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Minter Creek welcomes WatchDOGS

Jessica Takehara, KP News

Walking down the halls of any Key Peninsula elementary school reveals the hustle and bustle of learning in action.

Students creating projects, volunteer moms helping with reading groups, teachers decoding the mysteries of math, or grandmothers putting up colorful bulletin boards are just a few examples of the energy in education. Many times though, there is an element missing: dads.

The shortage of “father figure” involvement is not a new dilemma, and an Arkansas school in 1998 sought to change this trend with the creation of the Watch D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students). Since its inception, the program has grown to national recognition and built a network of more than 3,156 schools in 46 states.

Minter Creek Elementary became the first KP school to partner with Watch-

(See WatchDOGS, Page 4)




Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News

Jake Reimers helps his daughter, Olivia, with a classroom project at Minter Creek Elementary School during his day working with the school’s new WatchDOGS program.

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Hobby turns into labor-of-love homestead

By Scott Turner, KP News

When Maureen and Dave Hennessy were married in March of 2009, one of the vows Dave made was a promise that he would learn to ski.

Maureen (formerly, Maureen Borba) had been skiing since she was a toddler and it was something she couldn’t imagine not doing.

In fact, she was such a ski buff that she had been collecting old skis for more than 10 years and by the time she and Dave married, her collection numbered in the hundreds of pairs.

“I got them at garage sales and thrift stores and from friends who just gave them to me,” Maureen said at their home near Key Center.

At first she stored the skis in her parents’ garage, and then in her sister’s garage and, when she and Dave built their home on a piece of land Maureen inherited from her parents adjacent to Camp Seymour, the piles of skis moved to the new place.

And over the years the pile grew and grew: cross country skis,

downhill skis, water skis and even a couple of surfboards. “It was a little bit of everything,” Maureen recalled.

Of course, Dave kept his promise and now the couple hit the slopes together as often as possible.

But that ever-growing pile of skis needed to be used for something.

“All those skis — you have to blame Maureen for that,” Dave said with a chuckle. “She started collecting them before we met.”

Dave, who grew up in Kentucky, comes from a family of do-it-yourselfers. “My dad built our house on our farm and he was always making something or doing electrical work or plumbing and we were always out there helping him,” he said.

His first project was building a dog run from the skis.

“When my dad passed away, we inherited his two dogs — and so we knew when we built the house we’d have to have a dog run,” Maureen said. “When we first moved in, we had a paint-

(See Skis, Page 2)

(From Skis, Page 1)

ing party indoors and a dog run-building party outside.”

But when the dog run was finished, there were still hundreds of skis left.

“I looked at that pile of skis and just had to do something else with it,” Dave said. “So I just started building a fence to keep the animals in. On-and-off, it took about three years to complete.”

“We have a total of 826 skis in the dog run and the fence,” Maureen said. “There are all sizes and shapes and colors and brands, all different heights and all mixed together.” And all with the bindings left on.

The ski fence and the dog run will probably last longer than traditional materials, because skis are made to last in all kinds of weather, she added. “And besides, it’s a little bit funky and different.”

“Maureen likes the weirdness of it — all the different colors,” Dave interjected,



By Scott Turner, KP News

Maureen and Dave Hennessy live in their Key Peninsula dream home, surrounded by many skis and much love

eying his bride. “It’s all random, there’s no rhyme or reason.”

The ski pile is now considerably smaller than it originally was, but there’s still plen-

ty of material for other projects.

So now Dave is making ski furniture, which fits right in with the other eclectic things in the couple’s home such as the huge clock in the kitchen, the old theater seats and the oversized dining table.

The next project will be a surfboard table for the new deck.

“The first surfboard is hanging out at the entrance to the property,” Maureen said, “It’s the big sign that says ‘The Hennessys’.”

“At our wedding, we had everybody sign their names on the board instead of having a guest register. I don’t think anybody has anything like what we have.”

She acknowledged that Dave has put a lot of work into the place, coming up with uses for all those skis.

“I married the man of my dreams. He can do all my projects — all my dreams and wishes. Not many people can say they have a fence made of skis,” she said with a grin.

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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.

Key Peninsula News is published monthly by the Key Peninsula News publishing board in Vaughn, Washington. The Key Peninsula Civic Center Association is the non-profit parent organization. Copyright 2013 with all rights reserved. Reproduction of editorial or graphic contents in any manner without permission is prohibited. Annual subscriptions (12 issues) are available for \$30.00 and are mailed first class. Copies are mailed presort standard to residents and post office box holders of the Key Peninsula. Single copies are available at the newspaper office in the basement of the Civic Center annex and at various distribution points located on the Key Peninsula. Approximately 19,000 people live in the distribution area.

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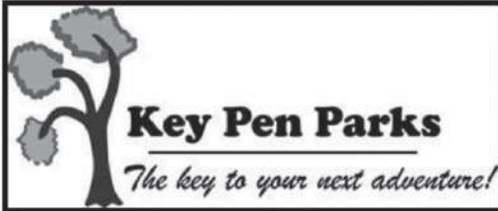
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2. The objective of Key Peninsula News is to support and create community by reporting news and features and providing a forum for local information. News and editorial coverage focuses on the Key Peninsula and immediately adjacent areas within Fire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

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.



NOVEMBER 2013

Key Pen Parks PROGRAM GUIDE

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

REGISTER ONLINE: www.keypenparks.com

THANK YOU!



Volunteers for Farm Tour Gateway Site:

• **Park PALS:** Jeatonn Abbott, Molly Clark, Andrea Daly, Kobe Frederick, Eddy Frederick, Kaitlin Hall, Ruby Heisley, Ashlee Jones, Natalie Pierson, Lillian Roberts, Erica Schaefer, Mariah Sheek, Dylan Vanderbank, Leyla Vanderbank, Destiny Verble

• **Bayshore Garden Club:** Gloria Farnam, Kathleen Gray, Liz Jones, Fredereka McGerry, Francine Minor, Tedi Spiering, Stephanie Zampini

• **Fresh Food Revolution:** Kandi Clark, Caren Halvorsen, Junko Jacobsen, Marsha Kremen, Claudia Linder, Beth Porter

• **KP Historical Society:** Christine Anderson, Donna Gates-Smeall, Connie Hildahl, Paul Michaels, Judy Mills, Bill & Carland Nicolson, Joyce Niemann, Colleen Slater, Betty VanSlyke

• **Bill Fold Farm:** Leona Lisa, Jonathon Bill, Rylee Brown, Noah Brown, Amanda Gese

HARVEST PARTY

Volunteers from Harvest Party:

• **Park PALS:** Jeatonn Abbott, Sierra Adams, Abbey Beck, Aarrow Cruz, Nature Cuavas, Andrea Daly, Maddy Elzey, **Kobe Frederick***, Eddy Frederick, Cailleigh Gainey, Kaitlin Hall, Hallie Hicks, Ruby Heisley, Ashlee Jones, Alexis Osborn, Ricky Perilli, Natalie Pierson, Celeste Rivas, Joanna Roberts, Lyric Roden, Hailey Roncevich, Erica Schaefer, Tyana Strait, Dylan Vanderbank, Leyla Vanderbank, Destiny Verble, Kyndra Wade, Amanda Willette
Night & 2 Eco Camps--couldn't do it without you!

• **Parks Program Volunteers:** Jerry Hartley, Marilyn Hartley*, Kamryn Minch, Kirsten Roberts

• **In-Kind Donations:** SunnyCrest Farm

*Winners of VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Breakfast with Santa!



Location: Key Peninsula Fire Department, Key Center Station

Date: Saturday, December 7

Time: 9:00-11:00am (register by time: choose 9:00, 9:45, or 10:30)

Fee: Pre-Register: \$5.00 per person / day of: \$8.00 per person

PeeWee Indoor Soccer

Instructor: Kidz Love Soccer Location: KPMS Gym

Day: Thurs. Dates: Nov 7 – Dec. 19

Fee: \$51

Class	Times	Ages
Tot/Pre-Soccer	4:30-5:05pm	3.5-5 yrs
Soccer 1	5:05-5:50pm	5-6 yrs
Mommy/Daddy & Me Soccer	6:00-6:30pm	2-3.5 yrs



Do you want to make a difference?

PARK PALS is the program for you!

PALS is a group of middle school volunteers who help at special events for Key Pen Parks. Next event is Breakfast with Santa, where the PALS are Santa's elves. Call or email Jess for more info: 884-9240 x22 or jessica@keypenparks.com.

Upcoming important dates & info:

- 2014 Budget hearing: 11/12 at 7:30pm, Volunteer Park
- Draft comprehensive plan for 2014-2019 on website

FITNESS CAMP WINTER 1 SESSION

Instructor: Shannon Reichl

Location: Volunteer Park (inside & outside!)

Day: Tues & Thurs Time: 6-7pm

Dates: Nov 19 – Dec 26

Fee: \$30 for 1 class/week, \$60 for 2

Join mid-session and we will prorate the fee!

