

**THE CRAB CRACKER**

**ISSUE 367**  
**December 15-28, 2023**

**The CHRISTMAS Edition!**



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

*"Have You Been  
Nautical or Nice  
This Year?"*



Happy Holidays and Best Wishes for the New Year.

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Purveyors of mouthwatering barbeque cooked simply over wood and served fresh at a fair price. Pure Smoke NW is located in Stanwood at 10219 269th St NW, directly across the street from City Hall. Featuring a variety of slow-smoked meats, scratch-made sides, and desserts. We offer catering, online orders, large events, and in-person ordering with outdoor seating. Check out our online menu and social media for hours, weekly specials, and more!



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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: Christmas in the Northwest!  
Happy holidays from The Crab Cracker!*



© The Crab Cracker • Created by Walking Cat Design, Camano Island  
James and Malynda Shipley, owners, proprietors  
**thecrab@thecrabcracker.com or 425-299-7892 / 425-299-7893**  
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**Submission DEADLINE: DECEMBER 21 for Next Edition (Dec. 29-Jan. 11)**

# Calendar of Events



## CHRISTMAS TRIVIA

Which country  
created  
eggnog?

[England]

Who said, "God  
Bless Us, Every  
One!"?

[Tiny Tim]

What were  
Frosty's last  
words?

["I'll be back  
again someday."]

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14

### CASA HOLIDAY MINI MARKET

4-5:30pm at 141 E Camano Dr, Camano Island. Come shop handcrafted holiday gifts! All proceeds support CASA animals and programs.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15

### FORD GIESBRECHT PERFORMANCE

at Tapped Camano, 5:30-7:30pm at 848 N Sunrise Blvd. Ford plays an eclectic mix of Brazilian classical, American and Latin jazz standards, old rock and original music. conversation friendly. No cover.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15

### JACK MATTINGLY

8 pm - Conway Muse Hayloft. The Conway Muse is proud to welcome back everyone's favorite artist. We are looking forward to hearing Jack's latest - you should be too! Come join the fun!

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15

### AFTER MIDNIGHT

7:30pm - 10:30pm at Pub 282. Fun, sexy rock from classic to modern.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

### WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA



Local volunteers will again this year honor the veterans of Stanwood and Camano Island by laying wreaths on their graves as part of the Wreaths Across America Day at 10am. Camano Lutheran Cemetery on Camano Island has been included this year along with Pioneer Cemetery on the island and Anderson Cemetery in Stanwood. The number of local graves which will be decorated and honored is 771. In 2022 more than 2.7 million veterans' wreaths were placed on headstones at 3,702 locations across the country to honor the sacrifices and service of all who wore the uniform. This year's theme is "Serve and Succeed" focusing on military families who have found success through their service. Contact Mischa at American Legion Post 92 360-629-2851

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

### ART AFTERNOON

2:00 PM - 3:30 PM - Stanwood Library Meeting Room. Stop by for an afternoon of art activities--we'll provide everything you need! This month's theme is Air-Dry Clay!

# Calendar of Events



## DID YOU KNOW?

In A.D. 350, Pope Julius I, bishop of Rome, proclaimed December 25 the official celebration date for the birthday of Christ.

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16 "BIG RIG" TRUCK PARADE



5-7pm at 8725 271st St NW, Stanwood. Event by Stanwood Cupcakes and Stanwood Commerce Alliance. Join us for our first lighted truck parade presented by Stanwood Commerce Alliance! Parade starts at 5 pm on the east end all the way down the main road to the west end of town! Any participants with Big Rigs, street legal side by sides, construction/lifted trucks, dump trucks and big rig tractors (no trailers) are welcome to join! For more information contact [Info@stanwoodcommercealliance.org](mailto:Info@stanwoodcommercealliance.org). A map of the route will be posted on the event page! Meetup behind buildings off 271st & 88th Ave NW! Route will be meetup behind business buildings behind 271st st nw & 88th ave nw! Drive down the main road towards the west end of town! - take a right at 270th st nw -take a right onto 102nd ave nw -take a left at 271st nw -take a left 102nd drive nw -take a left 270th street nw -head back down the main road to the east end -take a left at the train station and circle around again!.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

## JIMMY WRIGHT BAND

7:30pm - 10:00pm at Pub 282. Catering a wide variety of music.



## MARSHA ROSS

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Barbie  
**BINGO**

Barbie's  
Dream  
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at 5:30

Fundraiser

All proceeds support the Camano Center!

Saturday, January 13, 2024 at 6pm

Doors open at 5:30/Bingo begins at 6:30

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With  
Sylvia O'Stayformore



CASH  
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**\$25** Admission ticket (includes dinner & entertainment)

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Purchase your tickets online beginning December 4th at [camanocenter.org](http://camanocenter.org)

606 Arrowhead \* Camano Island \* 360-387-0222  
[camanocenter.org](http://camanocenter.org)

# Calendar of Events



## DID YOU KNOW?

In 1962, the U.S. Postal System Issued it's first Christmas stamp.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

## JEEP INVASION AT THE LIGHTS OF CHRISTMAS & SONIC DRIVE-IN



Jeeps invade The Lights of Christmas and the Sonic Drive-in for an evening of fun and amazing photos. Reserve a time at 5:15, 5:30 or 5:45 at [TheLightsOfChristmas.com](http://TheLightsOfChristmas.com) (pre-reservation required) in Stanwood then gather afterward for dinner at the Sonic Drive-in in Marysville. The Lights Of Christmas is about an hour north of Woodinville and the Sonic Drive-in is about 20 minutes from Stanwood just off I-5 in Marsyville. It'll be awesome to see a bunch of Jeeps for a night of fun. You can do one or both locations. Be sure to bundle up. Google maps in the comments for exact locations. See less

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

## GUIDED MEDITATION

11am-12:45pm at Camano Island Library. Event by Tanja McCarty Shelley and Tranquility Healing. Whether it's a bad friend, a broken heart, an energy vampire family member or zen-zapping boss, it's important not to get entangled in someone else's toxic energy. My focus for the end of the year is to help others clear their chakras of any negativity and then put the positive back in to your step. I invite you to join me for an everlasting experience and lets break off those blockages in all of your chakras!!! Bring a yoga mat, pillow, blanket or whatever makes you feel comfy! Bring a friend or family member with you. Most of all bring water to stay hydrated. See you soon! Namaste!



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# Calendar of Events



## CHRISTMAS TRIVIA

Scrooge's first name is what?

[Ebenezer]

Frosty was brought alive by what?

[A Magic Hat]

In the "Christmas Song" what are folks dressed up like?

[Eskimos]

## SATURDAY-SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16-17 GIFT WRAPPING EVENT



Want help wrapping your Christmas presents? Come by the Stanwood Ace Hardware, 11a-2p. Members of the Stanwood High School band will be wrapping presents and playing holiday music. Donations toward new band uniforms and program expenses will be accepted.

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17 CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE WITH LAXLY SILVER BAND



10:30am at Stanwood United Methodist Church. Bring your singing voices and festive spirit and join us at Stanwood Methodist Church for a Christmas Carol Service.

