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Dreams come true for KP teen

By Scott Turner, KP News

Sometimes dreams really do come true. Josh Loux, 17, was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis (CF) when he was just three months old.

CF is a relatively rare disease that, basically, causes thick mucus to build up in the lungs and pancreas, which leads to life-threatening lung infections and digestive problems.

Currently, there's no cure for CF and, because it's so rare, not as much money is dedicated toward research as with, say, cancer and other high-visibility diseases.

Similarly, organizations such as the well-known Make-A-Wish Foundation have given more attention to children with cancer than those with CF.

But that's changing.

Earlier this year, Josh's family received a phone call from the Make-A-Wish Foundation's Seattle office that, after having been flatly denied a few years ago, his wish was being granted.

Josh's mom, Deedee Loux, remembers

(See Loux, Page 4)



Photo by Scott Turner, KP News

Josh Loux, 17, was granted a wish by the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Instead of a location or meeting a celebrity, the Wanua-area teen chose to receive a special gift — a Gibson, Les Paul guitar. Loux has cystic fibrosis, a rare disease, and will be walking in the annual Great Strides Walk in Gig Harbor, May 3.

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KP medical marijuana community faces state smokescreen

By Peter Ruble, KP News

The medical marijuana community is flourishing in the Key Peninsula region despite the fact that marijuana collective gardens are illegal in Washington state, according to a statement made by the Washington State Court of Appeals on March 31.

A medical marijuana collective garden is a place where those who provide medical marijuana can help those who currently do not grow or have their own. This community could be in further danger if new laws are enacted in the summer of 2014 that would put the State Liquor Control Board in charge of dispensing marijuana for medical and recreational use.

Nick Hetterscheidt, who manages the Key Peninsula Healing Center collective garden off of State Route 302, claims that new marijuana laws will end his business. Hetterscheidt runs what he calls a safe environment for marijuana in a "clinical" setting.

"The state sees our customers as theirs," said Hetterscheidt. "They're looking for revenue and couldn't care less about the patients. They want to keep it as a recreational drug and would rather have it classified like cigarettes and alcohol and they want to put medical marijuana users on a state registry list."

He has seen medical marijuana effectively treat sleep disorders, anxiety, depression, and has witnessed it help cancer patients who were struggling to regain their appetites. "It's less addictive than prescription drugs and it works instantly," Hetterscheidt said.

Jamie Chaplin, who is a member of the Key Peninsula Healing Center, says that medical marijuana has effectively treated her husband's depression and bipolar disorder. Chaplin says that her husband was not responding to prescription drugs and was suf-

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(From Marijuana, Page 1)

fering from their side effects before using medical marijuana.

Cholon French, who owns Harbor Alternative Wellness in Purdy, said that medical marijuana is 100 times safer than prescription medication. "It's been a blessing for me and my patients," said French, who has treated people suffering from Crohn's disease and fibromyalgia. French also uses marijuana to treat his own back pain.

Harbor Alternative Wellness provides smokeless methods of using marijuana such as brownies, candy, soft drinks, dog treats and vaporizers. Vaporizers are metal or glass devices that help extract THC, the principal psychoactive ingredient in marijuana, while eliminating the harmful carcinogens caused by smoking.

"I switched to vaporizing and it's awesome," said Chris Hetterscheidt, who manages a smoke shop named The Glass Cave near Key Center that sells vaporiz-



Photo by Peter Ruble, KP News

A medical marijuana patient inhales through a vaporizer near a dispensary in Purdy.

ers and other smoking devices.

Hetterscheidt said he uses marijuana to treat his nausea and has seen disabled veterans and cancer patients come into his

shop frequently.

According to Hetterscheidt, most doctors receive kickbacks from pharmaceutical companies for prescribing their medi-

cation when medical marijuana could make it unnecessary.

Information on medical marijuana can be found at the-greener-way.org.

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KEY PENINSULA
NEWS

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

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MAY 2014



Key Pen Parks

The key to your next adventure!

Key Pen Parks PROGRAM GUIDE

Recreation Coordinator: Jess Smeall, jessica@keypenparks.com 253-884-9240 x22

REGISTER ONLINE: www.keypenparks.com

Saturday, June 14th

Summer Camps
Week long specialty programs

ECO ADVENTURE: INSECT SAFARI

Explore the world of bugs through fun games & activities. Includes a visit from "The Insect Safari," with live and collected insects from around the world.

Dates: July 7-11 Time: 1:00pm-4:00pm

Ages: 5-9 Fee: \$69 Location: Volunteer Park

Instructors: Key Pen Parks Staff & Insect Safari

FeeWee ECO ADVENTURE

Our beginning nature program will foster a love for the wilderness, ecosystems, water, and the natural world—with lots of learning through fun games & experiments.

Dates: July 14-18 Time: 9:30am-12:00pm

Ages: 4-7 Fee: \$59 Location: Volunteer Park

Instructors: Key Pen Parks Staff & Insect Safari

YOGA & MEDITATION - a calming practice for youth

Dates: July 21-25 Time: 9:00am-10:00am

Ages: 7-12 Fee: \$49 Location: Volunteer Park

Instructor: Theresa Glasscock

ECO ADVENTURE: WILD WATER

Every day of camp will feature a visit to a site with a natural water source to explore: Puget Sound, creeks & lakes!

Dates: July 21-25 Time: 10:00am-4:00pm

Ages: 8-12 Fee: \$109 Location: meets at Volunteer Park

Instructors: Pierce County Enviro Educators, Staff

ECO ADVENTURE: FARM TOUR

Starts at a permaculture wonderland & forest, then to Blue Willow Lavender, Gentle Giant, Cape-E & Kauiki Farms!

Dates: Aug 4-8 Time: 9:30am-4:00pm

Ages: 8-12 Fee: \$109 Location: meets at Volunteer Park

Instructors: Pierce County Enviro Educators, Staff, Farmers

LEGO: Superhero Academy

Join Bricks 4 Kidz instructors in a superhero Lego adventure!

Dates: Aug 11-15 Time: 9:30am-12:30pm

Ages: 5-7 Fee: \$135 Location: Volunteer Park

LEGO: Angry Birdies & Bad Piggies

A creatively themed Lego camp with Bricks 4 Kidz! CATAPULT!

