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- KP Fire summary of calls
- Mushrooms good for ecosystem
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KP woman fights for life, friends step up to help

By Irene Torres and Scott Turner, KP News

Last month, Amanda Messenger, 22, sat in the center of her St. Anthony hospital bed surrounded by her dad and best friends Jessica Skelton and Stephanie Hahn.

Messenger has all the support in the world, but what she needs most now is a gift from a complete stranger. A bilateral lung transplant is the only way to save her from the grip of cystic fibrosis (CF) — a condition that threatens her young life.

Skelton and Hahn say they know what love is, and have put theirs into practice. Their “Panda-manda” fundraising campaign is all about love for their friend.

Because Messenger loves pandas, the two friends used a likeness of the bear when they designed T-shirts and bracelets to sell to help pay for her medications, a caregiver, breathing treatments and hospital travel expenses.

Messenger is no stranger to doctor appointments, especially at the University of Washington, where a lung transplant team is waiting for a matching donor.



Photo by Scott Turner, KP News

Amanda Messenger, center, jokes with her friends Jessica Skelton, left, and Stephanie Hahn while at St. Anthony Hospital last month. Skelton and Hahn are spearheading fundraising efforts to help Messenger with medical bills. Messenger is battling cystic fibrosis and is hopeful to receive a set of donated lungs soon

(See Messenger, Page 4)

Family, community say goodbye to David Long

By Scott Turner, KP News

On Oct. 21, friends, family and community members went to the Key Peninsula Civic Center to pay their final respects to David Long and his family.

About 60 people gathered in quiet remembrance of the 40-year-old Wauna man who was gunned down last August while shopping at the Food Market in Lake Kathryn Village.

Long died on Oct. 13 of complications from being shot with a handgun by Laura K. Sorenson, 20, who remains in custody at the Pierce County jail.

Two other men were wounded in the shooting and are on the mend.

At the time of this report, Pierce County Sheriff’s Department spokesman Ed Troyer said one of Sorenson’s two attempted murder charges will likely be amended to murder once the examiner’s office has officially linked Long’s death to the shooting.

Long’s sister, Heidi Michaelson, and stepmom, Debbie Graham, spoke during the memorial and a touching slideshow captured a glimpse of his life.

Family members were touched deeply by the outpouring of community support since the shooting.

Graham said members of the community held a fundraiser for Long at the civic center on Oct. 6, and haven’t left their side since.

“We wish to thank all of you who came to the fundraiser for David. The efforts of the Cost Less Pharmacy and Food Market employees will be remembered, as will the generosity exhibited by all of you who donated gifts and time,” said Graham.

Michaelson was the first to speak at the memorial. It was obvious to all the loss of her bother was devastating. She spoke from the heart. She talked about his likes and memories, and the importance of keeping promises.

(See Long, Page 4)

October fires tap KPF, temporarily close library and health center

By Karen Lovett, KP News

Last month the Key Peninsula Fire Department personnel had their hands full.

Firefighters were called to a brushfire between Lake Holiday and Lake of the Woods on Oct. 3, at 12:33 p.m. While they worked to control it, another call came in at 1:20 p.m., reporting a fire alarm at the Key Center Library and Key Peninsula Health and Professional Services building.

Key Peninsula Fire Chief Tom Lique and volunteer firefighter Anne Nesbit were first on the scene, but were unable to go inside because National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) regulations require four crew members to present before going into a burning building.

Nesbit and Lique pulled out hose lines, cleared the parking lot and waited for assistance as smoke rose from the roof of the building.

Lique said engaged Key Peninsula Fire units were unable to respond to another call.

A Gig Harbor Fire & Medic One engine and crew was first to arrive at 1:39 p.m., 19 minutes after the call came in. In total, three engine companies arrived from Gig Harbor, along with two command staff and medic units.

Lique said the fire was confined to a small-sized utility closet, but the amount of smoke throughout the building made it difficult to pinpoint the location of the fire.

"The door was shut, confining the flames. Had the door been open, the fire would have spread quickly throughout the building," he said.

The Lake Holiday fire was extinguished by 3 p.m.

At 3:01 p.m. a call came in reporting another brush fire in the Rocky Creek area. Wind quickly blew smoke from that fire toward Key Center, where it was visible to crews at the li-

For Key Peninsula Health and Professional Center services call:
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Soul Speak Counseling: (253) 514-5422
Massage therapists Susan Boris and Ramone Dickson (253) 884-6150
Massage therapist Christy Campbell: (253) 820-8060
Attorney-at-Law Glen Pszczola: (253) 884-1900
KP Counseling, Chad Beaver: (253) 884-3644

brary. Key Peninsula firefighters and others from different agencies rolled to the fast moving fire, fanned by 29 mph winds.

According to Lique, at the peak of the fire there were 45 firefighters battling the blaze, which grew to 12 acres before being contained. It was snuffed out completely about a week later.

The cause of the Lake Holiday fire has not been determined. The library fire started in the KP Health and Professional Services side of the building. Cleaning supplies located near wiring are the suspected cause.

At Rocky Creek, a property owner had planned to barbecue a pig in a pit. The pig didn't arrive, so he covered the coals with dirt. The fire spread underground, then burned to the surface.

Lique said the cost of that fire is about \$75,000 and the property owner is financially responsible for outside agencies and resources.

The Key Center Library will remain open until its scheduled renovation, starting Nov. 14.

Because of fire damage, the Key Peninsula Health and Professional Center office is expected to remain closed until Dec. 1. Business practitioners are still working at other locations during the closure.



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KEY PENINSULA NEWS

www.keypennews.com

Unsolicited submissions deadline including press releases: 15th of each month prior to publication

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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1. THE KEY PENINSULA NEWS is a community newspaper, owned and published by the KEY PENINSULA CIVIC CENTER ASSOCIATION, a nonprofit, 501-C3 corporation with main offices in Vaughn, Washington. The name, goodwill and any copyright assets that may exist pertaining to the NEWS are among the financial assets of

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Community pages editor: Connie Renz
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Webmaster: Brett Higgins
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the KEY PENINSULA CIVIC CENTER ASSOCIATION.

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.

OUR GRATEFUL THANKS TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTE TO THE KEY PENINSULA NEWS!

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 e-mail to news@keypennews.com.



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Three Key Peninsula Schools Welcome New Administrators

New administrators who joined Key Peninsula schools this year are looking forward to guiding their new learning communities and serving their needs.



Dennis Nugent

Dennis Nugent, interim principal at Evergreen Elementary, is a familiar face to Peninsula School District. A PSD veteran who retired in 2004 as assistant superintendent, Nugent had served as a teacher and principal at several PSD schools at all levels. After retirement, he returned to the district on several occasions to fill the role of substitute administrator at six schools.

He has had an interest in Evergreen Elementary during his entire PSD career, and had supervised former Principal Jacque Crisman.

"In that role, I had first-hand knowledge of the remarkable progress this school has made and the academic achievement awards it has garnered," Nugent said.

"I am also impressed with how the teachers at Evergreen have strengthened the academic rigor of our program and how effectively they use assessment data to track individual student progress and school wide progress," he said. "There is a reason our school has been singled out for recognition. I am honored to be here and my goal is to support the staff, teachers, students and families of Evergreen Elementary as they move forward with their outstanding educational program."



Tyrone Robuck

Peninsula School District will be conducting a search to fill the permanent Evergreen Elementary principal position in the spring of 2013.

Tyrone Robuck is new to Minter Elementary School as principal with experience serving both the Key Penin-

sula and Gig Harbor communities. Robuck was assistant principal for three years at Key Peninsula Middle School. He previously taught for 10 years at Discovery and Voyager elementary schools.

"As a Gig Harbor High School graduate, I believe in all the hard work and energy devoted to educating young people," he said. "My wife and I are both in education and love being around kids."

The Robucks recently traveled to Ethiopia to bring home their adopted daughter.

"This has been a wonderful place to transition to and I could not be prouder of my staff and students," he said. "They work hard and have fun every day."

Andrea Bowman is the new assistant principal at KPMS and comes from an extensive career in education with the North Mason School District. She taught social studies and language arts in middle school, served as dean of students for two years, and recently as assistant principal for six.



Andrea Bowman

"Having worked with adolescents for 15 years, I can tell you they are smart, funny and inspiring. I wake up every day excited and ready to help them grow and develop into the young adults they want to be," said Bowman.