## MONDAY, DECEMBER 18 SHS WINTER CHOIR CONCERT

7-9pm at Performing Arts Centre

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19 STANWOOD HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Girls Basketball vs Lynnwood. JV: 5:40pm. Varsity: 7:15pm.

# Calendar of Events



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20

## UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATER PARTY & CONTEST



at Blue Heron Kitchen & Bar, 170 E Cross Island Rd., Camano. Unleash the festive spirit at our Ugly Christmas Sweater Party, sponsored by Tito's Vodka, exclusively for adults 21 and over! From 2-5pm, join us for an afternoon filled with holiday hilarity, festive cocktails, and fantastic prizes. Don your most outrageously tacky holiday sweaters and enter our Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest for a chance to sleigh your way to exciting prizes. Indulge in specially crafted holiday cocktails that will warm your spirits. Capture the festive memories at our photo booth. Reserve your spot at [blueheroncamano.com](http://blueheroncamano.com).

## Our Saviour's Lutheran Church Special Worship Services



**Thursday Worship, December 21**

6:00 PM Longest Night Service  
of Light into Darkness

**Christmas Eve, December 24—Morning**

9:30 AM Combined Worship Service

**Christmas Eve, December 24—Evening**

5:00 PM Family Candlelight Worship Service

11:00 PM Traditional Candlelight Worship Service

**New Year's Eve, December 31—Morning**

9:30 AM Combined Worship Service

**360-629-3767**

**[www.oursaviourschurch.org](http://www.oursaviourschurch.org)**

# Calendar of Events



## DID YOU KNOW?

Christmas trees have been sold commercially in the United States since about 1850. Until fairly recently, all Christmas trees came from the forest.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20

## CHRISTMAS SELAH



6pm at St Aidan's Episcopal Church, 1318 Hwy 532, Camano. Join us for music and contemplation in this holiday season. Featuring music, readings & silent prayer led by Jeff Johnson with special musical guests, Lisa (Celtic harp) and Emy (violin) Carter.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21

## CELEBRATE THE WINTER SOLSTICE



This is the day that has the shortest period of daylight of the year and marks the first day of winter in the northern hemisphere. In 2023 the winter solstice falls at exactly 7:27pm PST.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21

## BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

A service for healing. Noon at Stanwood United Methodist Church.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21

## RETRO GAMING DROP-IN: ATARI

2:00 PM – 4:00 PM at the Camano Island Library. An opportunity to play Atari and other retro games!

# Calendar of Events



## DID YOU KNOW?

"Advent"  
means  
"Coming"

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21

### ARTIST MEET AND GREET

Come meet local Camano Island artist Mary Simmons and shop her beautiful glass art hand crafted here on Camano Island. Mary Simmons creates unique, creative, and custom glass lighting. 4-5:30pm at Blue Heron Kitchen & Bar, 170 E Cross Island Road, Camano Island.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21

### THE LONGEST NIGHT



"The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" John 1:5. 6pm at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 27201 99th Ave. NW, Stanwood. A quiet time of comfort, music, candlelight, and hope for all who are grieving, hurting, or experiencing loss or loneliness this season. Join us to acknowledge your pain and fears while hearing loving words of Jesus, the Light of the World. Members of the church's Stephen Ministry program will be available for private, confidential conversation and prayer after the service for those who wish to share their needs.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22

### FORD GIESBRECHT PERFORMANCE

at Tapped Camano, 5:30-7:30pm at 848 N Sunrise Blvd. Ford plays an eclectic mix of Brazilian classical, American and Latin jazz standards, old rock and original music. conversation friendly. No cover.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22

### CHILL DEVILLE

7:30pm - 10:00pm at Pub 282. Playing a fun, wide ranging mix of classic rock, blues, R&B and a few originals.



Stanwood United Methodist Church  
A Reconciling Congregation

27128 102<sup>nd</sup> Drive NW, Stanwood  
Pastor Justin White  
360-629-9555

## STANWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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### Blue Christmas Service • December 21

12pm: A service for healing

### Christmas Eve Services • December 24

10am: Advent Service

4pm: Candlelight Service

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\*Annual Percentage Yield (APY) effective 12/07/23. CDs offered by Edward Jones are bank-issued and FDIC-insured up to \$250,000 (principal and interest accrued but not yet paid) per depositor, per insured depository institution, for each account ownership category. Please visit [www.fdic.gov](http://www.fdic.gov) or contact your financial advisor for additional information. Subject to availability and price change. CD values are subject to interest rate risk such that when interest rates rise, the prices of CDs can decrease. If CDs are sold prior to maturity, the investor can lose principal value. FDIC insurance does not cover losses in market value. Early withdrawal may not be permitted. Yields quoted are net of all commissions. CDs require the distribution of interest and do not allow interest to compound. CDs offered through Edward Jones are issued by banks and thrifts nationwide. All CDs sold by Edward Jones are registered with the Depository Trust Corp. (DTC).

FDI-1867M-A-A1 AECSPAD

# Calendar of Events



## CHRISTMAS TRIVIA

How many candles are there on an Advent wreath?

[4]

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22

### DROP-IN CONSTRUCTION ZONE!

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM at the Camano Island Library. Come build and explore with a variety of materials, which may include LEGO®, Magna-Tiles®, gears, blocks, and more! No registration required.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

### CRIMINAL SQUIRREL ORCHESTRA - HOLIDAY SWEATER PARTY

7:30pm - 10:00pm at Pub 282. Wear your most festive holiday sweater and dance the night away! Criminal Squirrel Orchestra: A band dedicated to the fascination that original music brings to the squirrely soul, and how harmonies, nuance and nuts make things more fun.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

### FAMILY BINGO



at the American Legion Hall ON CAMANO ISLAND, 609 W. Camano Drive. Doors open at 4:30 P.M. and Bingo starts at 6pm. Snacks and beverages available.

## Seas & Greetings

**KERRI JONES | MANAGING BROKER | NORTH48 REAL ESTATE**

**KERRI@CAMANOKERRI.COM | 206.963.6615 | WWW.CAMANOKERRI.COM**

# Calendar of Events



## KWANZAA

DECEMBER 26  
to  
JANUARY 1

Kwanzaa is a weeklong celebration held in the United States honoring universal African heritage and culture, marked by participants lighting a kinara (candle holder). It is observed from December 26 to January 1 every year.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

## SANTA-CON

3-8pm at Arrowhead Ranch. Grab your Santa costume (or hat) and join us for music, games, BBQ, axe throwing, beverages, and a LOT of Santas! Admission is free. Age 21+.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25

## MERRY CHRISTMAS!



"I and Malynda wish you a very happy holiday!" - James and Malynda Shipley, The Crab Cracker Community Magazine.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27

## WINTER SLIME LAB

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM at the Camano Island Library. Will it be something gooey, something sticky, or something oozy? Join us in this hour-long workshop, experimenting with a variety of ingredients to make different kinds of slime!

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27

## CHRISTMAS PARTY AND DANCING AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE



6pm at Stanwood Sons of Norway, Fritjov Lodge, 9910 270th St. NW. Stanwood. Join us for a night of live music and dancing around the Christmas tree! Enjoy hot soup, Norwegian cookies, and a hot coco bar. A special appearance by Saint Nicholas who will have stories and special treats for the kids! A fun night of dancing and socializing!

