



EVAN CALDWELL / SCN
Aleena Wiegand signs a Letter of Intent earlier this month.

College Report

Spartans sign with colleges

Meanwhile, former Stanwood grads shine at next level

By EVAN CALDWELL
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So far this school year, six Spartan athletes have announced commitments to play sports at the collegiate level.

Aleena Wiegand recently signed a Letter of Intent to wrestle

at Eastern Oregon University, an NAIA college in La Grande, Oregon.

Wiegand advanced to the Mat Classic state championships in wrestling in 2019. She also earned all-Wesco honors during a four-year career on the Spartan girls swim team, which included trips

to the state swim championships.

Rachel Russell signed to continue her soccer career at Northwest University in Kirkland. Russell is a forward who has earned all-Wesco honors in addition to Stanwood High's Career and Technical Education Student of the Year award.

"Rachel is a fast, technically gifted, goal-scoring, and versatile player who we are excited to add to NU women's soccer," said Northwest head coach Bryan Chud said in a news release. "Rachel is driven to succeed and achieve her potential, and we look forward to having her be an integral part of the program."

■ SEE COLLEGE, B2

On the attack

Deep boys hoops team aiming high

By EVAN CALDWELL
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The Stanwood Spartan boys basketball team is looking to build on a pair of convincing wins last week.

"I think they're attacking this 10-game season the right way," head coach Zach Ward said of the COVID-shortened sports season. "They're not just going through the motions, they're not getting distracted by the end-of-year stuff. They're working hard at practice."

The energy was palpable Thursday in the home-opener against Snohomish.

The Spartans used a variety of weapons to power a 17-5 run in the second quarter that built a 39-19 halftime lead.

Cort Roberson repeatedly slashed and dashed his way into the paint to score a game-high 25 points. Kolton Scott (14), Dom Angelshaug (11), Jake Cleary (11) and Mack Hepper (10) also scored in double-figures.

However, late in the third quarter Ward had words with the referees and was ejected — the first time in his career.

"I didn't feel like we were getting a fair shake, and I think they (the Spartans) were getting frustrated," said Ward, who now must sit out the next game. "I told the boys afterward I was in the wrong. I shouldn't have gone that far."

The Panthers continued to chip away, cutting Stanwood's lead to 11 before the Spartans ignited for a 19-0 run to put a stranglehold on what became an 88-49 win.

Two days earlier in the season opener, the Spartans outpaced Marysville-Pilchuck for a 73-41 victory.

Cleary led the team with 14 points. Scott added 12, Kaeden McGlothlin tallied 11 and Roberson had nine.

"I think some kids really developed in the offseason," Ward said of his deep roster. "I think we have to play fast. They're a pretty skilled group. The best way for us is to push the tempo and create more possessions because we have more weapons."

Ten different Spartans scored against Marysville-Pilchuck and nine scored against Snohomish.

"We have some guys who are hungry behind these seniors," Ward said.



PHOTOS BY EVAN CALDWELL / STANWOOD CAMANO NEWS

Cort Roberson soars toward the basket for two of his game-high 25 points in Stanwood's 88-49 win over Snohomish on May 13.

MORE ONLINE

See our photo gallery from this event at **SCnews.com**

Watch and listen to Spartan sports at **TCSNsports.com** and at the Stanwood High YouTube page

"Kolton (Scott), Mack (Hepper) and Dom (Angelshaug) have been really good for us."

The Spartans also celebrated their six seniors Thursday.

"Jake (Cleary) and Cort (Roberson) have really taken on leadership roles," Ward said. "They've been the hardest workers in practice, really cool to see. I think they're all taking full advantage of this season, this opportunity."



Kolton Scott hauls in a rebound in the second half against Snohomish. See more photos from the game with this article at SCnews.com.

Prep Roundup



EVAN CALDWELL / SC NEWS

Emma Floyd shoots one of her six 3s in a 74-17 win over Marysville-Pilchuck on May 12.

Wrestling, hoops open seasons with wins

Girls lacrosse collects a pair of dominate victories

By EVAN CALDWELL
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The Spartan girls basketball team played two very different games last week.

In the season-opener on May 13, Stanwood deftly and easily contained Marysville-Pilchuck in a 74-17 rout.

When the Spartans decided to press, the defense rarely allowed the Tomahawks to cross midcourt without a turnover.

When Stanwood settled into their defense, they always seemed to get a hand in the passing lane, which led to a slew of uncontested fast-break points.

