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Egg hunt goes to the dogs.

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Purdy historic oyster farm under new management

By Danna Webster, KP News

For the next 20 years, the shellfish farm by the Purdy Spit will be under new management. Taylor Shellfish Farms has leased the clam and oyster operation site in the Burley Lagoon owned by Jerry Yamashita of the Western Oyster Company.

According to the Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers Association records, the Yamashita family began a seafood business in the 1920s when Jerry's father, Masahide, transplanted oyster seed from Japan to the tidelands in Samish Bay and formed an oyster seed growing cooperative in Japan. His oyster business was suspended with the outbreak of World War II. The Yamashita family was taken to the Tule Lake Internment Camp in northern California and lived in a 24 by 24-foot cubicle until 1945 when they were released. Jerry was 22 and, at the insistence of his family's wishes, turned to oyster farming as a career. He scraped together the money and materials for land and a shack on Hood Canal tidal property. This was the humble beginning of the Western Oyster Company. His career of 60-plus years is filled with stories of challenge, tragedy and joy. Perhaps from the observation of his struggles, his children have chosen other ways to make a living. That is one reason for Yamashita's decision to lease the Burley Lagoon farm to Taylor Shellfish.

The Public Policy and Communications Director for Taylor Shellfish, Bill Dewey, is a longtime admirer of Jerry Yamashita and his career. "Jerry was a pioneer in the oyster industry. While he was in an internment camp, his Skagit County farm was destroyed. Two

(See Shellfish, Page 5)



Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News

Free falling

This sea star escaped the grasp of the seagull on a clear April day in the Burley Lagoon.

Ed Robison Citizen of the Year

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

KP Citizen of the Year.

At the 28th annual Key Peninsula Citizens of the Year Awards banquet March 24, Ed Robison of Wauna received the honor.

Robison, a civil and structural engineer, is a member of the Key Pen Parks Board. He voluntarily designed and helped build to code the Home Park picnic shelter, Maple Hollow Park improvements, and Volunteer Park improvements. He is a scoutmaster with Boy Scout troop 251 and is president of the KP Business Association. Robison served as a US Navy commander in Iraq. He is described as "someone always there to offer advice and assistance without calling attention to himself." Robison was also at a rare loss for words upon hearing himself declared

The sponsoring KP Lions Club thanks the many businesses contributing a variety of prizes happily gathered up by those holding lucky raffle tickets. They are: Albertsons Stores, The Bead Shop, Charboneau Construction and Supply, Christy Shinker, Costco Stores, Cutters Point Coffee, Eagle Tire and Automotive, El Sombrero Restaurant, Fred Meyer Stores, The Gourmet Burger, Harbor History Museum, Hair Masters, The Harvester Restaurant, Home Depot, Il Lucano Italian Restaurant, Key Center Food Market, Key Peninsula Liquor, the Peninsula Gateway, Purdy Cost Less Drug, Quality Food Centers, Rite Aid Drugs, The Roadhouse Restaurant, Safeway Stores, Sunset Grill, Target Stores and the Gig Harbor YMCA. Photographer Ed Johnson's artwork was the evening's door prize.

Local author publishes book for teen audience

By Colleen Slater, KP News

"Rory McBreen Video Wars: Vietnam," hot off the press, is Karen Hale's first book in print.

The hero, a 13-year old "vidiot" who loves war games, is physically drawn into one to experience a real war situation when the figures from the game become living soldiers. He's treated like one of them, and although he knows he's only 13, he must act like an adult participant in the war.

Hale's idea for the book came from her then 13-year-old son, who wanted to do nothing but play video games because of years of being bullied at school.

"The book itself took six weeks to write," she says, but it's taken 3 1/2 years to get it into print. She had it edited twice, shopped almost 40 agents, and submitted

it to a Random House writing contest and another publisher before opting to do it herself with Amazon's CreateSpace.

"I've been writing most of my adult life after spending a childhood reading," she says. "Someday I hope to emulate C. S. Lewis in my descriptive abilities."

She's written several songs, eight of which are copyrighted. One sent to Charlton Heston and his wife after seeing them perform "Love Letters" in Bremerton in 2000 garnered an immediate response.

"I have the letter from him framed on my wall," she says.

Hale has two other stories, one self-illustrated, she plans to publish in the near future.

She wrote stories for the KP News when she was a sales rep, and used to attend the KP Writers group.

The most difficult part of the whole



Karen Hale

project was getting published, but once she decided on self-publishing, "That was easy," she says, "and I don't have to share my royalties."

"Seeing my kid's face light up when he

saw how it all came out as a finished product was the most rewarding." He can't wait for the next book — "Rory McBreen Video Wars: American Civil War."

Her son, with some reluctance, agreed to be the book cover model. They had fun shooting the photo in Tacoma at Jungle Fever Exotics.

Her advice for other novice writers: "Don't take no for an answer... Just make sure your writing is good. After that, put it out there and see what happens."

Hale's website in process is www.rorymcbreenvideowars.com.

The book is available on amazon.com for \$13.95, will be on Kindle and available in some local stores soon.

Hale will hold a book signing at Mostly Books on May 5 from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Interested buyers can call ahead and reserve a copy.

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KEY PENINSULA
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.

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

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



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School District Competes for SpringBoard Demonstration Project

Peninsula and Gig Harbor high schools are among top schools in the country that are being considered for a SpringBoard curriculum demonstration project. College Board, a nonprofit organization that offers programs such as advanced placement (A.P.) classes, will select 50 schools nationwide for the project.

Peninsula School District implemented College Board's SpringBoard language arts curriculum several years ago. As finalists, the schools must prepare portfolios to document instructional leadership, professional development, school environment and sharing best practices.

To earn the recognition, candidate schools must demonstrate evidence in 29 total areas. Schools selected for the honor will receive \$10,000 grants for professional development as well as a variety of opportunities such as piloting new programs and participating in special events.

"We chose to adopt Springboard because we found it to be the best model of instructional research in practice and we believed (and continue to believe) that our use of the curriculum has furthered our students' skills," said Ali Bennett, Peninsula High School English Department chair.

"Recognition as a demo school would be one way of reflecting that we are effectively using best practices in our instruction," she said. "We would garner respect and



Gig Harbor High School learning skills teacher Russell D'Card helps Jacob Watkins work on a persuasive speech assignment, as Boil Morey and Chelsi McKenzie work on theirs.

recognition from other professionals within our state and potentially nationwide. Good things are happening here, and people should know about them."

SpringBoard is used in more than 1,000 schools nationwide and is part of College Board's College Readiness System. Finalists for the demonstration projects are selected based on best practices and other criteria, including an established learning community within their schools.

"Being a demonstration school is beneficial because it holds us all (teachers, students, community) to a higher standard," said Gig Harbor High learning skills teacher Russell D'Card. "It also allows us the opportunity to be recognized for the good work students and teachers are doing, and to share that with other schools and districts."

Free Immunizations Franciscan Health System will provide free immunizations for students through the age of 18 on Wednesday, May 30, 2012, from 3:00-5:30 p.m. at Vaughn and Wednesday, June 13, 2012, from 3:30-5:00 p.m. at Evergreen. A parent or guardian must accompany the student and bring the student's shot record to the immunization clinic.

Student Records—Know Your Rights The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)(20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's education records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she reaches the age of 18 or attends a school beyond the high school level. Brochures are available at the PSD website: www.psd401.net. Go to the Family scroll down menu and click on Notifications to view the titles below:

Balancing Student Privacy and School Safety and Parents' Guide to FERPA

Nondiscrimination Statement Peninsula School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Contact the following school district offices with inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: Title IX/Chapton 28A.540/RCM, Academic Officer for K-12 Programs, 14015 62nd Avenue NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98332 (253-530-1009) and Section 504/ADA, Executive Director for Student Services, 14015 62nd Avenue NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98332 (253-530-1000).

2012-2013 Kindergarten Registration

Thanks to the passing of the Replacement Educational Programs and Operations Levy, we are able to continue with our 4-day, All-day Kindergarten program. Registration is ongoing at your neighborhood school. Eligible kindergarteners for 2012-2013 are children who are 5 years of age by August 31, 2012, and who reside within the Peninsula School District. Proof of age and residency is required by presenting a birth certificate and utility bill at registration. Please complete the 2012-2013 Enrollment and 2012-2013 Health forms available at the PSD website: www.psd401.net prior to arriving to register at your neighborhood school. This will help to facilitate a smooth registration experience.