# Calendar of Events



**IF WE DON'T  
KNOW  
ABOUT IT,  
WE CAN'T  
PRINT IT.**

Send your info  
and/or images  
to: thecrab  
@thecrabcrack-  
er.com

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27

## **SHS TEXTILE DRIVE**

Stop by Viking Village 6-8pm to drop off your textile donations. Fund-raiser supports the Stanwood High School 4A Booster Club Class of 2024 Grad Night.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28

## **TEEN & TWEEN BOARD GAME CHALLENGE**

12:00 PM – 3:00 PM at the Camano Island Library. Strategic board game challenge: challenge others -- or yourself -- with games that use skill and logic. Use one of our games (Deadly Doodles, Bears vs. Babies, Chocolate Fix, Quirkle, Fluxx, Rush Hour Traffic Jam. etc.) or bring your own to share! Snacks provided.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28

## **JAZZIN' WITH THE CLASSICS - CONCERT**



7pm. With Jeffrey Cohan, Gail Pettis, Martin Lund, Paul Gabrielson at the Floyd Norgaard Cultural Center, Stanwood. Refreshments Following program. \$20 Free will donation. 18 and under no charge. <https://www.sahs-fncc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/2023-Jazzin-with-the-Classics-at-the-Floyd.pdf>.

ramahan kareem

# Ramandan



December 26  
to January 24

[www.TheCrabCracker.com](http://www.TheCrabCracker.com)

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# CHRISTMAS FOOD DISTRIBUTION



**DEC 13 10 AM - 3 PM**

**DEC 16 10 AM - 2 PM**

**DEC 20 10 AM - 3 PM**

**DEC 23-JAN 1 CLOSED**

REGULAR FOOD BANK SERVICES WILL BE OFFERED ON THESE THREE DAYS. EACH HOUSEHOLD WILL ALSO RECEIVE ONE TICKET, ONE TIME TO SHOP FOR ADDITIONAL CHRISTMAS MEAL ITEMS. LOST LAKE - CAMANO CLIENTS MAY RECEIVE HOLIDAY ITEMS AT THE STANWOOD LOCATION



27030 102ND AVE NW  
STANWOOD WA 98292



## Come Join our Volunteer Team This Holiday Season!



We have wonderful volunteer opportunities for individuals, groups, and teams! Everything from assisting clients at the food bank, helping with thrift store donations, packing youth meal kits, and working Coats and Christmas House distribution days!

Go to [StanwoodCamanoFoodBank.org](http://StanwoodCamanoFoodBank.org) for more details, and to sign up!!

## Warm Coats For Kids & Christmas House



Phone: (360) 629-2789  
Email: [SCFoodBank@scfbs.org](mailto:SCFoodBank@scfbs.org)

IF YOUR CHILD NEEDS A WARM COAT THIS WINTER, OR A GIFT UNDER THE TREE WE'RE HERE TO HELP!

NEARLY ANY CHILD AGE 0-18 LIVING IN THE STANWOOD CAMANO AREA IS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE A NEW COAT.

TO QUALIFY AND RECEIVE A SHOPPING APPOINTMENT, PLEASE STOP INTO THE FOOD BANK - TUESDAY-SATURDAY, 10-3PM

## Christmas House - Toy Drive

We are accepting toys under \$30 in value, and less than 2 pounds.

Some needed items include: Sport Balls, LEGO sets, Art Kits

Some things we cannot accept: Play Guns, Electronics, Stuffed Animals

Drop off at the Stanwood Food Bank or any of our toy bin locations at a community partner site: Stanwood NorthSound PT, Menzies Financial, Camano and Stanwood Coastal Community Bank, Heritage Bank Locations, Stanwood and Camano Windemere, Camano Center, Mustard Seed, The Camano Fire Department, the Stanwood Country Store



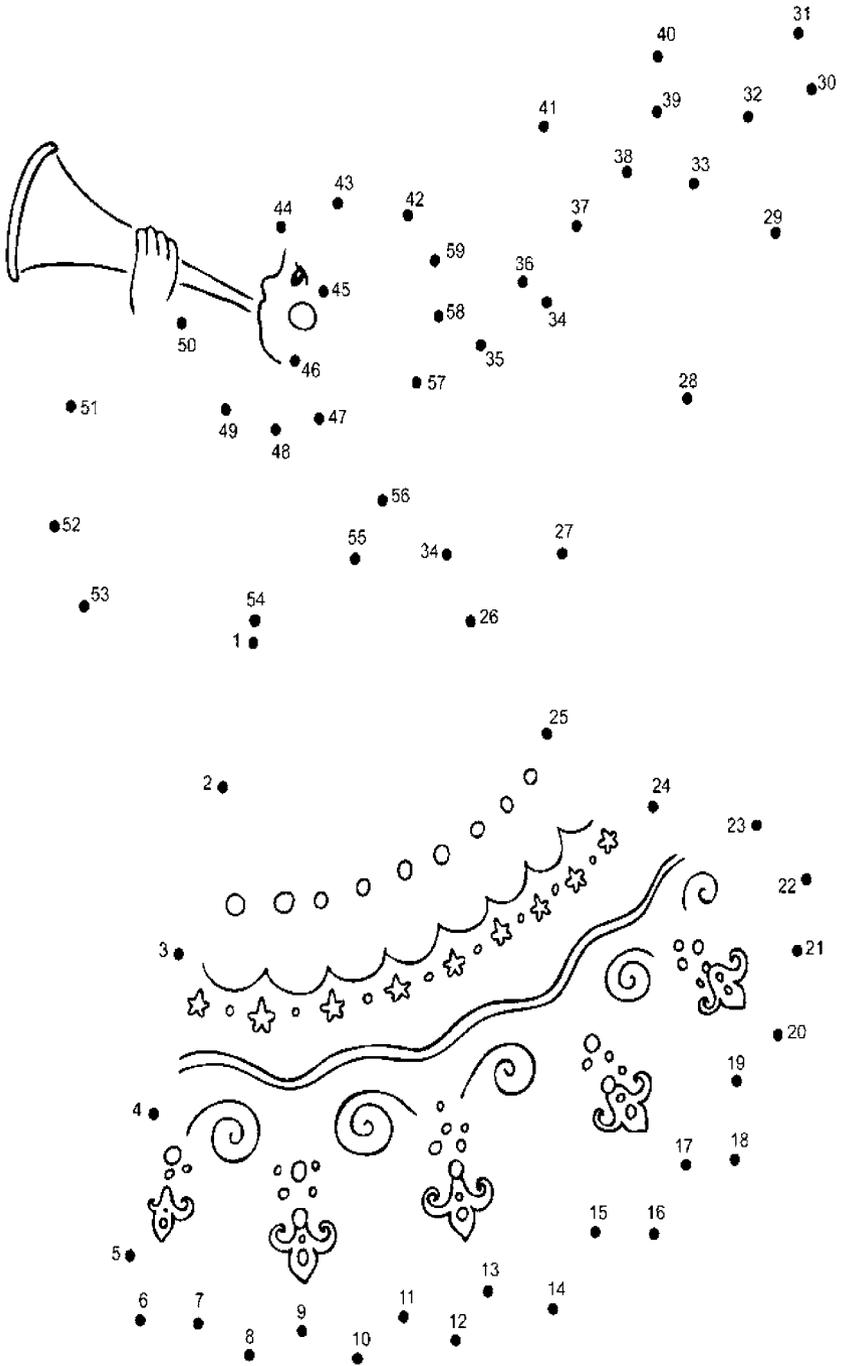
## SUPER SANTA WORD SEARCH

Try to find all of these festive holiday words on Santa's mighty arm!

