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# KP athlete learns life lessons, kickstarts new training career

By Scott Turner, KP News

For Jillian Petersen, life has almost always been about competitive sports.

The 32-year-old Lake Minterwood resident started swimming when she was just 9 years old. In middle school, she started long distance running and after graduating from college, she got into competitive cycling.

"I have always wanted to be faster so I could beat all the other girls," Petersen said.

"When I started swimming, I did races all year and swam several times a day."

In middle school, her mother, Donna Brocken-Petersen, suggested that Jillian try cross-country running. "I didn't want to do that because I thought it meant running across the country," Jillian said with

(See Athlete, Page 2)



Photo by Scott Turner, KP News

During an impromptu photo shoot, professional triathlete Jillian Peterson is interrupted by her dogs Ripley, left, and Jack.

**Inside**  
Skate Night back in action at KP Civic Center  
-- Page 24

**News**

News ..... 1-5, 7

**Sections**

General Election ..... 4-5

Op-Ed Views ..... 6

Community ..... 8-11, 17-22

Community Pages ..... 12-13

Schools ..... 14-16

Out & About ..... 24

# Lakebay man guilty of first-degree murder

By Rick Sorrels, KP News

On Oct. 8, a Pierce County Superior Court jury found Lakebay resident William Jason Grisso, 42, guilty of murder in the first degree.

Grisso was charged with first degree murder for causing the death of Nancy Gardner, his girlfriend, in an act of domestic violence while armed with a handgun on or about June 30, 2014.

The affidavit for determining probable cause states that Grisso had reported Gardner missing just after 6 p.m. on June 30, and that her gun was also missing.

The report states, "While officers were speaking with Grisso they observed what appeared to be blood on his left shoe. The shoes were collected as evidence." DNA testing was done and results presented at trial.

The affidavit states, that "Officers observed two drops of

suspected blood near the seat adjustment of defendant's vehicle. Detectives located a pistol in the console of defendant's vehicle. The serial number of the pistol matched the serial number of Gardner's gun that was reported missing by Grisso."

The affidavit also said forensic analysis of Gardner's cell phone revealed three photos taken on June 30, 2014, during the time Grisso returned home but before he reported Gardner missing around 6 p.m.

"When they [detectives] arrived at the location of the last of the photographs taken, they smelled the odor of a decomposing body. They located a female body near this location. The body displayed a necklace that detectives associated with Gardner," the report said.

The body was found on July 9, 2014. Gardner had been shot twice in the head.

(See Guilty, Page 3)

(From *Athlete*, Page 1)

a laugh.

During her second running practice, she had appendicitis. "My coach called me when I was in the hospital and said I maybe shouldn't run that year," she recalled.

"That made me mad so I decided to really get into running."

By the time she was in high school, Petersen was running cross-country and swimming competitively. "I always set my own goals," she said. "I decided I wanted to run five-minute miles and I got 5:07 in high school."

That earned her a running scholarship at the University of Missouri, where she majored in nutrition and fitness. "It was a mixture of dietetics and PT and exercise classes," she said.

In 2005, after graduating from U of M, she didn't know what to do next so she signed up for the Chicago Marathon.

Her goal was to run a seven-minute pace

or finish in three hours. "I ran it in 3:03 — exactly a seven-minute pace," she said.

That Christmas, her dad got her a road bike. "He had looked at some research and found out that this girl named Sara Haskins, who had always been my rival and my inspiration, was doing triathlons.

"I said, 'That's not fair. She's good at everything and if she can do it, I can do it.' Today she's a good friend of mine."

Petersen started doing triathlons in 2006 in her age group.

"The hardest thing to pick up in triathlons is swimming if you haven't done it before," she said.

"I really didn't know anything about triathlons, so in 2007 I went to a training camp in Chula Vista, California, and received two months of hard training. I learned so much," she said.

"It sparked even more hunger in me because I could see what people were doing and how they were doing it. It was a great learning experience because I hadn't even

done it for a year yet," she said.

Later that year, she got her pro card. "To get your pro card, you have to place in the top 5-8 percent in three races where there were more than 500 participants," she said.

In 2008 she was able to get into the Olympic Training Center (OTC) in Colorado Springs and spent the next four years there.

"I didn't make any money but the training and living at the OTC was free and the USA team paid for me to go to OTC sanctioned races. They paid all my expenses, and if I won any money, I got to keep it," she added.

She tried out for the U.S. Olympic team in 2012 but failed to make the team.

"The Olympics is all on a point system and you have to start with new points every year and run in Olympic-sanctioned races to get points," she explained. Every country gets an allotted number of spots. Only eight countries in the world, including the United States, get three spots.

"You have to have five U.S. athletes ranked in the top 50 in the world, but only three get to go to the Olympics. But you have to have five people qualified.

"I was one of those five. If I hadn't been there, we would have only had two slots," she said.

She "did horrible" at the trials.

"I was pretty heartbroken, but after the trials I went to a non sanctioned race and the announcer said, 'Julian Petersen is one of the top five women in the U.S. who helped us get three Americans to the Olympic games.' That made me feel a lot better," she said.

Competing for the Olympics also gave

her a chance to meet other athletes, including para-athletes in wheelchairs and blind athletes. "I learned there's no excuses for anybody. You can always do something to better your situation," she said.

In 2012, after failing to make the Olympic team, she went back home to St. Louis to live with her family. She was planning to do non drafting cycle races to try to make money when she met her boyfriend, Jeff Elliott, who soon got a job in Washington as manager of his employer's northwest territory. She and Elliott moved to Washington and settled on the Key Peninsula.

Currently, Peterson is a member of the Maverick Multisport team, based in Kentucky. She races whenever and wherever she can and promotes the products of team sponsors.

She recently earned her American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) certification and is now a certified personal trainer, and is looking for a job where she can teach spinning, TRX and other fitness activities.

She's also looking for clients for her own Roadrunner Fitness business. "I think being active at a young age is huge. It teaches kids to do better in a lot of other things and it's a great way for kids to get some socialization," she said.

And, quoting a poster she has on her wall, she added, "Challenges are interesting. Overcoming them is what makes life meaningful."

For information about personal training, visit Jillian Peterson Triathlete on Facebook or contact RoadrunnerJP on Twitter.

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# KEY PENINSULA NEWS

[www.keypennews.com](http://www.keypennews.com)

Unsolicited submissions deadline including press releases: 15th of each month prior to publication

Photo of Mount Rainier in the masthead was taken from the dock in Longbranch by Thomas Morgan, a KP News reader and Key Peninsula resident.

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#### STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP AND OPERATION OF THE KEY PENINSULA NEWS

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

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

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

(From **Guilty**, Page 1)

According to the affidavit, Grisso's neighbors told officers they heard Grisso and Gardner arguing the day before Gardner went missing. They reported that Grisso was telling Gardner that she needed to get out of the house, but that Gardner refused to leave.

Grisso pled not guilty, claiming that his son 19-year-old son, Timothy Grisso, committed the crime. Grisso senior claimed his son had threatened to kill him some time in the past, or "to put his father in prison for the rest of his life," according to a police report.

Grisso also claimed that Timothy borrowed his car the day Gardner was murdered. Grisso produced four letters that he claimed to have received from his son, wherein his son allegedly confessed to murdering Gardner.

A forensic scientist analyzed the handwritten letters and concluded that Grisso's son probably did not write any of the letters, and also found "significant similarities between the defendant's handwriting and two of the letters."

Circumstantial evidence was presented at trial, including blood and DNA tests,

ballistics tests, fingerprints from shell casings, Good-To-Go records for the Narrows Bridge, and records for cell phone locations and text messages.

The jury found Grisso as charged or premeditated murder

Grisso is being held without bail until his sentencing hearing on Nov. 2.

Deputy Prosecutor Jared Ausserer tried the case for the state.

"The standard sentencing range for such a crime is between 300 to 380 months, which includes the weapons enhancement," Ausserer said. He will be requesting the 380-month maximum sentence.

Ausserer also said that several months ago, he offered Grisso 320 months in a plea bargain, but Grisso rejected that offer.

"We had a strong case, and investigation will continue as to who forged the letters," he said.

Lance Hester, Grisso's attorney, said, "My client insists that he did not commit the crime. The evidence is all circumstantial and insufficient, with no evidence of premeditation. We expect to appeal."

An appeal would need to be filed within 30 days after the date of sentencing.



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**GATEWAY PROJECT PLAYGROUND**

The playground committee has met and ideas have been sent to playground vendors, who turned the ideas into 19 conceptual drawings. The concepts have been narrowed down and a selection of playground drawings have been posted on our website. The public is invited to choose their favorites and provide comments.

**A thank you howl to the many All Hallows volunteers!**

The 7th annual All Hallows Eve Celebration on October 24 at volunteer Park was a big hit with the many princesses, monsters, slugs, barbies and race car drivers in attendance!

Thank you to the many people who played an important role in putting on this free event for families: Janet Azevedo; Kirsten, Haylie and Caden Gallacher; Jerry & Marilyn Hartley; Ruby Heisley; Sami Jensen and family; John Kelly; Alicia McKinney; Susan Ricketts; Chad Russell; Adam Worden; Peninsula High School Leadership Program students Jake Blalock, Morgan Blalock, Sydney Fader, Chloe Schrader, Rylee Schwenzer and Armon Weaver; and the many Red Barn Leadership Group students for their work on the Haunted Hayride.

Thank you also to Chris Fitzgerald, Marcia Gibbons, Kristie Hilley, Heidi Michaelson, Wendy Till and others for donating used in decorating; Rhonda and Paul Froodie, Cheryl Ozbir and the Red Barn for the apples used with the apple launcher; Coast Rail for donating other materials; and PenMet Parks for the use of the apple launchers and target.



The Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District (dba Key Pen Parks) final 2016 budget hearing will be held during the regular board of commissioner meeting at 7:30 pm on Monday, Nov. 9 in the Volunteer Park office, as required per State of Washington RCW 84.52.020.

# County issues and candidates on November ballot

By Rick Sorrels, KP News

There is one referendum on the Nov. 3 general election ballot for Pierce County, along with elective office for candidates for the charter review commission, Port of Tacoma, Peninsula School District board of directors, fire commissioners and park commissioners. The fire commissioners, parks commissioners and one school board director are running unopposed, so will not be addressed here.

