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Fired fire chief rehired to demoted position

By Patricia Johnson, KP News

Former Battalion Chief and 20-year veteran Robert Bosch has returned to work as a firefighter/paramedic with Pierce County Fire District 16. According to Fire Chief Tom Lique, as of November, Bosch successfully completed a battery of competency qualification drills to assess his readiness to respond to emergency calls. Lique reports, "He passed all the tests and he proved he is ready to serve the community again."

Previously, Bosch was discharged from the Fire District effective Sept. 14, 2010. Lique made the decision to terminate Bosch after his role in an underage drinking incident involving a

20-year-old volunteer firefighter, Tim Nelson, during a July 2010 training session in Wenatchee.

Lique, together with the Board of Fire Commissioners, concluded Bosch violated numerous code of conduct provisions. Specifically, Bosch bought alcoholic drinks for the minor, Nelson, observed him drink to excess, failed to report the incident and then later Bosch played a video he took, depicting the impaired and inebriated Nelson, to other firefighters at another Department social event later that summer. Based on a department investigation, Lique and the

(See Rehired, Page 4)

Narrows Bridge drivers will see tolls increase

Staff Report

Tolls on the Tacoma Narrows Bridge will likely increase significantly, and the public has a chance to weigh in on the issue at the next Citizen Advisory Committee meeting on Feb. 8 at 6:30 p.m. at the Gig Harbor Civic Center.

The Washington Department of Transportation will host an open house at 5:30 p.m. to answer questions prior to the meeting.

When the bridge was planned, tolls were proposed at \$3 for both cash and Good-to-Go customers, and were supposed to increase to \$4 three years after construction and rise to \$6 until the bridge was paid for. These increases were deferred by the CAC after community input.

Revenue from the bridge pays for bond payments and maintenance, but the financial plan has the amount owed on the loan increasing every couple of years, and the payment of that debt is coming from tolls.

Sales tax on the construction of the

(See Tolls, Page 4)



Photo by Adam Scroggini, KP News

Cold greens

The first winter storm of the season hit the Puget Sound region in late January, leaving a swath of first snow then ice that created sporadic power outages across the Key Peninsula and Gig Harbor area.

Winter wallops the KP with ice, downed trees, power outages

By Marsha Hart, KP News

Snow arrived on the Key Peninsula Jan. 17 with the first snowfall of the year, and of the winter season. It was just a taste of the storm front to come, which brought 10 or more inches of snow to some areas of the KP.

By Jan. 19 the precipitation turned to ice, creating a winter wonderland that quickly became treacherous as the trees burdened with heavy snow and ice began to snap.

As temperatures began to warm, ice and snow slid and fell from overhead trees, roofs and other structures.

Washington State Patrol worked with Washington State Department of Transportation and closed both Tacoma Narrows Bridges at around noon on Jan. 20 due to falling ice. Large chunks were falling from the bridge structure onto the bridge deck.

"We started getting reports of vehicles being struck by ice," said Guy Gill, spokesperson for the Washington State Patrol. "We had seven reports of vehicles being hit, or near misses, and we assumed there were others who didn't call. Once we saw big chunks on the bridge deck

the decision was made to close the two bridges. We could not risk a piece coming down onto a vehicle."

Some of the pieces of ice were quite large, he said, and falling from the tower at such a speed that they could easily have penetrated a vehicle. The bridges reopened to traffic after 6:30 p.m.

"You have to be patient when you're waiting for ice to melt," Gill said. The last time the bridge was closed was in 1996, during a similar ice storm, he said.

Peninsula School District students were given a few days off, and KP residents experienced power outages off and on over the three days. Peninsula Light reported via their Twitter feed that 3,000 customers were without power in the early hours of Jan. 20.

Key Peninsula Fire District 16 crews responded to 14 calls for downed trees and utility lines in one 8-hour period on Jan. 19 alone, and Pierce County Emergency Management reported 50 road closures on Jan. 20.

Homeowners and business owners affected by the winter storm can report damage to the PC Damage Assessment Center at 1-866-798-6363 Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Fatality spurs SR 302 safety

Editor's Note: This is the first in a series of stories on SR 302.

By Marsha Hart, KP News

Many Key Peninsula residents are acutely aware of the dangers of SR 302. Some have first-hand experience with dangerous intersections and car accidents. One site along SR 302 became very personal for Danna Burnett and her family. Her son Michael Iverson died in an accident near mile marker 11 on SR 302 on his way home from work in the early hours of Sept. 25.

Burnett decided she had to do something to bring more attention to the dangerous roadway, and push for a change.

"One of Michael's friends said her mother works for a lady on the Key Peninsula Community Council and they were having a meeting," she said. "I went to the meeting and told them something needs to happen. If there would've been a guardrail or maybe some lights, he might have survived."

Talking about it is difficult for her, but she is determined to keep fighting to make the road safer.

Two weeks after Michael's accident Burnett attended the meeting.

"Mary Blythe spoke for her (Danna Burnett) that night and that initiated our incentive to form the Action Committee For A Safe SR 302," said Danna Webster, president of the council. "We took it under advisement for our director workshop, where we designed what we would do for the year ahead. We adopted

it at that workshop as one of the three action committees."

Burnett said she hopes to save other families from the grief and pain hers is experiencing. Just two weeks after his accident a single mother died on SR 302 near 144th St., and as motorists drive along the highway, crosses can be seen, marking the place where loved ones were taken.

While they are grieving for Michael, Burnett and her family are faced with the joy of a new life joining their family.

Two days after Michael died his girlfriend, Rose, found out she was having their baby. She is due in May.

"He had a dream when he was a kid, when he was about 12. He dreamt he was going to die. He had that dream again in August. We were at Lake Crescent, which is our family vacation each year. He dreamt that he was going to die, and that he had a son." Last month Rose was told she is carrying a boy.

Michael was social, he worked hard, and was kind to everyone, Burnett said. He always tried to help others, and was working sometimes two and three jobs to make ends meet.

"As a mom, his whole life I worried about losing him," she said. "I'm sure I harassed him a lot just to call him and see where he was. If we don't change this highway there's just going to be more death, more moms losing their children."

The Action Committee for a Safe SR 302 meets the second Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. in the Key Center Fire Station meeting room.

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NEWS

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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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PSD Conserves Money Through Reforms, Restructuring and Being Resourceful

For the past six years, Peninsula School District has been addressing decreased state funding by identifying ways to be more efficient.

External reviews and audits of areas such as staffing, transportation, technology, maintenance, custodial and administration led to restructuring of operations. The reviews began during the 2006-'07 school year and have continued since then.

The school district has also focused on increased partnerships in order to be more resourceful. Community partners such as PenMet Parks, Boys & Girls Club, Communities and Schools, Peninsula Light and numerous others are part of the district's effort to be a good steward of resources and taxpayers' money.

As one recent example, more than a dozen partners pledged \$77,000 and signed a Cooperative Agreement to keep KGHP radio station on the air.

"By working together with partners, we not only save money but we can intellectually learn from each other," said PSD Superintendent Terry Bouck.

A budget task force created two years ago began

looking at efficiencies and discussing cost-saving ideas. The task force is comprised of parents, staff and community members. The task force has identified further ways for the district to cut costs.

The money-saving measures implemented by the district in these past few years included:

- All staff in the district took a 1.9 percent to 5 percent salary cut this school year and next, and some staff have taken cuts for three years.
- Capital bonds refinanced over five years saved taxpayers \$1.4 million.
- Energy-efficient upgrades implemented with a state grant and Peninsula Light rebates will partially offset utility cost increases.
- Peninsula Internet Academy was closed in 2007 for a program redesign due to loss of \$200,000 per year. The academy reopened in '09 and is expected to be self-sufficient by 2012-'13.

"The reviews we've done in terms of savings are in the millions of dollars," Bouck said.



SafeSchools LifeLine

1-866-548-3847 (LIVE-TIP) The SafeSchools LifeLine is a completely anonymous, toll-free tip line that students and parents can access 24/7/365 any time you need to tip off school administration about a potential crisis. You will be asked to enter our district code: 162. Please do your part to keep our schools safe.

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FEBRUARY EVENTS

- 7 Third Superintendent Forum for 2011-2012 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at Harbor Ridge Middle School. Please join Terry Bouck for an informal visit where 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 to call or email Terry, you are always welcome to do so: 253-530-1002 or bouckt@psd401.net
- 20 No School—Presidents' Day Observed
- 21-24 No School—Mid-Winter Break

Due to last month's closures for inclement weather, the first snow makeup day will be March 16, 2012.



Ballot drop box installed in Key Center

By Marsha Hart, KP News

Key Peninsula voters now have another option for returning their ballots. The Key Center Fire Station is an official ballot drop box location.

"During the last election we had a lot of people come in and ask to drop off ballots," said FD 16 Fire Chief Tom Lique. "The closest drop box was at the fire station on Peacock Hill in Gig Harbor."

Lique said the Pierce County Auditor's office, which is in charge of elections, contacted him about installing a drop box at the Key Center station. He presented the proposal to the board, and the process moved forward. The auditor's office pays for and maintains the boxes.

The locked box is located behind the fire station, and voters may begin using it as soon as they receive their ballots in the mail for the Feb. 14 Special Election.

"We installed 25 drop boxes for last year's General Election and it was important for us to experience utilization rates," said Pierce County Auditor Julie Anderson. "We saw voter turnout and utilization rates, and then looked at a geographic map and it seemed apparent that we had a hole in the Key Peninsula area and we needed something outside of the Gig Harbor area to serve those citizens."



Photo by Marsha Hart, KP News

The Pierce County Auditor's Office placed a new ballot drop box at the fire station in Key Center in time for use in the Feb. 14 special election.

The ballot box is a permanent box. It will be open and available during each election.

"It is monitored and emptied on regular basis throughout the election," Ander-

son said. "We retrieve in teams of two, and we begin processing them here at the election center. It is a very secure system. The boxes are regularly monitored and we keep track on a daily basis how many we pull out of those drop boxes. Last general election nearly 50 percent used drop boxes as a way of returning their ballots."

The drive-up box is not visible from Key Pen Highway, and Lique said once drivers turn in at the fire station and use the one-way loop to the back of the station, traffic should move through smoothly.

"As long as they keep moving and just drop the ballot in the slot I think we will be able to accommodate everyone," Lique said. "It is a needed resource."

