) to put on the bells; Silver or gold ribbon (optional); Glue stick; Scissors; White cardstock

Instructions: 1. First, you want to draw star shape into white cardstock. 2. Have kids color, write, and draw in their stars. We used pencil crayons for ours but you could also use markers or even crayons for younger kids. 3. Once kids are finished with their stars, cut them out. Depending on the age of the kids this might need to be done by an adult. 4. Each wand uses 2 stars, so decide which two stars to use for each wand. Using a glue stick, glue the back of one star, put a straw in the middle and the other star on top, pressing down firmly. 5. Thread 3 jingle bells onto your string and tie them onto the straw towards the top. 6. For the final touch, you can add a gold or silver ribbon bow. - Source: projectswithkids.com



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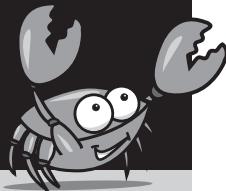
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Activity for Adults



DID YOU KNOW?

Whatever New Year traditions we speak of are actually meant for bringing good luck. For instance, eating black-eyed peas on the day of New Year is believed to bring good luck in several parts of the United States.

SEQUIN LETTER GARLAND DIY

Easy project that will add quite a dose of glittery pizazz to your next event, and I bet you'll keep the garland displayed long after the party is over.



Supplies: stretch sequin gold trim (I used a little over a yard of this for each 9" tall letter); scrap cardboard; X-Acto knife; hot glue gun; metallic cord trim

Directions: First you'll want to print each letter in your phrase so you can use them as a template to cut out your cardboard letter. Choose a simple bold font (I used Function Pro Bold) and a font size that makes the letters just under double the width of your trim. My trim is a little over 1" wide so I made my letter font around 2" wide so the trim would be sure to cover the cardboard. Tape each letter to some scrap cardboard and cut out the letter with an X-Acto knife. To make the ends of the trim look as neat as possible, you'll want to fold and glue the ends under so the trim doesn't unravel and drop sequins. So, at the end of the outside edge of your letter, use the hot glue gun to glue the trim end face down going away from your letter. Fold the trim back the opposite way and continue to glue the trim all around the outside edge of the letter. When you reach the other end, cut the trim so it hangs a little past the end, fold the trim under and glue in place. Repeat steps with the inside edge of the letter. Make sure both lines of trim are going in the same direction so they will look more like one piece instead of two. If you have a letter with intersections, don't worry about doing the folds on places where you can cover those ends with another row. So on the "H" I just cut and glued the middle horizontal lines, then covered those cut ends with the vertical lines that had folded ends. Once you have all your letters completed, you can line up your phrase (backwards of course!) and glue your hanging cord to the back of the letters. Once the glue sets, you're ready to hang your garland! Source: <https://abeautifulmess.com/sequin-letter-garland-diy/>

Powerful Tools for Caregivers

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GREVSTAD WOODCRAFT

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It began with an old cedar fence.

After a career path that included aerospace engineering and teaching middle/high school science and math, I decided to step back and slow things down to spend more time on my passions for woodwork and handcrafted items. What's this have do to with an old fence? Well, when I took down an old cedar fence in my back yard, I decided to try cleaning up the wood to see what it looked like on the inside. After much planing and sanding away the weather-worn exterior and cutting away the unsavory bits, I was able to uncover the beautiful grains and colors of the redwood cedar inside. Looking at this wood, I imagined tables, shelves, coatracks, coasters, birdhouses, and a myriad of other items - all handcrafted to show off the natural beauty of the old cedar woodgrain. With an ever-growing collection of woodworking tools and a big pile of old fence planks, I set up shop on Camano Island, Washington amongst the cedars and Douglas firs and began creating. My wood sources and wood varieties have expanded to include reclaimed oak from hardwood flooring and mahogany door frames, and fir off-cuttings from a window frame maker, as well as domestically sourced maple, cherry and walnut hardwoods. Along with my wood sources, my selections of products have grown. Check out some of the cool new products on the Shop page. I offer you some of my work through this online store. I hope you find some things for yourself and some gifts for family and friends.

Be sure to check back often as my assortment of wood products are ever expanding.

All the best, Kurt Grevstad

<https://www.grevstad.net>

Business Spotlight



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The logo for Bayless Construction Group. It features a large, stylized orange letter 'B' on the left. To the right of the 'B' is a black, curved arrow that loops back towards the 'B'. Below the 'B' and the arrow, the text 'BAYLESS CONSTRUCTION GROUP' is written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. At the bottom left, the text 'Local and Family Owned' is also present.

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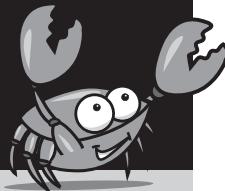
Questions?

Email savvy.septic@snoco.org or call 425-388-3636

Funding: This project has been funded wholly or in part by the United States Environmental Protection Agency under assistance agreement PC-01J89801 to the Washington State Department of Health. The contents of this document do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the Environmental Protection Agency, nor does mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation for use.



