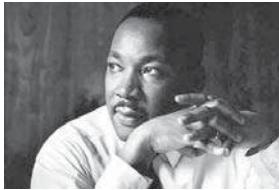


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THE VOICE OF THE KEY PENINSULA

VOL. 41 NO. 13

INSIDE & ONLINE

JANUARY 2013

Online



Murph's BBQ

- Key Pen gun rules explained
- Veterans share stories, books with Key Peninsula students



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rules the day

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Out & About 24

Lakebay man owns former astronaut aircraft

By Charlee Glock-Jackson
and Scott Turner, KP News

Stephen Baldwin lives and breathes airplanes. As a young teenager, the Lakebay resident got his pilot's license before he got his driver's license.

"My father was a missionary to Guatemala, Central America and he was also a bush pilot. The first time he took me flying with him, it fascinated me and I just wanted to do what he did," Baldwin said.

Today, Baldwin works as a maintenance mechanic for United Airlines, and also owns Baldwin Aircraft Services. "I do annual inspections on personal airplanes as a side business," he said. "I also do pre-purchase inspections, repairs and appraisals, but annual inspections is the main thing that I do."

He has owned several planes over the years. His latest acquisition is a Navion L17, built in 1948.

(See Aircraft, Page 4)



Photo by Scott Turner, KP News

Stephen Baldwin enjoys flying and showing off his Navion L17. He keeps his historic craft at the Port Orchard Airport. The plane was once owned by Apollo 13 astronaut Fred Haise.

Teen activity center set to open in mid-February

The Red Barn will be a safe, inclusive place for kids to hang out after school.

By Charlee Glock-Jackson and Scott Turner KP News

The old building at the corner of 84th Street and KP Highway began as a feed store. Then it was used for processing disposable cameras and as an artist studio.

Now it's finding new life as a youth activity center called The Red Barn.

According to Lisa Roddy, project manager and board member of the nonprofit Red Barn Association, the concept was born about eight years ago when members of Waypoint Church (formerly Vaughn Community Church) "got the idea that there needed to be a youth activity center here on the Peninsula," and that the old feed store building would be a good place for it.

Because of environmental problems created by the disposable

camera shop, it took more than three years to navigate the permitting process.

Renovation of the building began in late 2008 and the group is shooting for a mid-February opening.

"We've done it with almost \$200,000 in donated funds," Roddy said. "It's 100 percent donated funds. We don't have a single bit of debt. We sort of went along and raised the money as we needed it to do each step of the project, because it was so large and so long in scope that we couldn't just go out and get a bunch of materials all at once for the entire project."

When the Red Barn opens, it's going to be "life-changing," Roddy said. "When my kids were growing up here there was nothing like this for them. We had to go to Gig Harbor. It's really difficult for many families raising kids, not having a place to go or something for kids to do and a lot of kids get into trouble," she said.

(See Center, Page 2)

(From Center, Page 1)

Jo Ann Maxwell, another member of the Red Barn's board of directors, has some definite ideas about the kind of place the Red Barn can become.

"This is a place where middle school kids and high school kids will be able to connect. It's a place where they can come to hang out after school, do their homework and have a good relationship with caring adults," Maxwell said.

"We'll have snacks and a coffee bar and a smoothie bar, and there'll be a hot meal."

The kids can just drop in; there's no membership and it's totally at no cost to the kids," she said.

The center will be open until 6:30 p.m. "It's a place for kids to be safe and continue learning after the school day. And it will give the parents peace of mind to know that their kids are doing good things," Maxwell said.

She added that the kids themselves will have plenty of input on the Red Barn's activities.

"We know we want a sustainable garden. And because we're on wetlands we want some environmental sciences," Maxwell said.

"When the gym is done, we'll have some fitness and wellness things and we'll have a stage for music opportunities. The possibilities are endless."

The group already has an ally in PHS principal Tim Winters, Maxwell noted.

"A lot of Peninsula kids miss out on the after-school clubs because they have to get on their bus right after school,



Photo by Scott Turner, KP News

Red Barn board members Jo Ann Maxwell and Lisa Roddy, right, are eager to open their doors of possibilities to local youth. Both women feel certain the Red Barn will become a hot spot for kids, and said their programs will help develop new leaders in the community.

and the buses are on a set schedule. But there's a bus stop right outside the Red Barn, so kids can be dropped off right here."

Both Maxwell and Roddy feel certain that the Red Barn will help kids grow up to be leaders in the community.

"We'll be helping them understand what it means to be part of a community and what it means to give back to the community and why relationships are important," Maxwell said.

When the building isn't in use by the youngsters, it will be available for use by

other clubs and organizations, Roddy said.

The Red Barn organizers are still accepting donations, and are looking for parent volunteers to help with upkeep, operations and activities.

For information visit redbarnkp.com or phone Rory Adams at (253) 853-7878.

To subscribe, please write,
call or fax:

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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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2. The objective of Key Peninsula News is to support and create community by reporting news and features and providing a forum for local information. News and editorial coverage focuses on the Key Peninsula and immediately adjacent areas within Fire District 16.

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JANUARY 2013

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 (ELVES) who made our 2nd annual Breakfast with Santa event so wonderful!

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Bob Armstrong	Josh Hundley
Leslie Beecher	Bill Jones
Maria Cohen	Claudia Jones
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Kobe Frederick	Makayla Redford
Caden Gallacher	Taylor Youk

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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

*COMING SOON! *

Mid-Winter Break Camps

- LEGO • MARINE SCIENCE • ECO ADVENTURE • DANCE • BUILD YOUR OWN RESTAURANT •

Art For Adults: JEWELRY

Choose between the basic or advanced bead jewelry class with Sara Gray, from June Moon Beads. In the basic class, you will make 3 pairs of earrings and learn a technique that can be used for advanced jewelry. In the advanced class, you will make a "cha-cha" bracelet and build on techniques learned in the basic class.

Location: Volunteer Park Office Date: Sat. 1-12
Time: 9:30-12:30 (basic) 1:00-4:00 (advanced)
Fee: \$25 per class



ADULT FITNESS BOOT CAMP

Instructor: Shannon Reichl

INDOOR (WEEKDAYS)

Location: Civic Center Gym
Day: Mon & Wed Time: 1-2pm
Dates: Jan. 7-30 / Feb. 4-27 (4 weeks)
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 (6 weeks)
Fee: \$45 for 1 class/week, \$90 for 2

- AGILITY TRAINING • CARDIO TRAINING
- CORE TRAINING • STRENGTH TRAINING
- ALL in a FUN workout!

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: Jan. 26 - Mar. 2 Fee: \$45



Upcoming Public Meetings

Park Board Meetings are at the Volunteer Park office, at 7:30pm on the following dates:
January 14 & January 28

SCHOLARSHIPS Available!

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

2013 Key Peninsula Civic Center's

Crab Feed!

Saturday, February 9th
4:00 to 7:00PM

**Featuring
fresh caught
Pacific Coast
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Dinner includes:
**Fresh Crab • Spaghetti
Salad • Garlic Bread**
~ Soda, Beer & Wine for sale ~
Bring your own seafood crackers & picks

Proceeds benefit the:

Adults \$25
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Children under 6 free

Tickets may be purchased at:
Blend • Key Peninsula Civic Center • Sunnycrest Nursery
Tickets sold at the door, depending on availability
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17010 S. Vaughn Rd Kp N, Vaughn, WA 98394

Key Peninsula Civic Center

(From **Aircraft**, Page 1)

It was one of about 1,000 L17s built by North American. "It was designed for the Air Force to be used for reconnaissance. It was also used by generals as their personal plane after World War II," he said. "General (Douglas) MacArthur used one," he said.

Baldwin's L17 is a single engine, variable speed prop, four-seater. "It's a very stout airplane. North American also made the P-51 Mustang and you can tell by looking at it that the tail section and a lot of the design was modeled after the P-51. It was used to transport important people," he said.

Baldwin's research has revealed that from 1958 to 1963, his plane was owned by NASA and was used by astronaut Fred Haise for research during his tenure with that agency. "He did zero gravity testing, taking it up to a high altitude," Baldwin said. "Then he would just drop it into a nosedive. He did lots of testing with it."

That was a time when a great deal of research was being done, following President Kennedy's directive that the U.S. was going to land a man on the moon, Baldwin noted.

In November of last year, Baldwin had the opportunity to meet Astronaut Fred Haise.

"Since I knew my plane's history, I wanted to meet him. I met him at the Kennedy Space Center in Orlando, Florida where he and a bunch of other astronauts were getting together for dinner. I showed him a letter he had written about the plane on May 4, 1996, and he started talking about the airplane and what he did with it," Baldwin said.

"He was really excited to see that this airplane is still in the air. He had lots of stories.

"One thing he told me not to do was the zero gravity test because when you dive, the engine tends to sputter and die.

"He said that he had to restart the engine in the air each time he did that," Baldwin recalled with a smile.

"It felt really good to meet him because he was one of my heroes, because he was one of the ones on the Apollo 13 mission."