Last Day & First Days of School

June 21, 2012, is the last day of school and EARLY RELEASE for all grade levels.

September 4, 2012 is the first day of school

September 5, 2012 is the first day of Kindergarten

MAY EVENTS

- 10 School Board Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m. at Vaughn Elementary
- 16 Peninsula High School Scholarship Assembly 6:00 p.m. in the auditorium
- 23 2012 Students of Distinction Celebratory Banquet 6:30 p.m. at Chapel Hill
- 24 School Board Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m. at District Office
Peninsula High School Senior Presentations (time TBD) PHS Auditorium
- 25 EARLY RELEASE: Elem 12:15, Middle 11:30 & HS 10:45
- 28 No School—Memorial Day Observed
- 30 Henderson Bay High School Senior Culminating Project Presentations 6:00 p.m. at HBHS
- 31 Gig Harbor High School Senior Presentations in classrooms



Photo courtesy of Holly Hendrick

Serious about play

Volunteers work to install a portion of the new playground equipment at the Key Peninsula Civic Center April 14. The new playground is jointly sponsored by Key Pen Parks and the Civic Center.

Aisle of Honor for fallen soldiers at Vaughn Cemetery

Staff Report

Key Peninsula Veterans will present Aisle of Honor, a Memorial Day observance that includes a formal program and a display of 310 large American flags at the Vaughn Cemetery, on May 27. The formal program will begin at 1 p.m.

The event began in 1993 with 50 casket flags flying on the hillside of the cemetery. Each of the 310 flags that will fly this year represent veterans who have some connection with the Key Peninsula.

The program will include the U.S. Navy Band from Bremerton, a color guard and rifle team from Joint Base Lewis MeChord, local entertainment, bagpipers from (the) Northwest Pipe and Drum, a salute to the fallen, and a naming of the veterans whose flags are displayed in the Aisle of Honor.

The ceremony is held rain or shine, and members of the KP Veterans will serve coffee and refreshments. A golf cart shut-



Photo courtesy of KPI

More than 300 large flags will fly at Vaughn Cemetery May 27.

tle is available for those who need assistance. Local Boy Scouts and their families assist the KP Veterans in raising and lowering the flags that will fly at the cemetery from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For more information contact KP Veterans President Roxy Woolridge at 884-4407 or visit KPVeterans.net.

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SOUND
CREDIT UNION



Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News

Taylor Shellfish Farms will begin improvements of the Burley Lagoon oyster operation site in the coming months. Taylor Shellfish is leasing the property for the next 20 years.

(From Shellfish, Page 1)

of his farms have had water quality problems and despite it, he has a wonderful attitude. He loved it. It is a life-style for him," Dewey said. He added that although the Burley Lagoon is a successful clam and oyster farm, Yamashita was not necessarily a "neatnik". Taylor Shellfish is working with the county to improve the property and is in the process of removing lines full of Styrofoam, asbestos and unnatural debris. "It's a little bit messy down there and awfully visible to traffic. We've been picking away at it," he says and adds that there are no plans to disturb the shell mountain adjacent to SR-302.

Water quality is the top priority for shellfish farming. Dewey is appreciative of action taken by Governor Gregoire and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to install a Washington Shellfish Initiative in response to a national shellfish initiative. The goal of the initiative is to increase shellfish aquaculture for commercial and restoration purposes, stimulate coastal economies, and improve ecosystem health.

According to the April 16 issue of the Business Examiner, aquaculture is a \$107 million industry for Washington and shellfish jobs employ more than 3,200 residents, most of them in South Sound. "The new Shellfish initiative will provide \$2 million to local government for water pollution identification and correction issues, and another \$2.5 million for waste inspection and prevention measures in 12 South Sound counties," the article reports.

Taylor Shellfish is one of the state's main aquaculture production sites. According to Dewey the shellfish initiative provides "guidance to local governments to ensure they are appropriately regulating shellfish culture activities. It includes a restoration component for native oysters and abalone and a wa-

ter quality component as well as the USGS (United States Geological Services) review of the potential to mitigate nutrient pollution with shellfish."

Dewey credits Pierce County for improvements of Burley Lagoon water quality. He sees Pierce County as being responsive to the NOAA initiative and also to the University of Washington Sea Grant geoduck research program. "The county has looked at science and has proposed appropriate conditions. They are moving in a good direction," he said.

Taylor Shellfish has started to actively manage the farm's clams, oysters and the floating nursery at Burley Lagoon. Farming the clams and oysters is done routinely by hand. Boats and cranes are sent in at high tide to pick up the harvest.

Taylor Shellfish Farms plans to apply for a Shorelines Substantial Development Permit, which would allow geoduck farming at the lagoon. The activity and schedules for that work is 'sporadic', according to Dewey. About one week is required to plant the nursery tubes, the tubes are taken out one year later, and harvest happens one time about five or six years later. Noise is considered a critical factor of the harvest. The Taylor farms monitor the noise and try to quiet the process by using water cooled motors and insulated housing.

Disturbance of the habitat by harvest process are short term and minimal, he said. "It is not as disruptive as it appears. That area is used to being disturbed by storms and waves and is very recoverable."

Taylor Farms participates in educational programs and provides farm tours for their communities. "We are trying to be a good neighbor. We're receptive to people's concerns," he said. "As we get more active at the farm (Burley Lagoon), we probably will get more opportunities to interact with local community events," Dewey said.

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Peninsula Views

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Thank you to advertisers, readers

Something new:

This month there is a little more to the paper than usual. The Key Peninsula Parks and Recreation Foundation newsletter as well as the Fire District 16 newsletter have been inserted into this edition.

The KP News is happy to have these advertisements. We believe the information they are distributing works well as an insert for our product, and we welcome others to try this form of advertising as well.

After some research and cost analysis on our end, we priced the insert competitively while keeping in mind that the KP News does offer perks that our competitors don't have. Our product is delivered to every mailbox on the Key Peninsula.

We support the decision that Fire District 16 chose to save taxpayer money by inserting the newsletter in the KP News instead of using the bulk mail option.

The KP News knows we offer a great value to our customers at every level of advertising.

A truly generous community:

Each year we do a fund drive to help support the KP News. Our mostly volunteer operation does have operating costs. In order to deliver a relevant and competitive product we rely on advertising dollars, and then we come to you, the readers.

I have conveyed my thanks before, but as I finish my final edition as Executive Editor I want to take a moment to reiterate how humbled I have been personally by your generous donations, and how much it has meant to our staff to know that you support what we do each month.

This has been a record-setting fund drive.

Thank you!



Marsha Hart, editor

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Water project included more volunteer residents

Dear Editor,

The Herron Island article in the April issue of KP News should also express ap-

preciation for the water project work by Scotty Schultz and Karl Shaffer.

Thank you.

Andy Anderson and family
Herron Island

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.

GUEST COLUMN

Hong Kong provides surprises every day

By Michael Silk
Special to the KP News

Hong Kong has fundamentally shifted my world. The longer I am here, the more I realize it's really the little things that end up shaping your experiences and your life. My life in Hong Kong is different from anything I could have imagined even a couple of years ago. At night I sometimes find myself wandering down the narrow alleyways of the village for the sole purpose of exploring this place. Some of the walkways I stroll down are only wide enough for one person at a time. Walking through the villages I can see the Buddhist shrines that adorn most homes' living rooms, and hear people smacking Mahjong tiles, and I am treated to a clash of different smells.

This city, in the brief time I have been here, has taught me so much about myself, and the world. You must learn to roll with the punches and accept surprises every day, even in the most mundane things. For example, every day at lunch, I order the same thing but I always manage to be given completely different and unique dishes.

The servers deliver food in combinations I wouldn't have even thought possible. One of my recent lunches was composed of fried chickens feet. At first I was shocked but then just laughed as I inspected it. The feet were snapped off above the ankle and the toes were shooting in all different directions. It was an intimidating experience, completely different from what I would have eaten at home but luckily not all of the food I eat

is as challenging.