Ballots may also be returned via U.S. postal service, and no postage is necessary.

The important thing is to return them, Anderson said.

"Don't wait until the last minute," she said. "The last pickup is 8 p.m. on election night, Feb. 14. Return it once you've had time to make a reasonable decision. The workers will be standing there locking the box and we can't receive it 1 minute after 8 p.m. It is actually illegal for us to accept a ballot after 8 p.m."

Ballots were mailed out to voters on Jan. 27. The Special Election is Feb. 14.

(From *Tolls*, Page 1)

bridge has been deferred by the state, and repayment from the tolls is scheduled to begin December 2012. Payments will be over \$5 million each year for the next 10 years, according to Senator Derek Kilmer, D-Gig Harbor.

These are two reasons why the commission is recommending a toll increase. During the last meeting in January about 50 people showed up, but only a few from the Key Peninsula were in attendance. At that meeting tolls were proposed at \$4.25 or \$4.50 for Good-to-Go customers, \$5.50 or \$6 for cash customers, and \$7 or \$7.50 for photo/pay by mail. New toll prices will begin July 1, if the CAC recommendation is made to the Transportation Committee.

Kilmer has introduced a bill SB 6703, and Representatives Larry Seaquist, D-26th District, and Jan Angel, R-26th District, have introduced a bill in the House, HB 2394, that would exempt the Narrows Bridge from the sales tax on construction. It would save about \$58 million from the cost to toll payers over the next 10 years, Kilmer said.

The Citizen Advisory Committee will make a recommendation to the Transportation Commission on March 20.

(From *Rehired*, Page 1)

Board decided that discharging Bosch was the appropriate remedy effective Sept. 14, 2010.

In compliance with his union contract, Bosch then filed a timely appeal to the district's decision to terminate. Both parties thereafter agreed to binding arbitration and to the issues on which the arbitrator should take evidence and ultimately decide.

Lique summarized, "We all agreed on the findings of the investigation but Bosch thought the termination was too severe an action against him. Therefore, the sole issues before the arbitrator was whether termination was fair, consistent and appropriate and if not, what the appropriate remedy for Bosch is under Article 19 of the union contract."

On July 11, 2011, Alex J. Skalbania, the attorney for Bosch, and Charles P.E. Leitch and Angela N. Marklain, attorneys for the Fire District, appeared before arbitrator and attorney Philip Kienast to bring forth testimony and provide other evidence in order to decide the stipulated issues.

Article 19 of Bosch's union contract sets forth broad

standards for certain discipline that the employer must meet. It states, "...no employee shall be disciplined or discharged without just cause and that the employer and union agree that the primary purpose of discipline is to correct and rehabilitate, not punish or penalize."

In his written decision, Kienast sought to clarify the vague concept of disciplining for just cause. He stated, "Just cause language requires the employer deal with employees evenhandedly. The employer cannot discharge one employee for conduct not measurably different or worse from that of another."

Union attorney Skalbania pointed out that (then) Battalion Chief Mike Reigle, also present at the July 2010 Wenatchee training session, contributed to Nelson's excessive underage alcohol consumption. Reigle testified that he drank with Nelson, bought at least one drink for him, also aware of his underage status, then observed Nelson becoming inebriated and agreed with Bosch to cover up the incident.

For his involvement, Lique and the Fire District imposed a two level demotion on Reigle from Battalion Chief to firefighter. Arbitrator Kienast concluded Bosch received disparate treatment thereby violating

the "just cause" provision of Article 19. The arbitrator therefore concluded that for the same conduct contributing to Nelson's underage alcohol consumption and impaired state that followed, the appropriate sanction for Bosch shall be a two level demotion rather than termination.

In addition, Kienast recognized a separate and serious breach and violation of the code of conduct to which Bosch is held to uphold in his capacity as Battalion Chief. Bosch took video footage of the inebriated Nelson and later played the recording to other Fire District employees at a camping event in late Summer 2010. For this conduct violation, the arbitrator concluded that a 90-day suspension was the appropriate remedy to address the breach.

Pursuant to Kienast's order of Sept. 11, 2011, Robert Bosch returned to work later that month. He accepted his two-level demotion and served his 90-day suspension. According to Lique, "The terms of my contract require that I follow the results of binding arbitration. I also trust my present leadership that Bosch now has to answer to, as a firefighter. He has taken a large financial blow even though he has been rehired."



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Schock-Rosenback, Kim
Schonka, Elizabeth
Schultz, Robby
Scott, Danielle
Scott, Iva
Seas, Joyce
Sean, Nathan
Selfos, John
Selfos, Lisa
Selfos, Rick
Shanafelt, Alexa
Sherwin, Josh
Shinn, Joyce
Shjemen, Ray
Shove, Steve & Cindy
Sitarick, Michelle
Siotte, Carl
Sizotte, David
Siva, Tonio
Skaga, Jana
Skala, Anne
Slater, Phyllis
Small, Tyra
Smith, Laura
Smith, Doug
Smith, Leland
Smith, Lori
Smith, Phil
Smith, Robin
Souers, Therese
Stalk, Jeffrey

Staples, Laura
Stark, Ron
Stark, Shira
Stattin, Kim
Steele, Heidi
Steffen, Vicki
Stewart, Lisa
Stitt, David
Stone, Syusan
Storkman, Jaime
Storkman, Joan
Strader, Stephanie
Strong, Sierra
Stroud, Ann
Struthers, Barbara
Strut, Wendy
Sutber, Shelley
Sutterfield, Linda
Swainston, Cora
Taketara, Jessica
Talbott, Tessa
Taylor, Rhonda
Tehey-Taft, Annie
Thebert, Tina
Thoms, Paul
Tollebon, Karen
Toms, Nicole
Tovey, Brian
Tovey, Joyce
Tovey, Michael Jr
Tovey, Nica
Treleven, Jane
Trembley, Rolf
Trotter, Barbara
Underwood, Kristan
Unger, Douglas
Vaccaro, Thom
Vancey, Mike
Vaughn, Jim
Village, Amy
Wagge, Kristina
Walker, Leske
Walen, Sylvia
Wallack, Cathy
Walters, Eleanor
Ward, Brad
Ward, Lisa
Ward, Vicki
Watson, Don
Webster, Wendy
Weide, Virginia
Wenrich, Rebecca
West, Heather
Weymiller, Kathy
Wickers, Brian
Wilhelm, Penny
Wilhelm, Rand
Wilkinson, Karl
Wilkinson, Matt
Williams, Megan
Williamson, Jean-Ann
Wilser, Susan
Wingers, Kathleen
Wirolow, Donna
Winter, Tim
Witber, Ron
Wynick, Dustin
Wynick, Sara
Wolgemuth, Eric
Wright, Jackie
Wright, Ben
Yeaman, Claudia
Yeaman, Don
Yelish, Diane
Yossey, Annie
Yossey, Kerry
Zehnder, Linda
Zelman, Beverly

Peninsula Views

GUEST OP-ED

State legislators face diminished revenue amid higher demands

By Gerry Baldwin, Gig Harbor

"It is the paramount duty of the state to make ample provision for the education of all children residing within its borders, without distinction or preference on account of race, color, caste, or sex."

— *Washington State Constitution, Article IX, Education, Section 1 Preamble*

What is "ample provision?" As our school system stands today, sources of funding include levies and bond issues as well as funding by the state legislature derived primarily through property taxes. Some interpret the language in the state constitution to mandate that the legislature fully fund local schools. How far, though, does that extend? Does it reach to after school activities such as sports, drama and clubs? Does it include new buildings, improvements, renovations and maintenance? Does it, or should it, reach to a computer for every child, a musical instrument or sports equipment?

Our legislature faces those issues alongside voter initiative mandates, federal law mandates and the constant demand for better schools, better teachers, better results and lower taxes. The real issue in today's recessionary times, though, is diminished revenue. How do we "make ample provision for education of all children" with fewer monetary resources?

The answer is clear. We must recognize that, as state Senator Derek Kilmer has said, "Children are one-third of our population and 100 percent of our future." We can make no investment with greater returns than the education of our children.

Please recognize that the legislature cannot be all things to all people. Peninsula School District is facing a levy initiative that comes to a vote of the people on Feb. 14, 2012. This replacement levy for the one we already have is needed for: 20 percent of salaries and benefits of all certificated staff, including teachers, counselors and specialists; 40 percent of salaries and benefits of all classified staff including para educators, clerical and custodial support; expanding half-day kindergarten to full-day kindergarten, four days per week; 85 percent of all technology staff and equipment; 100 percent of all capital maintenance projects, district-wide; 80 percent of co-curricular and athletic costs; 100 percent of health technicians at every school; and supplemental funding for: school security and emergency preparedness; textbooks and instructional materials; professional development for all staff; equipment, including bus replacement.

Note that this is not a new initiative but a replacement for the soon to expire levy that is already in place. Our tax rates, already among the lowest of any school district in the state, change very little with the passage of this replacement levy. The stark reality is not a change in cost but a change in results. Without a continuing levy, our children will suffer the loss of one-fifth of what makes our school system the envy of others. Please vote "Yes" on the replacement school levy this Feb. 14.

Gerry Baldwin is a Board Member and Mentor with Communities In Schools of Peninsula, <http://peninsula.ciswa.org/>

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 e-mail to news@keypennews.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Driver picks up check

My name is Danielle Compton. I live on the Key Peninsula. Over the holidays my family was going through a difficult time. On the 28th of December I was returning home from picking up my daughter from a friend's house. I was emotionally and physically worn out and chose to go to Burger King because I didn't want to have to cook. I felt guilty for going due to finances, but did it anyway. It was around 3:30 in the afternoon. When I pulled up to the window to pay for our three meals the woman told me the car in front of me paid for our meals. I don't know who they are, but I would sure love for them to know how much they ministered to my family that day and how grateful I am.

Danielle Marie Compton, Minter

Children are the future

As a Key Peninsula property owner, businessman and parent I take interest in the Peninsula School District and its operations. The PSD currently spends 5 percent below the state average per student while performing markedly better than average in student achievement. This is because the district administration operates prudently and efficiently.