## Referendum No. 2015-1

This asks the voters if the ordinance passed by the Pierce County Council to construct a new county general services building should be repealed. It follows an advisory vote in the August primary where the voters advised that they did not want the building to be constructed.

Repealed: Will stop construction. Supporters claim the \$230 million building is not effective, with alternatives available.

Maintained: Will allow construction to continue. The county claims that this is

the most cost-effective alternative.

## Charter Review Commission, District 7, Position 1

Randy Boss: Gig Harbor resident. Past elected director and chairman for Pen Met Parks for six years. Appointed by governor to the Tacoma Narrows Bridge Citizens Advisory Committee. Was citizen participant at the last charter review commission, a real estate broker and commercial land developer. Attended UW.

Martha Lantz: Tacoma resident. Graduated Gig Harbor High School. No elective office experience. Law degree, 24-year legal career. Currently deputy city attorney for city of Tacoma. Past assistant attorney general and judicial assistant at court of appeals.

## Charter Review Commission District 7, Position 2

David Olson: Gig Harbor resident. Elected to Peninsula School District board of directors, now its vice president. Holds a degree in organizational leader-

ship. Retired U.S. Navy. Currently assistant vice president and branch manager for U.S. Bank.

Brenda Wiest: Tacoma resident. No elective office experience. Attended Willemette University. Active with union issues, Tacoma's minimum wage task force and food banks.

## Charter Review Commission District 7, Position 3

Beckie Krantz: Gig Harbor resident. Appointed to GHP advisory commission (2007-2014) and Tacoma Narrows Airport advisory commission (2011-2014). No elected office experience. Law degree from UPS. Currently CEO of a research company that tracks pending legislation and regulations.

Katie Baird: Tacoma resident. No elected office experience. Doctorate in economics. Associate professor at UWT (2000-2015). Columnist for News Tribune. Served on committees concerning economic issues for city of Tacoma and state of Washington.

## Port of Tacoma Commissioner Position 3

Bruce Cook: Lakebay resident. No elected office experience. Master's and doctorate in business and finance, with 40 years experience in business, financial consulting and banking. Past director of University of Texas' Investment Management Co.

Don Johnson: Tacoma resident. Incumbent port commissioner (2007-2015). Businessman for 37 years. Vice president and general manager at Simpson's pulp and paper mill for 10 years.

## Peninsula School Board Director District 1

Matt Wilkinson: Lakebay resident. Incumbent school board director (2007-2015), currently the school board president. Bachelor's degree in computer science and master's degree in information security and assurance. Currently works under federal contract on computer security.

(See Election, Page 5)



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Transportation for this event is available by prior arrangement.

(From Election, Page 4)

Marcia Harris: Lakebay resident. No elected public office experience. Master's degree from UPS and some doctoral study. Public school administrator for 37 years, including five years with Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction and 11 years as deputy superintendent at Peninsula School District (1995-2006).

**Peninsula School District Board Director  
District 3**

Rand Wilhelmsen: Gig Harbor resident. Incumbent school board director (2010 to present). Bachelor's in art. Master's degree in telecommunications management. Retired from position as senior vice president for investments for the bank now known as Columbia Bank.

Lyn McClendon: Gig Harbor resident. No elected office experience. Bachelor's of science degree in nursing from PLU. RN for 25 years.

**Peninsula School District Board Director  
District 4**

Garth Jackson: Gig Harbor resident. No elected office experience. Bachelor's degree in electrical engineering. Master's degree in education. Professional engineer for 28 years. Math and science teacher in public and private schools for the past 12 years.

Leslie Harbaugh: Gig Harbor resident. No elected public office experience. Attended San Francisco State University. Active in PTA and involved with last year's failed levy attempt.

## State issues on ballot

There are two initiatives and four advisory issues on the Nov. 3 general election ballot for Washington state, but no elective offices.

Initiatives are brought by citizens who obtain a large number of signatures of registered voters in support. Initiatives become law. An earlier initiative requires the Legislature to obtain an advisory vote from the public whenever the Legislature raises taxes. Advisory votes are not binding.

**I-1366:** Initiative to force a Constitutional amendment to require a two-thirds vote by Legislature to raise taxes. Initiative would decrease the state retail sale tax rate if the Legislature fails to place Constitutional amendment on the ballot by April 15, 2016.

Pro: Voters have five times passed initiatives to raise vote requirement for new taxes, only to be ignored or, more recently, have the Supreme Court rule that a Constitutional amendment would be required.

Con: Drastic effect on the state budget and expenditures.

**I-1401:** Create state criminal statute for selling, buying, trading or distributing parts of certain endangered animal species and products made therefrom (elephants, rhinoceroses, tigers, lions, leopards, cheetahs, pangolins, marine turtles, sharks and rays).

Pro: Removes a market for pieces of endangered animals killed elsewhere.

Con: Redundant. Federal law already exists. Would create problems when gifting or selling a legally owned or an

inherited item like a necklace or piano.

**Advisory vote No. 10 (Engrossed Substitute House Bill 1449):** Tax on crude oil and petroleum products transported by rail to be spent on oil spill response.

Repeal: Advises Legislature that public does not support.

Maintain: Advises Legislature that public agrees with the legislation.

**Advisory vote No. 11 (Second Substitute Senate Bill 5052):** Excise tax on medical marijuana sales.

Repeal: Advises Legislature that public does not support.

Maintain: Advises Legislature that public agrees with the legislation.

**Advisory vote No. 12 (Second Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5987):** Gas tax for motor vehicle fuels that will raise \$2.7 billion over the next 10 years.

Repeal: Advises Legislature that public does not support.

Maintain: Advises legislature that public agrees with the legislation.

**Advisory vote No. 13 (Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 6138):** Increases business and occupation (B&O) taxes and removes exemption for software manufacturers. B&O taxes have long been argued to be unfair because they tax gross sales, not just profits.

Repeal: Advises Legislature that public does not support.

Maintain: Advises Legislature that public agrees with the legislation.

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# Peninsula Views

## Up, up and away

By the time folks get my age, some of us make what's usually referred to as a bucket list; a list of things they would like to do while they still can. As we age, opportunities become more fleeting. We need to seize the moment and do, or live forever with regrets.

One of the things on my bucket list was to fly in an ultralight, and a few weeks ago I got my chance.

It so happens that I met a nice fellow who owns an ultralight.

My new friend is a backdoor type of person who enjoys his anonymity, so for this publication we'll just call him "George." He's a product of my generation, retired and doing what he loves to do. He loves to fly and has been piloting ultralights for more than 20 years.

For those of you who are not familiar with these small flying objects, ultralights are not considered to be airplanes. They are actually more like a flying motorcycle.

George's ultralight is about 20-feet long with a similar wing span. Empty, it weighs about 500 pounds and sports a rear-mounted 65-horse engine that under most favorable conditions can reach a top speed of 65 mph, reach as high as 10,000 feet. An ultralight can fly for about one hour on five gallons of fuel.

### Steve Whitford Words of Whit



Weight and weather are key factors in flying. George and my combined weight were close to the limit of his craft so George took a short test flight to evaluate the weather conditions. He landed, gave me a thumbs up and told me to get on board.

Ultralights have a very small cockpit. When getting in, you have to be careful with your footing. The only places safe to step on are the two small foot plates and the seat. George's ultralight has a floor made of thin plastic. If you step on it, you'd fall right through it. Some owners don't bother with floors at all. Also there are no windows, doors or parachutes, just two seats, a seatbelt and us. In the event of a water landing...swim.

When I got closer to the craft, I noticed that the wing had been patched in several places with duct tape. That made me feel a little uncomfortable, so I queried my aviator about the tape and he said: "Not to worry, that's 500 mph tape, we won't be going much over 50 mph. Get in!"

Taking off was a bit unnerving as we

accelerated from zero to about 50 mph.

Errant wind gusts would push us a foot or so sideways. When we neared the end of the runway, the nose lifted and we were airborne.

At first, it felt a bit like an amusement ride, but as we continued to climb, sudden gusts of wind bounced us up, down and sideways, not unlike a small boat in white-capping swells. After a few minutes, I could see that George's flight corrections were automatic. His many years of experience made it seem that he and the craft functioned as one.

It's amazing how flying affects the perception of size. We flew over small trees, tiny cows and a large herd of little elk. A group of miniature lumber jacks were busily denuding a minor hill. Houses were lined up on a checkerboard of roads with dime-sized cars.

By this time, I was completely relaxed

and relishing the wind in my face and the panoramic views. We were cruising at about 1,000 feet and doing 50 mph, with George pointing out the sights. There's no talk as the engine behind us roared. Wearing ear protectors was a must and just added to the feeling of flight.

All too soon George cut power to the engine and as the nose dipped downward the runway came into sight. We glided downward at about 25 mph or so, clearing some trees by what seemed to be mere feet. Touchdown was smooth and George gracefully taxied around my wife, who was seated in our car taking pictures.

After some talk and coffee at George's favorite café, we said our goodbyes, but I knew I had found a kindred spirit in George, so it was really more of a "see you later." A friendship separated only by miles, and I got to go flying on a motorcycle with wings.

### Letters Policy

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# Key Pen Parks hits a home run with recent grant application

By Scott Turner, KP News

Back in early September, vandals struck one of the light poles at Key Pen Park's Volunteer field and did more than \$21,000 worth of damage.

Rather than repair the damage immediately, the park board decided to wait until it received word about a grant request submitted to the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) earlier this year.

On Oct. 9 the board learned that it had been awarded an RCO Youth Athletic Facilities grant of \$250,000, according to Key Pen Parks Executive Director Scott Gallacher.

Funds will be used to install LED lights on fields 2 and 3, and repair the damage to field 1 — plus switch to LED lights on that field.

"Instead of just fixing it, we're also going to put in all-new LED lights that are cheaper and better for the environment," Gallacher said.

RCO was looking for projects that would impact youth facilities. Key Pen Parks proposal was ranked eighth in the state out of 40-plus projects, Gallacher said.

"We had a very strong proposal and

a well-written grant application. And the fact that we have great partners in the community — the Little League, PenLight, the Key Peninsula Community Council and others — goes a long way because the grants committee likes to see what kind of community support applicants have," he said.

The \$250,000 was the maximum Key Pen Parks could apply for and the maximum they could receive, he said.

The grant is a 50-50 match. "So it will basically be a \$500,000 project," he said.

The matching money will come from the parks' capital budget.

There's also money from an insurance settlement, as well as "some help from PenLight," he added.