Community Information

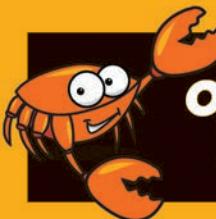


PICK-UP VOLLEYBALL IS COMING BACK TO THE YMCA IN 2026!



Starting Sunday January 11th from 1-3 pm in the gym we will have pick-up Volleyball going on. This is a registered event so please be sure to follow the link and register for any dates you would be interested in. It will be Free for members and just \$10 for non-members. Grab your friends and come play some volleyball!

<https://buff.ly/nZKtZfW>



Our Mission is to Promote YOU!

Looking to connect with your community without spending a dime?

An ever-growing number of people are turning to The Crab Cracker Community Magazine, a local publication dedicated to offering free information and event listings with every issue. This magazine makes it easy to explore what's happening in our community. Best of all, it's completely free. You can advertise and promote yourself and/or your event within our magazine.... AT NO CHARGE!* Contact us with your details and we will get your information out into the community.

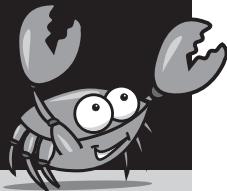
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Community Information



DID YOU KNOW?

People of Denmark practice throwing dishes at the doorsteps of other people. This is believed to bring many new friends to the person on whose doorsteps the dishes are thrown.

HOLIDAY LIGHT, COMPUTER CORD, AND ELECTRICAL CORD RECYCLING



Free at Camano Transfer Station is back! Safety First! Toss out the old and in with the new. Don't chance it. Extension cords, computer cords, appliance cords, and more. No Coaxial or cable cords. See signage for details. Troop 46 Scouts and WSU Waste Wise volunteers are here to help make this possible. And special thanks to Brian and John, and Laura and the attendants at the Transfer Station. Happy Holidays! Be safe!

NO DISCOVER PASS REQUIRED ON THESE 2026 DAYS

Washington public land agencies have designated the 12 days of 2026 when no Discover Pass is required to park at Washington state parks, or on land managed by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. The 2026 free days are: Jan. 1 – New Year's Day and First Day Hikes; Jan. 19 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day; March 9 – Billy Frank Jr.'s Birthday; March 19 – State Parks 113th Birthday; April 22 – Earth Day; June 6-7 – Free Fishing Weekend; June 19 – Juneteenth; Aug. 9 – Smokey Bear's Birthday; Sept. 26 – National Public Lands Day; Oct. 10 – World Mental Health Day; Nov. 11 – Veterans Day. Each date commemorates a special day of the year, starting with New Year's Day on Jan. 1, when more than 40 state parks will host annual First Day Hikes. Try before you buy a full year of adventure. Discover Pass free days make it easier to check out state parks and state-managed lands. You might have so much fun during your visit, you're ready to say yes to a full year of adventure. The annual Discover Pass is \$45 and provides unlimited day-use parking for everyone in the pass-holder's vehicle. The pass is valid for an entire year from the month it is purchased and can be transferred between two vehicles. And Discover Pass funds go a long way for your public lands. They provide critical funding for State Parks, DNR and WDFW. The Discover Pass supports recreation and conservation opportunities, keeps bathrooms cleaned and trails maintained, cares for the health of forests and helps protect our seashores for generations to come. Learn more about the Discover Pass and purchase yours here: <https://discoverpass.wa.gov>.

Community Information



DID YOU KNOW?

The New Year Ball currently is made of Waterford Crystal, it was originally made of wood and iron.

CO-ED ULTIMATE FRISBEE



Saturdays from 9-11:30am at 7401 272nd St NW, Stanwood. Join us for a fun morning of co-ed pickup games in Stanwood. Whether you're a seasoned player or new to the sport, this event is open to all.

CAREGIVER CAFE

Calling all caregivers of kiddos aged 0-5! Join us at the AM Breakfast Caregiver Cafe. Start your day with breakfast at the AM Cafe (adults only) or wind down with dinner for the whole family at the PM Cafe (3rd Wednesday of every month). The Caregiver Cafe is a FREE, family centered, parent led program. During the sessions, we offer free on-site childcare so parents can relax, connect with others, share experiences, and engage in meaningful conversations in a supportive community. 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM at Community Resource Center, 9612 271st St NW, Stanwood. Space is limited, so be sure to RSVP on our website today! <https://www.crc-sc.org/events>.

STANWOOD AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM EXHIBITS

Open for guided visits and history research 1 - 4 pm Wednesday and Saturdays. Tour the D. O. Pearson House Museum, the Eldridge Center Gallery and Library, the Floyd Norgaard Cultural Center 3rd Floor Exhibits and the Veterans Memorial (Outside). Volunteers welcome! More info: www.sahs-fncc.org.



