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KP girl takes charge in life and football

By Scott Turner, KP News

At just 11 years old, Skylar Lantz is obviously a born athlete.

Skylar, who attends Vaughn Elementary, has been playing organized sports since she was in kindergarten.

She started with wrestling when she was 4 years old. In 2013, she played tackle football with a Peninsula Youth Association team. She was the only girl in the league.

This past summer, she took a break then tried lacrosse with Harbor Fire Lacrosse.

"But that was an all-girls team and she was kind of bummed because she really likes playing co-ed," said Jennifer Lantz, Skylar's mother. "And also, it wasn't rough enough. She loved running and tackling and pushing the boys around."

This fall, Skylar has been playing flag football with the Timberwolves,

a PenMet Parks team.

"You get more playing time in flag football, but I miss the tackling," Skylar said. "I like playing running back and defensive end and now I do both offense and defense and play running back and receiver."

Skylar's older brother, Zane, 13, was doing wrestling when Skylar was a toddler. "We'd take her with us to his practices and she would just sit there and watch with great interest," Jennifer Lantz recalled.

"She was just 4 years old. I thought, 'Gosh, she likes this.' I just knew it but I don't want her to wrestle."

But because Brad Lantz, Skylar and Zane's father, is a coach and had wrestled when he was growing up, he was passionate about it, so he "was OK with the idea that his daughter wanted to wrestle," Jennifer Lantz.

(See Football, Page 4)



Photo by Scott Turner, KP News

Skylar Lantz, 11, loves playing football with the boys. According to her coach, Greg Butler, she is a standout player, one of the best (and one of only a few girls) in the PenMet Parks league.

Senior housing facility closer to reality

KP News Staff Report

Eight years after its inception, The Mustard Seed Project is getting closer to one of its initiatives — building affordable senior housing on the Key Peninsula.

Working with a council of elders and surveying the needs of the community, the nonprofit identified senior housing as one of four focus areas, which also included transportation, information and referral, and health and wellness.

"We hope to build in Key Center, a good, central location for our community. Our vision is to have a campus with a café and meeting spaces, 10 independent living cottages that are one or two bedrooms with laundry, housekeeping and one meal a day provided, and then assisted living for 30 residents, including dementia care," said board

president Sara Thompson in a press release. "We want this to be a place that draws the entire community in, rather than a setting that sets elders aside in an isolated environment."

The Mustard Seed Project Executive Director Edie Morgan said she has spent many years considering the models available for caring for elders in a way that honors their wisdom and encourages as much independence as possible.

She attended a workshop presented by The Green House Project. Terri Sult, a consultant on the project, said, "I have been in contact with Edie since 2007 when she first had the vision of what you would all like to accomplish so that people don't have to leave the Key Peninsula as they age and have home care needs."

(See Housing, Page 2)

(From **Housing**, Page 1)

Morgan knows there are significant barriers to people remaining in their homes as they age. Although challenges to aging in place are ongoing, staff and volunteers have made real inroads in serving hundreds of Key Peninsula residents every year.

More than a year ago, a longtime supporter of the organization made a major gift to undertake a long-desired study to understand both the needs of the community and the financial feasibility for senior housing. As a result, The Mustard Seed Project had a meeting in November at the Key Peninsula Civic Center to explain the results of the study and to plan for the next steps.

In the model Morgan favors, 10 residents per household would have their own private bedrooms, which surround a central living, dining and kitchen area. Residents would spend most of their time in the central area, where they could help with meals, engage in activities and visit with family members.

A nurse would provide medical supervision

but the care would be provided by staff trained to care for elders in a comprehensive way.

"We'll be applying for a predevelopment loan to do all the necessary preliminary planning—to hire a project manager, to secure a site, hire an architect to draw up preliminary plans, and then to hire a contractor," Morgan said. "We're aware of affordable loans for the assisted living portion of the project, and can get standard financing for the other buildings. But there will be a funding gap, and we expect to need to raise nearly \$3 million to make this happen. I believe we can do it."

An advisory committee will work with Morgan and the board to hire a project manager. According to retired architect Bart Wolfe, "It's critical to have a good professional team in place to help with due diligence on every step from site selection on throughout the project."

The entire project, once the project manager is identified, is expected to take about two years.

For information about The Mustard Seed Project, visit themustardseedproject.org or call 884-1205.

Council seat ballot goes to recount

By Rick Sorrels, KP News

The vote count between Stan Flemming and Derek Young for county councilmember for District 7 is extremely close.

A manual recount is required, which will start on Dec. 1.

District 7 represents the Key Peninsula, Gig Harbor Peninsula, and the area just across the Tacoma Narrows Bridge. This councilmember is the most influential voice and vote that the residents of the Key Peninsula have. Flemming has held the position since elected in 2010. Young, the challenger, served as an elected councilmember for the city of Gig Harbor from January 1998 to December 2013.

There are 74,490 registered voters in District 7, with 45,562 casting votes in the November General Election,

which makes for a 61 percent voter response rate.

At press time, there were only 102 votes separating the two candidates, with Young leading. The law requires a manual recount if the vote separation is less than either one-fourth of one percent of the votes cast, or less than a 150 vote spread.

There are still a few overseas ballots trickling in, along with some ballots where the voters forgot to sign, etc, that are being reconciled.

The county auditor is required to certify the election results by Nov. 25. This certification will be subject to the required manual recount.

According to Mike Rooney, the Pierce County elections manager, "the manual recount will start on Dec. 1, with the final results available Dec. 4 or 5."

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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.

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Did You Know?

Key Pen Parks has a grant program! The Key Pen Parks Grant Program helps community groups improve park and recreation opportunities by supplying funds through requested grants.

Grant applications for 2015 will be available online on December 8, 2014 on our website, www.keypenparks.com, click "Administration" and click the "Key Pen Parks Grant Program" link.

Applications for 2015 will be accepted December 9 through February 4, 2015.

Past grant recipients include:

- Key Peninsula Civic Center (tennis courts)
- Key Peninsula Community Services (S.A.I.L. Program)
- Key Peninsula Farm Tour
- Beyond the Borders
- Children's Home Society
- Two Waters Arts Alliance

December 2014

Key Pen Parks PROGRAM GUIDE

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The next Park Board meeting is 7:30 pm on Monday, December 8. A study session will be held at 7 pm. Board meetings are held in the Key Pen Parks office at Volunteer Park, 5514 Key Peninsula Hwy. N., Lakebay, WA 98349.

GATEWAY PARK PUBLIC PLANNING WORKSHOP

December 3rd 6:30pm-8:30pm

Located at *Minter Creek Elementary School*. We want to know: **What do YOU want at your park?** Splash pads? Playgrounds? Open space? Let us know and let your voice be heard! Bring the whole family! Join us, have some cookies and let's plan our community's next park! For more information or to be notified of future workshops, check our website @ www.keypenparks.com

or email scottg@keypenparks.com

Missed this meeting? Another one will be scheduled in February 2015.

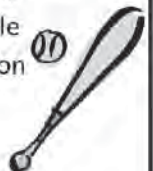




Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News

Skylar Lantz makes a move upfield during a recent game at Shemel Park in Gig Harbor. Lantz is the only girl in the league and was also a standout player when she played tackle football in 2013.

(From Football, Page 1)

fer Lantz recalled.

"It took me a while to get used to the idea, but Skylar ended up wrestling and she did awesome," she added.

It also took a while for some of Skylar's teammates to get used to the idea of having a girl on the team when she started playing football.

"When I first got there, the teammates didn't respect me," Skylar said. "I just had

to show them."

She did that by making tons of tackles and doing a lot of pushing.

Flag football is different, but it's still fun, and the boys on the team like having her on their team, she said.

Ten-year-old Jack Timmons is one of Skylar's Timberwolf teammates.

"The first game, she got two interceptions and three touchdowns and a two-point conversion. She's very good. She pretty much plays any position," he said.

"Some of the boys on the other team were making fun of her, but they didn't make any touchdowns and she got, like, all the touchdowns in the first game, so she showed them that she's very good.

"She's nice, she's fast and she's smart. And she's not afraid to tackle someone," he added.

Greg Butler, Timberwolves head coach, has nothing but praise for Skylar.

"She's definitely a team player. She jumps right in there and she really helps everybody, helps them along and works with them very well. And she plays the

game very well. She's a standout."

Brad Lantz, Skylar's father, thinks it's cool that Skylar loves sports so much.

"When she's played sports, whether it was wrestling or co-ed soccer or tackle football or flag football, there's always some boys that might want to have a bad attitude about having a girl on the team.

"She doesn't deal with that, she just stands up for herself and goes out there and earns their respect, because, frankly, she can beat most of them.

"I'm proud of her, what she has accomplished and she doesn't let pressure of other people influence her. She makes her own choices to do what she wants, so I'm proud of her whether she chooses to do sports or not do sports," Lantz said.

Gender doesn't matter if you have a desire to play, coach Butler said. "If you have the desire to play something, then go out and do it," he said.

Skylar agreed. "I tell the other girls that if you want to do something, just go for it," she said.

Key Pen Parks staff wants to hear from you

Key Pen Parks has set its second of three public meetings in December the development of a master plan for Gateway Park.

