

SOUNDER

Serving Orcas, Lopez and San Juan County

Wednesday, August 18, 2021 ■ VOL. 54, NO. 34 ■ \$1 ■ islandssounder.com

Mask mandate is back

— page 4



Frank Loudin: Nostalgia fuels a life of visual storytelling

Online auction of original artwork will benefit Orcas Center, starting end of August



BY DIANE CRAIG
Staff reporter

Frank Loudin is unabashedly old school. His artistry is grounded in detail, tissue overlays, hand-drawn renderings of complex structures and unapologetic nostalgia. He's a man unashamed of his emotions and sensitive to the nuances of a story.

Beginning Aug. 29, in an online auction to benefit Orcas Center, Loudin is letting go of 60 striking examples of his nuanced storytelling along with dozens of prints.

It was time. After he and Jannie, his wife of 62 years, began downsizing their life it became apparent he no longer would have studio space to paint nor a place to store his robust collection. What would

become of his unsold collection?

"A friend heard me whining about it and suggested I consider selling them to benefit the Orcas Center. Jannie and I have so many wonderful memories of the center, and I've exhibited there in the past — even tapped dance on stage! It felt like a natural fit."

"Besides," he smiles, "I don't have to do anything. Just give them the paintings, and show up for one night. They'll take care of everything else. Leaves me time for my naps."

Listening to the 91-year-old artist talk about how he came to his craft is an adventure in storytelling, though he cautions the wide-eyed listener that what they hear may not be totally factual.

"I've told these stories so many times," he says with the twinkle in his eyes of a mischievous young



man, "even I'm not too sure they happened."

Caveat Emptor. The tales he shares begin with his father, a mountain boy growing up dirt poor in West Virginia. Timber and coal mining jobs employed many of the able-bodied, and a future outside the tunnels and forested hills were rare. It wasn't until old man Loudin, at 20, was drafted into the first World War that he wore shoes for the first time in his life. When his dad fell in love with Loudin's mom, the back-country boy had some hard decisions to make.

"She set the record straight," Loudin said. "If he was to marry her, my dad would have to attend college, which he did. He followed that with graduate school and, ultimately, a Divinity degree from Boston University and ultimately became a Methodist minister."

His eyes welled up. "I was deeply proud of him. Sometimes I'm embarrassed to admit that I never had a religious connection with my father," Loudin said. "I've always felt bad about that because I loved and admired and respected him so

much. He was an amazing, gentle man."

Loudin's illustrious seven-plus-decades career encompasses, by the artist's own count, some 1,300 original paintings, including 600 architectural drawings, "the kind with tissue overlays," he explained.

In fact, architectural renderings were the focus of Loudin's early career. He studied art and architecture in New Mexico and Colorado, and illustration at the renowned Art Center School of Design in Los Angeles.

He developed a reputation for creating stellar renderings of complex designs and worked on projects that took him to Mexico, England, Alaska and Texas. It was his love of history, however, and images from his years traveling the country's west and southwest that became the hallmark of his art.

"When Jan and I hooked up, we dedicated our spare time to travel. We'd follow Blue Highways, back roads that took us through forgotten places on maps: sparsely populated villages, old mill towns and long-ago abandoned farms.

DIANE CRAIG/STAFF PHOTO
Far left: Frank Loudin in his home.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

At left: Artwork by Loudin, who has been painting for much of his 91 years.

Images of old sawmills, tractors, barn signage — all of it appealed to me at some deep level. It still does."

With a trained eye for detail, Loudin's paintings offer mechanically correct images of vintage biplanes and steam engines, historical old mine heads and vintage John Deere tractors and magical images of teeny-tiny fairy-folk gathered at the base of a thundering waterfall — all of them inspired by, or the inspiration for, a story.

This is a man in love with his creations. Even now, years after painting a lovely branch of Washington red apples, he chuckles with delight as he points to the small cider processing machine that sits atop one apple and the incredibly small machinery that transports the cider along the branches to small trucks for delivery. His is a mind rich with imagination, which may explain why he has 57 original short stories on his computer waiting to be compiled.