Dates: Aug 11-15 Time: 1:30pm-4:30pm

Ages: 8-12 Fee: \$135 Location: Volunteer Park

At LEGO Camps with Bricks 4 Kidz, the "models" are designed for different skill levels, appropriate for all ages and abilities, even the motorized models!

LOOK FOR TEEN HIKES: WEEK OF JULY 28TH



Celebrate the start of summer with a Fun Run that supports your school! \$5 from every registration goes to your school of choice. Also, the school that registers the most kids into the FREE KIDS DASH or KIDS MILER (new this year) wins a Huge Trophy. Finisher ribbons for all, and medals by age and gender. Get your friends and family together and sign up for the 3rd Annual PenLight Summer Fun Run! THANK YOU PENINSULA LIGHT CO.

REGISTRATION:

FREE for Kids Dash or Miler

\$15 \$K for ages 16+

\$5 \$K for Kids up to age 15

\$12 for tech shirt

(shirt order deadline is 6/2)

\$5 from each adult \$K

registration donated to your

school of choice!



Key Pen Parks

REGISTER ONLINE:
www.keypenparks.com

REGISTER BY PHONE:
253-994-9240 X22

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

9:15am - Check in

9:00am - 5K Race

9:45am - Kids Dash (K-2)

10:00am - Kids Dash (3rd-5th)

10:15am - Kids Miler (3rd-8th)

10:45am - Awards!

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES:

- Mon. May 12th Park Board Mtg 7:30pm @ Volunteer Park (7:00pm study session) PUBLIC IS WELCOME & INVITED!

Join us on **MAY 10TH** for the

Picnic Shelter Dedication:

10am at Civic Center, during the Livable Fair

Then, visit our booth outside under the tent!

FITNESS CAMP

SPRING 2 SESSION

Instructor: Shannon Reichl Ages: 16+

Location: Volunteer Park (indoor & outdoor)

Day: Tues & Thurs Time: 6-7pm

Dates: May 13 - June 19

Fee: \$30 for 1 class/week, \$60 for 2

Join mid-session and we will provide the fee!

- AGILITY TRAINING • CARDIO TRAINING
 - CORE TRAINING • STRENGTH TRAINING
- ALL in a FUN workout!

KP Community



Garden

PLOTS AVAILABLE NOW! \$50 for 1, \$90 for 2

Location: Behind SunnyCrest Nursery in Key Center (52nd St KPN)
To reserve a plot: online or call 884-9240 x22

13th Annual Key Peninsula Livable Community Fair

hosted by the Key Peninsula Civic Center
Saturday, May 10th • 10am - 3pm

40+ Non-profit & Local Service Organizations
Emergency Preparedness Workshops
Community "Spotlight" • Local Artisans
Winter Creek & Vaughn Elementary performances
19th Annual Lakebay Fuchsia Society plant sale
KP Historical Museum tours & open house
Summer Camp Fair
face painting • photo booth • trout fishing

Together We Make Our Community Stronger



Are you new to the area?
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(From Loux, Page 1)

what a shock it was when she and her husband learned that their new baby, the second of their three children, had CF.

"It's a genetic disease where both parents have to be a carrier and there's no family history on either side of our family," she said. "We have an older son, Christopher, 19 and he's fine. And our daughter Aleisha, 14, is also OK."

It took awhile, but once the doctors got him on the right mix of medications, nutrition and physical therapy, Josh has been able to live a pretty normal life.

"He was growing and thriving and doing well," Loux said. "We had one little hiccup — a near drowning — where we almost lost him when he was 2, but I feel like the Lord spared him and has great things in mind for him."

Josh grew up using a vest machine every day to tap the fluid from his lungs, did physical therapy and was careful with his diet. There have been "a lot of doctor appointments and just keeping a close watch on his health," but other than that life was fairly normal, his mother said.

"Most of my friends didn't even know I have CF," Josh Loux said. "It was different, but not that different. I knew I was sick because I grew up with it and I never knew anything else.

"I could run and play and I was one of the kids that got picked first for a dodgeball game," he said.

Then about four years ago, a micobacteria colonized in his lungs. "It's really tough to cure and it doesn't go away," his mom said. "He's had cocktails of antibiotics sometimes four-to-six months at a time and he had to have a port put into an artery so we could treat him that way."

He went from "about 106 percent lung capacity" before the infection to about 43 percent, he said. Now, there are some things he just can't do. "I can't even go a mile without coughing and having issues. I try to live life as normal as I can, but I take naps like a little kid because I'm just really tired," he said.

The bacteria is nasty enough that Josh has to go into the hospital a couple of times a year and he goes to a specialist to get certain types of antibiotics that come from the FDA, he said.

Recently, however, Josh started working out with his friend, Mac Davis. "He's been training with me and working with me. We do some running and we do weights," Josh said.

He said he put on about four pounds since

they started, which made his doctors really happy. It's also helping him use the air he breathes in more efficiently.

The Loux family also participates together in Gig Harbor's annual Great Strides Walk for Cystic Fibrosis. Their team is called "Josh on the Go."

According to Heather Paulson, the local Great Strides Walk chair, this year's three-mile walk takes place on May 3 on the Cushman Trail. Paulson, whose 10-year-old daughter, Lily Grace, was born with CF, has chaired the event for the past five years.

"And out on the Key Peninsula there are families raising money for Josh. The only thing stopping us from finding the cure is money. We need more awareness and more help," Paulson said.

The Loux family has lived on the Key Peninsula for four generations. "My grandparents lived here, my parents and I all grew up here," Deedee Loux said. "It's such a great community. When something bad happens, everybody rallies around."

When Josh was first nominated three years ago, he was having a tough time with the micobacteria, and when he learned that he had been "flat-out denied," he was pretty angry.

"That hurt me a lot and I was like, 'Why do the cancer kids get everything?'"

It was an unusual attitude for him, because Josh is very sensitive and cares deeply about other people who are ill, and never wishes bad things for anyone, said his mom.

"I was angry for the many kids who have CF who are younger than me and have a worse situation. It would be a really hard thing to deal with when you're 4 or 5," he said.

But "as of Feb. 1, Make-A-Wish now grants wishes to all CF children," said Jeanette Tarcha, the chapter's director of communications. "We're starting with the oldest kids first — the ones who are getting close to 18 — and Josh is one of our first CF recipients," she added.

Josh has played the guitar for a dozen years and his wish was for a certain, very special guitar. And he got exactly what he was dreaming about, plus a day in Seattle with friends at the Experience Music Project and a nice lunch.