A parent of a two-and-a-half year old, Bowman said she and her husband are reminded through him about the value of human life and the ability of the human brain to learn -- as well as about parents deep love for their children.

"With that in mind, I come to Key Peninsula Middle School every day with the desire to effectively guide, teach and serve our students and families," she said. "I believe that together, we can create the world we want for our children."

Superintendent Forum Nov. 27

Please join acting Superintendent Chuck Cuzzetto for an informal visit from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Nov. 27 at Kopachuk Middle School. 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 e-mail Chuck at cuzzettoc@psd401.net or 253-530-1002.

Bus Route Information

Due to construction, weather and traffic please arrive daily at your bus stop 7-10 minutes before the scheduled pick up time. Be sure to have your student stand a safe distance from the road while remaining visible to the bus driver. Emergency routes should be posted on the PSD website in early November. If you do not find your bus stop, please look for a nearby stop -- either on your bus route or another bus serving your school. Go to www.psd401.net and the Central Services scroll down menu to locate Transportation for Bus Routes: Regular and Emergency.

Free Immunization Clinic

First come, first served. Franciscan Health System will provide free immunizations for students through age 18 from 3 to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 28, at Key Peninsula Middle School. Flu vaccine and all other immunizations will be available. A parent or guardian must accompany the student and bring the student's shot record.

NOVEMBER EVENTS

- 8 School Board Regular Meeting 6 p.m. in the Gig Harbor High School library
- 12 No School - Veterans Day observed
- 15 District Band Festival 7 p.m. at Chapel Hill
- 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.
- 22-23 Thanksgiving Holiday - No school
- 27 Superintendent Forum 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Kopachuk Middle School

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



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(From **Messinger**, Page 1)

In mid-October, doctors at the UW thought they had one. Messinger and her troop of friends and family traveled from her Key Peninsula home only to learn that the donor lungs would not expand. Messinger stayed in the hospital ICU for two days, disappointed, but still hopeful.

Messinger wants her community to understand what CF really is. She said most people are clueless when she explains it to them.

According to her dad, Mitch Messinger, CF is a genetic disease that attacks and scars the lungs. People with CF don't absorb enzymes or nutrients, and most die of malnutrition, infections or other complications — sometime before their 20s, he said.

Messinger grew up with her sister, who experienced the same disease and the routine of hospitalizations and medications and she watched her illness progress until her sister died.

During a recent hospital visit with his daughter, Mitch Messinger said he has been through a lifetime of pain, but insists he has hope and strength in his faith. He was told a cure for CF would be widely available in five years. He's still waiting and fighting by his daughter's side — 20 years later.

"She is the strongest, most caring person I know. She deserves a second chance with new lungs.

"I taught my kids to believe in God and life after death. I have to believe there is

more to life than this. All you take with you is your love. Life is precious and too short to worry about the small stuff," Messinger said.

He said he is grateful for her friends' awareness and fundraising efforts.

"She's their angel. I am so proud of her, all that she's gone through, and what she's fighting now. Maybe this is the purpose of her life, to reach out to people who can help her and other kids with CF," he said.

Messinger said her friends are very close to her and understand her condition well.

"The only 'cure' they're offering is a lung transplant, and that's a 50-50 shot," said Skelton. "It's sad that someone would have to die so that someone else could have a second chance at life."

Skelton said that Messinger just wants to live and experience the world the way everyone else does.

"She has touched the hearts of many. ...I will do everything in my power to keep her here as long as possible," she said.

Messinger's friends have set up a few ways the public can help her cause.

Donations can be made in her name at any Kitsap Bank. Shirts and bracelets can be purchased by calling (253) 515-5847 or emailing Jessica_skelton02@yahoo.com.

To learn more about their fundraiser, visit facebook.com/PandamandaTransplantFundraiser.

To learn about cystic fibrosis visit, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Twjg7v-pTO4&feature=youtu.be>.

(From **Long**, Page 1)

"He was a wonderful brother and a wonderful uncle. I'm going to miss him terribly.

"I want to really thank everyone for coming out to the fundraiser and for taking the time to come here today. I can't thank you all enough for your support," Michaelson said.

There were a couple of tables adorned with flowers, pictures and special items that symbolized what Long loved to do the most.

He loved horses, motorcycles and music. A cowboy hat rested on a neatly coiled rope. There was a Harley Davidson motorcycle lamp, a bass guitar and even a KISS band member bobblehead. According to his friends, he will be remembered for being a kind giver, a loving brother, uncle and a happy stepson who loved life dearly.

Pierce County Sheriff Paul Pastor was there, too. He was overheard consoling

with family members and calming friends. He said he's seen too many of these senseless acts take their toll before.

"This is a tremendously sad event that this man would be murdered in this fashion. It's a shock to the community and hurts everybody's heart and ours (in law enforcement) as well," Pastor said.

Stepdad Alex Graham also praised the community.

"During our 23 years on the peninsula, we have never seen such an outpouring of community concern and giving.

"The people who live out here on the Key Pen are truly the lifeblood of what makes America a loving and caring nation. We are honored to have you as neighbors. We are even prouder to call the peninsula our home," he said.

Editor's note: find our report of the shooting and a revealing column of facts written by Long's stepdad, Alex Graham, at <http://bit.ly/T9UnMX>.



NOVEMBER 2012

Key Pen Parks PROGRAM GUIDE

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

REGISTER ONLINE: www.keypenparks.com

ADULT ART CLASSES

2nd Saturday Art for adults continues!

Learn a new art concept and project every month with our series for adults. November will be stamped cards with Denise Hays, and December is polymer (Fimo) clay ornaments with Jess Smeall. In January, choose between basic or advanced bead jewelry class with Sara Gray.

Location: Volunteer Park Office
Day & Time: Saturdays 9:30am-12:30pm
 (1:30-4:30 for the Jan. advanced class)
Session Dates: 11/10, 12/8 and/or 1/12
Fee: \$25 for 1 class, \$60 for all 3



Breakfast with Santa!



Our 2nd Annual "Breakfast with Santa" will create memories for your family as you begin the holiday season! Come enjoy a pancake breakfast with our local firefighters, parks staff, community volunteers (let us know if you'd like to help) and of course, SANTA!

Location: Key Peninsula Fire Department, Key Center Station
Day/Date: Saturday, December 1
Time: 9:00-11:00am (register by time for seating: choose 9:00, 9:45, or 10:30)
Fee: Pre-Register: \$5.00 per person / day of: \$8.00 per person

Registration fee includes breakfast (pancakes, ham, and fruit), holiday arts and crafts, and a photo with Santa Claus (a 5x7 printed photo will be mailed to you and digital photos emailed). Pre-registration is strongly encouraged, registrations on the day of event will be accepted only as space is available.

ADULT FITNESS

OUTDOOR BOOT CAMP

Location: Volunteer & 360 Park
Instructor: Shannon Reichl
Day: Tues & Thurs **Time:** 6-7pm
Dates: session ends Nov. 29
Fee: \$5 per class, must pay for entire session remaining at time of registration (choose 1x or 2x week)



INDOOR BOOT CAMP

NEW! Boot Camp is expanding to an indoor location. This class will be a "baby & me" class--young children can join in the workout!
Location: Civic Center Gym **Instructor:** Shannon Reichl
Day: Mon & Wed **Time:** 1-2pm **Dates:** Nov. 5 - Nov. 28
Fee: \$30 for 1 class/week, \$60 for 2 classes/week

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



ZUMBA

Location: Civic Center
Instructor: Kirsten Gallacher
Day: Sat. **Time:** 9-10am
Fee: \$53 for a 6 class punch card

Upcoming Public Meetings

Park Board Meetings are at the Volunteer Park office, at 7:30pm on the following dates:
November 13 & December 10

Scholarships Available!

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

Peninsula Views

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Vaughn man speaks up for fire levy passage

I want our community to understand something about our Key Peninsula firefighters. They don't shy away from challenges — facing them is what it means to be a firefighter.

Our department has just emerged from the most turbulent years in its history.

It has sustained scurrilous attacks, embarrassing publicity and a million dollar shortfall since 2009. The fire chief and district commissioners have put integrity first, forthrightly addressing the ethical issues confronting them and reorganizing staff to stretch resources without compromising the safety of the citizens on this peninsula.