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 - CORE TRAINING • STRENGTH TRAINING
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No Winners - Lots of Losers

Jud Morris, Director, Key Peninsula Family Resource Center

\$24 billion lost in revenue and wages! That's how much the 16-day government shutdown and fear of government not reaching agreement on the debt ceiling cost. And there is a chance we will have to go through the same thing again in January and February.

What does this mean for people living on the Key Peninsula? Real people with real problems. Our experience at the Key Peninsula Family Resource Center was this funding crisis impacted everyone.

One example was a mother with two children who had been furloughed from the Naval Shipyard. She was eligible for food stamps, but she could not apply for unemployment because she was not eligible

during her first week of furlough. Her family needed soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes (food stamps don't pay for these items); we were able to help her family.

Since she was furloughed and didn't have other income sources, she was overdue on her Peninsula Light bill (we were able to help her). Also, she was low on food; a church had just given KPFRCC a week's supply of food for a family, so we were able to help.

One thing I have learned from this is the Key Peninsula community will always help Key Peninsula families.

Call 253-884-5433 to donate or offer other resources to the KPFRCC, located in the main KP Civic Center building.

CORNER

Local power project and learning tool underway

KP News staff report

Increasing energy efficiency has been the talk; now local partners are taking action to make it happen.

Key Pen Parks, the Key Peninsula Civic Center Association (KPCCA) and PenLight have partnered on construction of an 18-foot by 36-foot picnic shelter (576 square feet) to be located in the KPCCA park.

The shelter will be topped with a solar power generating array.

Groundbreaking took place in early October, after a waiting period for a Shoreline Conditional Use Permit. A concrete slab has been poured and park staff will be constructing the shelter.

"We are planning for this to be a fall/winter project," said Key Pen Parks Executive Director, Scott Gallacher.

"PenLight is interested in installing solar panels as a project with Bonneville Power Foundation and Peninsula School

District. We are planning to have the project completed and a ribbon cutting at the Key Peninsula Livable Fair in May, but hope to have it completed by March of 2014."

Tables built by Boy Scout Troop 220 will be used with the project.

Funding sources for the shelter include Key Pen Parks' capital budget, grants from the Angel Guild, the Key Peninsula Park and Recreation Foundation, PenLight, and the Bonneville Power Foundation.

The cost for permits was \$2,400, as Pierce County waived \$7,500 in permit fees. Materials and labor for the picnic shelter — wood milled from Volunteer Park, concrete, concrete finishing and metal roofing totaled \$6,500.

The solar panel installation is being managed by PenLight. Its energy output is to be monitored from kiosks located at Vaughn Elementary School and at the civic center, as an educational component of the project.



Become a Friend of the Key Peninsula Civic Center and volunteer with us at special events, fundraisers, work parties, and more!

Thank you to our Halloween Carnival donors: Costco Gig Harbor, Food Market at Key Center, Historic Vaughn Bay Church, Ed Johnson, Boy Scout Troop #220, Girl Scout Troops #40956 & #44080, and Friends of the Key Peninsula Civic Center.

Annual KPCCA Election Thursday, November 14

The Key Peninsula Civic Center Association (KPCCA) is seeking new Board members and Officers to help guide the organization in 2014.

If you are interested in helping to preserve the facility, plan and staff fundraisers and special events, develop new programs for the benefit of our Key Peninsula community, assist with our Emergency Shelter project, we invite you to attend our November 14th meeting and join the Board!

The KPCCA Board meets on the second Thursday of the month at 7pm.

What's happening at the KP Civic Center?

<http://kpciviccenter.org/calendar.shtml>



www.kpciviccenter.org
kpciviccenter@centurytel.net
253-884-3456

The Key Peninsula Civic Center is a 501(c)3, private non-profit. We rely on rentals, fundraisers, and donations to keep our doors open, and our rentals affordable for the community. Thank you for your support!

(From WatchDOGS, Page 1)

DOGS beginning this year. The program kickoff occurred on Sept. 26 with more than 200 in attendance. From there, the leadership team organized the volunteers, set up schedules, coordinated with the PTA, and welcomed the first dad into Minter Creek Elementary on Oct. 7.

The overarching goal of WatchDOGS, part of the National Center for Fathering, is providing positive male role models to demonstrate that education is important. Beyond this, having extra eyes and ears can help to reduce bullying.

Ty Robuck, Minter Creek Elementary principal, agrees with this and hopes the program will be a "door for dads to be connected with our school."

When at the school, dads will have the chance to engage in a number of different activities. The day could start welcoming students in the morning, then helping in the classroom with teacher guidance, hanging out with their son or daughter, monitoring the lunchtime process or assisting loading buses at the end of the day.

Matt Kusche, head of the leadership team, wants to "build a passionate volunteer base -- that doesn't stop at the school." This is at the heart of the WatchDOGS mission because including fathers, grandfathers, step-fathers, uncles or other positive male role models helps weave a holistic thread between communities, families and schools.

Many times though, dads "want to get involved, but don't know how to do that," said Paul Hoover, another leadership team member. WatchDOGS provide a vehicle for this to happen.

Since this is a national program with a strong coast-to-coast presence, support materials are available for existing teams and starting the WatchDOGS in any school.

Kusche brings previous experience in setting up a program too, and is more than willing to help lay the groundwork in other area KP schools for WatchDOGS.

For information, contact Kusche at minterwatchdogs@hotmail.com. Also, visit fathers.com for information or contact Minter Creek Elementary to volunteer.



Capital levy would upgrade technology, make schools safer

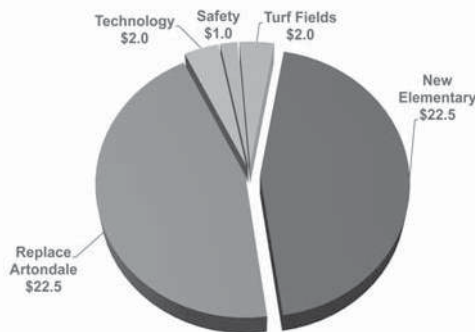
The Peninsula School District’s capital levy on the November ballot addresses major needs that are part of a 30-year long-range facilities plan. Among the improvements identified for the first phase are upgrades and enhancements to security for all school buildings and upgrades to technology infrastructure and equipment.

About \$1 million of the \$50 million levy would be dedicated to health, safety and security upgrades. In response to tragic events around the country, the district re-evaluated its safety procedures and infrastructure. Due to the rural nature of many of the school buildings, there is a need to improve security, starting with the youngest students. Currently, only Purdy Elementary has a locked entry with a buzz-in system.

Since all the schools have portable buildings, the security system would need an enhanced ability to keep exterior doors locked while providing students with easy access to the main building. Cameras would be installed to help monitor the grounds after hours, and a new badge system would be implemented to easily identify autho-

alized volunteers.

The \$2 million for technology includes upgrades to infrastructure and core technology operational systems as well as equipment for students, including classroom computers, computer lab upgrades and new tablets.



The levy would allow the district to:

- * Complete the major infrastructure projects at all schools by the end of summer 2014
- * Replace computers and add mobile technology for students at all schools in the fall of 2014
- * Complete replacement of student computers at all schools by summer 2018.

Other projects in the capital levy proposal include upgrades to turf fields, which are reaching the end of their life expectancy. The PSD facilities are not only used for school athletics but also enjoyed by many community-based sports organizations, which are interested in partnering with the district to provide additional improvements.

Drive with Care

As the days get shorter and the weather wetter, driving conditions deteriorate. We have very few sidewalks in our District. School busses are yellow for a reason. Use caution when driving behind or around them.

A recent survey indicated that as many as 1,500 times a day, someone in the United States illegally passes a stopped bus. Please help keep our students safe.

PSD Implementation on Target

Beginning this school year, all districts in the state of Washington have a new system to evaluate teachers and principals. The Teacher Principal Evaluation Project (TPEP) focuses on quality teaching and quality leadership. Teachers and principals have been participating in professional development since last spring in order to learn about the new system.

In PSD, 25% of our teachers are part of the process this year. These teachers include new teachers as well as veteran educators who have volunteered to participate. Each year we will add 25% until we have full implementation in the 2016-2017 school year. All principals are part of the new leadership evaluation system this year. Teachers in the new system will be evaluated on standards that focus on collaboration, instruction, communication, safety, and student growth. Similar standards exist in the new system for principals, with the additional skills and knowledge around the area of leadership.

The opportunity for our principals, teachers, and central office staff to work together for professional improvement is welcomed across the district. We’ll keep you informed as we progress through our first year of TPEP implementation.

If you have questions about the levy, please go to psd401.net and follow the Capital Levy link or email levy@psd401.net.

Bullying Prevention - On October 6, a great showing of middle school and high school age students and their families participated in a free screening of Cyberbullied a short film followed by a Q&A panel made up of educators, a former student and community members. Gig Harbor Film Festival, Galaxy Theatre and PSD partnered to share this film with the community to further educate everyone on the efforts to stop bullying of all forms.



How does bullying differ from other forms of conflict?