- CAROLING
- CHRISTMAS
- ELF
- PRESENTS
- REINDEER
- RUDELPH
- SANTA
- SNOWMAN
- TREE
- WREATH



# CHRISTMAS CONNECT THE DOTS & COLOR IT





## Shopping... Just for You!

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## CAMANO ISLAND

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**DECEMBER**  
2, 9, 16 & 23



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## FOOT IN THE DOOR SALES

About once a week we get a call from someone asking if we would be interested in selling our home. Capitalism at its pushy best.... I have a friend who will stop and talk to any attractive female, see if one in a hundred would consider taking the conversation further, hopefully to a motel. It works. Well, it works 1% of the time. My buddy would consider that a fine success rate. Others might see it as a 99% failure rate and probably give up after 50 or 60 rejections.

But welcome to the era of robo-calling. One in a thousand might qualify as excellent success percentages. Some addled homeowner, confused and probably ready for the Mabana Assisted Living Villa, picks up the phone and mumbles sure, I'd be interested. She and her long gone husband paid 35 grand back 50 years ago and the offer of 75 seems generous when in actuality the place is worth 5 or 10 times that. Of course, being a cynical sort myself, I see this as preying on the infirm. Maybe I should think of this as a necessary service for the Alzheimer victims.

Back before Windy Rear monopolized the island real estate market, we had the local boyz feeding on the invalids. One of their better scams was selling properties destined to be on the golf course their brochures promised. Wannabe retirees shelled out their savings, dreamed of golden years with a driving iron and a putter, then discovered later that the golf course had been platted and sold. You can still see Fairway Drive and Country Club Road leading to hundreds of crowded houses, nary a golf ball to be seen. The sand traps were all in the contracts.

Nobody is promising 9 holes these days. Just cash on the barrelhead. Enough to pay for that nursing home for a few months. If they're lucky....

# Photos and Art



## CHRISTMAS TRIVIA

If you were born on Christmas Day, what's your sign?

[Capricorn]



*Christmas crab at Warm Beach. Photo by Justine Mallahan.*



*"Santa Baby" at the Floyd 2023. Photo by James M. Shipley.*



Recently moved to Camano, seeking boarding with kind-hearted horse folk, for my sweetheart retired gelding. Looking for a large paddock/small pasture with a safe/clean/dry shelter, and 24/7 access to the paddock. Arena and round pen not needed, but another older gelding buddy in an adjacent paddock would be a big plus. Happy to provide partial self-care. My gelding has been at his current location for 8 years, great references! If interested, please call or text Chris at 360.348.2532."

# Photos and Art



Christmas lights display. Photo by James Wheeler.



## CHRISTMAS TRIVIA

Alvin the  
Chipmunk  
wants what for  
Christmas?

[Hoola- Hoop]



Golf Cart Santa at Camaloch. Photo by James M. Shipley

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# IMPACTING THE COMMUNITY

## STANWOOD-CAMANO YMCA

- FREE swim lessons session for every 3rd grader in the Stanwood-Camano School District
- Teen programs equip students with skills to succeed beyond high school, including leadership, volunteerism, and responsibility.

Making Life Work Partner



# Dining Guide



## DID YOU KNOW?

More than 2,000 trees are usually planted per acre. On an average 1,000-1,500 of these trees will survive. Almost all trees require shearing to attain the Christmas tree shape. At six to seven feet, trees are ready for harvest. It takes six to ten years of fighting heavy rain, wind, hail and drought to get a mature tree.

**AMIGO MEXICAN RESTAURANT & LOUNGE** (Stanwood) • (360) 629-5052  
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**CAVALERO** **\$850,000**  
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**VACANT LAND** **\$399,000**  
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**CAMANO VISTA** **\$525,000**  
 Great price on a charming split-entry home surrounded by well-established yard, close to public beaches and new roof and porch! #2153213



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# Artist of the Week



Are you interested in promoting your art, craft, or live performance?

Email us info or a bio about yourself and we will feature this page to you... and it's all FREE!



## “THANK YOU!”

“to Management and staff at TAPPED CAMANO and mostly to all of you who have supported my musical contribution every Tuesday and Friday for the past 2 ½ years. Tapped is taking a hiatus from live music at the end of the year. So come in for a last listen and bid farewell and enjoy some fine Tapped cuisine. I play from 5-7pm. I continue to teach guitar on Camano. Thanks again. It has been a great experience and blessed to meet so many of you.”

- Ford Giesbrecht, [Guitarbyford.com](http://Guitarbyford.com), 360-631-0661

Performance dates at Tapped: Dec 15th, 19th, 22nd, and 29th



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# Business Spotlight



*Are you interested in promoting your business or organization?*

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## **TWO GIRLS GIFT SHOP**

Our gift shop is a treasure trove of unique finds, each one lovingly made by talented local artists who call our community home.

Our mission? To ignite the spark of creativity and ignite dreams within our community. By providing a platform for these skilled artisans, we're building a local movement of inspired individuals who believe in the power of handmade.

Handcrafted unique gifts, adult humor, funny shirts, candles, pampering gifts, gifts for Her/Him, gifts under \$25. 4925 Lakewood Rd., Stanwood (next to Paddle Pub). open Tuesday-Saturday, 11am-6pm.

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- Monthly Meeting (Zoom) 12/20
- Turn It Digital Workshop TEENS/ADULTS 01/10
- Mixed Media w/ Beth Erickson TEENS/ADULTS 01/19
- Abstract Drawing w/ Andrew Curry TEENS 02/07
- Charcuterie Board Wood Burning w/Crystal Bailar ADULTS 02/22

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ARTS  
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MORE INFO:  
WWW.SCAACWA.ORG

# Community Information



## CHRISTMAS QUOTE:

“What I don’t like about office Christmas parties is looking for a job the next day.”

- Phyllis Diller

## LIBRARY STORYTIMES

\*\* DUE TO THE HOLIDAYS, THESE MAY BE CANCELLED. PLEASE CHECK WITH THE LIBRARIES PRIOR TO ARRIVING. (A play time or activity will follow after storytime). Monday: Toddler Storytime with Jennifer - 10am - Camano Island Library. Jump and bounce together into a world of stories, music, and movements. Tuesday: Family Storytime with Jennifer - 10am - Camano Island Library. Enjoy stories, songs, rhymes and creative activities together as a family. Wednesday: Family Storytime with Vicky - 10:30am - Stanwood Library. Enjoy stories, songs, rhymes and creative activities together as a family. Thursday: Toddler Storytime with Alex - 10:30am - Stanwood Library. Jump and bounce together into a world of stories, music, and movements.

