



STANWOOD CAMANO NEWS

QUALITY NEWS, LOCALLY SOURCED

SCNEWS.COM

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2021 | \$1.50

Local shops get creative ahead of holidays

Area retailers combating supply chain squeezes, pandemic

By MARY JENNINGS
For the Stanwood Camano News

Even though global supply chain issues and pandemic restrictions present a challenge, local merchants are finding creative ways to keep shelves stocked for holiday shoppers.

“By being persistent in my efforts, I was able to find new products,” said Traci Smith, owner of the Picnic Pantry, a specialty kitchen and gift shop in Stanwood. “While it’s been a lot of work and a lot more hours than usual, I feel confident in having a great supply of unique, quality gifts for the entire season.”

Smith and fellow Stanwood-Camano businesspeople were able to lean on their flexibility to find products over the past few months.

The global supply chain is being hit with a multitude of problems — factories closed due to COVID-19 surges, a lack of containers, backups at ports and warehouses, and a shortage of truckers — prompting smaller retailers to cast wide nets to get goods.

“Being the buyer and owner of a small gift shop allows me the flexibility to order from any suppliers that I choose,” Smith said. “As the year progressed and I could see keeping my shelves stocked was going to be an issue, I just kept ordering product.”

■ SEE SHOPS, A15



Saving the bell

The historic Camano City schoolhouse will soon ring again



PHOTOS BY EVAN CALDWELL / STANWOOD CAMANO NEWS

Ed Bednarczyk, a vice president of the Camano Schoolhouse Foundation, inspects the refurbished bell and its new tower that will be lifted onto the historic 1906 building in early 2022.



CAMANO CITY SCHOOLHOUSE FOUNDATION

The Camano schoolhouse seen in this undated historic photo with its bell in a tower.

By EVAN CALDWELL
ecaldwell@scnews.com

It’s been 85 years or more since the Camano City schoolhouse bell rang out over Saratoga Passage.

That will change early next year. “It’s the crown on the schoolhouse,” said Ed Bednarczyk, a vice president of the Camano City Schoolhouse Foundation. “It’s symbolic; bells are just symbolic. It’s a sound that will return back to this community and certainly be heard out on the water.”

In 1906, the cast iron bell was perched atop the one-room school-

house, calling students to and from class until 1936 when the district consolidated with Stanwood, and all students were bused to town.

The bell was housed in a bell-tower until the 1940s when it was removed, possibly because the tower was rotting and people feared the about 300-pound bell falling through the roof, Bednarczyk said.

The bell was taken to the nearby Camano Chapel.

“They were probably just looking for a safe nearby place to stash it for a bit, but it ended up being forgotten about,” Bednarczyk said.

■ SEE BELL, A12

Island County officials declare state of emergency after storm

Rep. Rick Larsen tours damage

By EVAN CALDWELL
ecaldwell@scnews.com

The Stanwood-Camano area is still reeling from extensive damage caused by a devastating storm Nov. 14-15.

A blast of tropical moisture that dumped rain for days, causing flooding and mudslides throughout the region, also whipped up powerful westerly winds that toppled trees, knocked out power to thousands and fueled a damaging storm surge.

“The damage was stunning to me,” Island County Commissioner Janet St. Clair said. “The north side of the island was hammered.”

The Island County Commissioners



EVAN CALDWELL / STANWOOD CAMANO NEWS

A storm surge pushes ocean water into homes at Utsalady Bay on north Camano Island during a weather event that hit the region on Nov. 15 causing widespread damage and flooding.

on Nov. 16 voted to declare a state of emergency, which could open access to Federal Emergency Management Agency assistance.

On Friday, U.S. Rep. Rick Larsen,

D-Washington, and St. Clair toured damage on the west and north sides of the island.

■ SEE STORM, A4

Bell

► FROM A1

The historic building sat mostly quiet until the Camano City Schoolhouse Foundation bought the site in 2012. Around the same time, the foundation received a call from the Camano Chapel.

“Camano Chapel had the bell for — they don’t even know how long,” Foundation Treasurer Chuck Durland told the Stanwood Camano News in 2016. “They think since the beginning of the church. They had been moving it around from closet to closet for 65 years.”

By 2016, Tami Douglas had found boxes in their family’s 1911 Camano house from her great-grandfather, who had once been superintendent of the schoolhouse. She found his notebooks, filled with careful cursive and more than a dozen postcards from teachers. And, on the front of one of those postcards, a photo of the schoolhouse — with a belltower.

For the foundation, that photo was the missing link. It was proof the schoolhouse once had a belltower.

While initial fundraising efforts and donations were aimed at restoring the building, the foundation members always envisioned the triumphant return of the bell. The crown jewel atop the schoolhouse.

“It took time to raise the money and secure donations, and the pandemic slowed us down, too,” Bednarczyk said, referencing COVID restriction limiting the group’s ability to host fundraising events. “We had hoped to have



PHOTOS BY EVAN CALDWELL / STANWOOD CAMANO NEWS

At top, Ed Bednarczyk inspects the new remotely controlled striker inside the bell. Above, the inside of the Camano City schoolhouse remains decorated and ready for events in the historic 1906 building, hopefully in early 2022, schoolhouse foundation officials said.

this done two years ago, but we can move forward now thanks to generous donors.”

The project ramped up Sept. 15 when crews hauled in new beams to

reinforce the existing schoolhouse so it can withstand the weight of the bell and its tower.