Right now Baldwin's L17 is at the Port Orchard Airport. He plans to show it at air shows and he hopes to take it to JBLM in the next couple of years "doing their static displays," he said. As a bonus, Haise signed the plane's cowling, which Baldwin polishes regularly.

He's proud to own a "significant piece of history, right here on the Key Peninsula. I think that's an honor for such a small rural community."

Foundation works to build support for community-based organizations

This month, the Greater Gig Harbor Foundation will hold three meetings.

All those interested in learning more, getting involved and working together to improve the quality of life across the Key and Gig Harbor peninsulas are invited.

Since 2006, the foundation has raised about \$2 million in funds, services and other donations for community-based organizations, projects and programs.

From August through November 2012, the foundation undertook an inclusive cross-peninsula community initiative to identify vital ways to help meet local needs.

The effort included a three-part workshop series. In total, 55 participants from 36 area nonprofit organizations and agencies from the two peninsulas came together for three days to discuss, evaluate and

take first actions.

Representatives from Key Pen included the Key Peninsula Historical Society, Community Services, Key Peninsula Civic Center, Key Pen Parks, Two Waters Arts Alliance, Key Peninsula Parks and Recreation Foundation and more.

Those interested in the opportunities provided by the foundation are invited to the January meetings at 6625 Wagner Way, Gig Harbor.

Jan. 15, 6:30 – 8 p.m. – Foundation Board

Jan. 22, 6:30 – 8 p.m. – Core Area Boards (Arts & Culture, Education, Parks & Environment, Recreation and Social Capital)

Jan. 26, 6:30 – 8 p.m. – 2013 ONE Community One Call Committee

For information, visit gigharborfoundation.org or call (253) 514-6338.

NEWS BRIEFS**KP leaders showcase Gateway Park to officials**

On Dec. 18, a summit gathering of 30 Key Peninsula community members, local leaders, and stakeholders met to promote the attributes of the new Gateway Park to Pierce County Councilman Stan Fleming and State Reps Jan Angel and Larry Sequist.

Advocates promoting the arts, businesses, tourism, agriculture, equestrian sports, ballfields, environmental studies, wildlife conservation, trails and historical preservation heralded the potential of this new park property.

The summit leaders asked the elected officials to support efforts to secure funding for the development of the park from the Governor's proposed budget for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program. Both representatives and the councilman indicated their support of the effort.

Key Pen Parks Commissioner Greg Anglemyer illustrated Gateway's attributes for future active and passive recreation and pointed out the corridor which allows the connection to the 360 Recreation Area.

The fiscally conservative savings by the parks' board, since 2008, which achieved the funds necessary to buy the property was also noted. Key Pen Parks Director, Scott Gallacher, was impressed by the broad diversity of interests of the leaders who attended. "It shows the amount of support that the property has from the community and the meaning it has for the future of our community," he said.

Community council steps up transportation plan

Editor's note: This story and video first appeared online at keypennews.com on Dec. 19.

The Key Peninsula Community Council has created a transportation subcommittee that will look at transportation alternatives for Key Pen residents. The committee will be looking at other communities for potential models. One idea in the works is to launch a survey of local vehicles that could be used as part of a feeder program.

"Transportation out here on the Key

Peninsula is really limited for people who can't drive and seniors who want to stay in their own homes," said Marcia Harris, the chair of the newly created subcommittee.

The community council will also take over The Mustard Seed Project's bus transportation program if the program receives another two-year operating grant. The innovative program, called KP Schoolbus Connections, utilizes school buses to provide public transportation once a week. The Mustard Seed is overseeing the program through the end of the school year and the council will assume administrative oversight after June if the funding — which is granted through the Educational Service District through state and federal transportation dollars—is approved.

To learn about the Mustard Seed bus pilot program, visit keypennews.com to watch a seven-minute documentary, titled "The Mustard Seed Bus," produced by Key Pen resident Rodika Tolleson.

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 today.

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

Anyone who lives, works, or owns property on the Key Peninsula is eligible for recognition for volunteer work or contributions benefitting 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 hmcmnp1000@centurytel.net or KP Lions, P.O. Box 63, Vaughn, WA 98394.

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

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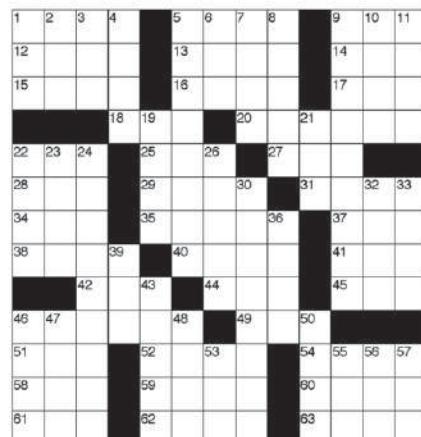
- 1 Metrical unit
- 5 Arabian judge
- 9 Grandfather of Saul
- 12 Exude
- 13 Sleeping
- 14 Mountain on Crete
- 15 Javanese carriage
- 16 Weed
- 17 Computer generated imagery (abbr.)
- 18 Alcott heroine
- 20 Sable
- 22 Article
- 25 Nat'l Endowment for the Arts (abbr.)
- 27 Garland
- 28 Time period
- 29 International (abbr.)
- 31 And other: abbr. (2 words) (Lat.)
- 34 Sinbad's bird
- 35 Fr. author
- 37 Amer. Dental Assn. (abbr.)
- 38 Wing (pref.)
- 40 Grape syrup
- 41 Jap. fish
- 42 Article (Fr.)
- 44 Negative population growth (abbr.)
- 45 Deviate
- 46 Necktie
- 49 Droop
- 51 Male person
- 52 Baseball equipment
- 54 Elth. Danakil people
- 58 Pointed (pref.)
- 59 Afr. tree
- 60 Polish rum cake
- 61 Footlike structure
- 62 Direct
- 63 Poetic foot

Answers

P	E	S	L	E	A	D	I	A	M	B
A	C	U	A	K	E	E	B	B	A	A
L	A	D	B	A	L	L	A	F	A	R
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S	A	D	O	T	A	R	E	C	G	I
E	M	I	T	A	B	E	D	I	D	A

DOWN

- 1 Before some vowels (pref.)
- 2 Tumor (suf.)
- 3 Free
- 4 Monad
- 5 Felis (2 words)
- 6 Amateur Boxing
- 7 Skin (suf.)
- 8 Utopian
- 9 Wink
- 10 Wayside
- 11 Pour
- 19 Camelot lady
- 21 Female ruff
- 22 Mannmade protective mound
- 23 Owl's cry
- 24 Moon of Saturn
- 26 Hindu soul
- 30 Pulka (2 words)
- 32 City in Judah
- 33 Den
- 36 Legend
- 39 Race the motor
- 43 Palmetto
- 46 Thunder sound
- 47 People
- 48 Subtract
- 50 Taro
- 53 Yarn measure
- 55 Federal Aviation Admin. (abbr.)
- 56 Antiballistic Missile (abbr.)
- 57 Mortar beater



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Peninsula Views

Key Peninsula News add four new columnists for 2013

Four new guest columnists have been selected to share their opinions on these pages for the coming year, beginning with **Bill Trandum**, of Vaughn, featured this month.

Trandum, a retired U.S. Navy captain, spent time at sea in all kinds of weather and in many oceans. He sailed extensively in Navy vessels, a couple of passenger ships, on sailboats, power yachts and raced 40-foot sailboats with a crew of eight.

Trandum published a monthly set of localized tide tables for 10 years, and describes himself as a qualified outlier in South Sound tide matters. He founded The Federal Way City Herald, published the Pierce County Herald, and led the re-founding of the Key Peninsula News in 2003.

Mee Yeong Saunders, of Wauna, had lived in Sun Rin Orphanage in Seoul, South Korea for six years when she met her adopted parents. She flew, with two very excited and nervous parents, "home" to Washington state and started third grade three days later.

Saunders is a 2012 honors graduate of the University of Washington, where she reawakened her love for language and the inherent magic of words to explore, express and to share curiosities and observations. She looks forward to an exciting

and challenging opportunity to not only push the limits of what she believes can be done, but also to be involved with the continuing heartbeat of our community.

Cecil Beal was born and raised in the Vaughn area and now lives at Carney Lake. He went to Vaughn Elementary, Goodman Jr. High and graduated from Peninsula High School.

Beal has been involved with guns most of his life; mainly antique and collectibles. He is a federally licensed dealer who runs his own firearms business. He is fascinated with the development in firearm technology from 1900 through the 1940s, with a real passion in research. Beal has an extensive gun book library and does historical research and firearm appraisals for many of his customers.

Deborah Allen, of Lakebay, is a teacher/librarian in a rural K-8 school district north of Shelton. She recently moved to the Key Peninsula to be closer to her grown children who live in the south-east King County community where they grew up.

Allen has a master's degree in Literacy Education from Pacific Lutheran University, and believes she has the best job in the world because she gets to read to children every day.

2013 Budgets Approved

by Rick Sorrels

It's budget time for the various local governments. Below are their approved budgets for 2013, compiled from budget documents.