## WINTER COOKING CLUB KIT



Let your little chef flourish with our Haggen Kids Cooking Club kit. Our Winter kit will be available for pickup on Saturday, January 27, 9am-6pm. Reservations are no longer required—kits are first come, first serve at your local store. Each kit comes with a new set of seasonal recipes, a Haggen Kids Cooking Club cooking tool, activity sheets and more. We can’t wait to see what your little one cooks up! Get all the details at <http://ms.spr.ly/61895CCVS>.

## THE SPOT

Hosted by Youth by Dynamics Stilly Valley. Tuesdays & Saturdays. TUES 2:30-5pm. SAT 7:30-10pm. Fun, food, hang out. Middle school & high school. 9831 271ST ST NW, Stanwood. 425-879-7633.





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I believe in Santa Claus

# Community Information



## DID YOU KNOW?

The first decorated Christmas tree was in Riga, Latvia in 1510.

## FOOD & GIFT CARD DRIVE

Camano Fire's annual holiday food and gift card drive runs now through Dec. 31. Last year, thanks to your generous donations, Camano Fire provided 1,338 pounds of food, \$565 in gift cards, and \$836 of cash and checks to the Stanwood-Camano Food Bank. Bring your non-perishable food donations to any Camano Fire station, or to the Administrative office, and put them in the red donation buckets. Please bring gift card donations to the Camano Fire Administrative office, 811 N. Sunrise Road. If the office is closed, you can leave them in the locked drop-box. You can also mail gift cards to the same address. Every year, Camano Fire collects nonperishable food, pet food, and personal hygiene products to benefit the Stanwood Camano Food Bank. Gift card donations benefit The Christmas House and are used to buy holiday gifts and necessities for families in our community.

## SNOHOMISH COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 19 (SILVANA) SANTA RUN



December 15th - 16th - 17th. Silvana Fire District 19 firefighters will be assisting Santa Claus this year as he makes his way through our Greater Silvana Community sharing Christmas Cheer and Holiday Joy. Santa will be handing out Candy Canes as he rides his Christmas Lighted Hovercraft. The purpose of our Santa Run is to collect donations for the Arlington Food Bank. We are asking that you please leave your food donations in a plastic bag at the end of your driveway. We will be starting each night at 5:30 PM. View schedule at <http://www.firedistrict19.com/> More info: 360-652-8277.



# Community Information



## DID YOU KNOW?

Since 1966, the National Christmas Tree Association has given a Christmas tree to the President and first family.

## HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE



Please help Stanwood Camano Food Bank to support families and community members in need this holiday season with food and household items. Donation drop-offs welcome 8am-3pm, Monday-Saturday at 27030 102nd Ave NW, Stanwood.

## THE CHRISTMAS MAP IS HERE!



The 4th Annual Christmas Map 2023 is up and running! The map includes locations to see Christmas lights and decor, Holiday events, and Markets/craft fairs. You can even filter the map to only show events happening in a particular week to help with planning all your fun this holiday season! Do you love putting up Christmas lights or outdoor holiday decor? Add your house to the map so that all your hard work can bring joy to others. Displays big and small welcome, we want to see them all! I ask that you share with family, friends, and neighbors to help spread the word. These fun maps are not possible and won't be able to grow without you. Thank you for all your support! FIND THE MAP HERE: <https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit>. ADD YOUR HOUSE HERE: <https://forms.gle/Vk4555dieSGXXBxV7>. Happy Holidays! ~ Brandi Smith, Snohomish County Holiday Maps Creator.

# Community Information



## DID YOU KNOW?

Madagascar got its name when Marco Polo misspelled it. The name stuck and the island was christened to the name in 1500.

## TRACK SANTA ON HIS MAGICAL JOURNEY AROUND THE WORLD



December 24, All Day Online Event. It's Christmas Eve! Get ready by seeing where Santa is heading around the globe. From NORAD: 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, NORAD tracks everything that flies in and around North America in defense of our homelands. On Dec. 24, our very special mission of also tracking Santa begins!! Stay tuned here to get more information, fun facts, and count down with us to Santa's magical journey around the world! [www.noradsanta.org](http://www.noradsanta.org).

## ANNUAL HOLIDAY ART FAIR

December 14-22 at North48 Real Estate - 10031 WA-532 suite b, Stanwood. Cassera Galleries Presents the Annual Holiday Art Fair at North48 Real Estate, noon-5pm.

## CHRISTMAS FOOD DISTRIBUTION

December 16: 10am-2pm. December 20: 10am-3pm. December 23-January 1: Closed. REGULAR FOOD BANK SERVICES WILL BE OFFERED ON THESE THREE DAYS. EACH HOUSEHOLD WILL ALSO RECEIVE ONE TICKET, ONE TIME TO SHOP FOR ADDITIONAL CHRISTMAS MEAL ITEMS. LOST LAKE - CAMANO CLIENTS MAY RECEIVE HOLIDAY ITEMS AT THE STANWOOD LOCATION  
27030 102ND AVE NW STANWOOD WA 98292.



Please go through your closets and consider donating your extra boots, coats, sweatshirts, mittens/gloves, blankets & other warm clothing to the Caring Place. We serve the whole family so all sizes are needed, and this year we will remain open throughout the winter.

Our Donation days are Monday & Wednesday, 1—5 p.m. and our Service days are Tuesday & Thursday, 1—5 p.m. Please call us at 360-913-1551 for special arrangements or urgent needs.

# Community Information



## DID YOU KNOW?

Christmas trees are grown in all 50 states including Hawaii and Alaska.

## LIGHTS OF CHRISTMAS 2023



December 14-17, 20-23, 26-30, 2023. Advanced reservations required. Time of arrival selected during online purchase. One ticket per vehicle. Online tickets for The Lights of Christmas are available now! Don't forget to order your tickets early to get the best selections of dates and times. We are so excited to offer two activity stops this year for those that want a park-and-get-out experience in addition to seeing millions of lights in dazzling displays. Joyland and Santa's Village. Come check out all the new display updates this year! Car (1-12 Passenger): \$32 (per vehicle). Mini-bus/Limo: \$60 (per vehicle). Tickets at <https://www.thelightsofchristmas.com/admission/>

## CIDER DAY SATURDAYS AT GATEWAY GALLERY

Join us each Saturday til Christmas for Cider Day Saturday—an opportunity to sip hot cider while viewing Small Art, Big Heart: A Holiday Small Works Show. Pick up gifts for the holidays, meet the showing artists, and visit with locals from the community. All artwork is from members of the Camano Arts Association. Local artist Shogo Ota's logo design for CAA is cheerful and inspiring. Mugs will be available for purchase at the Gateway Gallery starting tomorrow too! 25% of the proceeds from each mug sale raises funds for CAA's Mentorship Program, bringing art supplies to Stanwood Middle School and High School art classrooms. Hours: 10am - 4pm at 578 E North Camano Drive, Camano Island, located in the small, red Camano Gateway building at the tip of Terry's Corner, next to the playground.

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# Community Information



## TOY BOAT BUILDING

Saturdays at 10am in the Cama Beach Boathouse. Build a wooden toy boat. Bring it home as a souvenir! \$5 suggested donation.