According to Scott Gallacher, the executive director, the purpose of the master plan is to gather the community's input for improvements at Gateway Park.

He said that he's looking for input from everyone, youth included.

"We want to know what you want at your park. Do you want water features for the children, playgrounds or open

space?" Gallacher said. "Come on out to these meeting and let your voice be heard."

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, Dec. 3 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Minter Creek Elementary School, located at 12617 118th Avenue NW.

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

Correction

In our last issue, we reported that the Key Peninsula Fire Department received \$9,300 during the KP Farm Tour, but they actually received \$907 in donations.

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A holiday tradition from The Mustard Seed Project continues

KP News staff report

For the past five years, The Mustard Seed Project's "Random Acts of Caroling" has been bringing in holiday cheer and much joy to Key Peninsula residents.

As the season of long nights begins, the group's staff identify those who might benefit from a visit by a group of enthusiastic singers — often elders who may have an extra burden of health issues or other challenges.

A group (numbers have varied from the early days with just four singers to more recently about a dozen) meets at the Key Center office. They carefully map a route that spans the entire length of the peninsula, and pack thermoses of coffee and cider to keep themselves fueled.

It's a full day, starting before noon, said Edie Morgan, executive director of The Mustard Seed Project.

By dusk, about 15 homes have been

visited.

"The biggest challenge is making sure people are home while retaining the element of surprise. Part of the fun is arriving when we were not expected," Morgan said.

The singers are staff members, volunteers who work with The Mustard Seed Project, along with others who are in choirs or who just want to sing. Morgan said they have been accompanied by different instruments over the years too, but this year they hope to reprise last year's performance with a ukulele.

"The experience brings tears to many eyes. I am next to certain it is tears of joy," Morgan said with a smile.

Those interested in joining the caroling this year call The Mustard Seed at 884-9814.

The planned date is Saturday, Dec. 13. The van leaves at 11 a.m. and music sheets are provided.

School redistricting will not affect KP

By Rick Sorrels, KP News

According to the redistricting plan presented to the Peninsula School Board on Nov. 13, there will be no impact on students residing on the Key Peninsula. The plan only affects elementary students attending schools on the Gig Harbor peninsula.

There was no vote taken at the meeting, but Karen Anderson, the chief financial officer for the school district — who has worked closely with the committee, the superintendent, and the school board on the issue — does not expect any changes forthcoming that would affect the KP.

The redistricting plan was driven by the heavy residential construction and growth

currently being experienced in the Gig Harbor North area. Purdy Elementary, which would normally receive these new students, was already operating over its designed capacity.

"The redistricting plan draws new boundaries in order to equalize the additional student load among the elementary schools on the Gig Harbor peninsula," Anderson said. "The committee determined that it would be too upsetting to the communities to impose changes across the Purdy bridge."

Future discussions will determine how the individual schools will absorb the extra students, including whether additional portable classrooms will be required.

Vandals mark PSD buses with offensive graffiti

Sometime during the weekend of Nov. 15 and 16, at least 25 Peninsula School District buses were marked with offensive graffiti.

According to Julie Richards, community outreach assistant, the dirty work was first noticed when transportation employees arrived to work early Monday morning. She said cleanup was only possible on

some buses before they needed to be on the road to pick up students.

"Please know our transportation department is working diligently to remove the offensive language. This is an unfortunate incident and the district will conduct an investigation," Richards said in a written statement.

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Peninsula Views

Enjoy a Christmas season well-spent

Christmas is here again, with its hustling and bustling and hurry and bother. It's the annual marathon of driving and running and shuffling our way from mall to office party to the in-laws. Every year, we say, "I wish we would just slow down and enjoy the season," after which we jump into the car, hoping to make it to a store in time for the annual sock sale.

Are you the sort who wakes up in January and says, "I can't believe it's over already; I wish I'd done more to make it meaningful"? Here's a helpful list for a richer, fuller, well-spent Christmas.

If you stayed home to play games with your family, it was a Christmas well-spent.

If you skipped the mall and headed into the woods for a hike, enjoying the beauty of nature in winter, it was a Christmas well-spent.

If you had friends over for appetizers and a viewing of "It's a Wonderful Life," it was a Christmas well-spent (bonus points if you also watched "A Christmas Story").

If you gave a gift that you made with your own hands — a scarf, a bird feeder, a crock of soup — then it was a Christmas well-spent.

If you listened to Handel's Messiah in its entirety, you spent your time wisely (extra bonus points if you saw a live performance).

If you got together with friends to dress up and go caroling, it was a Christmas well-spent.

If you attended the Christmas tree lighting at the Key Center Corral, or met with Santa as he made his rounds of the KP, it was a Christmas well-spent.

If you weren't offended when some-

Dan Whitmarsh
Writing by Faith



body wished you "Happy Holidays," "Merry Christmas," "Happy Hanukah," or however else they greeted you, you did well.

If you made homemade eggnog to share with friends, it was a Christmas well-spent.

If you gave a card or a gift to your letter carrier, your newspaper deliverer, your child's teacher, a political leader or your grandmother, you are to be commended.

If you made somebody's life brighter, if you fed somebody who was hungry, if you befriended someone who was lonely, if you dropped coins in the red kettle or made a donation to a worthy cause, then you chose wisely.

If you bought your presents from local artists or a retail shop here on the KP, then it was a Christmas well-spent.

If you attended a Christmas Eve service or gathered to worship with your faith community, it was a Christmas well-spent.

If you made a child happy, it was a Christmas very well-spent.

If you ever stopped, took a deep breath and recognized the glory of music, of laughter, of friendship, of food, of faith, of creation, of aging parents and energetic children, it was a moment well-spent.

On behalf of the Key Peninsula Ministerial Association, I wish you a Merry Christmas. May peace mark your pathway, light shine into your darkness, and may you spend your time wisely and well.

What to expect from Congress

The 2014 election has set the Democratic Party back to the least number of office holders since the 1920s. Let's see what changes we should expect after the newly elected take office in January.

Federal government:

The Democrats lost their majority in the Senate the Republicans now control. The Republicans already had a majority of the seats in the House of Representatives; now they have a stronger majority, almost enough to override a presidential veto.

With the Republicans controlling both houses of Congress, expect the past history of a paralyzed, do-nothing Congress to change to one with a record number of bills being passed. Do not expect, however, that they will actually become law.

President Obama's record has been one with few vetoes. That will change. The president has already announced his intention to exercise his right to veto, which can only be overridden by a two thirds vote of both Houses.

Do not expect enough Senate votes to override presidential vetoes, which brings us back to the ineffective place where we were. The only thing to effectively change is where to place the blame. The president will now be in the blame chair.

The Republican-controlled Senate has the sole discretion to approve presidential appointees, treaties, et cetera. Expect these to become bargaining chips with which bills are not vetoed.

Absent action by Congress on certain issues, the president has already announced that he will issue executive orders so he could institute the changes he wants. There

is a strong argument that this violates the Constitution's separation of powers. This could result in impeachment proceedings.

There is a frequent misunderstanding that impeachment is the removal of a president from office. This is false. Impeachment is the proceeding itself, which may or may not remove a president from office. With Republicans controlling both Houses, this could get quite interesting.

State government:

The Republicans gained enough seats to move them from a marginal control to a definite control of the state Senate, with 26 seats vs. 23 seats. The Democrats still control the House with 51 seats to 47 seats.

Controlling both houses and the governor's office for decades, the Democrats must finally resort to something new, bipartisanship, in order to get any bill at all passed. The Democratic governor can still veto however, so also expect an increased involvement from the governor's office in pending legislation.

In Washington, the governor has the power to "line item veto," where he can strike portions of passed bills and only implement those portions that he chooses. Line item vetoes are risky, because the normal vetting process is frequently bypassed.

Things have changed, but only time will tell if it is for the better. The general election in two years will be the important one.

Rick Sorrels
The Pragmatic Sophist



Letters Policy

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The gift of the Lotto

Every Christmas is a maker and marker of events that stay in our memory forever. This is the story of a special Christmas my family experienced back when I wore a younger man's shoes.

Christmas Eve's shorter days lent themselves to glowing holiday displays that abounded everywhere. Neighbor competed with neighbor with elaborate creations of the season.

Santa and reindeer posed on rooftops, twinkling lights outlined the houses and shops. Personally decorated trees adorned picture windows and some towns still boldly displayed life-sized Nativities. This was a time when my kids were still children, and Christmas wasn't spelled with an X.

It was our custom to spend Christmas Eve with our parents, as I had married the proverbial "girl next door," and our parents still lived next to each other.

The drive would take about 45 minutes as there was a lot of hurried traffic at the dinner hour.

As we neared our destination, I noticed an old car parked or pushed to the side of the road. It was packed with children and the father had the hood up in an obvious sign of distress.

I knew they would have a hard time getting any professional help on this night, so I stopped to see if my limited knowledge of auto mechanics could be of any use. After a short discussion and inspection, I determined they had a dead battery and a lame starter.

I jumped their battery and got the starter to work one more time using a trick I knew involving a long screwdriver. With the motor running, they would be able to get to their destination after all, as would we, though we'd both be a bit late.