Gallacher was quick to give credit to the people who helped write the grant.

"For us to write a grant for a quarter of a million dollars and be successful is a really great thing," he said.

"We were up against organizations like Seattle and PenMet Parks and for our little organization out here on the Key Peninsula to get this grant — well, our people just sort of hit it out of the ballpark," he said.

## DSHS heads to Lakebay to offer assistance

The Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) Mobile Community Service Office (CSO) is coming to the Key Peninsula Community Services facility on Tuesday, Nov. 3 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

During their visit, the CSO will be at the 17015 9th Street Court KPN location to help citizens apply for cash assistance, basic food and medical assistance. For information, call 884-4440.



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## CORNER

### Winter Warm-up Crafts Fair & Chili Competition

As we are gearing up for our 8<sup>th</sup> annual Winter Warm-up & Holiday Crafts Fair on November 7th, we'd like to thank the following vendors for graciously donating an item for our raffle that will be held during the Winter Warm-up -



- \*\* 2ndChanceBottles4U (Heather Collins)
- \*\* Anceebes (Angie Davino)
- \*\* Bee Lady (Chanetta Ludwig Bryant)
- \*\* Belladonna & Nightshade (Rita Dierck)
- \*\* Benida's Botanical's (Benida Parodi)
- \*\* Blue Willow Lavender Farm (Tracy Ketts)
- \*\* Coopers' Crafts (Robert & Marilyn Cooper)
- \*\* Crafts by Crystal Dawn (Crystal Devers)
- \*\* CraftWithAnna (Anna Bradshaw)
- \*\* Crafty Sisters (Julie Triggs & Linda Hill)

- \*\* Edelsten (Sarah Linhartsen)
- \*\* Ekizabeth Photography (Molly Dutton)
- \*\* Escape to the Past (Raeann Reichert)
- \*\* Gilman Trading Company (Darin Gilman)
- \*\* Griffins Creations (Terry Griffin)
- \*\* hoobers hobbies (Denise Hooper)
- \*\* Humble Elegance (Creighton Chaney)
- \*\* Joan Blocker
- \*\* Julianne Kohn
- \*\* Key Peninsula Historical Society
- \*\* Key to Life Church
- \*\* Krukid Stitches (Tracey Oliveira)
- \*\* Nilsen Woodworks (Magnus Nilsen)
- \*\* Norma Toland
- \*\* Paws in Time (Dana Ziemba)
- \*\* Pelagicpath (Kristie Cronin)
- \*\* Purdy Organics (Sis Lavigne)
- \*\* QuickCreek (Michael Spiller)
- \*\* Rainy Day Photos (Kathleen Hamilton)
- \*\* Silverwearables (Richard Jones)
- \*\* SuperTot (Gay Coleman)
- \*\* Trophies With A Twist (Dave & Kim Paulus)
- \*\* Up in the CherryTree Books (Kathy Lasher)
- \*\* Windbirds (Willis Grinols)

\*\*  
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**9:00 am**  
 to  
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\*\*  
**Chili Competition**  
*On the stage*  
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 to  
**2:00 pm**

\*\*  
 Food available for purchase  
 all day  
 \*\*

Join us in support the 50+ booths of local crafts-persons and artisans that make this event wonderful! Check out our facebook page for more information about crafts, music, entertainment and more.

*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.*  
**The Key Peninsula Civic Center is a 501(c)3, not-for-profit organization.**

# Marijuana and the Key Peninsula

By Sara Thompson, KP News

*Editor's note: This is the first article in a three-part series on marijuana and the Key Peninsula. It is designed to provide historic and legal background. The second article will cover some of the science about marijuana, risks and benefits, and the likely effect of legislation on its availability in our community. The third article will focus on marijuana cultivation and its impact on the Key Peninsula.*

Marijuana, or cannabis, is a visible presence on the Key Peninsula — it's apparent to anyone driving on the Key Peninsula Highway as those ubiquitous green crosses announce medical marijuana dispensaries. With legalization of marijuana following the passage of Initiative 502 in 2012, the landscape continues to evolve.

Marijuana first came to this country in appreciable quantities in the early 1900s, according to HistoryLink, an online encyclopedia documenting Washington state's history. It was brought from Mexico and over the next two decades gained popularity with jazz musicians.

Antimarijuana sentiment was likely fueled by racism and nativism. In 1931 possession and use was made illegal in nearly all states. In 1932 the Federal Uniform Narcotics Act classified it as a narcotic. As the federal war against drugs took form in the 1970s, legislation extended the reach of the federal government into criminal enforcement of drug use and possession. The Drug Enforcement Agency was established, adding federal resources to state enforcement.

Marijuana, still classified as a narcotic, was ranked with heroin.

At the same time, the '60s happened. As young people experimented and many remained unscathed, there was some change in public attitudes toward marijuana. In 1971 Washington state passed legislation recognizing that cannabis was not a narcotic, and possession of less than 40 grams was downgraded to a misdemeanor. Over the next two decades, there were incremental changes that treated possession and use more leniently.

The medical benefits of marijuana came to be appreciated in the 1990s, especially for cancer and AIDS victims. Buyers' clubs formed. In 1998, after repeated efforts to legalize medical use of cannabis, Initiative 692 passed with 59 percent of the vote.

The initiative stated: "Qualifying patients with terminal or debilitating illnesses who, in the judgment of their physicians, would benefit from the medical use of marijuana, shall not be found guilty of a crime under state law for their possession and limited use of marijuana."

The proposal also provided protection for physicians and caregivers and was clearly limited to marijuana.

In 2012, with the passage of Initiative 502, Washington became one of two states to decriminalize recreational marijuana. Nearly 56 percent of the voters approved. Adults 21 and older were allowed to possess up to one ounce of marijuana. Taxation was designed to balance raising revenue with discouraging wider use of marijuana and to avoid encouraging a black market.

The Liquor Control Board was tasked with implementation of the sales, growing and processing of recreational cannabis. It spent a year and a half setting the stage. The first recreational store opened in July 2014.

In April of this year, Washington State Senate Bill 5052 was signed. As a result, by July 2016 all dispensaries must be state licensed. Medical dispensaries can apply but must comply with significantly more regulation than in the past, and will sell both medical and recreational cannabis.

The position of the federal government has complicated the legal and criminal status for both medical and recreational marijuana. All marijuana use continues to be illegal in the eyes of the federal government. The U.S. Supreme Court in 2001 did not recognize a medical benefit from marijuana.

But attitudes are shifting. In 2009 the U.S. Department of Justice issued to all U.S. attorneys serving marijuana states that said resources should not be expended and prosecution of individuals and unambiguous laws. And the U.S. Congress passed legislation in 2009 the U.S. Department of Justice issued to all U.S. attorneys serving marijuana states that said resources should not be expended and prosecution of individuals and unambiguous laws. And the U.S. Congress passed legislation

this past June prohibiting the DEA and the Department of Justice from undermining state medical marijuana laws.

Local government decisions in Washington also add to the confusion. While medical and recreational use is now legal in the state, some counties and towns do not allow stores within their boundaries. For instance, at this time, recreational marijuana stores are not allowed in unincorporated Pierce County.

Gig Harbor, with a 5-2 vote by the city council in August, banned all marijuana within the city limits. This included collective gardens as well as retail and medical marijuana dispensaries.

Derek Young, the Pierce County Council representative for the Key Peninsula, is sponsoring an ordinance to allow recreational marijuana dispensaries and marijuana cultivation. It will be presented to the council for approval in November. If it is not approved, there will be no dispensaries on the Key Peninsula. Young said that the Pierce County Sheriff's Department has stated it will assure compliance with the law.

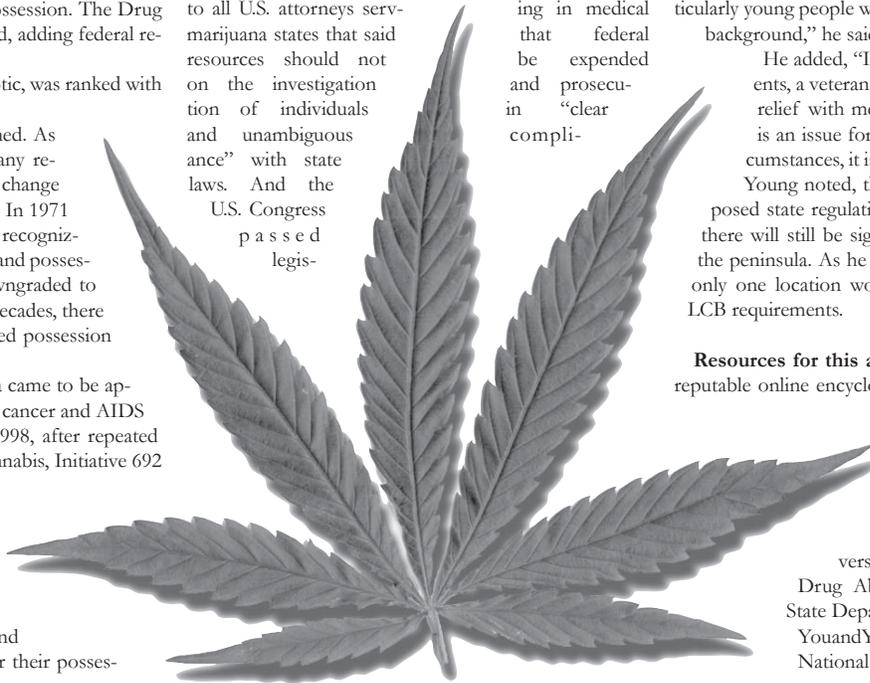
When Young was campaigning, he stated he would work to get marijuana sales legal in Pierce County.

"I-502 passed by a wide margin. It is my job to make it work in my district. Ultimately I think voters decided that prohibition did more damage to the public's interest than use itself. Losing job or education opportunities significantly alters the trajectory of a person's life, particularly young people who come from a less advantaged background," he said.

He added, "I spoke with one of my constituents, a veteran with PTSD, who gets significant relief with medical marijuana. Transportation is an issue for him. For people with these circumstances, it is important to have local access."

Young noted, though, that because of the proposed state regulations, if his ordinance does pass, there will still be significantly fewer dispensaries on the peninsula. As he assessed the zoning, he believes only one location would be in compliance with the LCB requirements.