## LEARN ABOUT THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S REPLACEMENT LEVY

Come learn about Stanwood-Camano School District's replacement levy that will appear on the February 13 ballot. The levy bridges the gap between state funding for the district and the cost of staff, materials, services, and facilities our students need to fulfill the community's desire to prepare all students for the future of their choice. Join us at this free public event to learn more and ask questions. More info: [www.stanwood.wednet.edu/levy](http://www.stanwood.wednet.edu/levy). All events are from 5:30-6:30 p.m. January 3: At YMCA Community Room. January 11: At Lincoln Hill Retirement Center (Social Room). January 18: At Warm Beach Conf Center - Cedar Lodge Chapel 20800 Marine Drive Stanwood. January 25: At Brookdale Senior Living 7212 265th St NW Stanwood. February 1: At Warm Beach Conf Center - Maple Center Main 20800 Marine Drive Stanwood. February 8: TBD.

## 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](http://www.sahs-fncc.org).

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- ◆ Managed by volunteer Board Members from Camano Lutheran Church
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# Clubs and Meetings



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**Ski, Snowboard or just hang out in 2024!** The Merry Mountain Ski Club, a non-profit club, brings you easy travel for a fun ski day in a luxury coach with stops in Bellingham, Burlington, Stanwood and Monroe. We have a Seattle and Kirkland bus too! Great folks & great fun. Come and join us. Get in touch with us for more details! Every Tuesday for 6 weeks beginning January 9, 2024. Additional weeks possible if interest warrants! call: 206-550-4908 email: tuesdayski-bus@gmail.com website: [www.merrymountain.com](http://www.merrymountain.com)

**GRIEF Support Group:** Help and encouragement after the death of a loved one. January 11-April 4, 2024 6:00-8:30pm at Restoration Church, Camano Island, 788 Smith Rd. More Info: [griefshare.org/groups/175418](http://griefshare.org/groups/175418).

**Stanwood Coin Club** meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at the Stanwood Library meeting room 7-9pm. Bring your questions @ collecting. Buy, Sell, Trade, Learn. This club has been active since 1961.

**Friendship Tea:** Drop by for tea, treats, and a chance to visit with friends, both old & new. Join us 1st, 2nd & 3rd Tuesdays of every month from 10:30-12:00 at the Camano Center. No charge to Camano Center Members. \$5 fee for non-members. Please check in at the Front Desk. For more information, call Connie at 360-652-7211.

**Rainy Day Room Playgroup** Free weekly play group on Thursdays at 10-11 am at the Community Resource Center for ages 0-5 and their grown-ups! Friendship and community....getting out of the house.

**"Weight Loss and TOPS Clubs on Camano or Stanwood:** TOPS (Take off Pounds Sensibly). We provide great fellowship and support in your weight loss journey. Camano Island: We meet Thursday mornings for weigh-in from 8:15 to 8:45; meeting at 9 am. First meeting is always free. Join us and see why TOPS provides support both during your weight loss, and afterward, helping you to keep it off! Camano Lutheran Church, 850 Heichel Rd, Camano Island. Call Sandy 387-6953 or Karen (leader) at 387-9716 for more information. Stanwood: We would love to meet you and invite you to join us in friendship and weight loss support! We meet on Thursday mornings at Cedarhome Baptist Church. 29000 68th Ave NW. Stanwood. Wa. at 10:00 am. Everyone is welcome! More info: Gay at 360-393-7117.

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

**PFLAG Support Group** Free support group for friends, family, and members of the LGBTQIA+ community. First Friday of every month at the Community Resource Center 6-7pm.

**The Wardrobe** By Appointment: at the Community Resource Center – Free clothing for teens in need – restocked for Summer with new t-shirts, tanks, shorts, flip flops and hygiene products! Call 360-629-5257 or email [info@crc-sc.org](mailto:info@crc-sc.org) for an appointment.

# Clubs and Meetings



**Kaleidoscope Play & Learn** Tuesdays and Wednesdays - a FREE play group for 0-5 years and their grown ups. Facilitators guide children and their caregivers through a variety of developmental activities that promote early learning, and is inclusive of all young children, languages, and cultures. At Community Resource Center of Stanwood Camano.

**Camano Island Quilters-Machine Embroidery Group** Every 1st Friday of the month. 10am-noon at Skagit Regional Clinics in Stanwood, 269th St., Conference Rm A. CIQ members will share help, ideas, designs, etc. Come join in the conversations.

**Camano Island Quilters Open Sew** Every 2nd Monday of the month. Open to the public. 10am-2pm at Stanwood United Methodist Church, 27128 102nd Dr NW. Bring your sewing machine, project & basic tools for an afternoon of fun! Bring a sack lunch.

**Teen Late Night** Every Thursday. Grades 9-12, 4PM-6:30pm at Community Resource Center of Stanwood Camano. A safe place for teens to come and connect over food & fun.

## FREE PRESCHOOL

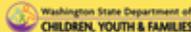
with support for the whole family

- Must be 3 or 4 years old by August 31st, 2023
- Income eligibility guidelines apply
- Foster & Kinship Care instantly qualify
- AM/PM Classes
- Small class sizes
- Preschool instruction
- Developmental screenings and referrals
- Nutritious meals and snacks
- Health and dental screenings
- Home Visits
- Parent Leadership Opportunities
- Family Events
- Kindergarten Readiness Activities





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# Classes and Workshops



## DID YOU KNOW?

In Germany there are many different characters for Christmas. Christkindl, (Christ child is an angelic child dressed in a white and or golden dress much like a long nightgown. It has wings, and has usually a small horse or a donkey as a companion.

**FamilySearch Center - FREE Open Geneology Workshop:** (HOLIDAY CLOSURE: DEC. 19 – JAN. 3) at 795 Ell Rd., Camano Island. Extended hours: Tuesdays 10 am-2 pm, and Wednesdays 6 pm-8 pm. Get help to find your ancestors with free access to websites and records. Questions? Contact us at 801-240-4357 or [camano@familyhistorymail.org](mailto:camano@familyhistorymail.org).

**Health and Wellness classes** - Every 2nd Monday of the month. Each evening we will have a short lecture or film to give practical ways to boost our health and wellbeing. Whole-food, plant based samples are provided each evening with recipes to take home. Classes are held at Cedarhome SDA Church, 28505 68th Ave NW, Stanwood. \$5 fee for the meal. RSVP Cindy at 425-870-1006.

**Forte Music Dance Art** offers intermediate ballet Tuesdays & Thursdays. Advanced Tap and Beginning Tap on Mondays and Thursdays. Yoga available throughout week. Private instruction on sax, clarinet, flute, voice & piano. More info: 360-572-9262. [www.fortemda.com](http://www.fortemda.com).

**Social partner dance class!** Beginners and drop-ins welcome. Wednesdays at 3pm at the Camano Center. [www.socialdancesimplified.com](http://www.socialdancesimplified.com).

**Yoga Classes In-studio & Online** at Movement Arts. IN-STUDIO – View our schedule to monitor our status. LIVE STREAM – book classes in advance to attend our live studio class from your own home. ONLINE VIDEO LIBRARY – practice anytime, anywhere – just practice! Go to [www.movementarts.com](http://www.movementarts.com) and follow the links to view our video library of online hour length classes; regular membership rates apply.

**Virtual Guitar Lessons with Ford Geisbrecht.** All ages, levels & styles. Learn at your own pace. Ukelele & Bass also available. 360-631-0661.