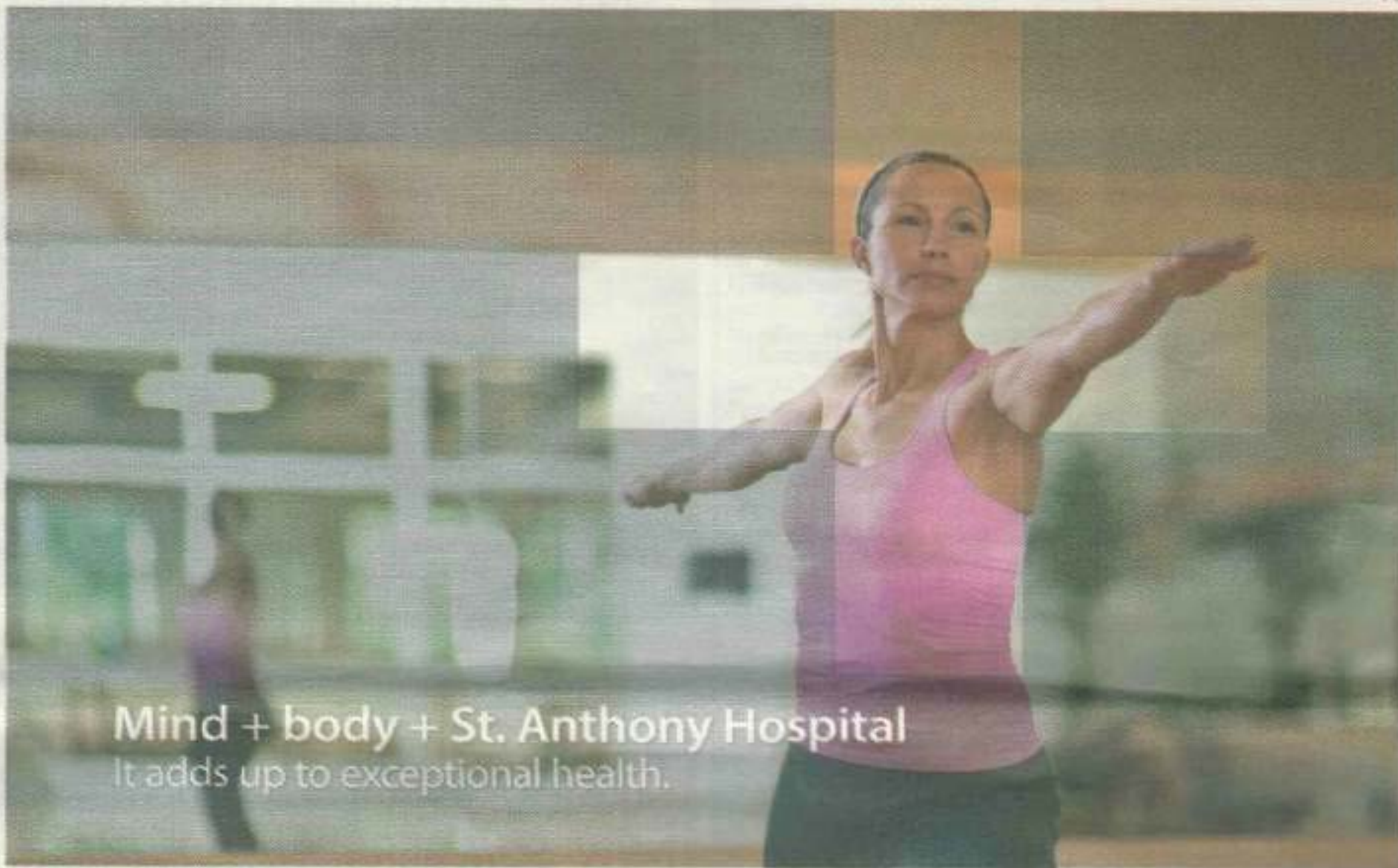
The greatest foods here are the variety of street food. Every night, there is a collection of street vendors who wheel up carts to cook a variety of Chinese food. There's fried oysters, dumplings, noodles Szechuan style, soup, and my personal favorite chow mein (which translated simply means fried noodles). Every week I find myself buying chow mein three or four times. The family that runs the cart knows me quite well and the cook always laughs as he adds far more spice to my dish than he would for any of his other customers.

The thing that strikes me most about life here is how astoundingly different it is from life at home. I feel invigorated to be on an "adventure" every day, but Hong Kong culture, food, customs, and quality of life are all just ordinary for millions of people. I am excited to be trying new and wildly unusual things but I have to remind myself how normal and boring my adventure really is. The people of Hong Kong live a life different from mine but are just as warm-hearted, generous, and loving as people back home on the peninsula.

As I spend time with my friends here in Hong Kong, citizens of many different nations, I can't help thinking that people are the same everywhere you go. Perhaps the little things are different but at heart you realize we are all one people reaching out towards each other on this beautiful planet of ours.

Michael Silk is a Lakeside resident. He is spending a year in Hong Kong earning a Master's Degree in International Finance.

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Local author's book sells out during book signing

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

At a recent book signing at Cutter's Point in Gig Harbor's Uptown, author Jason McWhirter was joined by family members, friends and seeds of sci-fi readers who savored his autograph on his first published novel, "The Cavalier." He signed more books than he anticipated selling. Long before the scheduled closing of the signings, he'd completely sold out.

McWhirter grew up on the Key Peninsula, attended Vaughn Elementary, Key Peninsula Middle School, and Peninsula High School. He earned a degree in history and education from Western Washington University and in 17 years teaching, the first 13 years were at KPMS where he taught history and drama and coached wrestling and soccer. He now lives in University Place, "a stone's throw from Curtis Junior High where I now teach," he said.

"I've been writing for 15 years and my brother and I originally started

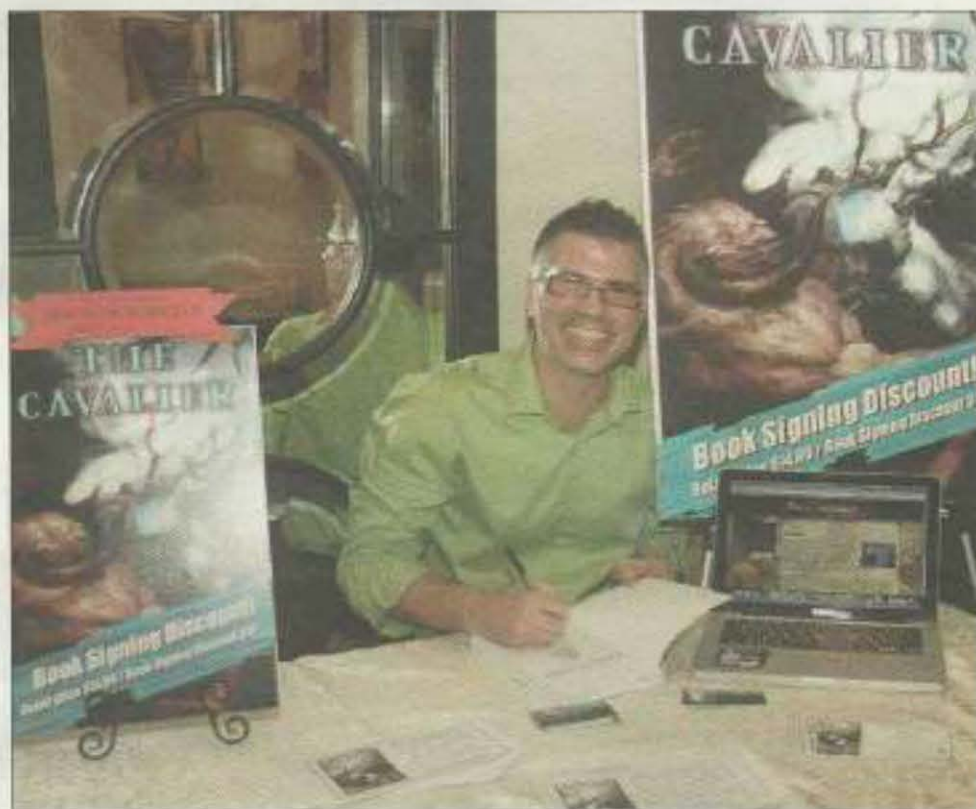
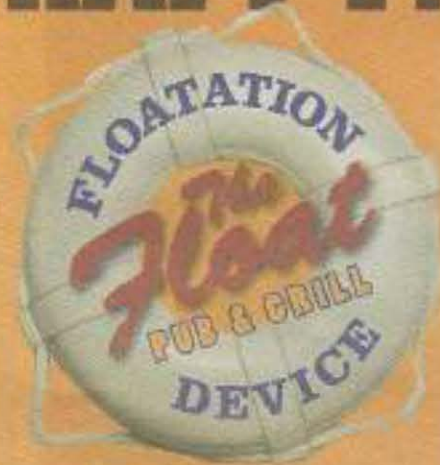


Photo by Hugh McMillan, KP News

Jason McWhirter, author of sci-fi novel, "The Cavalier," beams for a buyer at his recent book signing at Cutter's Point in Gig Harbor's Uptown.