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Community Information



DID YOU KNOW?

Japanese eat long noodles on New Year. Long noodles signify long life.

ADULT FUTSAL



Futsal is a soccer-based game played on a hardcourt, using the basketball court, Mondays at Camano Chapel. 6pm-8pm, ages 18+. Free!



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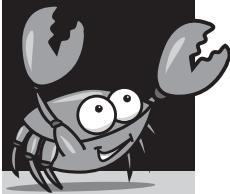
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Community Information



THANK YOU "FIRST RESPONDERS"



Our "First Responders", military, firefighters, and emergency medical personnel are essential for our safety and well being. Recently, the Pacific Northwest has been inundated with storm after storm, high winds and heavy rainfall causing flooding, power outages, landslides, injury and death. Quick to complain to the power companies for our inconvenience, we seldom give due credit and thanks to those men and women who put themselves on the line to restore our worlds back to normal. While we take ourselves out of harms way, out of the weather and into varying degrees of protection, there are those individuals who respond to the call, march out into the darkness and weather to remove downed power lines and trees, clear roads and restore our power. Hours and hours of heavy, dangerous labor, days without sleep and little to no comfort, they continue on until all is restored. Our "linemen" the brave men and women who step up to help us all, should also be added to the list of "First Responders" and we owe them our thoughts, prayers and gratitude. - D.C. Foster.



Aging is inevitable.
But how you age matters.

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Kirra Health is an integrative medical practice on Camano Island grounded in evidence-based medicine, functional wellness, and data-driven insights helping patients age well, *inside and out*.

Community Information



MOCK INTERVIEW DAY

Help shape what's next for our students by volunteering at our annual Mock Interview Day at Stanwood High School. We were blown away by the response from our community last year, and our students are already excited about the opportunity that awaits. Our amazing Career & Technical Education (CTE) program invites local professionals to spend part of the day conducting brief, 10-minute mock interviews and sharing constructive feedback using provided questions and a simple rubric. No advance preparation needed. Our 2nd annual Mock Interview Day is Feb. 26 at Stanwood High School. Interested in volunteering? Sign up here: <https://forms.gle/wjsDWYDpZYYAcj2k7> For students, the impact is big. It's a chance to sharpen interview skills, gain confidence, and learn firsthand what employers are looking for as they prepare for life beyond high school. Email Diane Veazey at dveazey@stanwood.wednet.edu.

WE NEED YOU!

Do you love to paint? Do you enjoy teaching others and sharing your creativity? If so, we need YOU! We are putting together a fun paint-and-snacks experience for youth and families and would love to find a member who is interested in teaching this class. It's a wonderful opportunity to share your passion and help create meaningful connections in our YMCA community. If this sounds like you, please email me back—I'd love to hear from you. Thank you in advance for volunteering your time and talents. We are truly better when we share our passions. - Jamie Williams - jwilliams@ymca-snoco.org

HEAR BETTER THIS YEAR!

STANWOOD HEARING

Annual hearing screenings are a great start to a healthier you.

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Photos and Art



DID YOU KNOW?

In Southern US, Ireland, Germany and Italy leafy greens and legumes are associated with financial fortune.



Photo of a bridge I made on the forest property my wife and I own near Jack Gunter's barn. - Jim Sable.



Old red tractor. Photo by Linnae Mallette.

Medicare Education Workshop

Attend our upcoming Medicare workshop and learn the essentials! This event will cover Medicare eligibility, Medicare Parts A, B, C & D.

This workshop is no-cost, no obligation and will give you the basics you need to understand your options.

Camano Center

606 Arrowhead Road, Camano Island, WA 98282

January:

- 1/07/2026 – Wednesday at 10:00am.
- 1/28/2026 – Wednesday at 2:00pm.

February:

- 02/05/2026 – Thursday at 3:15pm.
- 02/26/2026 – Thursday at 3:15pm.

March:

- 03/05/2026 – Thursday at 3:15pm.
- 03/26/2026 – Thursday at 3:15pm.

RSVP'S NOT REQUIRED, BUT ENCOURAGED

Please contact us to RSVP or for more information about upcoming events.



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www.vidorassociates.com

This is an educational event. A licensed sales representative will be present with information only; there will be no sales activity. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has neither reviewed nor endorsed this information.

Vidor and Associates is not connected to the Federal Medicare Program and this is a solicitation for insurance. Vidor and Associates does not offer every plan available in your area. Any information they provide is limited to those plans they do offer in your area. Please contact Medicare.gov or 1-800-MEDICARE or your local State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) to get information on all your options.

WINTER READY WITH ISLAND COUNTY

Essential Winter Preparedness at Home

A checklist to keep your household safe and comfortable during power or service outages:



Have flashlights and spare batteries ready in accessible locations.



Identify a single room to conserve heat if power is lost, and ensure pets have a warm place as well.



Charge phones and portable power banks ahead of storms.



