

Stanwood High rocks out with 'Godspell'

360 CALENDAR A7



VROOM! VROOM!

Soap Box season starting

SPORTS B1



# STANWOOD CAMANO NEWS

SCNEWS.COM ♦

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## Health officials tracking coronavirus

### INSIDE

State Senate eyes \$5M for businesses hurt by virus, A6

Easy tips to help stay healthy, A9

*Local school district being 'cautious and vigilant'*

BY EVAN CALDWELL

[ecaldwell@scnews.com](mailto:ecaldwell@scnews.com)

The number of Puget Sound residents infected with the novel coronavirus climbed to at least 18

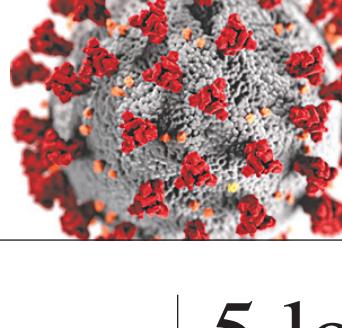
as of Monday morning, including sixth deaths in Kirkland and more new cases in Snohomish County.

As the numbers of confirmed cases grow both locally and across the globe, local schools, health

departments and scientists are preparing for the next stage.

Stanwood-Camano School District officials announced last

■ SEE VIRUS, A9



For tips and updates on COVID-19 in the area, visit [snohd.org](http://snohd.org)

## A musical life shines

*Camano woman and her twin turn classical music into adventures for kids*



PEGGY WENDEL / STANWOOD CAMANO NEWS

Linda Ann Younce sings and plays piano in her music studio and home overlooking Utsalady Bay on Camano Island.

By PEGGY WENDEL  
[pwendel@scnews.com](mailto:pwendel@scnews.com)

**A**s Linda Ann Younce's fingers glide over the keys of a white baby grand piano, she looks across the peaceful waters of Utsalady Bay and reflects on the various stages of her life.

She wonders about the next stage, which she started a year ago when she moved to Camano Island.

Much of her life has been performing on stage with her identical twin, Lisa Grace, who lives in Anacortes.

"I can see Anacortes from my front door," Younce said.

She and her twin perform as "Lisa Linda Shine," making classical music palatable to boisterous, bouncy, kinetic kids, one small taste at a time.

"The music in our shows is reduced down to something we call bite-size pieces of the classics — very nutritious," Younce said.

Since 2005, they've worked with Vancouver Symphony and Seattle Symphony's family programs. Last year, they performed at Camano Center using classical trios and quartets: GoldyHands and the Three Bows in October with strings and Holiday Hooray in December with brass.

■ SEE MUSICAL, A6

### "Let's Have a Playdate"

Lisa and Linda Shine performs at 11 a.m. Saturday, March 7 at Camano Center. This musical adventure is set to the music of Johannes Brahms, featuring a woodwind quartet with flute, clarinet, oboe, and bassoon. Infants in arms are free. Tickets are \$10 on Eventbrite.com or at Camano Center, 606 Arrowhead Road; 360-387-0222.



## 5 locals honored for their altruism

*SCAF awards community philanthropists*

By KIM HILDENBRAND  
For Stanwood Camano News

They give in different ways — money, time, expertise — but they have one thing in common: generosity.

Five community members were honored for their altruism at the 14th annual Stanwood-Camano Area Foundation's Philanthropist of the Year awards Friday, Feb. 28, in Camano Center. About 120 gathered to celebrate the accomplishments at the breakfast event.

The top honor — the Gordon Riggs Pay It Forward Award — went to Glenda and Robert Mitchell. Each year, the name of the award changes to reflect its prior recipient.

"This couple donates to many causes monetarily and donates a good portion of their time," said Riggs, who presented the award. "When they see a need to fill, they step forward and fill it. ... Both of you are the shining stars, the king and queen of the community."

Robert Mitchell founded a software company about 30 years ago with lucrative results.

■ SEE ALTRUISM, A3

## Smokey Bear returns to Camano

BY EVAN CALDWELL  
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No, he wasn't hibernating.

Smokey Bear is back welcoming people onto Camano Island and alerting onlookers to the area's fire danger after thieves took off with the previous sign in October.

"Who steals Smokey?" Camano Fire and Rescue spokeswoman Bronlea Mishler said. "But we heard from people who missed Smokey, so it's nice to get him back."