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writing screenplays with the idea of trying to break into Hollywood to eventually see our scripts on the big screen. Then I slowly transitioned into my real passion, which is fantasy, and have been working on my fantasy trilogy for the last 10 years."

All three books of his Cavalier Trilogy are complete. He is raising funds for the cover art for books two and three and doing the final edits for those two books. He hopes to get book two published by the end of the summer and book three at the start of next year.

"I started my business, Twin Entertainment - with two i's - as I hope to work with my twin brother writing and publishing many more of my works. I have a passion for fantasy, drama, and action adventure. My books to come will be in all three genres."

McWhirter has a book signing scheduled April 28 in Tacoma at Cavanaugh's Coffee House from 3:00 - 6:00 pm.

For more information visit twinentertainment.com.

2012 GUEST COLUMNIST

Summer reading fare

Various sources are used for this reading list, but the main criteria are that the local Key Center library has the book or it is in the system for Pierce County library. The particular book may be checked out to someone at the time an individual inquires about the book and some newer books may not have arrived at the library as yet.

I also read many reviews and look to the "Los Angeles Times Best Sellers", the Wall Street Journal "Bookshelf" column, the New York Times Best Sellers and The Costco Connection, Book buyer's picks as well as their various advertisements for books.

Below is my reading list for the summer of 2012.

Fiction

1. "Locked On" By Tom Clancy with Mark Greaney. A new generation to fight the war on terror.
2. "Devil's Gate" By Clive Cussler and Graham Brown. A novel from the NUMA Files, A Kurt Austin Adventure.
3. "The Thief" By Clive Cussler and Justin Scott. Just came out 03/2012.

KP co-op founder receives Farmer of the Year award

Pierce Conservation District presented the 2011 Commercial Farmer of the Year award to Holly Hendrick for her work as founder of Fresh Food Revolution Co-op. Hendrick received the award Feb. 8 during the Pierce Conservation District's annual meeting at Evergreen State College Tacoma Campus.

Her dedication in promoting good farm practices that bring safe, local food to tables, energy towards educating producers and consumers in the value of local farms, and her commitment to giving farmers an opportunity to succeed were factors in the decision.

Fresh Food Revolution Co-op is a non-profit cooperative of farmers, ranchers, food producers and the consumers who buy local.

Hendrick is the first non-farmer to receive the award, and the third Key Peninsula community member in a row to re-

Nonfiction

1. "Imagine: How Creativity Works" By Jonah Lehrer. A scientific explanation and exploration of the creative process.
2. "Wild" By Cheryl Strayed. A woman on a 1,100-mile solo hike of the Pacific Crest Trail.
3. "Escape From Camp 14" By Blaine Harden. The untold story of Asia's Underground Railroad. An escape from a North Korean prison.
4. "How to Cook everything" the basics By Mark Bittman. All you need to make great food.

Kid's Pick!

1. "The Dangerous Book for Boys" by Gonn and Hal Iggulden. This is an older book, but will be enjoyed by boys, girls and adults as well.

ceive the PCD Commercial Farmer award. Nominations for the Pierce Conservation District awards are made in-house and are usually chosen from clients and cooperators.

The Pierce Conservation District is a subdivision of state government created in 1949 to promote the conservation of renewable natural resources in Pierce County.

KP Museum Open House

The KP Historical Society museum will be open from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saturday, May 12 in conjunction with the Livable Community Fair at the KP Civic Center.

Gently used books will be sold "by the foot"

Many new books and other gift items are available inside the museum, too.

Admission is free, donations welcome.

James Latteri
Summer Reading ListKEY PEN
PARKS

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

YOUTH CLASSES
SPRING SESSION

Sports Sampler

Experience a sampling of outdoor sports: soccer, t-ball and kickball, hockey, and basketball. Every class will feature cooperative games that focus on teamwork, communication, and problem solving.

Ages: 5-9
Location: Volunteer Park
Day & Time: Thur. 4pm
Session Dates: 5/10-6/14
Fee: \$45 for 6 classes

Pee Wee T-Ball

Ages: 4-5
Location: Volunteer Park
Day & Time: Thurs. 5pm or 6pm
Session Dates: 5/10-6/14
Fee: \$45 for 6 classes

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: 4-9
Location: Civic Center VFW Room
Day & Time: Wed. 4pm
Session Dates: 5/9-6/13
Fee: \$45 for 6 classes

ADULT PROGRAMS

Once-A-Month Cooking Class

Learn how to feed your freezer so that you always have nutritious, homemade meals; cook once, eat for a month. Each participant will prepare four complete freezer meals.

Location: KP Civic Center Kitchen
Day/Time: Sat. 5/19 1:00-4:00pm
Fee: \$20 class fee + \$15 food fee

Questions? Contact Jessica Smeal, Recreation Coordinator 253-884-9240
or jessica@keypenparks.com

Zumba

Come party yourself into shape! Zumba is an exhilarating, effective, easy-to-follow, Latin-inspired, calorie-burning dance fitness class that is like nothing you've ever tried before.

Ages: 16+
Location: Civic Center, VFW Rm
Days/Times: Sat. 9:00-10:00am
Fee: \$53 for a punch card (6 classes.) Good for 2 months after purchase date
Min/Max: 5/20

SPECIAL EVENTS

Touch-A-Truck and
Playground Grand Opening

at the Civic Center
Livable Community Fair
5/12 10am-3pm

Maple Hollow Grand Opening

5/18 noon
4411 Van Beek Rd.

Junk in your Trunk Sale

at Volunteer Park 6/9, 9am-3pm, spaces
only \$20 to sell your treasures!

Summer Fun Run

at the 360 Trails 6/16.
\$15 to pre-register until June 5
(includes race t-shirt and \$5 donation
to a KP Elementary School)

SUMMER CAMPS

Eco Camp

Ages 8-12 July 23-27 or August 20-24
\$109 for full day camp

Lego Camp

Ages 5-7 (pre-engineering)
Ages 8-12 (engineering FUNDamentals)
August 13-17 \$125 for half day camp

More half day camps for sports, art, theater,
cheer, and skate are being planned! Check
website for additions to summer programs.

Key Pen Parks

"The key to your next adventure"



KP potter still throwing after 45 years

By Marsha Hart, KP News

He almost ended up in Alaska, but when the interviewer for the teaching job in Alaska couldn't show up because of an illness, Gary Andersen interviewed for a position in the Peninsula School District. It was 1969, and Andersen became the art teacher at Peninsula High School.

He had graduated from University of Puget Sound with a major in Art, but he said Peninsula didn't tell him he would be teaching a pottery class. Andersen started working in oils and metal sculpture.

"I went back to UPS that summer and took a pottery class, and internationally known potter Carlton Ball was teaching," he said. "I got one of the best instructors around and I've been doing it ever since. When I got into clay everything else stopped."

During his tenure as a teacher Andersen taught a little bit of U.S. History, Washington State History, but

mostly taught art classes, including graphic arts printing.

In 1995 Andersen retired from his teaching job, but he is still making pottery at his studio and selling his functional pieces through his business, Lakebay Pottery. He is still in love with the medium.

"I think it's the fact that you start with a lump and end up with something either visual or functional," he said. "It's tactile and almost therapeutic. I always maintained that if I won the lottery I'd make pottery and give it away."

He's been making pottery on the Key Peninsula for 45 years. His mixing bowls, planters, coffee mugs, dining sets and baking dishes are all popular, but he makes one unique item that he says is the top seller: The French butter keeper.

The design allows cool water to be placed in the bottom of the two-piece keeper, and butter in the top. The water forms a seal, Andersen said, allow-

ing the butter to be kept on the counter as opposed to the refrigerator. "You have soft butter all the time," he said.

His designs are indicative of the Key Peninsula, with mostly blues and greens gracing the edges, and a small leaf design. He has designed some bowls and plates with a signature blackberry leaf pressed into the clay.

"I take custom orders, too," he said. "All I ask are dimensions, or a picture to give me an idea. I make a sample and let the customer see it first. I'm flexible."

All of the clay and glazes at Lakebay Pottery are lead-free, he said, and all of the collections are oven, dishwasher and microwave safe.

His studio is open Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and the rest of the week by appointment. Andersen's Lakebay Pottery is available at Sunnycrest Nursery in Key Center, and in Gig Harbor at Occasions on Point Fosdick Drive.



