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Roots, dreams come full circle for PHS teacher

By Scott Turner, KP News

When students saunter into Julie Bruøy's Peninsula High School class, they can't help but feel awesome.

The third-year English teacher is a bona fide life-motivator.

And not only does Bruøy encourage her students to follow the Seahawk "be awesome" mission statement, she's a champion for creativity and challenges them to believe in themselves.

Teaching is more than just a job for the peppy 32-year-old. She is living her dream, bent on helping students find their potential — just like other teachers did for her while she grew up on the Key Peninsula, she said.

Bruøy lives in Minterwood with her husband, Joey.

She moved to the peninsula from Tacoma in the summer of 1988 and started her Peninsula School District journey in the third grade at Vaughn Elementary School.

"I remember when I came to Vaughn. There was just this natural community between the students,



Photo by Scott Turner, KP News

Longtime Key Peninsula resident Julie Bruøy returns to Peninsula High School as an English teacher helping students be all they can be.

(See Bruøy, Page 2)

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Retired KP pilot spreads his wings at the Museum of Flight

By Charlee Glock-Jackson and Scott Turner, KP News

With all the flying he's done in his 68 years, you'd think Roy Church was actually born with wings.

Church, who moved to the Key Peninsula in 2007 with his wife, Shannon, first got off the ground as a bombardier navigator in the Marine Corps during the Vietnam War.

"I did 198 missions in Vietnam, 105 in North Vietnam and came back in one piece. I don't own a Purple Heart, but I do have a few other medals," he said.

He got his private pilot's license just before he left the Marine Corps. After his military service, Church went to work as a security guard in Chrysler's air transportation department.

Soon he was flying Chrysler's corporate planes. "I ended up flying for Chrysler for 20 years, flying executives around in private jets," he said. "As a crew member at Chrysler, I flew (then CEO) Lee Iacocca in his first and last flights."

Church even built two airplanes in his garage, including one that sits

out at the Tacoma Narrows Airport.

In 1967, during his bombardier training, Church had spent six months on Whidbey Island. "I said that some year I'd be back, because one of my class officers in Florida had said that his idea of the perfect retirement was having a sailboat near the sea and a cabin in the mountains, so when you get tired of one you can go to the other," he said.

But there were more adventures to be had before Church and his wife finally came back to the Northwest, including a stint in Hawaii, when Shannon's work took her to Honolulu.

There he flew gliders full of tourists on sightseeing trips, and continued to fly private jets "for everyone from the Sultan of Brunei to rock 'n' roll groups. I flew Gulf Streams, which are the Rolls Royce of corporate jets," he said.

In 2007, Shannon retired, and the opportunity came to return to Puget Sound. "You can do it all right here in the Puget Sound area," he said, recalling the words of his old teacher about having a place to

(See Church, Page 4)

(From Bruey, Page 1)

between the parents, and between the parents and teachers,” Bruey said.

Before transitioning to Key Peninsula Middle School, she fell in love with the learning environment and bonding of extracurricular activities of the community.

“School has always been a great place for me. I was excited to learn, fascinated by my teachers and always asking for homework,” she said. “They really helped me bring out my creative voice and become who I truly am.”

While growing up, she was thankful for having a mom who pushed for a balance of life. Bruey was into sports and the 4H Club, and loved attending the frequent events at the KP Civic Center with her friends.

She started Peninsula High School in 1994, and at times, life was difficult for her because her parents divorced, she said.

“It was tough outside of school, coping with that. I remember a lot of days going home where I felt a little fragmented,” she

said.

But something pivotal happened in her junior year.

Going to school and feeling safe, and having the gumption to rise to newfound expectations within the campus walls helped with her home struggles.

The expectation “to always do your best” at school wasn’t a burden for the teen. It became a “reverence for learning” and a pathway to understanding her own wants, she said.

Her influences

Bruey smiled and teared up as she reflected on the many teachers who affected her life.

She spoke of Judy Cromett, a former PHS English teacher, and how some students expressed an intimidation factor in her class because her expectations for them were so high. “It was a grateful intimidation. She taught us to be impeccable with our words, taught us to love language and taught us to be able to have a voice,” she said.

One day during Cromett’s class, some-

thing clicked for the young Bruey, and seeds of the future were sowed in an instant.

“I don’t know if she’s aware of the impact she had on me, but that’s what teachers do. They do their best and trust unconditionally that what they say matters. I decided to be a teacher right there and then,” she said.

Bruey went to a community college and then on to get her master’s degree at Pacific Lutheran University. She taught as a substitute teacher for a year, and then landed a job at PHS.

“I feel like this is a dream come true. I know that sounds cliché but it really is for me. It’s also amazing to live and work in the same community I grew up in,” she said, smiling.

Talk around campus says that Bruey is passing down similar learning and life values that were shared with her.

Sophomore Serenity Moberg said she feels happy and welcome, and has an urge to learn when she walks into Bruey’s class.

“She brings other things from the world into this environment and explains it so we

can understand it as a teenager,” Moberg said. “She wants me to be there, to be awesome and to be excited about learning.”

Jonathan Bill has been teaching with the PSD for 21 years and had Bruey as a middle school student.

“Eighteen months ago, she shows up here at PHS looking exactly the same as she did when she was 13.

“It’s absolutely wonderful to have her here as a colleague,” Bill said. “Julie’s success is proof that this school system affords great opportunities to each and every kid in this community. All they have to do is show up every day like Julie did with a smile on their face, ready to learn, and the sky is the limit.”

Bruey said she sees every student as an individual full of skills, wants and dreams. It’s her mission to guide them inward to trust, to know and to believe in themselves.

“Teaching and growing up in this community has helped me realize that those ordinary things are really what matters. To have a job where I can help someone to focus and clarify who they are, is just the best,” she said.

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KEY PENINSULA NEWS

www.keypennews.com

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Photo of Mount Rainier in the masthead was taken from the dock in Longbranch by Thomas Morgan, a KP News reader and Key Peninsula resident.

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DECEMBER 2012

Key Pen Parks PROGRAM GUIDE

Recreation Coordinator: Jessica Smeall, jessica@keypenparks.com 253-884-9240 x22

REGISTER ONLINE: www.keypenparks.com



THANK YOU

to the volunteers who entertained the Hayride for our 4th Annual All-Hallows Harvest Celebration:

Abbey Beck	Sierra Jackson
Shyann Bennett	Kiera Kaufman
Maria Cohen	Sage Lamphere
Kim Cohen	Zach Lamphere
Aerrow Cruz	Abigail Losh
Eddy Frederick	Calvin Losh
Kobe Frederick	Sierra Rose Nason
Cailleigh Gainey	T.J. O'Toole
Kaitlyn Glenn	Leigh Owens
Nina Glenn	Natalie Pierson
Murphy Guy	Kameko Reeves
Emilie Hahn	Heaven Ruiz
Kaitlin Hall	Savannah Wood

They braved the rain to bring smiles to all the families, and we couldn't have done it without them. **THANK YOU, THANK YOU!**

Key Pen Parks GRANT PROGRAM

This program was established to help community groups improve park and recreation opportunities. For 2013, there is a maximum of \$5,000 available for capital improvement projects, park maintenance, or recreation programs. Community groups must match the grant contribution with volunteer time, in-kind donations of goods and services, and/or financial contributions.

- Applications available on Dec. 1
- Deadline for application submission: Feb. 1 by 2pm
- Grants will be awarded at Park Board Meeting on 3/11/13

Art For Adults

2nd Saturday Art for Adults continues!

Learn a new art concept and project every month with our series for adults. December is polymer (Fimo) clay ornaments with Jess Smeall. Make your own custom designs and learn technique that can be used in many applications. In January, choose between the basic or advanced bead jewelry class with Sara Gray, from June Moon Beads.

Location: Volunteer Park Office
Day & Time: Saturdays 9:30am-12:30pm (1:30-4:30 for the Jan. advanced class)
Session Dates: 12/8 and/or 1/12
Fee: \$25 per class

DECEMBER JANUARY



Fimo Clay Ornaments



Bead Jewelry

ADULT FITNESS BOOT CAMP

Instructor: Shannon Reichl

OUTDOOR

Location: Volunteer Park
Day: Tues & Thurs **Time:** 6-7pm
Dates: Dec. 4-Dec. 20 (half session)
Fee: \$5 per class, must pay for entire session remaining at time of registration (choose 1 or 2x week)

INDOOR (WEEKDAYS)

Location: Civic Center Gym
Day: Mon & Wed **Time:** 1-2pm
Dates: Dec. 3-Jan. 4 (no class week of 12/24)
Fee: \$30 for 1 class/week, \$60 for 2 classes/week

INDOOR (WEEKNIGHTS)

Location: KPMS Gym
Day: Mon & Wed **Time:** 6-7pm
Dates: Jan. 7-Feb. 13
Fee: \$45 for 1 class/week, \$90 for 2



ages 4-7

PeeWee Basketball

- Learn basic basketball skills, confidence on the court, sportsmanship and teamwork.
- Play some small-sided, non-competitive games.
- Session time will be determined by age (older ages group earliest).

