

State studies idea of private ferry to Sidney

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PHOTOS BY QUESTEN INGHAM / ANACORTES AMERICAN

Above: Dr. Rachel Mank, an emergency room physician at Island Hospital, receives a COVID-19 vaccine on Thursday, Dec. 31, 2020, becoming the first hospital staff member to be vaccinated. Holly Hoskinson, RN, delivered the dose. Below: Hospital Director of Quality and Risk Anita McCoy prepares a dose.

Hospital delivers first doses of COVID vaccine

BY QUESTEN INGHAM
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Island Hospital gave its first doses of COVID-19 vaccine to 81 health care providers this past Thursday and expects to have most of its providers vaccinated this week.

Dr. Rachel Mank, an emergency room physician, was the first at the hospital to receive the vaccine.

"I am super grateful to be vaccinated," Mank said as she waited on a numbered chair, set up for the 15-minute precautionary observation after receiving a dose. Those who receive a vaccine are encouraged to download the app "V-safe," which can be used to report any side effects and to set a reminder to get the second dose.

The hospital was scheduling three more days of vaccinations this week for health care providers across Fidalgo Island who meet qualifications for the first phase of distribution.

Meanwhile, another Island Hospital staff member tested positive for COVID-19 in the past week, bringing the total to 13 since March. As of Monday, the hospital also admitted four more patients, bringing that total to 34.

As of Monday night, Skagit County had reached 41 deaths and



almost 200 patients hospitalized since March.

The county has reported 3,184 confirmed cases, with one-third of those since Dec. 1. There were 253

positive cases reported in the 10 days since Christmas.

The doses given Thursday

See Vaccine, page A5

Bowling alley sale marks end of era

BY RICHARD WALKER
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The year 2020 and the COVID-19 pandemic brought many changes to the world and this community, and among the things lost to history was a mainstay of entertainment and dining in Anacortes over four decades.

The former San Juan Lanes Bar & Grill bowling alley and restaurant closed in October and has a new owner, but future plans for the building haven't been made public. What is clear is that bowling almost certainly won't be part of whatever it becomes of the 17,142-square-foot building and its 34,876-square-foot lot.

When the business was closed in the fall, the lanes were dismantled and the equipment removed and sold. It marked the end of an era. The place was as known for its fish and chips, anytime breakfast and children's birthday parties as it was for league and tournament bowling (the site had an arcade and a banquet room for meetings and parties).

According to records available online from the Skagit County Assessor, Jedi Holdings LLC

of Sedro-Woolley purchased the property for \$2 million from Daryl and Teresa Wainman of Anacortes. The listing price was \$2.4 million.

"We tried hard to find another bowling operator, but it wasn't in the cards," said Matt Steiner, the Wainmans' agent and vice president of the Behar Company Commercial Real Estate Services in Seattle.

When the Wainmans first listed the property in 2019, San Juan Lanes was described as "a well-established and profitable set of businesses." In March 2020, bowling was among the activities that had to stop due to restrictions on indoor gatherings during the pandemic.

Funds from the Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act ran out, Steiner said. Seven months into the pandemic, the lanes and restaurant were shuttered for good.

Although the Wainmans were ready to retire, the closure was "a bittersweet thing," Steiner said. "We all hate to see it go."

The American reached out unsuccessfully to the Wainmans

See Bowling, page A6

City adds raise, utility staff to union contract

BY RICHARD WALKER
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The Anacortes City Council approved on Monday a revised contract with Teamsters Local 231 that provides a 2% cost-of-living pay increase for covered employees and brings broadband utility workers into the union.

The contract approved in May did not have cost-of-living allowances established for 2021 or 2022, but contained language authorizing COLAs to be established for those years and for adding broadband field technicians, the outside plant coordinator and business assistant to the union.

The 2% increase was negotiated by the union and the city based on COLA allowances negotiated by the police and fire unions, 2.5% and 2%, respectively; and the COLA in place for 2021 for Teamster members in a comparable city,

Arlington, 2.5%.

The council voted 6-1 in favor; Councilman Matt Miller opposed, saying he didn't support bringing broadband workers into the union until the fledgling utility "can pay for itself," and because the budget impacts were not identified. City Finance Director Steve Hoglund said 2% increases were anticipated and included in the 2021 budget.

It's one of four collective bargaining agreements, all of which can be viewed at www.anacorteswa.gov/154/Labor-Agreements. In addition to the Teamsters, the city has labor agreements with the Anacortes Police Services Guild for commissioned and non-commissioned employees and the International

See Contract, page A5

Anacortes Soo Bahk Do excels at nationals

BY BRIANA ALZOLA
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Each year, a few Soo Bahk Do students from Anacortes compete at a regional and national level.

