



STANWOOD CAMANO NEWS

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Notable in Business

BBQ is smoking; eye clinic, accounting firm move

Plus, a new shop selling treasures opens in town

By PEGGY WENDEL
pwendel@scnews.com

An estate liquidator has moved into a prominent downtown Stanwood location. A BBQ joint opens, an eye clinic moves and an accountant takes his shop to Camano.

Estate Liquidators

Roaming through Estate Liquidators is like being on a treasure hunt. The store is attracting the attention of antique dealers and designers as well as homeowners looking for something different. Here they find antiques, custom furniture, rugs, art, a litter chair and fountains — there's even a mid-century Frigidaire Flair kitchen range like Samantha had on the '60s Bewitched TV show.

The storefront is interior designer Mark Mandelin's side gig. When COVID-19 hit and his sales outlets closed, he put his collections into storage and racked up huge fees. So he opened Estate Liquidators in Viking Village where Amundson's Auction used to be.

He's selling his collectibles at a loss, "but it's better than paying storage fees," he said.

His main work is as a designer, but his store is open noon-5 p.m. Thursday and Saturday, and 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday.

■ SEE BUSINESS, A4



Swimming across the bay for grandma

Family conquers Port Susan to honor family matriarch



PHOTOS BY PEGGY WENDEL / STANWOOD CAMANO NEWS

Above: Brook Lathim, in teal wetsuit, swam from Tulare Beach to Camano Island for her grandmother Lorraine McKinnon, 99, in pink. At top: Brook Lathim is welcomed ashore after crossing Port Susan Bay on Saturday.



COURTESY JAKE GOETZE

Swimmers cross Port Susan with support of friends and family in water craft.

By PEGGY WENDEL
pwendel@scnews.com

The last time Lorraine McKinnon went swimming in Port Susan Bay, she was in her 80s.

She waded out using a walker until she was waist-deep, then plunged in to swim.

She and her husband, the late Jack McKinnon, moved to Tyee Beach in 1975 and raised two daughters.

"I'd get up every morning at about 6

and go for a swim, from April to September. I'd always say, 'One day, I'll swim across the bay,' but I couldn't find anyone to go with me," she said.

She'd swim up and down the shoreline, using a number of different strokes to use all her muscles.

After her children grew up, they'd still congregate at Tyee — on the south end of Camano — raising another generation swimming, crabbing and boating at the beach.

■ SEE SWIM, A9

COVID wave stressing hospitals, demand for testing increasing

By EVAN CALDWELL
ecaldwell@scnews.com

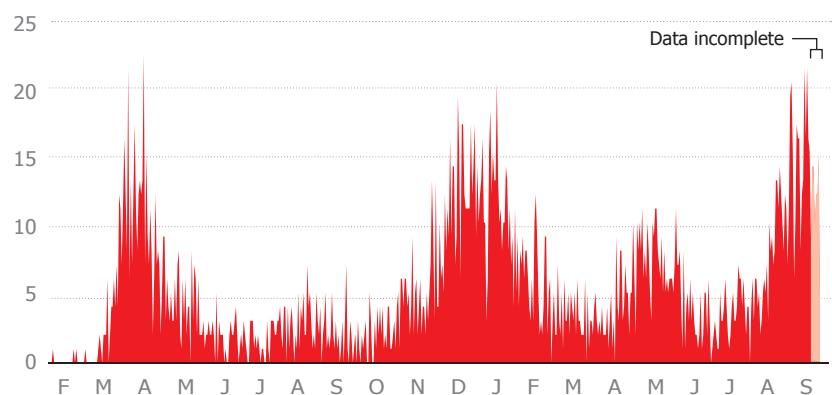
As the local COVID wave continues, it is straining area hospitals and creating a surge in demand for testing.

Hospitals in Snohomish County are seeing a steady increase of ill people needing treatment as the delta variant drives up new cases to the second-highest level so far since the pandemic began in early 2020, local health officials said in a virtual press conference Aug. 31.

The rate of new COVID cases during the most recently available two-week period stands at 446 per 100,000 people, said Dr. Chris Spitters, health officer for the Snohomish Health District.

Two weeks ago, about 15,000 COVID tests were performed in the county with roughly 15% coming back positive — a level not seen since April 2020.

Snohomish County COVID-19 hospitalizations, per day



COVID hospitalizations have reached about 100 people a day — a level not seen since before vaccines became widely available.

"Without the benefits of vaccination afforded to the community by the roughly half-million Snohomish

County residents who have lent their arm to the effort, our currently stressed health care system would be completely overwhelmed," Spitters said.

But it can be better, he said.

■ SEE COVID, A4

