

THE CRAB CRACKER

CHRISTMAS EDITION

ISSUE 419
December 12-25, 2025



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
3201 Smith Avenue
Everett, WA 98201
(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 Wren at 4700 Roger Park Dr., Snohomish, WA 98070; (425) 357-6091; mary.wren@wsu.edu at least two weeks prior to the event.

January 9 | Mike Everett
"USDA Zones & Climate Change"

January 16 | Jamie McAuliffe
"Balled & Burlap Trees"

February 6 | Cindy Funes
"Contained Brilliance: How to
Container Garden Like a Pro"

February 13 | Sam Benowitz
"Successfully Growing Fruit Trees in the PNW"

February 27 | Lorē Sampson
"Every Plant has a Story"

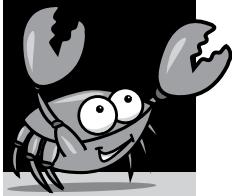
March 13 | Mary Marshall & Andrew Tuttle
"Edible Landscapes for a Healthy Body
and Planet"

March 27 | Bess Bronstein
"Plant This, Not That"

April 3 | Ross Bayton, PhD
"Heronwood Evolves:
The Traveler's Garden"



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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: Wonder of Christmas - Camano City Schoolhouse.
Photo posted on Camano City Schoolhouse Facebook.*



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P.O. Box 2535, Stanwood, WA 98292 • www.thecrabcracker.com

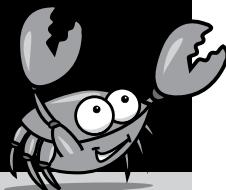
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Submission DEADLINE: DECEMBER 18 for Next Edition (Dec. 26 - Jan. 8)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12

TRAVEL TALK

Calendar of Events



10:00-12:00 at Camano Center, 606 Arrowhead Road, Camano Island. Do you enjoy sharing your travel experiences or hearing from others of their travel adventures? This month Michele Rushworth will present on her travels to India. In her words: My trip to India in the spring of 2019 was nothing short of incredible. I felt like I had traveled to another planet, in some ways, and gone back a thousand years in time. Traditions, clothing, lifestyles, food and beliefs that were nothing like what I experience here, which is exactly why I went there. Camano Center members free; non-members \$5.

"A dazzling song-and-dance celebration, don't miss this heartwarming story of love, laughter, and holiday magic!"

THEATER PRESENTS

Holiday INN The Broadway Musical

Irving Berlin's

December 5th - 20th

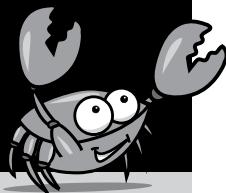
at The Lincoln Theatre

lincolintheatre.org 360.336.8955 Mount Vernon, WA

Purchase Tickets!



Calendar of Events



DID YOU KNOW?

The most lights lit on simultaneously on a Christmas tree is 194,672

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12

THE ENTHUSIASTS + FRIENDS FOR THE GHOST + TIM MECHLING

at Arcadian Public House, 18444 Spruce Street, Conway. Tickets: \$12 ADV / \$15 DOS Doors at 7 PM Show at 8 PM. 21+ only.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12

FRIDAY NIGHT KARAOKE

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

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12

STANWOOD HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

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

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12

MOVIE NIGHT (PTO)



6:30-9pm at Cedarhome Elementary School. Featuring "Elf" Rated PG.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4th | 2:30 PM

Bronn Journey Concert

BENEFITING THE CARING
PLACE MINISTRY

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,

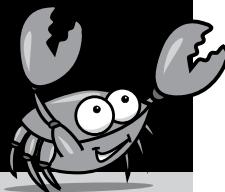
Stanwood.

Sunday, January 4th at 2:30pm

(Offering for Caring Place will be received.).



Calendar of Events



DID YOU KNOW?

According to experts, if you ever see candles and other items being advertised with the scent of "mistletoe" labeled on them, you're being told a lie. The plant has absolutely no smell at all.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

CIMW CHRISTMAS RAMPANT '25

Event by Camano Island Miniature Wargamers. 2pm-6pm at Camano Island Library. Join us for our 3rd annual miniature wargame of Christmas Rampant! We use the rules Dragon Rampant to run a thematic big-table game! Join us with your 24 point army as we battle it out over an extra long table for anyone to join. Since 2nd edition of DR is technically the same as 1st, either rulebook will be acceptable. We will also have some holiday-inspired homebrew elements thrown in. Costumes and festive holiday clothes are welcome!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

ROCK RADIO

7pm at Pub 282, 370 NE Camano Dr #6, Camano. Crank up the volume and get ready for a hard-hitting night of rock 'n' roll with ROCK-RADIO! Expect massive guitar riffs, driving beats, and an electrifying stage show that will keep you on your feet all night long. If you love your rock loud, raw, and full of energy, this is the show for you!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

SANTA AND HOT CHOCOLATE

Take a picture with Santa at Dos Reales, 1-3pm.

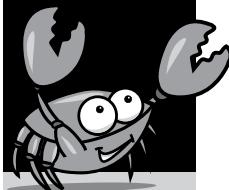
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

SARATOGA SANTAS



Lights are on every day, but on two special days, Santa is in his studio to greet children with hot cocoa and photos. We are a full house display lit up every day but on December 13 and 20th from 5 to 8 PM you are welcome to walk around the display drive Santa's sleigh and nine reindeer, meet Santa in his workshop for photos and have hot cocoa. There's also a full-size snow globe you can take photos in. 836 Saratoga Way, Camano Island.

Calendar of Events



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13
ST AIDAN'S ANNUAL DECEMBER BAKE SALE



9am-3pm at St Aidan's Episcopal Church, Camano Island. Come to St Aidan to enjoy the many holiday baked goods on offer at this year's Christmas Bake Sale. There will also be variety of Christmas decorations, ornaments and keepsakes that make great gifts! Proceeds will support more ministry endeavors at St Aidan's through the work of the Women of St Aidan's. St Aidans is located at: 1318 WA-532, Camano, WA 98282 We look forward to seeing old friends and meeting new friends!

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



Happy Holidays and Best Wishes for the New Year.

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Stanwood, WA 98292
360-629-5393



Christopher L. Frank
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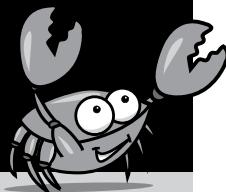
Nate Greenland
Financial Advisor

7104 265th St NW
Suite 100
Stanwood, WA, 98292
360-629-5487

*Annual Percentage Yield (APY) effective 12/04/25. 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 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).

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Calendar of Events



look for us
online at

www.TheCrabCracker.com

or on
Facebook.

Download
current or past
editions.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13
3RD ANNUAL BIG RIG TRUCK LIGHTED CRUISE



5-7pm. The Stanwood Commerce Alliance is thrilled to announce the return of one of our community's favorite holiday traditions — the Big Rig Truck Lighted Cruise! Join us as these impressive trucks roll through Stanwood, decked out in dazzling holiday lights and decorations. It's a free, family-friendly event that's sure to bring smiles, holiday cheer, and a bit of hometown sparkle! The cruise will begin at the east end of Main Street and continue through to the west end — offering great viewing spots all along the way.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

SANTA GRANDMA'S SATURDAY MARKET

You're Invited to share in the FUN at 24008 Valde Rd, Stanwood. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Or until sold out). Our Saturday Market features: glorious jewelry, KAH Cards, Handmade household items: microwavable bowl cozies, potato bags, bowl covers, stocking stuffers, etc. For more info please contact Char at bydenmythyme@hotmail.com

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

MARLA HOOCH + TOADMORTONS

at Arcadian Public House, 18444 Spruce Street, Conway. Tickets: ADV \$10 / DOS \$15 Doors at 7 PM Show at 8 PM Online ticket sales end at noon on the day of the show. All ticket sales are final on show day. Seating is first come, first served. 21+ Genre: rock / rock covers

National Cocoa Day

December 13

www.TheCrabCracker.com

Sound Estate Protection Services

What if you lose a loved one?

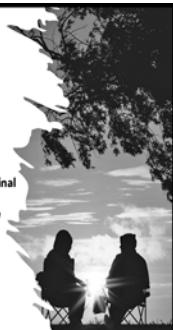
Do they or you have a Will, Life Insurance, final medical and burial expenses in place?

Receive a \$25 gift card with your free policy review/quote and receive a Basic Will.

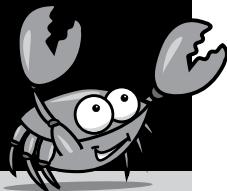
John (206)948-3363 license #196955

www.soundeps.com

Failing to plan is planning to fail!



Calendar of Events



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13
WRAP IT UP! FREE GIFT WRAPPING AT THE LIBRARY



10am-1pm at the Camano Island Library. Get into the holiday spirit and let us help you check one more thing off your to-do list! Join us at the library for a free gift-wrapping event. Bring your unwrapped gifts, and we'll provide the wrapping paper, ribbons, tags, tape and festive cheer for you to get the job done! Whether you're wrapping one present or a whole pile, our self service wrapping station will be stocked with supplies and holiday music to make the experience merry and bright. No registration required! Hot cocoa and light refreshments available while you wrap. Donations of wrapping supplies are appreciated but not required. Come celebrate the season with us and leave with beautifully wrapped gifts ready for giving!