The fire danger sign along Highway 532 is owned and operated by the state Department of Natural Resources, but CIFR crews are sometimes called upon to change the sign when needed.

On Wednesday, Jay Jacks, CIFR fleet maintenance supervisor, and Jacob Schorzman, fleet maintenance and facility technician, installed the "new" Smokey Bear at the fire danger sign.

■ SEE SMOKEY, A3



Jay Jacks, Camano Island Fire and Rescue fleet maintenance supervisor, and Jacob Schorzman, fleet maintenance and facility technician, install the "new" Smokey Bear Feb. 26 at the fire danger sign along Highway 532 on Camano Island.

Police.....A2

Views.....A4

Obituaries.....A6

360 Calendar.....A7

Puzzles.....A9

Sports.....B1

Weather.....B2

Classifieds.....B3



# Senate Dems propose \$5 million to assist businesses disrupted by virus

## Ports closing hit local companies

By CAMERON SHEPPARD  
WNPA News Service

A last minute amendment to the senate Democratic Caucus supplemental operating budget earmarks \$5 million to help businesses negatively impacted by international responses to the coronavirus outbreak overseas.

Businesses like Cosmo Specialty

Fibers, a textile producer that does 97 percent of its business with companies in Asia, have been disrupted by port closures intended to stop the spread of the disease.

"This is a local business that has thrived despite disruptive tariff and trade wars, pays its employees strong wages, and has robust potential to expand, but it's been thrown for a loop," said Senator Dean Takko, D-Longview, in a written statement. Takko sponsored the amendment.

Companies will be able to request assistance funds from the state's

strategic reserve account to promote economic development, which is funded by a third of all unclaimed lottery money, according to a release from the Senate Democrats

The operating budget had already provided \$2 million for the account, much of which was already spoken for. Budget writers added \$2 million in new funds on top of that, and the \$3 million in Takko's amendment means a total of \$5 million in new funds.

The budget was approved by the Senate after a 33-16 vote on Thursday.

## Senators balance transportation budget despite revenue shortfall caused by I-976

By CAMERON SHEPPARD  
WNPA News Service

Facing a shortfall of \$450 million, lawmakers this week patched together a budget to fund highway maintenance, the Washington State Patrol and other transportation projects.

The Senate Transportation Committee developed a proposed transportation budget that would maintain short-term stability following the revenue shortfall caused by the passage of I-976 — the \$30 car tab initiative.

Sen. Steve Hobbs, D-Lake Stevens, said assembling this budget through the revenue crisis required more bipartisan cooperation than in most years. He said the committee prioritized allocations to protect the most vulnerable populations and communities by preserving mass transit programs, unpaving projects that were put on hold and funding safety and maintenance measures.

Sen. Curtis King, R-Yakima said transfers had to be made to move funds from different accounts in order to support things like highway maintenance and the Washington State Patrol. Hobbs said unspent money from

programs and paused or delayed projects was used to support other urgent transportation needs in what he called an "assumed underrun strategy," but Hobbs said this strategy can only be used once, as it is not sustainable.

"We made this work because we did things we would not normally do to get us through this biennium," said King. "When you wanna talk about the hurt and the things that are going to happen, they are going to happen in the next biennium." The next two-year budget will begin in 2022.

Curtis said in the future the committee will have to consider new ways to bring in revenue and ways to find savings to achieve stability and sustainability in future budgets.

Hobbs said managing the degradation and preservation of roads and highways in the state will be a pressing need in the future and new revenues will be needed.

"We need to come up with a fair system to have our roads maintained," Hobbs said.

He said he was in favor of implementing a road usage charge, which would tax vehicles based on the amount of miles driven, for electric

vehicles who use the roads but do not have to pay gas tax.

The road usage charge could potentially be implemented to phase out the current gas tax completely for all vehicles as the state's motor vehicles become less reliant on gasoline and gas tax revenues decrease, but King said he has concerns with the price to collect the road usage tax.

King estimated the road usage charge could cost up to 15 percent of its revenue to collect, compared to the gas tax which he said currently costs less than 1 percent to collect.

Hobbs also proposed a "Forward Washington," transportation package. He says the details of that plan are not yet concrete but would likely include a gas tax as well as a carbon-fee mechanism.