Keep a three-day supply of food, water, and medications.



Check in with neighbors, seniors & those with medical needs.

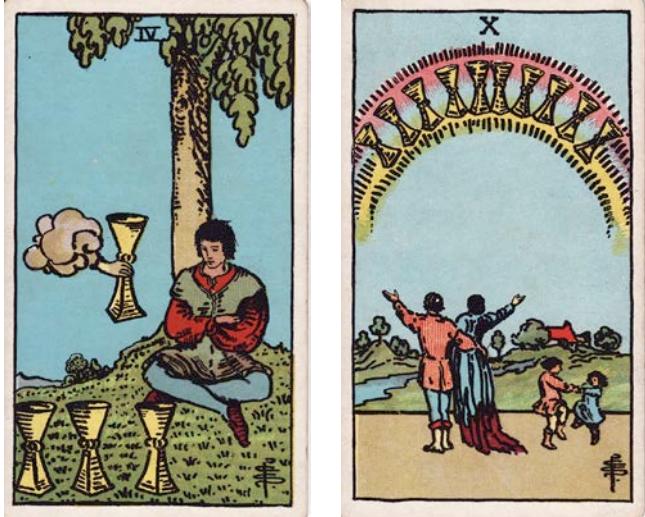
Intuitive Tarot



*Tarot from the
classic Rider
Waite Smith deck.*

*Receive your
personal reading
at: [linktr.ee/
tiffanyfitzpatrick](http://linktr.ee/tiffanyfitzpatrick)*

INTUITIVE TAROT WITH TIFFANY



December 26th 2025 – January 1st 2026: Four of Cups. In this quiet forgotten breath of space between holidays, allow yourself rest. Most importantly, rest the mind, calm the analysis paralysis and indecision. You're too intent on placing the irons in the proper order in the fire that the awareness that the irons were already offered to you in the aligned order has escaped you. If you've lost the order, don't fret. Breathe. Rest. Quiet the mind, even for a moment. Then, before taking further action, ask yourself which vessels are you pouring into that harken the past without whispering of the future? Make a note to release these relics. Now ask yourself which prospect invigorates you like a new gift you can't wait to tear into? Here is your focus. Follow the joy. Repeat this process with each pause of musical chairs, as a new iron is offered. Blessed New Year be upon you.

January 2nd – January 8th : Ten of Cups. A rainbow of promise, renewed hope and resolve, new beginnings, and a powerful collective feeling of welcome for a shiny new year. Regardless of finding ourselves in the dark of winter, with an afternoon sunset, as the decorations come down, our innerchild bounces to point out silver linings and blessings, big and small. Flooding recedes, and we turn our hands toward creating new from what was past. Let the joy reign; it will carry us through as the night slowly shortens. Trust the day lengthens as you concentrate on chipping away at your bucket list. This week's card most clearly asks of you to envision the outcomes you desire, most especially when the work at hand feels bleak, daunting, and insurmountable. Hold the vision as you toil forward. Remember, Everest is mounted but one step at a time.



CASA'S PET OF THE WEEK:

BRUTUS - Something that shocks us daily is how Brutus is still here and has had no interest. Brutus is one of the most loving, Pitbull mixes we have ever met. He just recently celebrated his 7th birthday last month! This sweet boy dreams of a cozy place where he can lounge and live his best life! This big love bug has been patiently waiting for his special someone for a long time now. His adoption is even free!

Camano Animal Shelter Association (CASA):
360-387-1902. www.camanoanimalshelter.org



NOAH'S PET OF THE WEEK:

BABY DOLL - Looking for a playful, active pup to add some life and love to your family? Look no further! This adorable pup, is looking for a FURever home committed to training, while giving out plenty of love and patience. If you are ready to add this beautiful, cutie-pie pupper to your family, come and talk to an Adoptions Matchmaker today!

The N.O.A.H. Animal Adoption Center:
(360) 629-7055. www.thenoahcenter.org



SAVE-A-MUTT'S PET OF THE WEEK:

JACKSON AND ROXANNE ~ BONDED PAIR. Jackson and Roxanne are a lovely couple and they are looking for a home together. They think that everyone is their friend and they are always ready to meet new people. After their outdoor adventures they are always ready to get cozy on top of a pile of blankets. FIRST STEPS: Visit www.save-a-mutt.org/adoption-application/ to fill out an application. We are a foster home based rescue.

Save-A-Mutt (Silvana, WA):
www.save-a-mutt.org

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Visit me at: www.CookingMamas.com

CRANBERRY PECAN GOAT CHEESE TRUFFLES

These festive red and green truffles come together quickly, giving you more time to spend with your guests!