The department's call load has exacerbated the problem, straining crews and causing dangerous delays when responding to multiple emergencies, often leaving the district dependent on neighboring departments to roll to their rescue.

This brings a new challenge. Passing the levy to fund eight new firefighter positions is paramount. It would cost us about 41 cents more per \$1,000 of property value. For me, that's about a tank and a half of gas a year.

Together, as a community, we can help our firefighters meet the challenges of the future by voting yes on this important levy.

*Ted Olinger
Vaughn*

Former firefighters to vote 'yes' on levy

As a 25-year veteran of Fire District 16, ending my service as the last volunteer chief, I wish to encourage my fellow Key Peninsula residents to support the fire levy in the upcoming election.

The growth to more than 17,000 residents in our community necessitates increased personnel to cover the large area served by the fire district.

If there are issues and concerns about drug testing, they should be handled by taking it to the staff or commissioners of the fire department, not in jeopardizing our community by airing one's negative opinions in the newspaper. Much information about such topics is protected by privacy (HIPAA) laws.

I intend to vote yes on the fire levy on Nov. 6. We need a fully trained and equipped fire department for all of our fire and medical emergencies. Better to be safe than sorry.

*Don Mills
Vaughn*

Blacktop work at KP Fire HQ explained

The Key Peninsula Fire Department received several calls from local residents asking about a construction project at our Key Center station. I welcome the oppor-

tunity to clear up any confusion about the project and how it is being funded.

A year ago our fire station flooded during a bad storm, causing damage to part of the building. An engineering survey confirmed that the drainage system serving our fire station and two neighboring properties had collapsed. The construction is to replace the drainage system and install catch basins to handle water runoff from the main road.

Money for this project comes from our "construction account," which is funded through bond payments, insurance reimbursement and a property sale. We plan and budget for station repairs, like this one, every year. It is important to maintain our properties because they represent a significant investment for our taxpayers.

No fire levy dollars are used for this project. Levy money funds our "operations account" from which we hire firefighters and pay their salaries and benefits.

We apologize for any inconvenience this has caused residents trying to access our fire station or the neighboring properties. We anticipate the work will be completed by the end of the month, and ask for your patience while we complete this project.

*Tom Lique, fire chief
Key Peninsula Fire Department*

Lake Minterwood resident wants to be clear about R-74

Rick Sorrels' summary of the pro/con arguments for Referendum 74 was deficient to the point of sounding duplicitous to me.

Redefining marriage as "just a word

change," might be something you could get away with if you were talking about the pop culture's use of language. Changes of wording in the law are more significant.

Citizens of a democracy deserve objective and thorough information about laws that affect the common good. Rick did not cover the strongest pro/con arguments offered from each side. That should be corrected.

Changing the definition of marriage allows for wider interpretation of anti-discrimination laws to be applied to those who don't agree or cooperate with a new definition of marriage due to personal convictions.

It also affects the law regarding families. Instead of an assumption of blood being the tie between parent and child, it allows for an assumption to be based upon relationship with the child as determined by adults in intimate relations.

All American citizens have inherited a legacy of freedom and should be given all facts to decide if something is worthy of limiting their right to act on their personal convictions regarding the public good. Family life affects us all, and potential legal changes to it should be stated forthrightly. Win a referendum because you are right, not because you were unclear.

The summary Rick gave of voter issues got one important thing correct. Gay couples have every right under the law right now except the final term, "marriage." This begs the question why is it necessary to experiment now with a redefinition of an essential societal institution? There is a lot of money being spent for "just a word change."

(See **Letters**, Page 7)

KP News seeks columnists for 2013

The Key Peninsula News is recruiting for the next round of guest columnists, whose one-year term will begin in January. We are looking for fresh, creative voices and topics relevant to our local readership.

Columnists will be selected by a panel and contribute a column every two to three months; the schedule will depend

on the number of finalists.

To be considered, please submit a short bio, a proposal of your column including theme and potential topics, and two publication-ready columns. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Email your materials to news@keypennews.com by Nov. 15. Finalists will be announced in the December edition.

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.

(From Letters, Page 6)

As a voter, I'm interested in considering all that may be at stake.

*Kim Carroll
Lake Minterwood*

Taking issue with recent ballot issue coverage

Rick Sorrels' description of the ballot issue R-74 (KP News, October 2012) was inaccurate. Referendum 74 is not just about a "word change," substituting "marriage" for "domestic partnerships." Domestic partnerships are simply not equal to marriage; R-74 is about marriage equality.

Furthermore, Sorrels' description of traditional marriage is pretty much backwards: Marriage for thousands of years was a civil and economic institution, not as he claims, a "strictly religious" institution. Every society back to Paleolithic times has had some form of marriage.

Marriage is a civil contract, and R-74 applies to that civil contract. Although many people prefer to have their marriage blessed by their church, religious organi-

zations are exempted in the law from having to perform marriage ceremonies of same-sex couples.

*Ellie Klaininger
Minterwood*

Save our youth, oppose legalizing marijuana

Recently, a fourth-grader wrote a profound letter to the editor of the Key Peninsula News challenging the adults to chip in (\$10 each) on a Key Center youth center - the Red Barn.

He wisely pointed out that drugs are very easy to get, as opposed to having a healthy, fun place for teens and youth to hang out.

I took this plea very seriously. I had heard from neighbors in my quiet, middle-class community some very disquieting news regarding "medical marijuana" sales on the Peninsula. One neighbor, who teaches middle school, said "students are coming to school high on their folks' medical marijuana."

(See Letters, Page 9)

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**Key Peninsula Real Estate
Market Update 2012**

Real estate tip ... Wherever you buy or sell real estate, work with a local agent.

176 Homes for Sale
(Average Price \$281,000)

183 Homes Sold (ytd)
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Thanksgiving and the power of gratitude

By Barbie Swayze

As a child, I had little appreciation for
Thanksgiving.

My earliest awareness was that it
looked deceptively like Christmas but
there were no presents.

We woke early, dressed in our "nice"
clothes and piled into the family car.
Some years, that meant a Rambler wag-
on. Others, a '68 Mustang, Gold Nug-
get model. It was feast or famine in my
family.

We drove through orchard country
to grandpa and grandma's house. We
enjoyed gathering for the large family
dinner at the rarely-used formal dining
table, and passing bowls and trays of
grandma's kitchen labors. After dinner,
being hit by post-turkey intoxication
that inevitably meant every kid's great-

est fear: a nap.

Wait, "No presents and a nap? What
kind of broken system is this?" I won-
dered.

Seriously, I enjoyed a couple days off
from school as much as the next sec-
ond-grader but did no one else see the
injustice? The counterfeit nature of this
so-called holiday?

Did adults set up this elaborate ruse,
just to take Polaroid pictures of our
confused, pumpkin pie-smearing faces?
Instead of saying "Smile," they could've
said, "Psych!"

As I grew older and wiser (fourth or
fifth grade), I came to see Thanksgiving
for what it really was: The opening cer-
emony of the Christmas season. (New
Year's Day being the closing ceremony.)

(See Swayze, Page 9)

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(From **Swayze**, Page 8)

I finally knew the value of Thanksgiving. It was the magic door to the most wonderful time of the year. Cracking open the colorful ads of the Thanksgiving newspaper was the same as shouting, "Let the games begin!"

As a young adult, thinking, "I should be grown up by now," I still liked Christmas best. Thanksgiving continued to feel like a dress rehearsal for Dec. 25.

But then with a family of my own, finding ways for my kids to practice appreciation and to recognize things to be thankful for, we started the Gratitude Box.

I covered a small shoe box with gift paper and cut a slot in the top. We could write something we were thankful for onto a small piece of paper and slip it into the box. Then we read them aloud at dinner on Thanksgiving day.

Like many hair-brained parenting ideas, this one was short-lived. It started with enthusiasm but sputtered away. Even becoming a backhanded shot at one's sibling: "I'm grateful my little sister didn't bother me more today while I was trying to play Nintendo." Resourceful kids always find a way.

Since then, regular expressions of appreciation have become a much greater part of my life.

Meister Eckhart is credited with saying, "If the only prayer you say in your life is 'thank you,' that would suffice."

Now, I'm not sure if that's true (I know my second most frequent prayer is "help!"), but I am completely sure we don't say thank you to each other enough.