**Resources for this article include:** History Link, a reputable online encyclopedia of Washington state history ([historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&file\\_id=10268](http://historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&file_id=10268)), Learn About Marijuana ([learnaboutmarijuanawa.org/](http://learnaboutmarijuanawa.org/)), a site from the University of Washington Alcohol and Drug Abuse Institute, the Washington State Department of Health ([doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/Marijuana](http://doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/Marijuana)), and the National Institutes of Health ([nih.gov](http://nih.gov)).



# Dental work to be added to Key Free Clinic services

By Scott Turner, KP News

Good dental health remains a keystone to anyone's overall health and, in fact, left unchecked, dental disease can advance far enough to create life-threatening circumstances.

The Key Free Clinic has run a free clinic every two weeks, but since the beginning of October it has been open weekly, every Thursday from 5:30 to 8 p.m.

Dr. Jessica Schlicher, who serves as the volunteer medical director at the Key Free Clinic in Lakebay, knows the importance of good dental health and its direct correlation to a person's overall health.

"Every clinic we see dental disease that could be life-threatening and right now there is nowhere on the Key where we can send them," Schlicher said.

Schlicher also works as a family physician at Harrison/Franciscan Urgent Care in Port Orchard and said that on average, two people each month are checked into the Harrison Medical Center with life-threatening conditions brought about by dental disease.

Through a political association, she met with Washington State Rep. Michelle Caldier,

of the 26th District — who also happens to run a private practice as a doctor of dentistry. Schlicher said Caldier is also involved with free dental clinics in Seattle. The two began talking about the dental health needs on the Key, which is part of Caldier's district she represents in Olympia.

They discussed the service the clinic provides and how that service could be augmented with a monthly dental clinic if there is a need.

Caldier took a tour of the facility about a month ago "to figure out what makes sense" to provide dentistry services at the location. "When you start a new clinic, you want to utilize the resources as best you can," Schlicher said.

Caldier has her own portable equipment, including a hand-held X-ray machine she uses as part of her private practice serving patients in nursing homes.

After agreeing that she could perform dental services at the location, Caldier and Schlicher established the first free dental clinic to take place Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 21 and 22 at the Key Center business.

"The first day will be X-rays and extrac-

tions," Schlicher said. "Basically we'll put out fires and do the most critical work." She noted they also need to establish patient records to determine what additional work may be needed.

On Sunday, patients will be asked back to get a cleaning by Caldier's dental hygienist.

Like the rest of their services, the dentistry is free and there are no qualifications or paperwork needed.

"There is a huge need for free dentistry care," Caldier said. Following the first weekend, she will assess the urgency of patients' needs to determine how often they may offer future dental clinics.

She knows that even offering free dental care, some people won't come out to take advantage of the offer because of an overriding fear of seeing a dentist.

Caldier said it takes time to get a patient with a phobia to be comfortable and she may delay some work to allow them to feel more at ease and in control.

For patients where more intricate work may be warranted, the clinic will provide referrals.

The number one priority is to determine "where people are with their dental needs and

make a treatment plan. And do any extractions," Schlicher said.

Patients seeking dental care are asked to come by between 9 and 10 a.m. to get an appointment for later in the day. The clinic will run on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"We are dipping our toes in to see what degree of outreach is needed," Schlicher said. "Everybody's had dental pain. You just can't function with it."

"We're hoping to get people out of that pain and give them a healthy mouth."

They are looking for additional volunteer help for upcoming dental clinics, especially an additional dental assistant and dental hygienist.

Schlicher said there also is a need for more donated dental products, such as toothbrushes, toothpaste and floss. Those items can be donated to KP Community Resources or be brought to Dr. William Roes' office manager, Carla Cameron, at 15610 89th St. Court KP N, Lakebay.

"For non emergent problems where you know you can see someone within a week, that's comforting. That's what we're all about," Schlicher said.

For information, call (253) 313-5539.

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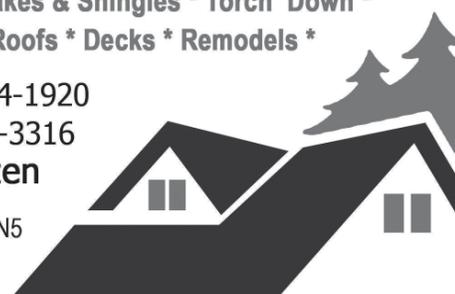
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## Farm Tour drew packed crowds to KP

By Karen Lovett, KP News

“It was a very successful Farm Tour this year,” said Danna Webster, Community Council President and Farm Tour event coordinator. “People came from Seattle, Black Diamond, Port Angeles and parts in between.”

Many vendors and informational booths offered a wide variety of foods and products throughout the tour. A number of musicians entertained at different sites.

The Key Center fire station was a good starting point with a pancake breakfast. They had firefighting demonstrations and fire safety instruction, as well as a bake sale.

Gateway Park had numerous booths providing information about the tour. There were kids crafts and hayrides. The KP Historical Society had huckleberry machine demonstrations.

Four Winds Riding Center was added this year. Young girls wowed spectators with gymnastic performances on horseback every hour, extending the show past closing time to accommodate latecomers.

Bea's Flowers had kids lining up for hay rides, pony rides and petting zoo. Dumb goat tricks were a real crowd pleaser. From flowers to pumpkins, bunnies and chicks, there was something for everyone.

Minterbrook Oyster Farm emphasized education. Petri dishes containing live larval stages of the minuscule bivalves were placed under the lens of a microscope and showed up on a viewing screen so the public could observe them in action. The cultivation process was demonstrated, giving everyone a complete picture behind the scenes of the oyster-growing industry. Delectable samples were enjoyed by many. Varieties of clams and oysters — both in and out of the shell — were available to purchase.

Packleader Farm had dogs from the Western Washington Herding Club herding ducks and sheep. It was interesting to watch instinct assessment trials as young dogs were introduced to sheep to determine whether or not they had a future in herding.

Fields of fragrant blooms and music provided a pleasing backdrop for headquarters at Blue Willow Lavender Farm this year. Lavender hand therapy, plant pruning healing, a pumpkin wall, Bee Lady honey, Billfold Ranch goat milk soaps and



Photo by Danna Webster

**The Kaukiki sheep dressed up for visitors to the Longbranch farm at the 2015 Farm Tour. Visitors enjoyed pasture management tours, lessons and demonstrations about shearing, nutrition, wool felting and working with nature.**

body products, community booths and plenty of produce for sale made it a good place to enjoy lunch.

Trillium Creek Winery offered wine-tasting and tours through the vineyard. The owners said sales were up this year.

Kaukiki Ranch was packed with folks checking out sheep and sheep dogs, cattle ranching, pasture rotation and management, a sheep-guarding llama, and Lance the draft horse.

The Fiber Arts Show at Longbranch Improvement Club was packed full of spinners, weavers, embroiderers and every kind of wool, beads, photos and hats.

Even the Key Center Library got on board with duct tape. This reporter came away with a new wallet. May attendees couldn't resist sitting down with the kids and adults who wanted to make a billfold from the selection of many colors and patterns of bright tape offered.

Of the approximately 200 surveys turned in at the Fiber Arts Show at the Longbranch Improvement Club, “most people went to four or five sites,” said Carolyn Wiley, Farm Tour president. “We got a lot of thank you notes. Most of the ratings were five stars, universal top rating.”

According to Wiley, it was an exhausting but very enjoyable day. Everyone is already looking forward to next year.

# Creativity abounds with scarecrow creations

By Steve Whitford, KP News

It happened again. Even the ravens know October is scarecrow month on the peninsula.

This fall, something new decorated the Key Center business area, a murder of costumed scarecrows.

The idea was originally thought of by Beverly Pedersen of the Two Waters Art Alliance. One day she was in the library looking at a book on scarecrows. Pedersen thought displaying scarecrows would be a good way to promote the annual Farm Tour.

Rosina Vertz, library branch supervisor, liked the idea and submitted it to the Friends of the Library. The idea spread and soon scarecrows began appearing all over Key Center.

This year despite road construction, 14 scarecrows welcomed visitors to the Farm Tour and transformed Key Center with a display of local artists' colorful creations.

Guarding the liquor store was "butt crack" pumpkin scarecrow, wearing a pumpkin head, a pumpkin bottom and

loose-fitting jeans. He was the creation of Nic Thieb, store manager, who said, "I hope it puts a smile on people's faces."

Next stop was the Sunnycrest Nursery, where you were welcomed by a flower girl; the work of Amy Shaver and Jill Lanzon. The flower girl had a garden theme: her hair with living flowers, arms made from flower pots, and her body a tomato cage, filled with soil. The white dress and wreath were donated from the Angel Guild.

Cutter Bug featured a scarecrow lady having her hair dried by an enormous lady bug. Owner Mindy Wilkins said it took her husband about three hours of welding to make the bug.

Along the highway, a pumpkin-headed scarecrow sat at a desk with a sign saying that "school is cool." It was the work of Evergreen Elementary School's Betty McChord and Carmen Carter.

The entrance to the Food Market had a female scarecrow construction worker by Laura McClintock of Close to Home Espresso and a shopping raven scarecrow wearing a red hat and yellow scarf, the art

of Mona Jensen, who made it out of plastic and duct tape.

Next to the credit union were five scarecrows, Frank (Sponge Bob) the farmer was the work of Cathy Lyons. Cathy Barrett made a girl covered with birds, a small cheerleader and "Cousin Itt." There was also a large green digger worm, whose authors were Sheri Osborne and Dede Johnson.

The fire department had its own "Sparky," a red fire hydrant created by Anne Nesbitt and Hal Wolverton.

Last, but not least, Mr. Big Silverhands stands in front of the library. It was created by Ramona Dickson of Key Center Massage.

According to organizers, it was another fun event for everyone, and those involved plan to make it a permanent part of autumn on the Key.

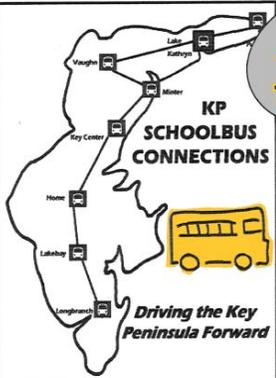
People were encouraged to vote for their favorite scarecrow at Sunnycrest Nursery and the library. When the votes were finally counted, best scarecrow was the Cutter Bug, Digging Green Worm came in second, and the butt crack pumpkin man and flower girl tied for third place.