With no studio of his own where he can lose himself in creating a story on canvas and where his paints and brushes are easily accessible, writing may be Loudin's next creative career.

For now, though, 60 paintings need to move into new places.

"I know my work isn't for everyone. But I hope some people will like what they see and appreciate the care I took in telling the story with my brush," he said. "The paintings are like my children. They're figments of my imagination; embodiments of my spirit. Each one of them is a part of me and I want them all to end up in good homes."

SEE LOUDIN, PAGE 8

Politics and plants | Evans leaves behind a legacy

BY COLLEEN SMITH
Editor/Publisher

A passion for property rights led John Evans to serve three terms on the San Juan County Council.

The 40-year Orcas resident died peacefully in his home on the evening of Aug. 2. He was 78.

"He loved the lifestyle here and it was important for him to do all he could to keep it that way," said his wife of 42 years, Wanda.

John first discovered the San Juans while on spring break from college in the 1960s. He and a handful of fraternity brothers from the University of Oregon sailed through on their way to Vancouver, B.C., and

John vowed to return one day.

He and Wanda met in Santa Barbara while at the same corporate restaurant chain, where John was vice president of marketing and Wanda worked in accounting. They bought 28 acres of pasture, growing grounds and woodlands in the Doe Bay area in 1973. By 1985, with both of their sons in college, the two decided to live on Orcas full-time.

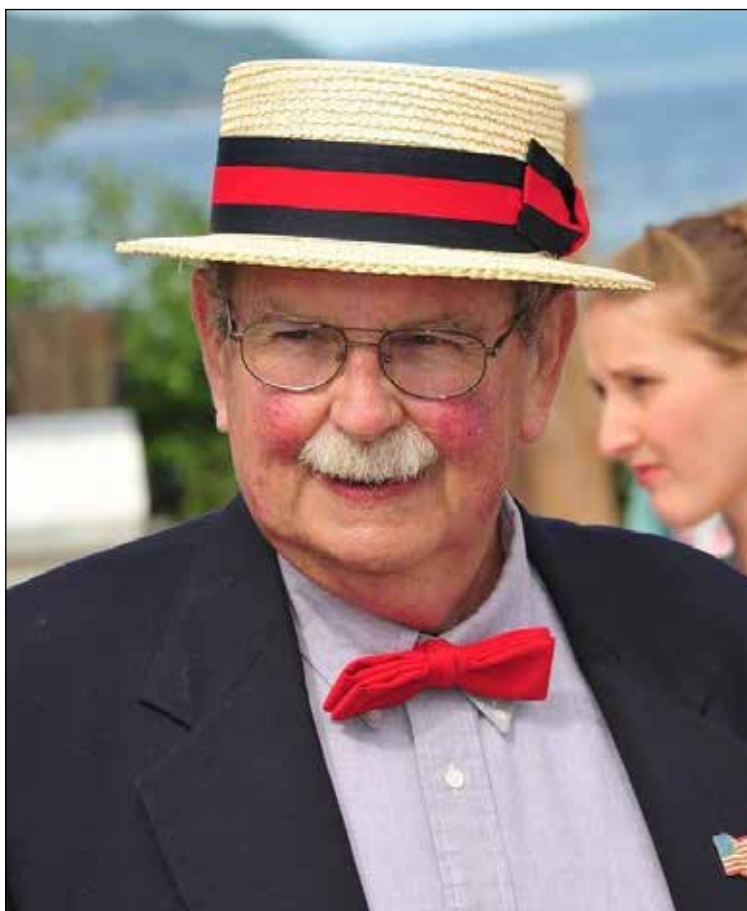
"It was wonderful. We'd been up for several summers and Christmas camping on the property, so we knew what we were getting into," Wanda remembered. "For both of us, it was time to make a change in our lives and get away from our corporate lives."

They launched Evans Nursery in 1989, offering a variety of plants and fruit and heirloom trees. John helped organize the Arbor Day tree giveaways for many years, and their property, which later grew to 40 acres, was also home to sheep and chickens. Wanda will continue to run the nursery.