We seem to live in a society with an imbalanced sense of entitlement. Rampant arrogance, presumption and greed. Every man for himself.

We need more gratitude. We need to give it more; we need to see it more. And I don't mean typing "TY!" in a text.

If I were to start my own religion, it would be the Church of Gratitude.

I'm afraid we've become a bunch of grumbling, whining, self-absorbed creatures who are forgetting to stop and express appreciation, and neglecting to engage in moments of public thanks — with eye contact and heartfelt gratitude. When did we become a society that can't be bothered with anything more than an empty and mindless "Thank you and have a nice day?"

Recently a friend of mine was so grateful for the service she received on her car, she brought the garage crew a box of Krispy Kreme donuts.

It's November. The month of Thanksgiving. There's so much to be thankful for. Shouldn't we stop taking things for granted and tap into the power of gratitude? Year round. Instead of the kick-off of the shopping season, this Thanksgiving could be the opening ceremony for The Year of Thanks.

Thank you for reading.

(From **Letters**, Page 7)

Another neighbor whose daughter is in eighth grade said some students were coming to school with a bag or two of marijuana. Kids are using and bringing their parents' medical marijuana to school.

The effects of drug use on a society are clearly devastating. This young man who wrote this letter to the editor was right on. Let's take up the gauntlet and not back down until we've greatly removed these sources of drugs from our communities, and provided good, healthy alternatives for our young people.

Join me in not only opposing the legalization of marijuana in our fair state, but also the easy availability of "medical marijuana." Let's also follow through as adults and create a healthy Key Center

youth center so our young people will have good, healthy, fun alternatives. We, adults, are here to protect, teach and guide the young. If not us, then who?

*Carol Canaday
Key Center*



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Type of Chili: Beef Chicken Pork Veggie Combo (ingredients: _____)

Entry fee is \$8 (to be pooled and awarded as prize money for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place.)

Judging will begin at 12:00pm in the Whitmore Room. Please bring your chili in a crock-pot, to keep warm, no earlier than 11am, and no later than 11:45am. There may be two rounds, depending upon the number of entries. You can expect 3-5 judges per round. There will be no public sampling of chili entries due to TPCHD regulations. Mail application and payment to: KPCCA, PO Box 82, Vaughn, WA 98394.



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KP library renovation coming this month; off-site location offered

By Karen Lovett, KP News

The Key Center Library will start their planned renovations on Nov. 17, and expect construction to be finished by the end of the month. During that time, the public is invited to use their services offered at the Key Peninsula Civic Center.

The Pierce County Library Explorer Bookmobile will serve citizens during the library remodel.

Bookmobile hours at the civic center:

Mon – Wed, noon – 6 p.m.

Thurs and Sat 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Fri 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Free public Internet access will be available on three computers in the center's VFW room behind the main building. Service will

be on a first come, first serve basis and will be subject to 30 minutes to 1-hour usage.

Hours of operation:

Mon – Wed noon – 5 p.m.

Fri 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Sat 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Friends of the Key Center Library have received more than \$27,000 in private donations toward the renovation project and will hold book sales in the VFW room during hours of computer operation to help fund their literary projects.

For information call the Key Center Library before Nov. 14, at (253) 548-3309. After Nov. 14, call (253) 548-3300.

The civic center is located at 17010 S. Vaughn Rd. KPN, Vaughn. For information, call (253) 884-3456.

Community News Briefs

Crash on SR-302 kills Gig Harbor woman

On Oct. 17, people driving on Key Peninsula's SR-302 were diverted around a fatality collision at 124th Avenue Court NW.

At about 9:13 a.m. Patricia Pierce, 47, of Gig Harbor, died as a result of her colliding with another vehicle.

Washington State Patrol spokesman Trooper Guy Gill said a 45-year-old woman and her child were injured in the crash and transported to area hospitals.

Gill reported that Pierce had a small dog in her lap, which may have been a factor in the crash. The driver and dog were pronounced dead at the scene. At the time of this report, the injured child was in stable condition, Gill said.

Traffic was detoured to side streets while the scene investigation took place. Gill said SR-302 was reopened about 2 p.m.

Farm Tour packs peninsula

An estimated 500 visitors began the 2012 KP Farm Tour at the open house for the Key Pen Gateway Park. The 10 locations on the tour were busy all day with hundreds of guests enjoying working farms, an outstanding fiber arts show, vineyard tours and demonstrations both educational and entertaining. This was the sixth year for this free family fun event. The planning committee

has begun planning for 2013. For questions about participating next year check the website at kpfarmtour.org or call (253) 884-6455.

Good to Go! finds a hitch in billing system

With bridge toll increases looming in the future, the Good To Go! tolling system just revealed that about 350,000 transactions from the Tacoma Narrows and SR-520 bridges were not processed in a timely manner.

The Washington State Department of Transportation estimates the tolls accounted for about 2 percent of the \$18 million transactions that occurred between December 2011 and June 2012.

A recent WSDOT report said its ETC (Electronic Transaction Consultants) toll vendor processed most of these transactions during the past two months. However, drivers may soon receive bills listing older tolls as ETC works through the last of the transactions found while reviewing their books on year-end financial statement.

“If you drove one of the toll bridges this year and didn't receive a bill, you'll likely receive one soon,” said Craig Stone, WSDOT toll division director. “We apologize for the delay and we are working with our vendor to ensure this won't happen again.”

For information, visit wsdot.wa.gov/goodtogo.

Kilmer, Driscoll debate issues and remedies

By Colleen Slater, KP News

An enthusiastic crowd greeted the candidates competing for the 6th Congressional District Representative seat to be vacated by incumbent Norm Dicks.

Bill Driscoll and Derek Kilmer met in a civil debate held at Peninsula High School on Oct. 19.

CenturyLink sponsored the event, hosted by the Gig Harbor Chamber of Commerce.

Derek Kilmer of Gig Harbor, who has served in both House and Senate at state level, is a familiar face to most Key Peninsula residents.

Bill Driscoll, a newcomer on the political scene, is a former U.S. Marine, manufacturer, exporter and business-

man living in Tacoma.

Many of their views on issues are the same or similar, but their emphases differ. They agree on priorities of education, helping military veterans, social security reform, maintaining military bases on the Pacific Rim and federal support for the Tacoma Narrows Bridges that connect Joint Base Lewis-McChord with naval facilities in Kitsap County.

Kilmer, who likened running for office to applying for a job, said the biggest challenge today is jobs.

"The best social service is a job," said Kilmer, and Driscoll agreed.

Driscoll said he's fed up with both parties in the other Washington, and believes debt and debt service can bring this country down.

Asked what their highest priorities

are, Driscoll called for a strong national defense.

"We have to put everything on the table," he said, a remark made more than once. "Revenue increases must be linked to spending cuts," Driscoll said.

Kilmer said a balanced budget is his priority, and notes his bipartisan background at state level.

Driscoll emphasized prioritizing budget spending needs to tie directly to jobs and education. Regulations, especially on small businesses, need to be eased and more training programs put in place to increase the skilled labor force.

In reference to bringing troops home from Afghanistan and Iraq, both agreed protection of the troops is paramount.

"Smart Power: a strong military and diplomacy" is needed in our foreign policy, Kilmer said.

Driscoll said, "Nation building is not a good use of military funds."

Kilmer would like to serve on the transportation and infrastructure committee. He said Gig Harbor needed to

pass a law to get the hospital built. Investment in roads, sewers and schools lay the foundation for economic growth.

Other areas of his interest are appropriations, armed services and small business committees.

Driscoll's committee choices are natural resources and armed services. He pointed out that his experience in active military combat, manufacturing, living and working abroad are all related to global concerns. He does not want to be a career politician.

"I want to control the debt, not your private life," he said in closing.

Kilmer said he wants a better future for his girls. His pro reason for running is to get the country back to work. His con is that Congress is a mess.

The panel of questioners were former Pierce County Council member Terry Lee, former Gig Harbor City Council member Bob Dick and Peninsula Gateway editor Brian McLean. Community members Ron Jones served as moderator and Mitch Anderson as timekeeper.

Key Peninsula Civic Center draws a crowd

On Oct. 16, the evening of the presidential candidates faced off in New York, a standing-room audience was engaged in some politics and issues of their own at the Key Peninsula Civic Center in Vaughn.