**Yoga for Beginners** Five Week Session Jan. 2-30. Tuesdays 6:00-7:15pm. Prepares you with the first steps toward a regular practice. We look forward to meeting you on your path! Sign up through [movementarts.com](http://movementarts.com) or call 360-629-9100. Space is limited, \$95.

**Private Music Lessons:** Hart Music School offers live lessons for piano, guitar, bass guitar, ukulele, voice, and songwriting for all ages and skill levels. Our experienced teachers provide personalized instruction to help you reach your musical goals. Call 425-780-2289 with questions. Book a complimentary 30-minute lesson at [HartMusicSchool.com/free-trial](http://HartMusicSchool.com/free-trial).

**First class is FREE.** Seated, CHAIR yoga, 2 possible times, 1:30 Tuesdays or 11am Fridays. ZOGA, incorporating yoga & The Melt Method, helps back and shoulder issues. Mondays, 5:30pm. All classes are in person and Zoom. Mondays, Beginner easy flow classes: 8am, Tues 10am, Tues 5:30, Wed 4:30pm, Wed 6pm, Thursday 9am, Fridays, 9:30am. Small, personal groups, warm and inviting classes. Wed 10am Yin. Be enlivened and inspired! ALL are welcome. Z's Body and Soul, 9504 271st, Stanwood, 360-629-5040. [Zsremedies.com](http://Zsremedies.com).



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## RED VELVET PANCAKES WITH CREAM CHEESE GLAZE

These beautiful pancakes are bright red in color with a hint of chocolate topped with cream cheese glaze and chocolate sprinkles make for a very decadent breakfast or brunch!



**PANCAKES:** 1 1/4 c. all-purpose flour; 2 c. red velvet cake mix; 1 T. granulated sugar; 3/4 tsp. baking powder; Pinch of salt; 2 lg. eggs; 1 tsp. vanilla extract; 2 c. milk, divided

**CREAM CHEESE FROSTING:** 4 oz. cream cheese, softened; 1/4 c. butter, softened; 1 tsp. vanilla extract; 2 c. confectioners' sugar; 2-3 T. milk, more if needed

**TOPPINGS:** Chocolate Jimmies for sprinkling; Red sugar sprinkles if desired

1. **PANCAKES:** Whisk together all ingredients except for 1 cup milk. Add remaining milk a 1/4 cup at a time until you've reached your desired pancake consistency (thinner batter for thinner pancakes, thicker batter for thicker pancakes).

2. Heat a griddle or skillet over medium heat. Coat with butter or spray with cooking spray. Once the pan is hot, ladle 1/4 cupfuls of batter onto the pan and cook until bubbles start to form on the top, about 1 to 2 minutes. Flip over and cook another 1 to 2 minutes or until light brown. Repeat with the remainder of the batter.

3. **CREAM CHEESE FROSTING:** Beat together the cream cheese and butter until smooth. Add vanilla and confectioners' sugar one cup at a time, beat until smooth. Add milk 1 tablespoon at a time until you've reached desired consistency. Drizzle frosting over pancakes and top with chocolate sprinkles. Serves 10-12

4. **NOTE:** For an extra special treat, sprinkle pancakes with semi-sweet chocolate chips before turning.



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Email [savvy.septic@snoco.org](mailto: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.





### CASA'S PET OF THE WEEK:

Meet **BLITZEN!** All kittens come spayed or neutered, age-appropriate vaccines, treated for worms and fleas, and microchipped. Kittens do well in pairs or having a close to same age friend to play with and continue socializing. They are great with people of all ages and have met a few dogs and have not minded them around. Kittens are \$150 or 2 for \$225. Please stop by the shelter to see our available kittens

**Camano Animal Shelter Association (CASA):**  
360-387-1902. [www.camanoanimalshelter.org](http://www.camanoanimalshelter.org)

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### NOAH'S PET OF THE WEEK:

**PARTHOS:** Looking for a playful, active pup to add some life and love to your family? Look no further! At 2 months old, this adorable, rolli-polli furball is looking for a FURever home committed to training while giving out plenty of love and patience. If you are ready to add this handsome, cutie-pie pupper to your family, come and talk to an Adoptions Match-maker today!

**The N.O.A.H. Animal Adoption Center:**  
(360) 629-7055. [www.thenoahcenter.org](http://www.thenoahcenter.org)

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

**MAGGIE** is a delightful young senior who is dreaming of a home for the holidays. She is loving, kind and a terrific companion. She might be a senior but she still has the energy to do fun things. Cozy and warm is the name of her game. **FIRST STEPS:** Visit <https://www.save-a-mutt.org/adoption-application/> to fill out an application. We are a local foster home based rescue.

**Save-A-Mutt (Silvana, WA):**  
(425) 280-0502. [www.save-a-mutt.org](http://www.save-a-mutt.org)

---

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# Classified Listings



## DID YOU KNOW?

During the Christmas of 2010, the Colombian government covered jungle trees with lights. When FARC guerrillas (terrorists) walked by, the trees lit up and banners asking them to lay down their arms became visible. 331 guerrillas re-entered society and the campaign won an award for strategic marketing excellence.

## FOR SALE OR FOR FREE:

**For Sale: China Dishes:** 4-piece set. Nice, China, cute design. Value: \$125. Selling for \$65. Call 360-218-6716.

## MISCELLANEOUS:

**Store your car, RV, or boat indoors** in the safety of our modern barn. Located 4 miles from Stanwood on Camano Island. Two stalls, one 10' tall for \$350/month, the other 8' tall for \$275/month. Call for pictures, details, or a visit. Contact Ed 425-551-0394

**Boarding needed:** Seeking boarding with kind-hearted horse folk, for my sweetheart retired gelding. Looking for a large paddock/small pasture with a safe/clean/dry shelter, and 24/7 access to the paddock. Arena and round pen not needed, but another older gelding buddy in an adjacent paddock would be a big plus. Happy to provide partial self-care. If interested, please call or text Chris at 360.348.2532."

**RV Space for rent.** Private Property mid is. off of ridge rd. Clean & respectful person appreciated. 500. a month. Call or text for details. 4259237363 Thanks Brian

**Calling all** dance teachers! Sound bathers, drum circlers, meditation teachers, fitness or yoga instructors. Anyone who has wanted to hold a workshop and cant find a space. Bee Authentic Pilates, located in Stanwood has a space for just this sort of thing and is making it available during off hours. If interested please contact Harmony at 206.200.8167.

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICES:

**Science and Math Tutoring:** I can help you review and strengthen your math and science skills. I have many years of experience with a very gentle approach. E-mail [ijmuzinich@gmail.com](mailto:ijmuzinich@gmail.com) or 360-661-9517.

**Camano Decks & Sheds LLC** Local, Affordable & Efficient. Free estimates 10% discount for seniors & ADL ramps. Jim 360-913-2941 E-mail: [jmitchell8974@gmail.com](mailto:jmitchell8974@gmail.com). Serving Outlying Areas.

## WANTED:

**Village Community Services** is hiring Direct Support Professionals in Stanwood. Please apply at [www.villagecommunitysvcs.org/get-involved/](http://www.villagecommunitysvcs.org/get-involved/) or through Indeed.