The expiring levy provides 22 percent of the district funding. The proposed levy will be over one quarter of the district's budget for 2013 through 2016. The levy pays for 20 percent of the certificated staff, 85 percent of the information technology staff and equipment replacement, 100 percent of capital maintenance projects, the district's share of athletics. It provides for most funding for textbooks, instructional materials, educational supplies, equipment replacement school security and emergency preparedness. The projected tax rates of \$2.14 to \$2.38 per \$1,000 assessed value will be lower than the average for the last 20 years.

In order to spur economic growth and improve the future we must provide universal education that is robust, challenging and preparatory for success.

Not paying adequately for schools now results in greater future costs and lost op-

portunities. When school athletics, music programs and other extras are reduced because of lack of funding student achievement declines and drop-out rates increase. This results in diminished property values, reduced economic growth and increased poverty with the concomitant increase in crime. This hurts everyone whether or not they have children in public schools.

If children are the future and our most important investment we must vote yes on the levy.

Edward C. Robison, P.E., S.E.

Logging is KP heritage

This community has been dependent on our forests and logging since man first arrived on the KP. Pioneers cleared and logged the land to grow crops and build their houses. As a teen, I used to get jobs in the spring, peeling piling, peeling cascara bark, picking brush and huckleberries. As a young man the logging industry allowed me to work as a chokerman, on a highlead (spar tree), whistle punk, chaser, yarder with a cat, log truck driver, boomer and timber faller. Most of these jobs have gone away with modern logging techniques, but the fact is that most of us still live in wooden houses.

Some residents are upset by the recent logging along Highway 302, near Minter. What people seem to forget is that trees and forest products are a crop, just like corn or wheat. They are harvested, replanted and harvested again. As in the past days of logging, the loggers who are cutting along the highway are doing it the correct way cutting down all the trees and NOT leaving a buffer. The rule of the old timers is "cut all down and let them grow together." It is a known fact that trees left unprotected by other trees will fall in heavy winds. It should be the right of the landowner to harvest the products that his land produces as long as he obtains the proper permits and follows proper harvesting practices. I would rather have young forests growing, than acres of blacktop from developments that create polluting run-off into our aquifers, streams and bays.

Don Mills, Vaughn

Anderson Island property now protected

Jacobs Point, comprising 82 acres on scenic Anderson Island, will be permanently protected for public recreation and salmon habitat thanks to a conservation partnership.

The conservation group Forterra (formerly known as Cascade Land Conservancy) purchased Jacobs Point on Dec. 20 with the help of grants from Pierce County and the state of Washington. The property's conservation value includes one mile of unaltered Puget Sound shoreline along Oro Bay, mature forested uplands and wetlands, and amazing views of Puget Sound and Mount Rainer.

The property will be owned and managed by the Anderson Island Park and Recreation District.

"The conservation of Jacobs Point brings great value to the region for people and the natural world, and it marks more progress on our Cascade Agenda goals," said Forterra President Gene Duvernoy. "Key conservation projects like this remain core to our mission and help advance multiple goals critical for the region."

The Cascade Agenda, the long-range action plan for the region's lands and communities spearheaded by Forterra, aims to conserve almost 1.3 million acres of land.

Jacobs Point provides valuable habitat for endangered Chinook, chum and pink salmon that use the Nisqually Delta and Nisqually Reach.

The property was purchased from the

Young Life organization for \$1.8 million, well under its appraised value of \$2.5 million. Funding was provided by the Pierce County Conservation Futures program, which uses a specially-designated property tax to conserve threatened lands, and an Aquatic Lands Enhancement grant from the state Recreation and Conservation Office.

"This is another success story with our partners at Forterra and the state," said Pierce County Executive Pat McCarthy. "We will continue to work with them to conserve properties that protect natural resources and enhance the outdoor recreational opportunities that make Pierce County such a great place to live."

As part of the Anderson Island Park and Recreation District's management of the property, Jacobs Point will feature new public recreation opportunities. Those include public access for land trails, a stop for non-motorized watercraft on the Cascadia Marine Trail, interpretive signs and viewpoints with amazing views of Mount Rainer.

The Jacobs Point agreement is just the latest example of a fruitful partnership among Forterra, Pierce County and the state Recreation and Conservation Office. Other recent projects include the planned preservation of 500 acres of Orting Valley farmland and the purchase of the 94-acre Devils Head property on the Key Peninsula.

Source: Pierce County

Museum debuts new display, focus on Penrose Park

The KP Historical Society Museum opens the doors to new display material on Feb. 2.

The main display this year will be on Penrose Park, including the history in photographs, stories and artifacts.

The board is organizing several educational sessions this year relating to the Penrose display. These will be of interest to all ages, with topics and details announced next month.

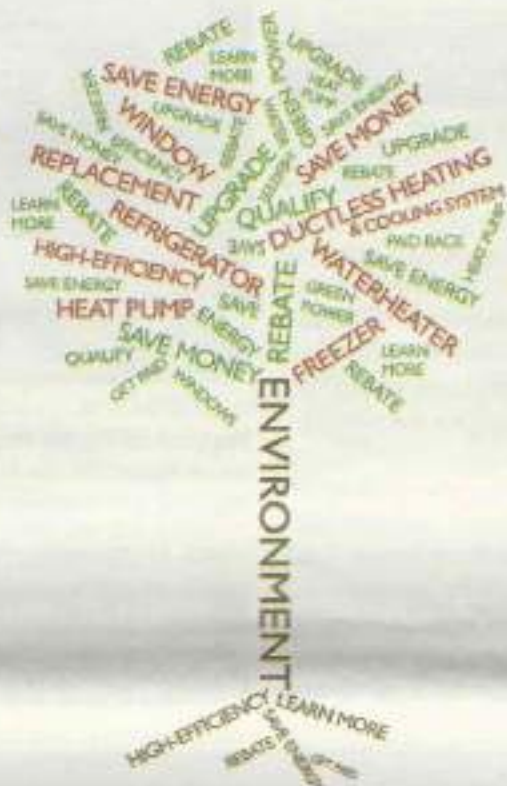
Under the sponsorship of the Key Pen Parks Board, a smaller display will contain a map and photos about the Upper Sound

Logging Company. The company operated a railroad, 1914-1918, on part of the 480 property currently leased from the Department of Natural Resources. The railroad ran from Carney Lake to the head of Vaughn Bay. This display is a "teaser" for an expanded exhibit planned for 2013 about logging on the Key Peninsula.

The museum, located in the smaller building of the KP Civic Center, will be open on Thursdays and Saturdays from 1-4 p.m., or by appointment. Call 884-2511 or 884-5403 for additional information.

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The power to be...

Clogging it up

By Karen Lovett, KP News

Tapping feet hit the floor on Monday evenings at the Key Peninsula Civic Center as cloggers practice fancy footwork to a variety of music from hip-hop to country western. Clogging is an American form of step dance that has roots in the Appalachian Mountains.

The group began at Olympic College in Bremerton with six students from the Key Peninsula. With local interest in the dance form and the suitability of the Key Peninsula Civic Center as a venue for classes, husband and wife instructors Mike and Watona Williams decided to start clogging classes at the civic center where they have been team-teaching for the past nine years.

Men and boys usually make up about 20 to 25 percent of the group, and their ages in the past have ranged from 6 to 88. Children 8 and under must be accompanied by a parent or guardian, and the youngest current clogger is 10.

Watona teaches beginner level classes,



Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News

Watona Williams leads the group of cloggers during a practice in the Whitmore Room at the Key Peninsula Civic Center. The group has been practicing and performing at local events for the past nine years.

which are typically offered twice a year usually in winter and spring. Easy intermediate level classes are flexible and are offered year round. Steps are not difficult to learn. The class size is limited to 16 stu-

dents.

Mike Williams said, "Anyone can come in and after six months they can do most anything. Sometimes it only takes four months. You can dance as hard or light as

you want. It's not as pounding as it looks."

Sixty-seven year-old Maryann McDonald of Longbranch is currently the oldest member in the class. She has been clogging for almost 9 years and goes every Monday.

"Clogging is a lot of fun and is great exercise," she said. "I gave up playing Bunco to dance. It is low impact exercise. Achilles tendinitis slowed me down for a while, but I was still able to dance. We have bunches of fun."

Dress for exercise. Taps are not required for class, but are needed for performance dances. Watona installs taps on tennis shoes. Jingle taps are installed with Shoe Goo, and these taps don't mark the floor.

Practice is every Monday evening from 6 to 8:30 p.m. The charge is by the quarter, or a \$5 fee for an evening.

Spectators are welcome.

For more information or to sign up for classes, contact Mike and Watona Williams at 360-792-0631 or email them at watonamike@msn.com.

Comedy Night @ the Civic Center

Saturday, February 11th

Doors open at 6:30pm • Dinner starts at 7pm • Show starts at 8pm

Get ready to laugh out loud

with your MC for the night, Mike Coletta,
and stand-up comedians

Kane Holloway and

Dean Oleson

- limited seating -

Tickets \$25 (includes dinner) • 18+ only

Purchase tickets at Sunnycrest Nursery (Key Center),
KP Civic Center (Vaughn), or Ellis Accounting (Wauna).

www.kpavcivcenter.org • Facebook • 253-884-3456

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Bracelet helps locate missing persons

Local agencies in Pierce County are teaming up to support a system that reduces the search for the community's most vulnerable residents to a matter of minutes.

The system, known as EmFinders, utilizes a cellular device about the size of a wristwatch. If a loved one wanders off, caregivers first notify 9-1-1 and then call EmFinders, which activates the device. That activation prompts the device to call 9-1-1, enabling emergency dispatchers to quickly locate and return the missing person. The E911 cellular triangulation technology, unlike GPS, can locate inside buildings, under canopies, and in wooded areas.

"We are called upon to search for dozens of people throughout the year. Some of them cannot aid in their own rescue," said Pierce County Sheriff Paul Pastor. "In this climate, every second counts. This technology helps first responders

(See Bracelet, Page 9)

KGHP forms partnership with regional community

Staff Report

Peninsula School District personnel have met with local government agencies, parks and recreation entities, corporations and emergency management groups to form strategies to keep radio station KGHP operational.

The cooperative agreement between the district and community members who support keeping the station on air has been updated. The goal of the forum was to create a sustainable funding plan to meet the maintenance and operational costs. Now a plan is being developed for upgrading and replacing aging technology and transmission equipment.

With most of its funding coming from the Peninsula School District, KGHP staff and the community members who support it monetarily and in spirit, have been concerned for the station's future. Since the state began to suffer financially it has been a wait-and-see situation each year as the district experiences cuts in funding from the state.