And another of his wishes also was granted. "To have Make-A-Wish do this for me shows me that they will also do it for the younger kids who are CF patients. And that makes me really, really happy," he added with a big grin.

For information about Make-A-Wish, visit akwa.wish.org. To learn more about the Great Strides Walk for Cystic Fibrosis, email Heather Paulson at hpspander@hotmail.com.



PSD developing STEM opportunities

STEM education has become a statewide and nationwide priority for early learning through postsecondary education — and Peninsula School District is part of the movement to enhance student learning through STEM based opportunities.

A strong foundation in STEM — science, technology, engineering and mathematics — is becoming increasingly necessary for today’s students.

“Even if they’re not going into a STEM field, they need to be STEM literate in order to communicate and collaborate in the global workforce,” said Dr. Kareen Borders, a National Board Certified Teacher in early adolescence science at Key Peninsula Middle School.

Borders, who last year was one of six full-time teach-

ing ambassadors appointed to the U.S. Department of Education, was recently invited by the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) to present on the education panel at an international scientific assembly.

The event will take place in Moscow, Russia, this summer (funded personally and by grants) and she will talk about the various immersive science activities PSD has created for its students and how other countries can replicate the scientist-student partnerships.

One of her examples will be a pilot project launched recently between KPMS and Peninsula High School. KPMS eighth-graders and PHS AP chemistry students in David Stitt’s class are collaborating on experiments, discussing results via Skype.

“It’s an opportunity for my students to do advanced science at the middle school level and a great way to take advantage of vertical partnering so the kids can ramp up their thinking,” she said. “For the high school students, it’s a way to learn better by teaching the material. I am also very fortunate to partner with Mr. Stitt, who is a great chemistry mentor and a role model for students.”

Peninsula School District recently created a steering committee to review national, state and local developments in STEM education and identify new possibilities for PSD students.

“We want to develop a STEM mission and vision for the district,” Borders said. “We need to find more immersive, embedded opportunities to connect students with real-world science.”



KPMS eighth-graders work on a calorimeter lab and collaborate with AP chemistry students at Peninsula High School, conducting the same experiments and discussing results.

Evergreen students thank drivers - Recently, Evergreen Elementary students thanked their bus drivers. We applaud their efforts and join them in praise of our Transportation Department. Here are some fun facts about PSD Transportation:

- We employ 68 bus drivers, 20 substitute drives, 6 mechanics and 5 office staff. Compared to other districts, we serve an extremely large geographic area covering 120 square miles on the Gig Harbor and Key Peninsulas.
- Combining our regular and special education runs, our high schools generate 50 runs per day. Our middle schools generate 57 and our elementary schools generate 64 runs a day. In addition to their AM and PM routes, a driver may also pick up field trips, sport or activity runs.
- We travel 1,555,852 miles per year. That is the equivalent of 1,482 round trips to Disneyland, 558 round trips to the White House or 3.3 round trips to the moon!

We are grateful to our transportation team for their efforts to keep students safe while starting and ending their days with a smile.

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Cyber Safety for Parents Only

Snapchat, Twitter, Ask.fm, and more – oh my! What are these new animals and how do we tame them?

Lynn Kolp, of Safety for the 21st Century, will give parents the knowledge needed to help children make sound decisions for protecting their digital reputation and personal safety. Please join Lynn in the Henderson Bay High School Commons, 6-8 p.m. on May 15 for a free presentation.

You are welcome to bring laptops, tablets and smartphones for a hands-on experience. Due to limited seating, please RSVP to (253) 530-1003 or richardsj@psd401.net.

This cyber safety presentation is brought to you by the PSD Parenting Digital Natives Committee.

Information on August Ballot

As many community members know, a bond and a contingent levy measure will appear on the Aug. 5 election ballot. The \$60 million bond would pay for a new elementary school in the Gig Harbor North area; a replacement of Artondale Elementary; health, safety and security improvements throughout the district; replacement of fields and tracks; modernization of Key Peninsula Middle School; and upgrades to middle school science classrooms.

The \$55.9 million contingent levy is similar in scope. The levy’s scope would be reduced at Key Peninsula Middle School to upgrades and fire flow, and technology would be added. The levy is contingent, because if both the bond and levy pass, only the technology portion of the levy would be collected. The cost of the bond is about \$0.92 per \$1,000 of assessed value and the technology part of the levy is \$0.04 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

The following links at www.psd401.net contain materials presented at the most recent community meetings. New materials will be added as available, so check back often.

- Resolution No. 14-01 General Bond Obligation
- Resolution No. 14-02 Capital Projects and Technology Levy

Peninsula Views

The top 5 reasons to grow your own food this year

Spring is here and the sun is shining more often, which means many of us are spending time in our gardens.

While choosing between flowers, herbs, fruits and vegetables, I'd like to encourage you to plant plenty of your own food this year. Even if you only grow one tomato plant, there are many reasons to grow at least some of your own food. Here are my top five:

1: Food from the garden tastes better.

Aside from the many health-related and socially responsible reasons to grow your own food, fruits and veggies from the garden simply taste better. They are juicier and sweeter than anything you will ever buy at the grocery store.

There is nothing like eating a tomato ripe off the vine and warm from the sun, the juice drizzling down your chin. A sweet onion will never be as sweet as one grown in your garden. You may even find that you like veggies you had previously written off, because they are sweeter when grown in your soil.

2: Food from the garden is healthier.

The nutrient and mineral content of garden-grown veggies is much higher than anything in the grocery store, which will heal and prevent many medical issues.

Food picked ripe from the vine is full of digestive enzymes that help you digest your food properly. Food from the grocery store has been irradiated, or zapped in a big microwave to kill these enzymes so they don't spoil as quickly, adding unnecessary stress to your body.

You will control which pesticides are used, if any. You will decide if you grow GMO or organic. The quality of your food is in your hands.

3: Growing your food will save you

Monica Rakowski Living Close to Nature



money.

The cost of living is rising, including the cost of food. Sure, you can spend a fortune on your garden, but you can also use sustainable gardening methods that are close to free.

By using practices such as composting, mulching with wood chips, and saving seeds, you can eat delicious healthy food that only costs you the time it takes to grow them.

4: Growing your own food is good for the environment.

There is a movement to buy local for good reason. Buying local reduces our dependence on fossil fuels and eliminates the pollution created when transporting our produce. There's nothing more local than your backyard.