This year, since the competition switched to a virtual setting and people could tune in from afar, 28 local members of the Soo Bahk Do community competed at the national championship.

Of those, 18 placed in the top three within their own categories among the 400 or so competitors.

"We were just blown away," said Colette Arvidson, who owns and teaches at Anacortes Soo Bahk Do with her husband

Andy.

Soo Bahk Do is a traditional Korean martial art and self-defense for all ages. Students learn physical techniques and forms, as well as Korean terminology and history.

Anacortes Soo Bahk Do has students between the ages of 4 and 80 or so, according to Colette Arvidson.

Placing first this year at the national competition were Stella Davis (orange belt, 9-year-old division), William Hollman (red belt, super senior division), Joshua Kelley (white belt, adult adaptive division), Heather Leahy-Mack (ee dan,

See Nationals, page A4



SCREENSHOT

Via video, Matthew Lowrie showcased skills including breaking a stack of three 1-inch-thick pine boards, to earn third-degree ranking. He competed recently at a national competition for the second year in a row.



Views

Looking *Anacortes AMERICAN* Back

Jan. 8, 1891

There never was, there is not at present, and there never will be but one city upon Fidalgo Island. That city, for the present, will be where it is today – centralized upon the northern side of the island, along the shores of Ship harbor and Guemes Channel. We have good and sufficient reason to believe that, with the progress of time, the city will grow in size, in greatness and importance, and that it will eventually cover the greater portion of the island.

Jan. 6, 1911

The large Norwegian freight steamer Herm, one of the largest steamers that ever called here, arrived in port on Wednesday noon, throwing anchor at the dock of the Anacortes Lumber & Box Company. She is in command of Captain A. Zachariassen and carries a crew of thirty-two men. She is 356 feet long, has a 50-foot beam and draws 24 feet of water when loaded. She came here from Willapa Harbor.

Jan. 6, 1921

Without a single address of welcome from retiring mayor or councilmen or a word of appreciation of the work of the old administration, from the incoming mayor or council to express the really utmost friendliness between



Jan. 6, 1931 – Members of the Anacortes Fire Department have been covering the city this week placing the March of Dimes canisters in businesses to make it easy for the public to aid the campaign. Jerry Hein turns over one of the canisters to Mrs. Howard Nicholson at the Anacortes American office with Don Strom, center, looking on. Other firemen aiding in the project are Bob Strickert, Iver Johnson and Vern Etlicher.

members of the two bodies, the old city council adjourned sine die late Tuesday night, and the new council moved into the vacant seats at the council table.

Jan. 8, 1931

Next Monday the twenty second session of

the legislature of the State of Washington will open in Olympia. Because of the intense interest that has been developed in the Deception Pass bridge measure on Fidalgo as well as on Whidbey Island, this session has particular significance for this section of Skagit County. So far as Anacortes is

concerned this is the outstanding legislation that will come up during the session.

Jan. 4, 1951

Anacortes residents drew down the curtain on 1950 at 12 midnight Sunday to conclude another important chapter in the city's

96-year-old history. Construction, business change-overs and high employment set the local temp during a year which saw the nation reenact many wartime measures to meet the Korean emergency. Restoration of draft quotas for the second time in a decade and enlistments claimed many Anacortes men now serving at home or with U.N. forces in Korea.

Jan. 5, 1961

Ten Anacortesians were aboard the giant British passenger liner Arcadia that went aground on reefs at Honolulu harbor at 7 a.m. today, but none of the ship's 1,182 passengers were in any immediate danger, it was reported.

Jan. 7, 1971

The Northwest Air Pollution Authority (NWAPA) is seeking volunteer odor observers in the March's Point, La Conner, Similk Beach, Ala Spit, Hope Island, and Anacortes areas who have been affected a number of times by the smell of bad odors to aid the NWAPA to determine the type and extent of odorous and other air pollutants that are emitted in the air. The odor observer system is being set up in response to complaints received by the NWAPA from people in the March's Point, Anacortes, and La Conner areas about bad odors.

Nationals

Continued from page A1

dan, senior division), Celia Mack (pal gwe division), Jack Mitchell (green belt, 9-year-old division) and Michael Moore (ee dan, super senior adaptive division).

Placing second were Liam Davis (pal gwe tiger 4-to-6-year old division), Baela Harris (green belt, 11-year-old division), Keith Mack (cho dan senior division), Asa Waham (orange belt, adult division) and Alex Zavala (green belt, 9-year-old division).