And when the Spartans were in their offense, the ball often found Emma Floyd, who scored 22 points and tied the school record with six 3-pointers. Vivienne Berrett scored 16 points, and Tatum Brager added 12 points.

The onslaught propelled the Spartans to a 28-9 lead after the first quarter.

"We have a bunch of great shooters," head coach Trent Adams said.

In addition to Floyd, Brager was 4-of-9 from beyond the arc and Cezanne DePew was 2-of-4 from 3. Six Spartans recorded steals.

"They have really quick hands, and all of them really anticipate well, communicate well," Adams said. "Last year we put a lot of emphasis on defense, and we picked up right where we left off."

But two days later, the Spartans were flustered by pressure from Snohomish, falling 49-39 to the Panthers.

■ SEE ROUNDUP, B2



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PHOTOS BY EVAN CALDWELL / STANWOOD CAMANO NEWS



Countdown to summer is a blast

Utsalady Elementary students watched last week as rockets made by fifth-graders were launched high into the air.

Forty-eight students in the two fifth-grade classes make a rocket from from 2-liter bottles, Duct tape, clay and wings.

A group of students launched their rockets on June 8 and another group on June 10. Rockets are launched using an air compressor and water. The tradition has been carried on for 21 years at Utsalady.

See more photos from the rocket launching at SCnews.com/gallery.

Orca plan accepting public comment

By KIMBERLY CAUVEL
Skagit Publishing

While endangered Southern Resident orca whales found in the Salish Sea are rarely seen by the average person, the species continues to be in the spotlight.

Several organizations are holding events throughout June to celebrate Orca Action Month, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries is gathering input on several plans that could shape efforts to protect and understand the species.

In an effort to prevent the species from going extinct, NOAA Fisheries announced last week its plan to approve the Pacific Fisheries Management Council's recommendation to curtail chinook salmon fisheries in the region in order to ensure fish are available for the whales to eat.

NOAA Fisheries is taking public comment on the plan, which the Pacific Fisheries Management Council recommended in November. The comment period closes Aug. 2.

The plan includes nine

actions to curb commercial and recreational fisheries if the number of chinook forecast to be available north of Oregon's Cape Falcon falls below 966,000. That threshold is the average of the seven lowest years of available chinook since 1994.

In the region north of Cape Falcon, including within the Salish Sea, recreational chinook fishing quotas would be reduced and the spring commercial troll quota halved.

The Associated Press reported last week that the plan would be one of the

few cases where a federal agency restricts hunting or fishing of one species to benefit another that relies on it.

According to the nonprofit Center for Whale Research, there are 74 of the whales remaining in the wild across three family groups called the J, K and L pods.

Despite gaining federal protection as an endangered species in 2005, the population has continued to decline. Research has shown the whales are suffering due to a lack of their primary food source — chinook salmon — as well as water pollution and underwater noise from vessel traffic. Research continues in an effort to pinpoint ways to help the population recover.

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Lincoln

► FROM A1

“His first question was can he graduate in June,” she said. “As I looked at his transcript, I was daunted by the amount of work he’d needed to complete. I was not optimistic. But I responded that with extreme effort, Yahir could be awarded a diploma in December 2021 if he worked harder than he had ever worked before.”

By April, he was eight credits away and needed to return to his mother in

California. Within a week of his departure, the school learned Gallardo earned three credits on a state English assessment and his dream of graduating in June was back in play.

“The village that is Lincoln Hill came together to help Yahir earn his needed credits,” Miller said. “And tonight Yahir stands before you and his proud family radiant in this accomplishment, having pushed past his own limits.”

Lincoln Hill Principal Ryan Ovenell said the 2021 graduating class is noteworthy for having

overcome extra obstacles from the pandemic.

“The last 15 months have been far from ideal, but I want to suggest that this time period is not what will define us, and specifically define you as graduates, but rather propel us into the next stage of life,” he told the graduates. “Regardless of your tenure here, you have all embodied our mantra of ‘Pride, Perseverance and Progress.’”

The year’s three-hour ceremony is available on the school’s website and YouTube channel.

Stanwood

► FROM A1

“Nobody learns anything from never leaving their comfort zone or doing everything right,” he said. “You have to make mistakes in order to grow.”

It was a hard-learned lesson over the past few years, he added.

“I am determined to make beautiful music from what’s ahead,” Fackenthal said. “You too can take your discouragements, tests, mistakes and turn them into your style of jazz, your personal strengths.”