5: Spending time in the garden connects you to nature.

I'm convinced the worst bad day can be cured by spending time in the garden. Putting your hands in the dirt and feeling sunshine on your skin boosts your mood. Gardening quiets your mind and grounds you. If you watch closely, nature will reveal valuable life lessons while you watch your plants grow. Gardening connects you to your food, to nature and to yourself.

So while choosing your seeds and starts this year, try a few new vegetables you haven't grown before. Your body, spirit, wallet and the planet will thank you.

Monica Rakowski is one of the owners of KP Indoor Garden Store in Key Center. She can be contacted at naturegirllife@gmail.com.

Is marijuana getting harder to find on the peninsulas?

An emergency motion was passed unanimously by the Gig Harbor City Council on April 14 for a six-month moratorium which would prohibit any marijuana sales businesses within city limits. Emergency motions do not allow for public comment.

The council had been discussing and considering for the past several months new zoning changes which would allow businesses that have state licenses to sell marijuana at strictly controlled, pre-designated locations away from schools and other sensitive locations, with 2,500-foot buffers between individual marijuana stores.

Council members cited conflict in guidance from state agencies, specifically the Washington State Liquor Control Board and the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

The Liquor Control Board is scheduled to have a lottery before the end of April to determine which applicants receive licenses from the state to sell marijuana for recreational use.

In January, the State Attorney General ruled that county and municipal governments are allowed to establish zoning requirements and prohibitions, as they so choose, concerning the growing, selling and processing of marijuana products. State-issued marijuana licenses cannot override local ordinances.

License applicants who attended the meeting will have an opportunity to address the city council on June 6.

Rick Sorrels The Pragmatic Sophist



Coincidentally, on April 14, the University Place City Council also made a unanimous decision to ban marijuana businesses.

Gig Harbor and University Place have joined with Lakewood, Sumner and unincorporated Pierce County in banning marijuana-related businesses. Irrespective of whatever the local municipal governments decide, marijuana still remains a controlled substance under federal law, which imposes stiff penalties for growing, processing and selling the plant and its products.

State Initiative 502 was passed by the voters which loosened some of the state criminal statutes regarding marijuana, and at the same time established blood levels for driving under the influence of marijuana. Initiative 502 had no effect on federal statutes. The federal congress has taken no action yet to change federal law.

As stated by the DEA officer in an accompanying article, who was involved in the recent raids and arrests on the KP, and in 2011; "The distribution of marijuana is illegal under federal law, without exception" but "our investigation is not targeting those marijuana

(See Sorrels, Page 7)

Letters Policy

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Treasures in Barbara's secret garden

If you happen to know where to look, there's a place on Herron Hill that's been touched by magic. It's a place where art and imagination meet. It's also the home of Clifford and Barbara Godbey, where they have lived the past 10 years.

Barbara married Clifford when she was just 18 years old. She's been an art collector ever since, about 46 years. Godbey is moved by a mysterious calling for old things, bold things and odd items that speak to her. She arranges each item, making her yard a virtual collage of inanimate art.

Following along her fence there's an ever changing assortment of stuff, choreographed to fit together. Nearby sits the glass cover from an old street light; a silent sentinel from the past. The next scene sports a rusted pot-belly stove and a large wooden cask; its middle open to reveal a large porcelain angel.

Next to a sundial sits a large wooden display cart, sporting large wooden wagon wheels. The cart was originally used to display some ancient grocer's wares. Now it's festooned with all manner of bric-a-brac; next to that is a 2-foot-high cement bishop from someone's huge outdoor chess set.

There's a weather vane and numerous farm tools in varying states of decay.

"I don't fix things up, I just allow nature to do what it does to things over time," Godbey said with a smile. The centerpiece is a gigantic blue hand that's big enough to sit in the palm. Godbey got it from a now-gone store known as Stewarts Meats. All hands available oddly enough were right hand only. In this

Steve Whitford
Words of Whit



kingdom, a large fat frog prince sits complete with a crown and holds court.

The next area is dedicated to times and things gone by. There's an old wood cook stove and oven adorned with pans and glassware from the era.

"My art is a work in progress and will never be complete," Godbey said.

Behind her house is where she keeps surplus items that she hasn't found the right spot for yet. Things like a full-size ceramic deer, statue heads, wagon wheels, bird baths and a veritable cornucopia of stuff.

Godbey's two-acre ranch is covered with so many things of interest it would be impossible to list or remember them all. She finds her treasures everywhere, dumped along the road, in the trash and, of course, garage sales.

"I always know how to get a good bargain," she stated testily, and every one of her keepsakes comes with its own unique story. If all her stories were published, they would fill volumes. Even her plants and flowers were found on the clearance pile.

There's little doubt that on special nights at special times her secret grounds are visited by local spirits and forest folk. One last item not to be overlooked is the star of Godbey's secret show. He stands majestically in the center of her front yard. His name is Bob and he's a Bigfoot.

(From **Sorrels**, Page 6)

providers that are complying with the letter and spirit of existing state law?"

The Feds are focusing primarily on the growing, selling and processing of marijuana products, along with sales to minors and exposure to children. There currently exists a certain degree of tolerance for recreational use among federal agencies, provided individuals comply with state statutes.

Meanwhile, state regulatory officials in Washington and Colorado are considering strictly enforced limits to the amount of marijuana extract in food and beverage products, responding to deaths where 10 to 100 times a normal "dose" of active ingredient was in-

gested.

Our recent "wild west" approach to marijuana seems to be tightening. Discussion in the Legislature is to combine the recreational and medical use statutes with oversight by the Liquor Control Board.

The Feds are watching, waiting to pounce if we do not do it right. Recent advertisements on Craig's List include a marijuana delivery service for medical marijuana users on the KP, a hopeful winner of the marijuana lottery on the KP advertising for investors, and another hopeful in South Kitsap looking for partners for a drive-thru recreational marijuana stand that looks just like a barista stand.

Anybody want bikinis with their extra-special brownies?

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Conservation group receives generous gift

By Alice Kinerk, KP News

Mahncke Road, a quiet dead-end road which traces the north shore of the Filucy Bay in Longbranch, begins with a sharp incline — a wooded stretch where no houses are visible for nearly a quarter mile, then it flattens into a leafy straightaway.

A few years back a sign appeared on the waterfront side of the road, halfway up the hill.