Evans served on the council from 1992-2003, inspired to run after the county announced plans to straighten the Flaherty's Hill area of Olga Road, which would have required eminent domain on private land. After his election, he was successful in halting the project.

"He was always in favor of property rights and fewer rules and regulations," Wanda said. "He was really pleased to be a part of the ban on jet skis in the waters of San Juan County."

After his tenure in county



SELBY LIGHTHILL/CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
John Evans, former county council member, died on Aug. 2.

Friend Jim Durand called him a "husband, father and all-around fantastic person" who did "many great things for the county, Orcas and the Doe Bay Community."

Justin Paulsen wrote, "John was an adversary to many, a champion to others and a friend to all. He leaves behind a legacy on Orcas and in San Juan County of leading from the front and making hard decisions when they were necessary. He also leaves a legacy that around our house is enjoyed every year and will be well into the future."

Jean Wellington wrote, "John was a good man and the most responsive county commissioner we've had since I've lived on Orcas."

Hilary Canty, executive director of the Orcas Island Community Foundation, lives in the Doe Bay neighborhood.

"He was a remarkable neighbor and community member. Both he and Wanda served Orcas Fire and Rescue for many years, keeping the Eastside safe and sound. He will be missed. Love to all who loved him," she said.

Wanda says John, who was known for a twinkle in his eye, was genuinely happy all the time. He even got along with everyone, even if they didn't agree politically, she added.

"That was his personality: always smiling, always happy," she said.

government, John served on the Economic Development Council, as chairman of the San Juan County Fair Board and as executive director of the San Juan Building Association, a nonprofit dedicated to addressing issues facing the housing industry. He was also a volunteer firefighter alongside Wanda, an EMT, and played the clarinet.

The Evans' sons, who both live in

Santa Barbara and have two children each, visited their parents this summer and were able to spend quality time with John.

After news of his passing, islanders posted on Orcas Island Memorial Facebook page, thanking John for his service to the county in his political and nonprofit endeavors and for providing botanical treasures.

Canoe journey in the islands

BY SIENNA BOUCHER
Staff reporter

While locals and tourists may be complaining about ferry waits, the Blue Heron Canoe Family is visiting the islands by carrying out a 10-hour canoe journey.

Last week, the canoe family visited the islands — tracing ancient pathways that their ancestors used. Members said they were

excited to participate, as they had missed out on last year's journeys due to COVID. The greater number of participants required a second canoe — the Willapa. The family stayed at the San Juan County Fairgrounds, holding a ceremony at the end of the day before leaving in the early morning Thursday.

Mike Evans, the father of the Blue Heron Canoe Family, said of the

ceremony, "It's not a performance, it's not entertainment, it's sharing."

Evans said they shared song and dance with those who attended, although they hope to get more attendees next time. He said he has hope for the future that it will become a bigger event on San Juan Island.

Julian Wall has been a member of the Blue Heron Canoe Family since joining the LEAF school program at Edmonds Community College. Although she is not Indigenous, she has felt very welcome in the canoe family.

"It is international

intertribal and accepting of everyone," Wall said. "Very welcoming place and has open arms to anybody and everybody and you are welcome to the family and it really is a family. It is a beauty to behold."

The first Blue Heron Canoe paddle was from La Push to Seattle in 1989.

"I also happened to be in La Push in 1989," Wall said with a laugh. "My mom said I was out there sitting on the beach watching the canoes go out. I was four and don't remember it, but I didn't find this out until I was 30!"

Since joining, she said she has enjoyed being able

to respect and be involved in Native culture.

"Being in the Pacific Northwest, I think everyone has a connection to Native and tribal land," she said.

Evans also stressed this point, as he said there is a lot of Native history in the San Juan Islands.

"The Native population was everywhere," he said. "They were the caretakers of the land before it became what it is today."

The Natives of the islands were primarily the Salish peoples, said Evans.

One of the remnants of the Native island population that Evans and his canoe family enjoyed seeing were the camas flowers. The camas has a root-like daffodil bulb but it is much smaller. Waiting for the

plant to flower is important to correctly identify it, said Evans.

While the Blue Heron Canoe group has strong ties to Lopez, where locals have greeted them with generous amounts of food, they wish to continue to strengthen their ties on San Juan Island.

