



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRIS DREWRY BY FORGET ME NOT PHOTOGRAPHY

NMHS, SHS bands place at regional competition

North Mason High School and Shelton High School placed second and third, respectively, within the "A" Band Division at the ninth annual Tumwater Marching Band Festival.

Sixteen school marching bands competed in the

competition at Tumwater High School, Oct. 11, with North Mason placing second with a score of 65.7 out of 100.

Shelton High School took third with a score of 61.1. Bonney Lake High School placed first, with a score of 66 out of 100, while Klahowya Secondary School and Auburn Mountainview High School placed fourth and fifth, respectively.

"The Dragon Chronicles" author leads writing workshops

BELFAIR — Susan Fletcher, author of the acclaimed series "The Dragon Chronicles," will offer three writing workshops, starting at 3:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 6, at the North Mason Timberland Library.

The workshops will help writers of all ages learn how to develop ideas, hone writing skills, and, as she states in her program description, "understand the price of magic in fantasy writing."

Fletcher will guide participants through writing exercises, discuss how to get a novel published and answer questions. The schedule is:

3:30 to 4:15 p.m. – teens
4:30 to 5:15 p.m. – grades 2-5

6:30 to 7:30 p.m. – adults
Fletcher admits her life in recent years has been adventurous. "I've ridden in a glider, on a camel, on a donkey, and in the locomotive of a train," she states on her website. "I've poked around in a lava tube, in a sea cave ... I've chopped up food for falcons, been slimed by a slug, and traveled across the desert in Iran," but the author insists the most interesting thing about her is "what's happening in my imagination."

A former waiter, dishwasher, book store clerk, advertising "traffic coordinator" and copywriter, the British-born Fletcher has lived in several of the United States and currently calls Oregon home.

For a time, she taught at Vermont College's M.F.A. in Writing for Children program. Fletcher was born in Birmingham, England, and studied at the University of York and the University of East Anglia.

All programs at Timberland Regional Libraries are free and open to the public.

The North Mason Timberland Library is located at 23081 NE State Route 3, Belfair. For information, contact the library at 275-3232 or visit www.TRL.org.

Fundraiser highlights domestic violence issues

By ARLA SHEPHARD
MASON COUNTY LIFE

Growing up in Ukraine, Natalia Kinder and her five brothers and four sisters understood that they must always do as their father told.

Kinder witnessed her mother in constant submission to her father, even after the family moved to the United States when Kinder was 17.

"You do what you're told, it runs in my family as deep as you can imagine," Kinder said. "From a very young age, I learned that I had to earn love."

Kinder shared her story with an audience at Turning Pointe Domestic Violence Services' annual Power of the Purse fundraiser, Thursday, Oct. 16, at the event center at Little Creek Casino.

Last year's debut Power of the Purse auction and luncheon raised \$13,000 for the 54-bed shelter for women and children who have suffered from domestic violence.

Turning Pointe also offers a wide array of services aimed toward helping men and women gain the tools they need to escape the violence, including legal advocacy services, support groups, English Language Learning classes and more.



PHOTO BY ARLA SHEPHARD

Purses with brands such as Dooney & Bourke and Coach were up for auction at the Turning Pointe Power of the Purse fundraiser, Oct. 16, at Little Creek Casino. Last year's event raised \$13,000 for the 54-bed shelter and nonprofit.

In 2012, more than 1,800 people utilized Turning Pointe's services, including more than 300 people who passed through the 90-day shelter.

"In 90 days, many of these women have to figure out how to get a job, a divorce, new clothes, first and last month's rent and more," said Cheryl Cathcart, executive director of Turning Pointe.

At Power of the Purse, guests bid on donated purses and accessories to

not only raise money for the nonprofit during Domestic Violence Awareness Month, but also share what happens with the families that come through Turning Pointe after their 90 days are up, Cathcart said.

"We're here to celebrate the women who've turned their lives around," she said. "When Natalia first came to us, she was an abused, frazzled mom of three. She has come a long way. She has overcome obstacles in her life that would have rendered most in this room unable to function."

Kinder vowed not to marry a man like her father, however, at 20, she married an American who came to take complete control over her life and whose drinking career took on a life of its own.

"My life became all about him and nothing else," she said. "I learned to deny and denial became my best friend. Divorce was never an option. Little by little, I learned to isolate myself."

Kinder and her three children lived like caged animals, and Kinder felt hopeless to turn her situation around. The only things keeping her alive, she thought, were her children.

Kinder's husband told her that no one would ever love her if she left him, and furthermore, she and her children were financially dependent on his income.

Finally in 2012, Kinder asked her husband to leave, and he did, but the pain didn't stop.

"I had no idea what to do, how to live," Kinder recalled. "I couldn't even manage a checkbook... Alcohol and pain pills became my relief. My life was a living hell and my children were paying for that."

Kinder could find no support from her family, who told her that she had made her bed, so she should lie in it.

"I had no way to pay bills and what I had, I spent on my addiction," she said.

Welcome - New Stylist

Divine Fortuna



Haircut Specials
Women - \$27
Men - \$19
Children - \$15
\$5 off all chemical services
Appointments available
Mon & Tues 10am-6pm

C. TAYLOR & ASSOCIATES
24070 NE State Route 3, Belfair
360-275-2509

Puffin Vape

NEW Vape Store in Allyn!

Come get your NEW Punch Card!
We now have a dripper line and more mods and RDA's.
Stop Smoking Now and Try Vaping!
Be Healthier, and SAVE MONEY!

18330 E State Rte 3, Allyn
Mon-Sat 10am-6pm
360-340-8792
[facebook.com/allynpuffinvape](https://www.facebook.com/allynpuffinvape)