A development group in Seattle had purchased the land and was planning to turn it into the site of eight new homes. A map on the sign showed how the houses would line the waterfront, carving nearly 50 acres of unspoiled second-growth forest into eight privately-owned lots. There was a number to call if you were interested in buying a house.

Apparently, the idea didn't sit well with everyone. A few months after the sign appeared, an anonymous donor purchased all 46 acres of land with the intention of finding a way to conserve it.

Great Pierce Conservancy was thrilled to help.

The pristine, intact land is home to a variety of animals and has tremendously high ecological value.

"We had actually targeted this property before the landowner came to us," said Scott Pascoe, Conservation director for Great Pierce Conservancy.

He said the parcel is a high priority for conservation because of the habitat it provides. "Our plans are to preserve it to perpetuity," Pascoe said.

Great Pierce Conservancy is a private, non-profit land trust. They work to identify areas around the peninsula that protect water resources and retain high-quality habitat. These become their highest priority for conservation, Pascoe said.

With a pebbly shore shaded by maples and conifers 60 or more years old, and edged by a shallow tidal channel, the land makes a natural refuge for salmon fry. A great variety of birds make their homes in the tall trees and small mammals utilize the cover of brush to hide from predators.

According to the Conservancy, this arrangement of nature is surprisingly rare in the South Sound. In a recent report analyzing the Gig Harbor, Key Peninsula and Nisqually

shorelines, the pristine, intact acreage of Filucy Bay's north cove was cited as being within the top 3 percent of nearshore areas for habitat value.

Erin Ewald, KGI Watershed Program Manager for Pierce Conservation District, sees the newly-donated land as part of a larger effort to influence landowners to be good stewards to their land.

"This gift, not only to Great Pierce Conservancy, but the community, will give a huge boost to ongoing efforts by partners including the Pierce Conservation District to work with nearby property owners to implement best management practices on their own lands.

"This news by Great Pierce Conservancy was a tremendous morale lift. I hope that we can all continue to work together to see this vision of stewardship and wise land use grow," Ewald added.

Great Pierce Conservancy continues to look at properties around the Key Peninsula, including non-waterfront land, for conservation purposes. The group is very interested in land located in the Filucy Bay watershed.

In the end, credit goes to the anonymous donor. "I cannot say enough 'thanks' to the generous donor for making this happen," Ewald said.

For information about Great Pierce Conservancy, visit greatpeninsula.org. For information about Pierce Conservation District, visit piercecountyed.org.

FISH food bank opens

The FISH food bank formerly located in Key Center that opened for business on March 28 at its new location in the LDS church parking lot located at 12521 134th Ave. KPN, near the Elgin-Clifton "Y".

Food will be distributed to any who ask, every Friday from 2 to 7 p.m., and every Saturday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

A semi-tractor and trailer, with walk-through access, sporting two freezer and two refrigerator units, will be used to keep meat, vegetables, eggs and dairy products fresh and is set up at its new location.

Organizers said that Fridays have seen 25 to 30 families served, Saturdays about 15 families.

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August 5th

Prop 1 BOND Prop 2 LEVY

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PSD buses undergo thorough state inspection

By Peter Ruble, KP News

The Washington State Patrol did its annual inspection of Peninsula School District's fleet of 90 buses between April 13 and 17.

Every aspect of the buses was examined thoroughly, including steering, brakes, lights, emergency doors and more.

According to Peninsula School District shop foreman Joel Schroeder, 3.5 percent of the buses were declared "out of service."

The bus drivers do a pre-inspection twice daily of the breaks, doors and lights. Schroeder and his team do an inspection every 60 days to ensure the Washington State Patrol has as little to worry about as possible.

According to Schroeder, his inspection is "brutal" in its thoroughness and is held to a very high standard.

"We jack up the front of the bus and inspect the dome lights, seats for tears, buzzers, steering, rock chips larger than a

nickel, trip hazards, steering, leaks in the exhaust and all emergency doors," Schroeder said.

According to PSD Director of Transportation Annie Bell, the percentage of out of service vehicles is a good percentage, considering the buses cover 120 square miles each day and average 7,000 miles a day. They also encompass 425 daily hours spread among 70 drivers who each drive between four and six hours a day.

Cyber safety class being offered to parents

KP News staff report

Even with all its great advantages such as instant communication and keeping connected with friends and family, there are dangers lurking on the Internet in social media and other websites.

Lynn Kolp wants parents to be aware of the dangers and how to keep their children safe. Kolp knows what she's talking about. She has been in law enforcement for 16 years and now works with South Sound 911.

"Kids need to learn to make responsible choices when they're using the Internet or visiting social media sites,"

she said.

On May 15 from 6 to 8 p.m., Kolp will present a free workshop at Henderson Bay High School called "Tools and Tactics for Cyber Safety."

Parents and guardians of children on the Key Peninsula will learn much from this presentation, she said.

The class is for parents and guardians only and attendees should bring their iPods, laptops, smart phones or other Internet-accessible devices.

"I'll show them in real time some of the tactics that are used so they can get an idea of how predators can gain access to their children — without the kids even realizing it," Kolp said.

"You don't want to be one of those parents who puts their head in the sand when something bad happens that could have been prevented," she said. "The excuse that you didn't know what was going on isn't a great defense."

Due to limited seated, pre-registration is required. For information, contact 530-1003 or richardsj@psd401.net.

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Nation's Largest Single-Day Food Drive Collected More Than 74.4 Million Pounds of Food Last Year

On Saturday, May 10, 2013, Campbell Soup Company will join forces with the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) to help Stamp Out Hunger on the Key Peninsula. Now in its 22nd year, the annual food drive has grown from a regional to a national effort that provides assistance to the millions of Americans struggling to put food on the table.



Items most needed:

Canned goods such as Tuna, Chile, Soups and Vegetables. Boxed goods such as Mac & Cheese, Spaghetti and Cereal.
 Volunteers are also needed at the Food Bank. Call or stop by to donate your time.

www.keypeninsulacommunityservices.org and www.facebook.com/KeyPenCS

COMMUNITY PAGES

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

MAY 1

Meditate

The Healing Power of Meditation, for adults only, begins at 7 p.m., with Ajili Hodari at the Key Center Library.

MAY 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

GED help

Teens through adults get free help from educators who tutor in English, reading and writing, mathematics, sciences and social studies. Help is for GED or college prep. Sessions are 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., at the Key Center Library. This event requires registration and an appointment. Call (253) 548-3309.

