The February 13th luncheon will be catered and hosted at the Swinomish Casino & Lodge, 12885 Casino Drive. This will be a fun networking luncheon with activities that include a scavenger hunt (meaning wear comfortable shoes). We’ll be starting promptly at 11:30 with bingo so don’t be late!

Swinomish Casino & Lodge is a full-service entertainment destination including a 98-room luxury lodge, the 9,000 square foot multipurpose Wa Walton Event Center, and casino featuring Las Vegas style gaming. They have over 800 of the latest slot titles, table games including Black Jack, Craps, Roulette, Pai Gow, Poker, Keno and Bingo providing a fun, fast-paced environment for everyone. The newest addition, an 18-hole golf links course, truly sets Swinomish apart.

The company has grown but its philosophy and commitment have always remained the same: to be the friendliest casino in the area with outstanding customer service and to provide guests a luxuriant, state-of-the-art experience while maintaining and upholding the cultural identity of the Swinomish Tribe. Today, we are proud to be one of the leading employers in the Anacortes area. Please RSVP online and bring a gift for the give-away!

The Wound Care & Hyperbaric Medicine Center at Island Hospital is hosting the February 20th after hours, 5:30–7:00 pm. They have a multidisciplinary team of wound-care specialists who use the latest, most advanced treatments to heal wounds. Patients with chronic non-healing wounds caused by diabetes, hypertension and other conditions often suffer pain and a lower quality of life.

The center has two hyperbaric oxygen chambers equipped with the latest computer technology that allows technicians to control pressure and temperature. This specialized technology provides treatment for non-healing wounds and ulcers. Typically, a hyperbaric oxygen treatment involves 90 minutes at the prescribed treatment pressure plus the time required to pressurize and depressurize the chamber. Each hyperbaric chamber is equipped with an entertainment unit so that patients can watch movies during treatment to help pass the time.

The Wound Care & Hyperbaric Medicine Center is located in the Medical Arts Pavilion, 1015 25th Street in Anacortes. Please RSVP online and bring a gift for the give-away!
Tourism

2014 Marketing Initiatives

For 2014 we want to enhance visitor’s perception in making our town more attractive and vibrant than any waterfront town in the Pacific Northwest. In December 2013, the Marketing and Promotions Division approved the 2014 marketing plan to help strengthen Anacortes’ reputation and to brand Anacortes as a destination. As we promote our town with the ‘SHOP, PLAY, EAT, STAY’ campaign we are focusing on group travel tours, adventure cyclist enthusiasts and Anacortes as a wedding destination.

We will invite travel writers to come and stay and see everything Anacortes has to offer and use press releases to document every fun event throughout the year. We are currently working with the Cascade Loop to redirect their driving map to drive tourist directly into our community. Even though we do not have the funding for a new Anacortes website, Chris Terrell of How It Works and the M&P Division are working on other alternatives until a new website is approved.
**member profile**

**Karyl Lawson**

**GIRL’d Cheese**

GIRL’d CHEESE, a new takeout jewel in Anacortes, is owned and operated by Karyl Lawson. Karyl has lived in Skagit County since 1986 and, except for a short two year move to Snohomish County has been in Skagit ever since. In 1998 she landed in Anacortes where she worked for Prudential Southside Realty and later Suburban Propane.

Karyl has always had a passion for cooking for family and friends. After going through a recent divorce, she reevaluated her future and how she wanted to proceed in her new single life. Through faith, friends and huge blessings she has been able to fulfill her dream of cooking for others.

She has brought together her cooking skills to serve the ultimate comfort food, using finest quality ingredients presented with a twist... GOURMET GRILLED CHEESE SANDWICHES and homemade soups. Karyl said, “I actually wake up at night with a sandwich inspiration, write it down, go back to sleep, and then try making it the next day. This is the most fun I’ve ever had at a job.”

The GIRL’d CHEESE menu is not limited to the savory side of grilled cheese, occasionally she will put together some unique combos that may include, fruits, pound cake, banana bread and ...

Karyl shares her life with a special man...

---

**Mark Wenzel**

Mark Wenzel moved to Anacortes last July to replace Chris Borgen as school superintendent. Wenzel moved from Methow Valley, where he served as superintendent for five years.

Born in Ethiopia, Wenzel lived in suburban Maryland and Alaska growing up and attended Earlham College in Indiana. While at Earlham, he majored in Japanese and spent two undergraduate years in Japan. Upon graduation, he returned to Japan as a teacher before heading to South Korea to study language and pursue broadcasting.

A highlight in Korea was winning a nationally broadcast talent show (an early version of American Idol) and pursuing a career as a television actor. Wenzel also landed a job as the Korean voice of Donald Duck through the Walt Disney Company.

“It was a very interesting time in life,” he said. “There were moments when I would stop and ask myself, “How did I get here?””

After a total of ten years in Asia, Wenzel returned to the United States, where he worked briefly in Olympia as a communications specialist in the Legislature. He then gained acceptance to the London School of Economics for a master’s degree.