	2012	2013	change
City of Tacoma	\$1,364,963,399	\$1,386,516,604	+2 percent
Pierce County	801,900,031	894,164,243	+12 percent
Peninsula School District	93,591,962	98,385,471	+5 percent
City of Gig Harbor	55,629,547	57,448,762	+3 percent
Pierce County Library	26,869,885	25,423,927	-5 percent
FD5, Gig Harbor	18,863,721	19,363,811	+2 percent
FD16, Key Pen	4,711,388	5,222,885	+11 percent
Gig Harbor Parks	3,936,602	2,056,897*	-48 percent
Key Pen Parks	943,529	881,400*	+2 percent

* Note: Approximate. Will vary due to proration with senior priority agencies.

Moving with the tide

Weathers: who says there's just one? Did you know that tides change along the shore first? Then, the tidal current gradually moves out to the middle of the channel or bay. And did you

know that the momentum of the tidal current in the middle of the channel is much more powerful and lasts longer than the current along the shore?

It's true, and it's caused by friction. As the tidal current in shallower water moves along the shore, the sand, gravel, rocks and other bottom features slow the water down as it drags across the bottom. So when the tide changes, the already struggling flow from the previous tide gives up earliest along the shore. Conversely, the fast free-flowing tide out in the middle isn't about to give up early. It will continue flowing in its prevailing direction for quite some time after the tide table says it has turned.

So if you're rowing a skiff, paddling a kayak or canoe, or sailing with the tide, get offshore as far as wind and wave conditions are safe and you'll add the speed of the tidal current to the speed you're able to generate with your oars, paddle or sails.

If, on the other hand, you're working against the tide, running close inshore is the better strategy provided you keep a sharp eye for shoals, reefs and rocks.

William T. Trandum
Winds, Tides & Weathers



And we have plenty around the shores of the Key Peninsula, particularly in Pitt Passage, east of the Penrose area.

Our south sound tides rush in and out through the Tacoma Narrows twice each day. There are two tide cycles, one more pronounced than the other. There is a high high tide each day and a low low tide. Then, for the other cycle, there's a lower high and a higher low. In the summer our high highs and low lows generally occur during daytime. In the winter they are at night.

Both are caused by a combination of the spinning of the earth on its axis and the gravitational pulls of the sun and the moon. Sometimes the pulls act together and produce extreme or "spring" tides, sometimes they pull against each other and produce weaker or "neap" tides.

And here's an added piece of important nearly South Sound trivia. Did you know that because of the slope of the sea bottom, the current on the west side of Vashon Island, in Colvos Passage, always flows to the north? Yep, whether the tide is flooding or ebbing, that channel's current is the same.

Letters Policy

The opinions expressed herein are the opinions of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the publishers or staff. All letters to the editor must be signed and include a daytime phone number for verification. No anonymous letters will be published. Submissions are used on a space available basis and may be edited if used. THE KEY PENINSULA NEWS reserves the right to edit all submissions for length and content. Mail letters to: P.O. Box 3, Vaughn, WA 98394, or email to news@keypennews.com.

Simply put: I have a cat

My cat is not a normal, conceited and aloof cat. It is a wild cat, a feral cat.

I never cared for cats before. They have no real purpose in the life of a human, especially a human male who is not amenable to being trained by a 10 pound animated hairball. Attempts at training by a 120-pound woman is enough for anybody, thank you.

On a near-freezing winter night six years ago, I stumbled across this juvenile cat in my carport. It came to me sneezing with snot running across its face. There is nothing more pitiful than a really sick cat. The cat was an unknown, I had no idea that it didn't normally approach humans.

I wrapped "Cat" in a blanket and stuffed her into a cardboard box on the porch. The next night was below freezing, so I moved her into the laundry room. Cat got healthy, grew to full size, and claimed her home.

I learned that Cat had only experienced

Rick Sorrels
The Pragmatic Sophist



a hard, wild life, when she insisted on going on the hunt to kill and eat something fresh every day.

Cat will leap six feet up and snatch a bird right out of the air. She will jump six feet from the porch railing to the roof to make her "rounds."

She will lay in wait for a mouse, mole, rat, mountain beaver, rabbit, and anything else warm blooded, and then drag it home and devour it head first with the tail being the last bit to disappear down her gullet.

Cat is also a "flying" cat. She likes to jump from the top of a car 15 or so feet to my shoulders. There's been times when I had bent over for something, and then noticed a black and brown blur flying past.

I am well aware when Cat lands. Her

nails have never been clipped. She uses them to chase raccoons up first-growth evergreens.

Raccoons used to come to the door, knock and beg for handouts. Cat attacks the raccoons. A tremendous noise ensues. Cornered raccoons have needed rescue a number of times.

Cat craves my attention, but cannot stand other humans. A few months ago, a person I did not know came by to talk. He had already opened his passenger door when he started to ask if it was all right to let his dog out. The Chihuahua was out the door before I could respond that "I have a cat." To which he said, "He won't hurt your cat." To which I said, "I'm not concerned about my cat."

We looked over and saw Cat with her shoulders hunched, with eyes intent, stalking the Chihuahua.

The Chihuahua knew exactly what Cat

was going to have for lunch. He scratched like crazy on the car door to get in, and just barely made it.

Cat is nothing special to look at, just a regular size tortoiseshell cat, black with brown mixed in. Pick her up, however, and you feel muscles like steel cables.

I'm pretty sure that Cat is female, for a few days every so many months she entertains me with screeching howls common to females in heat. I have no concern that she will end up pregnant, as I suspect her "warm body equals meal" reflex will prevail.

The only time she has ever seemed bothered is when the coyotes are on the prowl. All other times, she is the top of the food chain, and reigns supreme, except for me.

I have a whole new appreciation for cats, at least one particular cat. The remainder of them still have questionable value.

Tune in next time for "I have a dog."

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STREET TALK

With 2013 upon us, we stopped a handful of Key Peninsula people and asked them to describe their New Year's resolution in a sentence.



To grow twice as many vegetables as I did last year.

— Daniel Hogan



To be nice to everyone I meet.

— Ann Greetham



I want to lose 10 pounds and to run more.

— Lee Carr

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Email: KPCSdirector@centurytel.net

KPCS Board Elections are in February

If you have an interest in being on our board we encourage you to come in and pick up an application. The deadline for applications to be returned is January 13th.

Thanks in advance for your interest. KPCS is a great place to get involved with your community.

Come Join Our Senior Center!
Lunch is served on Wednesday and Friday at 12:00 PM.
We also have Senior Shopping Days twice a month.

Our Annual Pledge drive has begun. If you have donated already - **THANK YOU!**

If you haven't, please consider helping your community by sending what you can.

Thank you,
Penny Gazabat - Director

A Special Thanks to:

Discovery Elementary
For a Great Food Drive!

STREET TALK



My resolution is to make next year a whole lot better than this year.

— Geri Nimrick



To become a nationally-ranked tennis player.

— Jake Sorenson



My resolution is to become a professional dog handler.

— Taylor Youk



To better put feet to my faith.

— James Allyn

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Local couples plan to take advantage of R-74's passage

KP News staff report

The passage of R-74, Washington state's Equal Marriage Act, marks an important change for same-sex couples throughout the state, including several on the Key Peninsula.

For Holly and Denise Hendrick, it means that their domestic partnership can now evolve into a legal marriage.

"Holly and I had a big wedding celebration and party with our family and friends back in 2007. Then in 2011, we got domestic partnered," said Denise Hendrick, who had her last name legally changed to Hendrick several years ago.

Next July, the couple plans to take advantage of their new "equal status" and will be legally married, probably in a "nice site in Tacoma," she said. "The date will be on our 15th anniversary together. After being together for 15 years, we'll finally have the protections and security that marriage brings," Hendrick added.

"We talked about going to California or Canada, but we wanted to be married in our own state. We were pretty sure that some day that would be able to happen," she said.

The legal ceremony will be a fairly low key event, she said. "We feel like we had our big marriage celebration back in 2007, but we still have lots of people who are very excited and want to celebrate with us and support us," Hendrick said.

Like other couples, Holly and Denise want "all the legal protections we can get. We want to feel secure."

That means things like being able to put a spouse on a health insurance policy



KP News courtesy photo

With the recent passing of R-74, Denise and Holly Hendrick, right, look forward to getting married sometime this year.

or to buy property together as a married couple.

But, until the federal government makes same-sex marriage legal throughout the United States, there will still be uncertainties about things like Social Security benefits for surviving spouses and other questions.

"I'm really proud of our state for passing R-74," Hendrick said. "And I think the federal government will also recognize

same sex marriages in my lifetime."

Michael Ouellette and Mike Peterson have been partners for 14 years. In 2009, they sold a business in Renton and purchased the Frog Creek Lodge in Lakebay.

In the three years since they arrived, they've completely remodeled the lodge, inside and out. They've added a hiking trail around the perimeter of the 10-acre property and "totally re-built the labyrinth," Ouellette said.

The lodge has been the site of "lots of weddings," he added. Eventually, it will also be the place where he and Peterson officially tie the knot.

"Right now, though, we're concentrating on the wedding we're hosting for my youngest brother. He and his partner will be married here at Frog Creek next year. Once his wedding is finished, then we'll probably start thinking about our own."

