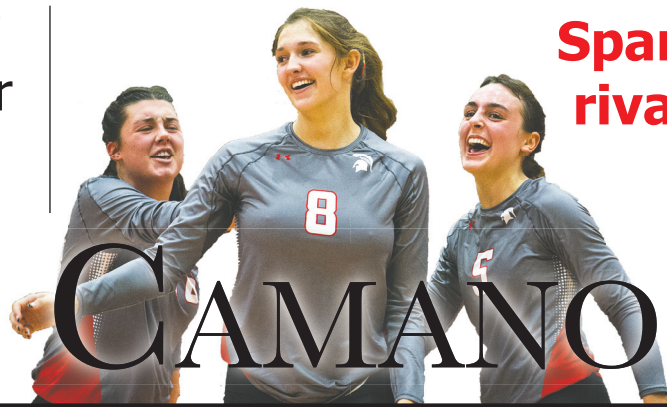




Art by the Bay proves popular

NEWS A10



Spartans take down rivals in epic match

SPORTS B1

STANWOOD CAMANO NEWS

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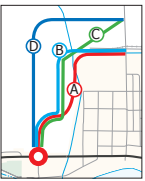
City eyes taming traffic

Stanwood Council looks at ideas for Highway 532, other city streets

By PEGGY WENDEL
pwendel@scnews.com

New results from a local traffic survey are helping the Stanwood City Council design its roadmap for future road improvements.

Brett Schlock, engineer and planner of Transpo Group, met Oct. 14 in a special meeting with the Stanwood City Council to discuss the results of a public opinion survey regarding ways to improve Highway 532 traffic flow.



ONLINE

See 4 options for a bypass with this article at SCnews.com

Early this year, the city received \$50,000 in grants to evaluate options, including roundabouts, a bypass for Skagit-bound traffic and highway improvements for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Transpo is the city's on-call transportation engineering company that prepared concept options for the survey, with five bypass variations and four highway corridor designs.

The survey, conducted June 21-July 24, received 107 responses — 50% from Camano Island residents and about 44% from the Stanwood area.

Some council members were surprised by the low response rate. Others said it was a good response for a survey and received a better response than past open houses.

■ SEE TRAFFIC, A10

A monster splash

Floating pumpkin patch makes waves at Stanwood-Camano YMCA



PHOTOS BY EVAN CALDWELL / STANWOOD CAMANO NEWS

A girl collects pumpkins underwater during the Pumpkins in the Pool event Saturday at the Stanwood-Camano YMCA.



About 135 pumpkins bobbed in the pool and lazy river for kids and families to play with. Children were able to take a pumpkin home after the event.

By SC NEWS STAFF

Pumpkin patches are sprouting up throughout the area ahead of Halloween on Sunday — even at the Stanwood-Camano YMCA pool on Saturday.

The pool was packed with children and families playing with the small- and medium-sized gourds.

Afterward, children got to take a pumpkin and a bag of candy home.

It was one of many local Halloween events happening in the area this month.

See more fun and spooky local events in our 360 Calendar roundup on Page A7 and online at SCnews.com.

ShakeOut tests new tech

Stanwood-Camano schools try out new equipment that warns of quakes

By EVAN CALDWELL
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Students dove under their desks and held on.

“It can happen that fast,” Stanwood High science teacher Michael Randall said to his class after the earthquake early warning system drill Thursday. “Two seconds is all the time we might have.”

Students and staff across the Stanwood Camano School District used the annual Great American ShakeOut drill for the inaugural test of its new district-wide earthquake early warning system — the first of its kind in the state.

“This was a good test to show



EVAN CALDWELL / STANWOOD CAMANO NEWS

Stanwood High students participate in the Great American ShakeOut earthquake drill on Thursday.

us where we need to make some audio level adjustments, but we were pleased with the overall performance,” said Liz Jamieson, the district’s director of capital projects.

The district deployed an earthquake early warning system in 2019 at Stanwood Elementary — the first school

in the state to connect to the USGS’s ShakeAlert system. It has since added sensors to all 13 of its buildings and connected them to a centralized intercom that is automatically activated by a seismic event.