Wenzel returned from England and started his work in schools. He served as communications director in the 17,000-student Bethel School District near Tacoma. He then earned a doctorate in education leadership at the University of Washington and landed his first superintendent’s position.

“I’ve experienced a varied career path, but it’s been really fun and invigorating,” said Wenzel. “I’m passionate about my job because I believe that strong leadership can make a big difference in developing quality schools. I feel very privileged to work in a field where I can impact young people’s lives in a significant way—and I’m very excited to do this work in Anacortes.”

As for the chamber, Wenzel sees strong connections between dynamic schools and a livable, economically vibrant community.

“I’m thrilled to be part of the chamber because it consists of good people who want to create a top-tier community together. Obviously, strong schools are a critical part of the equation.”

Wenzel lives with his wife, Julie, who will direct plays at the middle school and at ACT this spring. They have a 4-year-old daughter, Ruby, a 2-year-old son, Eli, and a quickly developing youngest child who will make an entrance into the world sometime in April.
Experience Work Project

This year the Anacortes Chamber has committed to assisting 80 Anacortes High School students in their job shadow placements. Once again we are partnering with the Experience Work Project to match up students’ career interests with businesses who are willing to host four-hour job shadows. Our hope is to hold these job shadows sometime between March 18 and 20. Student interests include bioengineer, film, consultant, photographer, law enforcement, nurse, engineer, military officer, occupational therapist, pharmacist, police/fire, game design, health care—the list will continue to grow. If you can help by offering a job shadow placement, please contact Stephanie at the chamber.

Spring Wine Festival

We would like to thank the following community members for their support in making this festival possible:

Magnum
Tesoro Refining and Marketing Company

Cask
Shell Puget Sound Refinery
Swinomish Casino & Lodge

Carafe
Anacortes American Bottle
Cornerstone Home Lending
Island Rentals & Supply LLC
Trident Seafoods

Bota
Cap Sante Court Retirement Community
Island Rentals and Supply
Majestic Inn & Spa

Scott Milo Gallery
Tri-County Recycling
Whidbey Island Bank

Cork
Birch Equipment

The Board of Directors of the Anacortes Chamber unanimously endorse the school district’s two levies on February 11, 2014. Here’s why:

- Strong schools support an economically vibrant and livable community.
- Technology is a critical area of knowledge in 2014. We must prepare our students for college and the workforce.
- Anacortes schools are behind in technology—we must catch up to other communities that have passed technology levies.
- Our tax rates remain very competitive, even with the passage of both levies.
- Our Chamber has invested in the well-being of children in this community. Continuing this support is the right thing to do.
- Great schools = safe neighborhoods, property values, and attract new business and residents.

PAID FOR BY CITIZENS FOR ANACORTES SCHOOLS • P.O. BOX 653 • ANACORTES, WA 98221-0653
John Williams

John comes to Skagit Publishing and the Anacortes American with thirteen years of newspaper advertising experience, most recently with the Seattle Times. He grew up on a wheat farm in eastern Washington, so he was attracted to the small town feel of Anacortes. He was shocked, however, to discover how many businesses and entrepreneurs there are in town. He’s enjoyed getting to know many of the customers that work, whether it be increasing sales, bringing in new customers or creating brand awareness.

John and his wife Melodee have been married 34+ years. They have 3 children and 3 granddaughters.

John is a WSU graduate and is an avid Cougar fan and supporter. He likes all sports, especially golf. He enjoys gardening, cooking, travel and walks on the beach with his wife.

member renewals

- Anacortes Financial Associates
- Anacortes Housing Authority
- Coldwell Banker Bain
- Construction Unlimited, Inc.
- Creative Accomplice
- The Gateway Bed & Breakfast
- Golden Services, LLC
- Homeplace Special Care Center
- How It Works
- Island Hospital Foundation
- Curt Oppel, John L Scott Real Estate
- Pioneer Tree Service & Landscaping, Inc.
- Take Shape For Life with Veronica Spencer
- The Color I
- Thrive Community Fitness

Scan this with your smart phone

thanks...

Chamber Luncheon: Thank you to Bob’s Chowder Bar & BBQ Salmon and The American Red Cross—The Islands Chapter for sponsoring and the following businesses for providing gift give-aways:

- American Red Cross—The Islands Chapter
- Bob’s Chowder Bar & BBQ Salmon
- Boeing
- Le Crema
- My Tailor
- Puget Sound Energy
- Washington Federal

Business After Hours: Thank you to American Red Cross—The Islands Chapter for hosting and to the following businesses for their gift give-aways:

- American Red Cross—The Islands Chapter
- Anacortes Sun
- Bill Short—Port of Anacortes
- Bob’s Chowder Bar & BBQ Salmon
- Boeing
- Fidalgo Pool & Fitness
- Home Sweet Home
- John Olsen—Chamber Member
- My Tailor
- Walgreens Drug Store

new members

BELLA BELLA SALON AND SPA
3218 R Ave.
Anacortes, Washington 98221
360-299-2227
salonbella bella.com
Terry Sigmund
trondesk@salonbella bella.com
Hair Salon, Spa & Body Care Products, Spa Services, Skin Care. Providing all your hair care needs and services, products as well as waxing, turbo tanning, massage, nails, facials, esthetician and health coaching.