Ages: 4-7 **Location:** Civic Center Gym
Day & Time: Saturdays: 9:30, 10:30, or 11:30am
Session Dates: 1/26-3/2 **Fee:** \$45

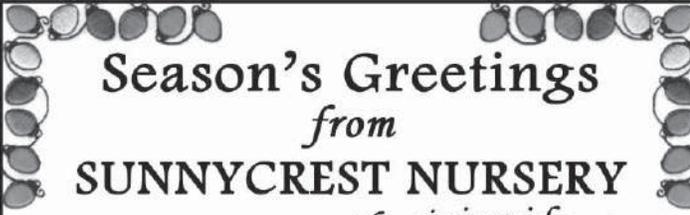


Upcoming Public Meetings

Park Board Meetings are at the Volunteer Park office, at 7:30pm on the following dates:
December 10 & January 14

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!

Thanks to the Key Pen Parks & Recreation Foundation, we offer financial assistance to those who qualify. Call 884-9240 for more details.



Season's Greetings from SUNNYCREST NURSERY

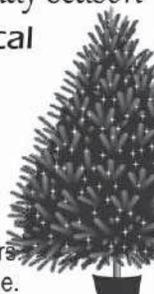
We have great gift giving ideas!

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Photo by Scott Turner, KP News

Roy Church, of Key Center, holds a model of a Grumman A-6 Intruder. He served as the bombardier/navigator on this type of jet during the Vietnam War.

(From Church, Page 1)

sail and also a cabin in the mountains.

The couple flew to SeaTac, rented a car and began looking for a place to settle down permanently.

"We were looking for a place that had a yacht club, because we'd always been members of yacht clubs. When we came over the hill (into Gig Harbor), Shannon said, 'This looks like Northville, Michigan — but with a harbor.' And here we are on the Key Peninsula," he said.

With his love of flying and his years of experience, Church started looking for a part-time job as a glider pilot.

Instead, he discovered the Museum of Flight — or, perhaps the Museum of Flight discovered him.

"We were at an aviation expo at the Puyallup fairgrounds looking for glider operations. No one needed any pilots, but, as we were walking down one of the aisles at the expo, there was the museum. They were always at the fair," he said.

Church applied for a job as a volunteer docent at the museum, which entailed 10 weeks of Saturday morning training sessions. "The docent training committee is tough," he said with a smile. "You come in thinking you know a lot, but you soon find out that you don't know as much as you thought."

As fate would have it, the Museum of Flight is the perfect volunteer position for a man with Church's experience.

The museum has everything from one of three reproductions made for the 100th anniversary of the Wright brothers' flight to a

training model of the space shuttle.

The museum's Great Gallery "starts out with Leonardo DaVinci's idea of what an airplane should be, or how man could fly, to the Wright (brothers) flier and the Blackbird," Church explained.

"We have the original Boeing aircraft factory, the Red Barn and the 'Personal Courage' wing, which is from World War I and World War II. And now we have the full-scale trainer for the space shuttle, which is a wonderful teaching device because you can let people touch it and walk through it.

"The actual Space Shuttle would have been a national treasure and you couldn't have gotten within 10 feet of it," he said.

Many people think of the museum as the Boeing Museum of Flight, Church said. "But it's a completely independent organization made up mostly of volunteers."

Some of the volunteers restore airplanes; others, like Church, work as docents. "There are about 700 volunteers and maybe 20 or 30 permanent staff people," he said.

"We do a lot of education programs both inside and outside of the museum, we have a traveling planetarium, we have guys that go out and teach in schools, plus every morning we have two or three busloads of school kids at the museum."

The museum's head curator, Dan Hagedorn, worked at the Smithsonian's Air and Space Museum in Washington D.C., Church added.

Church believes it's important to "give back" to the place where one lives. "There's a real sense of community out here in the Key Peninsula. We ought to give back to the community, and this is how I'm doing it," he said.



Partnership Between PSD, Nonprofit Helps Provide Public Transportation

Nearly every Tuesday, several Peninsula School District buses run up and down the Key Peninsula on specific routes, only instead of transporting students, the bus rides are open to the general public. The Mustard Seed Project, a nonprofit organization serving Key Peninsula seniors, has been able to offer a pilot program called The KP Schoolbus Connections — thanks to a partnership with the school district and the Puget Sound Educational Service District (PSESD).

The KP Schoolbus Connections utilizes two morning school buses — which would otherwise be traveling empty from Vaughn and Evergreen elementary schools to the PSD bus barn in Purdy — to offer free rides on predetermined routes that connect to the Purdy Park & Ride. From there, passengers can connect with a Pierce Transit bus to travel to Gig Harbor or Tacoma and beyond. The KP Schoolbus Connections also has three return runs, a “midday express” en route to Key Peninsula Middle School, along with southbound and northbound evening buses.

“The goal was to connect the passengers to the city

bus at the park and ride... because there’s no other means of public transportation on the Key Peninsula for them,” says Annie Bell, PSD transportation director.

Peninsula School District, the Puget Sound Educational Service District and The Mustard Seed Project, in collaboration with Pierce Transit, worked together to develop the details of the program, which was launched in late fall of last year.

“It’s pretty extraordinary that the Peninsula School District came forward as such a willing, knowledgeable and cooperative partner,” says Edie Morgan, The Mustard Seed Project founder and executive director. “I think that says a lot about our school district.”

A special needs transportation grant, administered by the PSESD, pays the school district for additional driver time and gasoline. The Mustard Seed Project received a national transportation award from the Beverly Foundation for its senior transportation solutions.

“I think the school district having a partnership with the community shows that we are here to all work together,” Bell says. “The community is always helping Peninsula School District and this is a way that we can help them out and pay it forward.”



The KP Schoolbus Connections drivers, from left to right, Brennor Beck, Rachel Short, Marcia Doran and Dave Stratford. The program’s name and logo were developed by Peninsula High School marketing students.

Nondiscrimination Statement Peninsula School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, honorably discharged veteran or military status, sexual orientation including gender expression or identity, the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: Title IX and Compliance Coordinator is the Academic Officer K-12, (253) 530-1000, gregoryd@psd401.net; Section 504/ADA Coordinator is the Director of Student Services, (253) 530-1000, thompsonc@psd401.net

Snow Routes

Peninsula School District emergency bus routes are available online at www.psd401.net at the Central Services scroll down menu and Transportation tab. Please take a minute to review them. Call 530-3900 with snow route questions.

Superintendent Forum January 29

Please join Superintendent Chuck Cuzzetto for an informal visit at Harbor Ridge Middle School on January 29 from 6:30-8 p.m. Anyone can ask questions or raise issues pertinent to the Peninsula School District. You do not need to have students enrolled in the school district to attend. If you would prefer, you can call or email Chuck at 253-530-1002 or cuzzetto@psd401.net.

SAT Scores

Washington students’ combined average score on the SAT (1545) is the highest in the nation - tied with Vermont - among states where at least 45 percent of the eligible students took the test, according to figures released by the College Board. The percentage of students tested is significant because generally the more students who test, the lower the overall average score. However, Washington has been an exception for the past decade.

DECEMBER EVENTS

- 6 School Board Regular Meeting 6 p.m. District Office
- 11 Coffee with the Superintendent 9:30-10:30 a.m. District Office
- 12 Henderson Bay High School Blood Drive
- 21 Early release for all grade levels due to state budget reductions: high school, 10:45 a.m.; middle school, 11:30 a.m.; and elementary school, 12:15 p.m.
- 24-31 Winter Break—No school

JANUARY EVENTS

- 1-4 Winter Break—No school
- 10 School Board Regular Meeting 6 p.m. District Office
- 21 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birthday observed—No school
- 24 School Board Regular Meeting 6 p.m. District Office
- 29 Superintendent Forum 6:30-8 p.m. Harbor Ridge Middle School

Peninsula Views

Tacoma Narrows Bridge toll rate meetings set

The inevitable is near. Beginning Tuesday, Dec. 11, toll rate changes for the Tacoma Narrows Bridge will be the topic of a series of work sessions with the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC).

The Washington State Department of Transportation will present their updated Narrows Bridge financial plan to the CAC on Tuesday night in Gig Harbor.

The CAC will review projected funding needs for the bridge and request rate scenarios for further analysis before recommending a new toll rate to the Washington State Transportation Commission.

New rates for all Washington state toll facilities will take effect July 1, 2013.

The public is welcome to attend committee meetings to view the information presented and submit written

comments. Comments or questions can be submitted online at wsdot.wa.gov/Tolling/TNB/Tolling/CitizenAdvisoryCommittee. Public comment will also be heard during the Jan. 15 and Feb. 19 meetings.