Fackenthal and Vail were two of the Class of 2021’s seven valedictorians, which also included William Cun-

ningham, Jonah Grierson, Lily Monty, Zella O’Malley and Avery Zill. The lone salutatorian was David Pederson.

Monte used her time at the podium to recite a poem she wrote titled, “Sands of Time.”

Stuart Johnson performed a rendition of John Mayer’s “Why Georgia,” and Andrew Killinger and Tala Martin sang George Harrison’s “Here Comes the Sun.”

Principal Christine Del Pozo opened the commencement ceremony highlighting that the unusual circumstances that graduates experienced during the pandemic.

“You experienced a few variations of school this

year and ever-changing COVID guidelines,” she said. “You are going to look back on your high school years with many stories ... on how different your high school years were.”

She also listed off the class’s impressive resume, both in athletics and in the classroom, touching on the many students heading off to colleges, trade schools and apprenticeships.

The 239 graduates were able to have an in-person ceremony — though with pandemic precautions such as masks and social distancing — unlike last year’s all-virtual event. However, the ceremony is also available to watch at shs.stanwood.wednet.edu/event_streaming.



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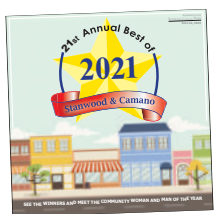
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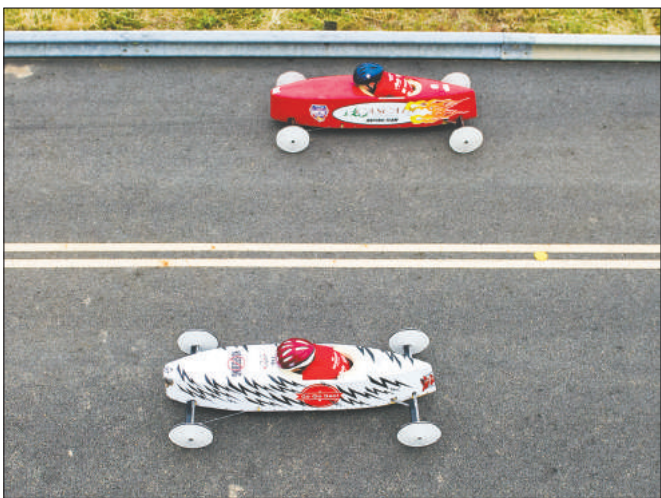


STANWOOD CAMANO NEWS

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Back on track

Soap box derby returns with day filled with sun, speed and smiles



PHOTOS BY EVAN CALDWELL / STANWOOD CAMANO NEWS

Spectators cheer on a racer during the 14th annual Windermere Stanwood-Camano Soap Box Derby on Saturday at Arrowhead Ranch on Camano Island. See more photos on Page A9 and online at [SCnews.com/gallery](https://www.scnews.com/gallery).

By EVAN CALDWELL
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Virginia Sanita popped out of her soap box derby car wearing a giant smile.

“I love this. Just love it,” the 9-year-old said. “I’m usually nervous at the top, but I’m exploding with excitement while I’m going down the track.”

Sanita was one of 76 racers to battle two-by-two down the derby track Saturday at Arrowhead Ranch on Camano Island. Though she placed eighth in the

stock division, she also earned the derby’s largest trophy: the Harry Brown Sportsmanship Award for demonstrating true sportsmanship throughout the day.

The 14th annual Windermere Stanwood-Camano Soap Box Derby returned this year after COVID-19 forced the popular race into the pits. Nearly 1,500 people returned to Arrowhead Ranch this year to watch a full day of racing at the largest derby west of the Mississippi River.

■ SEE DERBY, A9



Board honors retiring schools chief

Board also swears in new superintendent

By EVAN CALDWELL
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A changing of the guard occurred at the Stanwood-Camano School Board meeting this past week.

Past and present board members and school staff honored Superintendent Jean Shumate and Assistant Superintendent Lloy Schaaf, who both retire June 30.

Then, Deborah Rumbaugh was sworn in as the new superintendent by School Board President Natalie Hagglund. Rumbaugh will officially start July 1.

“I quickly learned you were a very strong, capable superintendent,” former board member Roger Myers said of first meeting Shumate. “The School District was in a poor financial state, and you saw this as a challenge and stepped in as a chief financial officer as well as superintendent. Within a year, the district was on a road to solid financial footing.”

Shumate started as superintendent in 2001, when the district was about \$500,000 in the red, prompting her to immediately dive into a budget crunch and cut \$1.4 million to build back the general fund.