Hobbs said his "Forward Washington," package would fund maintenance and safety programs, reduce carbon pollution and address the government's obligation to fix road-obstructed fish habitat.

The proposed transportation budget was passed to the Senate Rules Committee for a reading before a chance for a Senate floor vote.

## Musical

► FROM A1

On March 7, they'll bring "Let's Go on a Playdate," a romp with Brahms with woodwinds back to the Camano Center.

"We expect kids to be kids," she said. "We have them clapping and bouncing along."

### Enter, Stage Left

The sisters were born into a musical family in Ohio in the late 1950s.

Their father was a tenor who sang solos in church; he loved classical music. Their mother, whose father was a jazz trombonist, didn't play but joyfully sang off-key.

The parents were already busy with six kids when the twins came along, so the twins often entertained themselves. Soon, they were entertaining everyone.

At age 4, the twins gave their first paid performance for the neighbors in the living room.

"We gave our little show for a nickel. We stood inside a bay window and opened the curtains. It was like a little stage. I was the king, and she was the queen. We made some lines up and we sang a little song, similar to what we do now," Younce said.

"We didn't know it would turn into an occupation, but it did."

While raising their own children, Younce and Grace went into parallel careers as music specialists. Younce was a private Kindermusik teacher for newborn to age 7, and Grace was a public school teacher. They lived in the Redmond area, not far from each other.

In 1994, they put together a show to raise money for hospice. They had a song, "Let your spirit shine from the inside to out."

Then they got a gig at the Redmond Heritage Festival and built a children's show around a boy and dolphins. They changed the song to "Let your music shine." From there, they expanded into musical children's shows.

### Planting 'musical seeds'

"That song became our theme song, our logo. 'Let your music shine.' It's about the kids finding their own music inside of them," Younce said.

Seattle Symphony and Vancouver Symphony hired them for family programming. Along with symphony musicians, they put on classical performances for tots five times per year. They called it "Let Your Music Shine! With Lisa and Linda."

"After more than 1,000 live shows for families, we have learned how to program a 45-minute performance into many short, highly engaging move-along, sing-along pieces," Younce said.

Lisa leads audience participation while Linda plays piano. They sing together. Lisa designs costumes and props while Linda writes original songs and arranges long classical pieces into miniatures for youngsters who can't sit still.

She takes a score and reduces it to a few voices — bass on the bottom, melody on top and harmonies in the middle.

"It's all beautifully stitched to honor the composer's intent, style and thematic writing," she said.

Younce and Grace just finished a

run of "Let's Have a Playdate" with Vancouver Symphony in February.

They will bring it to Camano Center on Saturday. This musical adventure is set to the music of Johannes Brahms, featuring a woodwind quartet with flute, clarinet, oboe and bassoon. All four bite-sized portions of Brahms symphonies are heard in four minutes. Find details and tickets at camanocenter.com or call 360-387-0222.

"Our goal is for the children to walk away with a love for the music that is fed to them in just the right portion. And later in life, when they hear Brahms in full? Well, they walk into the concert already loving his music," Younce said. "Our goal is for the musical seeds we are planting to grow into a lifelong love of music."

### Next stage: community

The twins have licensed the shows and music so that others can use it to reach a larger audience.

"I want to get the content out there, so it keeps going," Younce said.

She doesn't know exactly what comes next, but she's settling into her new life in a home overlooking Utsalady Bay.

"In ways, I'm finding out more every day," she said.

She played piano for the Camano Island Quilters holiday party at The Floyd and flute for "Amahl and the Night Visitors" at the Lincoln Theatre in Mount Vernon. She's set up her studio and is already teaching piano, flute, voice, ukulele and recorder to all ages.

"I'm loving living here," she said. "I want to serve my community."

## How They Voted

### See how local law-makers vote in 2020 Legislative Session

- Senate Bill 6168, making 2019-2021 fiscal biennium supplemental operating appropriations, passed the Senate on Feb. 27 by a vote of 33-16.

This is the Senate version of the supplemental state spending plan for the 2019-21 fiscal period that ends June 30, 2021. It would add some \$1.1 billion to the already record high two-year operating budget approved last year, bringing it to about \$56 billion. As passed by the Senate, this spending plan relies on the higher than expected tax collections projected by state economic forecasters a week ago.