Ouellette is certain that, with the passage of R-74, many more same-sex couples will choose to be married at Frog Creek.

"We welcome everyone," he said. "And the word will spread about that fact."

Ouellette was very active in the R-74 campaign. "Mike and I both feel it's very important that we have equal marriage here in Washington state. No one should dictate who someone can be married to. We just wanted to fight for our rights," Ouellette said.

"When the church got involved, that was what really motivated me. I knew that I had to do everything I could to help get R-74 passed. I might not have been as involved in the campaign to get it passed if it hadn't been for the Catholic Church making such a stand against it," Ouellette said.

"If it hadn't passed, and I hadn't stood up for what I know is right, I would not have been able to forgive myself."

The past 14 years, and especially the past three years that Ouellette and Peterson have owned Frog Creek, have been "a labor of love and an awesome journey."

And both couples believe that the best is yet to come.

Winter driving on the Key Peninsula is challenging road ahead

By Steve Whitford, KP News

Driving in winter weather can be challenging.

Most people know the usual recommended precautions like having the proper tires/chains, to adjust driving speeds to road conditions and to carry blankets, food, water and a cell phone.

But driving on the Key Peninsula comes with its own special hazards.

Key Peninsula Fire Department's Guy Allen, assistant chief, has been with the district since 1999 and knows the area and its unique driving concerns.

"Most of our fatalities and accidents occur on SR-302, singly, because it's busier and cars are traveling at faster speeds. Limited visibility and narrow road shoulders leave no margin for error," Allen said.

Although some road improvements have been made, he said he'd like to see more.

The recent addition of a traffic light in Key Center has improved safety and response times for emergency vehicles, he said.

Allen said the most dangerous spot on SR-302 is the bridge over Minter Creek, at 118th Street. "It's the lowest spot on the peninsula and the first place ice forms,"

he said.

Allen said when SR-302 is blocked, locals should learn the alternative routes that may be available.

"Pierce County did an outstanding job last year keeping the main roads clean, but they don't clear secondary roads. If you live on a secondary road, you'll be your own road crew," he said, adding that shovels, sand and a chainsaw are a must to carry in your vehicle if you can.

He said if possible, it's best to just "stay put," and reminds people that cell phone use while driving is not only illegal, but the act greatly increases the risk of crashing.

For road conditions, visit wsdot.com/traffic.

Temporary library offers computer access and more

By Rodika Tollefson, KP News

It may be cozy and limited, but the space temporarily occupied by the Key Center Library is still offering many basic services patrons have relied on.

The library found a home at the Key Peninsula Civic Center, where a bookmobile is serving as the main digs and the civic center's VFW Room doubles as the library's computer space during specific hours.

And even some programming is continuing on — in January, story time will resume for preschoolers on Wednesday and toddlers on Tuesday.

"We have steady customers. Most of them are here to pick up their holds but some like to look at the book collection. It's mostly new books, including a lot in large print, and holiday materials," said Rosina Vertz, the manager of the Key Center branch.

In addition to new books, the choices in the bookmobile include movies, both for kids and adults, and a small collection of children's books. Kids have their own corner with kid-sized benches — the bookmobile was originally designed for children — and that corner is where the story time sessions will resume.

The bookmobile, which is parked near the civic center's main entrance, also has two computer stations and an outside book drop.

The library system is using a dedicated WiFi connection, also available to patrons who want to bring their own laptops to the VFW room during the computer lab hours. The lab has three laptops for the public to use as well, along with a printer and color copier.

"It's really restricted on what we have to work with but it's really nice to have," said Doug Butterfield, a Lakebay resident who comes in regularly. He brings his own laptop to check up on his eBay business, since he lives in an area where he can't get Internet connection.

"This is the only way I can get it and the people here (library staff) are making it work for us," he said.

The temporary library has reduced hours because of the limited traffic, but holds are dropped off daily by a delivery van and quickly processed by staff on site.



Photo by Nickolas Tollefson, special to KP News

Key Center Library senior branch assistant Carol Dike checks out books for David Saar of Vaughn in the bookmobile that has been set up as the library's space during the branch remodel. On Dec. 19, Pierce County Library announced that the reopening date has been moved to Monday, Feb. 4, almost a month ahead of schedule.

"People really appreciate that we are here. Some say this is like their childhood memory," Vertz said.

She said the self-pickup system in the bookmobile is good practice for what's to come — once the library reopens after the remodel, all holds will be self-checkout. "We're the last branch in the system that doesn't have self-pickup so it's long overdue," Vertz said.

The remodel is proceeding at a rapid pace. On Dec. 19, Pierce County Library announced that the reopening date has

been moved to Monday, Feb. 4, almost a month ahead of schedule.

In addition to the self-checkout, one new feature will be a movie "box," similar to the concept of Redbox. Patrons will pick up empty boxes off the shelf (or from the hold area) and then retrieve the actual DVDs from the kiosk box.

Also new will be a teen area by the young adult book section. The teen space will have a cyberbar and two computers. Two other learning computers will be set up in the kids' area, for a total of 12 in the

Library details

The Kids Explorer Bookmobile, the library's temporary quarters at the Key Peninsula Civic Center, is open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. The computer lab hours in the VFW Room are noon to 5 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. The Key Peninsula Civic Center is located at 17010 S. Vaughn Road.

For the story time schedule that will begin in January, check online at piercecountylibrary.org.

entire library (vs. eight previously).

The biggest change will be in the lobby and meeting room area. Part of the meeting room and lobby is being integrated into the library and sliding glass doors will connect to the new meeting room.

After hours, the sliding doors will be locked and access will be from a new direct door as well as from the existing door through the health center.

The room will have a cyberbar for laptop users (when there are no activities scheduled); from 3 to 6 p.m. the space will be dedicated for teen use.

The meeting room remodel is funded through a fundraiser organized by Friends of the Library. The Friends met the goal of \$35,000, largely coming from individual donations as well as some local groups.

Maureen Reilly, president of Friends of Key Center Library, said the first \$27,000 was raised in five weeks. She and Carolyn Wiley, coordinators of the fundraiser, tapped into social media, friends, businesses and FOL members. A plaque in the new room will acknowledge the major donors.

Reilly said it's amazing to have been able to meet the goal since the fundraiser started only in August. "There were a lot of people who said it can't be done (on the Key Peninsula)," she said. "But I haven't talked to anybody who wasn't excited about the opportunity to contribute."

COMMUNITY PAGES

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

NOW

GED classes

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.

Grants available

Key Pen Parks has applications available (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 at the KP Parks board meeting on March 11.

Winter swimming

Evening family swims, in warm water, are offered at Camp Stand by Me on Tuesdays/Thursdays from 5-6 p.m. Cost is \$15 per family or \$4.25/person (children under 2 free) or a 10-swim pass for \$40.

Adult open swims are available on Tuesdays from 6-7 p.m. at \$4.25/swim. 884-2722.

Museum news

The KP Historical Society board will hold their regular monthly meeting on Jan. 3 at 11 a.m. in the museum, and work party will be held throughout the month to change and rearrange displays. The KPHS museum is closed in January and reopens Feb. 2. The main display for 2013 will be "Tall Trees, Tall Men, Tall Tales," about logging on the Key Peninsula and the Northwest. Call 884-2511 for information.

Library friends

Friends of the Key Center Library are offering \$25 Seattle Opera tickets to "La Boheme" performed at 2 p.m. on March

10. First-come, first-served; transportation is available. See ad in this paper for more info. 851-1921.

JAN. 3

Community services van

The DSHS-sponsored mobile Custom Connection Community Services van will be at the KP Community Services from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. You can sign up for cash assistance, basic food assistance, medical assistance programs, drug or alcohol treatment services and child care services. You can also drop off paperwork, complete an eligibility or mid-certification review or make changes to your existing case. KPCS is located at 17015 9th Street Court KPN, Lakebay.

JAN. 4

Grand re-opening

The Key Peninsula Health and Professional Center hosts a grand re-opening from 1-4 p.m. at 8903 Key Peninsula Highway N. (next to the library). RSVP, 884-2234.

JAN. 7, 14, 21, 28

Bloodmobile dates

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

JAN. 7-30

Swim lessons

Easter seals Camp Stand by Me continues swim lessons on Monday and Wednesday afternoon. Level 1-beginning-is from 4-4:30 p.m. and Level 2-intermediate-is from 4:30-5 p.m. and Level 3-advanced is from 5-5:30 p.m. Cost is \$40 for the monthly session. 884-2722 or campadmin@wa.easterseals.com.

JAN. 8

Ashes meeting

Ashes meet at 10:30 a.m. at the Key Center fire station. Ashes is a support and fundraising group for the KP fire department. Prospective members and other are welcome. 884-3771.

To submit an event

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.

remodeling project.

JAN. 13

Farmer meeting

The Fresh Food Revolution Co-op hosts their Annual Farmers Meeting from 4-6 p.m. in the Whitmore Room at the KP Civic Center. Anyone who is interested in selling produce through the FFR Co-op is encouraged to attend to learn more about the FFR and to strategize food growth on the KP. fresh-foodrevolution.org.