Meanwhile, David Pelletier, a principal architect at Pelletier + Schaar in Stan-

wood, donated his time to help design the belltower — mostly based on a few surviving historic photos and from other historic Camano school buildings from that era.

“Camano has changed a lot over the years, so it’s nice to help preserve something,” said Pelletier, who has also helped with past Camano Schoolhouse projects. “Things can eas-

Schoolhouse lighting

Saturday, Nov. 27, 6 p.m.

Camano Island’s historic 1906 at 993 Orchid Road, Camano Island will be adorned with thousands of white lights for drive-by viewing. Lights for the tree and school house will be switched on every evening until midnight through New Year’s Eve. Camanoschoolhouse.com

ily get forgotten about.”

Next, a company is set to reroof the schoolhouse. Then a crane will raise the bell and its new tower — weighing about 1,700 pounds — into place, likely in early 2022, Bednarczyk said.

The foundation hopes to host a celebration at the schoolhouse in spring to mark the return of the bell. “To ring in spring,” Bednarczyk said.

James Androuais, owner of McShane Bell Co. in St. Louis, Missouri, came to help with the installation, complete with automated equipment that allows the bell to be programmed and activated remotely from a smartphone.

Androuais said the bell doesn’t display a date it was made, which was common 120 years ago with the more economically cast iron construction.

The tentative plan is to set the bell to ring on a regular basis — maybe clanging out three rings once a day — and more on special occasions. In addition, LEDs will illuminate the bell and its tower in any color of the rainbow for whatever the occasion.

“When you hear that sound,” Bednarczyk said, “it warms the soul.”

LeafGuard is the permanent, clog-free gutter solution.
Get it. And forget it. *Guaranteed not to clog for as long as you own your home, or we will clean your gutters for free

QUALITY TESTED
GOOD HOUSEKEEPING
 Since 1909
 LIMITED WARRANTY • ghaa.com for details

LeafGuard
 17 YEARS BACKED BY THE SEAL

- LIFETIME NO-CLOG WARRANTY
- MADE ONSITE SPECIFICALLY FOR YOUR HOME
- THE ONLY ONE-PIECE SEAMLESS DEBRIS SHEDDING GUTTER SYSTEM.
- SCRATCHGUARD® PAINT FINISH

LeafGuard
 Get it. And forget it.
360-654-4228

Call Today for Your FREE Estimate!

END OF THE YEAR SALE!
75% OFF LABOR!*
 PLUS

\$50 RESTAURANT GIFT CARD
 WITH IN-HOUSE ESTIMATE AND GUTTER INSPECTION!†

*Offer does not include cost of material. Discount applied by representative at time of contract execution. Offer ends 11/30/2021. †All participants who attend an estimated 60-90 minute in-home product consultation will receive a \$50 gift card. No purchase necessary. Retail value is \$50. Offer Sponsored by LeafGuard Holdings, Inc. Limit one gift card per household. LeafGuard procures, sells, and installs seamless gutter protection. This offer is valid for homeowners over 18 years of age. If married or have a life partner, both cohabitating persons must attend and complete presentation together. Participants must have a valid photo ID, understand English, and be legally able to enter into a contract. The following persons are not eligible for this offer: employees of LeafGuard or affiliated companies or entities, their immediate family members, previous participants in a LeafGuard in-home consultation within the past 12 months and all current and former LeafGuard customers. Promotion may not be extended, transferred, or substituted except that LeafGuard may substitute a gift card of equal or greater value if it deems it necessary. Gift card and terms and conditions https://www.darden.com/gift-cards/terms-and-conditions/ of such gift cards will be mailed to the participant via first class US Mail within 21 days of receipt of promotion form provided at consultation. Not valid in conjunction with any other promotion or discount of any kind. Offer not sponsored or promoted by Darden Restaurants and is subject to change without notice prior to reservation. Offer ends 11/30/2021. LeafGuard operates as LeafGuard of Seattle in Washington under license number LEAFGH21RC.

Never Clean Your Gutters Again!
 Harry Helmet.com

Veterans Day SALE
FREE INSTALLATION
 + 0 PAYMENTS 0 INTEREST
 For 12 Months†
10% OFF
 Extra For Seniors/Military

NXTGen Designer Series Gutters
15% OFF Exclusive Designer Gutters!

40 YEARS
#1 AMERICA'S CHOICE
 FOR GUTTER PROTECTION

Monthly Payments Available Starting at \$16/mo†

Get a FREE Estimate
360-309-0232

- ✓ Installs Over Existing or New Gutters
- ✓ Triple Lifetime Performance Warranty, Transferable
- ✓ Keeps Leaves, Debris, And Animals Out
- ✓ Direct Rain Water Where You Need It

Handles **22" /hr** of RAIN

Over 1 Million Satisfied Customers!

Gutter Helmet
 NEVER CLEAN YOUR GUTTERS AGAIN®

*Expires 11/15/21. Valid initial visit only. Cannot be combined with any other offers. Discount is towards installation/labor cost of job only. Min. purchase is required. †Subject to credit approval. Monthly payments required during promotional period. Financing for GreenSky® consumer loan programs is provided by federally insured, equal opportunity lender banks. NMLS #1416362. Licensed, Bonded, Insured. See website for state licenses and more details © 2021 Lednor Corporation.