Tacoma Narrows Bridge Citizen Advisory Committee meetings will be held at the Gig Harbor Civic Center 3510 Grandview St., Gig Harbor.

Meetings schedule:

- Tuesday, Dec. 11 – CAC work session 6 to 8 p.m.
- Tuesday, Jan. 15 – CAC meeting and public input 6 to 8 p.m.
- Tuesday, Feb. 19 – CAC meeting and public input 6 to 8 p.m.

For information about Tacoma Narrows Bridge tolling, call (206)716-1109 or visit wsdot.wa.gov/tolling/.

Will new 3.8 percent tax affect you?

Beginning Jan. 1, 2013, a 3.8 percent tax on some investment income will take effect. Since this new tax will affect some real estate transactions, it is important to clearly understand the tax and how it could impact you.

There has already been much misinformation passed along regarding this tax so here are some facts.

Understand that this tax will not be imposed on all real estate transfers. When the legislation becomes effective in 2013, it may impose a 3.8 percent tax on some (but not all) investment income from interest, dividends, rents and capital gains.

The tax will fall only on individuals with an adjusted gross income (AGI) above \$200,000 and couples filing a joint return with more than \$250,000 AGI.

This is not a real estate tax; it is a tax on capital gains.

This tax does not replace the 1.78 percent real estate transfer tax currently imposed on all real estate transfers.

It is important to stress that maybe 2-3 percent of home sellers will be affected.

It's a complicated tax so here are a few scenarios to help you understand the formula.

Scenario No.1, capital gain: Sale of a principal residence:

John and Mary sold their principal residence and realized a gain of \$525,000. They have \$325,000 adjusted gross income (before adding taxable gain).

The tax applies as follows:

- AGI before taxable gain is \$325,000
- Gain on sale of residence is \$525,000
- Taxable gain (added to AGI) is \$25,000 (\$525,000-\$500,000)
- New AGI is \$350,000 (\$325,000 + \$25,000)
- Excess of AGI over \$250,000 is \$100,000 (\$350,000 - \$250,000)
- Lesser amount (taxable) is \$25,000 taxable gain
- Tax due is \$950 (\$25,000 x 0.038)

If John and Mary had a gain of less than \$500,000 on the sale of their residence, none

Tracy Butzko Tracy's Real Estate Tips



of that gain would be subject to the 3.8 percent tax.

Scenario No. 2, rental income: Income sources including real estate investment income:

Hank has a "day job" from which he earns \$85,000 a year. He owns several small apartment units and receives gross rents of \$130,000. He also has expenses related to that income.

The tax applies as follows:

- AGI before rents is \$85,000
- Gross rents is \$130,000
- Expenses (including depreciation and debt service) are \$110,000
- Net rents is \$20,000
- New AGI is \$105,000 (\$85,000 + \$20,000 net rents)
- Excess of AGI over \$200,000 is \$0
- Lesser amount (taxable) is \$0

Even though Hank's combined gross rents and day job earnings exceed \$200,000, he will not be subject to the 3.8 percent tax because investment income includes net, not gross rents.

Scenario No. 3, sale of a second home with no rental use (or no more than 14 days rental):

The Bridgers own a vacation home that they purchased for \$275,000. They have never rented it to others. They sell it for \$335,000. In the year of sale they also have earned income from other sources of \$225,000.

The tax applies as follows:

- Gain on sale of vacation home is \$60,000 (\$335,000-\$275,000)
- Income from other sources is \$225,000
- New AGI is \$285,000 (\$60,000 + \$225,000)
- Excess of AGI over \$250,000 is \$35,000 (\$285,000-\$250,000)
- Capital gain is \$60,000

(See Butzko, Page 7)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Fire chief thanks the community for levy support

On behalf of the Key Peninsula Fire Department, I want to say thank you to our community for supporting our recent maintenance and operations levy.

Your support will help us fund eight firefighter positions, which is critical to improving emergency response times and responding to multiple emergency calls at the same time.

Funds will start to be collected in 2013, and we will begin the hiring process as soon as enough money has accumulated to pay for training, salaries and

equipment.

We plan to have an open house for the public to meet our new recruits when the time is right, as well. Likewise, we will report back to you how these new firefighters are impacting response times and emergency service levels for the better.

We learned a lot over the past year, but the most important thing was to be open and up-front about the challenges we were facing. The tough times brought us together and now we can move forward as a community.

Thank you again for helping us. We are humbled, grateful and will not let you down.

Tom Lique, Fire Chief

Letters Policy

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2012 GUEST COLUMNIST

Grandparents' Day: A peek to the past and mindset for the future

By Steve Whitford
KP News guest columnist

In the drab of winter, one way we compensate is by attending gatherings with friends and family. If you get to be a grandparent, one of those gatherings is held at the elementary school, and it's known as Grandparents' Day.

When guests arrive, they run into a smattering of old people in a mob of young people. Even the teachers appear too young. Somehow everyone finds their grandchild, who gives a hug, then dutifully leads them to the gym/lunchroom where the special feast is being served.

Once inside, senses are assaulted by the sights and sounds coming from a sea of perfect young faces. The traditional lunch line is there, as well as the scent of cooked turkey.

Something else more powerful is there for all, too. It occurs to me that schools house more than students and books. Memories are stored here as well.

We find some room at a table and sit down. As we do, arthritis chooses to remind me of my age. But something very special is about to happen.

Across and beside me sit happy children who are as they've always been. Nothing has changed except time. Their smiles and laughter are the same. Their near-perfect features are the same, as remembered, even the feast set before us is as it always has been.

The sad vegetable offering is the same;

some concoction of what was once edible, that through canning, freezing or freeze-drying has been rendered into a mush — something that not even butter or condiments could redeem — had they been available. Not only does it look the same as it did all those years ago, it could conceivably be the same vegetables from yesteryear.

Some things never change. The children are complaining (as they always have) about what to do with the vegetables. The rules regarding vegetables are the same (as they have always been) and anyone returning a tray, vegetables intact, forfeits all the rights to dessert.

While perceiving all of this, the adult part of me thought I should encourage them to eat them for the sake of nutrition. The grandparent in me argued that I'm not a parent anymore and I should "butt out." This surprisingly awoke the child.

In me. The "child" confided to the other children a secret that is only known to some children and apparently no adults. If you want dessert, drink all your milk and then hide your vegetables in the empty carton.

Upon saying this, for the next 20 minutes I was one of them. We talked kid stuff, we ate kid food and we made kid friends. In the magic of the moment I got to be 10 again.

Eventually it was time to leave and getting up gave arthritis another opportunity to yank me back to the present. The part of us that was, and is, the child endures. The way to awaken it is so simple, it is "child's play!"

(From Butzko, Page 6)

- Lesser amount (taxable) is \$35,000 (AGI excess)

- Tax due is \$1,330 (\$35,000 x 0.038)

Keep in mind these are hypothetical examples. Consult a professional tax preparer or tax attorney to review the particulars of your tax situation. The examples presented here are simply to help you understand how the new tax might affect you.

On a positive note, real estate on the KP is selling. There are currently 89 homes for sale in zip code 98329. The average time on market is 50 days.

Homes are selling at 97 percent of asking price at an average sale price of \$236,000.

There is 6.8 months of inventory available. There has been a 30 percent increase in the number of homes sold compared to one year ago.

In zip codes 98349 and 98351 there are 72 homes for sale. The average time on market is 99 days. Homes are also selling at 97 percent of asking price at an average sale price is \$173,000. There is 10 months of inventory available. Buyers report the No. 1 factor in their decision to purchase is still price.

Tracy Butzko is a member of National Association of REALTORS. For information, call (253) 617-9670 or email tracybutzko@jobmlscott.com.



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Overcoming the contradictions of the annual Christmas season

Christmas is a season of contradictions. At the darkest time of the year, we celebrate with lights and candles. In icy winter, we speak of warmth enveloping our hearts. In the midst of joyous choirs and the sparkling eyes of children, it is often a time of great loneliness. It's the season in which we speak of Almighty God dwelling in the form of a helpless infant.

Christmas is a season of peace and goodwill; we sing of "Silent Night(s)" and "Joy to the World." Yet we represent that peace and joy by harrumphing our offense at all who offend us with their offensive festive celebrations — or lack thereof. "Peace on Earth" is marked by the "war on Christmas."

And then there's this: We complain about the commercialism of Christmas while heading out to the mall. We decry the way the Christmas narrative has been co-opted by box stores and online retailers while running up our credit cards with stuff we don't really need.

We bemoan the busyness of the season, while filling up our calendars with endless celebrations. All around us the world is settling into her winter rest while we, the frenetic ones, ratchet-up the level of activity in our lives.

There is, however, a greater contradiction that is often hidden from us. While we party, celebrate, imbibe, give extravagant gifts and rack up debt, many around the world don't have access to clean water. Many people own, if they are fortunate, but one pair of ratty shoes. They make toys out of sticks and string. They live in fear of the land mines strewn across their farmland. Too many are

literally starving to death.