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Alan Ayers
hello@industriousindustries.com
Graphic Design, Computer—Website Development. Industrious is a full service design and creative studio. We partner with our clients to create everything from logos, to websites, to video and motion graphics.

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800-247-2884
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Kathryn Starkovich
kathryn.starkovich@morganstanley.com
Financial Advisor, Financial Services, Investment Advisor. I help my clients work toward achieving their financial goals by providing personal, comprehensive financial planning.

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Trident Seafoods Corporation Anacortes, Washington Celebrates Voluntary Protection Program Star Achievement

Trident Seafoods Anacortes Washington, a Value-added Seafood Processor, celebrated achievement of the prestigious Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) Star designation from the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries (L&I) and its Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH) at its Anacortes manufacturing plant. Officials from L&I presented the award to the Anacortes plant’s 250 employees during a ceremony, with Anacortes Mayor Laurie Gere also in attendance.

The Star is the highest recognition within the Voluntary Protection Program. To achieve it, employees and management work together to implement safety and health programs and processes that go beyond standard safety regulations to further protect employees and promote safe operations. There are fewer than 2,500 worksites out of 8 million in all of the U.S. that hold the Star designation.

“We put a focus on safety every day in our work, and make sure each of our employees understand its importance,” said Tim Martinez, plant manager. “We have dedicated ourselves to safety, and being recognized with a VPP Star is an honor.”

This state-of-the-art secondary processing facility was built by Trident in 1989 and includes a large cold storage operation.

The Anacortes plant produces portion-controlled seafood products from frozen fish fillets and blocks such as pollock, cod, salmon and halibut. Many of the products are battered, breaded, glazed, fryer and oven-ready. These finished products are ideal for foodservice, institutional, and restaurant applications and are delivered to various locations throughout the world. Currently the Anacortes plant can produce 60 million pounds of finished product per year. Production capacity is expanding yearly. The crew size is roughly 250 employees.

Like to Gamble?

Business is a risky venture and most businesses buy insurance, set up security systems and try to forge ahead. Let’s double check that sentence—do we understand the all risks of doing business? Let’s take a look at the odds of an important category of risks to make sure.

Disasters of many kinds occur across our country almost daily. In business, disaster risk comes from two sources—the risk of a negative event occurring and financial risk of recovery.

According to statistics collected by the U.S. Government, the disaster risk to small business significant to the point of being of great concern.

- 40% of all small businesses will be impacted by disaster at some point—10% by manmade and 30% by natural disasters.
- 40% of small businesses impacted by a disaster never reopen and of the surviving companies, 25% close within two years.
- Putting it all together, businesses have a 40% chance of being stricken and only a 35% chance of survival—few gamblers would take those odds.

These numbers tell us that failing to plan for disaster really is planning to fail!

The most effective and affordable way to meet this challenge is to take advantage of the disaster planning resources available right here in Anacortes.

Would you like to know more? Call Kevin, your free and confidential business adviser at (360) 336-6114 to review your approach to business preparation.

Encouraging Words is a service of EDASC, enhancing our quality of life through the creation and preservation of healthy businesses and good jobs. Learn more at www.skagit.org.
### Executive Board

**PRESIDENT**
Mark Lawrence  Simply Yards Landscape and Design

**PRESIDENT ELECT**
Karin Baldwin  Quantum Construction

**TREASURER**
Matt Miller  Read Me A Story

**PAST PRESIDENT**
Kathy Larson  Puget Sound Energy

**BOARD MEMBER AT LARGE**
Carol Van Iterson  Bank of the Pacific

### Board of Directors

Darren Boarnet  Tesoro Refining & Marketing Co.
Jody Carlisle  Shell Puget Sound Refinery
Duane Clark  Cap Sante Court Retirement Community
Colleen Craig  Windermere Real Estate
Peggy Flynn  pf Flynn + associates
Laurie Gere  City of Anacortes
Jim Gordon  Freedom Wireless Media, Inc.
Bob Hyde  Port of Anacortes
Gary Jacobson  Attorney
Brian Johnson  Anacortes Construction Services
Chris Long  Jolly Mon Charters
Duane Knapp  Pearl Buttons
Andy Schwenk  Northwest Rigging
Bernadette Stanek  Island Hospital
Chris Terrell  How It Works
Mark Wenzel  Anacortes School District

### Chamber Staff

Stephanie Hamilton  Executive Director
Mary Talosi  Visitor Information & Operations Director
Cecilie Miller  Event & Communications Director
Tricia Sharp  Marketing & Promotions Coordinator
Kristi Daniels & Crystal Johnson  Licensing Sub-Agents

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### Vic (Visitor Information Center) Statistics

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Thank you, volunteers!
Visit us on the web at www.anacortes.org

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**6th ANACORTES SPRING WINE FESTIVAL**

30 Wineries  6 Restaurants

April 12th 2014 | 12pm to 4:30pm
100 Commercial Avenue, Anacortes
anacortes.org

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Coast in, Hang out.™

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