KGHP transmits primarily to the Gig Harbor-Key Peninsula region and is the area's most valuable source of informa-

tion in the event of an emergency. During the ice storm of 1996, KGHP was the only public communication system able to provide local information to the community. KGHP is a public service radio station and provides public service announcements unique to the area.

Individuals and organizations have pledged financial support to the station, including Key Pen Parks, Key Peninsula Fire Department, Pierce County Emergency Management, Peninsula School District and Key Peninsula Business Association, as well as others in Gig Harbor.

Any organization or individual can join the partnership and be entitled to all of the benefits of an underwriter. This will include on-air recognition and a voice as a member of the forum.

KGHP can be heard on FM radio- 89.3, 89.9 or 93.7, and via live web streaming at kghp.org.

For underwriting information call Station Manager Spencer Abersold at 225-1195. For information on joining the Cooperative Agreement contact Kristine Nyberg, CTE program coordinator at 530-1077, or JB Fitzpatrick, director of Technology Services at 530-3701.

(From **Bracelet**, Page 8)

save lives by quickly locating some of the most vulnerable members of our community."

PAVE, a statewide nonprofit organization that supports families with loved ones who have disabilities, has a limited number of scholarships available to defray the initial cost of the wireless locator bracelet. Participating families will have to pay the monthly service charge, which rides AT&T's cellular network. PAVE received a \$5,000 grant from Pierce County Community Connections, which manages safety net programs for county government, to help get the program started.

"Imagine the parent who looks away for just a minute and the child with special needs has disappeared. There is an immediate sense of fear that can happen with this scenario. We hear concerns from families who have loved ones who are

prone to wander, and we understand their dread," said Tracy Kahlo, PAVE's Executive Director. "We are proud to work with Pierce County and other partners to provide access to a system that adds a layer of security and peace of mind."

More information is available at www.projectlocate.org or by calling PAVE ("Partnerships for Action, Voices for Empowerment") at 800-572-7368 or 253-565-2266.

A live demonstration on Jan. 12 included the Sheriff's Department's presentation of a Certificate of Achievement to Paula McCullough, a parent advocate and PAVE volunteer from Bonney Lake who has championed the need for a tool in Pierce County to locate loved ones prone to wandering.

The EmFinders system has resulted in 94 successful rescues in 19 states during the past year.

Source: Pierce County

KEY PEN PARKS



www.keypenparks.com ~ 253-884-9240
answers@keypenparks.com

FAMILY PROGRAMS

Fit for Fun

Youth will learn basketball skills such as dribbling, passing, and shooting, while also learning sportsmanship and teamwork. Age appropriate equipment and specialized drills will ensure success for all participants. Parent involvement is required. Fee includes t-shirt and photo.

Ages: 4-7
Location: Key Pen Civic Center
Day: Saturdays 1/14-2/18
Times: 9-9:50am (age 6-7)
10-10:50am (age 4-5)

Fee: \$45
Min/Max: 10/20 per age group

Note: Registration Deadline 1/9

MID-WINTER BREAK CAMPS

Spend Mid-Winter Break doing something fun! Sign up for 1, 2, 3, or all 4 sessions. Explore the world at Mad Science Camp; put on a show at Teamwork Theater Camp; draw, paint, and sculpt something zany at Creative Artz Camp; or play games at Teamwork Fitness Camp. Each camp is a 3-hour session. If you sign up for 2 sessions on the same day, children will be supervised between sessions and must bring a sack lunch.

Ages: 6-12
Location: Volunteer Park
Days/Times:

MAD SCIENCE

Tuesday 2/21
9:30am-12:30 pm

TEAMWORK THEATER

Tuesday 2/21
1:00-4:00 pm

CREATIVE ARTZ

Thursday 2/23
9:30am-12:30 pm

TEAMWORK FITNESS

Thursday 2/23
1:00-4:00 pm

Fee: \$15 per session
Min/Max: 5/15 per session

Note: Registration Deadline 2/14

YOUTH CLASSES

SESSION 2: FEB 25-APRIL 5

Sports Sampler

Experience a sampling of sports: indoor & outdoor soccer, t-ball, kickball & basketball. Classes feature cooperative games that focus on teamwork, communication & problem solving.

Ages: 4-9
Location: Civic Center
Day: Saturday
Dates: 2/25-3/31
Times: 9-9:50am (age 6-9)
10-10:50am (age 4-5)

Fee: \$45
Min/Max: 7/20 per age group

Note: Registration Deadline: 2/21

Peewee Sports Sampler

Peewee age youth will experience a sampling of sports, adapted for the Peewee group: indoor and outdoor soccer, t-ball and kickball, and basketball. Every class will feature cooperative games that focus on teamwork, communication, and problem solving.

Ages: 3-4
Location: Civic Center
Day: Tuesday
Dates: 2/28-4/3
Times: 1:30-2:30pm
Fee: \$45
Min/Max: 7/15

Note: Registration Deadline: 2/23

Music N Motion

Youth will explore music and movement with a range of fun, age-appropriate activities. We will dance, sing, play instruments, practice tumbling, discover rhythms, and create a performance for the last day of class.

Ages: 4-12
Location: Civic Center
Days: Thursdays
Dates: 3/1-4/5
Time: 4:30-5:30pm
Fee: \$45

Min/Max: 5/15 per age group

Note: Registration Deadline: 2/27

Key Pen Parks

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For more information contact Key Pen Parks at 253-884-9240 or answers@keypenparks.com



COMMUNITY PAGES

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

NOW

Volunteer mentors needed

Communities in Schools of Peninsula needs reading and math mentors to give one hour of time each week after school to help a child learn/improve skills. Mentors are guided by staff in student instruction. Programs are scheduled for fall at these school sites: Minter Creek Elementary, Wednesdays, 3:45-4:45; Vaughn Elementary, Tuesdays, 3:30-4:30; Purdy Elementary, Thursday, 3:45-5:45; Key Peninsula Middle School, Tuesdays, 3-4:15; Peninsula High and Henderson Bay High, please call CJSP office, 884-5733, for details.

GED classes

Enroll now! Key Peninsula residents may 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. One can enroll at any time. For detailed class information, registration and orientation call Tracy Clark, 253-460-2356.

Swim for fitness

Water aerobics and open swim times are available at the Camp Stand by Mc Easter Seals heated pool on Vaughn Road. Classes meet from 8-9 a.m. or 9:30-10:20 a.m. and cost \$4.25/session paid monthly. Register with Donna, 884-4473.

Evening open swims on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 5-6 p.m. and family swim on Wednesday from 5-6 p.m. (children under 2 swim for free) are available. Cost is \$4.25/swim or 10 swims with a punch card available for \$40. Call 884-2722 or email estone@wa.easterseals.com to register.

FEB 1

Bloodmobile

The bloodmobile will be at St. Anthony Hospital in the Smalling Family Education Center Room from 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

FEB 2

KP Historical Museum

The free museum reopens with the main display on Penrose Park, and a photo display on KP 480 Park. Hours are 1-4 p.m. or by appointment. See past history of the KP, browse books, mugs, T-shirts, postcards and note cards for sale. Single and family memberships available. Monetary donations accepted. Call 884-2511 or 884-5403.

Fuchsia club

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

FEB 3, 10, 17, 24

Skate night

Friday night skate night for elementary and middle school students is from 6-9 p.m. at the KP Civic Center. Entry is \$5 and includes skate rental, games and crafts. Special \$2.50 entrance offered on Feb. 24. 884-3456.

FEB 4

CPR training

CPR for health care providers is taught from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Key Center Fire Station. 884-2222.

FEB 6, 13, 20, 27

Bloodmobile

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

FEB 7, 14, 28

Tuesday trips to town

The Mustard Seed Project sponsors the KP School bus Connections, "Tuesday Trips to Town," so folks may ride an off-duty school bus to local stops or connect with Pierce Transit Route 100 in Purdy. This is a free, limited schedule service, dependent on the weather in the early morning based on Peninsula School District's inclement weather decisions. Van connection service is available for riders over age 60. Call 84-9814 for information

or check www.themustardseedproject.org.

FEB 7, 14, 21, 28

Story time

Baby story time is held at 10:15 a.m. at the Key Center Library. Preschool story playtime follows at 11 a.m. 253-548-3309.

FEB 7

Dance classes for kids

Various dance classes are taught by Julie Miller on Tuesdays at the KP Civic Center: Intro to Dance, for ages 3-5, is from 9:30-10:15 a.m., Beginning Ballet/Tap, for ages 5-9, is from 4-4:50 p.m., Beginning Jazz Combo, for ages 6-10, is from 5-5:50 p.m., Beginning Ballet/Tap, for ages 7-11, is from 6-6:50 p.m. and Beginning Jazz/Hip Hop/Tap, for ages 10 and up, is from 7-7:50 p.m. Cost is \$28/month for first class taken and \$22/month for second class taken; siblings cost \$22/month for first class taken and \$18/month for second class. 253-606-3763 or juliermiller@comcast.net.

Key Singers

The Key Singers begin the spring season at 7 p.m. at KP Lutheran Church. All interested singers welcome. 884-5615.

FEB 8, 15, 22

Family time

Family story time is held at 11 a.m. at the Key Center Library. 253-548-3309.

FEB 8

Tacoma Narrows toll meeting

The WSDOT is hosting an Open House from 5:30-6:30 p.m. followed by a public meeting from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Gig Harbor Civic Center (3510 Grandview St.) This is a meeting for the public's input on the four proposals for the new tolls. The current proposals are \$4.25 or \$4.50 for Good-to-Go pass holders, \$5.50 or \$6 for cash and \$7 or \$7.50 for photo tolling paid by mail. The higher tolls will begin July 1, 2012. Comments may be made online at <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Tolling/TNB/Tolling/CitizenAd>

To submit an event

To submit an event for the Community Works calendar, please e-mail news@keypenews.com, or mail to P.O. Box 3, Vaughn, WA 98394. Briefs must be submitted by the 15th of the month.

visory Committee (see bottom of page).

FEB 11

Bloodmobile

The bloodmobile will be at the Gig Harbor Safeway from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Emergency preparedness

The Key Peninsula Civic Center, Community Council and KP Fire Department are presenting a Citizen Corps training on the operating of Volunteer Reception Centers, which help to process volunteers after a major disaster. The free training is from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Whitmore Room of the KP Civic Center; register at 884-3456.