Photo courtesy of Estella Whitford

The Cutter Bug scarecrow won first place this year during the annual costumed scarecrow event in Key Center, which helped to promote the Farm Tour.

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# Veterans Day

## November 11th

*Freedom isn't free!*

## Thank you veterans!

**Key Peninsula Veterans will have  
flag pins November 7th at Lake Kathryn  
Village and Key Center Food Markets.**

# COMMUNITY PAGES

Submit calendar items to [news@keypennews.com](mailto:news@keypennews.com) • Deadline is the 15th of the month

## NOW

### ABE classes

Tacoma Community College offers Adult Basic Education classes for individuals 16 years of age and older. Complete a high school diploma, prepare for the GED, increase job skills, or prepare for college or vocational programs. Classes are \$25 (tuition waiver available for those who qualify) and take place at the Red Barn Youth Center in Key Center on weekday mornings. Call 460-2424.

## NOV. 2

### Fundraiser

El Sombrero Night takes place from 5 p.m. to closing. The De La Cruz family will donate a portion of the dinner proceeds to the KP Civic Center. Support a local restaurant and the community.

## NOV. 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. Call 884-9265.

## NOV. 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30

### Bloodmobile

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

## NOV. 5

### Fuchsia club meets

The Lakebay Fuchsia Society meets at 7 p.m. at the KP Civic Center. Call Genie at 884-9744.

## NOV. 5, 12 and 19

### Cat tales

Children ages 5 to 18 in 4-H learn all about cats from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the VFW Room at the KP Civic. Contact Dianna at 884-4182 or [emailcat.tales4h@gmail.com](mailto:emailcat.tales4h@gmail.com).

## NOV. 5 and 19

### Technology classes

Learn and improve computer skills with free technology classes at the Key

## To submit an event

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

Center Library. Thursday, Nov. 5 — Microsoft Word: Introduction 3 to 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 19 — Microsoft Excel: Introduction, 3 to 4:30 p.m.

## NOV. 6, 13, 20 and 27

### Skate Night

Skate Night takes place at the KP Civic Center 6 to 9 p.m. Admission is \$5. Call 884-3456.

## NOV. 7

### Crafts fair

The 8th annual free Winter Warm-up Holiday Crafts Fair and Chili Competition is hosted 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the KP Civic Center. Call 884-3456.

### Museum open house

"Early Communities Celebrate Christmas" is the theme of the KP Historical Society free open house 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. during the KPCC Winter Warm-up. There will be activity for children and gift items for sale. Call 888-3246.

### Yard sign decoration

Friends of Bernie Sanders invite you to stop by the KP fire station 2 to 5 p.m. to decorate yard signs. All supplies included. Cost \$8 each or three for \$20. Other items also available. For information call Chris Fitzgerald (253) 722-8080.

## NOV. 10

### Crochet or knit

The Loving Hearts group knits and crochets for charities meets at 1 to 3 p.m. at WayPoint Church. Yarn donations are always needed. Call Virginia at 884-9619 or [emaillovingheartsonkp@gmail.com](mailto:emaillovingheartsonkp@gmail.com).

### Craft at library

Craft with Anna presents a DIY

project: Veteran's Memory Keeper, 4 to 7 p.m. at the Key Center Library. Bring a photo and/or a story to preserve and drop in any time. Call 253-548-3309.

## NOV. 11

### Pet neuter program

The Northwest Spay and Neuter Center animal shuttle will be at the Key Peninsula Civic Center at 7 a.m. Call 253-627-7729 ext. 217 or email [shuttle@nwspayneuter.org](mailto:shuttle@nwspayneuter.org) for questions or to schedule an appointment. The Northwest Spay and Neuter Center offers affordable spay and neuter services for cats and dogs including special programs for feral cats and pit bull dogs. Check with [nwspayneuter.org](http://nwspayneuter.org).

### Ashes meet

The Ashes support group for Fire District 16 meets 10:30 a.m. at the fire station in Key Center. Call 884-3771.

### Garden club meets

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

## NOV. 15

### Sunday bluegrass jam

Bluegrass Gospel Jam session is hosted at Longbranch Church (16518 46th St.

KPS) 6 to 8:30 p.m. for all acoustic instruments, ages, and skill levels. Everyone is welcome to play, sing or simply listen. Bring music stand and finger food to share; music and beverages are provided.

## NOV. 19

### Community forum

The Mustard Seed's Third Thursday Community Forum meets at 10 a.m. at the Key Center Library. Transportation is available by prior arrangement. Call 884-9814.

## NOV. 21

### Tech help

Adults may drop in for assistance by staff to help with tech-related problems. Bring devices to the KC Library 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call 548-3309 for more information or a one-on-one appointment.

## NOV. 28

### Christmas bazaar

The annual KP Lutheran Church holiday bazaar begins 9:30 a.m. after a complimentary breakfast at 9 a.m. Krum kaka, fattigman, Yule bread and other mouthwatering goodies, jams and jellies, handcrafted knit and crocheted items, kitchen towels, hot pads, lots of home décor, Christmas decorations, evergreen arrangements and artwork are all available at affordable prices.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

### Artists' Blend

Nov. 2, 4 to 6 p.m. at Blend Wine shop for any artist; contact [kathybauer100@gmail.com](mailto:kathybauer100@gmail.com).

### KP Veterans

Nov. 2 and 15, 7 p.m. at KP Lutheran Church; membership open to veterans and military service members and families over 16. Call (253) 509-8656 or [keypenveterans@outlook.com](mailto:keypenveterans@outlook.com).

### KP Lions dinner, program

Nov. 4 and 18, 7 p.m. at Key Center fire station; call 853-2721.

### Key Pen Parks

Nov. 9, 7:30 p.m. at Volunteer Park administrative office; public is encouraged to attend.

### KP Fire Department

Nov. 10 and 24, 5 p.m. in meeting room, Key Center fire station; visit [keypeninsulafire.org](http://keypeninsulafire.org).

## MORE PUBLIC MEETINGS LISTINGS ONLINE

See what's happening at [keypennews.com](http://keypennews.com)

# WEEKLY EVENTS

## MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS

### 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, Call 884-4440.

## TUESDAYS

### Key Singers Sing

The Key Singers rehearse at 7 p.m. for their annual Christmas program at KP Lutheran Church. Annual dues of \$10 cover costs of music, rental and scholarships. No auditions required. Call 884-5615.

### Story Times

Every Tuesday, discover books, learn nursery rhymes, sing songs, play with blocks and do arts and crafts at the Key Center Library. Music/Motion Story Time (ages 0-2 years old with an adult) is at 10 a.m. and Preschool Science Story Time (ages 2-5 years old) is at 11 a.m. Call 548-3309.

## TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS

### Senior tai chi

Senior tai chi meets 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the KP Community Services in Lakebay. Call 884-4440.

### Preschool play time

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. Care-givers must stay with child. Drop-ins are welcome; stay for as long as you wish. A \$1/child donation is suggested. Call Tami, 884-5433.

## TUESDAYS & SATURDAYS

### KP Museum

The Key Peninsula Historical Society features "The Story of the Key Peninsula: Its Past – Its People – Its Places" 1 to 4 p.m. on Tuesdays and Saturdays. No charge, although monetary donations are appreciated. The museum will be closed December and January, opening with a new major display in February. Visit [facebook.com/kphistoricalsociety](http://facebook.com/kphistoricalsociety) or [sulumuseum.org](http://keypenin-) or call 888-3246.

sulumuseum.org or call 888-3246.

## WEDNESDAYS

### Writers meet

The Lakebay Writers meet 1:30 to 4 p.m. at the KC Library. Call 884-3931.

### Writers' workshop

The Watermark Writers present a free writers' workshop 5 to 8 p.m. in Vaughn. Call 778-6559.

## WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS

### Senior meals

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

## THURSDAYS

### Toastmasters

The Toastmasters meet 8 to 9 a.m. at the KC Library. Join the fun and improve your speaking ability. Call 858-5761 or 548-3511.

### 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. Call 884-4981.

### Bingo

Free Bingo 7 to 9 p.m. at the KP Community Services in Home. Call 884-4440.

## FRIDAYS

### Children's activities

Families with young children enjoy art activities, stories, singing and finger plays at the KC Library 11 to 11:30 a.m. Call 548-3309 for information.

### STEM studies

STEM at 2:30 p.m. at the KC Library for preschool and kindergarten kids. STEM is for science, technology, engineering and math. Call 548-3309.

## SATURDAYS

### Writers' Guild

The Writers' Guild meets the first and third Saturdays 10 a.m. to noon at the KC Library. Call 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 [glorypromo@gmail.com](mailto:glorypromo@gmail.com).

### Every other Saturday

O'Callahan's Irish Pub Blues Jam, 6 to 9 p.m. hosted on Nov. 7 and 21.

# OFF THE KEY

NOV. 5

### Democrats meet

26th Legislative District Democrats meet 7 to 9 p.m. at Givens Community Center, 1026 Sidney Road, Port Orchard. Speaker is Randy Spitzer.

NOV. 6 and 7

### Writing conference

"Write in the Harbor" is hosted on the Gig Harbor campus of TCC on Friday 6:30 to 9 p.m. and Saturday 7:45 a.m. to 4 p.m. Register at [continuingeducation.com/write-in-the-harbor](http://continuingeducation.com/write-in-the-harbor). Call Janine at (253) 460-2357.

NOV. 7

### Fall concert

The Narrows Music Society's fall concert for Harbor Winds will take place at 3 p.m. at Harbor Ridge Middle School. Admission is free; donations are welcomed and appreciated. Visit [narrows-musicsociety.org](http://narrows-musicsociety.org).

NOV. 7, 8 and 28

### Bloodmobile

The bloodmobile will be at Adventure of Faith Church, 4705 Jackson Ave. SE, Port Orchard, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Nov. 7 and at St. Nicholas Catholic Church, Gig Harbor, noon to 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Nov. 8. It will be at HCC Road Trip, 8502 Skansie Ave, Gig Harbor, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Nov. 28.

NOV. 20 thru DEC. 12

### Play presented

Paradise Theatre presents "Scrooge, the Musical" Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. Call 954-PLAY.

NOV. 21

### Salmon tours

Free Salmon Tours presented by Harbor WildWatch are hosted at 9 and 10 a.m. beginning at Austin Estuary and ending at Donkey Creek Park along the creek. Learn all about salmon's life cycle

and their cultural and ecological significance while viewing spawning salmon. These tours are for all ages.