Other conflict/fighting*

Between friends/equals/peers
 Spontaneous/occasional
 Accidental/not planned
 No serious, lasting harm
 Equal emotional reaction
 Not for domination/control
 Often a sense of remorse
 May try to solve the problem

Bullying*

Not friends/imbalance of power
 Repeated over time
 Intentional
 Physical/emotional harm
 Unequal emotional reaction
 Seeking control/possession
 No remorse-blames target
 No effort to solve problem

**Please remember that specifics will vary with each incident.*

NOVEMBER EVENTS

- 7 School Board Regular Meeting 6 p.m. District Office
- 11 Veterans’ Day—No School
- 19 All District Band Festival 7 p.m. at Chapel Hill
- 28-29 Thanksgiving Holiday—No School

Nondiscrimination Statement The 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. Inquiries regarding compliance and/or grievance procedures may be directed to the District’s Title IX and Compliance Officer, Dan Gregory, at (253) 530-1009, email gregoryd@psd401.net or the Section 504 and ADA Coordinator, Sean Whalen, at (253) 530-1080, email whalens@psd401.net. Mailing address: 14015 62nd Ave. NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98332.

Peninsula Views

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Vote 'yes' for Key Peninsula Parks

As a member of the Key Pen Parks Foundation Board, I urge the residents of the Key Peninsula to approve a small, one-year levy to provide needed operating funds for our wonderful Key Pen Parks, thus preserving capital funds for improved access, better parking, additional picnic areas, and more trails.

Our elected park commissioners, who willingly serve without pay, have done a terrific job of acquiring, preserving and improving more than 1,200 acres of park land for our citizens to enjoy, and they have done so while remaining responsible stewards of our tax dollars. They have assessed us only one quarter of what we voters pre-

viously authorized them to do.

The Foundation Board believes that it would be a big step backward if they were unable to implement their well-conceived plans because of the fiscal shortfall brought about by lower tax revenues caused by falling real estate values in our area.

Through this measure, we can help ensure that future generations of Key Peninsula residents can enjoy the natural beauty that draws us all to live in this wonderful area. Please join us in voting "yes" on this measure.

*Michael Hays, president
Key Peninsula Parks and
Recreation Foundation*

Angel shows more willingness to cross party aisles

Like me, you've probably heard plenty of rhetoric during this campaign, and been bombarded with wild accusations from out-of-state special interests.

I've received multiple phone calls from organizations trying to convince me that Jan Angel is an extremist. But what is the truth?

I decided to examine both candidates' voting records — the reality is far different from what the special interests claim.

When comparing Jan Angel's and Nathan Schlicher's votes this year, Angel broke with the majority of her party more often than Schlicher, did opposing the majority vote of her party 53 times. In comparison, Schlicher broke rank with Democrats only 25 times.

When you examine each vote, the dif-

ference between candidates becomes even clearer. When Schlicher broke rank, 12 of 25 votes were in opposition to successful bipartisan bills. In contrast, 43 of Angel's 53 votes against her party were in support of successful bipartisan bills.

Clearly, Angel is more open-minded when it comes to legislation. Voters can go to washingtonvotes.org and check for themselves.

With a narrowly divided state senate, it's important that we have a senator who is willing to listen to good ideas coming from both sides of the legislative chamber, rather than just toeing the party line. I will be casting my vote for the candidate who has done just that, Representative Jan Angel.

*Brenda Petrick
Port Orchard*

Letters Policy

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Overcoming grumpiness with gratitude, the healthy medicine

Fall is deeply upon us, and winter approaches.

I walk home each evening through the swirl of sepia maple leaves, feeling the crunch of decomposition beneath my shoe.

Drifting smoke from a neighbor's wood stove mingles with the fog that coyly shrouds our mossy forest. The song of the thrush is silent; in its place I hear the plaintive cry of seagulls over the cold waters of the bay below.

As our calendars turn from summer, and October becomes but a memory of children running through the night, pillow cases bulging with candy, Thanksgiving quietly arrives in our midst.

It's almost a surprise, tucked away between the sugar-high of Halloween and the commercial onslaught of Christmas. Yet there it sits, asking us to pause from

our frenzied shopping, to spend time with family and friends, and to practice the art of gratitude.

The apostle Paul, writing to a church in Greece, said, "In everything, give thanks." It's a spiritual discipline sadly lacking in modern society. We are more accustomed to constant complaining, our airwaves and discussion boards filled with cranky pundits sharing opinions about how bad everything is. Nothing seems good enough for these professional grumblers.

(See Whitmarsh, Page 7)

Dan Whitmarsh
Writing by Faith



Work toward more efficiency, not tax increases

The Peninsula School Board is putting a \$50 million levy on November's ballot to provide for new structures and remodeling.

Estimates are a 55-60 percent increase in school taxes. The tax effect on a \$250,000 home would be an additional \$348 per year, on top of the current \$3,031 a year, for four years.

This is a levy proposal, not a bond.

Levies are customarily for operations expenditures; bonds are normally infrastructure related. According to levy wording, not all or none of the proceeds has to be used for new construction, if such construction is determined infeasible.

A bond issue requires 60 percent to pass. The levy proposal requires only 50 percent, plus one, a slim requirement for an extraction of \$50 million from our local economy.

These are general obligation bonds versus revenue bonds. There is no cash flow

generation that services interest payments and repays principal. The debt would be repaid with more taxes or refinanced.

Why hasn't a plan/design/build bidding process been accomplished? What incentives exist for meeting goals by underspending a budget? Why aren't budgets tied to a population increase/CPI multiplier? How about teacher pay for performance? What about alternate facilities or leasebacks? Due to prevailing wage laws, this project will pay flaggers \$35 an hour and drywall tapers \$41 per hour.

Manage government like a business, get public pensions under control, reduce unnecessary and capricious regulations, and I'll consider voting for a tax increase. Let's work on spending our existing budgets cost-effectively, instead of continually asking citizens and small businesses for more.

*Joe Siegel
Fox Island*

(From Whitmarsh, Page 6)

Unfortunately, we've learned their lesson well. In spite of the beauty in the world around us, we spend much of our time complaining.

We complain about the price of coffee, the politicians in Washington, our taxes, traffic, "kids these days," and how our favorite TV show ended. We complain about the food we eat, our parents, our teachers, our bosses, our employees, music on the radio, and even the new crosswalk in Key Center. I'm guilty of it, too. Start talking about the commercialism of Christmas or the state of pop music today, and I'll jump right in.

"In everything, give thanks." I have a friend who makes a regular practice of writing Gratitude Lists. This is a woman who struggles with depression; she knows how hard life can be. To combat the negative thoughts and feelings that start to invade her life, she sits down and writes out all the things for which she is thankful. It often makes all the difference.

Gratitude is healthy medicine. It changes your entire world view. It turns a gloomy day bright. It puts a song in your heart. It reminds you that, in spite of the negative nabobs, there is actually much that is wonderful about this world; that, in spite of the difficulties in life, we are really quite blessed. It teaches us to find the good in life, to recognize the blessings all around us and to quit pandering to the curmudgeons and grouches.

So go ahead. Thanksgiving is here. Take some time and remember how blessed you are. Make a list, or talk about it with your friends. Open your eyes and your heart to the beauty of the season, the laughter of friends, the food on your table, the goodness God has made inherent in the land. May we all learn to live lives of gratitude, in every circumstance.

On behalf of the KP Minister's Association, I wish you all a happy, healthy, and blessed holiday season.

Dan Whitmarsh is pastor of Lakebay Community Church. You can email him at dan@lakebaycovenant.net.

MORE OPINIONS

See columnists William I. Trandum and Steve Whitworth on pages 8 and 9.

55% TAX INCREASE

VOTE NO ON PROP 1

Paid for by: Citizens for Responsible School Spending

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www.nayonprop1.com

Know HOW and WHERE the \$50 million in new taxes will be spent

- ◆ Builds two schools in Gig Harbor - **\$45 million**
- ◆ New turf for only Gig Harbor High Schools - **\$2 million**
- ◆ Key Peninsula sports fields upgrades are now removed from project list - **\$0.00**
- ◆ \$1 million of the \$50 million new tax levy goes to Key Peninsula school upgrades, but you get an equal share of the cost, not fair.

Prop 1 is a bad idea, a rushed plan with unintended consequences plus, don't forget a 55% school tax increase.

Let's invest in our children's learning not just buy bricks and turf.
Vote NO on Prop 1

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Doing the stroll

Can you and I legally stroll across our neighbor's privately owned Puget Sound beach? Probably, but the lawsuit to find out might cost you or me a fortune.

The state of Washington originally owned all of its tidelands. But beginning in 1889 and ending in 1971, it sold off about 60 percent of its tidelands. Deed language for each parcel generally specifies the extent to which property owners own the tidelands, which are designated as first or second-class. All Key Peninsula tidelands are second-class because we do not have an incorporated city on our peninsula.

Tide levels make a difference in where we can walk. During nearly every 24-hour day on Puget Sound there are two high tides and two low tides. They are seldom the same. Each day there is a higher high tide, a lower high tide, a lower low tide and a higher low tide. In addition there are extreme tides that are unusually high or low.

Tideland ownership does not necessarily coincide with upland ownership. Often the person owning a parcel of salt waterfront property only owns to the extreme higher high water line, or more likely, to the mean higher high water line. The mean is the average over an 18.6 year period known as a "tidal epoch."