Second Saturday

Family members will learn art techniques and create Valentine's Day cards at 11 a.m. at the KC Library. This free event is sponsored by the Friends of the Key Center Library. 253-548-3309.

Lyme group

The Lyme support group meets from 1-3 p.m. at the Key Center Library. Lyme mimics over 300 other diseases including MS, and ALS. Positive group support for chronically-ill patients, caregivers and family members, and information and education on the fastest-growing vector-borne disease in the world is offered. Local doctors and nurses, on the frontlines for rural communities, are especially invited to come and learn from patients. Lyme has four times the number of AIDS patients in N. America and is growing.

(See Community, Page 11)

(From Community, Page 10)

Comedy & dinner night

Enjoy dinner and comedy night at the KP Civic Center with your friends or family. Kane Holloway, feature comic, and Dean Oleson, headliner, and emcee Mike Coletta provide the entertainment. Tickets, \$25, include dinner. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.; dinner starts at 7 p.m.; show starts at 8 p.m. 18+ only. Tickets are available at KPCC in Vaughn, Sunnycrest Nursery in Key Center, and Ellis Accounting in Wauna. 884-3456 or kpccivic-center.org.

FEB 11-12**Babysitter class**

A Safe Sitter Class is held from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Key Center Fire Station. Call 884-2222 to register.

FEB 14**Levy vote deadline**

The Peninsula School District Educational Programs and Operations Levy, which expires in 2012, is up for renewal on this vote. Ballots must be mailed by midnight.

Friends meet

The Friends of the Key Center Library meet at 5 p.m. at the library. All Friends are welcome to attend and participate. 253-548-3309.

FEB 14, 16**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. at the WayPoint Church. They will meet on Thursday, Feb. 16 from 1-3 p.m. at the Ardena Gale Mobile Park in Fife. Yarn donations are always welcome. Virginia, 884-9619 or lovingheartsonkps@aol.com

FEB 16**Third Thursday forum**

Mustard Seed Project of Key Peninsula hosts the Third Thursday Community Forum at 10 a.m. at the Key Center Library. This month's free forum features Bob Riler, of Pierce County Aging Disability Resources, who will present "Family Caregiving 2012: Caring for Families in

the Great Recession." All are welcome and van transportation available. Call 884-9814.

Salmon group meets

Washington State Parks in partnership with the South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group are in the planning stages of a grant-funded, shoreline habitat restoration project to remove an old 750-foot creosote bulkhead from the shoreline at Penrose Point State Park. Please attend an informational meeting at 6 p.m. in the Whitmore Room at the KP Civic Center to learn how this project will restore valuable salmon habitat and improve public access to the beach.

FEB 19**Third Sunday jam**

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

FEB 21**Fire meeting**

The Fire Fighters' Association meets at 6 p.m. at the Key Center Fire Station. 884-2222.

Sports sampler deadline

Youth aged 4-9 may experience a sampling of sports including indoor and outdoor soccer, t-ball, kickball, and basketball on Saturdays, Feb. 25-March 31, at the KP Civic Center. Cost is \$45. Each age group meets separately and will have 7 to 20 children. Jessica@keypenparks.com or 884-9240.

FEB 21, 23**Mid-winter camps**

KP Parks offers mid-winter break camps for ages 6-12. Cost is \$15/session with 5-15 students per session. Sign up for as many sessions as desired. Tuesday 2/21 from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. is Mad Science; Tuesday, 2/21 from 1-4 p.m. is Teamwork Theater; Thursday, 2/23 from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. is Creative Arts; and Thursday 2/23 is Teamwork Fitness. Participants must register by Feb. 14 at 884-9240 or Jessica@keypenparks.com. Kids staying for both sessions must bring a sack lunch

and will be supervised during break.

FEB 23**Pee wee sports sampler deadline**

Pee Wee youth (ages 3 & 4) will experience a sampling of sports adapted for their age group on Tuesdays, Feb. 28-April 3, from 1:30-2:30 p.m. at the KP Civic Center. Every class features cooperative games focusing on teamwork, communication and problem solving. Class size is 7 to 15; cost is \$45 per youth. Jessica@keypenparks.com or 884-9240.

FEB 25**Family fitness offered**

Key Pen Parks is offering "Fit for Fun" for family members ages three and up.

WEEKLY EVENTS**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.

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. Care-givers must stay with child. Drop-ins are welcome; stay for as long as you can. A \$1 donation per child is suggested. 884-5433.

TUESDAYS**Key singers**

The Key Singers, the KP community chorus, meets from 7-8:30 p.m. in the KP Lutheran Church sanctuary. 884-5615.

WEDNESDAYS**Lakebay writers**

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

Watermark writers

The Watermark Writers present a

Large group team-building games and cardio stations are adaptable to all ages and abilities. Classes are on Saturdays from 11 a.m.-noon at the KP Civic Center; cost is \$4/person. Deadline for registration is Feb. 22. Jessica@keypenparks.com or 884-9240.

FEB 27**Music 'n' motion deadline**

Key Pen Parks offers an exploration of music and movement for children ages 4-12 on Thursdays from 4:30-5:30 p.m. at the KP Civic Center. Participants will dance, sing, play instruments, practice tumbling, discover rhythms and create a performance for the last day of class. Class size is 5 to 15; cost is \$45/student. Jessica@keypenparks.com or 884-9240.

free writer's workshop from 5-8 p.m. in Vaughn. Call 253-778-6559 for information.

THURSDAYS**Toastmasters**

The Toastmasters meet from 8-9 a.m. at the Key Center Library. Join the fun and improve your speaking ability.

Senior Society

The Key Peninsula Senior Society, aka Yesterday's Teenagers, meet 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 Key Center Library. 884-6455.


Zumba class

Zumba for ages 16+ is offered from 9-10 a.m. at the KP Civic Center. Cost is \$53 for a 5-class punch card, which is good for 2 months after purchase date. 884-9240 or jessica@keypenparks.com.

(See Off the Key, Page 14)

HOUSE to HOME

YOUR GUIDE TO HOMES, PROPERTIES AND THE REAL ESTATE MARKET TRENDS ON THE KEY PENINSULA

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Key Peninsula Real Estate MARKET REPORT

Thru January 2012

HOMES		LAND	
NON-WATERFRONT REPORT		NON-WATERFRONT REPORT	
Homes for Sale	127	Land for Sale	160
Average List Price	\$239,417	Average List Price	\$86,883
(price per sq ft)	\$119	(price per acre)	\$73,045
Average Days on Market	221	Average Days on Market	548
Homes Sold (ytd)	5	Land Sold (ytd)	1
Average Sold Price	\$245,110	Average Sold Price	\$37,250
(price per sq ft)	\$115	(price per acre)	\$17,325
Average Days on Market	64	Average Days on Market	107
Properties Pending	35	Properties Pending	2
WATERFRONT REPORT		WATERFRONT REPORT	
Homes for Sale	36	Land for Sale	26
Average List Price	\$325,393	Average List Price	\$137,589
(price per sq ft)	\$208	(price per acre)	\$93,243
Average Days on Market	249	Average Days on Market	288
Homes Sold (ytd)	1	Land Sold (ytd)	0
Average Sold Price	\$419,000	Average Sold Price	\$0
(price per sq ft)	\$199	(price per acre)	\$0
Average Days on Market	7	Average Days on Market	0
Properties Pending	3	Properties Pending	1

This report is provided as a generic reference only...as all properties are unique. Contact a REALTOR® for specific pricing information.

Key Peninsula Market Report provided by:
Tracy Butzko, REALTOR®, ABR®
617 9670
tracybutzko@johnlscott.com

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2012 GUEST COLUMNIST

Positioning your home to sell in today's market

The first 30 days are the most critical when selling a home, reinforcing the importance of compelling marketing and pricing. You will have most of your buyer activity within the first 30 days your home is on the market. There is a pent-up demand of buyers who have been looking for the "perfect" home and haven't found it yet. Hence, when a newly listed home appears there is a strong interest to take a look. Your best chances of procuring an offer on your home is during those first 30 days. Each month your home is listed, your chances to sell it for the price you had hoped diminishes.

Sobering statistics:

- Within 30 days, 20 to 30 percent of homes sell.
- In the second month, 8 to 11 percent sell.
- The next 3 to 6 months 7 percent of homes sell, declining to 2 percent.
- After 6 months, 40 to 70 percent will not sell.

It's not hard to understand that homes in the "more affordable" price ranges and closer in proximity to job centers have a higher per-

centage chance of selling. What that translates into is: homes in a more rural setting have to work harder to attract more buyers.

The key is to maximize these items in a manner that showcases the home and attracts the best possible price. It is critical to think ahead and prepare your home BEFORE opening your doors to buyers. If your home is not ready for the market or if you think you will react to agent remarks as they come in, rethink that strategy. You will miss the market completely. You only get one chance to make that first impression. If that impression is not impressive, buyers move on. Here are five Rights to keep in mind while preparing your home for sale:

1. **House Right** – The overall condition of the house should be de-cluttered, clean and organized at all times. Shampoo your rugs, wash your windows, pack up unnecessary items, etc. Your home should be in show ready form at all times. NEVER turn down

Tracy Butzko Tracy's Real Estate Tips



an appointment unless in extreme instances. You will lose that buyer. Buyers rarely circle back around. Think in terms that this home is no longer yours. You want the home to be welcoming to buyers. Consider painting the front door – again, that first impression sets the tone.

2. **Yard Right** – Yards and walkways should always be well maintained (mowed, trimmed, swept and as free of weeds as possible.) Spread new mulch or plant a few colorful flowers to give it a fresh look. Stage the front with lawn chairs or some other inviting arrangement.

3. **Price Right** – The key to a successful sale lies in correctly pricing the home on day one. The house that sits on the market is the one that starts high with the thoughts that someone

can come in with an offer. That strategy works rarely and usually only in a seller's market.

4. **Marketing Right** – Compelling marketing is centered on the Internet and enhanced by signage, flyers and networking. Not surprisingly, 84 percent of buyers found their next home on the Internet. Pictures tell the story so make sure your photographs do your home justice.

5. **The Right Real Estate Specialist** – market knowledge, personalized service and negotiating skills. Working with an agent is a give and take proposition. You know your house best and a good real estate agent will work with you to present your home in the best light and maximize exposure.