Shumate’s retirement will mark the end of a 44-year career in education. During her time as superintendent, the district passed all Educational Program and Operations levies since 2002; passed a \$147.5 million dollar bond measure in 2017 to build a new Stanwood High School,

■ SEE SCHOOL, A5

Spotlight falls on local artists

Camano creators reopen studios this weekend for popular art event

By PEGGY WENDEL
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After a year’s hiatus, a modified Camano Studio Tour is back for one weekend, June 25-27.

Three galleries and a palette-full of artists started this event in 1999. They were so successful that they formed the Camano Arts Association to keep it going. Now CAA has developed the tour to be a key regional event, and the organization has more than 100 members.

During this popular event, artists open their studios or gather in galleries and invite art lovers in. The tour



COURTESY PHOTO

Artists will throw open the doors to their studios this weekend for the Camano Arts Association’s Camano Studio Tour.

gives people an opportunity to meet the artists and see the work in the environment where it was created.

Because of the intimate nature of bringing people from near and far into homes, studios and galleries, the Studio Tour was canceled in 2020.

■ SEE ART, A10

STANWOOD CAMANO NEWS

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Recount: Schmitt wins seat on council

By EVAN CALDWELL and PEGGY WENDEL
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An automatic machine recount Tuesday, Dec. 7, confirmed the same result in the Stanwood City Council race for the Position 7 seat.

Challenger Tim Schmitt maintained a five-vote lead over incumbent Judy Williams 826 to 821 — or 47.15%-46.86%. There were 107 write in votes. Turnout was 38.85% in the race.

The results are the same from the Nov. 2 general election that were certified on Nov. 23.

The Snohomish County Canvassing Board manages recounts. The results were certified Friday, Dec. 10.

“I want to thank everyone who voted. This race clearly shows why every vote counts,” said Schmitt, 55, a local small business owner.

Candidates with less than 0.5 percentage-point separating them are subject to a mandatory recount. Races less than 0.5 percentage-point difference but greater than 0.25 percentage-point will be recounted by machine. Races with less than 0.25 percentage-point difference will be recounted by hand.

Schmitt joins other council members to be sworn in on Dec. 23. This includes Dani Gaumond, who is new to elected office; Marcus Metz, who is stepping up from the Planning Commission; and Darren Robb, who retained his council seat. They’ll begin service Jan. 1. Their first council meeting is Jan. 13.

New mayor Sid Roberts, a former council member, was sworn in earlier this month. See Page A2 for information on applying for his now-vacant council position.



People walk through a tunnel of lights during the second Lights of Christmas event in 1998.

Exploring History

POWER of LIGHTS

How an idea to brighten our dreary winter days has grown into a beloved family friendly tradition enjoyed by more than 1.2 million



EVAN CALDWELL / STANWOOD CAMANO NEWS

A family drives through a light tunnel Friday in the Lights of Christmas display at Warm Beach.



STANWOOD CAMANO NEWS FILE

Onlookers warmed themselves by a fire during the first Lights of Christmas event in 1997. See more photos at SCnews.com

By MARY JENNINGS
For Stanwood Camano News

On a crisp fall day 24 years ago, Patrick Patterson expectedly surveyed the scene as a small army on ladders and scissor lifts strung hundreds of thousands of twinkling lights on towering Douglas firs at Warm Beach Camp and Conference Center.

Patterson and his wife Jeannie were among dozens who set out to create a glittering Christmas experience that would hopefully attract a few people in search of Yuletide cheer.

Exploring History

The sixth installment of our “Exploring History” series, which takes a deeper look at the fabric of the Stanwood-Camano area, details how the Lights of Christmas came to be and grew into a beloved local tradition.

They worked tirelessly throughout the shortening autumn days to fill the sprawling Warm Beach Camp south of Stanwood with sparkling custom light displays.

“All the staff got involved decorating indoors and outside,” Patterson said. “Putting up Christmas lights was in some way or another everyone’s job.”

The dedicated group planned a variety of musical performances, a menagerie of beloved characters and a host of traditional activities that were sure to get both young and old brimming with holiday spirit.

■ SEE LIGHTS, A5

Stanwood pushes forward its city beautification goals

By PEGGY WENDEL
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The Stanwood City Council has taken another step forward on the city’s beautification plan.

The council voted Thursday to approve the purchase of a small corner property in the Eastside historic downtown block. It also approved several artisitic endeavors, including starting a banner program and forging a partnership with an art advocacy group to potentially oversee some projects.