Others own to the mean lower low water line, and still others to the extreme low water line. It depends on what the state sold as expressed in the deed.

You can legally canoe, kayak, or pad-

dleboard across a privately-owned beach property in just a few inches of water. And, if you stroll across your neighbor's beach and you fall and get injured, it's not the beach owner's responsibility.

Those two situations would possibly play heavily into the State Supreme Court's deliberations over the issue, as would the precedents set by many other states that give a permanent easement to tidelands strollers.

In the meantime, most Puget Sound private tidelands ownership ends at the mean lower low tide line. So if you figure that is a zero tide and you stroll to seaward of it, you'd be on state owned tidelands. The unanswered question is, what about strolling along the beach near the higher high tide line? It's never been addressed in Washington by the courts so the answer will remain unknown until someone sues for the right to cross a private tideland, or sues to stop a beach stroller and the appeals get all the way to the top court.

Fortunately, most beachfront property owners are pretty tolerant of neighbors crossing their tidelands as long as the strollers don't decide to dig clams, build beach fires or remove stones, driftwood or other materials from the property.

Native Americans have special privileges because the courts have ruled that all Puget Sound tidelands are their ancestral customary lands. So if a member of one of the 15 Puget Sound tribes strolls across a private beach it's fine to ask him or her to identify their affiliation. But it would be wise to wish them a nice day, then as my Grandmother used to say: "Go on about your business." Or as I'd prefer to say, "Come on baby, let's do the stroll," and make yourself a new friend.

Bill Trandum is a retired U.S. Navy Captain, a resident of the Key Peninsula, President of the KeyPenParks Commission, and a student of all things winds, waves, tides and weathers.

William I. Trandum Winds, Tides & Weathers



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God's Blessings to You - Pastor John Day

This is the year I finally quit smoking

It's official. In June of this year after a third bout with chronic bronchitis, I was diagnosed with early stage COPD and emphysema.

I only had two choices; I could give up smoking or breathing, one or the other.

Now don't get the wrong idea. I've enjoyed tobacco for the last 55 years, despite the cost and criticism. Smoking was one of my favorite vices.

Oh, the joy of that first cigarette with your morning coffee, There's nothing finer than those glorious puffs after a good meal. Days of pleasure past.

Addictions are hard to explain to those few of you who don't have any. Smoking is the most difficult addiction to break.

When you quit, it's a little like walking around wearing only one shoe. Every step reminds you of what's missing. You think about smoking constantly, and you check and recheck your pocket for that missing pack. Mornings and meals, once points of pleasure, now serve as spectres of paradise lost and you begin to hate them for the memories they evoke.

There's nothing worse than seeing other people smoke. It makes you feel like you're being discriminated against because they get to light up and you don't.

During the first month of deprivation you think about smoking every waking second. Even your dreams are smoke related. The second month gets a "little" better. The physical addition to nicotine is supposedly gone (big lie!) and now you only think about smoking every minute. You no longer smell like a butt, but you

Steve Whitford
Words of Whit



want to kick everybody's.

I'm now in my third month of cessation. Sometimes as much as 20 minutes go by without thinking about smoking. I am actually tired of thinking about it.

Friends of mine who've been off the stuff for years encourage me by telling me they sometimes have a whole day pass without the craving. Now there's something to look forward to.

On the plus side though I am breathing easier now and I haven't had to use my COPD medication since I quit. Of course, this could be just a temporary anomaly. You can't just undo 55 years of abuse, but I have a confession to make. That day in hopefully the far future when this doctor says it's time to get my affairs in order will be the next time I light up.

Poet Graham Lee Hemminger described it best in his 1915 sonnet:
Tobacco is a dirty weed
I like it.
It satisfies no normal need
I like it.
It makes you thin
It makes you lean
It takes the hair
Right off your bean.
It's the worst darn stuff
I've ever seen
I like it.

Get ready for the holiday season at the 6th Annual Winter Warm-Up Artisan Fair & Chili Competition

Saturday, November 9th
10AM to 3pm

Key Peninsula Civic Center
17010 S. Vaughn Rd. KPN in Vaughn



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Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News

Red Barn Youth Center Program Director Jo Ann Maxwell and Doug Baxter, Franciscan Health System violence prevention coordinator, and others, have been working to get the Key Peninsula center in operation. Recently, members from the Red Barn organization signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Franciscan Foundation to temporarily come under the foundation's 501(c)3.

Red Barn Youth Center set to open early next year

By Scott Turner KP News

There's good news for Key Peninsula teenagers: the long-anticipated Red Barn Youth Center will finally open early next year.

"It's been a long time coming — more than eight years," said Jo Ann Maxwell, volunteer program director for the Red Barn. "But the vision and the passion is still there. We've been doing a lot of work on the building and we're already

authorized to have people in there, but we need money to hire staff and so forth before we can open."

The Red Barn will be a place for teens on the Key Peninsula to get together after school to do homework, play games and participate in other activities.

"The main reason is to have a safe place for middle schoolers and high schoolers to go where they can connect

(See **Barn**, Page 11)

(From **Barn**, Page 10)

with each other and with adults who care about their future and their present," Maxwell said.

"It's just basically going to be a safe place so they don't have to go home alone. They can have some structure in their lives and be with people who care about them," she said.

The idea for the Red Barn germinated in 2004 when a group of people at Way-Point Church decided that there needed to be a place for teens on the Key Peninsula.

Since then, they have found a site in Lakebay and volunteers have spent many months transforming it into a teen center, Maxwell said.

"The last tenant at the Red Barn was a disposable camera company and there was a lot of cleanup that had to happen before we could do anything else," she said. "And when you're asking volunteers to do the work, it takes longer than it normally would. We've done lots of pounding nails and hauling trash away and getting permits. It's been a long process."

But the fruits of the volunteers' labor will soon be available to Peninsula teens.

Maxwell said there will be a small kitchen area with an espresso machine and plans to offer snacks and drinks for the kids.

"We have a seating area and a flatscreen TV and Wi-Fi and a space for activities like foosball. And our intent is to complete Phase 2 as soon as possible which includes a gym and a stage area for bands and that kind of thing," she said.

All activities and services at the Red Barn will be free for the young people who use it.

A generous donation from The Russell Foundation helped get things started, as did small cash contributions and in-kind donations from community members.

But the organizers have been in dire need of additional money, and their 501(c)3 application — which they filed more than a year ago — has been caught in the backlog with the IRS.

Good news came in October when the organization signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Franciscan Foundation to temporarily come under the foundation's 501(c)3.

The partnership with the foundation allows the Red Barn to begin applying

Want to help?

To make a tax-deductible donation to The Red Barn, send contributions to The Franciscan Foundation, 1149 Market St., MS 10-02, Tacoma, WA 98402-3515. Be sure to designate the donation for the Red Barn Youth Center. The Red Barn is located at 15921 84th St., KPN, Lakebay.

for grants and accepting large donations, Maxwell explained.

According to Doug Baxter, spokesman for the Franciscan Foundation, it's not unusual for the foundation to step in like this to help Key Pen organizations.

"Part of our action plan is to help the Key Peninsula community, and when we heard about the Red Barn's need, we offered to help. We've done this kind of thing for the Mustard Seed Project several years ago," Baxter said.

Baxter said that whatever Franciscan can do to create healthier communities, "we want to be part of it. And that includes helping the kids on the Key Peninsula have a safe place to go after school," he said.

Now that they have a way to get grants and accept tax-deductible donations, Maxwell and her colleagues are moving full-speed-ahead with fundraising strategies.

"We'll be very busy in the next few months. Our goal is to open the Red Barn after the first of the year," she said.

For information, visit redbarnkp.com.

Key Pen Parks to host another budget meeting

Key Pen Parks will host its second public meeting to discuss Key Pen Parks 2014 budget on Nov. 12, at Volunteer Park Annex at 7:30 p.m.

According to Scott Gallacher, executive director, the park district may also be hosting a special meeting on Nov. 25 to continue budget discussions. Call 884-9240 or check keypenparks.com to verify.

For information contact 884-9240 or scottg@keypenparks.com.

Puppet Show

November 14 - Vaughn Civic Center

17010 S. Vaughn Rd. KPN

7:30 p.m.

Free Admission

COMMUNITY PAGES

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

NOW

Swimming

Easter Seals Camp Stand by Me offers adult water aerobics, lap swimming and family swims. A lifeguard training class is offered this month. Successful completion of class certifies one in Lifeguarding, First Aid and CPR/AED for lifeguards; dates will be determined by participants' schedules. Please call the camp office, 884-2722, for registration information or to sign up for classes.

NOV. 1 and 8

Story time

Family Story Time for families with preschool-age children takes place 11 to 11:30 a.m., at the Key Center Library. (253) 548-3309.

NOV. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Skate night

Geared for kids 5-13, skate night is 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., at the KP Civic Center. Kids may safely enjoy roller skating, arcade games and concessions. Parents are welcome to attend and visit with others on the observation balcony. Kpciviccenter.org or 884-3456.

NOV. 3

DST begins

Daylight savings time begins at 2 a.m. .