That was our good deed for the day and those people really appreciated it. The father had very little to offer. What he did have was seven lotto tickets he had purchased earlier and he insisted that we take them. He said they had brought him good fortune already, because we had stopped and helped him, and he wanted to pass the "good luck" on to us.

Steve Whitford Words of Whit



Reluctantly, I accepted the gift as he wouldn't have it any other way. It was humbling to see someone with so little giving away what to him was so much. After a wonderful reunion with our parents, our tired, but happy family began the long drive home. As we passed a convenience store, my children reminded me about the lotto tickets and loudly insisted that we stop and find out if the tickets were really lucky.

Surprisingly the store manager looked a bit like Santa. He was old and pot-bellied and sported a long, white, flowing beard that hung nearly to his waist. He looked like what you would expect a Santa to look like in India.

We handed him the tickets to scan, as was the custom in those days. He scanned each ticket, a twinkle in his eyes and an unknown tune on his lips. When he had finished the last ticket, my children could no longer contain their excitement, and it was Christmas Eve, a night of miracles wasn't it?

"Did we win? Did we win something? Did we?" they shouted. The old store keeper looked down into their eager little faces, and with a knowing smile said, "No."

If you look for miracles, they're easy to find because they are all around us. Marrying my wife was a miracle (at least for me). My parents, my children and just being alive are all miracles to me, which brings us to the biggest miracle of all: the reason we celebrate Christmas.

The Voice of the Key Peninsula

**KEY PENINSULA
NEWS**

Join our holiday celebration

Bruce Macdonald, Key Peninsula Civic Center Association, Treasurer
Macdonald has been a board member at the Key Peninsula Civic Center Association since the early 1990's and was president from 2009-2012.

If my computations are correct, you should be receiving this edition of the Key Peninsula News just days before the last Civic Center Board meeting of the year. It's a special one as the Board will be gathering at 6 PM on Thursday the 11th for a seasonal potluck dinner, good cheer and we follow it all up with the last Board meeting of 2014.

Friends and supporters are welcome... in fact encouraged... to join us to celebrate the season, the great year past and to welcome in the newly elected Officers and Board members for 2015.

It might serve well to put names to this proverbial Board... often mentioned but seldom identified. They are our friends and neighbors and they have all stepped up to help keep the Civic Center delivering the services and facilities that help make our Peninsula all the finer.

So, please join us on the 11th to thank the 2014 Board and welcome the following new Officers and Board for 2015

Officers:

Phil Bauer, President
Mark Roberts, 1st Vice-President
Pat Medveckus, 2nd Vice-President
Ed Taylor, Past President
Kathleen Wingers, Secretary
Bruce Macdonald, Treasurer
Sharon Kaffer, Human Resources
Irene Torres, 1st Member-at-Large
Tracy Geiss, 2nd Member-at-Large

Board Members:

Keith Axelsen (New Member)
Julie Boardman
Tom Boardman
Scott Dervaes
Stephanie Flintoff
Peggy Gablehouse
Claudia Loy
Dale Loy
Cameron McIntyre (New Member)
Lloyd Miller
Jud Morris
Rick Sorrels
Amy Shaver

Affiliate Members:

Jud Morris, Children's Home Society
Norman Brones, Fresh Food Revolution
Jena Henak, KP Baptist Church
Judy Mills, KP Historical Society
KP Lions, position is open
KP Senior Society, position is open

All these, listed above, give time and effort to the operations of the Civic Center. Along with our able and dedicated Staff... Holly Hendrick and James Allyn... our mission continues and flourishes.

Mission: The Key Peninsula Civic Center Association, through its facility and the effort of its members, fosters and promotes the civic, social, cultural and general well-being of the Key Peninsula community.

Happy Holidays.

**Thank you to all our
donors, volunteers, and
community members
for your support
in 2014.**



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!

Chief Allen 'officially' takes charge of KP fire department

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

Key Peninsula Fire Chief Guy Allen took his oath of office, administered by KPFD's administrative manager, Christina Bosch, at a ceremony at the department's headquarters following a regular Board of Commissioners meeting Sept. 23. His wife, Tammy, pinned on his new badge following his swearing in.

Fire commissioners Frank Grubaugh, Sheila Hunt Niven, Claudia Jones and acting Chair Keith Davies were joined by a room full of KPFD officers and firefighters, Allen's family and supportive citizens including representatives from Gig Harbor Fire and Medic One to congratulate Allen.

"I am very proud to have been selected to lead this great group of people as their fire chief," Allen said to those assembled.

"I started this journey almost to the day 34 years ago on Sept. 19, 1980, when I joined Whatcom County Fire District 13 as a volunteer firefighter.

"I have a strong faith in destiny and believe that each of us is supposed to be



Photo by Hugh McMillan, KP News

Guy Allen was recently sworn in as the chief of the Key Peninsula Fire Department by Christina Bosch, department administrative manager. Also pictured is Claudia Jones, commissioner.

right here in this moment, and that I am supposed to be here as the fire chief for the Key Peninsula. I am humbled by the support and encouragement I have received and look forward to the challenges ahead. And, I want to thank the board for its confidence in me, and my family for all

the sacrifices they have endured over these years," he said.

On behalf of the board, commissioner Kieth Davies told the audience: "The commissioners are proud of the work Guy Allen did as interim chief. Through the hiring process, Chief Allen came out as a quality

candidate. He is the man for the job, a man who has the respect of the crews, people in the organization and the community. He leads by example and we feel these are the tools of successful leadership."

"We are very excited about our leadership and our future with Guy in the chief's position," said commissioner Claudia Jones. "We will all be impressed and proud in the years to come."



THE GIFT OF WARMTH

It may be the warmest gift you give.



It's called Project HELP.

Project Help serves our members who need a hand to pay their winter heating bills. It's a partnership between Peninsula Light Co. and Key Peninsula Community Services.

Your contributions go entirely to the fund—no administrative costs are taken. Contributions are tax deductible and Peninsula Light Co. matches every donation, dollar for dollar, so your gift goes twice as far.

We hope you will give generously to help warm the hearts—and homes—of those in need.

For more information, contact the Member Services Department at 253.857.5950 or toll-free at 888.809.8021.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFT!

www.penlight.org

Peninsula Light Co.

The power to be...

KP Lions are accepting nominations for 'Citizen of the Year' award

Nominations for the 31st annual Key Peninsula Citizens of the Year Awards dinner will be accepted by the sponsoring KP Lions Club beginning Dec. 1.

Nominees for the honor must either live on, work on or own property on the Key Peninsula and have voluntarily contributed to the welfare of our community, whether over a period of years or with an outstanding deed.

Nominations must contain the full name, telephone number, street address and a statement explaining why the person deserves recognition in.

Nominations may be submitted via writing to KP Lions, P.O. Box 63, Vaughn, WA 98394 or via email to hmcnp1000@centurytel.net.

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

Key Peninsula Business Association

All Around Gutter
 American Family Insurance - Timothy Lopez
 Angel Guild Thrift Shop
 Aspen Land Surveying, LLC
 Bek Ashby
 Bear's Lair Bed and Breakfast
 Better Properties - CC Williams
 Blend Wine Shop
 Blue Willow Lavender Farm
 Bret Price, M.D.
 Blythe Visits
 Carlson Builders, Inc.
 CenturyLink
 Charbonneau Construction and Supply
 Cherished Properties Home Care and Maintenance
 Chuck West Construction, LLC
 Close to Home Espresso
 Comfort Design Windows and Doors
 Communities in Schools of Peninsula
 Costless Pharmacy - Lake Kathryn Village
 Costco
 DK Property Management, LLC
 Don Tjossem
 E&L Civil Engineering
 El Sombrero Family Restaurant
 Ellis Accounting & Taxes
 Food Market at Key Center
 Four Winds Riding Center
 Frog Creek Lodge
 Gig Harbor Chamber of Commerce
 Gold Postal
 Home Excavating and Dozing
 Jan Hugel
 KC Computer Repair
 Keller Williams Realty - Fred Angus
 Key Center Auto Repair
 Key Center Family Dentistry, John D. Olsson DDS
 Key Center Pierce County Library
 Key Medical Center
 Key Pen Parks
 Key Peninsula Civic Center
 Key Peninsula Community Council
 Key Peninsula Community Fair Association
 Key Peninsula Family Resource Center
 Key Peninsula Farm Council
 Key Peninsula Health & Professional Center
 Key Peninsula Historical Society and Museum
 Key Peninsula Lions Club
 Key Peninsula News
 Key Peninsula Sportsmen's Club
 Key Peninsula Toastmasters
 Key Peninsula Veterans
 Key to Learning, Childcare and Preschool
 KPS School Bus Connects
 KPS Fencing Company, Inc.
 Lakebay Marina
 Larry Sequist
 Le Voyageur de Beauté - Judith Atkins
 Longbranch Improvement Club
 LPL Financial Services
 Lulu's Homeport Restaurant
 Marisa and Jeff Harris
 Master's Dry Carpet Cleaning
 Mike Fay
 Mustard Seed Project
 Nails by Lynn
 New Beginnings Real Estate
 Peninsula Gateway
 Peninsula Light Company
 Peninsula School District
 Pierce County Fire District 16
 Phyllis Henry
 Ravensara Drive-thru Espresso and Bakery
 Red Barn Youth Facility
 Ruth Bramhall
 Salon 202 Hair and Spa
 Serenity Salon - Family Salon and Spa
 ServPro of Gig Harbor
 Shear Magic
 SODASPEAK Counseling
 Sound Credit Union
 St. Anthony Hospital
 Sundycrest Nursery and Floral
 Tax Shack
 Travel House - Marlies Van Cise
 Troy's Mobile Auto Repair
 Two Waters Arts Alliance
 Watermark Writers
 Westwood Motel and Apartments
 YMCA Camp Colman
 YMCA Camp Seagovier

Santa Claus is coming to town...

brought to you by the Key Peninsula Business Association,
 the Fire Fighters Union,
 Pierce County Fire District 16
 and Key Pen Parks

Santa will fly from 5:30pm to 7:30pm* each night. Please keep in mind that times are approximate and due to temperamental reindeer, Santa will stick to main roadways. Listen for our sleigh bells to signal our arrival!!!