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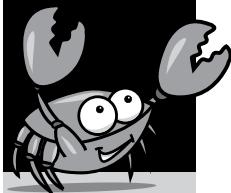
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120 E George Hopper Rd, Suite 104, Burlington, WA
Office phone # 360-230-4061 • Cell phone # 509-679-5485
TLCUnlimitedServices.com

Calendar of Events



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13
AMPLIFY CONCERT



Teen music concert with special guests. Come support the next generation of noise makers as well as visiting Seattle artists as they take to the stage for a night of music, art, & hope at the Community Resource Center. Headlining we have... MUTUAL STOKE (Two Piece Punk!), TORCH (GRUNGE!), PINK STEAM (ALT/GRUNGE!); As well as FOUR teen bands from the CRC's AMPLIFY youth music program! Amplify concerts exist to create inter generational community & connection through music and art.



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Learn more at: kirrahealth.com/crab

Santa Grandma's HOLIDAY MARKET

November 22, 29 and December 6, 13, 20

You're invited To share in the FUN here at our Produce Stand
11am-5pm (or until sold out) at 24008 Valde Rd, Stanwood

Featuring: Glorious jewelry • KAH cards • handmade household items:
microwavable bowl cozies • potato bags • bowl covers
stocking stuffers • and more!

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1909 Swing Bridge to Camano Island

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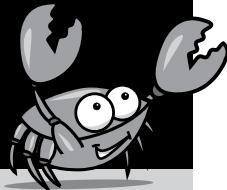
For more information, maps, and videos,
visit our website at historicsitetour.com

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?

1/3rd of the 20 highest grossing movies were released during the Christmas.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

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, DECEMBER 13

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY



Ceremonies starting at 10am at Anderson Cemetery and Camano Island Lutheran Cemetery. Please come out and help the American Legion, Post 92, honor our deceased Veterans by placing a wreath on their grave site. And thank you to our wonderful and generous community for helping us reach our fundraising goal so that we have a wreath for every Veteran at these Cemeteries!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

CHRIS EGER

performing live at 7pm at Conway's Pub and Eatery.

A photograph of a brown and white horse wearing a red and white striped headband and a red bow tie. The horse is looking towards the camera. Below the photo is a black banner with white text.

NATIONAL DAY OF THE HORSE

December 13

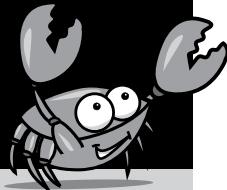
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Calendar of Events



DID YOU KNOW?

Charles Dickens has written a novel on Christmas – 'A Christmas Carol'. And it became very popular and it took him 6 weeks to write this novel.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

CABAM! CAMANO AREA BLUEGRASS JAM + DINNER

+ OPEN MIC

Come and join the Jam & enjoy some smokin' bluegrass at the South Camano Grange. Banjos, mandos, guitars, fiddles, dobros and a bass or two. It's all here. All we need is YOU! Old timers and newbies alike, get on down here! 3:00 - 5:30 pm Bluegrass Jam (Free admission). 5:30 - 6:00 pm Dinner (Optional - Donation). 6:15-ish to 8:30 pm - Open Mic (sign up before dinner!) Free admission. South Camano Grange, 2227 S Camano Drive, Camano Island

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

CHRISTMAS GALA 55+



5:30pm-7:30pm at Lincoln Hill Retirement Community & Senior Center, 7430 276th St NW, Stanwood. Don't miss this opportunity. We will be having an amazing evening of Dining & Dancing. Special entertainment by Stanwood High Jazz Group and Vanessa Soderberg Jazz group featured on Fox 13 Live. Purchase tickets now on our website at www.lincolnhill-rc.org

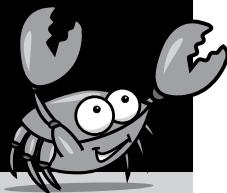
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

BINGO AT THE VIKING HALL - SILVANA



5pm. \$10 for a book of 15 games and \$1 for each black out game. We will begin serving dinner at 5pm. All profits will go to a community service project. More info: 360-618-2076.

Calendar of Events



HANUKKAH

The period from the evening of Sunday, December 14, 2025, to Monday, December 22, 2025, is significant because it marks the beginning and most of Hanukkah (Festival of Lights), a major Jewish holiday commemorating the rededication of the Second Temple.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14
CAROLING IN THE PARK



Join us to sing your favorite holiday classics. 5:30-7pm at Warm Beach Community Park. Fire department and Santa collecting food donations. Free chili and cornbread provided.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14
MIRACLE OF CHRISTMAS CONCERT

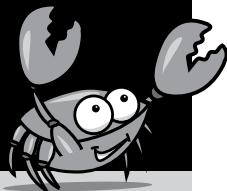


3pm at Fir-Conway Lutheran Church. Come celebrate a Nordic Christmas in Conway! Be entertained by Bellingham's Damekor choir and Everett's Mannskor choir, plus other special guests. \$25 for guests ages 11 years-old - adults and free for those 10 years-old or younger. Light refreshments served at intermission. Tickets can be purchased from one of the choir groups or can be purchased at the door on the day of the event. If you would like more information, please reach out to Elaine Grasdock at 360-982-2965. The proceeds from this concert benefits Sons of Norway Abel Lodge #29.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15
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.

Calendar of Events



DID YOU KNOW?

On a Christmas feast in 1377, hosted by King Richard II of England, twenty-eight oxen and three hundred sheep were eaten.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15
WINTER BAND CONCERT



7PM Stanwood High Performing Arts Center. Support local youth by being part of a festive evening of music at the Stanwood High School Winter Band Concert.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15
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 15
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, DECEMBER 16

STANWOOD HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS
Varsity Boys Swimming vs Lake Stevens. 3pm at YMCA.

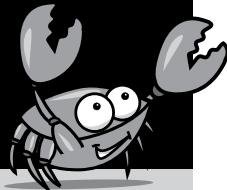
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16

STANWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND CONCERT
7pm at Stanwood High School Performing Arts Center.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16

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, the Oculus Quest VR, and various board games. 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!

Calendar of Events



DID YOU KNOW?

In Hawaii,
Santa is called
Kanakaloka.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17

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 17

STANWOOD HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17

BURGERS WITH SANTA



6pm at Mammoth Burger Company, 8715 271st Street NW, Stanwood. Holly Jolly Burgers with Santa at Mammoth! Take a break from the holiday hustle and join us for an evening packed with photos with Santa, festive mingling, dinner, crafts, balloon art, and more. And yes... rumor has it Santa cannot leave without ordering our deep fried Oreos. (They're his favorite — who knew?!). Bring the family, bring your holiday spirit, and get ready for a cozy, laughter-filled night at Mammoth. This is one you won't want to miss!

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18

CHRIS EGER

7pm at Pub 282, 370 NE Camano Dr #6, Camano. The Chris Eger Band is a Northwest band hot on track to becoming the next band to hit the billboard charts. A skilled compilation of rock/blues/country mix.

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Jim Fay, Owner, Arborist



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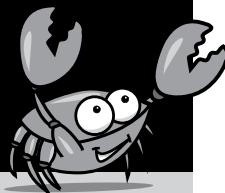


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Calendar of Events



DID YOU KNOW?

Tinsel made its first public appearance in England in 1846.

Queen Victoria and Prince Albert were illustrated in the Illustrated London News, standing with their children around a Christmas tree decorated with tinsel, candles, and small bead ornaments.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18

EAT & COMPLETE EVENT

9th-grade students who currently have 1 or more failing grades in their classes are invited to attend our Eat & Complete event happening from 2:15 pm to 3:15 pm in the Stanwood High School Commons. Students can come get help in their classes and eat pizza. Students will need transportation home.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18

STANWOOD HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Girls Basketball vs Jackson. C Team & JV: 5:30pm. Varsity: 7:15pm.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18

BUNCO GAME NIGHT

6:30pm at Sons of Norway Hall, 9910 270th St NW, Stanwood.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18

KARAOKE NIGHT - ALL AGES WELCOME!

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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18

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.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18

A COTTAGE CHRISTMAS

Homemade Christmas cookies, cocoa, coffee, crafts and gently used kids clothes for sale by local children! 10am to 5pm in a historic home at 27030 102nd Dr NW, Stanwood.

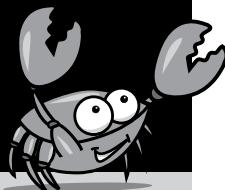
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18

WINTER CHOIR CONCERT



7PM Stanwood High Performing Arts Center. Celebrate the season with beautiful harmonies at the SHS Winter Choir Concert.

Calendar of Events



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19

THE ROCK MARTENS

7pm at Pub 282, 370 NE Camano Dr #6, Camano. Get ready for a high-energy night of rock 'n' roll, powerhouse vocals, and electrifying riffs. This band knows how to bring the heat, so grab a drink, hit the dance floor, and let's rock the night away!

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19

WOODS FAMILY CHRISTMAS

Savanna, Stewart & Ireland at 8 PM - Arcadian Public House, 18444 Spruce Street, Conway. The show will feature Savanna with her dad and sister. Three great performers putting the merry into the holidays! Doors at 7 PM Show at 8 PM Tickets: \$18 ADV / \$20 DOS Online ticket sales end at noon on the day of the show. All ticket sales are final on show day. 21+ only.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19

TEEN LATE NIGHT

7-10pm at Stanwood-Camano YMCA. Go swimming in the pool, playing sports in the courts, games in the Teen Center and more! Pizza is provided, and an active membership is NOT required. Sign up at <https://www.ymca-snoco.org/programs/1066/>



Saturday
December 20th
12n - 4pm

Art and Other Liquidation Fundraiser

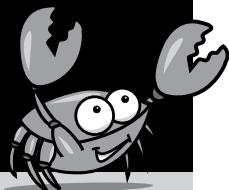
1283 Elger Bay Road, Suite A

Upper level of the Port Susan Professional Building

Intersection of E. Monticello, Elger Bay, and SE Camano

**Proceeds benefit
Camano Island Health System**

Calendar of Events



DID YOU KNOW?