‘Busy Corner’

The city will purchase the Sebranke property, a small triangle property at 8627 271st Street, on the corner across from the railroad tracks. The city currently has a Christmas tree on the site. Stanwood officials have



CITY OF STANWOOD

Future beautification plans include archways into both east and west downtown Stanwood areas.

plans for the property to be part of the downtown beautification project, which could include a remodeling of the block to better facilitate events.

Community Planning Director Patricia Love said the property was

appraised at \$120,000. The assessed value is \$71,500. The city negotiated a purchase price of \$80,000, which will be fast-tracked to close by Dec. 24.

■ SEE CITY, A3

Prep Roundup



PHOTOS BY EVAN CALDWELL / STANWOOD CAMANO NEWS

Spartan senior forward Maya Macdonald sends a cross into the box during the game on Saturday, Sept. 11.

Kick-start the season

‘Excited’ and experienced Spartans open with a pair of 1-0 victories

By EVAN CALDWELL
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Maya Macdonald senses that the Spartans have gotten off on the right foot.

“We’re getting good through balls, good crosses,” the senior forward said. “We just have to finish.”

Stanwood kicked off their season with a pair of 1-0 wins before dropping a home matchup to Snohomish 3-0 on Saturday.

Hannah West scored the lone goal in the opener Sept. 7 at Bellingham on a corner kick from Ashley Sellers.

Two days later hosting Everett, West again scored on a corner kick, this time from the foot of Macdonald.

“Hannah was able to poke it by the keeper again,” head coach Lori Stunz said of the senior midfielder.

Then on Saturday, the Spartans put together a handful of clever attacks on goal but were just off-target, eventually falling 3-0 to Snohomish.

“We just couldn’t find the back of the net,” Stunz said. “It was a very slow-paced



Paige Almanza fends off a Snohomish Panther for control of the ball during the Spartans’ 3-0 loss on Saturday. See more photos at SCnews.com.

game. No sense of urgency. We weren’t successful stringing passes together.”

Despite the sluggish play, the Spartans conjured up a few opportunities in the box, but the headers and one-touches either found the keeper’s hands or the crossbars.

“We’re very heavy on the front side of things, we’re trying to keep pressure on the opponents’ backline,” Stunz

said. “Both of our goals came because we were pressing high.”

However, she said, that strategy comes with the need for lots of discipline on our back end because that can leave a lot of space in a transition.

On Saturday, the Spartans trailed at half 1-0, but surrendered a pair of Panther goals within minutes of each on transitions.

The Spartans will seek to rebound Tuesday when they host Cedarcrest before traveling to Shorewood on Thursday.

Stunz said sophomore keeper Madison Reis-Elbara is off to a good start with a pair of shut-outs and junior Maggie Flickner has brought “great energy and deceiving speed” so far.

“The biggest thing is that we need to be consistent,” Stunz said, adding that she’ll be leaning on the team’s 11 seniors such as Macdonald.

“Maya (Macdonald) leads with this quiet presence,” Stunz said. “She’s pretty dynamic when she’s on.”

Macdonald added that they plan to make the most their senior season after experiencing a COVID-shortened year.

“We’re excited,” she said.

Volleyball

The Spartans are proving more than capable of making key adjustments.

Stanwood volleyball opened the season with a 3-1 victory over Oak Harbor on their home court.

■ SEE ROUNDUP, B2



EVAN CALDWELL / STANWOOD CAMANO NEWS

Otto Wiedmann sprints around the edge for a few yards during the Stanwood home football game on Friday, Sept. 10.

Miscues slow Spartan offense

Ground game finds traction at times against Tommies

By EVAN CALDWELL
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Untimely miscues led to the Spartans sputtering.

The Stanwood offense pieced together the beginnings of solid drives Friday against No. 8-ranked Marysville-Pilchuck but were stymied by mistakes, eventually falling 49-14 Friday night.

“We were moving the ball and being pretty physical against one of the best lines in Wesco and all of 3A,” head coach Jeff Scoma said. “But drives ended with three fumbled snaps. That killed us. We can’t fumble snaps.”

The Spartan defense hung tough for most of the first quarter, holding the Tomahawks on fourth down to end their opening drive and forcing a fumble to quash their second drive.

But Marysville-Pilchuck then found some success with a few long run sweeps, which seemed to open up their playbook a bit and allowed the Tommies to build a 21-0 halftime lead.

“We put together a couple long drives,” Scoma said. “One eight play drive ended with an interception. Another eight play drive ended with a touchdown.”