If you have all your five Rights in order you will greatly increase your chances of selling quickly. The Bottom line: Be "Seller Ready" on day one.

To contact Tracy Butzko, call, email or text Tracy Butzko, REALTOR® ABR®, John L. Scott, Gig Harbor @ 253-617-9670 or tracybutzko@johnlscott.com.

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(From Off the Key, Page 11)

OFF THE KEY

Now-Feb. 5

9/11 Memorial Exhibit

The Harbor History Museum hosts the "9/11 Memorial Exhibit" brought from New York City to Gig Harbor earlier this year by Gig Harbor Firefighters. The exhibit is on public display in the lobby while the GH Firefighters' Association raises funds to build the 9/11 Memorial Garden at Station 51 on Kimball Drive.

858-6722.

Feb. 2, 9, 16

Reunion for rug hookers

A reunion for rug hookers is held Thursdays from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Participants should bring an unfinished rug or start a new rug, get help for your project, or just enjoy the time to create. Fee is \$5. Carlie Schulz, 206-351-7739.

Feb. 4

Fox Island market

The Fabulous Fox Island Market is held at Nichols Community Center with free parking, admission and playground. Bring a non-perishable food item for the EISH Food Bank and shop from thousands of hand-crafted items and

Downtown walk

Join the Historic Gig Harbor Waterfront Association for the monthly artwalk; this month's focus is the "Art of Chocolate." Mary, 253-514-0071

Feb. 5

Bridal open house

A Bridal Open House from 1-3 p.m. is presented at the Wesley Inn. La Garmache catering, the Wesley Inn, and A Greater Plan Wedding & Events Consulting sponsor this event. Enter the "Wedding Bliss Engagement Story Contest" for a chance to win a free wedding. The free wedding, to be held between 10/7/2012 and 11/30/2012, includes the venue, food, linen, tables & chairs, and planning for 100 guests. Email your engagement story, 300 words or less, by Feb. 1, 2012 to weddingblissstory@gmail.com. Finalists must be at the Open House to win. Gina Marie Spadoni-Lillie, 253-514-3597.

Feb. 7, 14, 21

Rug hooking class

Folks can learn to hook a small hand-made rug in three sessions, from 10:30

(See Off the Key, Page 15)

PUBLIC MEETINGS

KP Community Fair Association

Feb. 7, 6 p.m. in Roadhouse Restaurant VIP room; www.keyfair.org.

Key Peninsula Community Council

Feb. 8, 7 p.m. at Key Center Fire Station.

Peninsula School District Board

Feb. 9, 6 p.m. regular meeting at district office.

KP Civic Center Board

Feb. 9, meeting at 7 p.m. in Whitmore

Room.

Key Pen Parks

Feb. 13, 7:30 p.m. at Volunteer Park Annex.

Fire District 16

Feb. 14 & 28, 6 p.m. in meeting room, Key Center Fire Station.

LIC, Feb. 15

6:30 p.m. at Longbunch Improvement Club.

KP Citizens Against Crime

Feb. 17, 7 p.m. at Home Fire Station.

(From **Off the Key**, Page 14)

a.m.-12:30 p.m., including all aspects of creating a rug from color planning to the finishing touches. Basic Kit is \$60 and includes a hook, 16" x 16" pattern and recycled wool. Class fee is \$75. Carlie Schulz, 206-351-7739

Feb. 8 & 22 Knit for life

St. Anthony Hospital Knit for Life Group meets at 1 p.m. at the Jane Thompson Russell Cancer Care Center at the Milgard Medical Pavilion with beginning and skilled knitters. Instruction, yarn and needles are available at no charge. The group is free and no experience is needed. Knit for Life™ is a network of volunteers who use the healing experience of knitting to enhance the lives of cancer patients, cancer survivors and their caregivers. During treatment, recovery and survivorship, participants can attend twice-monthly knitting and support sessions in a fun, welcoming environment. Knitting helps to calm the mind, reduce pain and lower blood pressure, providing a welcome break from the stress of dealing with cancer. Jenna at 253-530-2642 or jennalewis@fbishealth.org

Feb. 10 Family movie night

Fox Island Alliance Church presents a free movie night at 6:30 p.m.; free popcorn and candy are available for all ages (kids under 14 must be accompanied by an adult). Call 549-2831 for specific movie or foxisland.org.

Feb. 15 & 22 Create a book

Learn to make both an accordion-style book and a pocket book from 1-3 p.m. Bring old maps and ephemera or any small items that could tell a story. Class fee is \$60 and includes basic supplies. Carlie Schulz at 206-351-7739

Feb. 18 'Jungle Book'

Fifty students from Harbor Heights Elementary School, along with the Missoula Children's Theater, present "The Jungle Book" adapted from Rudyard Kipling's classic tale. The play

will be presented at 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. at the Peninsula High School; tickets are \$8/adults, \$5/students, under 5 free. starkhj@gmail.com or skcostin@comcast.net or 851-7206

Father/daughter dance

The 10th annual Father/Daughter Ball is from 7-9:30 p.m. at the Boys and Girls Club. Dress up and make some memories. Tickets are \$30/couple and \$5/for additional child. Make reservations at PAA Office in the Boys and Girls Club or www.paa.youth.org; call 858-7678 for information.

Feb 26 KP authors read

Key Peninsula authors Dick Dixon and Karen Lovett will hold a reading/sales event at the Peninsula Library in Gig Harbor from 1-4 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 26. Dixon's "Dillon's War: The Weretiger of Kontum" and Lovett's "Beneath the Surface" will be available for sale, the authors will read excerpts from their books and share some of their writing and publishing experiences.

PART TIME NANNY

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OBITUARY NOTICE

Mary (Molly) Grover Kersting

Born May 31, 1927
in Edmonds, Wash.

Mary (Molly) Kersting, 84, of Lakebay, Wash., died December 30, 2011 at her home.

She was born Mary Marceline Grover in Edmonds, Wash. She grew up in Port Orchard on the West side of Long Lake where she was married to Robert Armstrong. In 1964 she married Walter (Sara) Kersting and moved to Spring Creek Road in Port Orchard. She was a long time member of Elam Lutheran Church. In 2000 she moved to the Lakebay area of the Key Peninsula, where she has been a member of the Grace EPC church.

Molly was a volunteer firefighter with the Bethel fire station for 10 years.

Molly loved to garden, she loved to fish, and she loved to help whomever God put in her path.

Molly is survived by her daughter, Sherrie Peters of Gig Harbor, her son Dan Armstrong of Port Orchard, her daughter

Nancy Manheimer of Bremerton, her son Jerry Kersting of Lakebay and her brother Ken Grover of Silver City, New Mexico. She has seven grand children and 13 great grand children.

A celebration of life was held at the Rill Chapel in Port Orchard, on Jan. 7. Donations may be made to Miracle Ranch at 15999 Sidney Rd. SW, Port Orchard, WA 98367.



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Benida Parodi _____ or

Write in _____

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If you are 18+ and live on the Peninsula you are encouraged to vote for KPCS board members. Please find the 2012 ballot above.

Mail in original to
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Website: keypeninsulacommunityservices.org

FIRE DISTRICT 16 CALL LOG

A summary of calls for FD 16 for Dec. 16 to Jan. 15

Total Calls: 126
EMS: 94
Fire/service: 13
Other: 19

Dec. 17

KP Medics were called to a 46-year-old woman at local lounge who had been unconscious for 2-3 minutes. Firefighters arrived to find multiple people involved in an altercation in the parking lot and called for law enforcement. The patient was located inside where they received multiple stories from multiple witnesses. The woman was loaded in an ambulance and taken to a Tacoma trauma center.

Dec. 22

A 51-year-old Longbranch woman, who is a known diabetic, would not wake up. KP Medics were called to the home where they checked her blood sugar and found that it was very low, again. She was given a treatment and returned to her

normal state but refused transport to a hospital.

Dec. 25

A 5-year-old girl was bitten in the face by a large Bull Mastiff. Firefighters treated and transported the girl to a Tacoma Children's Hospital for treatment.

Dec. 28

A 66-year-old Lakebay woman fell while walking outside. The woman slipped on wet grass during a rainstorm and lay in the rain until she was able to alert her daughter. The daughter who was going to feed horses heard her mother calling and found her wet, lying in a small stream of water unable to move. Family members covered the woman in blankets and called 9-1-1. Firefighters carefully lifted the woman into an ambulance and took her to a local hospital while warming her.

Dec. 30

A Key Peninsula couple disconnected the shore cord on their motor home and began the journey to Long Beach for New Years. A short distance from their house the carbon monoxide detector started sounding and they pulled into the Key Center fire station seeking help. Firefighters determined that a pilot light had not ignited properly causing a small amount of propane to escape, setting off the alarm. Situation was resolved and the couple continued their trip.

Dec. 31

A couple brought their young son to the Home Fire Station to have a plastic Santa head removed from his finger. Santa was released.

Jan. 2

While returning from a medical aid call a Key Peninsula Battalion Chief came upon a motor vehicle accident at Key Pen

Highway and Elgin Clifton Road. The T-bone type accident had occurred just moments before his arrival. The BC found two cars with heavy damage and eight occupants blocking the intersection. The two families with children were shaken but without any life threatening injuries. Four ambulances were called to transport the patients to multiple hospitals.

Jan. 4

Firefighters found two large trucks that had been dumping tires off Herron Road and reported the incident. The truckers stated that they were hired to bring the tires to the site for storage and were unaware that it was illegal. One of the trucks became stuck in mud, delaying the ordeal.

Jan. 6

A 77-year-old Lakebay woman fell in her bathroom and fractured her hip. Firefight-

(See Fire, Page 17)

The Mustard Seed Project

Building an Elder-Friendly Key Peninsula

February Third Thursday Community Forum

Family Caregiving 2012: Caring for Families in the Great Recession

Presented by Bob Riller,
Pierce County Aging Disability Resources

- How can you handle caregiving?
- What will caregiving look like for you?
- Who will care for you?
- What needs will you face as a caregiver?
- What resources are available in Pierce County?



Thursday, February 16th

Brones Room Key Center Library 10 a.m.