I have a picture of Jesus in my office. Painted in the style of an icon, it shows the Christ gazing upon the world with a thoughtful expression on his face, asking a question of the world: "Where did I say you should buy so much stuff to celebrate my birthday?"

Jesus was very clear about his purpose: "I came that they might have life." He spent his life challenging the self-centered, the self-focused, the coddled, those who hoarded power and riches while glibly ignoring the hungry, the outcast, the sick and the dying. He was attacked for teaching that we ought to share all that we have with those who have nothing. He died because he stood up for the poor and the powerless.

I really do hope you find joy this Christmas season. I hope you experience peace and happiness in your life. I hope you enjoy the music, the caroling, the lights, food and gifts that come your way. I don't want to take any of that away.

Let me simply encourage you to consider the plight of those hidden away from us; those dealing with wars and famine and poverty. Find some way to make their lives better this season. And no matter how you celebrate, you'll have taken a step toward destroying that great contradiction.

On behalf of the KP Ministerial Association, I wish you all a Merry Christmas.

Dan Whitmarsh
Writing by Faith



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It will be available at www.kpba.org within the "photo gallery" section

They will also be displayed at the retail businesses on the list.

We will be bringing Santa to the following areas, on the designated days, between 6-8pm* (weather permitting)... Listen for our sleigh bells to signal our arrival!!!

<p>Sat, December 1 9am-11am 2nd Annual Santa Breakfast Key Center Fire Station (pre-register with Key Pen Parks)</p>	<p>Sun, December 2 4:00pm - Free Lighting in Key Center Lake Minterwood (5:30pm)</p>	<p>Sun, December 9 Home Jackson Lake Taylor Bay</p>	<p>Sun, December 16 Lake of the Woods</p>
<p>Sat, December 8 Wind and Tides Emerald Shores Del Mar</p>	<p>Fri, December 14 Horseshoe Lake Creviston Heights</p>	<p>Fri, December 21 Skate Night at the KP Civic Center Vaughn Area</p>	<p>Sat, December 22 Lake Holiday</p>

*Due to Weather and Reindeer Games, exact times are not possible.





Key Peninsula Parks & Recreation Foundation

Preserving our lands and rural culture through our parks



The Key Peninsula Parks and Recreation Foundation (KPPR Foundation) is the financial assistance and land preservation arm of the Key Peninsula Park District. The FPPR-Foundation is separate legal entity from the KP Park District. However, the Foundation was formed on the initiative of the Park District and its sole purpose is to provide an avenue for charitable giving to the Park District. Unlike the Park District, the Foundation does not get involved in park operations or activities, but rather assists in securing tax-deductible funds and donations on behalf of the Park District. For example, through generous donations, the Foundation is able to provide scholarships to help local kids participate in the Park District Kids Summer Camp. On-going fund-raising efforts will build on the Foundation's ability to help local families send their children to Park District programs and projects in the future.

As an IRS-approved 501(c)3 organization, the FPPR Foundation is also able to help facilitate land preservation. Individuals, families or trusts may donate land or other assets to the KP Park District

through the Park Foundation and, thus, receive the allowed charitable donation deductions.

We hope you'll visit successful Park District programs like the Pocket-Park in Home and the new children's playground at the K.P. Civic Center. We hope you'll want to help by making a donation to this all-volunteer effort. By working together, as a community, we all have a hand in preserving the rural character of our home, the Key Peninsula. Please join in!



The Park Foundation board, pictured here (except for Rosie Rosenbach) at the Anderson Farm during the Key Pen Farm Tour, is a 100% volunteer effort.

Remember, the best way to make the world a better place is to start by making your own backyard a better place! Help us and help the Key Peninsula by supporting your Parks and your Parks Foundation.

We hope you'll visit us online at www.keypenparksfoundation.org to learn more about the Foundation. Our contact information by mail: Key Peninsula Parks & Recreation Foundation, PO Box 188, Lakebay WA 98349; phone (253) 220-5090; or email at info@keypenfoundation.org.

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A glance at elected representatives

By Rick Sorrels, KP News

The Key Peninsula has two state representatives (Jan Angel and Larry Seaquist), and one state senator (Derek Kilmer) who represent our interests in the state Legislature. All three names appeared on the 2012 General Election ballot.

Both Angel and Seaquist were re-elected to the same office held, Angel to a third two-year term, and Seaquist to a fourth two-year term.

Kilmer ran and won the U.S. Congress seat vacated by Rep. Norm Dicks, who held that office since 1977.

The governor will appoint a replacement for the Senate seat vacated by Kilmer. An election in November 2013 will fill the seat until the November 2014 election, which will elect for the full six-year term that starts in January 2015.

Our representatives show no trace of the partisan combat so prevalent in recent years.

Derek Kilmer: He is already in Washington, D.C. receiving orientation, setting up an office, reviewing potential staff hires and finagling committee appointments, getting ready for his January "swearing in."

Kilmer's main focus will remain "how to get people back to work."

Kilmer said he was impressed with the freshmen Democrats and Republicans from across the country he got to know during his orientation. He identified a pervasive theme: "People are turned off by partisan bickering and want to see some progress. It is gratifying to see people from both parties wanting to work together," he said. "I'm excited about pulling up my shirt sleeves and getting to work." His family will stay in Gig Harbor and he will commute on weekends.

Jan Angel: She plans to run for the Senate seat vacated by Kilmer.

Committee assignments include local government, public disclosure, union bargaining and joint transportation.

"At the state level, the Senate and House work together on the same bills. I've worked both sides of the aisle," Angel said. "I'm not a newbie. It would be a smooth transition for me to the Senate, where new avenues would help produce better results."

Larry Seaquist: He chairs the higher education and budget committees and wants to stay in the same office as long as the voters will have him.



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2012 election results: A closer look

By Rick Sorrels, KP News

Votes still remain to be counted at press time, but here are the latest results. Let's take a closer look at some interesting facts concerning selected matters of interest to Key Peninsula residents.

Federal:

- Obama won 332 electoral votes to Romney's 206, with 26 states going for Obama and 24 for Romney. Popular vote was 62,615,406 to 59,142,004, or 51 percent to 48 percent.

- U.S. Senate will have 53 Democrats, 45 Republicans, and two others.

- U.S. House of Representatives will have 194 Democrats, 233 Republicans and eight others.

State executive:

- Jay Inslee won the governorship over Rob McKenna, 1,526,777 votes to 1,450,951, or 51 percent to 49 percent.

- More than \$50 million was spent on the campaigns for governor.

- Only one Republican won a state executive seat, Secretary of State Kim Wyman. Democrats dominated.

- Washington state has a population of

6,830,038, with 1,584,569 of those under 18 years of age, leaving 5,245,469 eligible to vote.

- Washington has 3,904,949 registered voters, with 3,151,436 votes cast, equaling an 80.6 percent voter turnout.

State Legislature:

- Representatives, Jan Angel and Larry Seaquist were re-elected.

- Sen. Kilmr won the U.S. Congress seat vacated by Norm Dicks.

State measures:

- Same-sex marriage referendum approved statewide by 53 percent of the vote. Approved in 10 counties, rejected in 19 counties. Rejected in Pierce County with 56 percent of the vote.

- King County's 67 percent vote to approve same-sex marriage reversed the rejected vote of all the other counties combined.

- Pierce, Snohomish, and Spokane counties combined constitute one-third of the statewide votes.

- Marijuana initiative approved with 56 percent of the vote. Approved in 20 counties, rejected in 19 counties. Approval by all four of the largest counties guaranteed its passage.

- Charter schools initiative squeaked through with a 51 percent approval. King County voted to reject, Pierce and Snohomish counties voted to accept. Pierce had one of the strongest approval votes at 55 percent.

- There will not be an automatic recount for schools initiative. Recount is triggered by a one-half percent vote spread. At press time, the vote spread was exactly 1 percent.

- Initiative requiring two-thirds vote to raise taxes approved with 64 percent of the vote.

Pierce County:

- Three of the four council members elected are Republican.

- Charter amendment requiring two-thirds vote to raise taxes approved with 66 percent of the vote.

- Pierce Transit tax levy barely rejected with 49.78 to 50.22 percent vote. There is no automatic recount at county level. Expect a recount request, to be funded by the requester.

- Pierce County has a population of 817,904, with 196,321 of those under the age of 18, leaving 611,583 eligible to vote.

- Pierce County has 442,985 registered voters, with 349,003 votes cast, equaling a 78.8 percent voter turnout.

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May your holidays be festive, and your New Year be bright.



The Fatman cometh

By Steve Whitford, KP News

“The Fatman is coming!”
Children shouted with glee
Bringing dolls for you
And trains for me.