MAY 2 and 9

Story time

Families with preschool children meet at 11 a.m., to read fun books, learn the alphabet and build a foundation for reading at the Key Center Library.

MAY 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Skate Night

Skate Night is hosted at the KP Civic Center 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. May 30 theme is '80s night. kpciviccenter@century-tel.net

MAY 3

Baseball fundraiser

KP Little League's second annual Bat-A-Thon fundraiser, which helps support softball and baseball programs, is 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., at Volunteer Park. Come watch sluggers hit home runs. Murphs concession stand is open. 884-9793.

Community art day

Two Waters Arts Alliance hosts a Community Art Day, "Splash," for the entire family 1 to 4 p.m., at the KP Civic Center. Prepare to create or observe creations and to enjoy craft booths and fine art demonstrations. info@twowaters.org.

To submit an event

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

Homestead moms

The KP Historical Society museum offers participation in activities of moms in homestead days from 1 to 3 p.m., in conjunction with TWAA "Splash." Explore early household tools, make a Mother's Day cards, and check out the photo booth.

CPR class

The Key Peninsula Fire Department hosts a "CPR for Healthcare Providers" class 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Key Center fire station. Call 884-2222 for information.

MAY 5, 12, 19

Bloodmobile

The bloodmobile is at Albertson's 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

MAY 6

Play and learn

Baby (ages 0-24 months) play and learn is at 10 a.m., for 20-60 minutes at the Key Center Library. Preschool (ages 3-6 years) play and learn is at 11 a.m., for 30-60 minutes. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

MAY 6 and 20

Senior shopping

The senior van meets at the KP Community Services at 9 a.m., and returns between 3 and 5 p.m., to give seniors an opportunity to go grocery shopping and attend any scheduled Gig Harbor doctor's appointments; a "Dutch" lunch is included. 884-4440.

MAY 8

Friends gather

The annual Friends of the Key Center Library Membership Meeting with guest speaker David Montesino, who will speak on "The Key Peninsula Experience," is hosted at 6 p.m., at the library.

MAY 8 and 22

Free clinic

Non-emergency medical care for KP residents without any medical insurance is provided 5:30 to 8 p.m., at Key Peninsula Health and Professional Center in Key Center. 884-2234.

MAY 9 and 23

Teen fun

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

MAY 10

Livable Community Fair

The 13th annual event's theme is "Together We Make Our Community Stronger" and is 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the KP Civic Center. The Livable Community Fair is a fun, family-friendly collaborative community event made possible by volunteers, sponsors, local organizations, artisans and youth. kpciviccenter.org.

School levy rally

A kick-off rally in support of the schools bond and levy ballot issues will take place from 9 to 10:30 a.m., at the Galaxy Theatres in Gig Harbor, 4649 Point Fosdick Drive. It will both explain the issues involved and how to get involved in promotion. Contact Shawna at 228-2533 or Leslie at 370-0281.

Open house

The KP Historical Society Museum hosts an open house 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. "Forest to Farms" features farm to homestead demonstrations. A display

on local veterans is in the VFW Room and The Rusty Roots will play near the museum at noon.

Ashes meet

The Ashes support group for FD16 meets 10:30 a.m., at the fire station in Key Center. 884-3771.

MAY 9-11, 24-26

Family camps

Camp Seymour offers Family Camps over Mother's Day (Friday through Sunday) and Memorial Day (Saturday through Monday) weekends. Enjoy cabin accommodations, a schedule of a variety of activities, and camp-cooked meals with any family members. Financial assistance may be available. 884-3372.

MAY 13 and 28

Crochet or knit

The Loving Hearts group knits and crochets for charities and meets on May 13 from 1 to 3 p.m., and on May 28 from 7 to 9 p.m., at WayPoint Church. Yarn donations are always needed. Virginia, 884-9619.

MAY 14

Garden club meets

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

KP Council

The KP Community Council hosts a discussion of the process for extending School Bus Connects for KP riders and hears the KP Land Use Advisory Commission review the County revision of the Comprehensive Plan and Shorelines Management. KPC meets at 7 p.m., at the fire station in Key Center. 884-6455.

(See **Community**, Page 13)

WEEKLY EVENTS

MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS

Community walk

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

Senior exercise class

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

TUESDAYS

Sing

The Key Singers practices are 7 p.m., at the KP Lutheran Church sanctuary, corner of Lackey Road and KP Highway. No auditions. Membership is \$10 to cover costs of music and annual PHS scholarships. 884-5615.

Swim

Family swims are 5 to 6 p.m., followed by an adult lap from 6 to 7 p.m., at Easter Seals Camp Stand by Me. 884-2722.

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS

Preschool play time

The Children's Home Society KP Family Resource Center offers a preschool/toddler indoor park program 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., at the KP Civic Center. Caregivers must stay with child. Drop-ins

are welcome; stay for as long as you wish. A \$1/child donation is suggested. Tami, 884-5433.

Senior tai chi club

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

WEDNESDAYS

Writers meet

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

Writers' workshop

The Watermark Writers present a free writer's workshop 5 to 8 p.m., in Vaughn. (253) 778-6559.

TUESDAYS & SATURDAYS

KPHS Museum open

The KPHS museum, located at the KP Civic Center in Vaughn, is open Tuesdays and Saturdays, 1 to 4 p.m. "Forest to Farms - The Land, the People, the Legacy" is this year's display. No admission charge, but monetary donations are welcome. Check us out on Facebook at Key Peninsula Historical Society. 858-3246.

(From **Community**, Page 12)

MAY 18

Key Singers concert

"Over the Rainbow" is the theme for the spring concert by the Key Singers at 3 p.m., at McColley Hall, KP Lutheran Church. Tickets are \$6 and may be purchased in advance from members or at the door. The concert is at 3 p.m. Raffle baskets are available.

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. (253) 492-4177.

MAY 22

Museum story time

Preschoolers (ages 3 to 6 years old) and adults are welcome to hear "The Giant Potato," explore planting tools, and plant a bean seed at 10:30 a.m., at the KP Historical Museum.

Edible plants

The Friends of the Library present Dottie Beaver, who will speak about edible and medicinal plants of the Olympic Peninsula, at 7 p.m., at the KC Library. 548-3309.

WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS

Senior meals

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

THURSDAYS

Toastmasters

The Toastmasters meet 8 to 9 a.m., at the Key Center Library. Join the fun and improve your speaking ability.

Seniors' lunch

The Key Peninsula Senior Society meets at 1 p.m., for a potluck, fellowship and games in the Whitmore Room at the KP Civic Center. All are welcome. 884-4981.

Bingo

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

SATURDAYS

Writers' Guild

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

Lakebay Jam with 302

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

MAY 24

Spaghetti dinner

Spaghetti dinner is served 4 to 7 p.m., at the Key Center fire station by The Ashes, the auxiliary to the KP Fire Department. Cost is \$5 per person, and kids younger than age 5 eat for free. A raffle of assorted items benefitting extra equipment for firefighters will also take place.

MAY 24 and 26

Rummage sale

The Lakebay Community Church (11 Cornwall Road KPS) hosts its annual rummage sale 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Clothing, sports equipment, books, decorations, furniture, appliances, electronics, et cetera are available. lakebaycovenant.net.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

KP Veterans

May 5 and 19, 7 p.m., at McColley Hall/KP Lutheran Church; 884-4407 or 884-9852, kpveterans.net.

KP Lions' dinner and program

May 7 and 21, 5:30 p.m. in VFW Room, KP Civic Center; 853-2721.

Peninsula School District Board

May 8, 6 p.m., at Discovery Elementary gym.

KP Civic Center Association Board

May 8, 7 p.m., in Whitmore Room; kpcciviccenter.org.

Key Pen Parks

May 12 and 26, 7 p.m., at Volunteer Park; keypenparks.com.

KP Fire Department

May 13 and 27, 6 p.m., in meeting room, fire station in Key Center; keypeninsulafire.org.

Key Peninsula Council

May 14, 7 p.m., at Key Center fire station; kpcouncil.org.

KP Citizens against Crime

May 15, 7 p.m., at fire station in Key Center; kpcitizensagainstcrime.org.

LIC

May 21, dessert potluck, 7 p.m., at Longbranch Improvement Club; 884-6022 longbranchimprovementclub.org.

KP LUAC (Land Use Advisory Commission)

May 21, at 6:30 p.m., at the KC Library; chuck-west@hotmail.com.

Lakebay Marina

May 22, 7 p.m. The public is invited to attend a meeting to talk about McNeil Island; 884-3350.

KP Farm Council

May 25, 6:30 p.m., at fire station in Home; bkettts@hotmail.com.

KP Middle School unveils entry way mural

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

Beginning in January, artist Billy Gray, part of Two Waters Arts Alliance After School Art Club, guided Key Peninsula Middle School students in the creation of an outdoor mural showcasing the flora and fauna of Key Peninsula to grace the entrance to the school. Assisting Gray were professional artist Kathleen Gray and volunteers Kathy Barrett, Sue Stuhaug, Stephanie Flintoff, Molly Duttry, Molly Swensen, and Tacoma Pierce County Health Department volunteer Brittany Langdon.

The project reached fruition with the unveiling of the mural on a sunny Thursday afternoon in April. Its audience consisted of many parents whose kids made it possible and the Peninsula School District board of directors who, after the unveiling, held its special meeting for the public in the school's commons.

PSD Superintendent Chuck Cuzzetto added to the festive event by presenting a weatherproof plaque commemorating the



Photo courtesy Molly Duttry

Professional artist Billy Gray, who shared with Key Peninsula's Two Waters Arts Alliance creation of the mural, and After School Art students Jonathan Beal, Chloe Duttry and Qwen Clark unveil the mural.

unveiling. Everyone agreed that the mural is beautiful and nicely representative of the school's support of the environment.

Peninsula High School junior Molly Duttry took photos, collected quotes, and even helped on the mural project the art club kids had been working on for five weeks every Tuesday.

"The kids were all excited to be finishing up adding the last details," she said.

"I like this project because in the beginning I did not know how to paint at all," said eighth-grader Aerrow Cruz, "but this project taught me how to paint and have fun while hanging out with friends. The project also teaches teamwork and working together to accomplish a common goal without worrying about the little things."

TWAA president Molly Swensen said

that watching students work on the project was inspiring. "They were taught the elements of painting a large-size mural from transferring patterns, putting down base color to putting on finishing detail. Some students told me they had never done any painting or drawing as large as this and they learned a lot," she said. The KPMS mural will be a legacy for the school as well as the students for years to come."

KPMS sixth-grader Johnathan Beal said the project was enjoyable. "I like doing things like this because I'm doing it for other people and not just me," he said. Classmate Sarah Catterall said, "I want to be an artist; this made me want to be one. I hope it inspires potential artists to pursue their dreams."

Billy Gray noted, "I thoroughly enjoyed my time working on the KPMS mural. We had a lot of fun, yet worked hard. Students learned a few things about handling acrylic paints, various brushes and blenders with the use of light, shadow and color. All in all, a great experience."

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Photo by Hugh McMillan, KP News

Gig Harbor High School sophomore Erik Pitkanen of the Peninsula Composite Mountain Bike Race Team crosses the finish line.

Local high schools race for first time as a team

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

On the first Sunday in April, the rains stopped long enough for a successful second running of the Washington Student League bike races on trails in Key Peninsula's 360 Trails park. Last year's event was on hot, dry, dusty trails. This year, trails did not erupt in billows of dust as bike riders flashed over them.

Race officials were pleased that this year's event started at the new Key Pen Park's "Gateway Park," which is contiguous to and affords access to the 360 Trails Park. On the latter, assembling the large number of bikes, riders, support equipment and personnel last year was uncomfortably crowded. So much so that organizers were reconsidering future use of 360. Gateway, on the other hand, has vast-open fields to assemble whatever is needed. Everybody was happy.

For the first time in the event's history, the local community entered a team in the

competitions.

"All members are part of the new Peninsula Composite mountain bike team that formed this year as part of the Washington Student League (washington-league.org)," said the new team's coach, Andrew Hosford. "We have two more races this year and we are looking forward to growing for next season and hopefully adding girls to the team."

He said riders are encouraged to join and enjoy mountain biking and try racing when they feel comfortable.

"So far, we have three racers and eight informal team members," he said.

Hosford teaches journalism at Peninsula High School, which boasts the award-winning high school newspaper, *The Outlook*, rated as one of the finest such publications in the nation. Hosford is also the school's yearbook advisor.