Sat, December 6	Mon, December 8	Sun, December 14	Sat, December 20
2nd Annual Santa Breakfast at Key Center Fire Station 9-11am Pre-Register with Key Pen Parks Lake Minterwood	Greentree	*Due to Weather and Reindeer Games, exact times are not possible Joemma Beach Palmer Lake	Lake of the Woods Bel Ridge
Sun, December 7	Fri, December 12	Thu, December 18	Sun, December 21
Tree Lighting - Key Center Wind and Tides Bel Mar Emerald Shores	Lakebay Marina - 6:00pm Home - 7:30pm	Horseshoe Lake Estates Creviston Heights	Lake Holiday
	Sat, December 13	Sun, December 19	
	Taylor Bay Jackson Lake	Skate Night at KP Civic Center Vaughn	

Geoduck farming in Puget Sound: a brief history

By Sara Thompson, KP News

Editor's note: This is a shortened print version of an article that is the first part of a series on geoduck aquaculture. Articles on the environmental impact and the economics of geoduck farming will follow. A longer version of this article with additional detail and links to online resources is available online at keypennews.com.

Last month, the Pierce County Hearing Examiner approved Taylor Shellfish's permit to establish a geoduck farm at the Haley property. (Read original article online at keypennews.com.)

Whether that is seen as good news or bad depends on one's perspective. To Taylor Shellfish and the Pierce County Department of Land Services, this is good news — encouraging a sustainable industry that appears to do little, if any, environmental harm and fits with the state and local mandates of preferred use of shorelines.

To local activist Laura Hendricks of the Coalition to Save Puget Sound, this is bad news, one more step in the goal of the shellfish industry to ultimately farm along the en-

tire available coastline. Her group will appeal the decision at the state level, as they have every decision to approve such permits.

"The shellfish industry is greedy," she said.

Barb Schoos, who with her neighbors formed Longbranch Shellfish, was excited to put their high-bank beach to work. She had read about the positive impact of geoducks on water quality, knew that the tubes that protect the new clams are visible only during low tides and that they are pulled after about 18 months when the clams are deep enough. She felt this would be a great way to bring in retirement income.

They plan to plant about a half acre each year over five years. She had heard plenty of negativity about geoduck farms. In fact, the permitting process was put on hold while Pierce County looked at all the evidence available. The permit was approved and has passed two environmental appeals. The plan is to plant the first "crop" next spring.

"If you don't have a stake in this, it is easy to jump on the negative bandwagon," Schoos said.

But after looking at all the studies, she is

convinced that this is an environmentally responsible way to use tidelands.

"If I find out that this farm is not a net positive for our water and beach, I will be the first to close it down," she said.

Until 50 years ago, geoducks were a well-kept secret of the Pacific Northwest — harvesting was limited to low tides and Herculean-level digging. Then in 1960, a Navy diver searching for lost torpedoes discovered beds of them deep in Puget Sound.

The state auctioned the rights to harvest the clams. One harvester, Brian Hodgson, made forays to the Far East, ultimately developing a market there. He also became a kingpin in geoduck shenanigans and ultimately pled guilty in the 1980s to stealing a million pounds of the now-valuable commodity. Illegal activity on a smaller scale continues, with one man recently convicted.

The actual farming of geoducks has been possible for less than two decades. In the 1980s, biologist C. Lynn Goodwin and colleagues working at a state lab produced baby clams in tanks. They were worried that ongoing harvesting could have a serious impact on the geoduck population. It took

10 years to discover how to transplant them into beaches and protect them from predators — using PVC pipes planted a foot apart and topped by netting for the first 12 to 18 months until the clams dig deep enough to be safe.

Once the technology was developed, geoduck farms were established on privately owned tidelands (60 percent of Washington state tidelands are privately owned), mostly leased to shellfish companies. By the mid-2000s, the number of farms had grown significantly and environmental and local citizen groups raised an alarm.

"I've always loved wildlife but was not an environmentalist," Hendricks said of her early involvement. "My background is in economics. When I found out there were plans for a geoduck farm in front of my place on Henderson Bay, I looked into what that entailed and I was horrified."

She went to visit Totten Inlet, where shellfish aquaculture — primarily clams and oysters — has been in full force for decades. It is the most densely farmed area in Puget

(See **Geoduck**, Page 11)



Stay Clear!

**A downed power line may not be a dead line.
It could cause serious injury or death.**

If someone is injured by contact with a power line, call 911 and keep others away until help arrives.


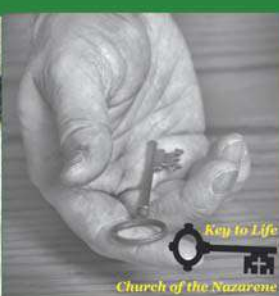
If a power line falls across or near your vehicle while you are in it, stay inside until help arrives. If you must exit, jump clear so that no part of your body is touching the car when you land. **KEEP BOTH FEET TOGETHER**, and shuffle or hop at least 30 feet away from the vehicle.

Peninsula Light Co.

Outage Reporting:
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JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON

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Contact us to learn more 253.857.5950 or
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COMMUNITY PAGES

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

DEC. 1-20

Trees of Sharing

The Key Peninsula Veterans have set up its annual Trees of Sharing which carry tags with gift information 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 inexpensive gift, wrap and attach the tag, then return it to the tree location before Dec. 20.

DEC. 1-23

Swimming

Adult water aerobics/lap swim is available Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:30 to 9:30 a.m., and Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 10 to 11 a.m. Cost is \$4.25/session prepaid monthly at first monthly session. Family Swim is the first and third Wednesdays 5 to 6 p.m.; cost is \$4.25/swimmer over age 2 or \$15/family to be prepaid monthly at the first session. All swimming is in the heated pool at the Easter Seals Camp Stand by Me. 884-2722

DEC. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Bloodmobile

The bloodmobile is at Albertsons 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

DEC. 2

Bloodmobile

The bloodmobile is at Peninsula High School 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

DEC. 2 and 16

Senior shopping

Seniors have an opportunity to go grocery shopping and attend any scheduled Gig Harbor doctor's appointments with transportation provided; a "Dutch" lunch is included. 884-9265.

DEC. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Story time

Music and Motion Story Time for ages 0 to 3 years (with an adult) is hosted 10 a.m., at the Key Center Library. Children

To submit an event

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

will enjoy songs, rhymes, dancing, play and instruments. Preschool Science Story Time for ages 3 to 5 is hosted 11 a.m., and includes hands-on science exploration. Both activities are sponsored by Friends of the Key Center Library. 548-3309.

DEC. 3

Park workshop

Key Pen Parks hosts a Gateway Park Public Planning Workshop from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at Minter Creek Elementary, 12617 - 118th Ave, NW. What do YOU want at your park? Let your voice be heard; bring the family. Enjoy some cookies and help plan our community's next park. Keypenpark.com or scottg@keypenparks.com.

DEC. 4

Ornament making

All ages may cut and stitch small hanging felt bird ornaments 4 p.m., at the Key Center Library. Prepared birds will be available for younger children to thread. 548-3309.

Cat-lover meeting

Cat Tales 4-H Club, for children ages 5 to 18, meets 6:30 to 8 p.m., in the VFW of the KP Civic Center. Learn all about cats with some cat-loving friends. There is an informational open house for interested kids at this meeting. Dianna, 884-4182 or cat.tales4h@gmail.com.

DEC. 5, 12, 19

'Built It'

Children, ages 0 to 6 (with an adult), use their imagination and create something awesome with the library's blocks, LEGOs and other building materials 11 a.m., at the Key Center Library. This

event is sponsored by the Friends of the Key Center Library. 548-3309.

Skate night

Skate Night is hosted at the KP Civic Center 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. 884-2456.

DEC. 6

Santa breakfast

Key Pen Parks and KP Firefighters Association host Breakfast with Santa which includes breakfast, holiday crafts and photos with Santa. Presale tickets are strongly recommended, cost \$5 and may be bought online at keypenparks.com. At the door tickets are first come, first serve and cost \$10. There are four seating times for breakfast: 8:30, 9:15, 10 and 10:45 a.m.