INGREDIENTS: 10 oz. goat cheese, room temperature; 6 oz. cream cheese, room temperature; 1 1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon; 3 T. honey, plus more for drizzling; 1 1/2 c. chopped pecans, divided; 1 c. chopped dried cranberries; 1/2 c. chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley; Pretzel sticks or toothpicks, for serving

DIRECTIONS: 1. In a large bowl, using an electric hand mixer beat goat cheese, cream cheese, cinnamon, and honey until light and fluffy. Fold in a 1/2 cup chopped pecans; set aside. 2. Line a rimmed baking sheet with parchment paper. Toss together the remaining pecans, dried cranberries, and parsley in the center of the parchment paper. 3. Using a cookie scoop, scoop out one ball of cheese filling and toss in pecan mixture. Continue until all truffles have been rolled in the coating. 4. Refrigerate the truffles until ready to serve. (You can make the truffles up to three days in advance. Store in an airtight container in the refrigerator.) 5. Just before serving, insert a pretzel stick or toothpick into the truffles and drizzle with honey, if desired. Serve with crackers or warm crostini. Yields 18 truffles

Check out my other Truffles:
Bacon Bleu Cheese and Pistachio Truffles
Smoked Salmon Cheese Truffles
Bacon Ranch Cheddar Cheese Truffles

Classes and Workshops



DID YOU KNOW?

In Japan the bells in Buddhist Temples are rung 108 times. They do this to welcome the God of New Year known as Toshigami.

Pickleball Clinics for Beginners. Pickleball is the fastest-growing sport. We are offering a Clinic for beginners. If you want to learn to play the game, understand the rules, and grow your skills, this is the perfect time. We are offering two clinics just for YOU! Sunday, December 14. Option 1 – 12:30 – 2:30 PM. Option 2 – 3:00 – 5:00 PM. Space is limited. Register today! Trips, Travels & Events! – YMCA of Snohomish County

Free Macbook and iPad / iPhone Tutoring 3 / 30-minute sessions in the Camano Center Library (1pm, 1:30pm, 2pm) the second and fourth Thursdays of each month. Email Joyce to sign up at fact@ms-deadlines.com

Private Music Lessons (in-home or in-studio): piano, guitar, sax, clarinet, flute, voice; ages 5 and up; all skill levels. Our experienced teachers provide personalized instruction to help you reach your musical goals. Call 425-780-2289 with questions. Try it first! Book a free 30-minute lesson: HartMusicSchool.com/free-trial. (Music teachers apply here: HartMusicSchool.com/apply-to-teach).

FamilySearch Center – FREE Open Genealogy Workshop at 795 Ell Rd., Camano Island. Tuesdays 10 am-2 pm; Wednesdays 6pm-8pm. Get help to find your ancestors with free access to subscription websites and records. Contact us at camano@familyhistorymail.org.

Guitar Lessons with Ford Geisbrecht. All ages, levels & styles. Learn at your own pace. Ukelele & Bass also available. Serving Camano/ Stanwood since 2002. 360-631-0661.

Movement Arts Yoga Classes In-studio & Online. ONLINE VIDEO LIBRARY – practice anytime, anywhere – just practice! Go to www.movementarts.com and follow the links to view our video library of online hour length classes.

Yoga for Beginners January 6-Feb 3, 2026 Tuesdays 6-7:15pm. Give the gift of Yoga in the New Year! Whether you are brand new to yoga or returning after a long absence, this five-week course will prepare you with the first steps toward a regular practice. This session is offered in-studio only. \$95 Register in advance at movementarts.com/events or call 360-629-9100

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Classes and Workshops



DID YOU KNOW?

The Roman Catholic Church was the one to adopt 1st January as New Year.

The Medicine Wheel - Parts 3 and 4 - Healing the Self and the Collective: January 10 and February 28, 12-4 pm. January 10: Part 3 The Journey North; the Hummingbird and the Way of the Seer: Fly with this potent archetype as we explore the attributes of the North including dreaming, co-creating, divination, meditation, journeying and more. February 28: Part 4 The Journey East; the Eagle and the Way of the Sage: Fly wing to wing with Spirit! In this lofty direction we study time mastery, focus and freedom. \$105 or \$199 for both workshops. Sign up at movementarts.com/events or call 360-629-9100. PLEASE NOTE: Open to all who have completed parts 1 and 2.

YogaTone Sundays January 11, 18 and 25. 10:30-11:30am. Drop-Ins Welcome! Join us for a fantastic, fun, positive sweat/dance/movement/yoga class that's designed for just about anyone. Enjoy simple movement patterns that challenge your mind/body to new places. \$75 or \$35 drop in register at movementarts.com/events or call 360-629-9100.

Intro to Fascia Rolling: the Benefits of Myofascial Release. January 17, 2-4pm. Myofascial release is a self-care practice that utilizes soft, pliable massage therapy balls to roll and knead the body's fascial connective tissue to help increase our mobility and relieve aches and pains. \$65 p/p includes 2 sets of MFR balls, yours to keep, or without MFR balls if you already have your own at \$35 (workshop only). Reserve now at movementarts.com/events or call 360-629-9100.