**Need respite in-home care** for elderly Stanwood man, mid-March 2024. Prefer mature (over 35), within half hour of Stanwood, agency-employed or business licensed/bonded/insured. Details after contact. Email: [lizpetha@gmail.com](mailto:lizpetha@gmail.com).

**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](mailto:jillvail@windermere.com) for more information. [windermere-stanwoodcamano.com](http://windermere-stanwoodcamano.com).



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## GRIEF Support Group

Help and encouragement after the death of a loved one

**January 11-April 4, 2024 6:00-8:30pm**

Restoration Church Camano Island

788 Smith Rd.

More Info: [griefshare.org/groups/175418](http://griefshare.org/groups/175418)



# View from the Bleachers



Read more of Tim Jones' humor every week at [www.ViewFromTheBleachers.net](http://www.ViewFromTheBleachers.net) or check out his new YouTube channel by the same name.

## PLEASE STOP SAYING "AT YOUR AGE"

Dear People Under Forty, as a person who, at 68, is now officially a senior citizen, I have a small request. Whenever we're together, could you please refrain from inserting into our conversation the phrase "at your age?" When you say these words, what I hear is, "Dude, I can't believe how old you are. You're so frail, out of touch, and likely to tip over at any moment. Do you need to go pee?"

It's true, I can no longer legally call myself middle-aged. But no, my kids aren't currently scoping out nursing homes in my area. I still play racquetball and pickleball. I'm still totally capable of driving, building a deck, and setting up a wireless network in our house – okay, my wife just pointed out that perhaps I should just stick with the part about still being able to drive, in order to sound credible.

You don't have to explain what every trendy new slang term means. I know what "Karen" and "Bye Felicia" mean. And when you roll your eyes, smirk, and say to me, "Okay Boomer," I get the dismissive dig. I may not be totally woke, but I'm not in a coma, okay?

I still use the Internet. I still text, although on principle, I insist on using proper punctuation. (I confess I have no idea what the octopus emoji means.) You don't need to slow down your speech – or TALK LOUDER. My hearing is fine (although my audiologist says I'll probably need hearing aids in three years).

I can't tell you how many times I've heard younger people refer to "at your age" in their conversations with me – mainly because my memory isn't what it used to be. I played pickleball the other day. I lunged for a shot and lost my balance briefly. My partner, a 35-year-old, pulled me aside and counseled me, "Tim, at your age, why not just let those shots go. You don't want to hurt yourself." I smiled and said, "Thanks for your concern." There was no way I was going to give him the satisfaction of knowing I'd just pulled my calf muscle.

The other week, I was pushing a wheelbarrow heavily loaded with dirt up a steep incline in my backyard. A neighbor in his early forties noticed me straining under the weight. He said, "Hey, Jonesy, are you sure you should be pushing something that heavy at your age? Here, let me get that for you" And only because I didn't want to offend him after his kind neighborly gesture, I reluctantly agreed to let him take over and push that load up the incline for me – along with the next 20 wheelbarrow loads. Hey, I'm lazy, not stupid.

Not long ago, I bought a gas BBQ grill at the hardware store. The twenty-something sales clerk informed me it takes about an hour to assemble. Then he added, "For \$25, we can assemble it for you. At your age, perhaps you have better things to do with your time." Because I'm a mature, emotionally secure man, I chose to ignore his subtle insinuation that I was too old and feeble to assemble it myself. Nevertheless, I decided to pay the \$25 to have them assemble the grill, because, frankly, at my age, I have better things to do with my time.

I'm sure that in most cases, these younger people are just trying to be gracious or helpful. They're probably concerned that people my

# View from the Bleachers



age may have lost a step mentally or physically. But the fact is most people in their sixties are far healthier and fit than younger people realize. Did you know that George Clooney is 62? Kevin Costner is 68. Pierce Brosnan is 70. They' all look great. And my wife would trade me in for any one of them in a heartbeat. Not sure what my point was.

Let me ask you a question, my millennial friends. How would you like it if I routinely made comments to you like, "Hey, at your age, you might want to think about setting aside some money for a down payment on a house rather than putting it all into the latest cryptocurrency fad." Or maybe, "At your age, perhaps you should think twice about getting into that car and driving, given the six beers you've consumed in the past two hours."

Just something to think about... that is, if you'd like to have a shot at surviving until you arrive at my age.

[Read more of Tim Jones' humor every week at [www.ViewFromTheBleachers.net](http://www.ViewFromTheBleachers.net) or check out his YouTube channel by the same name.]

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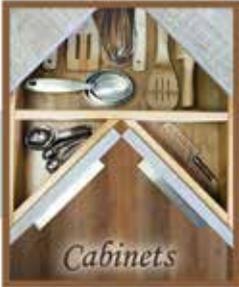
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**TIDE TABLES / SARATOGA PASSAGE / DECEMBER 15-28, 2023**

Date	High /Low	Tide Time	Height Feet	Moon Visible
F 15 15 15	High Low High	7:27 AM 12:43 PM 5:06 PM	12.5 8.3 10.6	
Sa 16 16 16 16	Low High Low High	12:30 AM 8:11 AM 1:40 PM 6:03 PM	-2.8 12.5 7.8 10.0	
Su 17 17 17 17	Low High Low High	1:19 AM 8:56 AM 2:43 PM 7:11 PM	-2.1 12.5 7.1 9.3	
M 18 18 18 18	Low High Low High	2:09 AM 9:40 AM 3:52 PM 8:31 PM	-0.9 12.5 6.0 8.4	
Tu 19 19 19 19	Low High Low High	3:02 AM 10:23 AM 5:00 PM 10:07 PM	0.6 12.4 4.7 7.8	
W 20 20 20 20	Low High Low High	4:00 AM 11:04 AM 6:01 PM 11:54 PM	2.4 12.4 3.1 7.9	
Th 21 21 21	Low High Low	5:05 AM 11:45 AM 6:54 PM	4.3 12.3 1.4	

Date	High /Low	Tide Time	Height Feet	Moon Visible
F 22 22 22 22	High Low High Low	1:42 AM 6:19 AM 12:25 PM 7:40 PM	8.7 5.8 12.2 -0.1	
Sa 23 23 23 23	High Low High Low	3:07 AM 7:36 AM 1:05 PM 8:22 PM	9.9 7.1 11.9 -1.2	
Su 24 24 24 24	High Low High Low	4:10 AM 8:48 AM 1:45 PM 9:02 PM	11.1 7.8 11.6 -1.9	
M 25 25 25 25	High Low High Low	5:01 AM 9:52 AM 2:26 PM 9:41 PM	11.9 8.1 11.3 -2.3	
Tu 26 26 26 26	High Low High Low	5:44 AM 10:47 AM 3:07 PM 10:19 PM	12.4 8.2 10.9 -2.3	
W 27 27 27 27	High Low High Low	6:22 AM 11:36 AM 3:49 PM 10:57 PM	12.5 8.1 10.5 -2.1	
Th 28 28 28 28	High Low High Low	6:56 AM 12:21 PM 4:33 PM 11:36 PM	12.5 7.9 10.1 -1.8	



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# Happy Holidays

Season's greetings and warm wishes to  
you and your family this holiday season



From your local Windermere Team