■ SEE FOOTBALL, B2



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NEWS A10



Spartans take down
rivals in epic match

SPORTS B1

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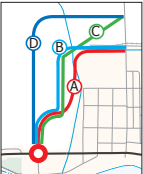
City eyes taming traffic

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
ecaldwell@scnews.com

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
Views.....A4 360 Calendar.....A7 Sports.....B1 Classifieds.....B3





EVAN CALDWELL / STANWOOD CAMANO NEWS

Carson Beckett runs through the rain and the Mount Vernon defense on Friday.

Spartans pour it on

Stanwood runs for 6 TDs in rainy win over Mount Vernon. Next: Spartans host Lynnwood for a playoff berth

By EVAN CALDWELL
ecaldwell@scnews.com

The Spartans ran over the Bulldogs in their Wesco 3A North finale. Stanwood racked up six touchdowns on the ground through a driving rainstorm to secure a 40-7 victory and

a home playoff play-in game Friday against Lynnwood.

"I thought we were very physical and we played fast," head coach Jeff Scoma said. "I think the offensive line is getting better and better. ... When we ran a sweep, we had guys flying up the field with confidence and precision."

The Spartans opened the game with 37-yard touchdown run up the middle by Bumgarner, who eclipsed 1,000 rushing yards on the season during the game. Carson Beckett followed on the next drive with a 15-yard TD run.

Scoma said center Nathan Guerra's sprint from the huddle to the line before each play "gives us that energy we need. Credit to the line for playing physical and fast, and to all the runningbacks, who got vertical and made the right cuts."

■ SEE FOOTBALL, B3

Prep Roundup

Tennis advances all 6 to districts

By EVAN CALDWELL
ecaldwell@scnews.com

All six Spartans advanced from last week's Wesco 3A North boys tennis championships to this week's District Championships — the only school to accomplish such a feat.

"It's pretty special," head coach Ryan Ingram said. "Each match had ups and downs. All of them had some moments of excitement and some regrets."

The doubles team of Brandt Gilbertson and Blake Reid fell to Everett's Daniel Woodard and Grant Mueller in the title game. The close match went three sets (5-7, 6-4, 6-3) and earned the Spartan pair second place and a bye into the double-elimination bracket at the district tourney.

The Stanwood duo of Connor Wickstrom and Cameron Bailey defeated a team from Cascade to win the third-place match.

"Cam Bailey and Connor Wickstrom fought through adversity in every match to earn third," Ingram said.

In singles play, Huston Rawls earned fourth place and Morgan Zill took fifth place at the two-day tournament at Snohomish High.

"There were a lot of close matches and three-set matches," Ingram said of the experienced senior-heavy team. "They have confidence from the long season because they've had these situations where they have been there before, and I think that helps a lot in close matches."

Cross country

Stanwood boys and girls teams each finished second at the eight-team Wesco 3A North championships Saturday at Arlington Airport.

"From top to bottom, I think everyone ran faster," head coach Mike Evans said. "I'm really proud of the teams' effort."

The top five Spartan girls in the 5k race were Leia Jones (2nd, 19:02.9), Lael ten Hoopen (6th, 20:24.7), Aubree Carr (9th, 20:59.3), Kate Bladek (11th, 21:25.9) and Mary Wilson (15th, 21:47.7).

"Jones ran a smart, tactical race. Ten Hoopen had a really good day with a PR. Lindsey Khoury had a 25-second PR," Evans said. "The girls are still in the driver's seat for a chance at getting to state."

The top five Spartan boys were Owen Palmer (11th, 17:35.2), Wouter Van Veen (13th, 17:37.4), Ryker Belles (15th, 17:44.8), Dylan Standish (22nd, 18:09.9) and Antonio Sanchez-Racine (23rd, 18:12).

■ SEE ROUNDUP, B4



PHOTOS BY EVAN CALDWELL / STANWOOD CAMANO NEWS

Spartans celebrate the winning point in Stanwood's 3-2 victory over rival Arlington on Oct. 21.

'Phenomenal'

Spartans prevail in epic 5-set home battle over rival Arlington

By EVAN CALDWELL
ecaldwell@scnews.com

One point at a time.

That was the simple recipe the Spartans followed in their punch-for-punch five-set home victory over rival Arlington on Thursday.

The game plan helped when the Spartans found themselves trailing 24-20 in the first set after watching their 19-13 lead evaporate.

Stanwood senior Grace Henken paused and refocused as she prepared to serve.

"I was thinking, 'Don't miss.' I was just focused on one ace at a time and doing it for my team," Henken said. "I don't want to let them down."