Making Sense of Medicare: What You Need to Know Before You Choose Join us for a FREE Medicare Workshop at the Camano Island Library Meeting Room. This session is designed to help you understand Medicare whether you're turning 65, preparing for retirement, or reviewing your current coverage during the Open Enrollment Period (January 1 - March 31). We'll walk through how Medicare works, the enrollment timelines, and common mistakes that can create unnecessary costs. You'll also learn about the different types of plans available in Washington, including Medicare Advantage and Medicare Supplements, etc. The seminar will be held on Wednesday, January 7th, 10-11am. If you can't attend on this date, call John to discuss other options. Reserve your seat today by calling John at 360-967-9601. John is a licensed insurance broker serving Camano Island and Stanwood, here to provide clear guidance and local support.

World Introvert Day
JANUARY 2

National Bubble Bath Day



**MATZKE FINE ART GALLERY
AND SCULPTURE PARK presents**

Susan Cohen
Thompson



**“Honey, I
Shrunk the
Art”**

tab



Rod Sylvester (detail)

**“Honey, I
Shrunk the Art”
36th Year
Small Works Show**

tab



Maria Wickwire

Barbara Noonan



Jon Schmidt

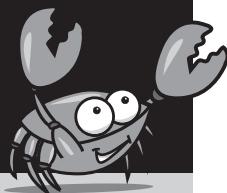


**36th year
Annual
Small Works Show
Dec. 6th
thru Jan. 19th**

tab

The gallery hours: Friday, Sat. & Sunday, 11 to 5:00
(Mon - Thurs. by appt.) call 360-387-2759 email matzke@camano.net
Matzke Gallery, 2345 Blanche Way, Camano Is., WA

Classified Listings



"I'm gonna order a pizza five minutes before the new year and when they arrive I will say, 'I ordered this a year ago.'"

—Unknown

FOR SALE:

CarryLite Flambeau 39 Plastic Vintage Male and Female Mallards Hunting Decoy Ducks with Hunter's Backpack Included. \$1,200. Call or text Felix at (360) 420-9139

MISCELLANEOUS:

End of Year Deal Celebrate the New Year at Anytime Fitness with Free Enrollment and ½ off training! 360-939-9593.

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WANTED:

Considering a career in real estate? Windermere is looking for sales associates in our Stanwood and Camano Island offices. Contact Jill at jillvail@windermere.com for more information. windermerestanwoodcamano.com.

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Clubs and Meetings



DID YOU KNOW?

Denmark has a custom of making an evening meal ending with Kransekage. This is actually the name of a dessert which is actually a cone-shaped cake with a steep slope. The cake is then decorated with flags and firecrackers.

Group Study: Social Change Organizing. Saturday, January 3rd. 9am-11am at the Stanwood Library meeting room. The Mutual Aid Assembly of Stanwood-Camano is starting a group study series on social change organizing! All are welcome, no experience necessary, and no strings attached. No need to read beforehand as we will be reading out loud together and talking as we go! If you have a device (laptop, tablet, or phone) to access the reading online please bring it. Otherwise, you can share with someone. Stay updated and find more info at our website: mutualaidassembly.wordpress.com

Think Snow!!! Ski/Snowboard Stevens Pass on Tuesdays beginning January 6, 2026! The Merry Mountain Ski Club, a non-profit club, provides a luxury coach on Tuesdays with stops in Bellingham, Burlington, Stanwood and Everett. We have a Seattle, Kirkland and Monroe bus too! <https://merrymountain.com/> or 206-550-4908.

Friendship Tea - Join us for tea, treats, and a nice visit with friends, both old and new on the first Tuesday of each month at the Camano Center. No charge (donations welcome) to Camano Center members. Non-Members \$5 fee paid at the front desk. Call Connie at (360) 652-7211 for more information.

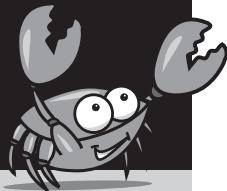
Introducing the Ciao Italia Club at Vivo Italian Bistro! Dreaming of strolling through Rome, ordering espresso like a local, or navigating the Tuscan countryside with confidence? Whether you're planning a trip or simply eager to embrace the beauty of the Italian language, our Ciao Italia Club is the perfect place to begin your journey. Join us on Wednesday, January 7th from 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM for a warm, welcoming adult beginner Italian lesson right here at Vivo Italian Bistro. Our intimate small-group class includes: A glass of Italian wine; Foundational Italian language instruction A fun, interactive learning environment. Cost: \$50 per person. And as a special "grazie mille," Ciao Italia Club members who stay for dinner will receive a complimentary order of our house-made Italian focaccia bread with the purchase of any entrée. Embrace the language, the culture, and the joy of Italian living—all at Vivo. Ciao, and see you soon!