Gary Andersen

COMEDY SHOWDOWN @ THE CIVIC CENTER WHERE YOU CHOOSE THE WINNERS


FEATURING UP & COMING COMICS FROM THE PUGET SOUND AREA

Saturday, May 19th

Doors open at 6:30pm • Dinner begins at 7pm • Showdown starts at 8pm
~ limited seating ~ no host bar ~

Tickets \$20-25 (includes dinner) or \$15 (show only) • 18+ only

Purchase tickets at Ellis Accounting (Wauna), Drive Thru Feed (Gig Harbor), Sunnycrest Nursery (Key Center), KP Civic Center (Yaghn), or at the door.

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KP SCHOOLBUS CONNECTIONS

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- Limited am/pm routes connect KP community with local stops & the Purdy Park & Ride
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For information, routes & Users' Guide, please contact The Mustard Seed Project: 253-884-9814 or email tmssp@centurytel.net

* Unfortunately, standard schoolbuses are NOT wheelchair accessible. Riders must be able to board independently.

Champion Gig Harbor wood carver featured on cable show

By Rick Somels, KP News

His talents have been featured on a cable television show, "Saw Dogs," and for the two weeks preceding Christmas his lifelike prancing horse, a massive bench, and various woodland creatures, all crafted from Western Red Cedar with chainsaws, were on display for sale at Drive Thru Feed on SR 302 at Wright Bliss Road.

Jeff Samudosky created these works of art and demonstrated his craftsmanship and accuracy with his chainsaw during those two weeks.

Samudosky grew up in Connecticut and excelled in the art, photography, and construction classes he took in high school.

His appreciation of the wilderness and wildlife was nurtured during his years as an Alpine mountaineering guide and instructor in Jackson Hole, Wyo. and an Outward Bound instructor. He became certified as a wilderness emergency medical technician, but a snowboarding accident changed his life. He was paralyzed, but made a miraculous recovery after eight months.

A roadside wood carver left an impression on Samudosky while he was visiting Vermont. He soon purchased a chainsaw and through trial and error mastered its use.

Samudosky started his business, JMS Wood Sculpture, in 1998 in Connecticut, but discovered that the best wood to use, Western Red Cedar, was not available there. He gradually moved farther and farther West until he found a good climate and an endless supply of cedar here on the Peninsula, where he has practiced his trade since 2010.

Woodcarvers are a competitive breed. Samudosky has competed and won a great many contests. The penultimate wood carving competition is the Husky World Cup, held annually in Muldy, Germany, outside of Frankfurt and Dresden.

"I have been extremely lucky to make a living doing something that I love to do while providing a product that will be cherished by its owner for a long time to come," he said.

In 2009 Samudosky won Second Place



Photo courtesy of Delle Muller

JMS Wood Sculpture Gallery is located at 8719 SR 16 NW and features larger-than-life wood sculptures by chainsaw artist Jeff Samudosky. The gallery is open daily from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Judge's Choice. In 2011 he won First Place People's Choice and Third Place Judge's Choice. The 2011 competition involved individual efforts with the theme of "Bees, Bears, and Beehives." The 2012 competition is a team effort with a theme of "Rider and Horse in 1200 AD." Samudosky was selected to be the USA Team Captain for the 2012 event.

Samudosky is currently attending the world's largest gathering of chain saw carvers in Pennsylvania, with 212 carvers from nine different countries.

To create his works of art, Samudosky starts with his Stihl chain saw with blades varying from 8 inches to 4 feet in length. He then smoothes it out with chisels, belt sanders, and hand sands the creations to perfection.

Over 120 pieces of Samudosky's artwork are on display at his 4,000 square-foot studio and gallery located at 8719 on Highway 16 (just North of the Haven of Rest cemetery). Look for the 9-foot tall Sasquatch out front. It's open to the public Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

His largest work to date is a 20-foot tall totem pole. Items are priced between \$25 and \$35,000. The latter was a commissioned work of a galloping horse.

For more information visit jmswoodsculpture.com.

This story originally appeared on the March online edition of keypenews.com.

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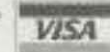
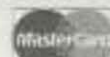
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Open every day

Sunday 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Located in Key Center

COMMUNITY PAGES

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

NOW

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 TEC Gig Harbor Campus. One can enroll at any time. For detailed class information, registration and orientation call Tracy Clark, 253-460-2356.

MAY 1

PYO applications

The Peninsula Youth Orchestra is accepting applications for experienced string students (9-19 yrs old, 1+ years string experience) to join the PYO for String Camp 2012. Camp will be held August 13-17, 2012 at the Agnus Dei Lutheran Church facilities. Camp activities include daily rehearsals and development of teamwork and friendship, Popsicle and activity breaks, and a free public Friday concert performance. Contact Paula at 253-534-5384, info@harborpyo.org or www.harborpyo.org to download an application after May 1, 2012.

MAY 2

Music class deadline

Music 'n' motion classes will be held for ages 4-9 on Wednesdays, from May 9-June 13, from 4-5 p.m. at the KP Civic Center. Kids explore music and movements with a range of fun and musically-inspired activities including dance, sing, playing instruments, tumbling, etc. Cost is \$45 for 6 classes. Register by May 2 with jessica@keypenparks.com or 884-9240.

MAY 3

Fuchsia club

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

T-ball deadline

Pee Wee T-Ball is held for ages 4-5 on

Thursdays, May 10-June 14, from 5-6 p.m. or 6-7 p.m. at Volunteer Park. Parents will assist coaches with drills and games to assure success for all athletes. No mitts are needed. Fee is \$45 for 6 sessions. Register by May 3 with jessica@keypenparks.com or 884-9240.

Sports sampler deadline

Register now for ages 5-9 to experience sampling of soccer, t-ball, kickball, basketball, hockey, Frisbee golf, and more. Sessions are on Thursdays, May 10-June 14, from 4-5 p.m. at Volunteer Park. Fee is \$45 for 6 sessions. Register with jessica@keypenparks.com or 884-9240.

MAY 4, 18

Cosmic skate night

Cosmic skate night is from 9:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. and is geared toward high school aged kids but open to all ages. Admission is \$5 and includes skate rental, games and access to limited concessions. kpciviccenter.org.

MAY 6

Bluegrass jam

The Lakebay Bluegrass and Gospel Jam is held the first Sunday at the Lakebay Community Church (11 Cornwall Road KPS) at 12:30 p.m. Bring your voice and/or acoustic instruments; music and lyrics are provided and most of the music uses G, C or D chords. 884-3899.

MAY 7, 14, 21, 29

Bloodmobile dates

The bloodmobile is at Albertson's from 11:30 a.m.-6 p.m. (Note: 5/29 is a Tuesday)

MAY 8

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. Yarn, knitting needles, crochet hooks and button donations are

To submit an event

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

always welcome. The club meets in Fife on May 17 from 1-3 p.m. at Ardena Gale Mobile Park, Virginia, 884-9619 or lovingheartsonkp@aol.com.

MAY 9

Bayshore garden club

The Bayshore Garden club meets at 1 p.m. at the Longbranch Fire Station, Francine, 253-569-1381.

MAY 10

Friends' membership meeting

The annual general meeting of the Friends of the Key Center Library begins with dinner at 6:30 p.m. followed by elections and a presentation by Robin Peterson, an artist with the U.S. National Parks Service. A catered chicken breast entrée is provided, as are beverages, plates and utensils; bring a salad or dessert. Attendees must RSVP by April 30 to enjoy the entrée. 851-1921 or 253-548-3309 x C1

MAY 11

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. 884-3456.

MAY 12

Plant sale

The annual Bayshore Garden Club Plant Sale at Charboneau's is from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with annuals, perennials, herbs, strawberry plants, trees, & fairy gardens for great Mother's Day gifts. Questions about gardens, problem plants or trees, or maintaining or pruning times will be answered.

Some of the funds raised go to the local Food Bank. Support the community at this sale.

Livable fair

The eleventh annual KP Livable Community Fair is held from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the KP Civic Center. Visit emergency preparedness organizations, community services and groups, vendors, and see demonstrations or attend workshops. The Lakebay Fuchsia Society will be selling plants from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Touch-A-Truck is back for all to enjoy. Contact kpciviccenter.org or 884-2456 for more information.

Second Saturday

Visit the library booth at the Livable Community Fair from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the KP Civic Center to make a Mother's Day craft. This 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.

MAY 16

Park grand opening

Key Pen Parks is celebrating the restoration and rejuvenation of Maple Hollow, 4411 Van Beek Road KPN, at noon.