He’s big and he’s jolly
And all dressed in red
And he looks like a Hobbit
That’s been overfed.

He’s got some white fur
That hangs down to his chest
Which looks less like a beard
And more like a nest.

He arrives with his reindeer
And rides in a sled
And he visits only
When we’re fast in bed.

He comes every Christmas
Of this there’s no doubt,
But he’s really not what
Christmas is all about.



A 2012 ice storm freezes a profusion beautyberry in a Longbranch garden.

Photo by Tom Zimmerman, KP News

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Snow covers a barn and pasture.

Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News



Local families gathered at the Key Center library in September to build gingerbread house holiday gifts.

Photo by Hugh McMillan, KP News



Snowfall covers trees and summer's flower pots last winter on deck in Lakebay.

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Christmas memories and traditions carry on

By Colleen Slater, KP News

Family traditions are always part of holiday celebrations. Peninsula folks share their memories associated with special occasions that bring smiles to both teller and listener.

Jan McCarthy: "I have the sweetest memory of walking in my first snowfall on Christmas afternoon in 2007. The Southern California of my youth never offered such a memorable holiday. To this day, I still get outside to walk on those rare occasions when it snows. For years, I've crafted Christmas gifts for my family. The whole family gets a lot of laughs at my creative expense, and I laugh the loudest."

Ann Craven: "I often said to my family in Vancouver/Portland, it would be so nice to have Christmas at Taylor Bay next year. Well, I got my wish the year of the big snow, but I was so snowed in that no one could get to me and I couldn't

even get out of my driveway. I spent Christmas at Taylor Bay, but all alone. Be careful what you wish for."

Markus Dennis: "Standing in the front lawn as a Christmas caroler (not just a neighbor or friend) in the frigid Indiana winters and being warmed by the smiles of those inside as we slowly bettered our performance with each stop."

Karen Hale: "When we had that huge snow about four or five years ago, the critters around here started making noise we'd never heard before. They were stressed for food because everything was buried. I checked the height of the snow, it was 27 inches. We had no garbage pickup for a month. It was a crazy, but fun time. That was the year we began to feed the birds and squirrels, which started a tradition of buying Christmas seed/nut wreaths for the critters every Christmas. They're almost tame at this point, and we're on our fourth generation of blue jays nesting in the bushes around

the house."

Lisa Schneider: "Our first Christmas here at Vaughn, the day after Thanksgiving, Bill (husband) was up on the roof in the pouring rain putting up our Christmas lights... antique lights from '50/'60s. The next night we both bundled up with Sarah, dog in tow, got into our dingy and rowed out in the bay to view the lights. Toddies in hand and Christmas music blasting from the boom box, we saluted our first Christmas living on the water."

Connie Renz: "On Christmas Day we always have the whole family over to open presents and eat make-your-own sub sandwiches. One year we had quite a bit of snow and our street had been plowed by a neighbor, but he left a huge mound of snow at the end of our street. Our son made the sharp turn off the highway, slowed a bit, and then just sped up through the snow, making the snow scatter all over. His two young sons were thrilled. The good news was that his little

pathway made it possible for the other families on our street to enjoy their relatives too."

Lynn Lloyd: "Going to midnight or candlelight service on Christmas Eve. That was a biggie. But also the decorating of the Christmas tree. I remember my mother had a new decorating project for us kids each year. One year we put wrapping paper all over the front door and wrapped it like a package. Another year we made wreaths for the doors. The next year we taped up all the Christmas cards that we received on the wall in the shape of a Christmas tree triangle, with a table at the base."

Sheri Simpson: "Over in Eastern Washington, the whole family would go up in the hills and get our tree. Sometimes a fir, sometimes a pine, but it was always the most beautiful tree in the world."

(See **Christmas**, Page 15)

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December 2012
Christmas Concert

The five-member singing group
Northern Lights
will perform at the
Longbranch Improvement Club
at 4 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 15.

The Friends of the Library are grateful to the LIC for providing this space for the concert during the library closure. The LIC will be fully decorated and lots of kids will be there making cookies. Lots of fun for the whole community!

(From **Christmas**, Page 14)

Arlene Babbitt: "A favorite memory is tobogganing down the cemetery hill with the Stratford family."

Virgil Iverson: "I spent the most lonesome Christmas of my life when my wife went to the East Coast on a family emergency. But then I got invited to the Longbranch Improvement Club and sang carols with friends and neighbors. Thanks especially Karen and Joe Barrow."

Steve Whitford: "The family recites together 'The Littlest Christmas Bell.'"

Dulcie Schillinger: "Huge family gatherings at a relative's house and plum pudding with 5 or 10 cent pieces inside, but the lemon curd on top was the best. We never knew what to ask for (sleds or skates) as we never knew if it would freeze or snow."

Janis Riebow: "I came from a large family — four brothers and three girls. We all grew up and had families of our own so we all get together at my mother's church, sing songs and still praise

the birth of Jesus. We also play bingo. A family tradition is a special thing to have; it holds the family together."

Joyce Niemann: "Generations of family all together with a great-grandfather who always had to have a goose for Christmas dinner. Stockings hanging on the fireplace mantel with a Japanese orange in the toe."

Elsie Vezzani: "The Christmas snow year a few years ago. We were snowed in and our neighbor, Tracy Ord, took me to the store. I purchased a Cornish game hen, which was enough for Bob and me. Christmas day arrived and it was a beautiful day. A knock on the door and there stood our neighbors, Sharon and Harvey Hicks, wishing us a Merry Christmas. We had a wonderful time over hot chocolate, and I will always treasure our neighbors."

Judy Riggs: "I remember one big windstorm on a Thanksgiving about 30 years ago (before cell phones). When the power was out, it was out. I was at Walt's and there were friends driving around with their turkeys in their cars looking for someone who still had power and

willing to share their ovens."

Hugh McMillan: "Our family has never failed to beautifully decorate a lighted Christmas tree wherever we've been: Washington, DC, Tokyo, Japan, Bombay, New Delhi, India, Alexandria, Athens, Ankara. We'll decorate one again this year here in Home, as we have for the past 34 years. Christmas is always celebrated at home wherever that has been. One unforgettable occasion when I was a KP fire commissioner, I played Santa Claus on the depart-

ment's Santa sleigh, something I'd never done before and for which I felt totally unqualified. I went into the, 'ho, ho, ho' routine and the young man climbed aboard and sat next to me. I asked what he really wanted for Christmas. He didn't want a personal gift. 'I just want everybody in the world to be happy. That would be a perfect personal gift for me,' the boy said, and it was clear he meant just that. Fortunately, I managed to get the lump out of my throat and my vision cleared before we came to the next youngsters waiting for Santa."



Holiday Pies for sale and pre-order

Kids Karoke with Santa on Dec. 23

Come enjoy New Year's Eve with the band Spunk Monkey.

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EXCUSES FOR NOT GOING TO CHURCH THIS CHRISTMAS



#32 THE DOGS RAN AWAY WITH THE CAR

WayPoint Church
12719 134th Ave KPN
www.waypoint-church.org

Dec 23rd
9:30 & 11am

Christmas Eve 7pm

During the holidays, people can find lots of excuses for avoiding church: "I'm allergic to poinsettias," "I've already sung enough Christmas carols this week," or even, "I heard that same story last year." But instead of excuses, people on the Key Peninsula are finding reasons to go to WayPoint Church this Christmas. Rediscover the reason for the holiday and enjoy a fresh look at that first Christmas. Bring the whole family (but leave those dogs at home!).



Stay Clear!

A downed power line may not be a dead line. It could cause serious injury or death.

If someone is injured by contact with a power line, call 911 and keep others away until help arrives.

If a power line falls across or near your vehicle while you are in it, stay inside until help arrives. If you must exit, jump clear so that no part of your body is touching the car when you land. **KEEP BOTH FEET TOGETHER**, and shuffle or hop at least 30 feet away from the vehicle.

Peninsula Light Co.
the power to be...

Outage Reporting:
253.853.1388
www.penlight.org

COMMUNITY PAGES

Submit calendar items to news@keypennews.com • Deadline is the 15th of the month

NOW

GED class

Enroll now. Key Peninsula residents are able to complete a basic skills education for college entrance, employment skills, or a GED. Class meets Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the Home fire station. Evening classes (6 to 8 p.m.) are available at the TCC Gig Harbor campus. Enroll any time. For detailed class information, registration and orientation call Tracy Clark, (253) 460-2356.

Swimming schedule

Easter Seals Camp Stand by Me offers community swimming: Morning adult water aerobics on M/W/F from 10-11 a.m. and T/Th from 9:20-10:20 a.m. Adult open swim is offered T/Th from 8-9 a.m. Cost is \$4.25/class paid monthly on the first of the month. Call Donna, 884-4473 to register.