The largest floating Christmas tree in the world — 278 feet tall — is in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19

FRIDAY NIGHT KARAOKE

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

FRIDAY-SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19-20

WALK THRU LIVE NATIVITY



Come celebrate the birth of Christ. 6-8pm at Cedarhome Baptist Church, 29000 68th Ave NW, Stanwood. More info: 306-913-0375.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20

DENNIS BROCK & THE VIPERS (FROM PETUNIA AND THE VIPERS)

at Arcadian Public House, 18444 Spruce Street, Conway. Dennis Brock joins The Vipers (from Petunia and The Vipers) at 8 PM. Tickets: \$15 Door at 7 PM Show at 8 PM Online ticket sales end at noon on the day of the show. All ticket sales are final on show day. Seating is first come, first served. 21+

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20

SARATOGA SANTAS

Santa is in his studio to greet children with hot cocoa and photos. We are a full house display lit up every day, but today from 5 to 8 PM you are welcome to walk around the display drive Santa's sleigh and nine reindeer, meet Santa in his workshop for photos and have hot cocoa. There's also a full-size snow globe you can take photos in. 836 Saratoga Way, Camano Island.

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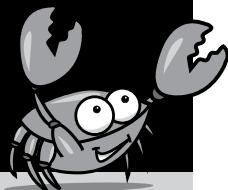
WWW.SCAACWA.ORG/CLASSES



Details!



Calendar of Events



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20
BREAKFAST WITH SANTA IN CONWAY



8am-2pm at Conway Fire Hall on Greenfield Street. Event by Mason-McConkey Post 147 SAL and Sons of Norway Abel Lodge. All you can eat pancakes \$10. There will be coffee, orange juice, cocoa, and cider. Santa will be there and available for photos with the kids and/or family.

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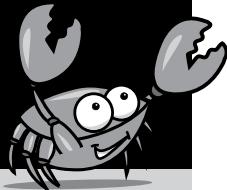
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Calendar of Events



DID YOU KNOW?

California, Oregon, Michigan, Washington, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, and North

Carolina are the top Christmas tree producing states.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20

JIMMY WRIGHT

7pm at Pub 282, 370 NE Camano Dr #6, Camano. A high-energy concert experience, packed with a dynamic mix of music to keep you on your feet all night long. Something for everyone!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20

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, DECEMBER 20

SANTA GRANDMA'S SATURDAY MARKET

You're Invited to share in the FUN at 24008 Valde Rd, Stanwood. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Or until sold out). Our Saturday Market features: glorious jewelry, KAH Cards, Handmade household items: microwavable bowl cozies, potato bags, bowl covers, stocking stuffers, etc. For more info please contact Char at bydenmythyme@hotmail.com

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20

STANWOOD HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Boys Basketball vs Lynden. C Team & JV: 5:30pm. Varsity: 6:30pm.
Girls Basketball vs Lynden. JV: 2pm. C Team: 3:30pm. Varsity: 5pm.



**MERRY CHRISTMAS
FROM ARROWHEAD RANCH**



Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

Special Worship Services



Sunday Worship, December 21

6:00 PM Longest Night Service
of Light into Darkness

Christmas Eve, December 24

5:00 PM Family Candlelight Worship Service
7:00 PM Family Candlelight Worship Service
11:00 PM Traditional Candlelight Communion Service

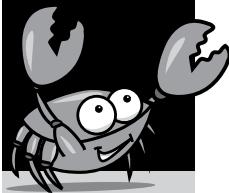
New Year's Eve, December 31

11:00 PM New Year's Eve Service

360-629-3767 www.oursaviourschurch.org



Calendar of Events



DID YOU KNOW?

Christmas trees are sold in the US since 1850, and on an average it takes 6-8 years for a Christmas tree to be fully grown, although it can take 15.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21
FIRST DAY OF WINTER



The first day of winter (astronomical winter) in the Northern Hemisphere is the Winter Solstice, which occurs on December 21, 2025, at 7:03 a.m. EST marking the shortest day and longest night.

SUNDAY, 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 our pain and fears while hearing loving words of Jesus, the Light of the World. Members of the church's Stephen Ministry will be available for private, confidential conversation and prayer for those who wish to share their needs.



CamanoCenter
Get connected.

Become a Member

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Join us!

Enrollment is available on our website, via phone or in-person at the Camano Center.



Annual Individual Memberships are only \$30!

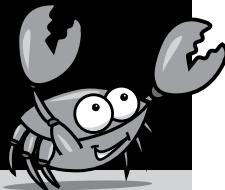
We offer many ways to connect socially, stay active, and meet people with similar interests. Most activities are free to Members - don't miss out on the daily fun!

Annual Membership Nonprofits \$100 & Businesses \$150!

Benefits include on-site advertising, digital marketing, event sponsorships and more!

Contact the Camano Center for more information
jabbott@camanocenter.org or (360) 387-0222
606 Arrowhead Road, Camano Island
www.camanocenter.org

Calendar of Events



DID YOU KNOW?

Germany is credited with starting the Christmas tree tradition.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21
GET YOUR HOLO-DAYS ON!



A holiday trading card and collectible show. 10am-4pm at Stanwood Masonic Center, 27205 102nd Dr NW, Stanwood. There will be a collaboration of a few small vendors attending with various trading cards and pop culture collectibles. Pokémon, marvel and other pop culture items will be featured. Free admission. Don't miss out on the ultimate holiday hunt for your next treasure.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22

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, DECEMBER 22

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 22

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!



THE UFF DA SHOPPE

Open Tue-Sat 11-4, Sun 11-3 • 8820 Viking Way, Stanwood • 360-629-3006



MERRY UFF DA

It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas!

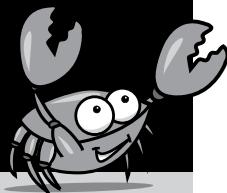


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Calendar of Events



DID YOU KNOW?

Coca-Cola was the first company that used Santa Claus during the winter season for promotion.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

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!

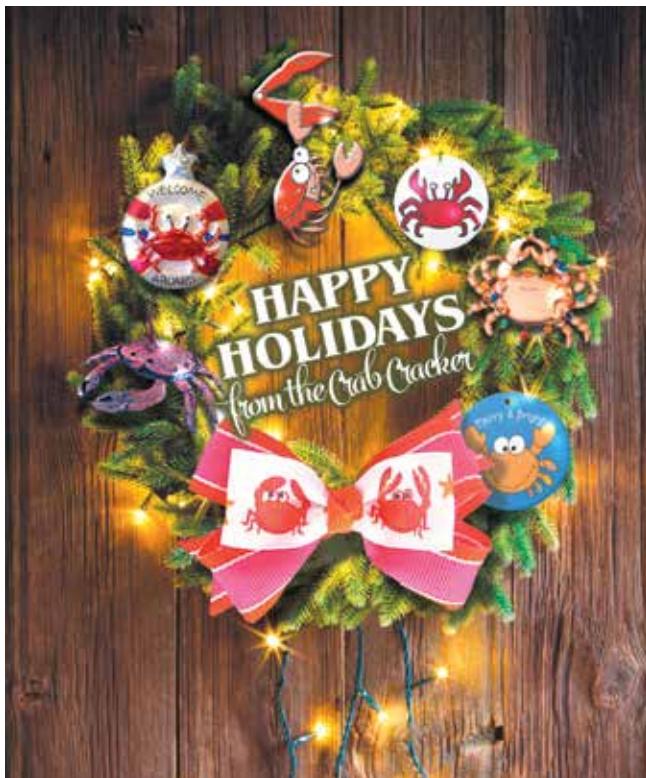
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

OUTSIDE LIVE NATIVITY AND STARLIGHT STROLL

3-4pm at Camano Chapel, 867 S West Camano Drive.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



