



# STANWOOD CAMANO NEWS

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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

# Tackle

FROM A1

The business has evolved and is no longer on the kitchen table. Ron Croghan, now 66, still lives with his parents, helping in the tackle business that gives father and son something productive to do.

"My shop is about 20 by 20, and you wouldn't want to go in there, but I know where most everything is," he said.

When the fishing tackle business began, Don Croghan worked in the office of a stevedoring company — for six years until he retired at age 62.

He gets great satisfaction from the art of making lures.

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



PEGGY WENDEL / STANWOOD CAMANO NEWS

**Don Croghan, left, has been hand-making fishing tackle since 1985.**

people buy them."

"He has a fantastic memory; he still remembers everything," Lilly Croghan said.

### Art of the lure

Don Croghan builds the lures to move through the water to attract fish. He assesses the weight of each

lure, and how it will turn, spin or move in the water. Different fish are attracted to different colors, shapes, sizes and styles of lures.

Some lures are crimped to have a pattern; some have different colors that fish can see at different times of day underwater.

"It's quite a science behind the creative side of it, as well," Hawthorne said.

"If it's something new and he doesn't have it, a guy has to have it in his tackle box whether he catches anything with it or not," Don Croghan said. "I like to create new ones. Sometimes I'll do it in the middle of the night."

After his wife couldn't find her keys, he made her a key chain out of a bright pink spoon lure.

Then he added key chains and earrings into his line.

Don Croghan also had to navigate supply chains to find the parts he needs for specific types of lures. For example, some lures have a "wedding ring," a tiny band set with glittery white stones. "It took me 18 years to find where to get those," he said.

Hawthorne and Don

Croghan talked about the possibility of a huge humpy run in September. Humpies tend to go for pink lures, so Hawthorne makes sure to stock them.

Not only do lures have to catch the fish's attention, they have to catch the buyer's eye. Men tend to like red lures, Don Croghan said. "I like red."

Since the Lucky Leaders business took off with its first account at Camano Marine, it now provides 70% of the store's fishing tackle.

"We have customers especially coming in and asking for his lures," Hawthorne said. "Don is old school in his thinking that his customers come first. If it doesn't sell, he takes it back. He's generous with giving us information and standing behind his product."

His goal is to continue Lucky Leaders until he's 100.

"Many have quit and the fishing isn't as good as it used to be, but I keep plugging along," Croghan said.

## People

### Academic Honors

Sara R. Newman of Stanwood was awarded an \$8,500 fellowship from the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi. Newman received a bachelor's degree in biology from Pacific Lutheran University and will pursue a Doctor of Medicine at the University of Washington School of Medicine.

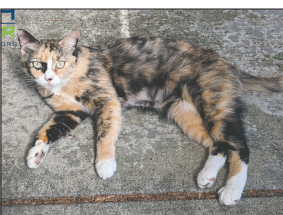
Rebecca Lynn Rustand of Camano Island was named to the Pacific University Dean's List for 2021 spring semester. Rustand graduated cum laude with a bachelor's degree in biology.

Katlyn Marie Tew of Stanwood graduated as a Doctor of Optometry from the College of Optometry at Pacific University, 2021 spring semester.

### Legislative appointments

Camano Island state Rep. Greg Gilday was recently appointed to the Office of Homeless Youth and Prevention and Protection Advisory Committee, the Ruckelshaus Center Work Group on Homelessness and Housing, and the Joint Legislative Unanticipated Revenue Oversight Committee.

### Pets



### Annabella awaits at NOAH

Annabella is cautious around new people but

quickly warms up once she becomes comfortable in her surroundings. This young kitty gets along well with other cats and can be playful and frisky. She would be an excellent addition to a feline-loving home.

Appointments: 360-629-7055



### Meet Bernie at CASA

Bernie is 4-month old husky-mix who is looking for a forever home with an active family willing to train him. He has lots of energy and needs a large fenced yard for playtime.

Bernie requires lots of attention, and prospective families must have experience with huskies or other large, active breeds to succeed with this special guy.

Appointments: 360-387-1902

### Meetings

#### Island County Commissioners

Island County Commissioners meet on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. Information: islandcountywa.gov/commissioners

#### North County Fire Authority Board of Commissioners

North County Regional Fire Authority Board of Commissioners meets at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, July 28, at Station 99, 8117 267th St. NW, Stanwood. Information: 360-629-2184

#### Stanwood City Council

The City Council meets

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online at 7 p.m. on Thursday, July 29, on Zoom. Information: stanwoodwa.org

### Camano Island Fire & Rescue Board of Commissioners

Camano Island Fire and Rescue Board meets at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 9, at the Administration office, 811 N. Sunrise Blvd., Camano Island. Information: camanofire.com

### Island County Planning Commission

Island County Planning Commission meets at 2 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 9. Information: islandcountywa.gov/planning/pages/planningcommission.aspx

### Stanwood-Camano School Board

The Stanwood-Camano School Board will hold a virtual Special Meeting study session at 1 p.m. Tuesday, July 27, on Zoom. Information: stanwood.wednet.edu

The Stanwood-Camano School Board meets at

1 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 3 with in-person attendance following current COVID safety protocols at the Administration office, 26920 Pioneer Highway, Stanwood and on Zoom. Information: stanwood.wednet.edu

— SC News staff

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