MAY 19

Cooking class

Key Pen Parks offers a "Once-a-Month Cooking Class" from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

(See Community, Page 13)

(From Community, Page 12)

in the KP Civic Center Kitchen. Learn to feed the freezer so you always have nutritious, homemade meals; cook once, eat for a month. Prepare four complete freezer meals; receive starter recipes, shopping hints, freezing tips, and meal assembly instruction. Fee is \$20 for the class and \$15 for the food. Pre-register by May 11 with Jessica@keypenparks.com or 884-9240.

Comedy night

The KP Civic Center hosts a Comedy Night with doors open at 6:30 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m. and the show starting at 8 p.m. The audience will choose the winners from eight up-and-coming Puget Sound area comedians. Tickets are \$20-25, including dinner, or \$15 for the show only and are available at Sunnycrest Nursery, Ellis Accounting, Drive-Thru Feed, KP Civic Center office or at the door. This event is sponsored by the Tacoma Comedy Club. Kpciviccenter.org.

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.

Key singers

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

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS

Preschool play time

The Children's Home Society KP Family Resource Center offers a preschool/toddler indoor park program from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the KP Civic Center. 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.

WEDNESDAYS

Watermark writers

The Watermark Writers present a free writer's workshop from 5-8 pm in Vaughn. Call 253-778-6559 for information.

MAY 20

Friends attend opera

The Friends of the Key Center Library have reserved tickets for the matinee performance (2 p.m.) of "Madama Butterfly." Transportation from the Key Center Library to the Seattle Opera House is available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Since a limited number of opera tickets are reserved, make reservations early. 253-548-3309.

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.

Key Singers concert

The Key Singers Spring Concert held in McColley Hall at 3 p.m. includes a variety

of music. This concert is not free, so that the group can help pay for music, rent venues for rehearsals and fund PHS scholarships; all other programs are free as a community service. Tickets are \$6; children free. Tickets are available from Key Singers or Sunnycrest Nursery. 884-5615.

MAY 26

Lakebay rummage sale

The Lakebay Covenant Community Church, 11 Cornwall Road KPS, holds its annual rummage sale from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. to benefit local and world missions. 884-3899.

MAY 27

Aisle of Honor

The public may join Key Peninsula veter-

ans and others to celebrate and honor veterans who gave their lives for our freedom. Aisle of Honor will showcase 310 casket flags flown from 7 a.m.-6 p.m. with a public ceremony at 1 p.m. Roxanne Wooldridge, 884-4407 or www.kpvetans.net.

JUNE 4

Fun run registration

Key Pen Parks is hosting a Summer Fun Run on June 16 at 360 Trails at 9 a.m. Walk or run either 1K or 5K to raise money for the KP School of your choice. Every participant receives a t-shirt and all kids win a ribbon; prizes will be awarded by ages for the fastest times. Cost is \$15 if registered by June 4; \$25 from June 5-16 (race day). Jessica@keypenparks.com or 884-9240 or www.keypenparks.com.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

KP Community Fair Association

May 1, 6 p.m. in Roadhouse Restaurant VIP room; www.keyfair.org.

KP Lions dinner & program

May 1 & 15, 6:30 p.m. in VFW Room, KP Civic Center. 853-2721.

Key Pen Parks

May 7, 7:30 p.m. at Volunteer Park Annex; keypenparks.com.

Fire District 16

May 8 & 22, 6 p.m. in meeting room, Key Center Fire Station; www.keypeninsulafire.org.

Key Peninsula Community Council

May 9, 7 p.m. at Key Center Fire Sta-

tion; www.kpcouncil.org.

Peninsula School District Board

May 10, 6 p.m. regular meeting in the library at Vaughn Elementary; May 24, regular meeting at district office; www.psd401.net.

KP Civic Center Board

May 10, meeting at 7 p.m. in Whitmore Room; www.keypenviccenter.org.

LIC

May 16, 6:30 p.m. at Longbranch Improvement Club; www.longbranchimprovementclub.org.

KP Citizens against Crime

May 18, 7 p.m. at Home Fire Station; www.kpcitizensagainstcrime.org.

OFF THE KEY

APRIL 28

Arbor day

The public is invited to the annual Gig Harbor Arbor Day celebration from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Gig Harbor Civic Center. Admission is free and all visitors will receive a free tree. The poster, poetry, essay and photo winners will be awarded as well as the 2012 Good Stewardship Award. An arborist, environmental booths, and

children's nature crafts are available. Raffle drawings will be held during the afternoon. This event is sponsored by the Gig Harbor Peninsula Arbor Day Organization. www.gigharborarbor.com or arbor@gigharborarbor.com.

MAY 3

Bloodmobile

The bloodmobile is at 3510 Grandview

(See Off the Key, Page 14)

Lakebay writers

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

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

KP Writers' guild

The Writers' Guild meets from 9-11 a.m. at the Key Center Library. 884-6455.

Zumba

Zumba for ages 16+ is offered on Saturdays 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.

11th Annual KEY PENINSULA LIVABLE COMMUNITY FAIR

Saturday, May 12, 2012

Key Peninsula Civic Center

10am - 3pm

Lakebay Fuchsia Society Plant Sale • 9am - 3pm

Key Pen Parks' "Civic Center Playground" Ribbon Cutting Ceremony • 10:15am

ALL DAY FAMILY FUN & RESOURCES FOR A MORE VIBRANT COMMUNITY!

40+ Non-profits, Activity Clubs & Service Providers
Emergency Preparedness Vendors & Workshops
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KP Historical Museum Tours & Used Book Sale

Key Pen Parks' Touch-a-Truck Display

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(From Off the Key, Page 13)

Road from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. This visit is in memory of our Pierce County Fallen Officers and in partnership with National Police Week.

MAY 5

Workshop presented

The Peninsula Unitarian Universalist Fellowship hosts a workshop on "Emerson as Spiritual Guide" from 9:30 a.m.- 3 p.m. at the Burley Community Center, 14853 Burley Ave. SE, Burley. Primary presenter is the Rev. Barry Andrews and the workshop introduces 21st century readers to the depth and power of Ralph Waldo Emerson's exhilarating and provocative writing. Cost of \$10 includes lunch. Register online at www.peninsulauuf.org or call 253-313-0299.

MAY 10

PYO open house

The Peninsula Youth Orchestra holds an open house from 4 - 6 p.m. at the Harbor Covenant Church in Gig Harbor. The PYO is an Educational and Recreational opportunity for students, 9-19 years old, and includes a beginner program. Some scholarships and instrument rentals are available. Early registrations and auditions for the 2012/13 season will be held on Thursday, June 7, 253-534-5384 or www.harborpyo.org or email at info@harborpyo.org

MAY 12

Bloodmobile

The bloodmobile is at Adventure of Faith Church, 4705 Jackson Ave. SE, Port Orchard, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

MAY 13

Bloodmobile

The bloodmobile is at St. Nicholas Catholic Church, Parish Center Room, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

MAY 15

Bloodmobile

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

MAY 17

Bloodmobile

The bloodmobile is at Kiwanis Club of Peninsula-Gig Harbor, 4926 Point Fosdick Drive, from 12-7 p.m.

BRIEFS

Community

Key Singers Spring Concert

The Key Singers present their fifteenth Spring Concert on Sunday, May 20 at 3 p.m. in McColley Hall.

The local community choral group will perform a variety of music, including patriotic, classical, show tunes, and a medley from "O Brother, Where Art Thou?"

Special music will also be provided by Conchord, the women's sextet, and soloists.

The Singers formed in 1998 after organizer Jo Sturm was told there was no musical talent on the Key Peninsula. She proved otherwise, and although the membership and concert venue have changed, it's still just under two dozen people this season.

Barb Bence, Marguerite Bussard, Marianne McColley and Shelley Wig-

gins, original members of the group, are still singing along.

"This is the only concert we charge for," says director Marianne McColley. "Our dues and spring concert help pay for music, rent for rehearsal and concert space, and PHS scholarships. Our other programs throughout the year are provided free as community service," she adds.

McColley believes singing should be fun, and her attitude is contagious.

Cabaret seating, light refreshments, and tickets for several gift baskets will be available.

Tickets are \$6 (children free), available from Singers members or Sunnycrest Nursery.

More information - 884-5615.

KPC open position

The Key Peninsula Community Council announces an open position

on the board of director for Area 4 region, which is south of Home. For information call 253.884.6455.

The KPC meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Key Center Fire Station. For more information about the KPC visit kp-council.org.