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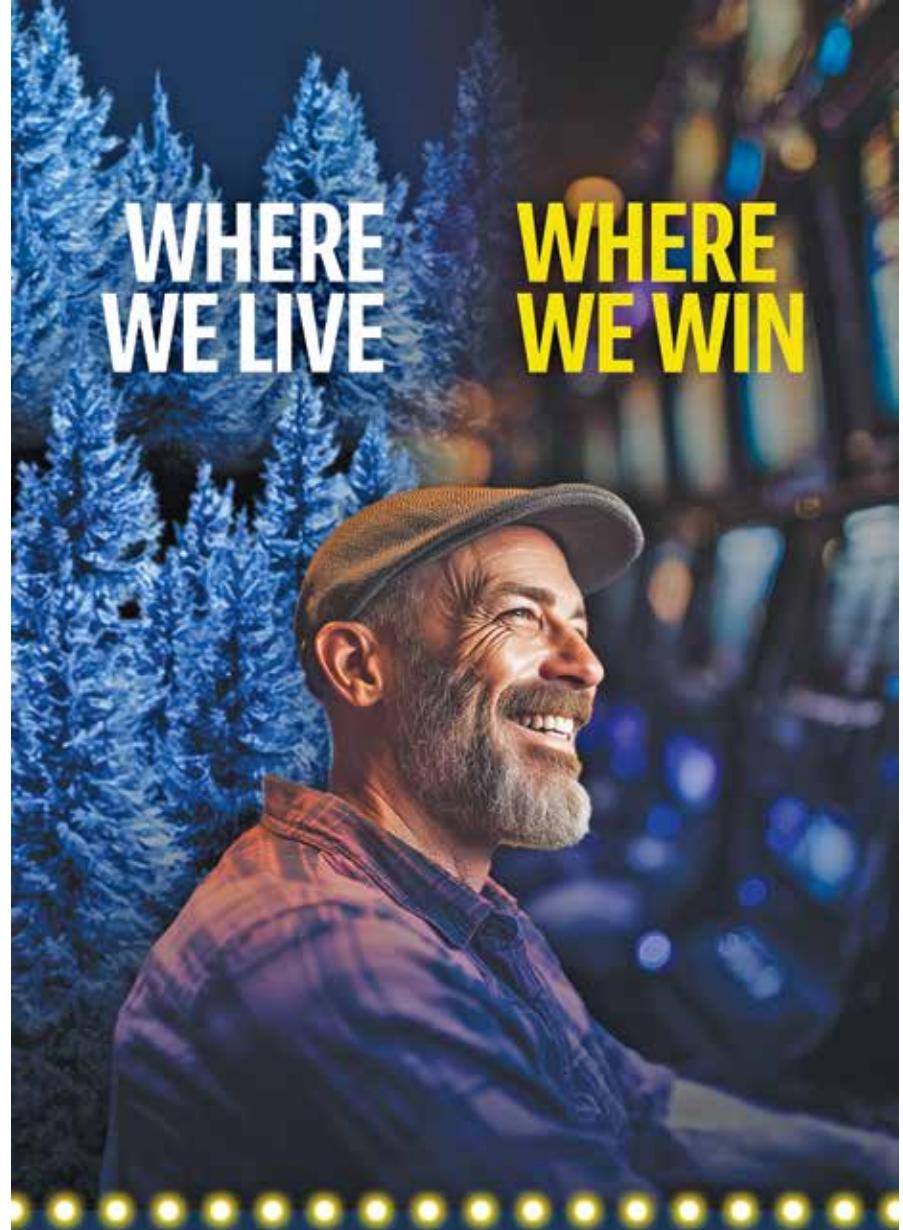
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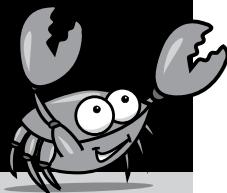


MQ Gadgets Gifts Goodies specializes in unique finds and thoughtful gifting. Our custom gift baskets are filled with handpicked items from our shop including gourmet treats, kitchen gadgets, gifts for everyone, and local favorites.

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Take the Challenge



WE CHALLENGE YOU

This is a new feature page where we challenge the community (and ourselves) to strengthen our community bonds by participating or donating or volunteering or contributing to a local cause. Each edition will be a new challenge with a new benefactor.

Join us in making our Community a better place and making us all better people.

THE CRAB CRACKER CHALLENGE...



The Caring Place has kicked off their round up fundraiser at Haggen in Stanwood. The Caring Place offers new & very gently used clothing and other essential items, to people in need, free. The Caring Place is a Free Clothing ministry that has blessed the lives of hundreds of area families over the past 15 years. Since reopening after a COVID hiatus, the number of people served continues to increase. Even so, God somehow ensures that there is enough and utilizes that small little cottage on the western edge of the Our Saviour's parking lot to its absolute max. Donations of lightly used or new clothing items are received on Monday and Wednesday afternoons, 1-4PM. Clients are served by this entirely volunteer-run ministry on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1-4PM. Questions or information requests...360-913-1551.

OUR CHALLENGE TO YOU: Drop by Haggen one of those days and donate. They have scanner cards, so donations may be made at the registers. They cannot take money at their table outside. Note: If each person in the Stanwood and Camano area donated just one dollar, the funds would total more than \$26,000.



Windermere

REAL ESTATE



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\$889,000

Spectacular Camano waterfront home with uninterrupted panoramic westerly views of Puget Sound and the mountains, multi-level decks, hot tub, Madrona community. #2401476



LANDS HILL

\$849,000

Brand new luxury view home on the north end of Camano thoughtfully designed and built by high-end builder in a "Farm meets Sound" neighborhood. #2374112



MADRONA

\$539,000

Charming Camano rambler has a fenced backyard, RV parking plus ample off-street parking, 3 bedrooms/2 baths, washer/dryer and a bright open floor plan. #2456633



CAMALOCH

\$949,000

Home blending charm with luxury. Outdoor living includes multiple gathering spaces, hot tub area, terraced gardens and unlimited golf, pools, clubhouse with HOA dues. #2457286



LOST LAKE

\$360,000

No-bank 2-bedroom waterfront home on Camano Island is very private and woody, great place to launch your kayak or enjoy the peacefulness of island life. #2399044



CONDO

\$389,950

Craftsman single level rambler condo located in "The Cedars" in Burlington. Territorial views and convenience to town amenities, HOA tends the yard/exterior maintenance! #2441161

STANWOOD

7359 267th St. NW, #D
360.629.8233



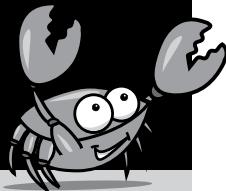
CAMANO ISLAND

818 N. Sunrise Blvd.
360.387.4663

Visit WindermereStanwoodCamano.com for more information

Windermere Real Estate/CIR

Kids' Korner



DID YOU KNOW?

Almost 28 sets of LEGO are sold every second during the Christmas season.

HOT CHOCOLATE GIFT MUGS



Besides setting out just cookies have the kids put together a mug or two of cocoa mix for Santa to sip on while he delivers their holiday haul.

To make: Place hot cocoa mix in the bottom of small mug Mason jars. Top with mini marshmallow, chocolate chips, and crushed starlight mints. Attach lid. Attach a tag with red baker's twine.



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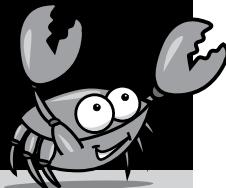
Lic # CANDECC812JS

Find us online

www.CandewConcrete.com

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Activity for Adults



DID YOU KNOW?

The Statue of Liberty was gifted to the US by the French on Christmas day in 1886. It weighs 225 tons and thus you could consider it as the biggest Christmas gift in the world.

GLITTERING POPSICLE STICK CHRISTMAS TREES



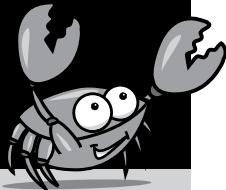
Here's what you'll need: Colored popsicle sticks; Foam sticker stars; Sticker rhinestones; Twine; Glue gun; Utility knife

I bought the rhinestones and the popsicle sticks from the dollar store. I splurged a little on the sparkly foam sticker stars and bought them at the craft store. But if you're feeling frugal you can just cut stars out of yellow sparkly paper

You're going to want 5 different sizes of popsicle stick pieces cut to 1", 1.5", 2", 2.5", and 3" lengths.

To cut the popsicle sticks, use a utility knife (I used my craft knife. I can't find the exact one on Amazon, but it's similar to these ones) and score the popsicle sticks on both the front and back. I say "score" but really I mean give it a good cut into the wood as hard as you can a couple times. You probably won't make it all the way through, but that's okay. You have to make sure you score it on both sides of the popsicle stick or it won't snap evenly. Then after you've done that, it just breaks apart really easily when you bend it. I was surprised how clean of a break it was. No jagged edges or anything. Using a scrap piece of popsicle stick, maybe about 1/2" long, add a generous glob of hot glue and sandwich a small piece of twine between the purple popsicle stick "trunk" and the small scrap. You can see the scrap piece better in the next photo. Using a scrap piece of popsicle stick, maybe about 1/2" long, add a generous glob of hot glue and sandwich a small piece of twine between the purple popsicle stick "trunk" and the small scrap. You can see the scrap piece better in the next photo. Now the moment you've been waiting for. Go crazy with those glittery sticker rhinestones and decorate your popsicle stick Christmas tree! I used sparkly foam sticker stars for the stars on the trees, but since the star was bigger than the top of the tree I decided to glue it to the top rather than peeling off the sticker backing. I didn't want to have a big area of stickiness that wasn't attached to anything.

Artist of the Week



Are you interested in promoting yourself and your craft?

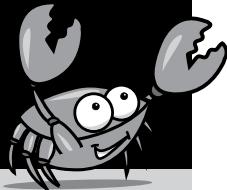
Email us your bio and we will feature this page to you... and it's all FREE!

KATIE TRENT



A glass artist who grew up in Bellingham, Katie left to attend college after high school and landed in Minnesota. She is thrilled to be back in the PNW after 40+ years in the Midwest. Katie has been playing around with glass for more than 25 years. What started as a hobby ignited by a community education class turned into an on-going artistic exploration of this colorful medium. Katie shares that "Glass is such an interesting art form and I love all the aspects I have explored. I really enjoy making custom stained-glass windows for people and have created dozens of commissioned pieces." Katie also uses her scrap glass to create mosaics. The process is tedious, but she gains great satisfaction from rendering an image with little bits of glass and tile. Several years ago, Katie bought a kiln and started dabbling with fused glass – making bowls, plates, platters and 3-D sculptures. She has taken classes and searched for videos on line to learn new ideas and has found that every new technique presents another interesting challenge. Shortly after moving to Mount Vernon in 2024, Katie started looking for arts groups to help her meet other artists and make friends in the area. In Minnesota, she was part of an arts consortium and was active with art shows, teaching and serving on their board. She discovered the Camano Arts Association and has enjoyed being involved with that group as a volunteer and board member. This fall, she decided to take on the role of tour director for the 2026 Camano Island Studio Tour. This endeavor helped fill the void created when she retired from working as a physical therapist at Stanwood Camano Physical Therapy. Katie teaches classes through The Jansen Art Center in Lynden and at MoonWater Arts in Anacortes. Class topics include beginning stained glass, mosaics, beginning fused glass, heart pendants, Christmas ornaments and paint-pour projects with glass enamel. Katie has a studio in her home near Big Lake and looks forward to teaching more classes there. www.trentartglass.com

Business Spotlight



Are you interested in promoting your business or organization?