Evening open swims on M/T/Th from 5-6 p.m. and adult lap/open swim on T/Th from 6:15-7:15 p.m. Family swim is on Wednesdays from 5-6 p.m. Open swims cost \$4.25/person or \$40 for 10 swims. Up to \$15 per family; children under age 2 are free and must be accompanied by an adult. Call camp office, 884-2722, or email campadmin@wa.easterseals.com for swim schedule.

Book sale

During the Key Center Library closure (until end of February) the Friends of the Key Center Library are selling used pa-

perbacks (25 cents each) during the days/hours computers are available in the VFW room at the KP Civic Center. The VFW Room is to the right of the main building (go up the wide wooden steps). Computers are available every day except Thursday. The Pierce County Library's Kids' Explorer Bookmobile is open for library business on Mondays-Saturdays in the civic center parking lot. FriendsOfKCLibrary.org.

DEC. 1

Grants available

Key Pen Parks has applications available on Dec. 1 (keypenparks.com or at the office) for their matching grant program. Deadline for application is 2 p.m. on Feb. 1. Grants will be awarded March 11, 2013, at the KP Parks board meeting.

CPR class

A CPR class will be presented at 9 a.m. at the Wright-Bliss fire station. Call 884-2222.

Santa breakfast

Key Pen Parks and the KP Fire Department offer a pancake breakfast with Father Christmas at the Key Center fire station from 9-11 a.m. Pre-registration is strongly encouraged for seating times of 9 a.m., 9:45 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. Cost is \$5 per person. Registrations will be accepted on Dec. 1 as space is available; cost is \$8/person. Price includes breakfast, holiday arts and crafts, music and a photo with Santa Claus. Don't forget to tell Santa what you want for Christmas. [## To submit an event](http://Keypen-</p>
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To submit an event for the Community Works calendar, please email news@keypennews.com, or mail to P.O. Box 3, Vaughn, WA 98394. Briefs must be submitted by the 15th of the month.

parks.com or 884-9240 x22.

DEC. 2

Tree lighting

The annual tree lighting celebration, including the arrival of Santa and his sleigh, songs by the Key Singers, Dr. Roes. Down Home Band, refreshments and more takes place at the Key Center Corral beginning at 4 p.m. Santa and his sleigh will be visiting several neighborhoods starting tonight; check out the ad in this paper.

JAN. 4

Indoor boot camp

Key Pen Parks offers indoor boot camp instructed by Shannon Reichl on Mondays and Wednesdays from 1-2 p.m. at the KP Civic Center. Classes end on 1/4/13 (no classes Christmas week). Fee is \$30 for once/week classes and \$60 twice/week. Keypenparks.com or 884-9240X22.

DEC. 3, 10, 17, 31

Bloodmobile dates

The bloodmobile is at Albertson's from 11:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Hours on 12/31 are 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

DEC. 8

Outdoor boot camp

Key Pen Parks offers outdoor boot camp instructed by Shannon Reichl on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6-7 p.m. at the KP Civic Center. Classes end on 12/20/12. Fee is \$15 for once/week classes and \$30 twice/week. Keypenparks.com or 884-9240X22.

DEC. 7, 14, 21

Friday skate night

A new time geared for kids 5-13, skate night is held from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at the KP Civic Center. Holiday theme night featured on Dec. 21. This is a safe place with roller skating, arcade games and concessions — all for \$5 including skate rental. Parents are welcome to attend and visit with others on the observation balcony. Kpciviccenter.org or 884-3456.

DEC. 8

Second Saturday Art

Key Pen Parks offers a new art concept for adults (16 and older) from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Volunteer Park office. December's project is polymer clay ornaments with Jess Smeall. Fee is \$25/class. Jessica@keypenparks.com or 884-9240x22.

DEC. 11

Knit, crochet hats

Knit or crochet Loving Hearts voluntari-
(See **Community**, Page 17)

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Key Peninsula Veterans

Dec. 3, 7 p.m. at KP Civic Center; www.kpveterans.net.

KP Lions

Dinner & program, Dec. 5 & 19, 6:30 p.m. in VFW Room, KP Civic Center 853-2721.

Peninsula School District Board

Dec. 6 at 6 p.m. at Gig Harbor High School library.

KP Civic Center Assn. Board

Dec. 13, annual potluck at 6 p.m. in Whitmore room; www.kpciviccenter.org.

Key Pen Parks

Dec. 10, at 7 p.m. at Volunteer Park; keypenparks.com.

KP Community Fair Association

Dec. 11, 6 p.m. in Roadhouse Restaurant VIP room; www.keyfair.org.

Fire District 16

Dec. 12, 6 p.m. in meeting room, Key Center fire station; keypeninsulafire.org.

Key Peninsula Council

Dec. 12, 7:30 p.m. at Key Center fire station; kpcouncil.org.

KP Citizens against Crime

Dec. 20, 7 p.m. at Home fire station; kpcitizensagainstcrime.org.

LIC

Dec. 19, 6:30 p.m. at Longbranch Improvement Club; longbranchimprovementclub.org.

(From **Community**, Page 16)

ly knit and crochet hats for chemo patients and the backpack program for kids, baby items and blankets, wheelchair/walker bags and fingerless gloves for veterans in the community. They meet from 1-3 p.m. Donations of yarn and needles are always welcome. Virginia, 884-9619 or loving-heartsonkp@aol.com.

DEC. 12

Bayshore garden club

The Bayshore Garden Club meets at 1 p.m. at the Longbranch fire station. Francine, 569-1381.

DEC. 15

Christmas concert

The Friends of the Key Center Library present "Northern Lights," a six-member singing group, for their annual free concert at 4 p.m. at the Longbranch Improvement Club. Donations of food and cash for the food bank are welcomed.

DEC. 16

Christmas concert

The Key Singers present their annual Christmas Concert at 3 p.m. in McColey Hall, KP Lutheran Church, at the junction of Lackey Rd and KP Highway.

Music will include traditional, classical, humorous and a medley of tunes from the '50s as well as special numbers by members and guest performers. This is a free performance although donations of staples or money for the KP food bank are encouraged. 885-5615.

Third Sunday jam

Bluegrass Gospel Jam session is held at Longbranch Church (16518 46th Street KPS) from 6 - 8:30 p.m. for all acoustic instruments, ages and skill levels. Everyone is welcome to play, sing or simply listen. Bring music stand and finger food to share; music and beverages are provided. (425) 492-4177.

DEC. 22

Lyme group

The Lyme support group meets from 1-3 p.m.

DEC. 24

Bloodmobile

The bloodmobile will be at Walgreens in Gig Harbor North from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. (holiday hours).

Christmas service

Lakebay Community Church welcomes all to Candles and Carols, a Christmas Eve service at 6:30 p.m.

OFF THE KEY

NOV. 30 to DEC. 9

'Oliver'

The Paradise Theatre presents "Oliver" on Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and on Sundays at 3 p.m. A special dinner theatre presentation is on Dec. 8 at 6 p.m. Call 851-7529 for information and tickets. Paradisetheatre.org.

DEC. 1

Tree lighting

Gig Harbor's Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony and arrival of Santa Claus happens at 5 p.m. at Skansie Brothers Park. Gigharborguide.com.

Santa visit

Santa will be at the Fox Island Museum, 1017 - 9th Avenue, from 1-4 p.m. Free.

DEC. 1-2

TideFest

The TideFest Arts Fair is held from 6 a.m. - 10 p.m. at Gig Harbor High School; \$5. Tidefest.com

DEC. 2

Fox Island tree lighting

Fox Island Tree Lighting begins the holiday season at 6 p.m. at the Nichols Community Center. Ficra.net.

DEC. 5

Input needed

The City of Gig Harbor Parks Commission seeks public input at its meeting regarding the naming of Gig Harbor's newest park, formerly known as the Ancich property. The meeting is at 5:30 p.m. in community rooms A/B at the Gig Harbor Civic Center. 853-7609 or lundl@cityofgigharbor.net.

DEC. 6

Caroling

The "Hark the Harbor" free community caroling event is from 7:30-8:30 p.m. when the Argosy Cruise Singing Christmas Ship is expected to arrive at Skansie Brothers Park with onboard singers performing through loud speakers. Ghwa.org

(See **Off the Key**, Page 18)

WEEKLY EVENTS

MONDAYS

Clogging

Mike and Watona Williams instruct beginning to advance clogging for all ages in the Whitmore Room of the KP Civic Center from 6-8:30 p.m.

MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS, FRIDAYS

Open walk

Get some exercise from 9-11 a.m. this winter in the safe, flat, dry and warm gym in the KP Civic Center and meet new friends. Open to all ages; families welcome. \$2 suggested donation. 884-3456.

TUESDAYS

TOPS #1325

Take-Off Pounds Sensibly meets at 9 a.m. at the Key Peninsula Lutheran Church. Free child care, fun and support

are provided. 884-2554.