After paddling for 10 hours and 30 miles in the smoke-filled air, they had to switch routes and end up in La Conner rather than Lummi.

While it is a long and sometimes unpredictable trek, Evans said that they will continue to visit the islands, continuing to say, "We can't wait to revisit our new families on the island."

FRANK FROM 1

Given the artistic acumen of the island's art-loving community, that shouldn't be too tall an order. And do ask the artist about the story behind the painting. It will be well worth your time.

Frank Loudin/ Orcas Center Pre-auction sale event

Friday, Aug. 27
5 - 7:30 p.m.

Take advantage of an opportunity to meet with the artist, hear his stories and see his work up close. This night only, all artwork will be discounted by 10%. Patrons may pick up their purchases on Oct. 3.

Online Auction

An online auction of all remaining items begins 10 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 29 and runs through Oct. 3. Find more information at www.orcascenter.org/Loudin or call 360-376-2281, ext. 1.



School Supplies Drive

Support your Orcas Island public schools and help reach our goal of \$5,000!

Aug. 1 - Sept. 30

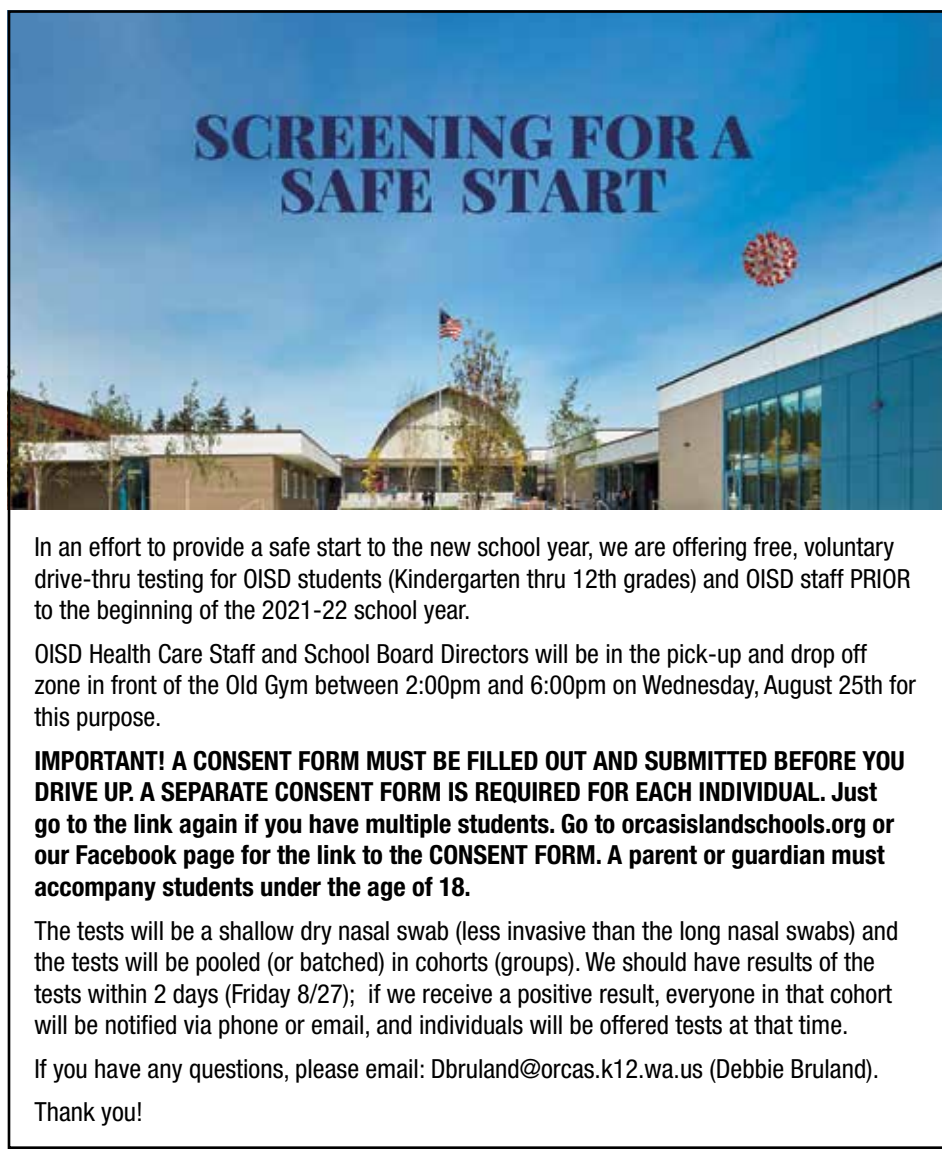
\$2 from every Teezer's Coffee Bag purchase will be donated!

