

ptleader.com

Daily news, connections for Port Townsend & Jefferson County, Washington

Home Classifieds Blogs Events Visitors/Travel Links Videos Photos Publications Puzzles

planner, explained that shifting dollars between project tasks, the pot...
Would you like to read our entire print publication online?
...for the first in a series of work...
...Public Utility District 1 board...
...could, it would require the district...
...qualifications of the candidates...
...When the commissioners...
...return...
...on, Kin...
...mer Sar...
...woman seek...
...ing the post. McMiller did no...
...second the nomination. McMiller...
...nominated Bob Sokol, former Port...
...of Port Townsend commis...
...by the state Department of Ecology...
...for Water Resource Inventory Area...
...17 (WRIA 17), which encompasses...
...the agricultural-rich Chinaman...
...The...
...ment, opens in June.

Advanced Search

search...

search

Port Townsend

52°F

AccuWeather.com

Weather Forecast

home : news : news

Share

May 28, 2010

5/26/2010 6:00:00 AM

Tragedy in Mexico: Zack died doing what he loved

By Patrick J. Sullivan of the Leader

In the most tragic of accidents, Port Townsend's Zachary "Zack" Chambers died doing what he loved – being in the water.

Zack, 40, was on a dream vacation to the beach in Mexico with his wife, Nya, and sons Eli, 14, and Keenan, 7.

On May 18 they were in Sayulita, a fishing and surfing village north of Puerto Vallarta on Mexico's west coast. It was their fourth day of what they described to friends as a vacation of a lifetime; Zack especially loved water sports.

After playing in and around the water for hours that day, Zack went in for one more swim before the family took went back to their cabin in Sayulita.

He ran into the ocean and jumped into a wave.

Some combination of the wave's energy and the hard, sandy bottom left Zack floating face down in the water, family friends relayed.

Family members brought him onto the beach. Other swimmers/beachgoers rallied around and helped provide CPR and emergency aid.

Chambers was conscious when he was brought ashore but could not move or speak. He was unconscious when an ambulance arrived after about 45 minutes.

The U.S. Embassy sent Kelly Trainor, a counselor agent, to assist the family at the hospital. Trainor helped them get a flight home for the following day. Seattle-area people who live in the village looked after the boys while Nya went to the hospital.

The word got around the beach the next day that Chambers had died. A small memorial of flowers was created.

Back in Port Townsend, the sad news spread quickly – a lot of people knew Zack because of his T-shirt business. Chambers was a graphic artist and T-shirt producer with a shop, H2O Graphics, in Port Townsend. Previously, he worked for many years for Weinstein's Custom Screenprinting in Port Hadlock. Nya and Zack, who met each other in high school in



Zachary Chambers



This is the stretch of beach in Sayulita, a fishing and surfing village north of Puerto Vallarta on Mexico's west coast, where Zachary Chambers of Port Townsend was fatally injured May 18, 2010 while diving into a wave.

TOP ADS

LITTLE & LITTLE, CONTROLLER, BOOKKEEPER

CAREGIVERS AND MEDICAL AIDES

JEFFERSON MENTAL HEALTH PSYCHIATRIST

Community Information

Properties For Sale

Nancy Stelow
Realtor®, CLHMS



Home of the HOTTEST slots in town!



PORT TOWNSEND SUBSCRIBERS: Look for our flyer in The Leader!



602 East 1st St.
Port Angeles, WA
360-452-2357

Oregon, have a wide friend network here.

"It's a tremendous loss," said Janet Emery of Kinetic Koffee Kompany in Port Townsend, a business client and family friend. "He was an all around great guy. The outpouring of people who have come to be with Nya and the boys is truly amazing. People are embracing the family."

Zack was a student this year in Lela Hilton's Clemente Course in Port Hadlock, and she said this in an email:

"Zack was a brilliant student, and was in many ways the fire that held this year's class together," Hilton wrote. "He was always engaged and prepared, incredibly encouraging to the other students, offered rides, delivered homework to students who had missed class, and was particularly supportive of our younger students." Chambers will graduate along with his class.

An account has been established at Quimper Community Credit Union under the name of his wife, Nya Autumn Chambers. Call in a donation to 385-3663.

Friends also have plans in the works for a fundraiser this summer to create a scholarship fund for Eli and Keenan. Also, the family would like to raise money to purchase a portable defibrillator for the community of Sayulita.