NOV. 26

### Turkey trot

The annual Harbor Chiropractic Turkey Trot 5K and 10K Run will benefit the FISH and Bischoff food banks, Backpacks 4 Kids, and local high school scholarships. [Holmeschiropractic.net](http://Holmeschiropractic.net).

NOV. 28 and 29

### Winterfest

The annual Winterfest Arts and Crafts Fair with hundreds of craft vendors is hosted at Peninsula High School. Call 530-4400.

DEC. 5

### Free concert

Joyful Noise, a community choir, presents a free Christmas concert at 3 p.m. at Agnus Dei Lutheran Church, 10511 Peacock Hill Ave. in Gig Harbor.

## KEY PENINSULA NEWS IS LOOKING TO TELL YOUR STORY

Send your story suggestions and photo opportunities to Scott Turner, editor, at [editor@keypennews.com](mailto:editor@keypennews.com)

## CALENDAR SUBMISSIONS

Send your calendar items to [connierenz@hotmail.com](mailto:connierenz@hotmail.com) by the 15th of the month

# School district adds new security to elementary schools

By Scott Turner KP News

Parents and visitors who want to enter any elementary school in the Peninsula School District (PSD) need to learn a whole new system for getting into the building.

According to Dan Gregory, PSD assistant superintendent for K-12 programs and school improvement, each elementary school in the district has been outfitted with entry-control devices that operate on a card system.

The devices were installed over the summer in all elementary schools and plans are underway to also install them in all the middle schools this winter.

At Evergreen Elementary, for instance,

all teachers and staff now have little cards — about the size of a credit card — staff hold near a keypad next to the schoolhouse door and the device reads their card and lets them in, said Principal Hugh Maxwell.

Maxwell is working on a system for how to regulate the door, he said.

“It’s a computerized locking mechanism. We tell the computer to open the doors at a certain time every morning and also when to shut and lock them,” he said.

Right now, doors are programmed to open at about 8:45, and close at 9:15 a.m. at Evergreen and Vaughn elementary schools.

“There’s a little buzzer that parents and other visitors will press when they want to enter the building. The button rings to all of our phones in the office and we can let people in as soon as we have identified them,” Maxwell said.

“We’re trying to make it as user-friendly as possible because we know that 99.9 percent of the people who come to our school are parents or grandparents or

friends or a delivery person,” he said.

It’s all part of PSD’s effort to make schools safer and more secure, Gregory said.

A year or so ago, the district hired a consultant to do a safety assessment of all its schools.

Survey results revealed “a variety of safety and security issues in our elementary and middle schools,” Gregory said.

“When you look at the tragedies that have occurred across the country over the past few years, you realize that we’re in a different place than we were five to 10 years ago.

“And the safety and security of our students and staff are the number one priority for us. We’re doing this so we can add one more layer of safety and security for our students and our staff,” he said.

Elementary students are the most vulnerable, Gregory added, so that’s where the district started. KPMS and Kopachuck are on the priority list for middle schools.

The entry systems cost around \$7,000

per school to install, with the money from levy funds PSD had set aside for safety and security initiatives, he said.

The district is still deciding what to do at the high schools. “With all the comings and goings and all the entry points at our high schools, it makes them much more difficult to do,” Gregory said.

For his part, Maxwell thinks the new entry system is a good thing and that the best defense is a good offense.

“That means building strong relationships with our students and our families so they know we care about them and we want what’s best for them and we want every kid to leave our school thinking that this is a great school,” Maxwell said. “Then the likelihood of a kid coming back and wanting to harm the staff or students is almost nonexistent.”

Maxwell acknowledged that change is difficult. “When things change, people’s level of concern goes way up. I think the fact that we have the flexibility to unlock the doors and invite the community in is important. We’re controlling the system, the system’s not controlling us,” he said.

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# Key Peninsula shines at PSEF's 20th birthday bash

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

The 20th annual Peninsula Schools Education Foundation fundraising breakfast at Canterwood Golf and Country Club in October added, for the first time ever, a luncheon. Both events were well attended by supporters of PSEF's mission to enhance Peninsula School District teachers' resources to educate our kids.

Greeting guests at both events were KP members of the PSEF board Marcia Harris, Jud Morris, Brian McLean and Chuck West, together with board members Maria Lanier, Ed Worthen and Vaughn Neumeister, as well as Peninsula Schools Superintendent Chuck Cuzzetto.

At the breakfast event, Vaughn Elementary School teacher Matthew Mills had guests in awe as he demonstrated scientific procedures with materials made available to his science and technology classes thanks to PSEF grants.

At the luncheon, Mills' wife, Lisa, who is the music and arts teacher at Vaughn, explained how employing musical instruments and an advanced sound system purchased with PSEF grant money had highly enhanced her students' self-confidence, sense of self-discipline and performing arts talents.

"We look forward to hearing from teachers every year to learn how they implemented foundation grants into their classrooms," said Brian McLean, PSEF secretary. "Lisa's presentation highlighted the fact that the new sound system at Vaughn not only had an effect on her current group of music students, it will last for several years to come."

West added, "It's great to see how the foundation impacts kids by providing items that are beyond the school district's ability directly to the classroom."

The high point of both the breakfast and the luncheon was a captivating performance by a "1901 school marm, Miss Bennett" played by retired teacher Leanne O'Neill. "Miss Bennett" treated all guests



Photo by Hugh McMillan, KP News

**At the 20th annual Peninsula Schools Education Foundation fundraising event at Canterwood Golf and Country Club on Oct. 8, Vaughn Elementary School teacher Matthew Mills holds guests in awe as he demonstrates a scientific procedure employing materials made possible for use in his science and technology classes by PSEF grant money.**

as "scholars" who behaved at her insistence as children while singing "America" and other ditties and standing to engage in recitations.

"Miss Bennett" made clear that deviant behavior would not be tolerated. On hearing a ringing cell phone during the luncheon, she charged across the room and ordered the culprit to stand in the corner — which he obediently did while bringing the house down in gales of laughter. The culprit was former state Rep. Larry Seaquist, who thereafter good-naturedly behaved himself.

"Miss Bennett" was the best speaker PSEF has ever had for our benefit breakfast and now lunch," said Morris, who is PSEF vice president. "Raising money to help teachers with their class projects and students interested in becoming teachers has raised PSEF to a new level in fundraising and opportunities to support our

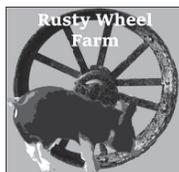
community's students."

Harris, PSEF president who served as master of ceremonies, said, "The presentations by 'Miss Bennett' and the Vaughn teachers exemplified the quote from William Butler Yeats: 'Education is not about filling a pail but about lighting a fire.' The presentations on Oct. 8 are but a few examples of how PSEF is supporting all of our talented teachers in lighting those fires and helping those fires burn a little brighter. This was the best PSEF event ever!"

O'Neill said it was a great privilege for her to help celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Peninsula Schools Education Foundation.

"As a retired Peninsula School District educator and recipient of foundation grants, I have seen the dollars in action and know what important work the foundation does in our schools," she said. "Here's to the next 20 years!"

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# School board candidates discuss important issues

By Sara Thompson, KP News

All seven candidates running for Peninsula School Board recently gathered at Goodman Middle School to meet with voters. About 40 people came to hear the candidates at an event sponsored by the parent groups of Goodman and Kopachuck middle schools.

It's an important election — four of five positions will be determined, and this board will be responsible for the upcoming levy as well as hiring a new superintendent. Superintendent Chuck Cuzetto announced that he will step down at the end of this school year.

The current levy — which funds more than 20 percent of the maintenance and operations budget — will be up for renewal in 2016. And after failed levies for additional construction in 2011, 2012 and 2013, all of the candidates stressed the importance of building trust with the voters.

Each board director is elected to a four-year term. Voters cast votes for all directors, but each director represents a specific district — this means that directors are re-

sponsible for all students but that they also should be aware of needs within their own individual regions. There are five districts. District 5 will be up for reelection in two years. The District 2 position has two years left of an unexpired term.

Running for office are:

- District 1, Marcia Harris and Matthew Wilkinson (incumbent). District 1 covers most of the Key Peninsula.

- District 2, Deborah Krishnadasan, unopposed. District 2 covers the northernmost Key Peninsula and Canterwood.

- District 3, GERALYN (Lyn) McClendon and Rand Wilhelmsen (incumbent) District 3 covers Rosedale and Maplewood.

- District 4, Leslie Harbaugh and Garth Jackson. District 4 covers the Wollochet area.

The candidates gave introductory remarks, then answered questions that had been collected by the parent groups. There was time for a few questions from the audience, and then closing comments.

They were asked what the greatest capital needs of the district are. All agreed that basic maintenance, some deferred due to

the economic downturn, is critical. Most also noted that planning for growth will be necessary.

When asked what they might do to build trust, Wilkinson and Wilhelmsen, both incumbents, noted that they had reached out to Citizens for Responsible Spending, the group that has opposed levies in the past.

Harris noted her past successful experience using a “listening first” strategy with small focus groups. Jackson said he thought that the district should consider doing a more thorough review of all programs. Harbaugh and Harris both noted how important it is to reach out to the entire community, including those without children. Krishnadasan and McClendon stressed clear, concise and simple communication.

The next question was about attracting and retaining staff. All agreed that compensation and school environment were critical. Wilkinson added that there needed to be clear career pathways — to allow teachers to become department heads or administrators. Harris agreed, adding that

the work of all staff must be valued, collaboration encouraged, and time for professional development provided.

When asked about their view of the role of the board and that of the superintendent all agreed: the board sets vision and policy and the superintendent implements. Harris added that the board must also advocate for what is best for the district.

How to build trust? Harris, Krishnadasan, Harbaugh stressed engagement and visibility within the community. They discussed both listening and telling the successful stories of the district, reaching out to those with children, those without children, and businesses.

McClendon vowed to be available and to communicate. Wilkinson stressed answering any and all questions, noting that he always responds to emails. Wilhelmsen said, “We have to do what we say we are going to do. We must be accountable for results and make the public aware of what we accomplish.” Jackson noted that all ideas must be so well thought out that they sell themselves.

Finally, the candidates were asked what unique qualities they bring to the board.

Wilkinson noted his longtime commitment as a volunteer and his day to day work in information technology, making networks work better.