NOV. 4, 11, 18, 25

Bloodmobile dates

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

NOV. 5

Election Day

Make sure your vote counts.

NOV. 5 and 12

Kids' library time

Baby (0-24 months) Play and Learn takes place at 10:15 a.m., and Preschool (ages 3-6). Play and Learn is at 11 a.m., at the Key Center Library. Children must be accompanied by an adult caregiver. (253) 548-3309.

NOV. 7

Fuchsia group meets

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

NOV. 7 and 21

Senior shopping

The senior van meets at the KP Community Services at 9 a.m., and returns between 3 and 5 p.m., and gives seniors an opportunity to go grocery shopping and attend any scheduled Gig Harbor doctor's appointments. Also included is a "Dutch" lunch. 884-4440.

NOV. 8 and 22

Teen fun

Club Cosmic, for teens grades 8 through 12, is 9 p.m. to midnight. Geared exclusively for teens, this twice-a-month event is chock full of DJ battles, dancing, games, including dodge ball (with glow-in-the-dark balls), four square, name that tune and contests: all for \$5. Kpciviccenter.org or 884-3456.

NOV. 9

Winter warm-up

The sixth annual Winter Warm-up takes place at the KP Civic Center from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Christmas in Lumber Camps

The KP Historical Society hosts an Open House and Community Appreciation Day from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the museum at the KP Civic Center during the Winter Warm-up. New and reprinted books are for sale. 888-3246.

NOV. 11

Veterans' Day

Schools, banks and libraries and other businesses are closed today so we can honor our Vets.

NOV. 12

Crochet or knit

The Loving Hearts group knits and crochets for charities including veterans, babies, back packs for kids and chemo patients and meet from 1 to 3 p.m., at WayPoint Church, 12719-134th Ave KPN. All are

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.

welcome. Yarn donations are always needed. lovingheartsonkp@gmail.com or Virginia, 884-9619.

NOV. 13

Garden club meets

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

KP Council

The KP Community Council hosts its annual meeting and election of officers at 7 p.m., at the KC fire station. (253) 884-6455.

NOV. 14

Ashes meet

The Ashes support group for Fire District 16 meets 10:30 a.m., at the KC fire station. 884-3771.

Lego play

Children from ages 9-17 are invited to enjoy a "Lego Mindstorm" at 3:30 p.m., at the Key Center Library. Participants will work in groups to solve challenges with the Lego Mindstorm kits. (253) 548-3309.

Meditation introduction

Ajili Hodari presents "Lose Your Stress, Find your Bliss," an introduction to meditation, at 6:30 p.m., at the Key Center Library. This free program is sponsored by the Friends of the KC Library. (253) 548-3309.

NOV. 14 and 28

Key free clinic

Non-emergency medical care for residents without any medical insurance is provided 5:30 to 8 p.m. 884-4440.

NOV. 16

Loggers' forum

A local loggers' forum is the highlight of the KP Historical Museum's fall membership noon meeting in the VFW Room of the KP Civic Center. Bring your own plate service and something to share. The forum begins about 12:45 p.m. 888-3246.

NOV. 17

Sunday bluegrass jam

Bluegrass Gospel Jam session takes place at Longbranch Church (16518 46th St. KPS) 6 to 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. (253) 492-4177.

NOV. 21

Forum

Mustard Seed's Third Thursday Forum is 10 a.m., at the Key Center fire station. 884-1205.

NOV. 29 through DEC. 20

Trees of Sharing

The Key Peninsula Veterans set up its annual Trees of Sharing. The decorated trees will carry tags with gift information such as "postage stamps" or "men's slippers" for veterans at American Lake. Locations will be at the Senior Center in Home, Home Port Restaurant, Food Market in Key Center, Sound Credit Union in Key Center, and Cost Less Pharmacy in Wauna. Pick a tag, purchase the gift, wrap and attach the tag, then return it to the tree location before Dec. 20.

NOV. 30

Holiday bazaar

Key Peninsula Lutheran Church's sixth annual holiday bazaar is 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Raffle ticket sales for table-top decorated "Feliz Navidad" tree begins Nov. 1 at church office or community meals. 884-3312.

NOV. 30-DEC. 1

Winterfest

Peninsula High School hosts its annual Winterfest Arts and Crafts Fair. Hundreds of craft vendors are available. phs.psd401.net.

OFF THE KEY

NOV. 1, 8, 15, 22

Spanish talk time

Join in Spanish conversation with El Grupo from 12:30 to 2 p.m., at the Gig Harbor Library. This event is sponsored by Friends of the Gig Harbor Library. (253) 548-3305.

NOV. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Farmers Market

An indoor location at 5503 Wollochet Drive (former Peninsula Gardens building) will be open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., on Saturdays through Dec. 21.

NOV. 9

Bloodmobile

Bloodmobile is at Safeway 9 a.m. to noon and Adventure Faith Church 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

NOV. 10

Bloodmobile

Bloodmobile at St. Nicholas Catholic Church 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

NOV. 15

Bloodmobile

Bloodmobile is at Gig Harbor High School from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Welcome students.

NOV. 18

Affordable Care Act info

Adults may learn about what the Affordable Care Act means for them and how the enrollment process will work from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., at the Gig Harbor Library. This event is made possible through a partnership with the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department. More information and resources on our web page on the Affordable Care Act <http://www.piercemylib.org/services/research-corner/library-created-resources/affordable-care-act.htm>.

NOV. 21

Bloodmobile

Bloodmobile is at Kiwanis Club of Peninsula-Gig Harbor from noon to 7 p.m.

NOV. 22 to DEC. 15

'Wizard of Oz'

Paradise Theatre presents "Wizard of Oz" at 7:30 p.m., on Friday and Saturday and 3 p.m., on Sunday. 851-7529.

NOV. 28

Turkey Trots

The 10th annual 5K and 10K Harbor Chiropractic Turkey Trots take place. Both races benefit the Gig Harbor FISH and Peninsula Communities of Faith food banks. holmeschiropractic.net.

NOV. 30

Bloodmobile

Bloodmobile is at HCC Road Trip (8502 Skansie Ave.) from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

THURSDAYS

Toastmasters

The Toastmasters meet 8 to 9 a.m., at the KC Library. Join the fun and improve your speaking ability. 3409.toastmaster-clubs.org or (253) 740-7891.

Seniors' lunch

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

Bingo

Free Bingo at the KP Community Services beginning at 7 p.m. 884-4440.

THURSDAYS & SATURDAYS

Historical Society

"Tall Trees, Tall Men, Tall Tales" is open at the Key Peninsula Historical Society Museum 1 to 4 p.m., or by appointment. Free admission; money donations appreciated. The museum is closed December and January. 888-3246 or keypeninsulamuseum.org.

SATURDAYS

Writers meet

The Writers' Guild meets 10 a.m. to noon, at the KC Library. 884-6455.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

KP Veterans

Nov. 4 and 18, 7 p.m., at McColley Hall/KP Lutheran Church; 884-4407 or 884-9852. kpveterans.net.

KP Lions' dinner and program

Nov. 6 and 20, 5:30 p.m., in VFW Room, KP Civic Center; 853-2721.

Peninsula School District Board

Nov. 7, 6 p.m., at Peninsula HS Library.

KeyFest

Nov. 12, 6 p.m., at Roadhouse; president@keyfest.org.

Key Pen Parks

Nov. 12, 7 p.m., (budget meeting) at Volunteer Park; keypenparks.com.

Fire District 16

Nov. 12 and 26, 6 p.m., in meeting room, Key Center fire station; keypeninsulafire.org.

Key Peninsula Council

Annual meeting/election of officers, Nov. 13, 7 p.m., at KC fire station; kpcouncil.org.

KP Civic Center AssociationBoard

Nov. 14, 7 p.m., in Whitmore Room; kpciviccenter.org.

LIC

Nov. 20, dessert potluck, 6:30 p.m., at Longbranch Improvement Club; 884-6022 longbranchimprovementclub.org.

KP Citizens Against Crime

Nov. 21, 7 p.m., at Home Fire Station; kpcitizensagainstcrime.org.

KP Farm Council

Nov. 25, 6:30 p.m., at Key Center Fire Station; dwebsterkp@gmail.com.

WEEKLY EVENTS

MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS, FRIDAYS

Senior exercise class

The S.A.I.L. program, taught by Marilyn Perks, includes aerobics, light weight lifting, stretching and balance techniques from 10 to 11 a.m., at the KP Community Services in Lakebay. Participants must register with Marilyn, 884-4440.

TUESDAYS

Key Singers

Key Singers, a local community chorus, is practicing music for its annual Christmas program and for other community functions at 7 p.m., at Key Peninsula Lutheran Church sanctuary. New singers welcome. 884-5615.

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS

Senior tai chi club

Senior tai chi meets 10 to 11 a.m., at the KP Community Services in Lakebay. 884-4440.

Preschool play time

The Children's Home Society KP Family Resource Center offers a preschool/

toddler indoor park program 9:30 to 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/child donation is suggested. Tami, 884-5433.

WEDNESDAYS

Writers meet

The Lakebay Writers meet 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., at the Key Center Library. 884-3931.