KPC hosts panel on KP logging

The Key Peninsula Community Council presents a panel of representatives from state and county agencies with various elected officials to discuss the concerns and regulations regarding logging on the Key Peninsula.

This educational forum will be held Thursday, May 24 at 7 p.m. at the Key Peninsula Civic Center. For more information call 884-9363.

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Key Peninsula Real Estate MARKET REPORT

Thru April 2012

HOMES

NON-WATERFRONT REPORT

Homes for Sale	115
Average List Price	\$240,502
(price per sq ft)	\$124
Average Days on Market	223
Homes Sold (ytd)	46
Average Sold Price	\$199,538
(price per sq ft)	\$100
Average Days on Market	113
Properties Pending	49

WATERFRONT REPORT

Homes for Sale	33
Average List Price	\$368,138
(price per sq ft)	\$206
Average Days on Market	281
Homes Sold (ytd)	4
Average Sold Price	\$289,750
(price per sq ft)	\$213
Average Days on Market	48
Properties Pending	4

LAND

NON-WATERFRONT REPORT

Land for Sale	168
Average List Price	\$79,154
(price per acre)	\$15,503
Average Days on Market	528
Land Sold (ytd)	9
Average Sold Price	\$47,806
(price per acre)	\$14,143
Average Days on Market	256
Properties Pending	4

WATERFRONT REPORT

Land for Sale	26
Average List Price	\$140,560
(price per acre)	\$101,115
Average Days on Market	323
Land Sold (ytd)	2
Average Sold Price	\$30,500
(price per acre)	\$56,445
Average Days on Market	91
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®

253 617 9670

tracybutzko@qshalscott.com



FIRE DISTRICT 16 CALL LOG

A summary of calls for FD 16 for March 16 to April 15

Total Calls: 138

EMS: 83

Fire/service: 27

Other: 28

March 17

Medics responded to the aid of a 9-year-old boy from Bremerton who rode his bicycle off of a jump and crashed. The boy was visiting friends in Lakebay when the accident occurred. Fortunately he was wearing a helmet and did not sustain a head injury, even though his head struck the ground pretty hard according to witnesses. The boy did sustain a serious abdominal injury and was transported priority to a children's Hospital in Tacoma.

March 19

A 53-year-old woman living alone in Longbranch fell down in her home and was unable to help herself up. She activated her lifeline system to call for help and the fire department responded. The

crews had to force entry into the woman's house, where they were able to assist her. The woman was treated and transported to a local hospital.

March 21

A 57-year-old woman went into respiratory arrest while she was at home with her husband. The man called 911 and soon began CPR because the woman's heart had stopped beating at that point. The dispatcher on the phone assisted the man by providing CPR instructions until the arrival of fire department personnel. The arriving firefighters took over CPR and administered medications. They got the woman's heart beating and transported her to a local hospital.

March 25

An 18-year-old Wauna girl was moving all of her worldly possessions to a Longbranch house when she was flagged over by the woman in front of her. The woman had noticed sparks under the girl's car as

she passed through Key Center. As soon as the girl stopped flames erupted from under her Jeep Cherokee. The girl grabbed her purse and puppy but everything else was consumed in the fire. Fire crews extinguished the fire but little was left of the Jeep or her belongings.

March 26

Medics responded to the aid of a 15-year-old boy of the Wauna area who was complaining of an extremely painful headache. The young man was at home with his family, who, wanting to ensure his well-being, requested treatment and transport to a local hospital.

March 28

Firefighters responded to a large residence behind Horseshoe Lake for a pellet stove problem. The fire had remained contained to the firebox, however, it was emitting large amounts of smoke and flames shot from it when it was opened,

which is not normal for a pellet stove. The stove and the adjacent area were closely inspected for fire extension and, finding none, the stove was shut down and firefighters departed the scene.

March 30

Medics responded twice to the home of an elderly couple who were frustrated with their apparent inability to get the care needed for the husband. The man suffers from a condition brought on by chemicals used during the Vietnam War. Neither of the visits to the home of the couple resulted in a transport to a hospital, only in an interview of the man's medical history to determine his condition and to offer suggestions to them on how to find help. The couple's son arrived at the scene during the second visit and agreed to help his parents.

April 4

Key Peninsula Fire Units responded to a single car motor vehicle accident on Hwy 302 near the Wauna corner. The female driving the car with her 2-year-old daughter, who was in the front seat and not in a car seat, were injured when the car swerved to miss another vehicle, driving off the highway and up a rock embankment. Both mother and daughter were transported to local area hospitals for evaluation.

April 5

An elderly Longbranch man rear-ended the DSHS van as it was stopped to turn into the Key Peninsula Community Center.

(See Fire, Page 17)

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(From Fire, Page 16)

Because of the height of the large box van his bumper went under the van and failed to set off the air bags, resulting in minor injuries. The man was transported by KP Medic One to a local hospital.

April 6

An 81-year-old Belfair woman, driving a Ford Focus, struck a pick-up truck that was parked on the Purdy Sandspit. The woman's car careened off the roadway and over the embankment into about two feet of water. The woman was extricated by Key Peninsula and Gig Harbor firefighters and transported to a local hospital. The pick-up truck was damaged enough to require a tow.

April 7

A 32-Year-old Vaughn man had a complaint of mid-back pain after falling from an ATV. The man said that he was traveling between 20-30 mph when the quad came out from under him. He landed on his tailbone then bounced and landed on his back. The man was wearing a helmet but no other protective gear. He was taken to a local hospital by KP Medic One.

April 10

Firefighters responded to report of a man down on the side of the road. Upon arrival they found a man under a blanket next to a walker. The walker was loaded with personal belongings and the man was attempting to sleep off "a few beers". A relative was located and a Sheriff's deputy was called to give the man a ride to the relative's home.

April 12

An 80-year-old Home woman was treated by medics for abdominal pain. The woman, who was also being treated for a lower back infection, was taken to a local hospital.

April 14

A 63-year-old woman was found semi-conscious on the floor of the kitchen by her husband. The woman was treated for injuries sustained in the fall and circumstances leading to it. She was taken to a local hospital by Fire Department medics.

April 15

A 47-year-old Key Center man who had smoked an over the counter substance bought at a gas station called spice/chronic. The man believed the substance may have been laced with something and called 911. The man was complaining of being uncoordinated and weak. He was transported by Medics to a local hospital.

SHERIFF'S BLOTTER

A summary of calls for Pierce County Sheriff's Department

Pardon our interruption

Due to a revision of policies at the Pierce County Sheriff's Department Purdy Division, KP News is no longer able to access reports at that location. We are working with the Pierce County Sheriff's Department to help with a solution and bring back the Sheriff's Blotter as a news feature.

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2012 GUEST COLUMNIST

Random real estate thoughts

New trends, new philosophies and new laws are making real estate headlines. Here are a few random thoughts...

Random Thought 1: National news reports suggest real estate is transitioning from a Buyer's to a Seller's market. While some markets have moved into a Seller's market, other areas may not be there yet. You've heard me say this before (like a broken record): Real estate is local. Seattle, Bellevue or Gig Harbor may be showing signs of the beginnings of a Seller's market, neighboring towns may still be trending towards a Buyer's market.

What exactly is a Seller's market? A Seller's market is in play when:

- Inventory levels drop to between three and six months of available inventory.
- Properties are receiving multiple offers.
- Homes are under contract within 30-60 days of being listed.
- Properties are selling within a few thousand dollars of list price, at list price or above list price.
- Home sale prices increase monthly.
- Jobs are being created and the demand

for housing is greater than available inventory.

• Buyers are asking for fewer seller concessions (seller being asked to pay buyer's closing costs.)

Is there any indication the Key Peninsula area is moving towards a Seller's market? Did you really expect a Yes or No? Actually, the answer is Yes and No.

Yes: The average sold price per square foot has stabilized. Sellers are receiving offers within three percent of, at, and even above asking price. Well-priced and well-maintained properties are receiving multiple offers within 30 days of listing. Foreclosures are slowing down.

No: Available inventory levels continue to hover near or above 10 months, (although a big improvement from the high of 26 months of available inventory reported in November, 2011). Sellers are still being asked to give buyer concessions to make a sale. And job growth in the area remains sluggish.

Tracy Butzko

Tracy's Real Estate Tips



Real estate is also seasonal. Prime selling seasons are spring and summer. What happens with home sales during the next six months will determine what type of market we are heading into.