Placing third were Morgan Esposito (white belt, 8-year-old division), Bianca Hooker (red belt, first gup 10-year-old division), Jackson Huffman (white belt, 7-year-old division), Rylee Huffman (white belt, 9-to-10-year-old division), Owen Larkin (pal gwe tigers 6-year-old division), James Reddick (pal gwe division) and Sophie Reddick (white belt, 11-to-12-year-old division).

Earning participation awards at the national event were Scarlett Honeman (green belt, 8-year-old division), Simon Lippe (green belt, 9-year-old division), Matthew Lowrie (ee dan, teen division), Tennison Runnels (white belt, ninth gup 9-to-11-year-old division), Teddy Russell (pal gwe tigers, 5-year-old division) and Peter



CONTRIBUTED

Asa Waham placed second at the national championship this year.

Sorensen (green belt, 8-year-old division).

Asa Waham, an adult with special needs who earned second place at nationals, joined Soo Bahk Do for a very specific purpose: He wants to be a Power Ranger.

Part of the audition process to be a Power Ranger is to know a martial art, so he signed up for Soo Bahk Do. Waham said he wants to be a Red Time Force Ranger.

Waham entered in a special needs category but a clerical mistake

meant his video was listed under the general adult category. He still placed second.

"I loved it," he said.

This year has been hard, because Waham hasn't been able to participate in work, in Aktion Theater or other programs he loves, his mom Darannie said.

The Anacortes Soo Bahk Do team worked hard to make sure there would be a way to continue these classes.

"It's been the best thing to keep Asa social and active," Darannie

Waham said.

Rylee Huffman, 10, and her brother Jackson, 8, both also placed third at nationals after joining Soo Bahk Do a few months ago.

They signed up as a way for Jackson to cope with ADD/ADHD without medication, mom Janessa Huffman said. She said she's seen his ability to concentrate, confidence and control grow while taking the Soo Bahk Do classes.

Before, he had a hard time focusing on reading. Now, he can speak words in Korean (as required by Soo Bahk Do) and can remember and repeat forms.

Jackson said he likes to "learn new stuff" and that the hardest thing about the classes is doing them at home right now.

"We don't have a lot of room," he said.

Rylee attended class to help support her brother.

"I like that we learn new things and then we keep doing those things we learned," Rylee said. "We learn through repetition."

Recording a video for nationals made Rylee very nervous because she didn't think they would do well.

"We both placed and were really happy about it," she said.

Matthew Lowrie earned a participation award this year, but he also competed at nationals last year in person. It was definitely different to film a video in Ana-

cortes and send it in, instead of demonstrating for the judges.

"Last time, I met with people from all the different regions," he said.

He is keeping those connections up, but misses the aspects of sparring and interactive work that comes with being in the room with others, he said.

Lowrie also completed another test in October for his third degree ranking, which included breaking a stack of three 1-inch-thick pine boards.

His next test can only happen after four more years of training and includes a trip to Korea to train for eight days under masters, Lowrie said.

The required years of training between tests can be long, but it's rewarding when achieved, Lowrie said.

"You can really show what you learned between the last test and this one," he said.

The Arvidsons opened Anacortes Soo Bahk Do in 2005, and 2020 was a year like no other, Arvidson said. Classes went to a Zoom-only format in March. Then, after a few months, classes opened back up in small groups inside the school. Ultimately, classes have been offered both in-person and online, Colette Arvidson said.

Technological improvements at the dojo and the ability to go online have been in the works for some time,

she said. They wanted a way to be able to reach students who had moved away or who lived elsewhere. Things always delayed the project until the pandemic made it necessary.

"We kept saying 'We'll do this, we'll work something out' and the pandemic forced us to do that," Colette Arvidson said.

The online format is working well for Ken Jacot, 78. He said he signed up for Soo Bahk Do when he was 69 because his grandson was studying it. He would take his grandson to class and watch and realized he wanted to try it.

He found it to be an enjoyable form of physical conditioning. It helps combat against the loss of speed, balance and strength that come with aging and also helps him stay connected to others.

COVID-19 forced him to isolate because his age makes him at a higher risk. So he has been taking classes online.

He said he has been studying for his upcoming third-degree test. That means going over a choreographed series of forms that he needs to memorize and be able to execute perfectly.

He is working on them in his living room and it works OK, but not great. He's looking forward to the vaccine that will allow him to go out again.

"It's hard to do partner forms when you don't have a partner," he said.

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