Harris described her deep and broad-based background in education, from classroom to human resources to finance.

Krishnadasan described her work in mergers at Microsoft, the communication skills required, and her enthusiasm.

McClendon noted her nursing background and the emphasis on prevention rather than reaction.

Wilhelmsen stressed his background in banking and finance as well as a teaching certificate, leading to an understanding in classroom instruction.

Jackson emphasized his early background as an engineer and working collaboratively in business, combined with his 12-year career as a teacher and extensive volunteer activities with youth.

Harbaugh noted that she has been a volunteer in the Peninsula Schools for the past 13 years. “This district is my wheelhouse,” she said.

Information is available in the Pierce County Voter's Pamphlet or at [co.pierce.wa.us/DocumentCenter/View/38362](http://co.pierce.wa.us/DocumentCenter/View/38362).

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# Winter Warm-up, Crafts Fair & Chili Competition is back

By Scott Turner, KP News

On Saturday, Nov. 7, the Key Peninsula Civic Center will host the annual Winter Warm-up, Crafts Fair & Chili Competition.

The free event takes place from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Key Peninsula firefighters will judge the chili competition, and organizers say the entire event promises to be more fun than ever.

For starters, activity areas have been rearranged and the chili cook-off will take place on the stage, Patricia Ghiossi said.

That has opened up an entire room for more crafts vendors. "We have almost 50 vendors," Ghiossi said.

## Want to go?

The annual Winter Warm Up, Crafts Fair & Chili Competition takes place Saturday, Nov. 7, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the KP Civic Center. The free event includes a chili cook-off, crafts fair and live entertainment by local music groups. For information, call the civic center at (253) 884-3456.

"That's more than usual."

She anticipates that there will be lots of holiday-themed crafts in addition to regular items.

"It's all crafts people who make things by hand and we give priority to KP crafters," she said.

There's also plenty of kids' stuff, she added, as Two Waters Arts Alliance will be there with art-making activities.

The younger generation will be well-represented in the entertainment as well.

The Key Peninsula Middle School jazz band, under the direction of Staci Webb, will perform at 10 a.m. The band is made up of students in the seventh and eighth grades who play "a variety of jazz styles including swing, blues and rock," Ghiossi said.

At 10:30, the KPMS choir takes

the stage. Webb also directs the choir, which is the largest class in the school. Their next performance will be at the school's Veterans Day assembly.

Vaughn Elementary School's drum ensemble, The Whole Note Huskies, will show off their skills at 11:15. Vaughn music teacher Lisa Mills directs the Huskies.

Afternoon entertainment spotlights the Key Singers and the Bluegrass Minstrels, Ghiossi said.

There's also a raffle of items donated by the vendors and local 4H club members will be on hand to assist the vendors. KGHP-FM general manager Spencer Abersole will emcee the day's events.

**LOOKING FOR WRITERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS**

Contact Scott Turner, editor, at [editor@keypennews.com](mailto:editor@keypennews.com)

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# Red Barn youth center expands to meet growing demand

By Scott Turner, KP News

After being in operation for more than a year, the Red Barn Youth Center in Key Center needs to expand its space.

According to Red Barn Executive Director Laura Condon, the plan is to build out a 2,650-square-foot space into a multi-purpose gym that will double the current size of the facility.

The group raised \$11,000 at a recent Raise-the-Roof fundraiser and also received an anonymous donation of \$25,000.

"This gets us started," Condon said.

The money will be used to clean out the building that will become the multipurpose room. Currently the space is being used for storage. Condon said, "We're going to use the money to clean it out and make it ready to start building."

The first step was to bring in a site manager, Mark Plummer.

Now the search is on for volunteers who have building skills.

"We're looking for volunteers who are framers, insulators, sheet-rockers, plumbers, electricians and general handyman



Isabel Jensen, left, and Madalyn Wright play cards at the the Red Barn Youth Center.

Photo by Scott Turner, KP News

people who can donate time or materials," Condon said.

The new space will probably house a half-court basketball court, an area for games and possibly an arts center.

Condon noted that the Red Barn's outdoor space is completely finished.

"We have our garden and, thanks to the Cheney Family Foundation we have a sand volleyball court — the only one on the

KP," she said. "We're trying to figure out how it can be open to the public.

"We also got all the hydroseeding donated for about 20,000 square feet of play area for soccer and other outdoor sports," she said.

The center is open after school and during the summer, offering homework help and several classes.

Two Waters Arts Alliance teaches weekly art classes; the KP Library comes in once a month with programs and Condon is working with the Gig Harbor YMCA and Boys & Girls Club for additional activities.

Last year Condon and her staff conducted a survey and learned that, among kids who come to the Red Barn on a regular basis, grades went up and good behavior and self-esteem increased tremendously, she said. "Across the board, every student, except the ones that are already straight-A students, saw improvements."

To make a donation to the Red Barn visit [redbarnkp.org](http://redbarnkp.org) or call 884-1594.

To volunteer to help create the new multipurpose room, call site manager Mark Plummer at 405-1651.

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# KP Narcotics Anonymous group speaks up to help others

By Scott Turner, KP News

It's no secret that drugs and alcohol are big concerns on the Key Peninsula.

What's not so well known is that there are local groups working hard every day to help people recovering from addictions stay clean and sober.

There are a couple of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) groups that meet regularly on the Key and earlier this year, a group of local residents started up a Narcotics Anonymous (NA) group that meets every Wednesday at 7:15 p.m., and Fridays and Saturdays at 7 p.m.

They call themselves "In the Moment" and they meet at the KP Lutheran Church on the corner of Lackey Road and the Key Peninsula Highway, according to group member Anne S. (Members are identified by first name only, and some also add the first letter of their last name.)

Anne, who has lived in the Lake Minterwood area for 15 years, became addicted to prescription pain killers after she injured her neck.

"When I was in rehab, they told me that the only way to stay clean was to go to NA meetings," she said. "I went to the two meetings they have every week in Gig Harbor and I was barely hanging on. I didn't have the gas money to drive to Port Orchard or Tacoma."

At one of the Gig Harbor meetings she met Josh T, and later another fellow showed up and it turned out that they all live on the Key Peninsula.

"They told me they were going to AA meetings on the KP and invited me to join them," she said.

An AA member who volunteers at the Bischoff food bank was able to get a free meeting space for NA meetings.

It took about two months to do all the paperwork to get official NA certification for the new group, said Daniel M. "Josh filled out the paperwork and I went around looking for meeting spaces," Daniel said. "We got a bunch of NA literature and books, and Chris at the food bank let us use their space for the first couple of months."

"We knew it was going to grow," Josh added, "so my sponsor, who's the secretary of the local AA meetings, helped us get moved into the KP Lutheran Church."

In the few months they've been taking place, the meetings have become very pop-

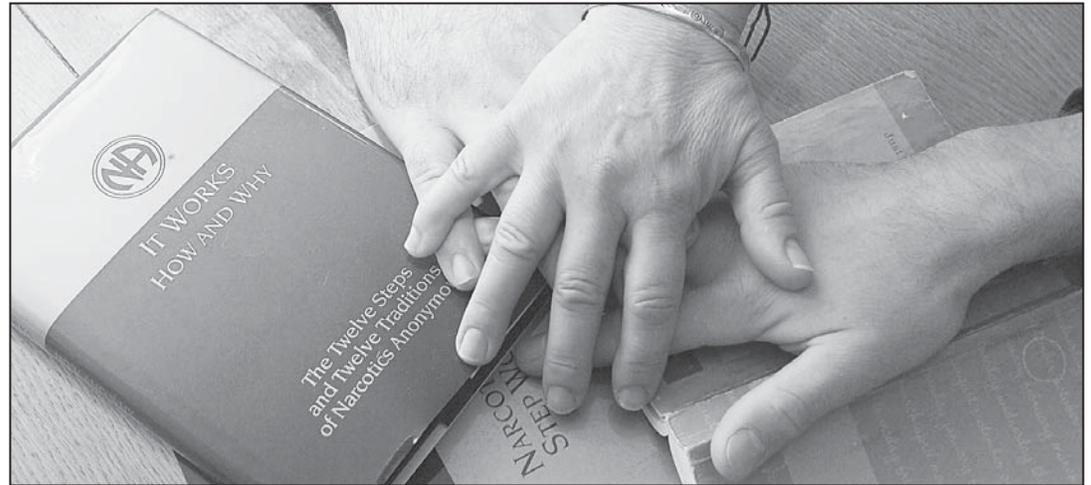


Photo by Scott Turner, KP News

During a recent meeting, Narcotics Anonymous members told stories of hope, family and trust.

ular, Anne said. "Some of the Gig Harbor people actually come out here to our meetings because they say we're really real out here. We've had more than 20 in a lot of our meetings," she said.

The meetings are open to everyone — nobody is ever turned away, Anne said.

"We always make everybody — even newcomers — feel really welcome. We hug each other and really share," she said.

Ben C. attends every meeting. "It's a safe place for people who have substance abuse problems and want to remain sober," Ben said. "We gather together and share our experience and our strength and hope on how to stay sober and clean."

Anne agreed. "And if you're having difficulties or problems, you can share that and somebody else might share about how they got through that same thing," she said.

There's usually a topic — a message for the day read out loud from the NA book, "Just for Today," that often becomes the basis for the evening's discussion.

"And there are certain principles and guidelines that we follow that are kind of like a spiritual path to remaining clean and becoming a better person," Anne said. "Everyone is a mirror to each other. I've learned so much there."

"It's a place for hope in recovery," added Josh. "It's changed my way of life because now I'm surrounded by people who are working a spiritual program and living life without substances and without getting in-

## Want to attend?

The Key Peninsula Narcotic Anonymous group meets Wednesdays at 7:15p.m., Fridays and Saturdays at 7 p.m. at Key Peninsula Lutheran Church at the intersection of Lackey Road and Key Peninsula Highway. Newcomers and visitors are always welcome.

toxicated. And everybody connects with each other."

"We do this together — staying clean and staying off drugs," Anne said. "For me it's like relearning to live life without drugs and learning to cope with life on life's terms without drugs."

They all agreed that it's like finding a whole new family.

As with AA, there's a spiritual aspect to Narcotics Anonymous. "In AA they use the word 'God,'" Anne said. "We call it a higher power. It's whatever you choose as a higher power."

Ben, who said he was addicted to methamphetamine and heroin, went to six or seven treatment centers before moving to the Key.