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

MABANA FLAMES



Over 50 years ago a spark was ignited on Camano Island. That spark was the idea that women in our island community could support Camano Island Fire & Rescue and improve emergency services. After all, when our Fire Department flourishes, we are all better protected. It's that simple. That idea led to the establishment of the Flames (Women's?) Fire Auxiliary and even after all those years have passed, the Flames are still going strong. A lot has changed on Camano since the department had only volunteer fire fighters, and the Flames purchased and donated the land where the Mabana Fire Station still is operational. The Flames purchased the first "jaws of life" on Camano. It is a history to be proud of. Our modern Fire Department and well-trained first responders are the professionals you rely on in any emergency. But that doesn't mean there still isn't much to do. The Flames support the Camano Island Fire in ways too numerous to list here. They are also keenly aware that there is a human side to every disaster and sometimes people in our community need a little help. The Flames meet the first Thursdays of the month (no meeting in Jan, July, or Aug) beginning at 10:00 am. The business meeting kicks things off, where committees report the status of on-going projects, new projects are presented for consideration, and lively discussions are held. The Fire Department Chief attends our meetings to give the Flames the most up-to-date information on a dynamic department. Then, lunch is ready! Each member volunteers to hostess a lunch with 3 other volunteers. The social/lunch time is a highlight! Laughter is shared, recipes are exchanged, new friends are made, and long-standing friendships are deepened. Please join us at a Flames meeting. You'll be warmly welcomed. More info: Lenore Schmidt: 206-930-0846

The logo for Bayless Construction Group. It features a large, stylized orange letter 'B' on the left and a black 'C' shape on the right, which is partially overlapping the 'B'. Below the 'B' is the text "BAYLESS CONSTRUCTION GROUP" in a black, sans-serif font. Below the 'C' is the text "Local and Family Owned" in a smaller black font.

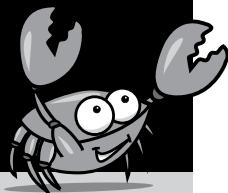
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360-218-2283

baylesscustomconstruction.com

Photos and Art



DID YOU KNOW?

The Christmas wreath was originally hung as a symbol of Jesus. The holly represents his crown of thorns and the red berries the blood he shed.



Decorated Christmas window at Stanwood Food Bank Thrift Store.
Photo by James M. Shipley.



Santa and his elf at Kristoferson barn, Camano.
Photo by James M. Shipley.

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A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Even down here at the tail end of civilization, us South Enders have been hearing talk lately about Income Inequality. Cap'n Billy down at the Marina claims it's nothing less, this talk, than an assault on the Rich. "The Losers," he declares, knocking the ash from his briar on the pier pilings, "they want to pull the successful down to their level. Take their money and give it to the freeloaders on welfare." He beats his pipe the way he'd like to beat some sense into Jimmy the Geek who made the mistake of arguing with Billy.

"All I'm saying, Bill, is these folks didn't get all the money cause they worked 1000 times harder --- they got tax breaks. I work for Boeing but Boeing got billions to stay in the state. I call that corporate welfare. Workers are getting their wages cut while the stockholders and the executives, hell Bill, they're getting fat."

Cap'n Billy is getting Hot. "I worked hard for my pay, dammit. I don't need you pencil pushers telling me I ought to give part of it back so some lazy do-nothing can sit home and watch TV all day when the government gives him his Handout. What's your gripe, anyway, Jim, you're doing okay? You one of those bleeding heart socialists?"

And so it went. Jim and I walked the gangplank up to the Pilot House for a cold one, admittedly a little early, but sometimes you just got to cool off. Loretta was bartending, took our order and when she parked two pints in front of us, asked if we'd care to give to the Food Bank where she volunteers two days a week. "I'll give two beers," I said, quite the comic, but Jim took out his wallet all serious like and fished out a twenty.

"Thanks for doing this, Loretta," he said. So of course I felt like the Grinch. I gave her a ten. "Expensive beers," I joked. Jimmy shook his head. "We're lucky dogs," he said, taking a long slow sip. The bar's Christmas lights twinkled off his glasses.

We clinked pints. "Here's to the winners," I toasted, ever the jokester. Jimmy grinned, just as Cap'n Billy pushed through the door.

"Loretta," Jimmy cried, "get the Cap'n a beer! It's on us." Bill waved him off, but Loretta poured him one anyway. "Merry Christmas, Bill," Jimmy said. "Merry Christmas, boys," Bill said back. "Merry Christmas one and all!" Loretta warbled. We all four sat for awhile, listening to the corny Jingle Bells Loretta had on the radio over the bar. Maybe it wasn't the ghost of Christmas Future, but down here on the South End, it would have to do.

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



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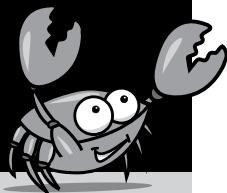
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Funding: This project has been funded wholly or in part by the United States Environmental Protection Agency under assistance agreement PC-01J89801 to the Washington State Department of Health. The contents of this document do not necessarily reflect 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



The tradition of hanging stockings comes from a Dutch legend. A poor man had three daughters for whom he could not afford to provide a dowry. St. Nicholas dropped a bag of gold down his chimney and gold coins fell out and into the stockings drying by the fireplace. The daughters now had dowries and could be married, avoiding a life on the streets.

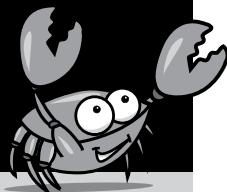
CHRONIC PAIN? WHAT ARE YOUR OPTIONS?

Pain is a warning system in the body. There are two types of pain: acute pain and chronic pain. We need acute pain to survive. If we step on a nail or burn our skin, we need to know that something is wrong so we can seek proper medical attention. When this happens, a signal is sent up the spine through the nervous system and into the brain where it is then evaluated by different parts of the brain. These different parts of the brain include the motor cortex (what you are doing in that moment) and the sensory cortex (what part of the body the signal is coming from). "Chronic pain" is the result of our brain interpreting signals through our nervous system commonly long after the actual tissue damage has healed. Triggers of these signals can include one or all of the following: functional systems (bladder, bowel, or uterus/prostate), structural systems (muscles and ligaments in spasm, nerves firing, tingling, burning, itching of surface tissues), all of which add up in our memories, emotions, and thoughts. When the trigger is a memory, emotion, or thought (conscious or unconscious), it lights up the neuro-matrix connected to our sensory cortex. This phenomenon is similar to "phantom limb syndrome" where the individual experiences pain in a part of the body that is no longer there. Focused training redirecting the mind can help our brains avoid these particular triggers and signals as much as possible. Mindfulness-based stress reduction and diaphragmatic breathing techniques are proven tools to help guide us through this process. Our Body's "Fight or Flight" Response. Fear triggers our brain to produce chemicals that make it more difficult for us to relax. In fact, mere emotions and thoughts (both conscious and unconscious) can trigger this chemical reaction placing us in the "fight or flight" response. When the body goes into this mode, it is an evolutionary protective response, as if there was a dangerous lion in the room. This "fight or flight" response causes muscle spasm (to give you strength to fight or run away), increased heart rate, dilated pupils, shallow breathing, and other autonomic nervous system responses, such as dry mouth, slower immune response, and inhibited digestion. The brain then seeks more feedback from the body to know more about what's happening, increasing the sensitivity in the nervous system. Our brain "turns the volume up" on our nervous system. Regrettably, this means that our physical sensations increase and consequently we feel more pain. In other words, when it comes to pain, the more we fear it, the more we feel it. Emotions & Pain Our emotions affect how we feel and interpret physical sensations. Our beliefs, emotions, and thoughts all affect how we feel pain. Research is establishing that depression, anxiety, and guilt can all make it more difficult for us to cope with pain. Fear and worry can especially increase the amount of pain we feel. When we are afraid, our muscles tense, the heart begins to race, and we may begin to tell ourselves things like, "I can't relax, this really hurts, I can't handle this." Then, the next thing you know, we can't relax and every sensation actually does become more painful. A positive, less fearful emotional state, like being confident and relaxed, can help coping with pain easier. Z's GENTLE Seated Yoga classes for Chronic Pain begin in Sept. Space limited. Call 629-5040 www.zsremedies.com.

CHRISTMAS GIFT SALE

Beeswax candles, artisan items from the Holy Land, stylish scarves, fun socks and pillowcases, bags, stickers, and more. Camano. Call 360-853-6263 for directions and to set up a time.

Community Information



DID YOU KNOW?

Bicycle, the U.S. playing card company, manufactured cards to give all the POWs in Germany during World War II as Christmas presents. These cards, when soaked in water, revealed an escape route for POWs. The Nazis never knew.