■ SEE SHAKEOUT, A8

Police.....A2 Obituaries.....A6 Puzzles.....AX Weather.....B2
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New-look city council takes over

Newcomer picked to fill vacant seat

By PEGGY WENDEL
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The Stanwood City Council voted in Andreena Bergman to fill Position 6, left vacant when Sid Roberts became mayor in November.

Bergman and Judy Williams were the only two applicants for the position. They both lost in November when they

ran for other council seats. Bergman lost to Marcus Metz, and Williams lost to Tim Schmitt by five votes in a narrow race that went to an automatic recount.

Before the council decision at Thursday's meeting, Bergman and Williams gave presentations and answered questions.

■ SEE SEAT, A8



Andreena Bergman
4th new City Council member

Stanwood leaders outline 2022 priorities

By PEGGY WENDEL
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The Stanwood City Council begins 2022 with four fresh faces, a new mayor and a long to-do list.

Gone are longtime city leaders, such as former Mayor Dianne White, who did not seek re-election. And with them go much of the firsthand memory

of council action going back decades.

"It's hard to replace that experience, knowledge and expertise, with Dianne serving the city in so many capacities," council member Darren Robb said. "I'm hopeful and optimistic that, though the council isn't as experienced as it was a month ago, the new council

■ SEE PRIORITIES, A8

Bookmarking a century

'I'm certain that the Stanwood Library will continue to have an important role in our community — just as it has for the last 100 years.'



PEGGY WENDEL / STANWOOD CAMANO NEWS

Librarian Vicky Beatty shelves books last week at the Stanwood Library, which celebrates 100 years on Jan. 26.



The original Irvine Library building was sold to the Twin City Sportsmens Club in 1970 and moved east of downtown on 64th Ave. NW, where it still stands.

By MARY JENNINGS
For the Stanwood Camano News

The Stillaguamish Band played, two sisters performed a "butterfly dance," readings with violin accompaniment were given and a "dainty" lunch was served as the citizens of Stanwood explored the shelves of the community's first library 100 years ago.

This joyous affair held Jan. 26, 1922, was the culmination of years of effort by the Four Leaf Clover Club, a local women's association whose mission was getting books into the hands of the people of Stanwood, according to Stanwood

Camano News archives.

"In 1917, Stanwood had special reason never to underestimate the power of its women. Then, as in recent years, the town had a library project and it was the women who swung into action," Alice Essex wrote of this dedicated group in "The Stanwood Story, Volume II."

The Four Leaf Clover Club held bake sales, socials, chicken dinners and other fundraisers. A boon to their effort was the bequest of \$2,500 for a library from the estate of Lizzie Irvine, whose donation was later matched by her husband.

■ SEE LIBRARY, A5

School levy ballots in the mail

Voters deciding on renewing 4-year facility & tech levy

By EVAN CALDWELL
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Stanwood-Camano voters soon will decide on renewing the School District's four-year Facilities and Technology Levy.

Ballots are being mailed to area voters this week. The existing four-

year levy, approved by voters in 2018, expires at the end of 2022.

The \$8.3 million collected during that time helped pay for several building improvements, including fire alarm systems at Stanwood and Twin City elementary schools, a new roof at Port Susan Middle School, replacement of exterior windows at Stanwood Middle School and playground updates at Utsalady, Elger Bay and Cedarhome elementary schools.

The money also went toward buying enough Chromebook laptops for each student, a move that school officials said proved useful during

the pandemic.

"These are all major projects that are not funded by the state," said Steve Lidgard, district business and finance director. "And with a four-year levy, it's a steady source of funding that allows the district to make longer-term plans."

If approved, the replacement levy would collect about \$10.3 million over four years at a tax rate of about 27 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value, which is about \$108 a year on a \$400,000 home and roughly the same as the expiring levy.

■ SEE LEVY, A6

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City OKs Viking Way work

Phase 2 starts
with studying
new intersection

By PEGGY WENDEL
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Stanwood is starting work on rerouting Viking Way through the Snohomish PUD storage yard to line up with an entrance to the Towne Center shopping area.

The City Council approved \$331,600 for a contract with Pertect Engineering for Phase 2 design work and right-of-way acquisition so the new road will align with a driveway near the QFC fuel pumps and become a four-way intersection on 92nd Avenue.