Barter fair

The free Key Peninsula Barter's Holiday Fair is 10 a.m. to noon in the Whitmore Room at the KP Civic Center. For information, call Alice at 884-2723.

Holiday concert

The C Notes, who perform an eclectic range of music, entertain adults and families 2 p.m., at the Key Center Library. This free event is sponsored by Friends of Key Center Library. 548-3309.

DEC. 7

Tree lighting

The annual tree lighting at the Key Center Corral begins at 4 p.m. Enjoy singing, snacks, and the arrival of Santa and his sleigh at this family event. Check this paper for schedule of Santa's visits to neighborhoods.

DEC. 9

Crochet or knit

The Loving Hearts group knits and crochets for charities and meets 1 to 3 p.m., at WayPoint Church. Yarn donations are always needed. Virginia, 884-9619.

Christmas concert

The Joyful Noise Choir of local singers presents "Sounds of the Season" in the Peninsula High School Auditorium at 7

p.m. Suggested donation is \$5.

DEC. 10

Garden club meets

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

DEC. 11

Ashes meet

The Ashes support group for FD#16 meets 10:30 a.m., at the fire station in Key Center. 884-3771.

DEC. 11 and 18

Free clinic

Non-emergency medical care for KP residents without any medical insurance is provided 5:30 to 8 p.m., at Key Peninsula Health and Professional Center in Key Center. 509-8881.

DEC. 12

Teen fun

Club Cosmic for high school kids is 9 p.m. to midnight at KP Civic Center. 884-3456.

DEC. 13

Gingerbread houses

Children and their families make and decorate a gingerbread house from 10:30 a.m. to noon at the Key Center Library. Registration is required. This event is sponsored by Friends of the Key Center Library. 548-3309.

DEC. 13 and 20

Songwriting workshops

A songwriting workshop hosted for ages 8 to 12 will turn your poems into songs Dec. 13 from 1 to 4 p.m., at the Key Center Library. Attend the workshop and receive an audio recording. A second workshop for ages 13 to 18 is hosted on Dec. 20 from 1 to 4 p.m. 548-3309.

(See Community, Page 13)

PUBLIC MEETINGS

KP Veterans

Dec. 1, 7 p.m., at the KP Lutheran Church. Membership is open for veterans and active duty military service members, their spouses and children, 16 and older. 253-509-8656 or keypenveterans@outlook.com.

KP Lions' dinner, program

Dec. 3 and 17, 6 p.m., in VFW Room, KP Civic Center; 853-2721.

Peninsula School District Board

Dec. 4, 6 p.m., in library at Harbor Heights Elementary gym; Dec. 18, 6 p.m., at District Office.

Key Pen Parks

Dec. 8 and 22, 7:30 p.m., at Volunteer Park; keypenparks.com.

KP Fire Department

Dec. 9 and 23, 5 p.m., in meeting room, fire station in Key Center; keypeninsulafire.org.

Key Peninsula Council

Dec. 10, 7 p.m., meeting, WSDOT Project Engineer Steve Fuchs presents update on SR 302 project at Ravensara, at Key Center Fire Station; kpcouncil.org.

KP Civic Center Association Board

Dec. 11, 6-7 p.m., potluck followed by meeting in Whitmore Room, KP Civic Center. 884-3456.

KP Land Use Advisory Commission

Dec. 17, 6:30 p.m., at the KC Library; chuck-west@hotmail.com.

LIC

Dec. 17, regular potluck, 7 p.m., at Longbranch Improvement Club; 884-6022 longbranchimprovementclub.org.

KP Citizens Against Crime

Dec. 18, 7 p.m., at fire station in Key Center; kpcitizensagainstcrime.org.

KP Farm Council

Dec. 22, 6:30 p.m., at fire station in Home; c.wiley@mac.com.

WEEKLY EVENTS

MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS

Community walk

Free walking for exercise 9 to 11 a.m., in the KP Civic Center gym. 884-3456.

Senior exercise class

The S.A.I.L. program, taught by Marilyn Perks, meets 10 to 11 a.m., at the KP Community Services in Lakebay. Participants must register with Marilyn, 884-4440.

Tuesdays

Key Singers rehearse

Key Singers, a local community chorus, rehearse for the Christmas season, 7 p.m., at Key Peninsula Lutheran Church. Open to all who love to sing; annual dues are \$10, which pays for rent, scholarships, sheet music and concert refreshments. 884-5615.

Tuesdays and Thursdays Senior tai chi club

Senior tai chi meets 9:30 to 10:30 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.

Tuesdays and Saturdays KPHS Museum closed

KP Museum is closed in December and January. Visits can be arranged by appointment - call well in advance. A new exhibit will be set up for opening in February. For appointments, museum information or membership inquiries, call 888-3246.

Wednesdays Writers meet

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

Writers workshop

The Watermark Writers present a free

writers workshop 5 to 8 p.m., in Vaughn. 253-778-6559.

Wednesdays and Fridays Senior meals

Nutritional meals for seniors ages 60 and older 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.

Thursdays Toastmasters

The Toastmasters meet 8 to 9 a.m., at the Key Center Library. Join the fun and improve your speaking ability. 858-5761 or (253) 548-3511.

(From Community, Page 12)

DEC. 14

Key Singers Christmas concert

Key Singers present "The Key to Christmas," at 3 p.m., in McColley Hall, KP Lutheran Church, junction of KP Highway and Lackey Road. This free concert is their annual thank you to the community. Music includes traditional carols, some humorous pieces and special numbers by individual members. Donations of staples or money for the KP food bank are encouraged. 884-5615.

DEC. 21

Sunday bluegrass jam

Bluegrass Gospel Jam session is hosted at Longbranch Church, 16518 46th Street 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.

OFF THE KEY CALENDAR LISTINGS ONLINE

See what's happening off the key at keypennews.com

Seniors' lunch

The Key Peninsula Senior Society meets at 11 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 in Home 7 to 9 p.m. 884-4440.

Saturdays The Writers' Guild

The Writers' Guild meets the first and third Saturdays 10 a.m. to noon at the KC Library. 884-6455.

Lakebay Jam with 302

Lakebay Jam with 302 is 6:30 to 9 p.m., weather permitting, at the Lakebay Marina. Call ahead at 884-3350 or glory-promo@gmail.com.

DEC. 23

4-H meeting

The 4-H Guinea Pig group meets 6:30 to 8 p.m., in the Civic Center Library (upstairs). Nanette, (360) 981-5292.

DEC. 24

Christmas Eve

Lakebay Community Church invites everyone to the annual Christmas Eve event, Candles and Carols: A Service of Hope and Light. Join with friends and family to sing favorite carols and listen to the ancient Christmas story retold beginning at 6:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. lakebaycovenant.net.

DEC. 29

LEGO building

Children 8 to 18 build and program a robotic vehicle using LEGO Mindstorms from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Key Center Library. This event requires registration, which can be done online. 548-3309.

CALENDAR SUBMISSIONS

Send your calendar items to connierenz@hotmail.com

KP Community Services has holiday two wishes

By Scott Turner, KP News

Key Peninsula Community Services has two big items on its "wish list."

First is a hope that community members make a pledge to donate funds or food items on a regular basis. And wish No. 2 is that more people will volunteer to help with the myriad tasks that need doing at the community center every week.

"We sent out a letter on Sept. 17 asking the community to respond to our annual pledge drive," said Penny Gazabat, KPSC executive director.

"Maybe they can only pledge once, or maybe once a month, but every bit helps," she said.

Gazabat hopes that when people are out shopping and they see a two-for-one coupon, they'll think about giving KPSC the "one that they got free."

"We're always looking for food items — that's an ongoing need. And the pledge drive helps us with our operating costs, especially

when we have to purchase food when we don't have enough on the shelves."

The center provides about 185,000 meals to community residents every year, Gazabat said.

During the holiday season — the "giving season" as Gazabat calls it — people are very generous and thinking about helping others.

"This time of year we get a lot of food donations from food drives that go on through the Boy Scouts 220, KP Middle School, Stuff the Bus and many other organizations that do food drives for us.

"It's after we hit that beginning of the new year in January, February and March that we have a lot of difficulty in meeting the need," she said.

The senior lunch program is just one of the services KPSC provides on an ongoing basis.

The lunch program serves a nutritious meal to seniors in the community several times a week. It started in 1984, said Hellen Saxer, secretary of the KPSC board of directors.



Photo by Hugh McMillan, KP News

Boy Scouts, Joey Cusick, Carson Helland, and Ben Goins from Key Peninsula Lions Club-sponsored Troop 220 sorting some of the food the troop collected for and delivered to the KP Community Services Food Bank Nov.15.

KPCS partners with several Pierce County organizations in the meal program and other senior services.

Catholic Community Services provides once-a-month foot care for seniors. "The philosophy behind that is if you're not able to walk because you're not able to take care of your feet, you could be in a world of hurt. That's one of the things Pierce County identifies as a needed service," Gazabat said.

In addition to food and money donations, KPSC also needs more volunteers.

"Volunteers are the backbone of our organization," said Margaret Adams, a former board member. "They're the most important part of this."