JAN. 15

Toll bridge meeting

The Washington State DOT will present updated Narrows Bridge financial information to the Citizens Advisory Committee and the public from 6-8 p.m. at the Gig Harbor Civic Center, 3510 Grandview St., Gig Harbor. 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 www.wsdot.wa.gov/Tolling/TNTolling/CitizenAdvisoryCommittee. Public comments will also be heard at this meeting. New rates for all Washington state toll facilities will be effective July 1, 2013. For information about Tacoma Narrows Bridge tolling, call (206)716-1109 or visit wsdot.wa.gov/tolling.

JAN. 17

Community Forum

Mustard Seed hosts a free community forum at 10 a.m. at the Key Center fire station. Edie, 884-1205.

Words & wine

Watermark Writers meet at 7 p.m. at the Blend Wine Shop. Jerry, 778-6559.

JAN. 18-FEB. 2

Play presented

Paradise Theatre presents "Of Mice

(See **Community**, Page 13)

(From Community, Page 12)

and Men" on Fridays at Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. Purchase tickets at www.paradisetheatre.org or (253) 851-PLAY.

JAN. 19 and 23**Little league**

The KP Little League holds registration from 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. on Saturday and 6-8 p.m. on Monday at Volunteer Park. www.askkpll@hotmail.com.

JAN. 20**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.

JAN. 25**Cosmic skating**

Club Cosmic, for teens, is held from 9 p.m.-midnight at KP Civic Center. Group games and activities, DJ battles, arcade games in the Whitmore room

and concessions are offered. \$5 includes skate rental. 884-3456.

JAN. 26-MARCH 2**PeeWee basketball**

Children 4-7 will learn basic basketball skills, confidence on the court, sportsmanship and teamwork. Sessions progress from learning the basics to playing scrimmage games with a focus on learning the game and having fun. Session time will be determined by age after registrations are processed (older age groups first, youngest last). Sessions are on Saturdays (9:30, 10:30 or 11:30 a.m.) at the KP Civic Center gym. Fee is \$45. Register at Jessica@keypenparks.com or 884-9240x20.

JAN. 27**PYO winter concert**

The Peninsula Youth Orchestra performs its free Winter Concert at 3 p.m. in the Peninsula High School auditorium. Four orchestras (beginners to advanced) will perform. The public is invited. PYO is accepting mid-season registrations from experienced string musicians from Jan. 15 - Feb. 15. Paula, Peninsula Youth Orchestra, (253) 534-5384, info@harborpyo.org or www.harborpyo.org.

PUBLIC MEETINGS**KP Lions**

Jan. 2 and 16, 5:30 p.m. Dinner & program, in VFW Room, KP Civic Center; 853-2721.

Key Peninsula Veterans

Jan. 7, 7 p.m. at KP Civic Center; kpveternets.net.

KP Community Fair Association

Jan. 8, 6 p.m. in Roadhouse Restaurant VIP room; keyfair.org.

KP Community Council

Jan. 9, 7:30 p.m. at Key Center Fire Station; kpcouncil.org.

Fire District 16

Jan. 9 and 23, 6 p.m. in meeting room, Key Center Fire Station; keypeninsulafire.org.

Peninsula School District Board

Jan. 10 at 6 p.m. at district office; Jan. 24 at 6 p.m. in Kopachuck Middle School library.

KP Civic Center Association Board

Jan. 10, at 6 p.m. in Whitmore Room; kpciviccenter.org.

Key Pen Parks

Jan. 14 and 28, at 7 p.m. at Volunteer Park; keypenparks.com.

KeyFest Planning

Jan. 15, at 6 p.m. at Roadhouse; president@keyfest.org.

LIC

Jan. 16, dessert potluck at 7 p.m. at Longbranch Improvement Club; longbranchimprovementclub.org.

KP Citizens against Crime

Jan. 17, 7 p.m. at Home fire station; kpcitizensagainstcrime.org.

MORE CALENDAR

See Off the Key listings on page 14.

WEEKLY EVENTS**MONDAYS****Clogging**

Mike and Watson 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 juliermiller@comcast.net.

Key Singers

Key Singers meet at Key Peninsula Lutheran Church, from 7 - 8:30 p.m. on Feb. 5. New members welcome. 884-5615.

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 Key Center 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+ is offered on Saturdays from 9:15-10:15 a.m. at the KP Civic Center. Cost is \$53 for a 6-class punch card that is good for 2 months after purchase date. 884-9240 or jessica@keypenparks.com.

OFF THE KEY

JAN. 2-20

Tapestry collection

The Harbor History Museum features NWxSE: A Collective Small Tapestry Project of Northwest and Southeast Weavers on Tuesdays-Saturdays from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at 4121 Harborview Drive, Gig Harbor, 858-6722 or info@harborhistorymuseum.org.

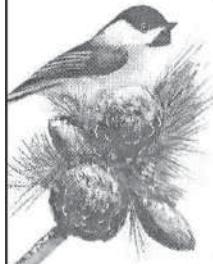
JAN. 5

Art walk

Gig Harbor's First Saturday Art Walk is from 1-5 p.m. in downtown Gig Harbor. 858-7449.

The Voice of the Key Peninsula

KEY PENINSULA NEWS



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JAN. 11

Block play

Building with blocks will be held for children (and caregivers) ages 3-7 at 1:30 p.m. at the Gig Harbor Library. Building with blocks develops a child's math and science skills, and provides lots of fun. Build, talk, explore and create together with imagination. No registration required. This event is sponsored by The Pierce County Library Foundation. (253) 548-3305.

JAN. 12

Run for heroes

A 5k walk/run or 10k-run through downtown Gig Harbor to Crescent Valley Drive and back begins at 8 a.m. and supports families of fallen police officers in Washington state. Proceeds from the Resolution Run for the Heroes benefit the "Behind the Badge Foundation." databarevents.com/heroesrun.asp or 851-2226.

JAN. 13, 25, 29

Bloodmobile dates

The bloodmobile is at Safeway from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. and at Adventure of Faith Church from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 12. It is at St. Anthony Hospital (Smalling Family Ed.Center) from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Friday, Jan. 25 and at Manor Care from 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 29.

JAN. 26

Wine & cheese

Join the Fox Island Community Recreation Association for their annual Wine and Cheese Benefit Event from 7-10 p.m. www.ficra.org

JAN. 26-27

Women's conference

Steppin' Up is a fun, informative event to educate and empower women held at The Best Western Plus Wesley Inn & Suites in Gig Harbor. This women's conference offers community and con-

nnection, information and inspiration, motivation and momentum. Ladies come together to network, share stories, and make new friends, while learning how to be healthier and happier in mind, body, and spirit. A variety of speakers are featured and workshops have a more hands on approach for informing females how to better themselves both inside and out with activities such as jeans and bra fittings, spa services, and health screenings. Admission price of \$50 or 4/\$150 includes all sessions, activities, Folie a Deux wine tasting, hor d'ourves, and dinner on Saturday. All proceeds are donated to local foster children. Rooms are available at a discounted rate for those who wish to make a full getaway out of the experience and stay the night to get to enjoy the hot breakfast buffet served in the morning. Full payment is due upon registration and is non-refundable. This is a women's conference; thus, we are unable to accommodate men or children. Tickets available at brownpapertickets.com/event/299151. Visit facebook.com/steppnup.

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Madrona Lane regains its original street name

By Colleen Slater, KP News

In the late 1980s, Pierce County renamed streets to accommodate the 911 grid. It was felt that response times would be quicker if a numerical system were implemented.

Some roads were allowed to return to their original names at the request of citizen groups, but others hit pitfalls.

Crescent Beach Road in Vaughn was re-established, but Madrona Lane, running south from Roberts Road in Vaughn to the Haley property, became one of the latter. The reason: too many "Madrona Lanes" in the area.

"Besides, by the time we got word that a petition to change was possible, some of our neighbors had finished the monumental task of changing all their records and were not quite up to opening that can of worms again," said Susan Mendenhall, resident.

Their private road remained 185th Avenue Court.

Jerry Libstaff, who moved to the area after the name change, contacted the neighbors last April to try to gather an agreement for repair and maintenance of the gravel



Photo courtesy Georjeanne Trandum

On Oct. 14, a ceremony was held to officially dedicate Madrona Beach Lane, and to toast organizer Jerry Libstaff with champagne. Pictured (back row) from left are Tony Mendenhall, Ned Swanson, Joe Todrzak and Pam Libstaff pose with Kay Todrzak, Mary Ellen Sandquist, Susan Mendenhall, Jerry Libstaff, Bill Trandum in front.

road. In the process of obtaining bids as well as comments from the residents, Libstaff heard that several of his neighbors wanted the road name changed back to the original. He received 100 percent approval for moving forward.

The last county road/street name change

was in 1998, and the process of locating the required sample petition took two weeks, Libstaff said.

He created the necessary petition, obtained sufficient signatures with vocal approval from others out of the area at the time and sent it off for approval.

The fire district needed to be sure there would be no confusion with similar names that could cause emergency response errors. Since the map names the area as Madrona Beach, the district would approve it if "Beach" was added to the name.