Some 100 citizens turned out to hear 10 local candidates defend their platforms and outline their plans for the offices they seek.

Each of the incumbents and candidates listed their priorities for transportation and safety, jobs, debt and spending, professionalism, communication, economic development and for funding basic education.

In response to questions from the audience, candidates explained their views.

U.S. Congressional candidates Washington state Legislature contenders Larry Seaquist and Doug Richards sparred about taxes. Jan Angel and Karen Ashabranner, both running for state Senate, discussed education. Pat McCarthy and Bruce Minker talked about economic development from the Pierce County executive perspective, and Mike Lonergan and Billie O'Brien covered the accountability that should be expected from the office of Pierce County assessor.

The election forum was hosted by the Key Peninsula Civic Center, the Key Peninsula Community Council and Youth Council, the Key Peninsula Business Association and the Key Peninsula News.

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The north wind doth blow and we shall have snow
And rain until it's really absurd!
While pies made from pumpkin and apples for munching
Surround the great gobbling bird
So hail to Thanksgiving (many thanks to be giving).
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Come find the good, the bad, the has-to-be-had.
We hope you will all soon drop in.




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One tasty, gluten-free turkey dressing offering

By Karen Hale, for KP News

Two years ago, out of the blue, my 15-year-old son became sick all the time.

After many trips to the doctor and a test for celiac disease (negative), we started to remove foods from his diet, until about six months later, we figured out he had become allergic to wheat.

Anyone out there who has had to change to a gluten-free diet (or doing it because you feel better) knows about the high prices of gluten-free products. This is the main reason most of us who have to go gluten-free begin experimenting with other ways to make traditional foods non-glutens can eat and still be able to enjoy the holidays or other special times of year with handed-down recipes.

My turkey dressing recipe isn't what I'd call traditional, but it is delicious. It's gluten-free, and the only carbs in it are from the fruit, no additives.

I've tried many variations, and you may come up with a few different things you'd prefer, but I've decided this is the favorite because of the absorption of the turkey



Photo courtesy of Karen Hale

Basic ingredients for gluten-free turkey dressing recipe.

flavors — plus, the types of fruit and veggies used don't get too mushy. You don't want your dressing to be like a thick soup, you want it to still have shape and not absorb too much of the drippings.

I always cook my turkey seasoned only with salt, pepper and garlic powder or granulated garlic. The amounts listed for this recipe are for a 20- to 22-pound bird. You can also add four slices of gluten-free bread, diced into cubes after toasting or drying until hard if you still want some bread in your stuffing. We prefer this dressing without it.

Gluten-free turkey dressing

- 5 stalks celery, diced
- 1 medium yellow onion, diced
- Butter/margarine
- 1 cup walnut halves
- 1 cup pecan halves
- 2 diced apples (Fuji, gala, pink lady, granny smith or your favorite baking apple, the harder the better)

1 diced Danish squash, peeled and seeds removed (you can use a favorite alternate squash but it needs to be one that is hard enough to stay solid after baking)

- ½ cup raisins
- ½ cup diced dates
- 2 eggs

Salt and pepper to taste
Sauté celery and onion in butter/margarine until onion is transparent and celery edges just begin to turn brown. Set aside.

In a large bowl, combine nuts, apples, squash, raisins and dates. Mix together well, add salt and pepper to taste. Add sautéed celery/onion mix and eggs. Mix all together. The egg works as a binder (otherwise you will have a fruit/nut mixture that is like trail mix and doesn't hold together). Spoon into cavity of turkey and inside neck skin cavity.

The drippings from the turkey give it flavor it won't have if baked separately. Happy Thanksgiving. Enjoy.

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Holiday shopping begins with food, folly, local bargains

By Colleen Slater, KP News

Opportunities to shop and buy locally have increased this past year, but reliable businesses and traditional shopping events are also putting their best products forward in the competition.

Special events include the Winter Warm-up Craft Fair and Chili Cook-off on Nov. 10 at the KP Civic Center, where local folks offer their unique hand-crafted wares. Hours are 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

The KP Historical Society museum holds an open house at the same time, enticing shoppers with an array of gift ideas including books on local history, note cards, photos, postcards, museum T-shirts and mugs. New items include Floyd Oles' book on Glencove, plus a collection of antique toys suitable for stocking stuffers.

Blue Willow Lavender Farm opens the store on Nov. 16 and 17 from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. with special handcrafted holiday decorations of lavender, as well as their usual array of lavender gift products.

Sunnycrest Nursery, open every day, hosts its annual "holiday open house" on Nov. 17 with the traditional tree decorations. A new line, Honey House Naturals made in Fife, that includes fragrant lotions ... will be available. Claudia Loy is stocking more U.S. made products, although she carries "fair trade" baskets from Africa. They will have wreaths available in December, as well as fresh flowers, plants and other garden items.

Winterfest 2012 at Peninsula High School is held Nov. 24, from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., and Nov. 25, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Traditional and unique gift ideas as well as delicious food offerings can be found there.

Angel Guild will be putting out Christmas items by Nov. 1 and restocking on a daily basis. Look for like-new clothing, jewelry, books and housewares here, too.

Cost Less Pharmacy has a huge selection of gift items in many areas of the store, as well as Thanksgiving decorations. Kringle candles, a new product

line, was developed by the 19-year-old son of the man who created the famous Yankee Candle Co. The store includes calendars by a Gig Harbor artist, locally roasted coffees, sports and fishing items, books, toys and special clothing.

S.A.V.E. Thrift store, although not on the Key, provides scholarships for PHS students through its sales. Mondays are half price on books and selected items, Thursdays are 25 percent off regular prices for seniors, and Nov. 10 and 24 are \$5 per bag on clothing and shoes until 3 p.m.

Most stores and businesses offer gift certificates if that's your preference, from haircuts and painted nails, massages and plants to foods or other gift ideas.

Save time and gas money by patronizing businesses on the Key Peninsula or nearby.

And consider donating to local organizations that help those less fortunate in our midst – Family Resource Center, Backpacks 4 Kids, KP Lutheran Church meals and our local food bank.



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Contact Pastor John Day if interested: 253-884-9339.

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Creekside Creations gearing up for holidays

By Karen Lovett, KP News

Creekside Creations is the culmination of talented generations of a local family.

Deanna Russell of Minter developed her ceramic skills working alongside her mother, Carmon Fenton, and grandmother, Jane Van Slyke.

Van Slyke grew up in Vaughn. Her mother, Olga Bradley, taught her five daughters to crochet, knit, stitch and embroider.

Van Slyke married childhood sweetheart Harmon Van Slyke and stayed in Vaughn while he served in the Army during World War II. They then lived in Victor for 47 years. Harmon started Vaughn Bay Lumber Co. and continued to run the business until age 62, when he turned it over to his sons, Tom and Dale.

Van Slyke had a hobby room in the house where her sisters, niece, daughter and granddaughters spent countless hours creating heirlooms. They started doing three-dimensional pictures out of paper and knit doll clothes. Many items made it



Photo by Karen Lovett, KP News

Jane Van Slyke and granddaughter Deanna Russell pose for a photo at Russell's shop.

into the homes of family and friends.

Van Slyke purchased a small kiln and tables to do ceramics.

"Carmon wanted to learn to do everything anyone else was doing — sewing, embroidery, knitting, crochet," said Van Slyke, 91.

Before her death, Bradley requested that

Van Slyke spend her inheritance to enlarge and improve the hobby shop and create a business. Bradley passed away in 1968, and Van Slyke used the money as directed, acquiring a large kiln and outfit her new shop. She took classes in Tacoma and Federal Way to improve her skills and taught ceramics for 27 years.

When Russell was age 7 or 8, she and sister, Debbie, participated in the ceramics hobby with their mother, grandmother and aunts. Deanna soon helped pour slip (liquefied clay) into molds. She honed her painting skills over the years.

The Van Slykes moved from Victor to Vaughn, but there was no room for the ceramic shop. Van Slyke wanted someone in the family to take over. Fenton preferred sewing and working with fabric. Russell was eager to follow in her grandmother's footsteps.

The building that once served as living quarters while their new home was built, a

perfect choice for the business, was converted into the shop in 1993. The carpeted floor gives the studio a comfortable feeling. The kiln, pouring table, shelves, molds and other equipment and supplies were moved into the newly organized shop with a new name, Creekside Creations.