Volunteers are needed to help in the food bank, in the Senior Center and to help load and unload the food donations.

Thanks to a donation of a brand new refrigerator truck from the Boeing Employees Fund, KPSC now has a regular driver, Gazabat said, "but we need helpers to load and unload it. We move about \$570,000 worth of products a year and that takes a lot of muscle and coordination."

Volunteers are also needed on the board of directors — especially people who have financial and marketing skills.

"The board members are the people who make the decisions about the community center," Saxer added. "It's a very important position. I wish more people would participate."

It's a wonderful feeling to volunteer, Gazabat said. "I used to volunteer in the food bank so many people come in and tell us, 'I don't know what we would have done without you, folks.' It's a wonderful feeling to know that you're helping someone," she said.

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Civic center fair, chili competition draws a crowd

By Steve Whitford, KP News

On Saturday, Nov. 8, vendors, chili cooks and community members gathered at the Key Peninsula Civic Center for the 7th annual Winter Craft Fair. Along with the 39 vendors' tables, there was live entertainment, food and the traditional Chili Cook-off.

This year eight people submitted their Tex-Mex creations to be evaluated by this year's judges.

Firefighters Chuck West and Frank Grubaugh, both "seasoned" veterans of past cook-offs, and first-timer Keith Davies rated each entry by its appearance, aroma, consistency, taste and aftertaste, in a blind taste test.

No discussion was allowed and each judge was required to cleanse his palate after each sample. The entire process was coordinated by Pat Medveckus.

This year's winners were: Kenny Grant, third place; Kathleen Tei, second place; with first place awarded to Ron Schillinger. All the judges agreed that Schillinger should make chili for them

on a regular basis.

Meanwhile, some 39 vendors sold their handmade wares.

There were softcrafts, jewelry, books, soap, wood working, photography and many other creations.

Some examples include the Pandamanda Foundation table, a creation of Ryan and Sara Messinger. One hundred percent of their jewelry sales go to fight cystic fibrosis.

There was Sis Lavigne and her Pickled Organics. She boasts of being the only licensed organic pickler in the state.

Family spirit abounded at the Murphy table. Maddie, 9, Ethan, 8, and Danica, 7, all helped make the snowmen that adorned their Christmas cards.

Rich and Dana Ziemba ran the Paws in Time table featuring jewelry made with wooden scrabble game squares.

For some vendors, this was their first time, but many had participated for several years. And a few bragged of having been at all seven fairs at the center.

Kathy Best, knitted hat-maker, said, "I've been doing fairs in our area for the

last 35 years." Every vendor and their work had a story to be told.

Amid the sales, participants and visitors were entertained by two musical groups. Xylophone and percussion numbers were performed by Vaughn Elementary students. This is a 30-some member group of fourth and fifth graders who do all their practicing at recess and on their own time.

"The children love what they are doing and are available for future performances," said their music teacher, Lisa Mills.

Others performing were the Blue Grass Minstrels, a group founded in 2013 that includes four local pastors and people from various churches. Santa himself even showed up for the children.

In the kitchen, chili and hot dogs were served up to the hungry by Sherri Lagood, who's been doing it for the last three years. She was ably assisted by Tyvel Elston Young Jr., Colleen Young and Cassidy Young. Diners consumed more than 100 hotdogs, 75 bags of chips and a whopping 81 pounds of chili.



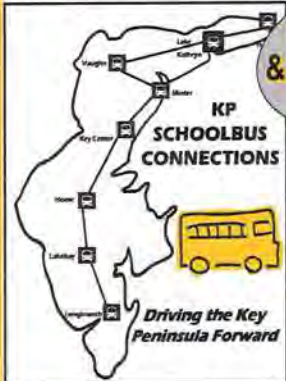
Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News

Fish on the run

The chum salmon are back in Minter Creek. Here is a group seen at the bridge, downstream from the hatchery.

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Special remembrances of the season

Compiled by Colleen Slater, KP News

Arlene Babbitt: "My brothers Gerry and Joe Visell built a giant snowman in 1955. The snow was 6 inches deep and school was closed. Joe said Gerry, 21, carved much of it with an ax. Mom couldn't believe what a cute guy he turned out to be, so had to take a picture of it."

Ann Craven: "Christmas Eve day 1941, the Army was evacuating Kodiak, Alaska. Some longtime friends of ours were coming to Seattle on a Navy ship. We were living with relatives in West Seattle and were glad to have them with us. Since they got out with only layers of clothes on their backs, we had a lot of shopping and wrapping to do. It was the most exciting Christmas ever."

Dorene Paterson: "My mom's family was poor coming through the depression. My grandfather worked at many jobs, with only a third-grade education."

When we were kids, grandpa came over every Christmas with an old sock for each

of us with whole walnuts and an orange (and such) in them.

We thought it was pretty weird since we grew up with chocolates and little toys for stocking stuffers. We always gave him big hugs and thanked him. We appreciated it and ate the treats even though we thought it was a strange thing to do. It was good. Not until I read 'Little House on the Prairie' to my kids did I realize how much of a sacrifice it must have been back in the Depression days to have those things to make Christmas special for your children."

Kris Morrison: "As the girls were growing up, we put a wooden manger under the Christmas tree. At the end of each day, we talked about what we did for others, then put a piece of straw in the manger to represent that the good things done for our fellow man prepared the way for the baby Jesus."

As I worked odd shifts and many holidays as a nurse, my girls had years when 'Santa came to our house first.' Knowing it would be hard to rouse them from



Photo courtesy Arlene Babbitt

Joe Visell with the giant snowman he helped his brother build.

their beds at 4 a.m. to see what was under the tree, I tape recorded a male co-worker shouting, 'Ho ho ho, Merry Christmas' and stomping around. My husband gathered the kids for their bath while I rushed to get

everything set up for Santa. I popped in the tape and went to help with the baths. By the time they heard Santa, they were drying off

(See Season, Page 17)

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(From **Season**, Page 16)

and rushed out to try to catch him.”

Marianne McColley: “A growing-up tradition was the Christmas Eve lutefisk dinner at Grandma Holman’s in Vaughn. There were those who fairly slurped the gelatinous fish with melted butter and white sauce (which gave it its flavor) and those who quailed at the thought of touching it to our lips. We asked to have the meatballs passed instead. The reward for the patience and forbearance of the younger set was that the dishes were done by moms, aunts and grandma. The presents were opened as soon after as possible. The lutefisk scent lingered in the air, definitely compatible with the evergreen aroma of Christmas.”

Kathy Ueland: “Our Christmas mornings are often taped and sent to family out of state to enjoy. Starting when the girls were really young, Mrs. Claus has come early and left each person new slippers and pajamas to open on Christmas Eve. On Christmas morning, we are each wearing our brand new night clothes and ready to be on camera.

For two weeks prior to Christmas, we make a list of people who are shut in, sick or who we’d like to give a gift from our

hearts too.

We make 13-17 different kinds of cookies and package them up in small gift bags to share. This tradition allows us many evenings of cookie baking while watching our favorite Christmas movies, sharing stories and laughs and thinking of the special people in our lives who will enjoy our small treats.

One highlight of Christmas morning was seeing the beautiful clothes my mom had sewn for us.

She always knew our favorite colors and styles. Now that I have children, it is amazing to watch her making special things for her nine grandchildren. That special surprise on Christmas morning is back and even better, watching that smile of joy light up my children’s faces as they open their special handmade gifts.”

Ron Schillinger: “My father, Ron Schillinger, was 50 percent German and 50 percent Scottish. His German-side tradition was to go out into the woods prior to Christmas and cut two live Christmas trees. One tree in the house was decorated with indoor lights, ornaments and tinsel.

The other tree was put up outside in the front yard and decorated with outdoor lights and ornaments.

In later years, dad moved the outside tree out onto our dock on Vaughn Bay. I will always remember that the outside tree needed at least four guide wires to keep it up in all the windy weather. I also remember how beautiful a reflection the dock tree made in the bay water. The outside tree decorating became a wonderful three-generation family event: parents, kids and grandkids.”

Jan Coen: I remember our family always trekking up to grandma’s house on the hill and all the extended family gathering for a huge Norwegian dinner with lutefisk and all the trimmings. Of course, all we little ones were off at tables by ourselves with the usual tricks of ‘how many olives can you put on your fingers’ and how much lefse you could eat. It wasn’t Christmas without the lefse.”

It was an uncomplicated time with far less expectation of loads of gifts, more excitement of being together for a time. I remember being taken to the ‘five and dime’ store and having a whole \$3 to spend for gifts. I bought something for each of the family and had enough money. Wrapping each little token gift was so exciting, and presenting the tiny vase or other gift brought such pride. I wish for all families at Christmas that simple joy of family and sharing.”

Taylor Reed hosts solo GH art exhibition

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

At her “Meet the Artist” reception Nov. 22, Taylor Reed greeted guests and introduced them to some of the work at her solo exhibition, “All that Glitters,” at Morso restaurant in Gig Harbor.

Her work will be on display there until Jan. 7.

Among the many guests were her parents, Phil and Kathy Bauer.