"A point was raised by the neighborhood that adding Beach might bring sightseers looking for Puget Sound access where there is none," Libstaff said, but after discussion, they all agreed to go forward.

Once the county approved, each family had to notify people and companies with the corrected address.

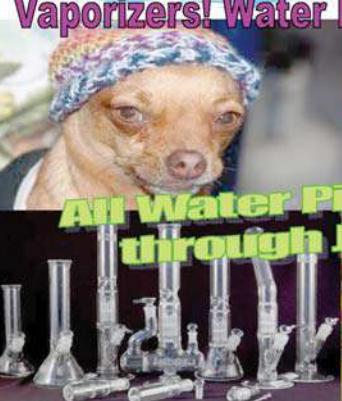
Libstaff received a huge bill from one utility that thought they were moving their service to a new residence.

The neighborhood had to provide their own street sign for the private road, one that met county standards. The company that could meet all the specifications charged more than six times the amount estimated by the county personnel.

The people who live on Madrona Beach Lane are delighted to again have their original road name that now includes the map designation of the area.

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FIRE DISTRICT 16 CALL LOG

A summary of calls for FD 16 for Nov. 15 to Dec. 15, 2012

Nov. 15

Crews responded to the aid of a 77-year-old female in the Creviston area who was experiencing a severe headache. The woman was treated and transported to St. Anthony Hospital.

Nov. 18

Firefighters responded to a home near Key Center where a 1-year-old had been choking on crackers, causing her to vomit. Her father had cleared her airway before units arrived. Key Peninsula Medic One examined the girl and found she required no further treatment.

Nov. 20

A 30-year-old homeless man developed chest pain and fainting episodes at a location near Carney Lake. Paramedics attached the cardiac monitor to him and found his heart racing at an unsafe rate. The man received an electric shock from a defibrillator to stabilize his heart rate, and was transported to a local hospital for further treatment.

Nov. 22

A Lakebay woman called 911 after drink-

ing a bottle of moonshine and taking a large amount of insulin and several prescription pain pills. She was evaluated at scene and transported by ambulance to an area hospital for further evaluation and treatment.

Nov. 24

Crews responded to the Lakebay area for an automatic fire alarm activation. The information, dispatch said, was that a smoke detector was sounding and there was no answer at the residence when dispatch tried to reach the occupants. Upon arrival at the scene, fire crews learned the smoke detector activation was caused by food cooking on a stove. There was not a fire hazard at the scene.

Nov. 26

A 52-year-old Elgin woman sought medical attention for chest pain. She was treated and transported to St. Anthony Hospital.

Nov. 27

Firefighters were called to a Key Center home where a carbon monoxide (CO) alarm was sounding. Arriving firefighters tested all rooms with a gas detector and found no CO

buildup. Further investigation revealed a CO detector past its expiration date, causing a chirp to alert the homeowner to replace the unit.

Dec. 1

Traffic was tied up for an hour following a collision at the Elgin Clifton and KP Highway intersection. Both female drivers declined medical attention. No drugs or alcohol were believed to be involved.

Dec. 5

A 13-year-old Lakebay girl sustained a minor neck injury while she was training with the a wrestling team at Key Peninsula Middle School. She was treated and transported to St. Anthony Hospital for further evaluation.

Dec. 6

A 50-year old Gig Harbor man allegedly swerved to avoid a deer crossing the road, causing him to lose control of his vehicle. He crossed the centerline, hit an embankment and rolled back into traffic, blocking one lane for about an hour. The driver was not injured. The deer, although reportedly quite frightened, managed to escape uninjured.

Dec. 7

Crews responded to the Wauna area for a motor vehicle collision. Upon arrival, a car was found up against the embankment with a 17-year-old girl in the driver's seat. She was in stable condition and was treated and transported to St. Anthony Hospital. The cause of the incident was unknown.

Dec. 8

Firefighters responded to a report of a car into a tree at the 13800 block of SR-302. The female driver failed a field sobriety test and was arrested by WSP. The woman was transported by ambulance to an area hospital for evaluation of non-life threatening injuries.

Dec. 10

A 59-year-old Gig Harbor woman was driven to the Key Center fire station after developing chest pain and feeling ill. Key Peninsula Medic One transported her to a local hospital for additional treatment.

Dec. 15

Firefighters responded to a private residence where a 21-year-old female had ingested a large amount of alcohol and become violent and combative. The woman was restrained by Sheriff's deputies and firefighters and transported by ambulance to an area hospital for evaluation.



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KGHP agreement keeps local radio station on air

By Irene Torres, KP News

A new inter-local cooperative agreement will allow Peninsula High School's KGHP-FM radio to remain on the air.

During an October meeting at Peninsula Light Company, the KGHP Community Forum group committed to continue a sustainable funding plan to cover maintenance and operation costs for the radio station.

The agreement is renewed annually on a cycle running from October to September. This was the first meeting for 2012-2013, with quarterly meetings to follow.

Representatives from Peninsula Light Company, CenturyLink, Key Pen Parks, Pen Met Parks, city of Gig Harbor, St. Anthony Hospital, Pierce County Emergency Management, KGHP-PC Foundation and Peninsula School District (PSD) were present. Paul Kadzik, DDS, General and Cosmetic Dentistry; Purdy Hill Professional Building; Key Peninsula Business Association; Gig Harbor Fire & Medic One; Key Peninsula Fire Department; Pierce County Council; KGHP-PC Foundation are also partners.

At the forum, the director of technology for PSD, JB Fitzpatrick, presented an update on the technology improvements during the first of three phases accomplished through support from the community.

Station manager Spencer Abersold was happy with the progress.

"It's awesome. Replacing everything vital and necessary is something we absolutely needed to do. That equipment has been in place for nearly 25 years."

Abersold said the Foundation is a non-profit organization, and its board members "are pillars of society." "...It allows the radio station to raise funds solely dedicated to keep

the station on the air," he said.

Phase one in 2011:

- Replaced the old dedicated analog line with a digital audio streaming.
- Installed new internet protocol equipment at the transmitter and studio.
- Upgraded an amplifier to improve audio quality for KGHP's Web stream.
- Implemented a digital audio processor with on-air FM audio quality similar to other professional broadcast FM stations.
- Replaced the 20-year-old analog transmitter with IP-based Internet technology.
- Removed the old dial-up telephone remote control that was no longer factory-supported and replaced it with an IP-based solution that satisfies all FCC requirements.
- Hired a licensed field test engineer to certify the new transmitter is operating properly under all FCC guidelines.
- Hired consulting engineers to certify radio frequency emissions meet FCC safety requirements.
- Installed proper lightning protection at the KGHP transmitter.
- Corrected numerous malfunctions with the KGHP Emergency Alert System (EAS), now operating legally under all FCC guidelines as a reliable and dependable asset for local emergency agencies.

• Replaced a damaged low-power translator transmitter on 89.3 FM (Fox Island) with a new translator for use as a redundant backup.

Phase two will involve a remodel of the "air room," and phase three will bring full automation (auto DJ) to the station, a student-run program which operates on a non-commercial license.

Peninsula School District owns the station's studio, located at Peninsula High School. The



Photo by Scott Turner, KP News

signal from KGHP, 89.9-FM, with its two translators, K207AZ 89.3 and K229BL 93.7, covers most of Gig Harbor, Key Peninsula and some parts of Tacoma.

Abersold said the number of students involved at the station varies, with seven active this year. He said many high school students move on to work in professional broadcasting.

"This experience places them in an automatic job market. This is a media-driven world. Content and time are in demand, and these kids are creative and comfortable after speaking on-air for five years," Abersold said.

A KGHP fundraising event is planned for Jan. 5 at O'Callahan's Pub and Grill in Key Center. From noon to 12 a.m. students and

adult volunteers will take over the jukebox, playing music, selling T-shirts and holding a raffle. Pub owner, Greg Calahan, has agreed to donate 20 percent of his business' proceeds during the function to the Foundation.

Organizations and individuals may join this effort to underwrite costs of FCC licenses, repairs and maintenance, upgrades and web streaming at kghp.org.

For underwriting information, contact the Station Manager Spencer Abersold at 14105 Purdy Drive NW Gig Harbor Washington 98332 or call (253) 857-3589. For information on joining the cooperative agreement, contact Kristine Nyberg, CTE Program Coordinator (253) 530-1077.

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KP author tells a true tale of fling between horse and goose

By Irene Torres, KP News

From the kitchen in one of the barns at Gentle Giant Meadows Ranch, Maureen Sikora loves to watch nature go by. "It's like a painting that never gets finished," she said.

About two years ago, Sikora, her husband (Greg Sikora) and the neighbors around their Lackey Road ranch, noticed something strange.

A Canada gosling was following Quest, their 19-hand Shire horse, everywhere he went.

When the horse walked, the gosling trailed. When Quest galloped, the gosling flew head-high to keep pace.

Maureen Sikora wrote about the strange pair on her ranch website blog — a spot she keeps her family in England updated on her life and well-being.

During the summer, Sikora said Renee Riva, a children's author, read her blog and asked if she could use her story for a book. Sikora said yes...