With Henken serving, the Spartans answered with five straight points on their way to a 27-25 win that set the tone for what would become a thrilling and boisterous battle ending with Stanwood outlasting the No. 3-ranked Eagles to seize control of the path to the district crown.



Olivia Rueckert hits the ball over the net and through the Eagle defenders' outstretched arms for a kill on Thursday. See more photos from the game at SCnews.com.

"That was a top-five game of my coaching career for sure," head coach Megan Amundson said. "Just the atmosphere. The intensity. Well fought on both sides by two good teams that

know each other well. It was just really fun."

The Spartans, especially their 10 seniors, have kept their eye on this matchup for a while, they said.

"I feel like we put in so much work for this game, and it all paid off," Henken said. "It was a phenomenal game. Phenomenal. It was our highest level of play so far."

Arlington entered the showdown 11-0 and hadn't dropped a set in league play.

But Stanwood quickly burst their rivals' bubble, winning the first two sets in extra points.

The Eagles fought back with two sets of their own to force a deciding fifth set that featured seven lead changes.

"There were a decent amount of runs for both teams in the entire match," Amundson said. "It was impressive how we were able to shake some of those runs off and still have that mindset to get it done. That shows the maturity of the team."

Tied 8-8 in the first-to-15 fifth set, Amundson called timeout to remind her team that they drill these situations regularly in practice.

■ SEE VOLLEYBALL, B4



EVAN CALDWELL / STANWOOD CAMANO NEWS

J.T. McLaughlin sacks the Eastside Catholic quarterback during Stanwood's 41-6 loss Friday at Memorial Stadium in Seattle.

Spartans' season ends in state playoffs

Team hopes to build on successful year: 'The future is bright'

By EVAN CALDWELL
ecaldwell@scnews.com

While Stanwood's historic playoff run ended Friday, head coach Jeff Scoma sees it as a beginning.

"We had so many firsts and so many building blocks," said Scoma, who was hired in June. "This team broke through and established the baseline, the minimum, for what we expect here every year. The future is bright."

The No. 15 Spartans season ended in a 41-6 loss to the No. 2 Eastside Catholic Crusaders in the first round of the 3A state playoffs at Seattle Memorial Stadium.

Stanwood couldn't get their wing-T offense going against the larger Eastside Catholic team, two-time defending state champions. The Spartans could only cobble together 23 rushing yards on 28 carries. Michael Mascotti connected on 6 of 7 passes for 53 yards through the air.

Otto Wiedmann returned an interception 74 yards for the Spartans' lone score.

Meanwhile, the Crusaders scored through the air, on the ground, via a punt return and with a fumble recovery to build an insurmountable lead. They now face No. 10 Mt. Spokane, who beat No. 7 Arlington.

"We just struggled to consistently move the ball," Scoma said. "I think we rose to the level of a top 10 team, but we faced the No. 2 team. There's a gap between 2 and 10. Now we know. It shows us where we aspire to go."

■ SEE FOOTBALL, B4

Spartans pick new girls wrestling coach

By EVAN CALDWELL
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Marcus Requa, a longtime local youth wrestling coach and recent Spartan girls wrestling assistant coach, is stepping in as the head coach.

The move comes after last month's resignation of coach Todd Freeman.

"I wanted the kids to have their own identity," Requa said. "I didn't want to see them have to join up with Lakewood or Arlington."

Requa has been coaching and officiating for 35 years, including for the Stanwood Scorpions youth wrestling team.

"I just enjoy watching and teaching the kids because wrestling is not something everybody can do," he said. "If they have that drive, there's something special about that person. Just to work their body to a point they don't think they can go anymore, it takes a certain person. They're athletes I've enjoyed bringing up."

Winter sports season practices began Monday.



Grace Henken, right, celebrates a point with her teammates in a win over Shorewood.



Olivia Rueckert, right, reacts after a set victory against the T-birds.



Mallory Duffy, left, and Jolene Henrikson, right, leap for a block against Shorewood on Nov. 9.



PHOTOS BY EVAN CALDWELL / STANWOOD CAMANO NEWS

Malani Rein fires a shot over the net Nov. 9 against Shorewood. The Spartans won 3-0.

STATEBOUND



Baylor Hezel lofts a shot over the net in the district volleyball tournament championship game between Stanwood and Ferndale on Saturday at Marysville-Pilchuck High. The Spartans lost 3-0 to earn second place in district.