Transportation available

Call 884-9814 for details

Everyone welcome at this FREE program

The Mustard Seed Project also offers:

Key Peninsula Senior Ride Program
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amanda.mustardseed@gmail.com

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SAVE

THE DATE

Key Peninsula Civic Center presents
Flavors of Fall Speakeasy
Saturday, October 6

(From Fire, Page 16)

ers found the woman in tight quarters with an obvious fracture. The woman was given a medication to relieve the pain before she was moved. She was lifted by use of a sling and carried out to a waiting ambulance. She was then transported to a local hospital.

Jan. 11

A woman reported that her 36-year-old boyfriend had a seizure. KP Medics found the Lakebay man in his home with good vital signs but unaware of the date or what had happened. He was transported to local hospital for evaluation.

Jan. 14

Key Peninsula Firefighters responded to reports of a motor vehicle accident on 118th Ave. and SR302. Two vehicles were found to be involved with moderate vehicle damage. One patient was evaluated and treated at the scene while the other patient was treated and transported to a local hospital.

BRIEFS

News

KPC meeting to address logging

Logging on the KP will be a discussion point at the Key Peninsula Community Council meeting on Feb. 8 at 7 p.m. at the Key Center Fire Station.

Numerous calls and emails have been received by KPC, the Key Peninsula fire department, Key Pen Parks and the KP News recently about the logging activity that is taking place along SR 302. These citizens and organizations are voicing their unease with this and other large-area clear cut logging activities on our peninsula.

The KPC is working to address these concerns and bring the affected parties together to discuss the situation.

KPC has identified the first step to clarify confusion, and has invited elected county officials to discuss conflicting regulations between the state and county permitting process. Several of our members observed what

they believe are instances of property owners "playing both ends against the middle" when it comes to requirements for buffers, wetlands, replanting, and building on property after it has been logged.

The KPC February meeting is Feb. 8 at 7 p.m. in the Key Center Fire Station.

KP stays in 26th

After a 50-50 split over whether to place the Key Peninsula in Legislative District 35 with Allyn and Shelton, or allow it to remain in District 26, the Washington State Redistricting Commission unanimously approved the final version of the Washington State Redistricting Plan on Jan. 1.

That plan keeps the Key Peninsula in District 26. The two options were publicized by KP News and the Key Peninsula Community Council. Active support and endorsement in favor of keeping the Key Peninsula in District 26 was administered by the Key Peninsula Business Associa-

tion and Key Pen Parks through letters and public testimony.

The final report to the Legislature was published Jan. 9 and is available with maps and summary at <http://www.redistricting.wa.gov>.

FD16 Assistant Fire Chief position filled

Division Chief Guy Allen was sworn in as Assistant Chief at the Board of Fire Commissioners meeting on Dec. 17. The promotion took effect Jan. 1.

Challenging financial times has brought changes to Key Peninsula Fire Department. FD 16 has reduced the number of daytime staff from four chief officers, the Fire Chief and three Division Chiefs, to two chief officers, the Fire Chief and one Assistant Chief position. By restructuring the department, the district reduced the costs by approximately \$165,000.

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SHERIFF'S BLOTTER

A summary of calls for Pierce County Sheriff's Department for Dec. 13 to 25

Editor's note: This is a partial listing of the report. Go online to www.kcypcnnews.com for the entire report filed through Jan. 19.

Dec. 13

13700 block of 100th St. 98329

The victim reported that while he was away from the home, his roommate was lured away from the house by a known female, 26, so that two males, a 34-year-old from Tacoma and a 51-year-old, no address provided, could burglarize the residence. Security cameras inside the house were smashed out, but he recognized one of the suspects on the tape while he was destroying the camera. The victim also recognized a second suspect. The exterior security camera captured a Ford Excursion type vehicle on tape. The suspects stole a safe with collector baseball cards and personal information, a 50 inch Plasma TV, four laptops, an X-box 360 and 50 games, tools and motorcycle riding gear.

Between Dec. 15-18

10900 block of Bliss Cochrane Rd.
A doorknob and lock box were stolen from the front door.

Dec. 16

1000 block of Whiteman Rd. KP S., Lakebay

Victims were away and suspects attempted entry at a rear sliding glass door and window that were locked, but removed a bathroom window screen to slide open the unlocked window and climbed through. Once inside rummaged through bedroom dresser and took jewelry. No suspect info.

Between Dec. 17-18

Costless Pharmacy
The property manager for the building which houses Cost Less Pharmacy reported that an air compressor was stolen. Suspects cut the locks on the gates on both sides of the building and cut the lock on the cage that housed the Ingersoll Rand

compressor. Valued at \$1200. Outdoor freezer was also opened. Waiting for video footage.

Between Dec. 17-21

11200 block of Vipond Dr. NW, 98329
The victim said unknown persons entered his detached shed and removed a marine battery, battery charger and an extension cord. Entry was made through an unsecured shed door.

Between Dec. 18-22

2700 block of 158th Ave. KP S.
Suspects called the victim to say her account is \$3,000 in arrears and they need her bank account number or credit card number.

Dec. 19

Cost Less Pharmacy
A 48-year-old male used a forged prescription in attempt to get Oxycodone. The prescription was not filled, and the suspect left before law enforcement arrived.

Dec. 20

12900 block of 144th Ave. 98329
A neighbor called to report that a white older Ford probe was driving away at a high rate of speed and he noticed the garage door open and the dome light on in one of the vehicles inside. Suspects entered the garage and took a variety of tools. All of the items that were taken were found in a ditch near the residence and returned to the victim.

Dec. 21

3900 block of KP Hwy S., Longbranch
Suspects stole a 6000 watt Craftsman generator, chainsaw, sawzall, and drill. Possible entry through unlocked window. No signs of forced entry, no suspects.

Dec. 22

16700 block of Erickson Rd., Longbranch
Victim's neighbor reported an alarm going off and a vehicle sped away from the scene. Victims were not home at the time. Unknown suspects pried the front door and broke the window to gain entry. Costume type jewelry was taken. Appears suspects were familiar with the home.

9000 block of KP Hwy N, Lakebay
Suspects entered through a back door and also attempted to enter a storage shed on the property. Lights on the back porch were unscrewed from the fixture. Door was not damaged and suspects did not gain entry to the store. Cameras captured good footage of the suspects.

Dec. 25

1000 block of Whiteman Road
Suspects came in by prying open a locked bathroom window. Checkbooks, change counter and change were taken.

18600 block of 27th St. Lakebay
Suspects entered the home but didn't appear to take anything. Victim believes they could have been scared off. Some fingerprints were at the scene and forensics was requested to process.

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Whither diversity?

Although I'm a native of Western Washington, I have spent considerable time living elsewhere.

Before moving to Lakebay six years ago, my wife and I lived in a small town in Central California. Though it didn't have much going for it, it did have this: while enjoying a coffee at the local Starbucks on any warm summer, we could sit and listen to six languages being spoken. Besides English you would hear Spanish and Assyrian and Portuguese and Chinese and Japanese, and sometimes more. The town had a college which helped create this diversity, but many of these were local people who had settled in the area generations ago.

Of course, it wasn't just the diversity of language that was exciting. The abundance of ethnic food made dining out a delight. The various cultural activities added meaning to our lives, and the simple act of walking the neighborhood and interacting with people of so many traditions and histories and backgrounds brought richness to our time there.

Did you read Rick Sorrels' article on the KP News website last month? It confirmed something I'd observed since moving here. The Key Peninsula lacks ethnic diversity. Essentially, the KP is 90 percent white. The other 10 percent is a mixture of Hispanic, Black, Asian, and Native American. That compares to Washington State standing at 77 percent White and Pierce County at 74 percent White.

Drive up and down the peninsula, attend a school function, spend some time at the coffee stand, worship in one of our churches, and you'll see it to be true. The KP lacks diversity. I can't say I know why that is. I just know our community is poorer for it.

February has been designated Black History Month, a time to celebrate the accomplishments of Americans of African descent. Our nation remembers those who struggled against great adversity in

pursuit of equality and respect. Our children learn of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., and other civil rights workers; they hear of African-Americans who are scientists and singers, astronauts and accountants. They learn of the ways these men and women have enriched our society.

My life has been enhanced by friendships with African-Americans, with Chinese-Americans, with Assyrians, and yes, even with a wife of Mexican descent. The truth is, I love my culture. I am grateful for my heritage as one whose ancestors came over on the Mayflower. But I also know that my life is better for sharing it with people of other cultures, other traditions, other histories. They have only added to

my life, and never taken away from it.

There is a beautiful picture in the book of Revelation. God is seated on a throne, surrounded by angels singing songs of adoration. Standing around the throne is a "multitude, from every nation, tribe, people, and language." This is the Kingdom of God - every culture represented, every language spoken, every shade of skin present. It's a hopeful, prophetic image, describing a world in which I want to live.

So don't take this as a criticism - I love the KP, I really do. But I miss the diversity present in so many other places, and I mourn the textures and flavors those other cultures could offer us. Here on the Key Peninsula, we are fortunate to have an excellent Mexican restaurant in Key Center, and now we have a taco truck down in Purdy. I am thankful for the options they offer. I simply find myself wishing there was so much more.

Dan Whitmarsh is pastor at Lakebay Community Church.



Dan Whitmarsh
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2012 GUEST COLUMNIST

In great company among other writers

You've heard the expression, "Everyone has a story to tell." I forget this sometimes.

When asked "What do you do?" if I am feeling particularly brave, I might say "I write."

Which then usually requires some elaboration: "Ummm, excuse me, I must have something caught in my throat. What I mean is, I like writing." Gulp. Let me try this one more time. "I am a writer."

It is surprisingly difficult to get these words out with a straight face. Or without sounding like my tongue is super glued to the roof of my mouth. Between you and

me, calling myself a writer feels presumptuous and undeserved.

And yet,

I write. There! I said it.

Mostly I think I must be the only person silly enough to believe I can pull this 'writer' thing off. No one else goes around saying such a thing, right? Admitting that writing is their passion. Stating publicly that they hope some day their words will begin to sustain them financially.

Last November was the first year I participated in National Novel Writing Month. NaNoWriMo is an annual novel writing project where the object is to write a novel of at least 50,000 words in 30 days. It was a terrifying goal. In hopes of setting myself up to succeed, I headed for a kick-off meeting of local fellow Nano participants. Costumes encouraged being Halloween.

I don't know what I expected but it

Barbie Swayzie Write Out Loud



certainly was not standing-room only. It took me back. All these people admit to writing?