THE LIGHTS OF CHRISTMAS

is a holiday experience like no other! This innovative event for people of all ages includes over one million lights in dazzling displays, creative activities, and so much more! Listen to fun Christmas music while you comfortably drive-thru in your car. Now featuring a two event night types featuring Drive-Thru only and Drive-Thru with Activity Stops options. More info, pricing, and reservations (required): <https://www.thelightsofchristmas.com>

NORTH COUNTY FIRE & EMS SANTA RUN

December 5-16 Firefighters, their families and friends will be escorting Santa through Stanwood neighborhoods to collect non-perishable foods and monetary donations to benefit community members this holiday season. Make a lasting impact while seeing Santa and his helpers! December 14-16, Santa will be visiting Stanwood locations. Go to the website to find out where and when: <https://www.northcountyfireems.com/community-programs/annual-santa-run>.

SHS POINSETTIAS

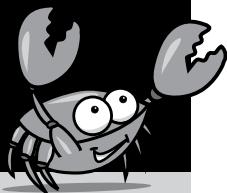
Help support SHS Grad Night 2026 AND brighten your home for the holidays! We're selling beautiful poinsettias to raise funds for a safe, fun, unforgettable Grad Night for the Class of 2026. Grab yours and spread some holiday cheer! SHS Class of 2026 is selling gorgeous poinsettias to fund Grad Night. Perfect for decorating, gifting, or spreading some seasonal joy! If you'd like to support the kids and add a little red + green magic to your home, I'm taking orders now! LINK TO SALES PAGE: <https://vfwfundraiser.com/org/shs-boosters?>

DIAPERS AND WIPES DRIVE



presented by Stanwood Cannons Baseball and Softball. Head to Haggen in Stanwood from 3-5pm on these dates: December 12, 20, and 21 to see some of our players and drop off some diapers or wipes. All items collected will be delivered to The Caring Place in Stanwood. Collection sites: NAPA Stilly Auto Parts and your favorite Cannons player. Please consider purchasing diapers, pull-ups, wipes, any baby necessities to provide for families in need.

Community Information



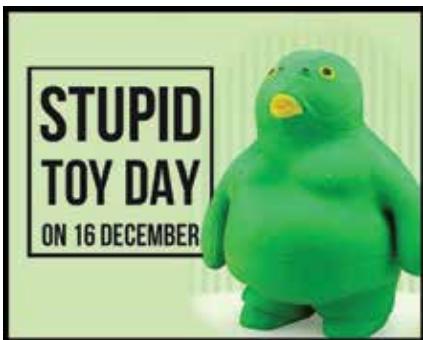
DID YOU KNOW?

A dreidel, or sivion is a four-sided top that has a Hebrew letter on each side.

STANWOOD-CAMANO KIWANIS HONORS JAGER TWITTY AS STUDENT OF THE MONTH



The Stanwood-Camano Kiwanis Club has selected Jager Twitty, a senior at Stanwood High School, as its Student of the Month for October, 2025. The Student of the Month award recognizes local high school students who exemplify academic achievement, leadership, service, and character. Jager is recognized for being a leader in his community. Teachers and staff commend him for this positive attitude and willingness to assist in multiple venues. "The Stanwood-Camano Kiwanis Club is proud to recognize outstanding students who are making a difference in our community and in their schools," said Kiwanis Member Clarene Ricarte, President. "We look forward to seeing what the future holds for him". The Stanwood-Camano Kiwanis Club has been serving the community since 1967. The group is dedicated to improving the lives of children and families through service projects, scholarships, and recognition programs like the Student of the Month. For more information about the Stanwood-Camano Kiwanis Club, visit facebook.com/StanwoodCamanoKiwanis





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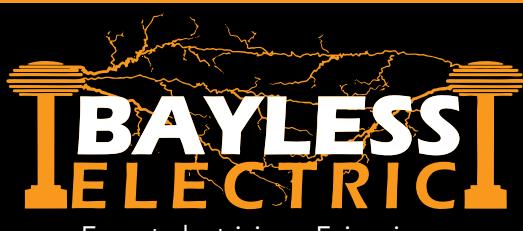
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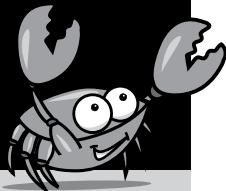
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Community Information



DID YOU KNOW?

During the Christmas of 1914 (World War 1), a truce was held between Germany and the UK. They decorated their shelters, exchanged gifts across no man's land and played a game of football between themselves.

HOLIDAY HOPE DRIVE

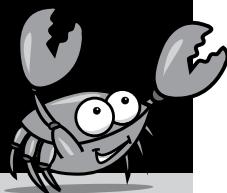
Support the Stanwood Camano Food Bank Holiday House! We have multiple locations to drop off gifts and non-perishable food items. Every donation is a reminder that hope grows stronger when our community shows up for one another! This season can be tough for many so let's make it a little brighter together. 13-18 year old gifts preferred. Donation period: November 6-December 20. Locations: Sound Resilience Health, Anytime Fitness Stanwood, Merry Little Baker (Karens Place).

EMOTIONS, TECHNIQUES & NARRATIVES STANDOUT IN WINNERS OF NWWS 85TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL OPEN EXHIBITION



Every other year, Northwest West Watercolor Society (NWWS) has an in-gallery show. This year, the 85th Annual International Open Exhibition is hosted by Yuan Ru Art Center, 12737 Bel-Red Road, #100, Bellevue, Washington 98005, now to December 1, 2025. Juror Frank Eber has chosen 80 outstanding watermedia paintings from around the world to adorn Yuan Ru's walls. Eber feels that a good reason for entering a show is for artists to share genuine feelings. As he commented on the 15 awards he presented at the Artist's Reception on November 8th, 2025, the winners' emotions came through in their technical expertise in watermedia. "A painting also tells a story or narrative," he said that day. When you walk into Yuan Ru Art Center, the first painting you see is "Winter" by Z L Feng. One art goer mentioned getting a chill. That emotion also helped Eber to award First Place of \$2,000.00 cash to Feng saying, "The technical parts and design are all there. This is someone who is worthy of being called a master painter." Second Place of \$1,300.00 cash went to Kate Aubrey for "First Fiddle." Eber commented, "You can feel his enigmatic look staring right at you." "This amazing painting has great composition," Eber said of (Camano Islander) Jack Dorsey's "Clouds Rolling In" as he presented Third Place of \$800.00. Great paintings tell stories and evoke emotions through the artist's skills. "I encourage everyone to see the 85th Exhibition on the walls of Yuan Ru Art Center. It is well worth it." For those who are outside the Seattle area, you can still see the show at www.nwws.org.

Community Information



HOLIDAY LIGHT, COMPUTER CORD, AND ELECTRICAL CORD RECYCLING



Waste Wise will ensure that they are properly recycled, allowing the materials to be remade into new products and keeping them out of the landfill. Participation is free! Lights and cords will be accepted from November 28, 2025 – January 31, 2026 at the Camano Transfer Station. Daily, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Through January 31.

NATIONAL ENERGY CONSERVATION DAY

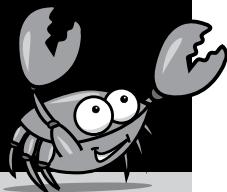
Sunday, December 14th - advocates responsible energy use through awareness, efficiency measures, and government initiatives, contributing to a sustainable future. Tips to save energy via Snohomish County PUD website: Save Energy & Money - Snohomish County PUD <https://www.snopud.com/save-energy/>

An advertisement for The Camano Shop. It features a large logo with a stylized orange and red plant graphic and the text "THE Camano SHOP by Beach & Boulevard". Below the logo is a list of items for sale. To the right is a photograph of a woman standing on a porch, and another photograph showing the interior of the shop with clothing items on display.

- Pretty & comfortable CLOTHES
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- Unique GIFTS & local features
- 913 SR-532, Camano Isl.
- thecamanoshop.com
- instagram.com/the_camano_shop

Shop our 1911 Farmhouse
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Community Information



DID YOU KNOW?

The Nazi party tried to turn Christmas into a nonreligious holiday celebrating the coming of Hitler, with Saint Nicholas replaced by Odin the "Solstice Man" and swastikas on top of Christmas trees.

ATTENTION

Most Island County offices will be closed to the public (except by appointment) beginning December 22 and re-opening on January 5, 2026. Should you have a time-sensitive matter, you may phone the office or department needed and arrange for an appointment. You can find that information on the County website at www.island-countywa.gov.

PARENT ALLIED COLLECTIVE

New Support Group for Families of Neurodivergent Preschoolers. We understand there is a real need for a support group for families of neurodivergent preschoolers / early elementary aged children in our community, and we're excited to begin shaping a space that supports and uplifts families. We are currently in the early stages of forming the group and are gauging interest to determine what would be most helpful. Our hope is to create a warm, welcoming environment where caregivers can connect, share experiences, and access meaningful resources. We anticipate meeting once a month in the evenings at Stanwood Cooperative Preschool, with final plans guided by the needs of participating families. Please note: This will be an adults-only group. We want to ensure caregivers have a calm, focused space to talk openly and receive support, so children will not be able to attend. We say this with care, knowing that childcare can be a barrier, and we will share local childcare resources if helpful. What we envision offering: A supportive community of caregivers navigating similar experiences; Resource sharing (sensory supports, communication tools, local services, books, therapists, activities, etc.); Occasional guest speakers or themed discussions; Follow-up materials or resource lists after meetings. To help us plan, we'd love to know a bit more about your needs and preferences. Please follow the link to fill out a short google form so we can better focus the needs of the group. We truly appreciate your input and are looking forward to building this much-needed community resource together. Please feel free to share this opportunity with other families who may benefit. <https://forms.gle/pZoJ1KntyuSgz2qi8>.