Reed, a photographer and oil painter, is originally from the Key Peninsula but has lived up and down the West Coast, from Alaska to Laguna Beach — and now makes her home in Longbranch.

“It really started with photography for me,” Reed said. “I fell in love with the viewfinder of the camera and the ability to create such perfect images within it. Quickly I began to see my photographic style translate into my paintings.”

The exhibition displays both Reed’s photography and oil painting.

She can be reached at taylorreedart.com.

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KP woman with breast cancer wants to educate community

By Scott Turner, KP News

It's been a challenging autumn for Palmer Lake resident Sarah Watkins and her family.

In June, Watkins, 31, noticed a tiny lump on her breast. She thought it was something that would just go away, but it grew rapidly and became increasingly painful.

In early August, she went to the Key Peninsula Free Clinic to get it checked out.

"The first thing I told them was that I don't have health insurance and I don't know what I'm going to do, but this really hurts," Watkins said.

The clinic's doctor, Dr. Jamie Payne, told Watkins she thought it was a fibroid cyst and that it would go away. But she ordered a mammogram for Watkins, just to be sure.

On Sept. 26, Watkins had a mammogram/ultrasound at the Carol Milgard Breast Cancer Center in Tacoma. "They were able to find a way to get a scholarship for me to get the mammogram and ultra sound for free," Watkins said.

The doctor at the Milgard Center didn't like the way the mammogram looked, and on Sept. 29, Watkins had a breast biopsy.

Two days later, on Oct. 1, she learned the

biopsy results.

"I was on my way to pick up my son from school when they called and said, 'You have cancer,' so my husband wasn't there when we found out," Watkins said, choking back tears.

But her husband, Tristan, was with her when she met her oncology team at Multi-Care later that same day, and has been by her side every step of the way since.

"I was diagnosed with triple negative invasive ductal carcinoma," Sarah Watkins said. "It's a very common invasive breast cancer. It starts in the milk duct and invades surrounding breast tissue. Triple negative means it does not respond to hormone therapy. It's aggressive and it could kill me if I hadn't caught it so early."

On Oct. 9, Watkins started chemotherapy.

In early November, she had a BRCA analysis, a type of genetic testing that indicated that the cancer was caused by a genetic mutation. "It's the same gene that Angelina Jolie carries," Watkins said. "Somewhere along the family line I got this gene."

"It also means that the cancer can attack my ovaries."

Watkins' treatment regime includes eight weeks of heavy-duty chemotherapy, followed

by a 12-week program of less invasive, easier chemo treatments.

Early next year, she'll have a double mastectomy and a complete hysterectomy.

So far, the prognosis looks good, she said.

Because of her condition and lack of insurance, Watkins was referred to DSHS and qualified for help under the vitrine breast and cervical health insurance coverage, but her mother also set up a YouCaring account to help the Watkins family handle Sarah's medical expenses.

The account is called "Sarah's Goliath, Breast Cancer," because her Bible study group was studying the story of David and Goliath when she learned of her condition. "The cancer is my Goliath," she said.

The support Watkins has received from family and the Key Peninsula community has been "overwhelming," according to Tristan Watkins.

"We knew that we were going to have a lot of support and that love and care would just be pouring out of the woodwork — and it truly has," he said.

"So many people, without question, without even asking us, have come with little bits of money or dinners or food or praise and it's

just been amazing," he said.

He also said that Sarah has been fighting it with all she has, right from the very beginning.

Sarah's advice to others is to not let lack of insurance stop you if you have a health problem.

"There is lots of help out there for women," she said. "Health coverage should never stop a woman from going in and having an exam. That is the last thing all the doctors, nurses and assistants would let me worry about. Getting their patients better is their number one goal."

If you find a lump and it's painful, get it checked out, she advises.

"People told me if it's painful, don't worry about it. If I had done that, this would be a whole different story. Anything different, get it checked out."

"And if you don't have insurance, there are programs out there to help, even the KP Free Clinic — that's where this began for me. Don't let insurance stop you, and don't be afraid of asking for help," Watkins said.

To donate, visit: youcaring.com/medical-fundraiser/sarah-s-goliath-breast-cancer/254649.

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Brookside Veterinary Hospital marks 20-year anniversary

By Karen Lovett, KP News

When Lisa Woods opened her veterinary clinic on the Key Peninsula 20 years ago, she slept on the clinic floor and took animals home with her. Caring for both large and small animals, she was on call 24 hours.

"I was the only vet for a hundred miles who did ostriches when they were popular," she said. "I was a single mom for many years and drug my son around on farm calls 'till he was 4. I had all my life to be a veterinarian, but one good chance to be his mom so around 2001 I stopped doing around the clock and no longer go out to farms."

Brookside Veterinary Hospital has come a long way since its 1994 opening.

The clinic has separate rooms for dogs and cats. Most lab work is sent out to save money, but sometimes it is done there if results are needed quickly. Rooms are equipped with X-rays and ultrasound as well as modern equipment needed for traditional surgery, laser surgery and dental care.

In addition to cats and dogs, the clinic sees pocket pets and small animals including ferrets, guinea pigs and rabbits, and will see sheep and goats if they are brought in. They do not do reptiles or birds.

"This is not cookie-cutter medicine," Woods said. "We've tried to stay on the cutting edge of medicine yet keep it affordable. We are the physician, radiologist and pharmacist."

Woods first became interested in veterinary medicine as a young girl, when a veterinarian in West Virginia let her work with him in his clinic. She later graduated with a degree in veterinary medicine from Ohio State University. After graduation, she moved to the area to work with friends, the husband and wife veterinary team of Gary and Kathy Haigh in Shelton.

Dr. Woods fell in love with the Pacific Northwest, so she decided to open her own clinic. That first location for Brookside was in the renovated building that now houses the deli across from Charbonneau Construction and Supply on State Route 302.

"I went to human medical graveyards for supplies (tools) and bought everything I could scrounge from the human side used," Woods said. "I don't want a fancy house or fancy car. I put everything into the business."

Woods purchased the land at the site of the current clinic, but had an extremely difficult time with the county to get approval for building the new facility. People stood behind her and pressured the county, she said. There was no code for a mixed animal practice so the building is zoned as a pet shop. The 2,500 square feet she desired was reduced to 2,200 and she had to get flood insurance.

They moved into the new facility at 118th Avenue in January 2000.

University of Minnesota graduate Dr. Shelby Watson joined the staff in January 2014. In addition to traditional healing, she specializes in herbal treatments, acupuncture and nutritional wellness care. She received training from the International Veterinary Acupuncture Society in Texas and online nutritional courses from Australia.

"People seem really excited to have options for pets that conventional care doesn't help," Watson said. "We have more tools to keep everybody comfortable. The nutritional aspect is important. We do food allergy testing and adjust diets. Herbs are used to treat dogs and cats with cancer. There is a one-hour specialized exam to evaluate before using herbs or acupuncture."

In addition to the two veterinarians, the office is managed by Melody Clark. There are three certified veterinary technicians, three receptionists and two kennel assistants. There is no round-the-clock kennel care. Most animals are sent home the same day. Two resident cats live there full-time.

"I want people to understand there is so much more to improve quality of life for pets. I have a wonderful staff. Everyone has a passion for what they do," Woods said. "We don't make a lot, but we enjoy it."

Brookside Veterinary Hospital is located at 13701 118th Avenue NW, Gig Harbor. For information, call (253) 857-7302.

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Jacqueline May Deacon (LaRoche)

Jacqueline M. Deacon (Jackie) died at her Anchorage home Oct. 6, 2014. She was 79.

She was married to Mervin Jerry Deacon (pre-deceased 1993) in 1956 in Seattle. They had seven children: Michael Orton, currently of New Hampshire; Linda Edith Johanknecht of Anchorage, Alaska; Lori Martha Deacon of Home; Lisa Marie Floberg of Burley; David Ernest of Lakebay; Mark Allen (who passed in 2010); and

the youngest son, Anthony Joseph of Willow, Alaska.

Deacon was born on March 18, 1935 in Iron Mountain, Mich., but spent most of her early life in Seattle — where she eventually met her future husband (Jerry) while working at Boeing as a data entry clerk.

The family moved to Ridgefield, Wash. in 1962 but returned to the Puget Sound area in 1965. They bought a small, rural farm on the Key Peninsula in 1966, and the property is still in the family today.

Deacon moved to Anchorage in 1977 to help her sister Emaline Swank. She retired in 1987, and enjoyed traveling all over the world.

She is survived by her sister Emaline, six of her seven children, 13 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

No funeral will be held but a celebration of her life will take place at the family farm in the summer of 2015. She was very much loved by friends and family all over the world, and will be missed.

Robert (Rod) Orwin Davidson

Robert Orwin Davidson, 68, died Oct. 21 in Tacoma.

He was born Nov. 12, 1945 in Shelton, Wash., the son of Patricia Davidson and the late Wesley Davidson.

The Davidson family moved from Vaughn to Ketchikan in 1954.

A Ketchikan High School graduate, Davidson earned a degree in forestry from Oregon State University. He joined the U.S. Navy and served on the USS John Adams submarine.