MORE ONLINE

See more photos from the week at [SCnews.com/gallery](https://scnews.com/gallery)

Spartans top Arlington in another 5-set battle, finish in second place at district tournament

By EVAN CALDWELL
ecaldwell@scnews.com

The Spartans entered last week nursing a two-game skid and facing some questions heading into the district tournament.

They ended the week with a second-place finish at districts and a ticket to the state tournament.

"We were definitely down on ourselves heading into the week," senior Oliva Rueckert said. "We just weren't in the right mindset."

So, before the district tournament, the team met and hit the reset button, Rueckert said.

"We just needed to play our game," she said.

Stanwood opened the district tournament with a convincing 3-0 home win over Shorewood on Nov. 9, which set up a showdown Nov. 11 with rival Arlington — and a rematch of the epic five-set match the Spartans won on Oct. 21.

The sequel proved just as riveting.

"The intensity was at such a high level again," head coach Megan Amundson said. "I feel both teams were playing at a high level. It was back and forth the whole time."

■ SEE VOLLEYBALL, B4



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Birds are calling

Wintertime is prime time for birdwatching throughout the region



PHOTOS BY EVAN CALDWELL / STANWOOD CAMANO NEWS

A large flock of snow geese settle in a field Thursday on Fir Island just west of Conway with a view of Mount Baker.

By SC NEWS STAFF

White-winged waterfowl that cluster in agricultural areas throughout Western Washington should still be around another few weeks. About 80,000 snow geese and 20,000 swans winter in the fields around Stanwood and the lower Skagit Valley in the fall and winter months, according to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Flocks are typically found in agricultural fields on Fir Island, from around Conway to around La Conner, such as near the Fir Island Farms Reserve Unit of Fish and Wildlife’s Skagit Wildlife Area. Fields near Big Ditch, north of Stanwood, are also popular viewing spots, according to the WDFW. Although farmers and the



A juvenile bald eagle perches on a branch in a tree on Thursday at Big Ditch Access Area north of Stanwood.

broader community cater to the birds and encourage visitors to come see them, officials have said it’s important that private property and the wildlife be shown respect. Bird-watchers and photographers who pull over along occupied fields

should stay in their vehicles or at least along the road, officials said. Approaching the birds can also have an impact on the birds’ feeding activity, which could harm their ability to survive their flights to Alaska and other areas of the Arctic, wildlife officials have said. Snow geese, the majority of which breed on Wrangel Island in Russia, usually begin to depart Western Washington at the end of February. Wrangel Island is in the Arctic Ocean, situated between the Chukchi and East Siberian seas. It boasts the highest density of polar bear dens anywhere, has the most plant life of any arctic area and is the last place on Earth to have a thriving woolly mammoth population, according

■ SEE BIRDS, A8

New police chief in city

First woman to lead Stanwood police; council selects city administrator

By MARY JENNINGS
For the Stanwood Camano News

Stanwood will get its first woman police chief this week.

Snohomish County Sheriff’s Office Lt. Rebecca Lewis has been selected as the new Stanwood police chief, and



her start date is Tuesday, Feb. 1, Stanwood Mayor Sid Roberts said. Lewis of Ferndale is a watch commander, serves on the county’s Equity and Inclusion Task Force and is a member of the Snohomish County Sheriff’s Office Implicit Bias Education Team. “Lewis will be the first female Stanwood police chief,” Martin said. Lewis has served in many roles during her 18-year career, including special investigations unit, school resource officer, TAC officer at the Criminal Justice Training Commission, sergeant for the city of Stanwood,

■ SEE CITY, A8

New director takes the reins at Stanwood Chamber of Commerce

By EVAN CALDWELL
ecaldwell@scnews.com

Rich Good sees plenty of opportunity in Stanwood. “We have all the elements you want to take off. We just need to figure out how to make it happen,” said Good, the new Stanwood Chamber of Commerce executive director. Good started in January after a career of leading nonprofit organizations, including YMCA branches in California and for the Boy Scouts. He



Rich Good

He now lives in Marysville. But he said he leaped at the opportunity to lead the chamber.

is a native of Everett and earned a degree in nonprofit administration from the University of the Pacific in California. Good moved back to the Pacific Northwest to be closer to family.

“I like being engaged in a community,” he said. “Everybody I’ve met is very friendly, and they all want the community to succeed.” He replaces Deanna Sigel, who left the position in December after about 11 months on the job. “A change in directors, COVID and a lot of uncertainty — a lot of business came to a screeching halt at times,” Good said. “Things are opening up again. I hope to help add some stability.”

■ SEE CHAMBER, A8

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