SANTA'S OFFICIAL MAILBOX



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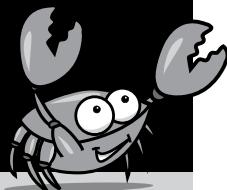
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Community Information



MARK YOUR CALENDARS: 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 passholder'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>.

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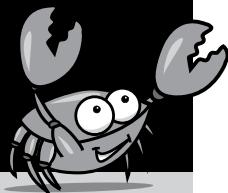
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Community Information



DID YOU KNOW?

Some leave food out for Santa Claus' reindeer as Norse children did, leaving hay and treats for Odin's eight-legged horse Sleipnir hoping they would stop by during their hunting adventures. Dutch children adopted this same tradition, leaving food in their wooden shoes for St. Nicholas' horse.

WINTER WILDLIFE WATCH

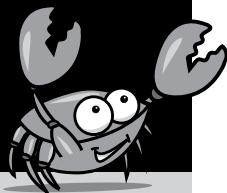


Critters to see at our parks in the dark months. Our parks aren't just fun places to camp and recreate – they're where many Washington wildlife call home! Some animals go underground at this time of year, and some of us wish we could hibernate too. But here we are in November, awake — whether we like it or not. So, we might as well get to a park and explore, right?! You may not expect to see wildlife in state parks right about now, but you'd be surprised. We asked our field staff what animals they've seen in the off-season and thought we'd share their pro tips: Coastal parks like Leadbetter Point and Bottle Beach host thousands of migrating birds in spring and fall. The tidal flats offer an all-you-can-eat buffet of fish and shellfish – a critical refuel on their long flights. Dosewallips famously welcomes a herd of Roosevelt elk each winter; they come down from the Olympic mountains to forage for food. Moran is home year-round to pie-bald deer. While this color variant of Columbian black-tailed deer is fairly rare, it is relatively common in the deer on Orcas Island. A Larabee game camera recently caught a bobcat and cubs on a popular trail! Deception Pass staff spotted beaver and river otters. Riverside staff say a group of mule deer come to the park in winter to find food, mating opportunities and shelter from the wind. A staffer snapped a perfect bear print in the snow at Mount Spokane. Yakima Sportsman has a resident porcupine. (Remember to keep yourself and your dog at a distance – ow!) A staff member and her daughter recently followed a coyote track laid over a raccoon track in the snow at Fort Flagler. If you see these or any other wildlife in our parks, please remember to keep a respectful distance, move slowly and quietly, do not try to feed them and keep your dog on a leash. Remember: If you see these or any other wildlife in our parks, please view them from a respectful distance, move slowly and quietly, do not feed them and always keep your dog on a leash.

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.

Community Information



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

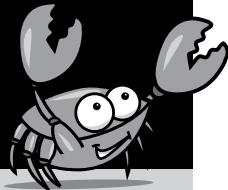
Open for guided visits and history research 1 - 4 pm Wednesday and Saturdays. Tour the D. O. Pearson House Museum, the Eldridge Center Gallery and Library, the Floyd Norgaard Cultural Center 3rd Floor Exhibits and the Veterans Memorial (Outside). Volunteers welcome! More info: www.sahs-fncc.org.

BASKETBALL FREE PLAY FOR THE COMMUNITY

Every Friday at 795 Ell Rd., Camano. "Note: it is at an LDS church and I am a missionary, but we are here to play basketball. It is indoors and it's not quite a full size court, but it's good enough to have fun. All are welcome."



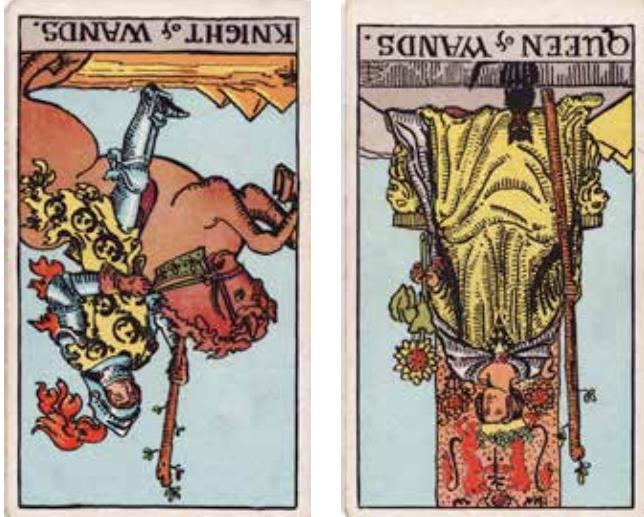
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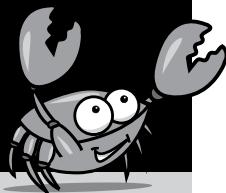
INTUITIVE TAROT WITH TIFFANY



December 12th – December 18th : Knight of Wands Reversed. Take special care regarding your knees, shins, calves, and feet, as they may be particularly susceptible to injury this week. And after much back and forth, with slow paces of progress, the speed December is picking up can feel disconcerting. Fiery action is with you while wrapping up what's been lingering since mid-October, as you aim to feel caught up and aligned for the start of Capricorn Season. This week's card encourages you to remember that you-are-ready and are well seated for that which you are galloping towards. Do your very best not to dig your heels in or pray for a slower trot after spurring for movement much of the year. Carry with you what comes to mind, and worry not what never makes it into your saddle bags. What was left behind was not forgotten, but by design.

December 19th – December 25th : Queen of Wands Reversed. When there is much to be done in the empire, a queen, a Capricorn may think it frivolous and impractical to show presence at festivities or grant an audience without a measurable results purpose, but a lion(ess) understands that joy for joy's sake is just as much for those that love you as it is for your capacity to hold more of your desires. And if it helps your duty-focused sensibilities this week, there is a certain inherent responsibility to endure the celebratory nature of obtaining each layer and piece of each dream. If you do not celebrate the seemingly insignificant, you're robbing yourself of ever reaching the sense of satisfaction you've been striving toward, regardless of what more you'll accomplish. Sit with your memories and write out a list of all you've achieved this year. Even this is purposeful action.

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STRAWBERRY CROISSANT FRENCH TOAST CASSEROLE

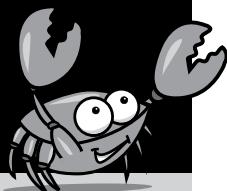
Our decadent overnight breakfast casserole is bursting with fresh strawberries, sweetened cream cheese, and flaky croissants in a creamy vanilla custard! Perfect for Christmas Morning!



INGREDIENTS: 10 med. croissants; 1 (8 oz.) pkg. cream cheese, room temperature; 2 T. confectioners' sugar, plus more for dusting; 6 lg. eggs; 2 c. half and half; 1 tsp. vanilla extract; 1/4 c. plus 1 T. brown sugar; 1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon; 1/4 tsp. salt; 2 c. strawberries cut into 3/4 to 1-inch pieces; 1/4 c. cold salted butter, thinly sliced; Maple syrup for serving

DIRECTIONS: 1. Butter a 9x13-inch casserole dish; set aside. Cut each croissant into 3 pieces; set aside. 2. In a medium sized bowl, beat the cream cheese with an electric hand mixer until soft and fluffy about 2 minutes. Add the confectioners' sugar beat until combined; set aside. 3. In a large bowl, whisk together eggs. Add the half and half, vanilla, brown sugar, cinnamon, and salt, whisk until combined. Dip half the croissants into the egg/milk mixture until fully coated. 4. Arrange the croissants into prepared casserole dish, dollop with cream cheese, and scatter with 3/4 of the strawberries over the top. 5. Dip the remaining croissant pieces in the egg/milk mixture and arrange over the strawberries. 6. Pour remaining milk and egg mixture over the entire casserole, gently pressing to absorb the liquid. 7. Sprinkle the remaining strawberries over the top of the casserole. Cover the dish with plastic wrap and refrigerate overnight. 8. Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Remove the casserole from the refrigerator and discard the plastic wrap. 9. Dot thinly sliced butter over the croissants and bake 40-50 minutes, or until the casserole is golden and crisp. If the tops of the croissants begin to brown too quickly, loosely cover with foil. 10. Let stand at room temperature for 10 minutes. Dust with confectioners' sugar, cut into squares, and drizzle with maple syrup if desired.

Classes and Workshops



DID YOU KNOW?

America's first batch of eggnog was made in the Jamestown settlement in 1607.

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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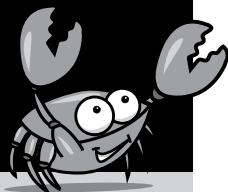


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Classes and Workshops



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.

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**“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

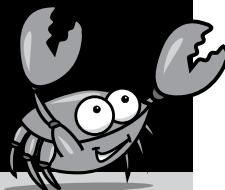


36th year
Annual
Small Works Show
**Dec. 6th
thru Jan. 19th**

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



MISCELLANEOUS:

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

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES:

Custom design that tells your story. Rebecca Rowland Interiors brings color, character, and charm. Email hello@rebeccarowlandinteriors.com for details.

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

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.



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.

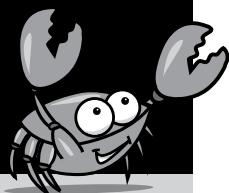
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*Some exceptions apply. Contact us for more details.

Clubs and Meetings



DID YOU KNOW?