Senate Democrats said the plan the would not impose major tax increases, beyond the new taxes on business owners lawmakers already imposed earlier this year. They said their plan would increase spending with "important and valuable investments focused on areas that need to be addressed right now." Among the areas for large increases in spending are programs to fight homelessness and secure affordable housing, improve the environment and boost spending on men-

tal health care, they said.

Republicans, however, argued that the plan risks budget cuts or tax increases when the next economic downturn strikes, and that it fails to provide any tax relief or long-term investments. Among the three-dozen amendments proposed during consideration of the bill on the floor were Republican proposals to use any new boost in tax collections between now and the next revenue forecast to lower property taxes next year.

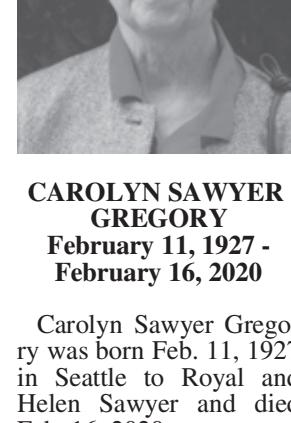
Republicans also proposed to use the sales tax collected on vehicle sales for transportation projects, which are facing a deficit if Initiative 976 is upheld. These and other amendments were voted down, and the bill passed on a mostly partisan 36-13 vote. Five Republicans joined Democrats in voting for it, Sen. Tim Sheldon (D-Mason County), who often votes with Republicans, cast the only Democratic vote against it. The bill is now headed for the House, which will consider its own version, HB 2325.

Sen. Ron Muzzall (R-Oak Harbor): No

Sen. John McCoy (D-Tulalip): Yes

Sen. Keith Wagoner (R-Sedro-Woolley): No

## OBITUARIES



CAROLYN SAWYER GREGORY

February 11, 1927 -

February 16, 2020

Carolyn Sawyer Gregory was born Feb. 11, 1927 in Seattle to Royal and Helen Sawyer and died Feb. 16, 2020.

She attended Seattle schools and graduated from Seattle Pacific University with a teaching degree after which she taught in Walla Walla County.

She was pre-deceased by her husband Don, her brother Curt and grandson John Michael Kerr.

She leaves behind three daughters, Cheryl Vest, Caron Grasso and Jana (Bruce) Schmidt and stepdaughter Linda (Jerry) McBride. Her grandchildren are Margaret (Ian) Rice, Eric (Sheri) Vest, Angie Dutt, Jennifer (Chris) Peters, Kimberly (George) Domine, Michael McBride and Christopher McBride.

She was also blessed with 14 great-grandchildren. Carolyn also leaves behind special niece Stacy Broussard and nephew Scott Royal Sawyer.

She has been an active member of Stanwood United Methodist Church

for over 25 years, serving as Circle president and program chairman and starting a quilting ministry which contributed 125-340 quilts per year to the Linus project. She was a member of the Box Project for over 40 years helping poor families in the Mississippi Delta.

She greatly enjoyed being a member of the Monday Study Club for over 20 years and of "Bookworms."

As she once said, "My earthly shell is about to give out. It's been a wonderful interesting and challenging life, and I thank God for it."

A Memorial service will be held at Stanwood United Methodist Church Saturday, March 7, 2020 at 11 a.m.

Inurnment will be at Acacia Mausoleum in Seattle. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the church Memorial Fund or Josephine Scholarship Fund.

### G. W. FRAZIER

G. W. Frazier, of Camano Island, beloved husband, father, friend and honored Marine, passed away Feb. 24, 2020.

He is survived by his wife Beverly Frazier and many children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Services will be held at Island Christian Fellowship on Camano Island, Saturday, March 7, 2020, at 1 p.m. and at Tahoma National Cemetery on Monday, March 9, 2020, at 2:30 p.m.

A online digital guest book is available at [www.gilbertsonfh.com](http://www.gilbertsonfh.com).

### OBITUARY NOTICES

Obituary notices may be sent by using an online form at [scnews.com/obituaries](http://scnews.com/obituaries), by email to [obits@scnews.com](mailto:obits@scnews.com) along with a photo attached, or by mail to Stanwood Camano NEWS, P.O. Box 999, Stanwood, WA, 98292. The fee to print an obituary is \$10.90 per column inch, including the photo. A short death announcement the week prior to the full obituary will be printed at no charge. An obituary may be linked to an online guest book for an additional \$30 charge. For more information call 360-629-2155.

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