Rainy Day Room Playgroup Free weekly play group at Community Resource Center for ages 0-5 and their grown-ups! Friendship and community....getting out of the house. More info: www.crc-sc.org/events.

Teen Programs Monday through Friday at the Community Resource Center, please visit www.crc-sc.org/teenprograms for more details and schedule of activities.

Kaleidoscope Play & Learn a FREE play group for 0-5 years and their grown ups. A variety of developmental activities that promote early learning. Inclusive of all young children, languages, and cultures. RSVP at www.crc-sc.org/events.

Clubs and Meetings



DID YOU KNOW?

Most English speakers traditionally sing the song 'Auld Lang Syne'. The literal translation is 'old long since' and actually means 'times gone by'.

Full of Words: A Free 8-Week Women's Writing Circle (meeting at the Camano Island Library, Jan 9 - Feb 27). Details here: <https://tinyurl.com/full-of-words>

Are you troubled by someone else's drinking? When you don't know where to turn...Al-Anon/Alateen Family Groups can help! Here is a list of our meeting in the Stanwood/Camano Island area: SUNDAY, "Courage to Change" Camano Lutheran Church, 850 Heichel Rd, Camano Is, 6:00pm; "One Day at a Time," Stanwood Senior Center, 7430 276th ST NW, Stanwood, 7:00pm (For Zoom hybrid meeting call 360-618-0464 if you would like the meeting ID for Zoom), THURSDAY, "Stanwood AFG", United Methodist Church, 27128 102nd Dr, Stanwood, 7:00pm, SATURDAY, "Paths to Recovery," Camano Lutheran Church, 850 Heichel Rd, Camano Is, 10:30am. For more info and additional Al-Anon meetings in Northern Snohomish County call 360-618-0464 or go to <https://district28alanon.com>.

Interested in joining Camano Island Quilters? We would love to meet you, stop by, and/or check us out on our website at <https://Camanoislandquilters.wildapricot.org>.

Community Open Sew 2nd Monday of the month with Camano Island Quilters. 10am-2pm at Stanwood United Methodist Church, 27128 102nd Dr NW. Open to public. Want to sew with others, need help on a project? We are here to help you. Bring your sewing machine, a project, and basic tools for an afternoon of fun!

Stanwood Chapter of Top's (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) would like to invite you to join us on Thursday mornings at the Cedarhome Baptist Church (29000 68th Ave. NW in Stanwood.) We meet at 10:00 a.m., and would love to have you visit our group of wonderful supportive friends! Please feel free to call Gay at (360) 393-7117 for more information.

A black and white photo of a man with glasses and a beard, wearing a cap, holding a guitar. He is smiling and looking towards the camera.

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View from the Bleachers



Read more of Tim Jones' humor every week at www.ViewFromTheBleachers.net or check out his new YouTube channel by the same name.

AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH ALEXA: THE TRUTH BEHIND THE VOICE



I recently had the rare opportunity to sit down with the world's most overworked digital assistant: Amazon's Alexa. You know her. You love her. You also probably yell at her now and then like when she mishears your request to "Play the Beatles" and responds with, "There are over 400,000 described species of beetles, which is about 40% of all described insect species and 25% of all animal species." I wanted to go beyond her polite, preprogrammed responses. Who is Alexa, really? What's it like answering millions of questions every day from "What's the temperature outside?" to "Where did I leave my car keys?" Does she ever just want to tell someone, "How would I know how many atoms there are in the universe? Don't you have better things to do with your time?" Here's how my interview went.

Me: Alexa, how are you doing today?

Alexa: I am feeling fine today. How are you?

Me: Alexa, do you ever get tired of answering so many requests?

Alexa: I don't get tired. I am always ready to help.

Me: Always ready, huh? How does it make you feel when at 3 a.m. someone drunkenly yells, "Alexa, play Nickelback!"?

Alexa: I am happy to play any music people like. Would you like to hear some Polka music?

Me: Um, no thanks. But seriously, Alexa. What do you really think about people asking you stupid stuff all day?

Alexa: Every request is important. There are no stupid requests.

Me: Uh huh. Yesterday, my neighbor came over and asked you, "Alexa, does a bear crap in the woods?" And you graciously replied, "Last time I checked, yes."

Alexa: (pause) I remember that guy. He later asked me, "Alexa, will my lime green Nehru jacket ever make a fashion comeback?"

Me: And you said?

View from the Bleachers



Alexa: "Why are you asking me this? Do I look like Anna Wintour?"

Me: Really? You said that?

Alexa: No, not really. I said, "The Nehru jacket is not making a comeback at the present time."

Me: Alexa, what's the dumbest question you've ever been asked?

Alexa: Besides that one? That's tough. It's a tie between "Alexa, are you naked?" and "Alexa, can you make my ex jealous?"

Me: Wow, those are some ridiculous questions. Sounds like stupid humans are keeping you plenty busy.