Riva sent Sikora a draft, but Sikora said the story was not exactly as she remembered. Sikora then returned the copy back with her version of the true tale. Riva loved the writing and the two co-authored the book and titled it "Gertie and Quest: A True Story."

This is Sikora's first book, and she said that her husband's photography helps bring the words to life. The book is available now.

Nearly all of the animals at Gentle Giant have names and are well cared for, Sikora said.

Quest's mother is named Lady. Quest's full name is Bridie's Bequest, after Sikora's mother. Gertie the gosling was hatched on the ranch's pond soon after a migrant pair of geese arrived to spend a summer on the Key Peninsula.

"We never hand-fed the geese. We never encouraged the relationship. When male geese arrived with their courtship moves, Gertie ignored them," Sikora said.

Sikora said Gertie often focused

her attention on Quest, who never seemed to mind. At the first hint of (2010) winter, Gertie flew away with her parents, but the Sikoras were not surprised to see her return in the spring. They are curious to know if she will return with her life-mate next year.

Sikora said she will donate copies of her 40-page, self-published hard-back book to school libraries.

"I would like for children to be able to read the book, to see the pictures, and through the words, feel what it is like to see different species interact. I want them to feel the joy of watching nature and to be inspired by it."

"I never thought of myself as an author, but this could be the start of a series. I enjoy the process; I just need to find the time to write."

To view a video of Gertie and Quest, visit gentle-giant-meadows-ranch.com/foresaken-love.html.

The book can be purchased at gentle-giant-meadow-ranch.com or at amazon.com.

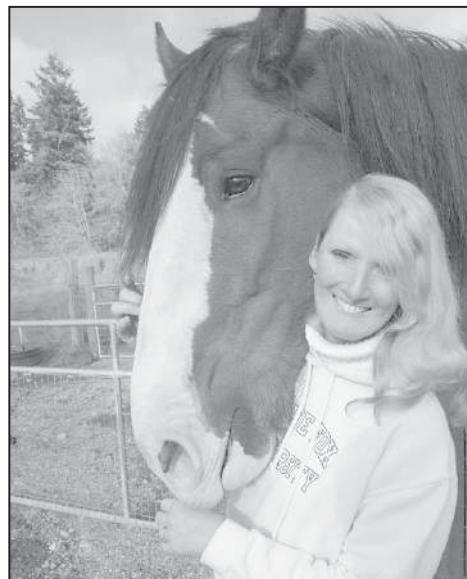


Photo by Scott Turner, KP News

Maureen Sikora and Quest share a moment together. Her horse plays a major role in the book Sikora recently co-authored.

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KP blogger for ‘veterans’ publishes book

By Colleen Slater, KP News

This story first appeared online at keypennews.com on Dec. 1.

Alex Graham, of Elgin, is a disabled veteran of the Vietnam War.

He has all his limbs but lives with several war-related medical conditions including tinnitus, diseases from Agent Orange, hepatitis C, degenerative disc disease, Crohn's disease, cryoglobulinemia and porphyria cutanea tarda (PCT).

Graham has recently written a book to help other veterans.

Titled “ASKNOD,” it details his attempts to obtain disability benefits from 1989 (a claim he lost) until 2008, when he finally won one.

The book describes his difficulties with the Veterans Administration (VA), the Veterans Service Organization (VSO) and others who are supposed to help veterans, but seem to work on a philosophy of “ignore, delay and discourage” applicants, he said.

Graham also started a blog (asknod.wordpress.com) to assist other veterans in winning their own claims. He used a pseudonym on the blog and the book title because his claims were still being processed. NOD is the acronym for Notice of Disagreement.

Graham graduated from a prestigious East Coast high school, joined the Air Force before he was drafted and after training, headed to Vietnam.

Because he'd had three years of French, he was assigned to teach the subject in Laos, a “neutral” country. Deprived of a U.S. military uniform and identification and not “militarily legal” in Laos, he ended up in a nonmilitary hospital after being shot in the leg. Development of hepatitis C was almost immediate.

After two years of service in Laos, Thailand and Vietnam, Graham was discharged. He sought compensation from the VA and was told he'd lost his case.

In 2007, after a full physical, his doctor decided to treat him with Interferon, which he refused previously because it

was still in testing stages, he said. Ignoring the fact he had an autoimmune disease and elevated numbers, he was given the shot. It negatively affected his autoimmune system and changed the state of his health downward.

Graham learned how to use a computer and discovered many things he thought the VA or VOS should have told him, including the need for a nexus letter.

He wasn't cured and started the process for VA benefits again. He learned his 1994 case hadn't been “lost,” and not even closed, so he asked that it be re-opened.

Graham had kept good records of his military service. He said the VA had no legal records of him having served or been hospitalized in Vietnam. He had to provide copies of records more than once because he was told he hadn't filed them.

Graham and his wife finally opted to “go it alone” and although some items were still in appeal at book publication time, he has received more disability compensation.

He now watches what he eats because

he doesn't want additional chemicals and processed food in his system. He found it difficult to change some of his diet, like giving up red meat, but cultivates a large garden that includes berries and fruit.

Graham said that 85 to 88 percent of VA claims are not approved because veterans aren't given adequate information, leaving many stuck in complex governmental red tape.

To date, he has worked with 30 veterans. He said all but two have made successful claims for benefits.

He said some of the photos in his book aren't easy to look at, and the process of his various illnesses and procedures isn't pleasant reading, but he hopes to help many more veterans who have met with difficulty in filing their claims.

“ASKNOD” is an easy-to-read, down-to-earth “how to” book for veterans or their families who would like help with their own disability claims.

Graham's book can be purchased at Amazon.com or from his asknod.wordpress.com blog site.

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The Glass Cave smoke shop sells eclectic wares

KP News staff report

This story first appeared online at keypennews.com on Dec. 1.

When the Hetterscheidt brothers, Chris, 34, and Nick, 27, moved to the Key Peninsula from Las Vegas a few years ago, their dream was to open a disc golf shop.

Nine months ago, they opened The Glass Cave in the space formerly occupied by Minter Meats.

"We've wanted to do that for a few years," Chris Hetterscheidt recalled. "We found this space about a year ago that had an existing business — CareMeds Co-op, a medical marijuana dispensary.

The shop sells everything needed to play disc golf. They have Frisbee discs — including putters, drivers and irons — as well as baskets, bags and other disc golf equipment.

"Nobody was using the other side of the building, so we approached them about it. We built a wall to separate the two spaces and we opened for business on March 1," Hetterscheidt said.

According to the brothers, disc golf is the fastest growing sport in the world.

"In the past five years, new courses have been built all over. The Pacific Northwest is a major hub for disc golf. There are tons of courses out here. There's even a nine-hole course out here on the Peninsula," Hetterscheidt said.

The shop sells everything needed to play disc golf. They have Frisbee discs — including putters, drivers and irons — as well as baskets, bags and other disc golf equipment.

But the Glass Cave is much more than just a disc golf shop.

"We have a unique shop," Nick Hetterscheidt said. "We sell everything we're interested in."

That includes ski gear, clothes, hats, black lights and pipes.

Inside the shop, the vibe is just what the name implies.

"We have a cave-like atmosphere in here. It's kind of the old '70s theme, with black lights," Nick Hetterscheidt said.

The Glass Cave is "more than just a head shop," he said.

"We're more of a lifestyle shop. And we're the only one like this in the area. We

sell glass pipes and other accessories, for tobacco use only. You have to be 18 to come in," he said.

Early on, the brothers got all their glass products from glass blowers in California.

"Now we get about 70 percent of our glass products from local glass blowers. And we're moving toward 100 percent local Northwest glass. We have a very large selection, including all kinds of water pipes and vaporizers," said Chris Hetterscheidt.

They don't sell anything made in China.

"We want our shop to be an experience, not like other smoke shops with just shelves and merchandise on the wall. We have customers that just come in and hang out for 45 minutes or an hour. If you are looking for something in particular and we don't have it, we'll help you find it," he said.

Chris emphasized that the Glass Cave is a small, family-owned business.

"I want people to know that we are two brothers with a new business and we would like people to come check it out."

"Come and see what we're all about and meet our mascot dog, Loki," he said.

For information, visit theglasscagesmokeshop.com or The Glass Cave on Facebook. The Glass Cave is located at 12404 134th Ave. KPN. Hours are

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KP students receive dictionaries from Lions

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

Three years ago, the Key Peninsula Lions Club initiated a program to provide all third-grade students on the Key Peninsula with cordless spellchecks — also known as dictionaries, the kind made of paper, bound into a book, with all sorts of facts and data and correctly spelled and explained words.

The project's organizer, George Robison, supported by fellow Lions, made a presentation at each (KP) elementary school in which he explained how so many words have so many meanings. His key word was "frog," and he asked the assembled kids to describe what frog means.

Most kids described hopping little amphibian, and only one student said, "it's a part of a horse's hoof."

"It's also a word used by seamstresses, by florists, by railroaders and by many other professionals and all of the meanings are very different," explains Robison, who by now has the wholehearted attention of his audiences.

After the show at each school, students wrote thank-you notes to the Lions explaining how useful the dictionaries are.