Following Navy service, he worked as a logger for his father, who owned and operated Davidson Logging Co. on Prince of Wales Island. He later worked for the U.S. Forest Service in Ketchikan.

While in Ketchikan, Davidson married Nancy Walsh. The couple moved to Juneau where Davidson continued employment with the U.S. Forest Service. He retired in Shelton. Following divorce, he moved to Tacoma and worked on government fisheries computer contracts for NOAA in Seattle.

Davidson was preceded in death by his father, Wesley. He is survived by

his mother, Patricia; sister, Lynda (Bob) Adams, niece, Amy Adams, nephew, Mark (Britta) Adams, aunts Peggy (Joe) Derivas of Vaughn and Kathryn (Jim) Arnold of Gig Harbor and numerous cousins and other relatives along with his special friend, Evelyn Nye of Tacoma.

Nancy Walsh remains a good family friend.

Graveside and memorial services were held in Vaughn, as well as a service in Ketchikan.

A guest book is online at edwardsmemorialfuneralhome.com.



Robert Davidson



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Douglas E. Joyner

Doug Joyner, 70, died at his home on Nov. 19. He and his wife, Suzanne, lived in the Palmer Lake area for several years before moving to Puyallup in 2013.

They both volunteered weekly for the Friends of the Key Center Library used book sales.

Born in Stockton, Calif., Joyner is survived by his wife, Suzanne; his brothers James, Michael (Kay) and Dennis (Donna) Joyner; seven children; 16 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

The couple married in May 1987, adding his three boys to Suzanne's two boys and three girls. Joyner retired in 2005 and his wife retired in 2006. They were both able to take time to travel with their dog, Chuey, cross-country to visit all the family by traveling 9,600 miles in an RV in only six weeks.

During the past 27 years the couple's family has grown from eight kids to 16 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren, with more to arrive in the next few months.

Joyner loved them all and those old enough to remember him loved their papa and nana very much. No services will be held.



Richard Michaelson

Richard (Ric) Bruce Michaelson

Richard (Ric) Bruce Michaelson, born June 18, 1947 in Tacoma, passed Nov. 14 in Joshua Tree, Calif. He is survived by his wife, Marcia, of 42 years; sons Peter, Andrew, Brandon and Jacob; five grandchildren; sister Dale and brothers Russ and Brian. Services are 1-4 p.m. Dec. 13, at the Gig Harbor Eagles.

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'Holiday Barter Fair' promises free, festive fun

KP News staff report

This year, for the first time on the Key Peninsula, you can bring home a slew of unique, homemade, locally crafted gifts without driving any further than the Key Peninsula Civic Center. Even better, you can do it without opening your wallet.

KP Barter will host its Holiday Barter Fair Saturday, Dec. 6 from 10 a.m. to noon in the center's Whitmore Room. Area residents can bring their homemade or home-grown items to trade with those of their neighbors. The event is free.

Formed in April of this year, KP Barter is a new and growing group. They've held two barter fairs, the first in June and the second in September, each drawing locals ready to trade plant starts for goat cheese, jewelry for homemade fudge, salsa for home-brewed beer, and much more.

From the beginning, KP Barter has also encouraged interested folks to stroll through and check out the barter fair, even if they haven't brought any-

thing to trade.

"What we do is something a lot of people have never done before, at least not as part of an organized group," said Alice Kinerk, one of the group's founders. "It's understandable they are reluctant to jump into something new. We are happy to have newcomers stop by just to browse."

Browsers beware: Nothing will be sold for cash at the event. However, you can make arrangements to purchase an item off-site.

Barter vouchers are available at the check-in table for items that would be difficult to transport to the barter fair, such as firewood or laying hens. They can also be used to trade services such as tutoring or a haircut.

"Many people say they like the idea of the barter fair, but can't participate because they aren't 'crafty' and don't have

anything to trade. Almost always when they stop and think about it, they come up with something that would make a great trade," Kinerk said.

The idea for the group came about after a couple of Key Peninsula residents attended similar barter fairs in Tacoma and wanted to create a group closer to home. Barter groups throughout Western Washington have grown quickly in recent years. However, the rural location of KP Barter makes it unique. "It's great to have the event out here where we live because we are already a pretty close-knit community. It feels better to barter with our neighbors than to trek out to the big city," Kinerk said.

Key Peninsula resident Meghan Conant has taken part in both of the previous barter fairs and plans to attend the upcoming event as well. She enjoys the variety of items people bring

to trade and likes the fact that there is always something new.

"Although you see some of the same faces, people bring different things each time. It's fun to see how people are talented. You might see someone you recognize but you never know what they're going to bring to trade," Conant said.

Although the barter fair is free, KP Barter does encourage those in attendance to purchase raffle tickets for \$1 each. A variety of items donated by barterers are raffled off during the event. Money raised helps to defray printing costs as well as facility rental fees.

For information, to see what people are planning to bring, or to ask questions about the event, visit the Key Peninsula Barter Facebook page. You can also check out the group's blog at kp-barter.wordpress.com or contact Alice Kinerk at 884-2723.

Kiwanis host successful 'Gear Up for School'

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

The Gig Harbor Kiwanis recently tallied up the annual Gear up for School event. The club served 182 low-income Key Peninsula students this year, ranging from kindergarteners to eighth-graders.

"It was our 17th year filling the Key Peninsula Middle School commons with the sounds of happy children and grateful parents and guardians," said club member Daphne Frickelton. "Since 1997, we have helped 4,500 students start school ready to learn."

Gig Harbor Kiwanis Club sponsors "Gear Up" annually in August at KPMS, which club members turn into a free "department store for the needy." They had bikes rebuilt at the Washington Corrections Center for Women by volunteer inmates, clothes from the CenturyLink warehouse and school supplies from Walgreens.

Lindquist Dental Clinic staff Rebecca Wheeler and Jerry Danielson provided dental screening and fluoride varnish while dental tech Tiffany Forslund offered free dental screenings and fluoride sealants to the kids.

"In three hours, we worked our magic and transformed the KPMS commons into 'back-to-school central,'" Frickelton said.

Kiwanis member Jim Bannon brought everything needed to serve hot dogs, chips and pop to families waiting in line. Water was provided by CenturyLink.

Doors opened at the 2 p.m. event and Kiwanis members accompanied kids and parents through the "store," where each kid got a new knapsack filled with school supplies, new jeans, shirts, sweaters, underwear, socks, shorts, jackets and coats.

Gear Up is always a very labor-intensive event.

Frickelton noted, "We had 25 Kiwanians and five family members this year."

Angel Guild's Dee Van Vleck and KPMS office co-manager Dianna Home, also an Angel Guild member, helped out. Jan Kampbell, CenturyLink's public relations and market development manager, joined the operation for the second year. Karen Jorgenson of Food Backpacks 4 Kids worked the front desk with a Kiwanis member for the entire event.

Payless Shoe Source brought longtime

Gear Up volunteer Melissa Taylor, the Tacoma store manager, who was joined by her 2-week-old son. Beth Albertson, who volunteered last year, and new employee Brittaney Perez checked the size of every child's foot to ensure they were properly fitted with new shoes.

"We are so grateful to the Kohl's Associates In Action Team, Melinda Makahanalo, the Gig Harbor store manager, joined by Julia Linik, Alichia Pierce and Hilary Vergera," Frickelton said. "Friends from Walgreens, Kristina Jenkins, University Place store; Kendra Griffin, Gig Harbor store manager; and Chris Rose, 6th Avenue store manager, were a great assist."

WCCW corrections officer J.J. Johnson tuned brand-new-looking bicycles for individual riders who wanted one. A special fitting of bike helmets by KP Fire Department personnel Chuck West, Jason Learned and Tim Davis completed the deed before kids were allowed to board their new bikes. The helmets were funded by the Angel Guild.

"The 'Most Popular Gear Up Person 2014 Award' goes to Dan Platt. He and his helpers served over 500 ice cream cones," Frickelton said.



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Out & About

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Photo by Hugh McMillan

Above: Vaughn Elementary third-grade chorale singers (from left) Kate Plummer, Shaylee and Presley Peterson displayed a photo of her then — teenaged grandfather throughout the school's patriotic songs performance during the school's Veterans Day celebration.

Right: Citizens Against Crime's annual November elections meeting, members re-elected as its board of officers for 2014 - 2015 are from left, Pat Latshaw, secretary; Betty Mayer, treasurer; and Cindy Worden, president. Stan Moffett, not present at the meeting, was elected vice president.



Photo by Hugh McMillan

Where in the World...

During the fall, Bill and Margie Dietz went on a cruise that stopped in Italy, Greece, Turkey and France. This photo was taken in the amazing city of Rome, Italy, on September 26, just before they made their way over to tour the colosseum.

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Photo by Hugh McMillan

Evergreen Elementary students sing patriotic songs to a large audience including many active duty and veteran military personnel, gathered for a Veterans Day program in the school's gym.



Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News

Left: Key Pen Parks hosted an off-road bicycle race on the first of November to raise funds for the development and improvement of the trails at the 360 Trails property. The race consisted of six laps around the 6-mile course. Riders were divided into Ironmen and Ironwomen who rode the entire course on their own and relay teams who swapped with each other in-between laps.