It felt great knowing there were so many people just like me. Loud and proud, I wanted to shout, "You go, Crazy Dreamers dressed like witches and zombies!! Good for you!"

It also felt horrible knowing there were so many people just like me. Under my breath, I muttered, "What hope do I have when there are so many of us out here?" Can't win, I guess. Although I did win a certificate that declared I wrote over 50,000 words in thirty days. (And no, it was not the same words typed 50,000 times.)

Today I drove into Lakewood to hear bestselling author Jane Ann Krentz present a writing workshop along with a book signing. She spoke for about twenty minutes and then took questions from the full room. During her presentation, I went right back to that place thinking I'm the only one here with the ridiculous notion that maybe someday I'll be a big girl writer. That all of these other people are, understandably, her avid readers who can't wait to hear about her latest book. But surely all these people are not writers like me. When the audience questions began however, I remembered once again, everyone has a story to tell. Every single question was about writing, publishing, editing, submitting. And again, I happily and nervously swam in the energy of my kinsmen.

Everyone has a story to tell. And some people choose writing as the best way to tell theirs. I am grateful to count myself among them.

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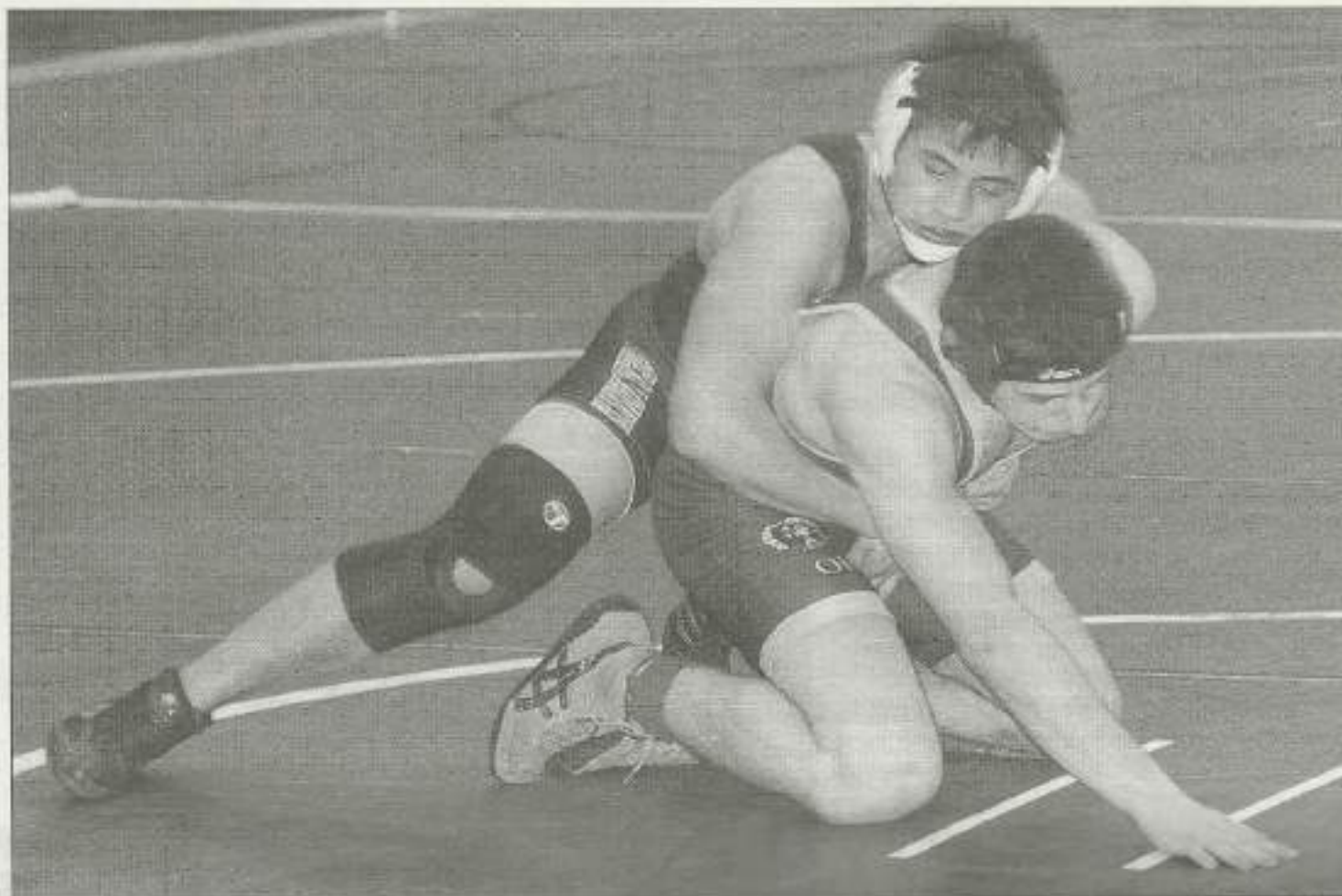
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KP wrestlers take part in Hammerhead Meet

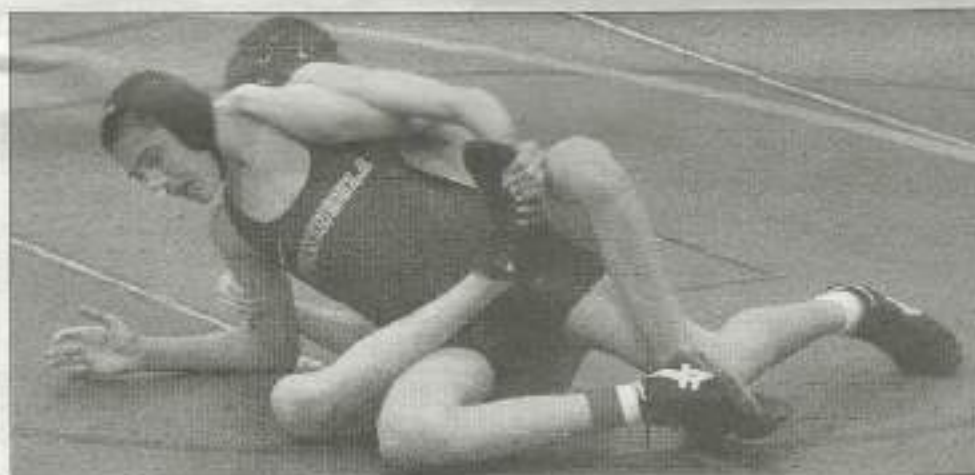
Peninsula High's wrestling team took 4th place out of 32 teams during the Hammerhead Meet in the Kitsap Sun Pavilion in Silverdale on Dec. 17. The tournament attracted teams from all over Washington as well as at least one team from Oregon and a team from Ketchikan, Alaska. The official program reported 32 men's teams and eight women's teams sending representatives.

Key Pen wrestlers included Zane Holland and William Lester.

Randy Nimrick took second place in the 145-pound weight division.

In action, top left is Zane Holland. Below left is William Lester.

Photos by Eld Johnson, KP News



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YOUR TALENTED NEIGHBOR

Minterwood resident delivers rhythm and soul

By Don Swenson, KP News

Many of your neighbors are skilled in one or more of the fine arts. Some are painters, sculptors, dancers, musicians, writers, blacksmiths, photographers and more. Meet Ike Sutton. Originally from Tacoma, Ike has lived in the Lake Minterwood area with his wife Merri, for about 18 years. By trade, Ike is a painter, but not a painter of portraits or landscapes, but rather a maintenance painter at the Washington Veteran's Home in Port Orchard.

While that alone could qualify him as an artist in the eyes of some, his most notable artistic talent is his music. Ike is a drummer, or more accurately, a percussionist. He is also adept at graphic arts, sketching, drawing and painting. In fact, Ike was the graphic artist for the Louifest 2008 poster.

Louifest is an annual festival honoring the contributions of Seattle-area bands, centered around the Fabulous Wailers' original hit "Louie, Louie" that has been held in various venues around Puget Sound, including Cheney Stadium.

Ike started out as a traditional drummer, but after seeing Tacoma notable Dean Tsarpalis, playing instruments other than a traditional drum kit, Ike was inspired, and soon transitioned to bongos and congas, as well as a wide assortment of other percussive instruments.

I sat down with Ike recently, at O'Callahan's

in Key Center, where he was performing with the Tim Hall Band, something he does on a fairly regular basis lately.

Playing these acoustic instruments alongside the electrified instrumentation of performing bands, Ike realized that he couldn't be heard. This led him to develop techniques to amplify his kit so he was on equal footing with the other performers.

He said he learned a lot about how to hit his drums with his hands to get the most out of them while playing with loud rock bands.

"The trick is knowing when you can be heard between the musical statements that the amplified instruments are playing and then take advantage of those times with precision and time," he said.

We talked briefly, but I was more intent on watching him play during the show. I have jammed with Ike on several occasions, but have never really watched him as he plays. From an audience viewpoint, watching Ike play is a study in rhythm, fluidity, and soul. There is barely a part of him, mind or body, that isn't moving during a performance. While other performers help you to hear the music, Ike does more. He helps you see and feel the music.

Watch for Ike's performances with the Tim Hall Band as well as an acoustic classic rock group called Treetown. Check out the calendars at thetimhallband.com and rickgrusic.com. Go to a show, and say hi to Ike, one of your very talented neighbors.



Photo courtesy of Merri Sutton

Ike Sutton is a longtime resident of Lake Minterwood and often can be found performing with the Tim Hall Band.

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Out & About

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More than 200 people attended the Olalla Polar Bear event on Jan. 1. Among the brave souls to participate in the annual tradition was Grace Daily of Longbranch. The cannon was fired at noon to announce the start of the event, but people began jumping into the cold water at about 10:30 a.m. While some were barely clothed, others donned costumes, and six bikers in leather jumped in together. There was hot cider, hot dogs, and one sheriff's deputy maintaining order.



Photo by Ed Johnston, KP News

Where in the World...



Carolyn Kane and her children David, 5, and James, 3, pose with their copy of the KP News at Florida's Epcot theme park in August. It was their first family vacation to Disney World and she said they all had a blast!

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Photo by Hugh McMillan, KP News

The town of Home gathering a blanket of snow in January.



Mark Downen and his children Ian, 9, and Evie, 6, with the snowman they built in Longbranch during the first snowstorm of 2012.

Photo by Anna Downen, KP News reader