The studio is a focal point of family activity. Deanna's mother-in-law, Janet Russell, spends much of her time there.

Only recently has Van Slyke been kept away by health issues, but that hasn't prevented her from contributing to the busy holiday effort.

Every day, Russell picks up newly crocheted, tiny colorful hats and scarves lined up in rows in Van Slyke's living room alongside snowman head ornaments. Lately, Van Slyke has been able to paint ceramics at home as well. Her home is a treasure trove of hand-painted plates, ceramic animals, dolls and porcelain, each item with a story of who made it and when.

Russell runs the business, designing patterns and creating a wide array of ceramics so skillfully painted, it is virtually impossible to tell they have been done free-hand. Festive plates, cups, wine coolers (many in matched sets) and an array of other assorted items line tables and shelves. All glazing is food safe. She pours many of her own ceramics, but does purchase some bisque (once-fired pottery) from outside.

She's busy gearing up for holiday craft bazaars, including Kitsap Pavilion, Poulsbo Lutheran Church, North Kitsap High School, and on Nov. 24-25, Peninsula High School's Winter Fest.

Creekside Creations is located in Minter at 15514 118th Ave NW. For information call (253) 857-4832.

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.

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'Flavor of Fall' draws crowd

KP News staff report

The Key Peninsula Civic Center Association hosted its biennial Flavor of Fall dinner auction Oct. 13 at the Key Peninsula Civic Center in Vaughn.

Some 200 people dressed in 1920s attire, mingled, dined and doled out cash during the festive "speakeasy gala" fundraiser.

Organizers said about \$25,000 was raised from a combination of silent and live auction items.

Jim Borgen, a Gig Harbor resident and local favorite, volunteered to be the auctioneer for the evening and kept people laughing and the popular bash on schedule.

It was a fashionable affair. There were guests dressed as flappers, gangsters, bootleggers, and plenty of volunteers made the evening a success, said Mark Roberts, KPCCA board member and Flavor of Fall event chair.

Roberts said dozens of volunteers stepped up to plan, promote and run the event at the landmark facility. Servers included Boy Scouts Troop 220 members

and several high school students who volunteered at the center's Friday Night Skate program.

The well-decorated facility was packed with lively guests decked in a variety of creative outfits. But for all the folly, Roberts said it was a very important evening.

"There may be many folks in the community who think we get some state or local funding. We don't. We are a nonprofit organization that survives on small rental fees we charge for use of the facility, donations and fundraiser proceeds.

"This is by far the biggest event we put on and because of the amount of time and energy it takes, we only do it every two years," he said.

Roberts said the goal was to raise \$30,000 to help with the ongoing expenses for operation and maintenance of the facility.

"We got very close. On behalf of the association, I would like to thank all our volunteers, donors and supporters who made the 2012 Flavor of Fall event such a huge success," he said.

For information, visit kpciviccenter.org.

KP woman makes record bequest

By Ted Olinger, for KP News

On Sept. 21, the Key Peninsula Food Bank and Gig Harbor/Peninsula FISH Food Bank each received record donations of \$125,000 from a Key Peninsula resident they never met.

The money is a gift from the estate of Karen Christine (Olson) Bednarczyk, who died in October 2011 after a five-year battle with breast cancer.

The estate attorney, Kathryn Portteus, also a teacher at Kopachuck Middle School, delivered the checks to the food banks.

"Karen didn't want any fanfare. She just wanted to help hungry people and animals in her community," said Portteus. A similar gift will go to Coalition: HUMANe Spay & Pet Neuter Clinic in Tacoma.

"This is the largest check I've ever seen," said Penny Gazabat, executive director of Key Peninsula Community Services, which includes the food bank located in Home.

"In 2007 we served about 97 families. Now we're up to over 300. It's usually about 9,000 meals a month," she said.

Gazabat said she plans on investing the funds, with hopes of expanding programs in the future.

"We still are going to have to rely on the generosity of our community to support the programs," she said.

Jan Coen, the Gig Harbor/Peninsula FISH Food Bank coordinator, said her facility sees about 300 families a month, and many of them are elderly or disabled and from the Key Peninsula.

"We're going to invest it (the bequest) in our reserve fund," Coen said. "We need to have six months of funding set aside so that if anything happens, we know we can continue to operate."

Another \$20,000 is going to the Gig Harbor MultiCare oncology clinic for quilts and food vouchers for its chemotherapy infusion patients.

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COMMUNITY PAGES

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

NOW

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 2 are free and must be accompanied by an adult. Call camp office, 884-2722, or email campadmin@wa.easterseals.com for swim schedule.

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 (6-8 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.

NOV. 1

Fuchsia club meets

The Lakebay Fuchsia Club meets at 7 p.m. at the Key Center Fire Station. Ginnie, 884-9744.

KP museum hours

The KP Historical Museum will be open on Thursdays from 1-4 p.m. and Saturdays from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. in November. The museum will close for the winter on Nov. 29 and re-open in February. The 2013 exhibit will be about logging on the Key Peninsula. If you have photos, stories or memorabilia that might be appropriate for such an exhibit or other exhibits, call 884-2511.

NOV. 2, 9, 16, 30

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. 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.

NOV. 3

KPHS meets

The fall meeting of the KP Historical Society is from noon-3 p.m. in the VFW room of the KP Civic Center. Some oral histories will be shared and a memorial tree for Rick Crandall will be dedicated. Open to members, guests, and interested community members. Bring something to share and your own table service. Beverages provided. 884-2511.

Musical performance

Two Waters Alliance bring back the Bottom Line Duo of Spencer and Traci Hoveskeland to the Key Peninsula for a 7:30 p.m. performance at the KP Civic Center. The duo performs on a cello and bass in a chamber music 21st century style featuring multiple musical genres. The Bottom Line Duo has played at Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center as well as in many community halls throughout the country. Tickets are \$15/adults or \$1/students and are available at Sunnycrest Nursery, The Blend Wine Shop, at the door or online at twowaters.org. 884-4423.

NOV. 5-28

Swim lessons

Easter Seals Camp Stand By Me will be offering swim lessons Monday and Wednesday afternoons beginning Nov. 5 with Level 2/Intermediate from 4-4:30 p.m. and Level3/Advanced from 4:30-5 p.m. Cost is \$40 for 8 lessons. Call camp office at 884-2722 or email campadmin@wa.easterseals.com.

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.

NOV. 5, 12, 26

Bloodmobile dates

The bloodmobile is at Albertson's from 11:30 a.m.-6 p.m.

NOV. 6

Baby & preschool time

Baby Play and Learn time begins at 10:15 a.m. for babies 0-24 months and their adult caretakers. Preschool Play and Learn begins at 11a.m. for children 3-6 years old and their caretakers. Baby time is approximately 20-60 minutes and preschool time lasts 30-60 minutes. Both events are held at the Key Center Library. (253)543-3309.

NOV. 7

Family time

Family Story Time is held on Wednesdays at 11 a.m. for families with preschool-aged children. Enjoy art activities, stories, rhymes, singing and finger plays at the Key Center Library. (253) 543-3309.

NOV. 8

Penrose class

The final presentation on the Penrose family will be held at the KP Historical Society museum at 1 p.m. This session will be "packing up the camp" and include camp songs, how they stored supplies for the winter and the camp site. Admission is free. Children welcome with an adult. Call 884-1400.

NOV. 10

Crafts & Chili

The fifth annual Winter Warm-up Craft Fair & Chili Cook-off jump starts the holiday shopping season at the KP Civic Center from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The event features handmade and one-of-a-kind local

crafts and creations made by local artisans and crafters, local entertainment, and the chili cook-off. The kitchen serves chili, nachos, hotdogs, chili dogs, cornbread, and hot and cold beverages. Give gifts this season that strengthen our local community. The deadline to apply (www.kpciviccenter.org or 884-3456) for the Crafts Fair or Chili Cook-off is Nov. 2. This event is sponsored by the KPCCA.

Second Saturday

Key Pen Parks offers a new art concept for adults (age 16 and older) from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Volunteer Park Office. November's project is stamped card. Fee is \$25/class. Jessica@keypenparks.com or 884-9240x22.