Dance Classes

Dance classes for ages 3-12 are held at the KP Civic Center: Intro to Dance, 9:30-10:15 a.m., Ballet/Tap I, 4-4:50 p.m., Jazz Combo, 5-5:50 p.m. and Ballet/Tap II 6-6:50 p.m. Monthly tuition is \$30 with a \$10 registration fee. Julie Miller, 253-606-3763 or juliemiller@comcast.net.

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS

Preschool play time

The Children's Home Society KP Family Resource Center offers a preschool/toddler indoor park program from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the KP Civic Center. Caregivers must stay with child. Drop-ins are welcome; stay for as long as you wish. A \$1 donation per child is suggested. 884-5433.

WEDNESDAYS

Lakebay writers

The Lakebay Writers meet from 1:30-4 p.m. at the Blend in Key Center. 884-3931.

Watermark writers

The Watermark Writers present a free writer's workshop from 5-8 p.m. in Vaughn. 253-778-6559

THURSDAYS

Toastmasters

The Toastmasters meet from 8-9 a.m. at the KC Fire Station. Join the fun and improve your speaking ability.

Senior Society

The Key Peninsula Senior Society meets at 11:30 a.m. for a potluck, fellowship and games in the Whitmore room at the civic center. All are welcome. 884-4981.

SATURDAYS

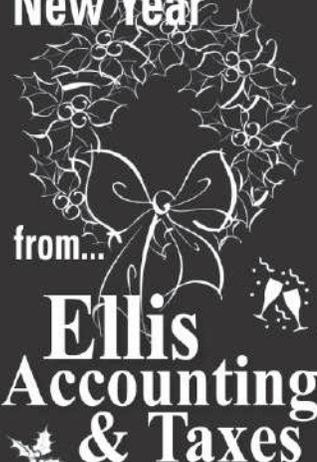
Writers' guild

The Writers' Guild meets from 9-11 a.m. at the KP Historical Museum. 884-6455.

Zumba

Zumba for ages 16-plus is offered on Saturdays from 9:15-10:15 a.m. at the KP Civic Center. Cost is \$53 for a six-class punch card that is good for two months after purchase date. 884-9240 or jessica@keypenparks.com.

Happy and Holidays New Year



from... **Ellis Accounting & Taxes**

253-858-4777
9501 SR 302 NW

OFF THE KEY

(From Community, Page 17)

DEC. 7-9

Waterfront Christmas

"Candlelight Christmas in the Harbor" in historic waterfront Gig Harbor is celebrated with music and special events and extended hours by merchants. Hayrides with Santa are offered from 4:30-7:30 p.m. courtesy of Miracle Ranch and Timberland Bank. Free. Gigharborwaterfront.org, (253) 514-0071.

DEC. 8

Tour of homes

Altrusa Harborfest Holiday Tour of Homes is from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Boys & Girls Clubs of South Puget Sound. Altrusa-gigharborfoundation.org

Bloodmobile

The bloodmobile is at Safeway from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

DEC. 11

Bloodmobile

The bloodmobile is at Henderson Bay High School from 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Menorah lighting

The annual Menorah Lighting starts at 6 p.m. at Uptown Gig Harbor.

DEC. 15

Movie

"The Polar Express" will be shown at the Galaxy Theater to benefit the Jaycox Gig Harbor Police Benevolent Fund. Tickets are \$2; seating is a on a first-come, first serve. Doors opening at 9:30 a.m. 857-7469.

Orchestral concert

The Gig Harbor Peninsula Civic Orchestra presents its December Concert at 7 p.m. at Peninsula High School's auditorium. Ghorchestra.com

Boat parade

The annual free Gig Harbor Lighted Boat Parade is from 7-9 p.m. on Gig Harbor Bay. Watch from waterfront restaurants or the park. Ghyachtclub.org or 857-4842.



Well, the world didn't end a decade ago,
And the Angels are still here.
But we always need more, you know.
How about joining us next year?



Happy, Warm and Safe Holidays to all.

ANGEL GUILD THRIFT SHOP
in the Key Center Corral
253-884-9333 - angelguild9013@hotmail.com
Open Tuesday through Saturday 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
The Angel Guild Thrift Shop is an independent philanthropy and is not affiliated with any other organization.

Two great programs for KP youth...

Friday Night Skate for kids
(elementary - middle school)
every Friday night* • 5:30pm - 8:30pm
at the KP Civic Center
*except during the Winter Holiday



Kitchen open with burgers, fries, pizza, candy, soda and other treats.

SAME LOW PRICE: \$5 entrance

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FOR TEENS • 9PM-12AM
LAST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH
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884-3456 • www.kpciviccenter.org • facebook

Key Peninsula Community Services
17015 9Th St Ct KPN Lakebay, WA. 98349



Senior Center & Food Bank
Helping our most cherished citizens to eat and live healthy
PO Box 392 Lakebay WA, 98349 253-884-4440 Fax: 253-884-6196
Email: KPCCSdirector@centurytel.net

KPCS would like to give a **Special Thanks to: Boy Scouts Troop 220, KP Middle School Students & Staff and the Peninsula School Dist. Bus Drivers.**

The Food Bank and Senior Center will be closed from Dec 23rd to Jan 1st.

We will reopen on Jan. 2nd.



Happy Holidays from the KPCS Staff & Board

KPCS is looking for new **Board Members & Volunteers.** Board elections will be in February and Volunteers are needed all year round. If you would like to donate some time to the community please stop by our office or give us a call for more details.

Senior Lunches every Wednesday and Friday at noon. Stop on in and say "Hi" to our new cook Dawn Chaussee.



www.keypeninsulacommunityservices.org and www.facebook.com/KeyPenCS

PenLight is getting ready for winter storms

KP News staff report

Old Man Winter is on the way. There's no telling if he'll hit us with a double-whammy that knocks out the power this year, or just a plain old whammy.

According to Jonathan White, director of member services and marketing at PenLight Co., the company has a computerized system that reports on every power meter status every 20 minutes.

"We know if the power's out, even if you haven't called us. We can see on our map all the meters that are on or off," he said. Green lights indicate a meter is on; a red light mean it's offline with no power.

"We still want people to phone us, though, because sometimes your outage may be an anomaly. You might have a branch down that's just knocked power out for you and your neighbor," he said.

White acknowledged that in a power outage, people want to know two things: Are there crews on the way to fix it? And when is my power coming back on?

To get up-to-the-minute updates, White said, "Our members can now track us on Twitter. They don't even have to be signed up for Twitter and they don't need a user name or password."

Here's how to do it:

From your smart phone, start a new text message, and in the "send" box type 40404.

In the "message" box, type "follow Pen Light Co.," then hit send.

You'll get a confirmation text saying that you are now following Peninsula Light on Twitter.

The main advantage to Twitter is that "we send out tweets letting people know the latest information about the outage including the cause, how many are without power, what areas are affected, and when we expect to have the power back on," he said.

PenLight has a specific procedure for restoring power:

"We have to take care of it (restoring power) in the right order to be safe. Our workers have to go out and assess the damage and determine how to move

forward," he said.

"Sometimes we have to shut more people down in order to make a repair safely."

White also had a few reminders about being prepared for emergencies.

He noted that PenLight's power restoration time has been reduced significantly since 1996.

"The time it takes to restore power has gotten significantly shorter, from two weeks in 1996 to one week in 2006 and then this last year it was out for only three days." Penlight is working on ways to make it happen even faster, he said, especially through their undergrounding program.

"We started out with 1,000 miles of lines above-ground and now we're down to about 350 miles above-ground. We've been putting approximately 10 miles of line underground every year since about 2007 and we figure that by about 2016 we will have the worst circuits fixed," he said.

To report and outage, call (253) 853-1388.

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- Radiator & Heater Cores
- Shocks & Struts
- Performance Exhaust

Located just down the Hill from Key Center on Glen Cove

Owners: Eric, Manuela & Mathew Moreland 253

884-1838

Help Wanted

Longbranch Community Church is seeking a pianist for Sunday Worship, 10:15 to 11:45 a.m. \$40.00 per Sunday

Contact Carol Rosebrock if interested: 253-884-1305

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Community News Briefs

KP Citizens of the Year nominees sought

Nominations for Key Peninsula Citizens of the Year 2012 - '13 will be accepted by the sponsoring KP Lions Club effective Dec. 1.

The 29th annual event will be held at the KP Civic Center as usual and will feature a dinner and keynote speaker.

Anyone who lives, works or owns property on the Key Peninsula is eligible for recognition for volunteer work or contributions benefiting the KP community. Members of the Lions Club are not eligible.

Nomination letters must include the full name, telephone number and physical address of the nominee and a brief explanation of why they should be considered. Volunteer work or contributions may be in the form of a single large contribution of time or resources, or for recognition of sustained contributions over a long period.

Nominations will be accepted until Jan. 18. Send them to hmcnp1000@centurytel.net or KP Lions, P.O. Box 63,

Vaughn, WA 98394.

For information, call (253) 853-2721 or (253) 884-3319.