Writers' workshop

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

WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS

Senior meals

Nutritional meals for seniors ages 60-plus are served at noon at the KP Community Services; a \$2 donation is requested. Guests (ages 50-59) of senior attendees are requested to donate \$2.50. 884-4440.



Clean water. Happy clams. Great chowder.

They all somehow go together. Yet, many things can negatively affect our shellfish, fish and the recreational waters we all use. Direct contact with polluted water, shellfish or fishing in polluted water will definitely ruin your chowder—and even make you sick.

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Get your septic system inspected

Scoop pet poop

Visit www.tpchd.org/wateraction to learn more about how you can reduce pollution and keep water clean!



Evergreen Elementary School welcomes new principal

By Alice Kinerk, KP News

Hugh Maxwell, Evergreen Elementary School's new principal, breaks into a grin as he recalls the warm welcome he has received in his first months on the job. He describes Evergreen as a "hidden gem" of a school. One he traveled nearly 400 miles to find.

After more than two decades working as a teacher and administrator in the Idaho public school system, Maxwell and his wife, Lori, grew weary of the state's inadequate funding for education, and began looking with interest to the neighboring state of Washington. While acknowledging that funding for public schools has been difficult everywhere for the past few years, Maxwell had noticed that Washington state always kept education a priority.

"It seems like Washington has a stronger sense of why public schools are important," Maxwell said.

With their youngest son off at college, the couple set their sights west.

Initially, Maxwell applied for administrator positions in schools up and down Puget Sound. Then a friend in the area spoke highly of Peninsula School District, and with Maxwell's experience as principal in small, rural Idaho schools, Evergreen seemed like a perfect fit.

"Hugh has worked in smaller schools and showed a great understanding of the sense of community that exists within a small school such as Evergreen, said Dan Gregory, PSD academic officer of K-12 education programs.

From the beginning, Maxwell appreciated how Peninsula School District worked with him to honor his current responsibilities as a principal in Idaho, even allowing him to Skype an interview and postponing school visits until his current school was on break.

Gregory said the hiring team found Maxwell a compelling candidate.

"Hugh's track record as a solid leader at the elementary level and his successful work with Title 1 programs made him stand out from other candidates. He impressed members of the Evergreen staff during his interview, and had an excellent site visit where he showed he was an active



Hugh Maxwell

listener with strong interpersonal skills to accompany his strong instructional leadership skills," Gregory said.

Maxwell was hired in the spring, and his wife also found work in the area, teaching first-grade in Kent. The two of them settled in Tacoma as a midway point. Maxwell said that he is used to a commute and doesn't mind the long drive out to the small Lakebay school.

This summer, the Maxwells enjoyed exploring the area, trying out the ferry to Seattle and meeting up with some of their cousins in neighboring counties.

With the 2013-14 school year now well underway, Maxwell's priority is to foster a safe, supportive learning environment for Evergreen's approximately 240 students. So far, he said, relatively few students have been sent to his office for disciplinary reasons.

This is not by coincidence: Maxwell believes in being proactive about discipline, providing a clear definition of what is and is not acceptable behavior at school for all students.

"We pre-teach behavioral expectations and provide students opportunities to learn from their choices. We would like all students to be self-correcting, he said.

Maxwell said he is glad to join a school where students and staff alike show high levels of dedication to the learning process, and treat each other with respect.

Peninsula Hands on Art expands creativity at KP schools

Jessica Takehara, KP News

Peninsula Hands on Art was started 10 years ago out of concern for disappearing art classes and shrinking budgets within greater Gig Harbor area schools. Local parents and artists knew the power of art and wanted to support the joy artistic expression can ignite in a child.

The program brings four projects each year to area schools. Every year has a theme with the current one being "The Whimsical Side of Art." Students will have a chance to make fabric figures, learn drawing techniques, create copper wire pennants, and form sheeting to mimic glass blown art.

Vaughn Elementary School was the first KP school to include Peninsula Hands on Art six years ago.

In order to get the program off the ground, a lead docent (guide) recruits family members to volunteer time for training and teaching the project to classes at their school. Classroom docents then coordinate the lesson with teachers. Peninsula Hands on Art supports the entire process with art supplies, modeled demonstrations on DVD,

lesson plans, learning goals and historical references.

Mary O'Boyle, a Vaughn docent since PHOA started there, wants families to get involved because "it is such a great program and builds a cooperative effect between teachers, parents and students."

Minter Creek Elementary School partnered with PHOA starting in January 2011. At both schools, students get the chance to try different mediums and stylistic art in a safe environment.

"The projects are so fantastic; they always turn out great," said Tami Miller-Bigelow, a Minter docent since Peninsula Hands on Art launched at that school.

As with any volunteer organization, funding can be a major hurdle.

Numerous area sponsors donate with different levels of funding. Last year though, PHOA Board President Marla Morgan, secured support from Justin Piasecki (The Skin Care Center in Gig Harbor) as a premier sponsor.

The strength of Peninsula Hands on Art is also bounded by the number of volunteers as well. Kristin Nordquist, docent

since the program's inception, welcomes "parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, or any willing adult" to become involved. The two-hour training session and then classroom lesson occurring with each project are the extent of the commitment. The infusion of art into the community is undeniable, as

Morgan highlights, with more than 80,000 art projects created in the greater Gig Harbor-area by the end of this school year.

Visit peninsulahandsonart.org to view a full list of financial contributors, or email the program directly at peninsulahandson-art@gmail.com for information.

Communities In Schools of Peninsula receives grant

Communities In Schools of Peninsula (CISP) is one of five Communities In Schools affiliates in Washington state that received funding from a collaborative grant coordinated by Communities In Schools of Washington. CISP provides programs and services at 10 of 15 schools in Peninsula School District.

"Thanks to the grant from Wells Fargo, we will be able to continue dropout prevention activities for deserving students," said Colleen Speer, executive director of Communities In Schools of Peninsula. Communities In Schools is a national organization and has been in existence for 35 years. Credited as the nation's leading dropout prevention or-

ganization, CIS is active in 27 states and the District of Columbia.

According to Speer, Wells Fargo supports organizations working to strengthen communities. Through the efforts of Wells Fargo's enthusiastic team member-volunteers and contributions, they share their success within communities by giving back to non-profits and educational institutions that address vital community needs and issues.

The mission of CISP is to "surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life," Speer said.

For information about CISP, visit peninsula.cisw.org.

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Local author, busy with life and tales for the many

By Colleen Slater, KP News

Kathy Lasher, author of two published books with a third nearly finished, admits the first one took a long while to write.

"I had a dream," she said, but woke before the story finished. She thought about how it might end and began writing—a fun experience for her.

Lasher said her daughter was "a couple of months old" at the start, and that she completed the story when she was 16.

"Morgan's Quest" is set in Colorado sometime after the Civil War. A wealthy young woman flees a killer, falls from her horse, and when brought to consciousness is clueless about who she is. The story includes romance and mystery, Lasher said.

Lasher plans a trilogy of novels, with the second one to be released next year.

Meanwhile, her second book, "Heinrich Streudleman Climbs Mt. Baker," is a whimsical children's story that came into being as she created a story on a trip to Canada.



Kathy Lasher

Lasher's "Up in the Cherry Tree Books" are in remembrance of her mom.

Lasher planted a cherry tree after her family moved to Vaughn 17 years ago, so her girls could climb it.

"But the girls are now adults and the cherry tree still isn't big enough to climb," she said.

The Lashers lived in Issaquah when friends moved to Olalla and invited them to visit. They loved the area and inquired about available homes. They drove to one and agreed it was exactly what they wanted.

Lasher, raised on a farm in Alaska, again lives on a farm, with horses, goats, dogs and cats.

"We all have challenges in life," she said. This story tells how one person with a challenge kept on going until his problem was resolved, as we all need to do, she added.

Both of Lasher's parents were avid readers, and in the evenings, the family snuggled close while mom read a story, she said. Lasher loved learning about new places and experiences in the stories she heard and read as a child.

According to Lasher, her mother, raised in Idaho, climbed a cherry tree to read.

She said her family is "very supportive of my writing." They're also sometimes amused by her display of emotions as she writes, and often ask what's happening in the story to make her laugh or become teary-eyed, she said.

Lasher's books can be purchased from her weavingtales@gmail.com or [weaving-wordsfor christ.webs.com](http://weaving-wordsforchrist.webs.com), on amazon.com, or Dightman's Bible Book Centers in Gig Harbor and Tacoma.

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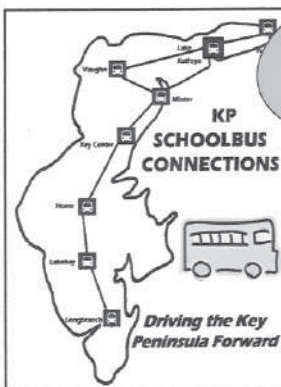
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KPLC annual holiday bazaar returns this month

By Colleen Slater, KP News

The Key Peninsula Lutheran Church hosts its sixth annual holiday bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 30, from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

This special event supports its community outreach programs, including the 9 a.m. community breakfast in McColley Hall that morning.