Historical Society Open House

The KP Historical Society holds a free Holiday Open House from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. in the KP Historical Museum. Buy gifts for the holidays including "Glencove," a book written by Floyd Oles on his childhood in Glencove and surrounding area, as well as several other historical books, mugs, T-shirts, photos and postcards. 884-2511.

NOV. 13

Knit or crochet

Loving Hearts voluntarily 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 lovingheartsonkp@aol.com.

NOV. 14

Bayshore Garden Club

The Bayshore Garden Club meets at 1 p.m. at the Longbranch fire station. Francine, 253-569-1381.

Book sale

During the Key Center Library closure

(See **Community**, Page 17)

(From **Community**, Page 16)

(Nov. 14 – Feb. 27) the Friends of the Key Center Library are selling used paperbacks (25 cents/each) during the days/hours computers are available in the VFW room at the KP Civic Center. Computers are available every day except Thursday. The Pierce County Library's Kids' Explorer

PUBLIC MEETINGS

KP Lions' dinner and program

Nov. 7 and 21, 6:30 p.m. in VFW Room, KP Civic Center 853-2721.

Peninsula School District Board

Nov. 8, 6 p.m. at Gig Harbor High School library.

KP Civic Center Board Elections

Nov. 8, meeting at 7 p.m. in Whitmore Room; www.kpciviccenter.org.

Key Pen Parks

Nov. 13 (budget meeting) and 26, at 7 p.m. at Volunteer Park; keypenparks.com.

KP Community Fair Association

Nov. 13, 6 p.m. in Roadhouse Restaurant VIP room; www.keyfair.org.

Fire District 16

Nov. 13 and 27, 6 p.m. in meeting room, Key Center fire station; www.keypeninsulafire.org.

Key Peninsula Council

Nov. 14, 7:30 p.m. at Key Center fire station; www.kpcouncil.org.

KP Citizens against Crime

Nov. 15, 7 p.m. at Home fire station; www.kpcitizensagainstrime.org.

LIC

Nov. 21, 6:30 p.m. at Longbranch Improvement Club; www.longbranchimprovementclub.org.

Bookmobile is open Mondays-Saturdays in the civic center parking lot. Friendsokclibrary.org.

NOV. 18

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.

NOV. 19

Bloodmobile

The bloodmobile will be at Walgreens in Gig Harbor from 11:30 a.m.-6 p.m.

NOV. 23

Sock hop

Break out the boogie shoes and dance off those turkey-day blues at the Sock Hop, a fundraiser for a new security system for the KP Civic Center. Rock 'N' Roll Magic

is donating their talents and will play the tunes guaranteed to get everyone out of the seats. Doors open at 8 p.m. \$10 tickets available at Sunnycrest Nursery, KP Civic Center, and at the door. Concessions and a no host bar. This event is for ages 21 and older. kpciviccenter.org or 884-3456.

NOV. 24

Nita's birthday

The community, friends and family are invited to help Nita Glass celebrate her 90th birthday with a luncheon from 1-3 p.m. at the KP Civic Center. Bring memories, photos and stories to add to a scrapbook to commemorate this occasion. Gail, 884-2431.

Lyme group

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

NOV. 30

Club Cosmic

Club Cosmic is from 9 p.m.-12 a.m. for teens. Group games and activities, DJ bat-

bles, arcade games in the Whitmore room and concessions are offered. 884-3456.

DEC. 1

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/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! Keypenparks.com or 884-9240 x22.

Holiday Bazaar

The Key Peninsula Lutheran Church is hosting their annual holiday bazaar from 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. Expect to see plenty of handcrafted gifts, home decor and homemade foods. Proceeds help area outreach programs. 884-4449.

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.

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. 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 KC Library and at the Blend beginning Nov. 14. 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 Library; meetings move to Key Center fire station beginning Nov. 15. 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 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 starting Nov. 10. 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.

MORE CALENDAR

See Off the Key listings and on page 18.

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OFF THE KEY

NOV. 1

Poetry reading

A fall poetry reading for adults is presented by Richard Wakefield, an American poet and literary critic, at 7 p.m. at the Gig Harbor Library. Mr. Wakefield's book, "A Vertical Mile," a 2011 Able Muse Book Award finalist, keenly observes people and the land in which they live, sensing awe before natural beauty, while recognizing inexorable technological advancement. This event is presented by the Friends of the Gig Harbor Library. (253) 548-3305.

NOV. 1, 8, 15, 29

Chess club

Chess Club for grades K-8 meets at the Peninsula/Gig Harbor Library from 6-7 p.m. Join for 20 minutes of chess instruction and 40 minutes of play. No registration required for this free event sponsored by the Friends of the Gig Harbor Library. (253) 548-3305.

NOV. 6 and 20

Help offered

Drop-in help is available for adults from 2-3 p.m. at the Gig Harbor Library. Bring questions about using Microsoft Office, e-books, e-readers, and email or any Pierce County Library e-source. (253) 548-3305.

NOV. 9, 10, 11, 15, 24

Bloodmobile schedule

The bloodmobile will be at Gig Harbor High School on Nov. 9 from 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. On Nov. 10 it will be at Adventure of Faith Church from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., and at the Safeway from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. It will be at St. Nicholas Catholic Church on Nov. 11 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and at the Kiwanis Club of Peninsula-Gig Harbor on Nov. 15 from 12-7 p.m. The bloodmobile will also be at HCC Road Trip, 8502 Skansie Ave. from 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

NOV. 13

E-reader information

Adults may try out various e-readers and learn which one is right for them from 2-3 p.m. at the Gig Harbor Library. 253-548-3305.

NOV. 23, 24, 25, 30

Theatre production

"Oliver" is presented by the Paradise Theatre on Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. Call (253) 851-PLAY or paradisetheatre.org for tickets or more information.

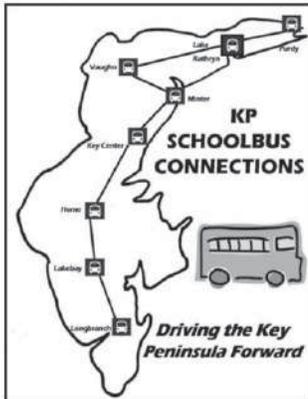
NOV. 27

Library card stuff

Learn about all about the cool stuff adults can do with their library card from 2-3 p.m. at the Gig Harbor Library. Explore the free, money-saving and fun things you can do like learn a new language, find bargains, download free music, access consumer reports and more. (253) 548-3305.

KP SCHOOLBUS CONNECTIONS

"Tuesday Trips to Town" An Innovative Pilot Project



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Business association markets itself and the community

KP News staff report

The Key Peninsula Business Association is ramping up new ways to promote commerce and community.

What started out as businesses helping businesses is fast becoming the hub for tying different groups of people together and drawing a crowd.

Jeff Minch, who owns Blend Wine Shop in Key Center, has been with the longtime association for nearly two years. He said the KPBA is becoming as much a networking group as it is a community service group.

"We are involved with other community services out here (on the Key) and support different organizations within the community," Minch said.

The association is welcoming people to join from off the peninsula as well. For the past six months, Minch and fellow KPBA members Todd Rosnebach, Brandy Ellzey, C. C. Williams, Chuck Ellis and Scott Gallacher have been working on a marketing committee to attract

more members as well as to better serve a broader community.

"We want to bring people out to the Key Peninsula to show what we have out here," Minch said.

He said there are many people living on the peninsula who don't frequent Key Center.

"They go around everything, and some of them haven't even been to the new grocery store or know the library is getting a new makeover," Minch said.

The KPBA is on the pulse of the community and provides a "really good hub" for information. It is being proactive in tying different organizations together, he said.

They have a dynamic website full of calendar of events, tide tables and advertising opportunities to support and garner new members as well as promote the community. They recently added a Facebook page to help with self-promoting.

According to Minch, his marketing team is brainstorming ideas on how to

make their group more appealing for other businesses and organizations. They have recently changed some structure components to help with the transition.

"Now, we just have different tiers of levels of membership — from basic to the deluxe membership. As you go up, it includes different benefits for advertising and includes tickets to our annual dinner. Our mission is to go out and

show this to people that aren't members, and to bring back old members into the business association as well," he said.

Minch said the KPBA marketing committee understands that the Key Peninsula is growing, but "it's also trying to help preserve what we actually have here as well."

For information, visit kpba.org or facebook.com/kpbusinessassociation.