Penrose park upgrade still in the works

The sewer system upgrade project at Penrose Point State Park is progressing smoothly, but taking a little longer than originally expected. The park will remain closed and is expected to open by Jan. 1.

The extended closure is the result of some minor changes in scope from the original project, weather delays and holidays.

For information call the park at (253) 884-2514.

Local restaurant helps food bank with donations

Key Center's El Sombrero Mexican Restaurant will donate all proceeds from the sale of its "Churros" to the Key Peninsula Community Services Food Bank through Dec. 8.

Churros are a delicate dessert of pastry strips deep-fried and rolled in sugar and cinnamon, swirled with strawberry sauce and topped with whipped cream.

KP Vets 2012 trees of sharing this month

Key Peninsula Veterans is again sponsoring the Trees of Sharing through Dec. 20.

Key Peninsula residents have the opportunity to purchase small gifts for military veterans at American Lake VA Hospital. The gifts are disbursed to hospitalized vets that cannot be home for Christmas and to homeless vets who have no home at all.

Christmas trees will be displayed at local businesses. Stop by and remove a gift tag, purchase a gift then return it to one of the following locations: Food Markets at Lake Kathryn Village and Key Center, Sound Credit Union, LuLu's Homeport and the Key Peninsula Community Center in Home.

For more info contact Mike Coffin at 884-9852.



Crab Feed tickets make a great hostess or holiday gift!

2013 Key Peninsula Civic Center's
Crab Feed!
Saturday, February 9th
4:00 to 7:00 PM

Dinner includes:
Fresh Crab • Spaghetti
Salad • Garlic Bread

Adults \$ 25
Children (6-12) \$ 10
Children under 6 free

Tickets may be purchased at:
Blend • Key Peninsula Civic Center • Sunnycrest Nursery
Tickets sold at the door, depending on availability
253.884.3456 • www.kpciviccenter.org • Facebook



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Call 253-884-3456 or email us at kpciviccenter@centurytel.net to book your date now!



Key Pen Parks receives donations from car dealership

By Scott Turner, KP News

During the months of November and December, the Key Peninsula Middle School gym is packed with kids playing soccer.

The Key Pen Parks' Pee Wee indoor soccer league has been drawing 4-to 7-year-old kids to the parquet turf Saturday mornings since 2006.

On Nov. 3, there was a little more excitement added to the normal hustle and bustle, game fundamentals and busy picture-day activities.

There was a stop in the action for a presentation from Grey Chevrolet of Port Orchard. Whistles were blown and players grouped to an end of the gym to receive a \$500 check from Brian Van Wert, company parts manager.

On behalf of Grey Chevrolet, Van Wert, a Key Peninsula resident, donated an oversized ceremonial check as part of the company's commitment to youth sports.

The kids were happy, but no one was more excited than Jessica Smeall, Key Pen Parks recreation coordinator.

She said Grey Chevrolet came to Key Pen Parks wanting to sponsor the popular recre-



Photo by Scott Turner, KP News

Last month, Key Pen Parks soccer players pose for a group photo after Grey Chevrolet donated funds for their program.

ation program.

"We are at a place now where we want to grow. The fees we receive for the (soccer) classes just cover the gym and the instructors, so if we want to buy more equipment or have an end-of-year party, we really rely on sponsors, donors and parents to help us do that.

"With a gift card, they ended up donating \$700, and that is a big deal for us," Smeall said.

She plans to use the funds for the soccer

program next year and said the park district is grateful for the support.

Earlier this summer, the dealership donated cones, goals, jerseys, T-shirts and equipment bags to kick off the year, Smeall said.

Van Wert smiled as the mini-soccer players swarmed him and his large stunt check.

He said Grey Chevrolet has partnered with General Motors to enhance youth soccer throughout the nation.

"I live out in Lakebay, so I convinced them (Grey) and they let me run this national program on the Key Peninsula.

"There is a great group of people who have embraced me since I moved out here in 2006. It's a wonderful close-knit community and I'm proud to be able to present this check to them," Van Wert said.

Smeall is hopeful more area youth will get involved in recreation.

"I want people to have awareness of our Pee Wee program throughout the year and to be part of our next sport, and next year's program. Out here, we need social interaction and skill development, teamwork and sportsmanship for these little ones as early as possible," she added.

For information, visit keypenparks.com.

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CONGRATULATIONS!

On Thursday, November 8, 2012 the Key Peninsula Civic Center Association (KPCCA) elected a new slate of Executive Committee members for 2013:

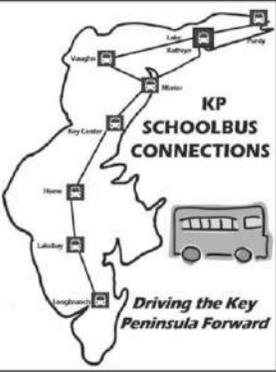
President: **Mark Roberts**
1st Vice President: **Scott Dervaes**
2nd Vice President: **Pat Medveckus**
Treasurer: **Bruce Macdonald**
Secretary: **Julie Boardman**
Past President: **Ed Taylor**
At-Large Member: **Loyd Miller**
At-Large Member: **Matt Kennedy**
with Human Resources Chair: **Peggy Gablehouse**

The KPCCA Board meets on the second Thursday of each month, at 7pm, in the Whitmore Room.

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KP annual Winter Warm-Up draws a crowd

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

The fifth annual Key Peninsula Civic Center Winter Warm-Up Crafts Fair & Chili Cook-Off fundraiser event played to a full house Saturday (Nov. 10).

The chili cook-off, held in the Whitmore room, complied with Pierce County regulations prohibiting the sale or ingesting of the tasty stuff by all, except those who prepared the vittles and the five judges.

The civic center floor was filled with

vendors offering handmade and one-of-a-kind local art and creations. Business was brisk. Offerings included metal bird houses and oodles of foodstuffs like local honey, jams, pickles and other attractively packaged items. There was wooden furniture, scads of jewelry, dolls, kitchen items, candles, items for gardeners and the Rubber Band Underground offering an assortment of harmless rubber-band weapons.

Minter Creek Elementary student musicians, under the direction of the school's

music teacher, Paula DeMoss, provided well-received entertainment. Those needing a bite to eat found the KPCC kitchen ready to provide tummy fillers at modest prices.

Several people said the event radiated fun, good community spirit and friendship. Two Waters Arts Alliance sponsored a "Kids Crafts Corner" where youngsters enjoyed creating items to be used as gifts for the holidays. Outside in the sunshine, a happy collection of youth enjoyed the KPCC's recently installed, physically challenging play yard.



Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News

Darin and Elaine Gilman were spotted selling delightful candle holders and other crafts in time for Christmas. All items were made from locally sourced material.



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Breakfast is at 9 a.m. Singing begins at 11 a.m. with Christmas songs for everyone.

For more information please call: 253-853-6761





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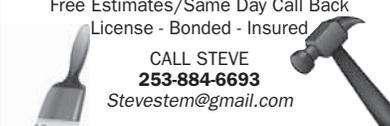
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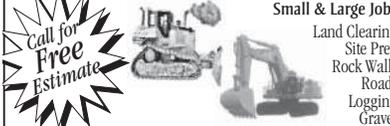
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Out & About

To see more Out & About photos, visit our website at www.keypennews.com and follow the Photo Gallery link. See more of your neighbors out and about, Key Peninsula scenes and happenings. The online gallery features website exclusive photos!



Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News

Above: Winter Warm-up chili judges and the cook-off contest winners, from left, Claudia Jones, Frank Grubaugh, Sheila Hunt (judges) and Penny Grant, first-place winner, Spencer Grant, second-place winner and Joan Petersen, third place.

Right: Peninsula Seahawk Julia Kilcup wins the header battle with Cougar midfielder Katrina Holt. The Seahawks girls varsity soccer team's season came to an end on Nov. 6 at Seattle's Memorial Stadium after losing to the Holy Names High School team by a score of 2-0 in the first round of the Washington state tournament.



Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News

Where in the World...

Janelle and Jim Frisbie have property on the Key Peninsula, where they will retire. They currently live in Southern California. They took the KP News with them on vacation to Niagara Falls Canada.

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Photo by Scott Turner, KP News

Key Peninsula Historical Society members Don Mills, Judy Mills, Betty Van Slyke, Colleen Slater, Lois Crandall, Dulcie Schillinger, Connie Hildahl, Danna Webster and Frank Slater gathered at a newly planted commemorative tree on the KP Civic Center property. The tree was planted in honor of Richard Crandall, Lois Crandall's son, in whose memory she gave a generous donation to the museum. Trees have been planted by the Historical Society in honor of several of their members and also by the civic center and Boy Scouts in memory of some of their volunteers. The museum is a free event open 1 to 4 p.m. Thursdays and 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays. During the winter months, the museum is closed from Dec. 16 to Feb. 2.