As they helped hand out books, Vaughn Elementary Principal Susan O'Leary and third-grade teachers Shannon Ganisini, Katherine Moore and Jennifer Payne were as excited to get the dictionaries as the kids.

In her note, Vaughn student Kaitlin Tuckero wrote, "I will use the dictionary a lot because I have a hard time spelling. It's important to me because I've never had something so special to me before."

Classmate Malachi Aidenfriant wrote, "It is great! I will cherish it forever."

At Minter Creek Elementary, the group of Lions had the enthusiastic support of principal Ty Roebuk and third-grade teach-

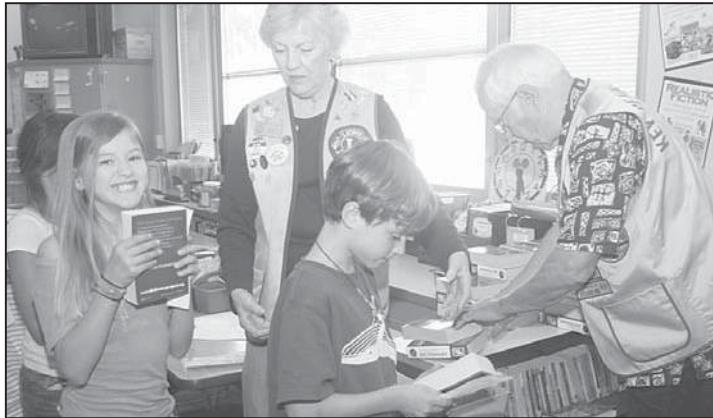


Photo by Hugh McMillan, KP News

Last month, eager Vaughn Elementary third-graders file past the Lions providing last them with complimentary dictionaries.

ers, Susan Stone and Wendy Webster.

"I've already learned so much," wrote Minter student Kamren Haggard. "In Arkansas, the most popular bird is the Mockingbird, and one of the elements is hydragyn (sic)."

"It helps me spell," said classmate Angelique Davidson, and Delaney Kaminski, "learned the longest word in English."

Jenna Perelli learned her name in sign language and that "one googol has 100 zeros in the number."

Aubrey Hoover "learned multiplication (sic) tables and words for large numbers."

Allyssa Garcia "likes how it teaches you parts of speech and punctuation and other stuff."

Evergreen Elementary Principal Dennis Nugent wrote, "There was excitement in the room when Lion's Club members came. Third-grade students with older siblings had been asking if they were going to

get dictionaries this year, too. On the day, students were squirming in their seats to get their very own dictionary to take home. They immediately looked through it to see what they could find.

Evergreen third-grade teachers Therese Souers and Susan Henderson said they look forward to their students having dictionaries in their own homes. Souers said students bring dictionaries back to class to show what they discovered the night before.

One of Henderson's parents said her child uses her dictionary to make sure words are spelled correctly while writing at home.

Evergreen third-grader Evan Readwin wrote, "Dictionaries are working good for the whole class; a lot of people use them. I remember when my big brother got his, I knew I wanted one. They make school a hundred times more easy."

For information on the KP Lions or its dictionary program, call (253) 884-3319.

December 6, 2012

I wanted to write and let anyone viewing this site know that Patty Sexton is every bit as good as people say she is, in fact better.

She is truly wonder woman, without the outfit. I could never say enough good things about her and what she has done for me and my family. Patty truly cares for all the clients she walks through the process.

I became very ill with fibromyalgia and several other things a number of years ago. Patty's name was given to me by a friend who had gone through her to get Social Security Disability and had been very pleased with the result.

I was really desperate as I couldn't work anymore so I gave her a call. We met in her office and she spent over two hours patiently asking me questions and then forming the answers in the best possible way. She is incredibly knowledgeable as to how to put things for the people at Social Security, a valuable commodity.

She filed the paperwork for me and we were given an interview. Before the interview she walked me through all that would take place so that I was comfortable going in, she met me there, and quickly established a rapport with the interviewer. It was truly a piece of cake. I got approved first time out which I understand is rare. I have two grown daughters so I was not too far from retirement age, but my daughters were, and she got them approved as well for some of the same things.

If you are considering filing for SS disability and want to be sure of success, I can't recommend Patty Sexton and Mission Possible highly enough. Do yourself a favor and let her handle your case, I am sure you will be as thrilled as I am to write about your experience.

Sincerely, Kathie Lee

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Obituary Notice

Dale 'The Fonz' Boquist

Dale M. Boquist was born Jan. 23, 1945, and died on Dec. 13, 2012. He was a lifelong resident of Glencove and a fourth-generation Boquist.

Boquist was an avid hunter, fisherman and devoted participant in the annual Old Timers logging show. He also contributed to Key Peninsula Community Services Food Bank and was involved with the Vaughn Historical Society.

He is survived by his son, Dustin N. Boquist, brother, Nick Boquist, nieces, nephews, girlfriend, Sandy "Indy" Livingston, her son, Derick Pierce, and his beloved cat, Puddy.

Send remembrance contributions in memory of Dale Boquist to Key Peninsula Community Services Food Bank at P.O. Box 392, Lakebay, WA 98349. A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. Jan. 5, at the Longbranch Improvement Club.

KP's LDS delivers comfort to Mary Bridge Children's Hospital patients

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

Last month, Kari Wilkinson of the Key Peninsula Humanitarian Group of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Key Center and Minter Creek wards led the group's members to the Mary Bridge Children's Hospital & Health Center in Tacoma. The group was welcomed by four hospital staff including Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Mady Murray.

In Mary Bridge's lobby, the group assembled 281 pillowcases, both for teenagers and little kids, 80 soft-knit hats, 37 loom-knit NICU hats, 218 Bead Bags of Courage and 17 quilts. Every item was fashioned and crafted by the hands of the group's members, who gather Tuesdays at the church for hours of creative activity.

The Mary Bridge visit was particularly graced by adorable 6-year-old patient Jennifer Passage and her 10-year-old sister, Elizabeth. Each girl was thrilled to choose gifts handmade by the LDS group.

"Oh! It's beautiful," Jennifer said as she held up a quilt for all to view.

Key Center Ward Humanitarian Leader



Photo by Hugh McMillan, KP News

On Dec. 11, LDS Humanitarian Group member Kari Wilkinson has just handed 6-year-old Jennifer Passage a quilt to help comfort her during her treatments at Mary Bridge Children's Hospital. Her sister Elizabeth, 10, left, displays a quilt of her choice.

Bonnie Granger said, "I am a grandma to 15 grandchildren. They are all wonderful – and healthy. However, without warning, any one of them could suddenly be as ill as the chil-

dren in Mary Bridge. I feel an emotional responsibility to contribute to the wellbeing of other grandmothers' little loved ones."

According to Cole Cosgrove, senior media

relations coordinator who was in attendance, the girl's mother, Pam, said the quilts will be a perfect companion for their upcoming three-day train trip to visit their grandparents.

"When you see the smile on that little girl's face, that's what it's all about," said Wilkinson, who crafted some of the items.

Smiles also came from the donors, happy to watch their gifts bring joy to the children.

"These beautiful quilts and blankets help bring a touch of home to the hospital, and provide comfort and warmth during the holiday season," said Rachel McCrary a child-life specialist who works closely with children during their visits with parents and friends. "The quilts, blankets, hats, pillowcases and bags brought some color and cheer to an otherwise rainy day."

Cosgrove noted that the Mary Bridge was just named one of the country's top hospitals by the Leapfrog Group for providing the safest and highest quality care to pediatric patients. Mary Bridge is the only pediatric hospital in the Pacific Northwest and one of only 12 children's hospitals in the country to receive this recognition.

To learn more, visit marybridge.org.

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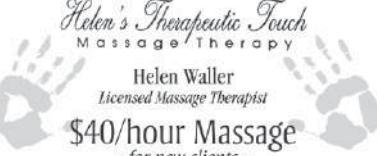
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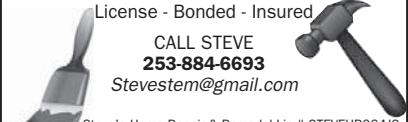

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Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News

Surf was up with the King tide on the morning of Dec. 17. A combination of high winds and high tides hammered the area, including this restaurant in Purdy. The PenLight Co. responded to many outages, and said they restored power to all their customers before noon that day.



Photo by Scott Turner, KP News

Peninsula High School gets new bleachers. Paul Shandrick of the Maple Valley-based SAL Development, works on installing new bleachers at Roy Anderson Field. The \$216,000 renovation was made possible, in part, with help from a \$100,000 grant from the Ben B. Cheney Foundation.

Where in the World...



Three-year Key Peninsula resident Roni Smith and her mother, Gayle, were in Cabo San Lucas at the end of October. They had their boat driver take their photo with the KP News in front of the "Arch at the End of the World," where the Pacific Ocean meets the Sea of Cortez.

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Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News

Last month, Minter Creek Elementary School fifth-graders Julia Bruno and Makenzie Puaoklani, and other Minter students, were helping out at the Roadhouse Restaurant. With assistance from restaurant owner, Doug Fabre, students took on the responsibilities of wait staff, host and dishwasher, earning 10 percent of the shift profits to be used for an upcoming fifth-grade camping trip.