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Local counselors release special cookbook

By Colleen Slater, KP News

Chad Beaver, wife Michelle Gamble and their 4-year-old son moved to Minterwood last December, but it took until June 1 to obtain his Washington state Marriage and Family Therapy license.

He's from Alabama, she's from Canada, and they met in Massachusetts as college students.

Last August, Beaver attended a Seattle Mariners game where the temperature was a pleasant 75 degrees. He received a text message from a friend in Alabama where he lived at the time, saying it was 115 degrees. Beaver said he quickly decided to move to the Northwest, where there are so many parks, recreation areas and museums.

"I love museums," he said, and he's taken his son to many different ones already. "The more you can experience, the better off you are."

Beaver studied cultures and religions independently prior to becoming a "multi-denominational" minister who enjoys doing weddings.

He has a strong interest in the prevention



By Colleen Slater, KP News

Chad Beaver and his wife, Michelle Gamble, of Minterwood, recently compiled some specific, but simple recipes into a book to help people prevent and fight mental illnesses.

of Alzheimer's and depression in the elderly. He spent five years as a Program for Asser-

tive Community Treatment (PACT) team member with in-home therapy dealing with high-risk, bipolar adults, working with the causes, medications and chemicals used to help these people.

Gamble spent five years in a nursing home with schizophrenic and Alzheimer's patients.

Beaver was pleased to learn of the Mustard Seed Project, a Key Peninsula-based elder-friendly organization, and plans to be involved with it.

The couple put together "The Alzheimer's Prevention Diet and Cookbook," explaining what particular foods best fight mental health illnesses in older adults.

According to Beaver, a proper diet has been shown to be effective in fighting the plaque buildup in the brain that causes Alzheimer's. Various studies are condensed into simple language, and each recipe notes the benefits of one or two specific ("everyday") ingredients, he said.

When it reopens, the book will be available at the Key Peninsula Counseling Center in Key Center for \$15, with a portion of the proceeds benefitting Alzheimer's research.

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KP man enjoys rubber band gun hobby

By Irene Torres, KP News

Steve Whitford's inspiration came from a marble game made by his great uncle.

The 62-year-old Lakebay man fashions hand-made rubber-band guns, replicas of the actual weapons he uses to model his creations.

He describes his process as "trial and error," and refers to his pastime as Rubber Band Underground.

Whitford made his first rubber-band gun at age 8 or 9, and now makes 11 models ranging in size from a tiny derringer to a full-sized one-of-a-kind Gatling gun — which took him more than three years to figure out.

His arsenal of about 40 guns includes .410-caliber shotgun, a .22-caliber rifle, an 1873 Colt revolving rifle and an 1890s Winchester rifle. Whitford said most of his rubber-band guns are fairly accurate, depending on the range of the target.

He improvises using cabinet hardware, dowels, brass plates and wood. In one bay of a three-car garage that serves as his shop, he cuts each gun from a template using a band saw, a table saw, a miter saw and a drill press.

Whitford customizes the trigger and firing wheel for each gun as a set. He uses commercial pipe hangers for trigger guards and rubber-bands from an office supply store. He said that every gun is a little different. Each piece of wood has its own tension limits and uses a specific number and diameter of rubber bands.

Prices range from \$12-\$20 for pistols, \$25-\$40 for shotguns and \$40-\$45 for rifles. In the four years he has been making the guns, he has sold about 40 of them,



Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News

Steve Whitford, of Home, has made an arsenal of rubber band guys. He said he enjoys his hobby and tries to replicate the toys with authentic features from a variety of firearms.

but gives away a number of them each year in Christmas boxes.

Whitford said he pays himself "about a penny an hour" and his hobby/business

is therapeutic.

"It keeps me busy doing stuff with my hands. My brain and myself don't always get along," he said.

Whitford suffers from carpal tunnel syndrome and severe arthritis and can't work too long at one time. Retired from his job as a forklift driver and part-time in law enforcement, he has built feeders and spice racks and has customized the cabinetry in the home he shares with his wife, Estella, near Joemma Beach Farms.

In July 2012, the Key Center Library exhibited his creations. He said there were pro-gun and anti-gun people in attendance. "They met in the middle and sure had a lot of conversations," he said.

During the Winter-Warm Up November event, Whitford plans to have a booth at the Key Peninsula Civic Center, where his work can be seen, tested and purchased.

Whitford wants to make a cannon and a shotgun that fire rubber bands from the inside.

"The more guns I make, the better I get at it," he said with a boyish smile.

The Mustard Seed Project

Building an Elder-Friendly Key Peninsula

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Taproot Theater's counter bullying with 'Wild Wes' performance

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

For the past three years, Vaughn Elementary has kicked off October's "National Bullying Prevention Month" with a play by Seattle's Taproot Theatre Co.

This year the group performed "Wild Wes," a Western-themed performance on the topic of bullying that principal Susan O'Leary said helped students learn the three Rs: recognize, refuse and report bullying.

The performance ties in with other programs in the school such as conflict resolution and treating others with kindness, she said.

"The assembly made me realize that I need to be more careful about how I treat other people," student Sierra Adams said. Classmate Lillian Roberts said it made her realize she should watch out for others who might be bullied.

According to teacher Andrea O'Brine, even the kindergarteners loved the Taproot assembly.

"The performance was very entertaining and educational. My students learned what the word bully means and what a bully looks like," O'Brine said. "They also learned ways to deal with a bully and how to help friends by being allies."



Photo by Hugh McMillan, KP News

Last month, members of the Taproot Theatre Company performed "Wild Wes," an anti-bullying play at Vaughn Elementary School.

Fifth-grader Hailey Roncevich said she realized many people at school are being bullied. Classmates Tristin Grondahl and Sam Howard said they learned that everything they say matters, and just because someone is from somewhere else, doesn't mean they are different.

According to Suzanne Townsend, education and outreach associate of Taproot Theatre Co., these popular performances often have a way with opening eyes, ears and young minds.

"Following performances of our shows, schools often experience an increase in bullying reporting as students

become aware that bullying is not acceptable and help is available. Administrators, counselors and teachers are all seen by students as responsible adults who can help in a bullying situation."

The Community in Schools of Peninsula (CISP) is responsible for bringing in Taproot Theatre as part of its site plan.

"This is one event that students and teachers talk about all year long. It makes a difference," O'Leary said.

For information on Taproot Theatre Co., call (206) 529-3668.

For information on Communities in Schools of Peninsula, call (253) 884-5733.

Peninsula School District gets new board president

A portion of north Key Peninsula is home district of the new president of the Peninsula School District Board of Directors.

Wendy Wojtanowicz was elected president during the Oct. 11 school board meeting. She replaces Jill Uddenberg, whose resignation from the board was officially accepted at the October meeting.

Wojtanowicz represents district two, but has been living temporarily in an Artondale area rental.

"We plan to move back to our home in the Belmar Point area in January (2013). My kids attended Minter Elementary. I have two left at Peninsula High," she said.

Wojtanowicz can be contacted at wojtanowiczw@psd401.net.

Recruitment is underway for a new school board member to represent district four. A map of school district boundaries is available at the district website psd401.net or through the district office.

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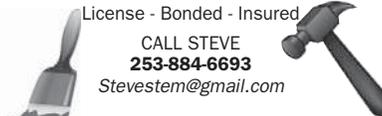


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Out & About

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 Hugh McMillan, KP News

In October, Pasado's Safe Haven made its monthly visit to the Key Peninsula Community Services/Food Bank. The free and low-cost spay and neuter services are available from their portable veterinary clinic. For information call (360) 793-SPAY, or visit pasadosafehaven.org.



Photo by Colleen Slater, KP News

Where in the World...

John Bailey and David Scott were spotted taking a break from work to catch up on reading the KP News and to enjoy the scenery of Chinaman's Hat while in Oahu, Hawaii.

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Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News

The Peninsula High School senior class float rolls by the Oct. 19 homecoming game fans during the popular halftime celebration.

Left: Former Longbranch grade school students Marguerite (Curl) Bussard, Shirl (Rickert) Olson, Marge (Rickert) Radonich, Helen (Stolz) Fravel and Linda (Jopp) Armour lunched at the Senior Center recently. All but Bussard graduated grade school together in a class of 10 girls and two boys. Three other classmates were unable to attend the lunch.