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# STANWOOD CAMANO NEWS

SCNEWS.COM ◆

◆ TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2020 ◆

◆ \$1.50

## Inslee eases some limits

*Construction, State Parks, fishing, golf slowly resuming*

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State parks, boat launches and golf courses will be the first recreational activities to restart starting May 5.

Gov. Jay Inslee announced Monday afternoon that state parks, state boat ramps and golf courses can slowly start reopening. The news comes a few days after Inslee allowed some construction projects

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Inslee said in a Monday news conference.

The reopening applies to state-managed parks, such as Camano Island State Park and Camano Beach State Park, in addition to wildlife areas, recreation land, boat launches, and natural areas. Camping and other overnight accommodations will remain closed. DNR recreation sites will be opened up as soon as possible beginning May 5.

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## Playing with ponies

*A parade of horses brings joy to Warm Beach Senior Community where residents have been on lockdown since early March*



By EVAN CALDWELL  
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**E**unice Brezicha made sure she pet each horse.

"This is just such a joyful thing for all of us," the Warm Beach Senior Community resident said Friday. "This just makes our day."

Three horses from the neighboring Warm Beach Horsemanship Program toured around the 22-acre facility, visiting many of the 325 residents either in person or through windows.

The community has been on lockdown since March 6, a week before Gov. Jay

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Warm Beach therapeutic horsemanship program helps people with a variety of health conditions

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Inslee's stay-home order. There have been no confirmed COVID-19 cases there, but the staff is helping residents battle cabin fever, Executive Director Gary Dewhirst said.

"Every week we try to do something," he said, such as dropping goodie bags on doorsteps. "We partner with the Warm Beach horse camp when we can. Right now we can't bring the residents to the horses, so we brought the horses to the residents."

Warm Beach Horsemanship director Lisa Tremain, volunteer coordinator Pam Whims and instructor Rachel Tilgner deftly rode their horses through the community, sometimes guiding the gentle animals right up to residents' windows for a close-up connection.

"This was a special hug when we can't actually hug them," Dewhirst said. "There were some wonderful moments today. It really touched a lot of our residents."

The equine visits plucked special heartstrings with some residents who were clearly moved by the gesture.

PHOTOS BY EVAN CALDWELL / STANWOOD CAMANO NEWS

**Above:** Though separated by a glass window, Phyllis Busse interacts with Ebon on Friday Warm Beach Senior Community during a visit from horses and riders from the neighboring Warm Beach Horsemanship program. **At right:** Marian Harlander, in purple, reaches out to pet Caelum, who is being ridden by Pam Whims, at right.



**ONLINE:** See more photos from the event at [SCnews.com](http://SCnews.com)

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## YMCA transforms into child care center for local frontline workers

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On a typical Tuesday, about 700 people walk through the doors at the Stanwood Camano YMCA.

Nowadays, giggles from upward of 20 kids are the only noises echoing off the now-empty corners of the community hub. Since the governor's stay-home order on March 13, the YMCA morphed into a child care center for kids of frontline workers.

"It's a quiet place now," said Dan Powell, Stanwood Camano YMCA branch executive director. "But if the community didn't build this place, there wouldn't be a place to have this childcare option. It's amazing to have kids still in the building."

During the afternoon on Tuesday, April 21, nine of the 32 children signed up for the program were

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**The Stanwood Camano YMCA now hosts 32 kids of front-line workers, such as police officers, firefighters, teachers, nurses and doctors.**