"This will make 92nd Avenue a much safer street by reducing the amount of competing/conflicting left turns," Public Works Director Kevin Hushagen wrote in a staff report.

City staff advertised a request for qualifications for engineering services and received two, of which Pertect was the clear winner, Hushagen said. They did the design and right-of-way work on 90th Avenue (Viking Way Phase 1 project) and have the most knowledge of the site and the potential issues, Hushagen said.

During Phase 1, which rebuilt the road from 88th Avenue NW to the shopping center with PetCo and Grocery Outlet, construction ran into unforeseen soil conditions that caused cost overruns.

■ SEE CITY, A8

Tackling life's currents

92-year-old still stocking local stores with his handmade lures



PEGGY WENDEL / STANWOOD CAMANO NEWS

Don Croghan takes inventory with Leslie Hawthorne of Camano Marine for his homemade lures last week.

By PEGGY WENDEL
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Don Croghan still makes the rounds, selling handcrafted fishing tackle.

The 92-year-old designs and manufactures Lucky Leaders and Crogie's fishing tackle, which is popular with local fishing enthusiasts.

He lives in north Seattle and drives as far as Deception Pass to replenish stock in fishing tackle stores in Skagit, Snohomish and Island counties.

Every other week, he swings by Camano Marine to go over inventory with co-owner Leslie Hawthorne. They fill empty spots, and perhaps she'll try a new lure.

Tackle therapy

This homegrown fishing tackle business began on the kitchen table as therapy for

"I've never been able to just sit in the rocking chair, and I don't want to. It keeps me sharp and not having dementia. I get to create things in my mind."

— Don Croghan

his son. Now it serves double duty as a creative outlet that keeps Don Croghan's mind sharp.

In 1977, Ron Croghan, then 19, was riding motorcycles with a friend. A drunk driver ran a stop sign and hit them, killing the friend and severely injuring the son.

After an extended stay in the hospital, Ron Croghan was a long time recovering at home. In 1985, Lucky Leaders began as a tentative livelihood.

"It took us a while to come up with this particular business. ... We thought of many things, but this is something (Ron) could do. And this is something that Don likes to do," wife Lilly Croghan said. "(Ron) was left with a severe learning disability, he learns by repetition, so in this kind of work ... it's repetitive. It's worked out great."

"There was a little tackle store close to us, I started tying leaders for him," Don Croghan said.

Then he approached a larger store, Camano Marine — that was three sets of owners ago — and they tried out his lures. Selling at Camano Marine led to supplying 10-12 other stores.

■ SEE TACKLE, A3

Local health officials urge all to wear masks in public spaces

Effort needed to combat climbing cases, delta variant

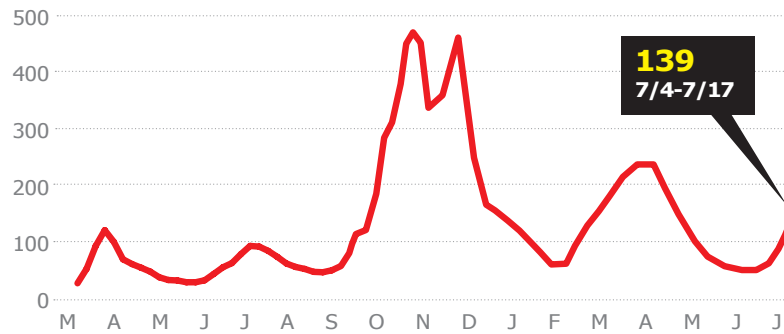
By EVAN CALDWELL
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Snohomish County health officials now urging all — even the vaccinated — to return to wearing masks in public spaces as local cases continue to climb.

There have been dozens of outbreaks and hospitalizations so far in July in the county, officials said.

The worsening data and the growth of the highly transmissible delta variant prompted Snohomish Health District's Health Officer Dr. Chris Spitters

Snohomish County COVID-19 case rate per 100,000 people



to join other state public health leaders in asking all people to wear a mask when entering a public indoor space, regardless of vaccination status.

"This step will help reduce the risk of COVID-19 to the public, including customers and workers, help stem the

increase in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations in many parts of the state and decrease the spread of the highly contagious Delta variant," Spitters said in a joint statement Monday with

■ COVID, A10