"I moved out here from treatment and found these meetings," Ben said. "I was a heavy drug user and getting out of treatment, one of the keys is building a sober

support network with other likeminded people who are recovering. You build from that. That way you're kind of among the herd. You get a new family basically. It's about having a sober support network — other people in the program."

"Addiction is a lifelong battle and the magic of AA and NA is addicts helping addicts," Josh said. "There's a lot of people, including ourselves, that can benefit from it."

Group members also do a lot of volunteer work as part of their recovery.

"It boosts your self-esteem when you do positive things and help other people and start cleaning up the wreckage of your past and getting spiritually fit," Ben said. "It helps your well-being all around."

"There's a nationwide drug epidemic that's ruining a lot of lives and killing a lot of people. With AA and NA there's hope for people who are in recovery," he added.

"The KP is drug central," said Dan. "It's infested with drugs and I used to be part of it."

"I want people to know that there's hope and there are people out here that care. We're all about experience, strength and hope. I personally have sat down and talked to families who might need help."

"It's totally changed in my life and helped me take the negativity of my past life and make something positive out of it," Dan said.

For information, visit [na.org](http://na.org) or call Anne at (253) 225-3800.

# A 'vision' brought Bruce Cook to Lakebay and possibly politics

By Rick Sorrels, KP News

Bruce Cook has only lived in Lakebay for three years, but he is already running for public office.

Cook was born in Little Rock, Ark. and remained there until he graduated from the University of Arkansas in 1977 with degrees in English and journalism. He had his first work published while he was in the sixth grade.

Cook's aunt was a librarian and read him stories, which may have contributed to his life long love of books and writing.

Cook's first job was as a runner for a bank where he carried very large checks to the Federal Reserve for deposit after hours to ensure the bank received that extra day's of interest. Between 1972 and 1977, Cook advanced to assistant manager of the largest bank in Arkansas, which later merged with Bank of America.

Cook continued his education, obtaining an MBA and a doctorate from the University of Texas, with his disserta-



Bruce Cook

tion on "fund-raising theory." He has been a business and financial consultant since 2000, conducting frequent seminars across the country for various corporations and organizations.

In 2000, Cook was invited by a Vancouver man to conduct a seminar in Olalla, which became his first visit to the Northwest. Cook said that he "immediately fell in love with the place, the people and the climate."

When he returned to Austin, he no longer felt that he belonged in Texas, where he had lived for 26 years. He felt out of place. His wife of 20 years, a lifelong Southern Texas gal, also no longer felt her roots.

On Oct. 1, 2011, Cook's wife had what

she called a "vision," describing a house that, for some reason, she believed was in Washington, somewhere.

One of the Olalla seminar members, who was a real estate broker, sent some unsolicited listings with photographs to Cook in Texas out of the blue. The pictures were exactly as his wife had described weeks earlier.

About this same time, a man walked in off the street wanting to purchase their home, which was not for sale.

Cook and his wife thought "a deity may be involved." They picked up the phone and bought a house in Lakebay that they had never seen. Nor had they ever been on the Key Peninsula, nor closer than Cook's single quick visit to Olalla.

The Cooks' moved to the KP in 2012. They said they love it here, with "absolutely no regrets."

Cook still does consulting work, with a number of websites. But the peace and quiet of Lakebay has allowed him to develop his true life love of books.

Cook has a small-scale publishing

business that has published more than 100 books, both authored by him and others. The subjects range from biographies and history, to novels and science fiction, and, of course, finance and investments.

Cook's other love is helping people, which he does through his seminars.

After moving here, he tried to learn all he could of the area. The newspapers were discussing the partial merger between the maritime portions of the Port of Tacoma and the Port of Seattle.

He studied the matter and learned that nobody on either commission had any financial background, that both ports had huge debt and financial problems, and he saw a place that he could help his new community.

Cook's name will appear on the Nov. 3 ballot for a position as a Port of Tacoma commissioner. He has never run for public office before. There may be a higher influence in play again, he suggested.

Cook can be reached at 858-8929 or [wbcCook@centurylink.net](mailto:wbcCook@centurylink.net).

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# Local sculptor creates memorial in Ruston

By Colleen Slater, KP News

Paul Michaels began his professional art career as a woodcarver. He first specialized in custom carousel horses, creating about a dozen, most of them displayed in clients' homes.

"The idea of the permanence of bronze sculpture appealed to me and in 1995, I went off in that direction," he said.

His first public bronze monument was a statue of Ben Cheney sitting in the stands watching the games at Cheney Stadium.

Since then, he has created others commemorating historic figures in the local area, including Puyallup berry farmer Ted Picha, Allen C. Mason and a monument on the site of the top of the Ocean Restaurant in old Tacoma.

Michaels' bronze plaques are in sidewalks in the Proctor district and along Ruston Way, marking sites of historic sawmills.

The Tacoma Historical Society acted as fiscal sponsor for some of his projects, which allowed contributors to deduct donations.

"In 1999 I built a house on the Key Peninsula and moved our family here from Tacoma," Michaels said.

He now works on his sculpture projects at a studio there.

"I have enjoyed researching historical figures and using the facts I find when portraying them in bronze," he said.

He checks clothing, personal items, and tries to portray their personality in the facial expression.

"I kind of like researching Tacoma history and wondered who Ruston was named for," he said.

He discovered Ruston was named after William Rust but didn't know much about him.

"The more I learned about him, the more I thought he deserved a statue. Many people in Ruston can now find a bit of their town's history when they discover this monument," he said.

It turned out, Michaels said, that Rust not only built the Tacoma Smelter, which for a time was the largest employer in Pierce County, but was a philanthropist and promoter of Tacoma and Pierce County.

Rust sold the smelter in 1905 for a tremendous profit, invested in mining interests in Alaska, and sat on the boards of many local companies. He was instrumental in getting the Stadium Bowl built and influencing the



Courtesy photo

Key Peninsula resident Paul Michaels poses next to a sculpture he made of William Rust, a longtime philanthropist and promoter of Tacoma and Pierce County.

Army to build Camp (Fort) Lewis in Pierce County, he said.

According to Michaels, Rust built a large business building in downtown Tacoma, was chairman of the board of Tacoma General Hospital and created the Rust Trust for the care of children at the facility. Money from the trust paid for half of the original Mary Bridge Hospital building and continues to generate support for the hospital, millions of dollars to date.

Michaels worked about two years on this project. Research took a while and finding enough photos of Mr. Rust to be confident the statue resembled him was a challenge.

"It turns out there was an oil portrait of him hidden away at Mary Bridge Hospital," he said. "I sculpted the image in clay in my

studio and the sculpture was cast in bronze at Two Ravens Foundry in Tacoma."

Babe Lehrer, well-known Tacoma community activist, agreed to act as fundraiser for the project and the Tacoma Historical Society handled the money.

Contributors included MultiCare, the Point Ruston developers, Rust family descendants, the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation and the Ruston/Point Defiance Business District Association.

Wren & Willow, general contractors, made and donated the concrete pedestal. The city of Ruston now owns the monument that was installed in June at the corner of North 51st and Winifred Street.

Other artwork by Michaels is on his website at [michaelsbronze.com](http://michaelsbronze.com).

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# KPHS, others looking to preserve landmark Vaughn Library Hall

KP News staff report

The Key Peninsula Historical Society (KPHS) and current owners of the former Vaughn Library Hall are pursuing possible preservation of one of the last remaining pre-1900 buildings on the

Key Peninsula.

"The hall was originally built as the 'bowery' dance floor for the July 4th celebration in 1889, the year of Washington statehood," said Judy Mills, KPHS president

Walls and roof were added in 1893; a library was included in 1894 and extended into a separate room in 1926. It became the community center for the Vaughn area until the library was moved to the Key Peninsula Civic Center and the hall was sold as a private residence in the 1950s.

"As part of the process and in preparation for restoration, there is a need to obtain funding through a variety of resources

that can be enhanced by becoming registered through national, Washington state and Pierce County registries," Mills said. "Therefore, we need as much accurate history and documentation about the hall, its structure and activities that occurred there as possible."

KPHS is asking people with past memories or pictures to help fill in the gaps of the timeline.

They have a list of questions they need answered. They want to know what historical events the public attended. What organizations used the hall? Did anyone visit the library? At what age did you go to the hall? Was the front porch on the hall? Did you go up in the tower? Do

you remember what color it was? Did your parents tell you any stories about their experiences at the hall? Was there a basement in the hall?

Mills said the answers, including dates and times, are important to the preservation of the landmark which sits on a piece of property on Hall Road near the junction of Van Slyke Road.

"If you have pictures of the inside or outside or activities, we would be glad to scan them and return them to you," Mills said.

Mills is hoping the community can help. Contact the Key Peninsula Historical Society at [kphsmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:kphsmuseum@gmail.com) or by calling (253) 888-3246.

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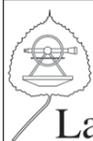
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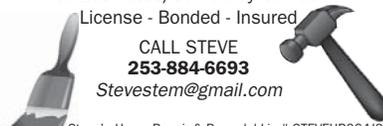
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Photo by Hugh McMillan, KP News

Above: Skate Night at Key Peninsula Civic Center resumed Sept. 11 and continues every Friday in an exciting explosion of good, clean fun and games for kids from kindergarten through eight grade.

Right: Marcia Harris addresses a packed-house audience during the Key Peninsula Community Council/Key Peninsula Civic Center Association-sponsored forum featuring candidates for the Pierce County Charter Review Board and for the Peninsula School District Board.



Photo by Hugh McMillan, KP News



Photo by Alice Kinerk, KP News

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Ed Johnson and took his KP News with him to visit Old Faithful, the famous geyser in Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming.



Photo by Hugh McMillan, KP News

On Oct. 9, members of the Key Peninsula Veterans organization, Frank Grubaugh, Roxyanne Wooldridge and Dan Van Antwerp, present a check for \$500 to Evergreen Elementary Principal Hugh Maxwell in support of the school's Reading is FUNdamental program, which the organization has supported for years by making large quantities of age-appropriate books available to Ev-green students for free.

Left: Key Peninsula Business Association volunteers Jud Morris and George Heard clean up roadside trash in Lakebay Oct. 8. Barb Heard, Rosina Vertz, Michael Ouellette, Frank Grubaugh and Stan Moffett also braved early-morning rain to bag up litter.