Random thought 2: Expect to see fewer foreclosures and more short sales. You read it right. It appears banks are changing their philosophy on foreclosures. Instead of foreclosing on a home or accepting a deed in-lieu-of-foreclosure some banks are now requiring the seller to make a good faith effort to try to short sale the home first before they will consider taking the home back. I am hearing about this more and more. In the past 12 months the number of bank-owned properties on the Key Pen has dropped by

more than half while the number of short-sale properties on the market is on the rise. This is something to keep an eye on.

Random thought 3: A new law requiring carbon monoxide alarms in Washington that went into effect on April 1 is causing confusion.

• As of April 1, sellers of OWNER OCCUPIED single-family homes, condos and mobile homes must install carbon monoxide alarms prior to closing.

The only exemptions are as follows:

• If the home is NOT owner occupied at the time of sale detectors do not need to be installed prior to the transfer of property to the new buyer.

• If the home is occupied by a tenant at the time of sale, detectors do not need to be installed prior to the transfer of property to the new buyer.

• If the home is owner occupied, before the property transfers to the new buyer the seller will be required to install carbon monoxide alarms.

Do you have a question, topic idea or comment? Phone, text or email me your ideas.

Tracy Butzko is a member of National Association of REALTORS®. You may reach Tracy at 253-617-9670 or by email at tracybutzko@johnlovett.com.

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2012 GUEST COLUMNIST

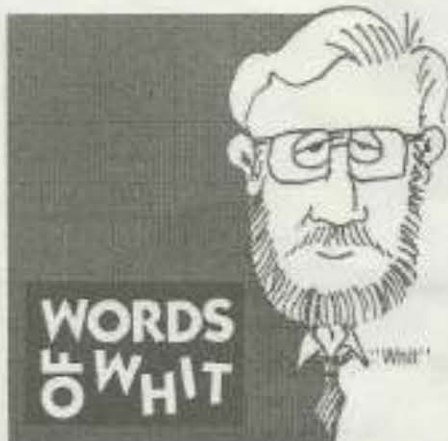
The Mayor of Lyle

Meet Brett Skahan, a bit of a fixture in these parts. Maybe you've already met him and perhaps discussed "personal finances." You probably didn't know he is the honorary Mayor of Lyle, and a man who wears many hats.

A lot of people around here can trace their ancestry back to pioneer stock. Brett's ancestry goes back much further. His roots are planted deep in the land itself. The blood in his veins is native Puyallup and Yakima; blended with pioneer.

The pioneer blood arrived in the 1800s and eventually settled in the Minter Creek area those days were not for the meek. Indian wars, back-breaking logging, and living off the land was their lot. Brett's ancestors contributed in the growth of the area, including the making and selling of moonshine to the railroaders.

Soon a "town" named Lyle was



founded near their property. It wasn't much of a town by today's standards. It was a place to trade goods, get hardware, and food, and that's about all. The town now belongs to the ages; Brett is it's historian, guardian and Mayor, his constituents the birds and squirrels.

Brett wears a caregiver's hat when

he attends to his 93-year-old mother's needs. Outdoors he becomes a naturalist. The land shares both Minter Creek's and they unite near the highway.

He spends a lot of time building and maintaining footbridges and trails. He does what he can to stop erosion.

One thing that worries him should worry you, the cement drainage system that allows the creek to flow under the highway is as old as the road and is partially blocked by debris.

Flooding has already taken a lot of soil downstream and if nothing is done it will someday take the road out.

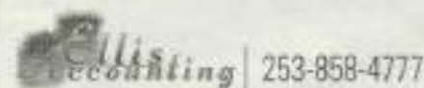
Brett doesn't drive for personal reasons so you'll usually spot him walking from his house to Key Center. He's a living link to our history.

If you run into him, and you're generous with your spare change, you might hear something interesting.

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Photo by Adam Scroggins, KP News

A league of their own

Bush Thomas pitches during the KP Little League opening day jamboree at Volunteer Park. Thomas plays for the Aqua Red's minor team.

Key Peninsula News
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Blooming baskets, perennials and more at annual plant sale

By Colleen Slater, KP News

The Lakebay Fuchsia Society sets up their annual plant sale on the lawn at the Key Peninsula Civic Center. This is their 17th year of the sale from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

New starts of fuchsias through blooming baskets tease gardeners to stop by.

An array of perennials and annuals for shade and sun is standard fare at this sale. Come early for the best selection.

This year, several nurseries new to this scene will provide plants, as well as one that's been involved in this annual sale for years.

The Blue Frog Nursery right here on the Key Peninsula, will offer gallon size Japanese maples, plus conifers suitable for Bonsai. Russ Smith specializes in Japanese maples, but grows some other plants as well.

Tammy Brown of Littlerock has changed her nursery name to Off-Grid Greenhouse, and will provide



Photos courtesy of Patty Finnegan

The Lakebay Fuchsia Society has tables set up at the civic center, selling their wares to help add color to yards across the Key Peninsula.

over a hundred fuchsias, hardy and non-hardy, upright and trailing varieties.

Doyle Yancey from Egg and I Gardens in Chimacum will have hanging fuchsia baskets, and a variety of trailing fuchsias for those who want to create their own baskets. Some upright hardy fuchsias are part of his collection, too.

Jackie LaVerne of Olympia brings herbs and vegetable starts from her Magellenica Gardens.

Fuchsia, geranium, and vegetable starts, including tomatoes come from club founding member Sharon Miller.

Club members and other knowledgeable fuchsia and plant experts will be on hand to answer questions and talk gardens.

The Society sells Hardy Fuchsia Booklets and purchasers of any plants can sign up for the free drawing of a beautiful fuchsia hanging basket.

The display garden at the civic center, established in 1998 by the local society members, features fuchsias that are hardy in this climate, plus companion plants that provide an extended season of color.

The Lakebay Fuchsia Society welcomes new members or interested visitors to their regular meetings on the first Thursday of each month, 7 p.m., at the Key Peninsula Library. Call 884-2283 for more information.

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Jean (Jeannie) Rae Doyle

Oct. 14, 1939-March 31, 2012

Jean Rae Doyle, loving mother of four, passed away peacefully in her sleep on March 31, 72 years after her birth. Jeannie was the oldest of 10 children born to Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Doyle. Their family farm bordered the Western Washington Fairgrounds in Puyallup and Jeannie spent her early years raising and showing livestock, particularly chickens and goats. Her love of animals, especially dogs and birds, continued throughout her life. Her children were active 4-H members.

In addition to animals, Jeannie stud-

ied plant propagation and identification, and gardening. She earned a living for many years as a brush-picker and gathered wild mushrooms. She was able to identify all the native plant species and was knowledgeable about which were edible or had medicinal uses. She loved being outdoors in the woods or in the garden.

She learned to crochet at a young age and spent much of her indoor time working with yarn, creating everything from baby clothes to afghans, many of her own design.

She dedicated her life to family, and women in need, and was a volunteer at the Key Peninsula Food Bank for many years.

She was preceded in death by her life partner, Gene Battell, and daughters Debbie and Cindy Lou. Surviving family members include daughter, Susan (Dawson) Caldwell, of Ayden, N. C.; sisters, Celest Vanoojana, of El Cajon, Calif.; Kitty Bench, of Aberdeen, Wash., and Carmen Lorenz of Auke Bay, Alaska; eight grandchildren, 16 great grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.



Jeannie Rae Doyle

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Out & About

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



Photo by Hugh McMillan, KP News

When Key Peninsula's Boy Scout Troop 220 leaders completed the countdown to, "GO," a flood of eager Easter egg gatherers soared across the field at the Key Peninsula Civic Center Saturday scooping up the treasures. It lasted about 60 seconds before the field was bare of Easter goodies.



Photo by Hugh McMillan, KP News

Evergreen Elementary 4th grader Rebekah Baldwin and Evergreen kindergarten Justice Breda show off their "Flower Doggy" at the fourth annual Key Peninsula Dogs' Easter Egg Hunt, March 31st.

Where in the World...



Ashley Bowen of Wauna went on a trip to Thailand with her mother Nancy Haagen and a friend, Dale Pierson. They brought a copy of the KP News with them. They are pictured here at the Patara Elephant Farm in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

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The Longbranch Improvement Club staged its largest ever yard sale April 14. Its nationally recognized building was filled wall to wall with vendors and its parking area was awash with vendors offering just about anything anyone's cravings might seek. All vendors shared their profits with the LIC to contribute to the organization's welfare and continued service to the community.

Photo by Hugh McMillan, KP News