Featured are gift items, holiday foods and home décor. The event has also become popular for its offerings of Scandinavian holiday goodies like lefse, krumkake and rosettes.

The reception area of the sanctuary building is transformed into a holiday boutique, displaying the specialty food items and handcrafted gifts for all ages, as well as for pets.

Raffle ticket sales begin Nov. 1 at \$1 each or six for \$5 for a three-foot tall tabletop Christmas tree made by a former Festival of Trees designer. Tickets are available at the church office or at any of the community meals. Call 884-3312 for available times.

Titled "Feliz Navidad," it's a festive multicolored tree celebrating the Latina style

Christmas and features handcrafted painted "tin" ornaments made from soda cans.

The tree is topped with red poinsettias, a spray of silver curls made from pie tins, and a flower vendor doll from Guatemala. It has both clear and multicolor lights, a scattering of red chili peppers and is finished off with a fiesta wreath of metallic swirls at the base.

The Christmas spiders made from Swarovski crystals, featured a few years ago, will be there, too.

Organizers said that that this year there will be a new array of seashore decor and a section of gently used Christmas decor and collectible dishware.

Holiday home decor of dried, fresh and silk floral centerpieces, wreaths, miniature trees and other items created from recycled and repurposed materials also will be for sale.

Teddy bears and friends all decked out for the holidays, plus fancy tea party hats for bears and dolls, will help draw the kids.

The popular cotton dish cloths and net scrubbers again are for sale, plus wooden utensils, squirrel feeders, small trucks, knit scarves, gloves, mittens, hats and specialty jewelry.

Their cookbook, "Favorite recipes from Community Meals and Potlucks," also is available.

The usual seven-foot Christmas tree will be on display, and back by popular demand are the familiar nativity figures portrayed as royalty — each called to participate in their own unique ways for the earthly arrival of a Heavenly King.

Key Peninsula Lutheran Church, Lakebay, at the junction of KP Highway and Lackey Road.

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KP Parks hosts 'Shake & Bake' bike relay

By Scott Turner, KP News

On Nov. 2, Key Pen Parks will host a mountain bike relay at 360 Trails.

"We're calling it 'Shake & Bake: Four Hours at 360 Trails,'" said Key Pen Parks Recreation Coordinator Jessica Smeall. "It's not a race. The goal is to get as many laps as you can in four hours."

Anyone 11 years and older can participate, although, according to park volunteer Courtland Capwell, the event is geared toward experienced mountain bikers.

There will be male, female and co-ed teams of four, two and solo riders.

There is a \$30 entry fee with the money going to support the creation of additional trails in the park. There will be a barbecue immediately after the relay.

"The event is to showcase the four miles of new trails that Courtland has built in the northwest corner of the park," Smeall said. "This is our third bike event at 360 Trails, but it's the first one that we're running ourselves. It exposes everybody to the new trails."

The park district plans to host more run-



File photo by Scott Turner, KP News

Last year, there was a multi-sponsored mountain biking event hosted at 360 Trails. On Nov. 2, Key Pen Parks is hosting the Shake & Bake: Four Hours at 360 Trail relay event to get people to enjoy the expansive park, just west of Wauna, off of SR-302 and 144th Street.

ning and biking events as interest in adult softball declines, she added.

Capwell, a former Home resident, used to run through the 360 Trails property with his dog when he lived on the peninsula.

"I'm a two-time cancer survivor and I got into fitness and biking because I knew I needed to change my life," Capwell said. "When I ran there with my dog, I thought the property would be a cool place for mountain bike trails."

So when he got a phone call that the district was developing a park on the property, he offered to help make some trails, he said. That was about four years ago.

But according to Capwell, the trail-building effort didn't really take off at that time.

"Trails don't build themselves. It's a lot of work to build trails and nobody else was really interested," he said.

Fast-forward to last December. Capwell teamed up with fellow mountain biker Shawn Bornhoest and since then they have built nearly four miles of mountain bike-specific trails.

The park itself has many multi-use trails,

Go for a ride

The Shake and Bake 360 Trails Mountain Bike Relay will take place Saturday, Nov. 2 at 360 Trails. The relay runs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Registration is \$30. For information visit keypenparks.org or call Smeall at (253) 884-9240, extension 22.

but for safety reasons the mountain bike trail is a one-way trail for mountain bikers only. "You won't run into any horses or runners or dog-walkers," Capwell said.

The park district is delighted with the new bike trail, Smeall said. "Courtland has given us hundreds of hours of volunteer time in building the bike course. He's our bike expert.

"The trails are bike-specific because they have elements and obstacles built into them like log berms that are specific for mountain bikes," she said.

(See **Relay**, Page 19)

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(From **Relay**, Page 18)

In the Shake and Bake relay, each team will do a lap and then pass the baton to the next team member, Capwell explained.

The teams that do the most laps in four hours will get prizes. "We're going to try to give prizes to almost everybody," he said.

In some ways, the Shake and Bake relay is "sort of a grand opening of the new mountain bike trail. But it's more like a celebration of what we've done, and we're also raising money for the park," Capwell added.

The event can use a few more volunteers, but what's really wanted is for people to come and discover the new trails, Smeall said.

She said Key Pen Parks is "always trying to keep our community healthy and active.

"The more opportunities we can give for people to be in athletic events in the local community is something we're really passionate about," Smeall said.

Having a good, safe mountain bike trail right here on the Key Peninsula is proving to be very popular, Capwell said.

"Every day we have somebody new come and discover the new trail. They like it because it's closer to home than anywhere else they can go. In fact, we're starting to call it the 'Closer to Home Trail,'" he said.

Recipe collection book available

By Karen Lovett, KP News

The Longbranch Improvement Club's "Savories and Sweets, South Sound Treats" cookbook is ready for sale.

Twenty-three people submitted 60 names in the contest to name the book.

Mandy Peterson won the contest. Peterson, a relative of one of the LIC members, does not live on the Key Peninsula, but was thrilled that one of her several submissions was selected. She was presented with a basketful of goodies and an apron sewed by Nancy Carr, embroidered with the cookbook's name on it.

Tempting recipes were tested and passed with flying colors by the Longbranch Improvement Club's cookbook committee headed by Barb Floyd.

Additional volunteers, Peg Bingham, Barb Doat, Sharon Gearhart, Connie Hildahl, Karen Johnson and Barb Van Bogart put much effort and countless hours to create the book. The group spent time cooking, typing, proofreading and organizing recipes to guarantee their cookbook would be a first-rate project.

The electronic proof containing original artwork and local history in addition to 386 recipes was printed in August by the Cookbook Division of Morris Publishing in Nebraska.

Committee members said they were quite pleased with the book and several members proofread it before the final printing.

The majority of the more than 130 contributors were not LIC members. Most of the recipes were tested before acceptance. Comments about tested recipes are included in cookbook notes, Floyd said.

The book is divided into eight food categories and also includes a 12-page section on measurement substitutions and baking tips. Two separate indexes list recipes by title or contributor.

"The committee members are all psyched to have it in hand," Floyd said.

The book was first offered for sale at the LIC Spaghetti Social, Sept. 21.

It costs \$20 and is available at Sunnycrest Nursery and Florial, The Blend Wine Shop and at the LIC during its 7 p.m., third-Wednesday meetings.

Farm Tour 2013: A happy success

At press time, it was too early for official reports, but some news received at the 2013 Key Peninsula Farm Tour Headquarters reported increased attendance, possibly double that of 2012 at the Gateway Park on SR-302.

Blue Willow Lavender Farm reported fewer visitors, but increased sales by 50 percent. Trillium Creek had an outstanding sale day. Parking lines were long for Gentle Giant Meadows Farm, and the turnout for the Fire Commissioners' pancake breakfast was perhaps the best ever, organizers said.

Kaukiki Farms looked magical in the early fog, vendors at Creviston Valley Farm reported brisk sales, especially for the Longbranch Improvement Club's cookbook.

Visitors came from Tacoma, north of Seattle, Gig Harbor and the Key Peninsula. A visitor from Germany traveled the longest distance. The antique huckleberry machine exhibit by the Key Peninsula Historical Society at Gateway Park received rave reviews.

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Minterbrook Oyster Farm owner plans expansion into Purdy

By Peter Ruble, KP News

When Minterbrook Oyster Farm owner Kent Kingman took over the reins from Beverly Wiksten in 2011, he bought an industrial pillar of the Key Peninsula community with roots that date back to 1931.

What he also inherited was an industry that was being pummeled by the effects of global warming and ocean acidification. This epidemic caused production to decrease by 40 percent and has been killing oyster reproduction since 2005.

"The Wiksten family faced a fundamental market shift in the shellfish industry," Kingman said. "They took the hit with global warming. They've been an anchor business in the community. The Wiksten family gave people so many opportunities."

Kingman, whose previous experience involved process analyses with some of the world's largest corporations, has enhanced Minterbrook's production by seeking a new channel for its oyster supply. To allow their industry to survive, he has worked closely with Taylor Shellfish, which owns a 20,000-square-foot oyster hatchery in

Hawaii and in Quilecene, where sea water remains unaffected by ocean acidification.