Goal updates available in store and on our social media.

Donate in store or online @ OrcasIslandMarket.com

Or scan this QR code with your phone!





SCREENING FOR A SAFE START

In an effort to provide a safe start to the new school year, we are offering free, voluntary drive-thru testing for OISD students (Kindergarten thru 12th grades) and OISD staff PRIOR to the beginning of the 2021-22 school year.

OISD Health Care Staff and School Board Directors will be in the pick-up and drop off zone in front of the Old Gym between 2:00pm and 6:00pm on Wednesday, August 25th for this purpose.

IMPORTANT! A CONSENT FORM MUST BE FILLED OUT AND SUBMITTED BEFORE YOU DRIVE UP. A SEPARATE CONSENT FORM IS REQUIRED FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL. Just go to the link again if you have multiple students. Go to orcasislandschools.org or our Facebook page for the link to the CONSENT FORM. A parent or guardian must accompany students under the age of 18.

The tests will be a shallow dry nasal swab (less invasive than the long nasal swabs) and the tests will be pooled (or batched) in cohorts (groups). We should have results of the tests within 2 days (Friday 8/27); if we receive a positive result, everyone in that cohort will be notified via phone or email, and individuals will be offered tests at that time.

If you have any questions, please email: Dbruland@orcas.k12.wa.us (Debbie Bruland).

Thank you!



ORCAS EATERIES

Updated service information from local restaurants

EASTSOUND

ENZO'S CAFE

Now open for business.

LOWER TAVERN

Open Daily, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Dine-in and carry out available.

MIJITAS MEXICAN KITCHEN

Open 4 p.m., Mon. - Sat.

THE MADRONA BAR AND GRILL

Open 7 days, Noon - 8 p.m.
Take-out including drinks to go
Dine in / max. party of 5
Reservations recommended for dinner
50% capacity inside/masks required

WHITE HORSE PUB

Open 7 days, 11:30 - 8 p.m.
Full menu available
Dine in or Take-out
Bar closes at 10 p.m./No bar seating
50% capacity inside/masks required

ORCAS

ORCAS HOTEL

Open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily with a full selection of pastry items, café menu, espresso, cocktails, beer and wine, etc. Guests may order online or in-person at the café counter. Seating is available on our patio, as well as our covered front porch. Café seating will likely commence in phase 3.

WESTSOUND

KINGFISH

Weds-Sat 5pm-9pm
limited indoor and outdoor seating
reservations suggested:
360-376-4440 or kingfishinn.com

ROSARIO

CASCADE BAY GRILL & STORE

(No Reservations)
Grill (Outdoor Dining): Noon - 8pm Daily

THE MANSION RESTAURANT AT ROSARIO RESORT & SPA

Reservations 360-376-2152 x400
Breakfast: 8 am - Noon Daily
Dinner: 5 pm - 9 pm Tuesday-Sunday
www.rosarioresort.com

OLGA

BISTRO, OYSTER & WINE BAR @ BUCK BAY SHELLFISH FARM

Salish Sea & Farm to table cuisine
Dine Outdoors with a view, or enjoy hands free to go
Open Monday - Saturday 11:30 am - 6pm & Sundays 12pm - 5pm
Closed Thursdays
Buckbayshellfishfarm.com
1(360)375-3216
buckbayshellfish@gmail.com



Call the Sounder to advertise
376-4500
Cost: \$13.25 per listing
6 lines max