In Poland spiders are considered to be symbols of prosperity and goodness at Christmas. In fact, spiders and spider webs are often used as Christmas tree decorations.

According to legend, a spider wove baby Jesus a blanket to keep him warm.

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.

TOPS has been helping members Take Off Pounds Sensibly for many years. We provide gentle accountability, warm fellowship, and support in your weight loss journey. TOPS has a chapter on Camano Island close to your home. We meet Thursday mornings for weigh-in from 8:15 to 8:45; meeting at 9 am. The first meeting is always free. Come join us and see how TOPS provides support both during your weight loss, and afterward, helping you to keep it off. All ages welcome! Camano Lutheran Church, 850 Heichel Rd, Camano Island. Call Karen (leader) at (360) 387-9716 for more information.

Full of Words: A Free 8-Week Women's Writing Circle (meeting at the Camano Island Library, Jan 9 - Feb 27). If you have questions or would like to register please email fact@msdeadlines.com



CASA'S PET OF THE WEEK:

ALEXANDRA - All kittens come spayed or neutered, age-appropriate vaccines, treated for worms and fleas, microchipped and well socialized. 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 for one \$225 for 2. Come by the shelter and fill out an application today!

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



NOAH'S PET OF THE WEEK:

VEGETABLE GARDEN - Hello! I'm a 2 year old kitty looking for my new FURever home! Could that be you? I'm still young, so expect me to still be active and mischievous at times! Come in and meet me today!

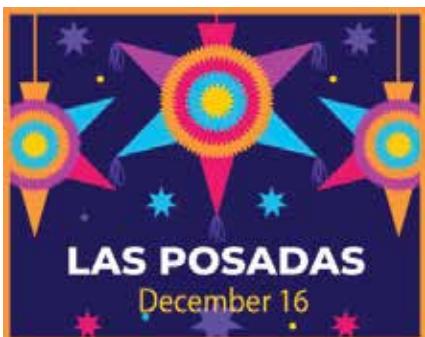
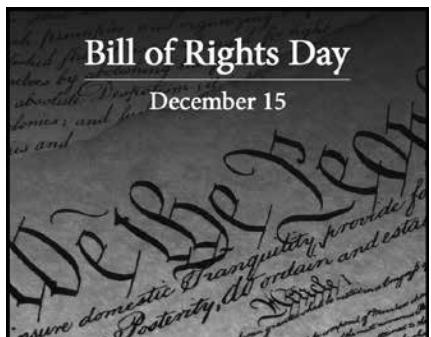
The N.O.A.H. Animal Adoption Center:
(360) 629-7055. www.thenoahcenter.org



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

BLUE is a handsome boy who is dreaming of being someone's cherished family member. Blue would be happiest in a home where he will be included in all the family adventures. He loves car rides more than anything else and he has been known to invite himself into unknown cars just to go for a ride. 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



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.

THE SECRET RULES OF CHESS

When my girls were seven and eight years old, respectively, I taught them the ancient game of chess (something for which they have never forgiven me). Eventually, their games improved to the point that, over their vehement protests, I enrolled them in a chess tournament at a local elementary school.

The event went on forever, beginning at 8am on a Saturday and ending sometime after I lost consciousness from ennui. Every child played five rounds that day. After one match was over – which in my kids' cases was usually about nine minutes – contestants were sent back to the cafeteria.

In these long breaks, parents ensured their prodigies devoted every minute to sharpening their skills, practicing feverishly until the next round arrived. I was so bored that after a couple hours, I broke down and challenged some of these youngsters to a game. I don't want to brag, but there was this one third grader, Jason Kim, who needed 21 moves before he checkmated me. That was my best performance. Most games were over shortly after I located my horse.

These prepubescent grandmasters were extremely sharp. After a string of five quick defeats, I knew it was time to shake things up a bit. I decided to give these miniature Bobby Fischers a lesson by employing my own Secret Rules of Chess. My next opponent was a nine-year-old named Raza. After a conservative opening, Raza, boldly advanced his bishop into an attack position against my exposed queen.

I contemplated my options, and then, in a maneuver I'm fairly certain Raza did not see coming, I nudged my queen backwards off the board and brought her back onto Raza's end of the board, putting his king in check. Raza jumped up and exclaimed, "You can't do that!", to which I calmly replied, "Apparently you're not familiar with the chess move called the Queen's Revolt."

He was, of course, more than a little confused, in part because the Queen's Revolt doesn't exist. That's when I began to weave a tale of how this tactic was first used by the Duke of Hapsburg against the Viscount of Mordovia in 1542. In game after game, I continued to keep my young foes completely off balance with one surprising technique after another:

The Bad Bishop's Deceit: My bishop gets to progress diagonally in two directions on the same turn – and can leap over pawns.

The Peasant's Uprising: This can only be done one time per game – and only by the black chess pieces (because I was playing black). I can select one pawn to become a queen for four consecutive moves.

The Knight's Alphabet: Here, my knight can do the usual L-shaped trot, followed by a W-shape, then a Z.

Storming the Castle: One of my favorites. I jettison both of my rooks in unison the length of the board thereby taking out both of my ad-

View from the Bleachers



versary's rooks and any other playing piece in their path. This is a particularly powerful stratagem but one which should only be attempted if your opponent is very young and incredibly gullible.

My opponents had no clue how to defeat me. I even trounced the seven-year-old Kevin Wong, when just before he was about to checkmate me, I resorted to King Arthur's Evasion: I simply advanced my king the entire length of the board, jumping over several of Kevin's pieces, and took out his rook. Kevin protested until I patiently explained that this stratagem was first used by King Henry VIII to defeat Napoleon when they met for the World Chess championship in Reykjavik, at the height of the Irish Potato Famine.

Several parents, who if you ask me, were wired way too tightly, filed a petition to have me permanently banned from any future chess tournaments. I guess some people just have no appreciation for the finer nuances of this ancient game.

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

October:

- Tuesday - 10/7/2025 @ - 1:00pm -2:00pm
- Tuesday - 10/14/2025 @ - 1:00pm -2:00pm

November:

- Tuesday - 11/4/2025 @ - 1:00pm -2:00pm
- Tuesday - 11/18/2025 @ - 1:00pm -2:00pm

December:

- Tuesday - 12/09/2025 @ - 1:00pm -2:00pm
- Tuesday - 12/16/2025 @ - 1:00pm -2:00pm

RSVP's NOT REQUIRED, BUT ENCOURAGED

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



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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.

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TIDE TABLES / SARATOGA PASSAGE / DECEMBER 12-25, 2025

Date	High /Low	Tide Time	Height Feet	Moon Visible
F 12	Low	3:59 AM	2.8	
	High	11:11 AM	11.9	
	Low	6:13 PM	3.8	
	High	11:52 PM	7.2	
Sa 13	Low	4:52 AM	4.4	
	High	11:44 AM	11.6	
	Low	7:00 PM	2.6	
Su 14	High	1:44 AM	8.0	
	Low	5:49 AM	5.8	
	High	12:17 PM	11.4	
	Low	7:39 PM	1.5	
M 15	High	2:53 AM	9.0	
	Low	6:54 AM	6.9	
	High	12:49 PM	11.2	
	Low	8:13 PM	0.5	
Tu 16	High	3:46 AM	9.9	
	Low	7:57 AM	7.6	
	High	1:23 PM	11.1	
	Low	8:47 PM	-0.2	
W 17	High	4:32 AM	10.8	
	Low	8:53 AM	8.0	
	High	1:58 PM	11.0	
	Low	9:21 PM	-0.8	
Th 18	High	5:13 AM	11.4	
	Low	9:45 AM	8.2	
	High	2:33 PM	10.8	
	Low	9:57 PM	-1.3	

Date	High /Low	Tide Time	Height Feet	Moon Visible
F 19	High	5:49 AM	11.9	
	Low	10:34 AM	8.3	
	High	3:09 PM	10.6	
	Low	10:34 PM	-1.6	
Sa 20	High	6:23 AM	12.2	
	Low	11:20 AM	8.2	
	High	3:45 PM	10.4	
	Low	11:11 PM	-1.7	
Su 21	High	6:56 AM	12.3	
	Low	12:04 PM	8.1	
	High	4:23 PM	10.1	
	Low	11:48 PM	-1.6	
M 22	High	7:29 AM	12.4	
	Low	12:49 PM	7.9	
	High	5:02 PM	9.7	
Tu 23	Low	12:24 AM	-1.3	
	High	8:01 AM	12.4	
	Low	1:37 PM	7.6	
	High	5:45 PM	9.2	
W 24	Low	1:01 AM	-0.8	
	High	8:33 AM	12.4	
	Low	2:29 PM	7.1	
	High	6:36 PM	8.6	
Th 25	Low	1:40 AM	0.1	
	High	9:04 AM	12.4	
	Low	3:22 PM	6.2	
	High	7:40 PM	8.0	

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Building a Stronger, Healthier, and More Connected Community

The Community Resource Center of Stanwood Camano is dedicated to strengthening our community by providing programs, education, and support services for individuals and families across Stanwood and Camano Island.

They Offer:

- Family Support Programs
- Teen Programs
- Empowerment Programs & Resources
- And additional services for all ages

Whether you're looking for support, hoping to connect with others, or simply wanting to make an impact, the Community Resource Center offers opportunities for everyone.

Learn more about their programs, upcoming events, and ways to support their mission at: www.crc-sc.org

Windermere Real Estate is proud to support the meaningful work the Community Resource Center brings to our community.
360-387-HOME | 360-629-8233