Now, Minterbrook Oyster services customers around the world at locations such as Guam, Canada and China. With its renewed success, the company is planning to expand by purchasing the old Tide's Realty building in Purdy and transforming it into an oyster bar called Laguna's on the Bay, where the product can be enjoyed straight from the local bays.

"It will be difficult to find a fresher oyster anywhere in the country and in a more beautiful setting," Kingman said. "We are very excited for the community to have a place to enjoy the oysters right out of their local waters."

Kingman says he and his wife Donna's passion for shellfish began by watching their sons enjoy dining on clams at Sheanigan's restaurant in Tacoma. As a family, they decided to plant and harvest clams on their own property in the Key Peninsula and started selling them directly to Minterbrook.

This became a business for their boys, Austin and Garret. Kingman said it was

to teach them business, hard work and the world of shellfish.

According to Kingman, Minterbrook Oyster is a family purchase and family business just like the Wiksten family had run the business since 1954. The Kingman's are the third family to own Minterbrook since 1931. His sons will be key in taking Minterbrook into this 21st century, Kingman said.

One of the biggest threats to production is contamination from vibriosis and paralytic shellfish poisoning during certain weeks of the year. This disease is usually spread from eating raw or undercooked fish or shellfish. Paralytic shellfish poisoning, or "red tide," is caused by algae which creates a potentially fatal toxin.

Kingman said that his family cannot afford mistakes.

"If you don't handle the oysters right, the vibrio grows. We have to keep records on how long it's been exposed to warm air," he said.

He said the Washington Department of Health maintains very tight controls of processing oysters, and does a great

job. Through efforts and requirements, the farmers can trace every oyster back to the source and the beach it was grown on. Minterbrook harvests shellfish only after they have received written approval from Washington State Department of Health Office of Food Safety and Shellfish Programs, Kingman said.

"The challenge with poachers and illegal oyster buyers is that they don't pay attention to the regulations and requirements that the Department of Health has put in place," Kingman said.

Customers need to know they are getting a fresh oyster that has been handled with excellent care, he added.

Restaurants and oyster bars need the best product they can get to give the best experience to their customers. It's one of the reasons Tide's Tavern has Minterbrook Oysters on their menu," Kingman said.

Currently, Minterbrook services several local restaurants including Tides Tavern, The Floatation device, Massimo's, Il Luciano's, JW's, and the Market Place Grill.

For information, visit minterbrookoyster.com.

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The Key Free Clinic will be open on November 14th & 28th. If you are in need of non-emergency medical care and **DO NOT** have medical insurance, please feel free to stop in. Hours will be from 5:30 - 8PM.

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



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Two Waters presents sea journey

KP News staff report

Tears of Joy Theatre from Portland, Oregon, will bring its production of “20,000 Leagues Under The Sea” to the Key Peninsula Civic Center on Nov. 14.

The show is sponsored by Two Waters Arts Alliance through a grant from Pierce County’s 1 Percent for Art fund.

Based on the novel written by Jules Verne in 1870, the Tears of Joy rendition is “a fun, rollicking, family-friendly adaptation that includes some of the most exciting scenes from the book,” according to Lakebay resident Kathleen Gray, Two Waters’ Artists in Schools director.

The production pulls its style from steam punk, an artistic genre popular in Verne’s time.

In the Tears of Joy show, two steam punk enthusiasts tell their version of Verne’s classic story in which Professor Pierre Aronnax is sent by the government to investigate a strange creature that has been troubling the oceans.

When his ship collides with a mysterious vessel, Aronnax meets the eccen-

Want to go?

Two Waters Arts Alliance presents a free performance of Jules Verne’s classic story “20,000 Leagues Under the Sea” by the Tears of Joy Theatre Nov. 14 at Key Peninsula Civic Center. Show time is 7:30 p.m. Admission is free and all ages are welcome.

tric Captain Nemo and his invention, the Nautilus, and together they travel aboard the Nautilus 20,000 leagues through the oceans of the world.

Nemo and Aronnax are 3D tabletop puppets in TOJT’s version of the play. There are also many sea creature puppets including a giant squid — a body puppet worn by one of the puppeteers.

The play is also being presented earlier that day at Vaughn Elementary School, and students throughout the Key Peninsula have been making steam punk goggles and other art projects inspired by the story. Many of the students’ creations will be on display at the Civic Center performance.

Troop 220 scouting for food drive

KP News Staff Report

Boy Scout Troop 220 began its “Scouting for Food” drive in October, and will continue through Thanksgiving, building on its initial event from last year.

According to Troop leader Matthew Mills, the Scouts will go door to door and provide bags for non-perishable food donations to the food bank in Home.

The troop is working with the Peninsula Food Markets at Key Center and Lake Kathryn Village to collect donations. Last year, the Scouts collected about 3,000 food items.

“We’d like to meet or exceed that,” Mills said.

Mills said the Peninsula Food Market at Key Center is helping, and suggested using the “Buy One, Get One” special the markets will run prior to Thanksgiving.

“They are providing bins near the entrances to the stores for collection of food items,” Mills said. “They also provided cold storage for donated turkeys

and fixings last year,” he added.

The Scouts will be passing out donation bags to homes in Key Peninsula neighborhoods throughout the area starting Nov. 3 and conclude with pick up on Saturday, Nov. 9.

“We like to provide this community service and hope that our entire community can get together behind what we are trying to do,” Mills said.

All items collected will be donated to The Key Peninsula Community Services Food Bank.

For information or to donate, call Mills at 884-2511, or email kp220@gmail.com.

The Voice of the Key Peninsula

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Obituary Notice

Joseph Lindhartsen

Joseph Lindhartsen, 42, of Lakebay, died on Sept. 7, 2013, seven years after being diagnosed with the blood cancer multiple myeloma.

Lindhartsen was born in Blackfoot, Idaho on April 11, 1972. He married Sarah Lindhartsen in 1998 and moved to Lakebay, in 2003.

He was a high-rise window cleaner in Seattle for several years, and also had a business repairing computers on the Key Peninsula.

Lindhartsen and his family are very grateful for all the support and love from the KP community, especially the benefit dinner and auction that was hosted at the Key Peninsula Civic Center in 2007.

Lindhartsen enjoyed playing music, painting, drawing, skateboarding, photography and being a dad. His remarkable spirit and energy impacted many people.

He is survived by his wife Sarah; mother Deon; children: Joseph Jr., Ian, Owen and Emma; and siblings Willow and Pat.

Mental health services on the Key Peninsula

By Leila Larson, KP News

Counseling and therapeutic services for depression, grief and loss, anxiety disorders, divorce, among others, are available on the Key at the Key Peninsula Counseling Center.

It requires a phone call to the office or directly to the therapist to arrange for a meeting.

Three therapists work on the Key Peninsula. They are private practitioners and provide individual therapy, couples counseling, family therapy, youth (ages 16 and older) counseling, and geriatric specialties.

Key Peninsula Counseling's office manager Michelle Gamble said they love providing help and are always available.

"Our therapists try to meet the needs of our clients. Sometimes one of them will even meet the client at their home if needed," Gamble said.

According to Gamble, therapists also meet with clients in the evenings and on weekends, to accommodate those in school or who work.

For youth crisis mental health needs, Catholic Community Services has a mobile medical unit that will come to where the youth is located. This service is only for youth (18

and younger) and ways is available.

The crisis line for adults is run by Comprehensive Life Resources, (formerly known as Comprehensive Mental Health) and it is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

These agencies and practitioners accept Medicaid, DSHS, private insurance and Medicare. If a client needs help with insurance coverage, the office will assist the client with obtaining that coverage.

For people on the Key Peninsula who have appointments in Gig Harbor and Tacoma, and have Medicare, Para-transit will transport them to and from mental health appointments for free. This service requires advance notice.

The Key Peninsula Counseling Center is located at 8903 KP Highway, Lakebay.

Need help?

Crisis Line: (866) 673-6256


Para Transit: (800) 925-5438

Key Peninsula Counseling Center: (253) 884-3644

Catholic Community Services

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Out & About

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Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News

Peninsula High School homecoming king and queen Matt Hoge and Alayna Piwonski share a moment before last month's festive homecoming game in Purdy.



Photo by Hugh McMillan, KP News

From left, PSEF co-president Warren Zimmerman, PSD Superintendent Chuck Cuzzetto, Penlight's Jafar Taghavi, PSD Superintendent Chuck Cuzzetto, and Gig Harbor Galaxy Theatre Executive Director Adrienne Ingham share the exposition of PenLight's contribution of \$3,000 and Galaxy Theatre's \$8,000 last month at the "Breakfast of Champions" event at Canterwood Golf and Country Club. The annual fundraiser helps support the activities of PSEF in the Peninsula School District.

Where in the World...

The Rocky Bay Webster family enjoyed seeing the Crown Jewels at the Tower of London after returning from the wedding of their youngest son in Cornwall. Naturally, Danna Webster traveled with an edition of the KP News, which provided great reading during the trip.

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Photo by Hugh McMillan, KP News

During last month's Key Peninsula Farm Tour, Cape-E Farm and Vineyard owner Lori Deacon catches a bunch of broccoli tossed from her vegetable garden.