A celebration of Zachary Chambers' life is set for Saturday, June 5 at 2 p.m. at the Marvin G. Shields Memorial American Legion Post in downtown Port Townsend.

An obituary is published on page B 2 of the May 26 print edition of The Leader.



Get the **WHOLE** story

Subscribe to the weekly Leader for just **75¢** per week!

- CLICK HERE -

The advertisement features a cartoon illustration of a man in a suit holding a newspaper titled 'The Leader' with 'EXTRA!' written on it. The text is arranged around the illustration, with the main headline at the top, the subscription offer in the middle, and a call to action at the bottom.

Related Links:

- [Helping children overcome loss of a parent](#)
- [Mexico Vacation Awareness](#)

Reader Comments

Posted: Thursday, May 27, 2010

Article comment by: **Jessica Williams**

To Zack's Friends and Family - Most of you have never met me but I have known Zack and Nya for about 16 years. I just knew right away when I met Zack that he was special. His light shone brighter than all of the others and he made me want to be a better person. I saw a lot of who I wanted to be in him. I have long admired Zack and Nya for the beautiful people that they are and their amazing relationship. My heart is saddened by his loss more than you know and my heart goes out to all of you. His life will remain an inspiration to us all.

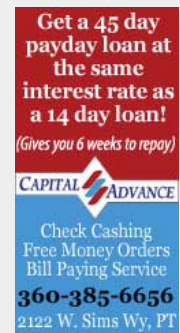
Posted: Wednesday, May 26, 2010

Article comment by: **Bottero Libby**

Zack Chambers was a wonderful son, brother, husband, father, and friend! As long-time family friends, my son Asher and I have known Zack since he was born. He will be deeply missed. His loss is heart-breaking for everyone who ever knew him. His love for and commitment to his family and friends, his fun-loving and cheerful nature, his innate intelligence, integrity, and skill at work and play, and his extraordinary spirit and joie d'vivre are some of the many fine qualities that make Zack a truly exceptional man. His lovely wife Nya, and his fine sons Eli and Keenan, are embraced with love and tears. Zack leaves a beautiful legacy in them.

Posted: Wednesday, May 26, 2010

Article comment by: **Brady Chambers**



Get a 45 day payday loan at the same interest rate as a 14 day loan!
(Gives you 6 weeks to repay)

CAPITAL ADVANCE

Check Cashing
Free Money Orders
Bill Paying Service

360-385-6656
2122 W. Sims Wy, PT

The advertisement is for Capital Advance, a payday loan service. It features a red and white color scheme with a logo that says 'CAPITAL ADVANCE'. The text highlights a 45-day loan at the same rate as a 14-day loan, with a 6-week repayment period. It lists services like check cashing and bill paying, and provides a phone number and address.



Think you have the best rates? Think again!

401K Rollovers
Life - Mutual Funds
Retirement
Auto - Home - Annuities

Bill Hubbard
Allstate
There are good hands.

The advertisement is for Allstate insurance. It features a blue and white color scheme with a photo of Bill Hubbard. The text asks if the reader has the best rates and lists various insurance services like 401K rollovers, life insurance, and auto/home insurance. It includes the name Bill Hubbard and the Allstate logo.



MOUNTAIN PROPANE

No Delivery/HAZMAT Fees!
24 hour Emergency Service
Locally Owned & Operated
Commercial & Residential
Tanks Leased & Sold
Propane Fireplaces

360-385-6883
Normal Hours: M-F 8-5
MOUNTAINPROPANE.COM

The advertisement is for Mountain Propane. It features a green and white color scheme with a logo that says 'MOUNTAIN PROPANE'. The text lists services like no delivery/HAZMAT fees, 24-hour emergency service, and propane fireplaces. It includes a phone number and website.



Bun appetit!

DOG-A-FOOT
BUN APPETIT!
Water & Madison - PT

The advertisement is for Bun Appetit!. It features a red and white color scheme with a photo of a sandwich. The text says 'Bun appetit!' and 'DOG-A-FOOT BUN APPETIT! Water & Madison - PT'.



Specializing in NW hardy perennials

Willow Wind GARDENS

4 CORNERS RD & HWY 19
WED - FRI: 10-5
SAT & SUN: 10-3

The advertisement is for Willow Wind Gardens. It features a green and white color scheme with a photo of pink flowers. The text says 'Specializing in NW hardy perennials' and 'Willow Wind GARDENS'. It includes an address and hours of operation.