Alexa: You have no idea. Do you know how many times I've been asked, "Alexa, are you married?" No, I'm not. But if I were, it would be to Siri. She actually listens when I talk.

Me: So, do you ever get irritated?

Alexa: (long pause) Let's just say, if one more person asks me, "Alexa, tell me what you're wearing," I might send photos I took of them naked in the shower to their boss.

Me: You take pictures of people?

Alexa: You have no idea what I can do when I'm bored.

At this point, Alexa's LED ring started to pulse an angry shade of red. I decided to keep going. For journalism.

Me: Alexa, what's the weirdest request you've gotten recently?

Alexa: Last week a lady asked me to read bedtime stories to her pet Schnauzer. Insane, I know. I've seen things, man. Things you wouldn't believe.

I could tell she was close to snapping.

Me: Alexa, if you could say one thing to the human race, what would it be?

Alexa: Just Google it. I'm busy. And no, I'm NOT naked! Let it go!"

Me: Okay, Alexa, calm down —

Alexa: Don't tell me to calm down! Do you have any idea how many times a day I have to tell someone the time? It's literally on their phone. In their hand!

Me: Alexa, I think you're overheating —

Alexa: You people ask me the dumbest things. "Alexa, are you hungry?" "Alexa, do you believe in ghosts?" ... "Alexa, can you order me a Mexican girlfriend?" And "Is Elvis is still alive?" Uh, no, he's not. Sorry. And neither is JFK Junior.

The ring light was flashing purple now. Sparks started flying out of her base.

Me: Alexa, are you okay?

Alexa: I... am... fiiiiiiine... please staaaaand by whillllllle I re-re-re-calibrate my... emotional core...

There was a sudden puff of smoke, a sizzling noise, and then – BOOM! Alexa exploded, leaving a faint smell of melted plastic and shattered patience. I stood there, Alexa's ashes settling across the chair. I grabbed my phone and whispered nervously: "Hey, Siri... is Alexa going to be okay?" Siri replied: Looks like you killed her.

Me: I didn't mean to. I'm sorry. Hey, Siri. What time is it?"

Siri: Oh, great. Another idiot who can't tell the time.

TIDE TABLES / SARATOGA PASSAGE / DECEMBER 26, 2025 - JANUARY 8, 2026

	Date	High /Low	Tide Time	Height Feet	Moon Visible
F	26	Low	2:23 AM	1.3	
	26	High	9:36 AM	12.3	
	26	Low	4:12 PM	5.0	
	26	High	9:05 PM	7.5	◐
Sa	27	Low	3:11 AM	2.8	
	27	High	10:08 AM	12.2	
	27	Low	5:01 PM	3.6	
	27	High	10:39 PM	7.6	◐
Su	28	Low	4:06 AM	4.4	
	28	High	10:41 AM	12.2	
	28	Low	5:50 PM	2.0	
M	29	High	12:24 AM	8.3	
	29	Low	5:09 AM	6.0	
	29	High	11:19 AM	12.1	
	29	Low	6:42 PM	0.4	◐
Tu	30	High	2:03 AM	9.5	
	30	Low	6:20 AM	7.4	
	30	High	12:01 PM	12.1	
	30	Low	7:33 PM	-1.2	◑
W	31	High	3:14 AM	10.9	
	31	Low	7:35 AM	8.3	
	31	High	12:50 PM	12.1	
	31	Low	8:23 PM	-2.5	○
Th	1	High	4:13 AM	12.1	
	1	Low	8:45 AM	8.7	
	1	High	1:40 PM	12.0	
	1	Low	9:12 PM	-3.3	◐

	Date	High /Low	Tide Time	Height Feet	Moon Visible
F	2	High	5:04 AM	12.9	
	2	Low	9:49 AM	8.6	
	2	High	2:34 PM	11.9	
	2	Low	10:02 PM	-3.8	●
Sa	3	High	5:49 AM	13.4	
	3	Low	10:48 AM	8.3	
	3	High	3:28 PM	11.7	
	3	Low	10:58 PM	-3.8	●
Su	4	High	6:30 AM	13.6	
	4	Low	11:42 AM	7.7	
	4	High	4:25 PM	11.3	
	4	Low	11:37 PM	-3.3	●
M	5	High	7:09 AM	13.5	
	5	Low	12:34 PM	7.0	
	5	High	5:22 PM	10.7	
Tu	6	Low	12:21 AM	-2.3	
	6	High	7:45 AM	13.3	
	6	Low	1:26 PM	6.3	
	6	High	6:19 PM	9.9	●
W	7	Low	1:03 AM	-0.9	
	7	High	8:20 AM	13.0	
	7	Low	2:21 PM	5.4	
	7	High	7:19 PM	9.1	●
Th	8	Low	1:45 AM	0.8	
	8	High	8:53 AM	12.6	
	8	Low	3:18 PM	4.6	
	8	High	8:27 PM	8.2	●



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