For information about the Peninsula Composite mountain bike race team, contact Hosford at hosforda@psd401.net.

Seeing Yellow?

Why all of the bright yellow in my neighborhood?
 This summer and fall you may notice men and women in our service area sporting yellow clothing and carrying hand-held computers, cameras, and GPS devices. They will be looking at utility poles and other Peninsula Light Co. equipment in your neighborhood.

What are they doing?
 They are here to conduct an inventory of our electrical system and record the location, condition, and photograph each piece of equipment using special GPS tools. The information will be stored in an electronic map called a Geospatial Information System (GIS). Having this type of data will greatly improve our response to outages and improve service to our members in many other ways.

Who are they?
 These experts are with the Davey Resource Group, an industry leader in this field. They are easily identifiable—look for bright yellow clothing and vehicles marked with the DRG logo and the Peninsula Light Company logo. They will also be carrying identification that confirms they are employees of Davey Resource Group working for PenLight. As they move through the 100+ square miles of our service area we will provide updates to keep you informed of their work locations.

Who can I contact for more information?
 Should you have any questions please contact us at 253-857-5950

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Friends help mend Lakebay Marina Resort

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

In early April, Mark and Cindy Scott, co-owners of the Lakebay Marina Resort, hosted a “by contribution only” pancake breakfast with all the trimmings. It was a fundraiser to help defray unanticipated cost overruns in their efforts to resuscitate the landmark facility. Scores of enthusiastic supporters flocked to the site to help.

Among the marina’s many supporters, 13 boats of the Tacoma Power Squadron spent two nights there under the leadership of Commander Tim Craig and his wife, Linda. They joined scads of Key Peninsula citizens at the breakfast. All want the marina brought back to its former glory days, a time when it hosted a multitude of yacht clubs from around the Sound and even Canadian waters at dinner dances to live music.

Tim Craig said, “The owners and (we) put on a nice breakfast to help with the cost of getting this marina going again. My uncle Riney and aunt Bernie owned the marina in the ‘60s. Everything (that is) here, my uncle

put here. My mom, Inez, and aunt Bernie worked in the kitchen and sold breakfasts and lunches to the community. Some of my cousins and neighborhood kids worked the docks and we had gas here, too. I have many great memories of this place.”

Speaking for 23 members of the visiting Tacoma Power Squadron, Larry and Cindy Warren wrote, “We have been teaching boating education since 1939. Our older boaters always came here and always spoke of the good times and great scenery. ... The Tacoma Power Squadron has adopted the marina and comes once a year with a work party to help out.”

All the proceeds from the breakfast went toward satisfying requirements from the Pierce County Health Department, according to the Warrens.

Dennis Stuhau of Longbranch said, “We’ve been stopping here for 30 years. We need the marina as part of the heart, business and social life of our community.”

Pierce County Councilman Stan Fleming, who has been a supporter of the marina, said he used to love spending warm

summer days as a boy at the marina in Steilacoom.

“Like Lakebay Marina, it was old and reflective of life along these shores,” he said. “Lakebay Marina is a local treasure and historic icon in our community. Preserving it is crucial to ensuring a part of our past is preserved for current and future generations.

“Mark and Cindy Scott have done a superb job capturing the ambiance and spirit of the marina’s life,” he added. “Now, we need to step up to help ensure that it is pre-

served. It’s like standing on the one-yard line in the fourth quarter and they’re in need of a 12th-man rally. It’s our community, our history, and I urge everyone to help cross the goal line.”

Cindy Scott said she and her husband were grateful about the tremendous support they’ve received from the community. “Without this wonderful community, there would be no us,” she said.

For information about Lakebay Marina and Resort, go to lakebaymarina.com.

Fuchsia Society holds plant sale at Civic Center

The Lakebay Fuchsia Society will be setting up its 19th annual Mother’s Day Plant Sale at the Key Peninsula Civic Center on Saturday May 10, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

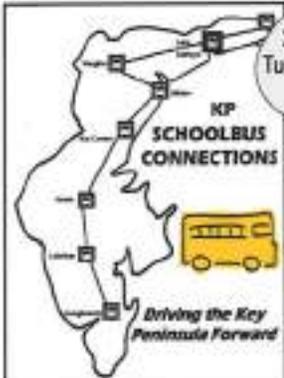
They will be selling fuchsia varieties in sizes from starts to full-blooming baskets, and there will be a wide selection of perennials and annuals for sun or shade gardens.

Organizers said there will also be a variety of farm and nursery vendors selling vegetable, herb and annual starts as well as a selection of interesting plants.

The Lakebay Fuchsia Society welcomes new members and visitors to their meetings on the first Thursday of the month at 7 p.m., at the Key Peninsula Library.

For information call 884-9744 or 884-2536.

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PHS debate team goes to nationals

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

Peninsula High School's Speech and Debate Team took top honors at the Washington Individual Events Meet, a national qualifier, at the University of Puget Sound in March.

The team's coach, PHS math teacher Sheri Ahlheim, said, "As far as we can check — at least 30 years back — for the first time, PHS sent two debate teams to state and is sending a debate team to nationals."

The meet, hosted over two weekends — one for individual events and one for debate — involved an estimated 500 students from across the state.

"In each individual event in which our team competed, there were about 50 entries," Ahlheim said. "There were 32 public-forum debate teams."

PHS senior JC Romero took first place in dramatic interpretation in which he acted out scenes from the book "The Yellow Birds," a soldier's experiences in Iraq. Audrey Gainey took 11th in impromptu speaking, with students being presented with a topic and composing a speech on the spot. Alec Dionne and Dylan Jensen placed sixth in the public-forum debate.

"Our district is regarded as one of the most competitive in the state," Ahlheim said. "Team members Alec and Dylan joined a Puyallup team in winning the national berths. They will travel to Overland Park, Kan., for the national meet June 15-20. At stake, aside from school history and pride, are thousands of dollars in scholarships."

Team member Aaron Krueger said, "State was a great growing experience. We went up against very admirable teams with greatly varied skills and tactics and had to adapt to a wide array of different judges with different

Pancake fundraiser

To help pay for the nationals, among other things, team members and supporters are selling \$10 tickets for an Applebee's pancake breakfast with all the trimmings from 8 to 10 a.m. Saturday, May 17.

For information or to help get the PHS champions to the national competitions, contact coach Ahlheim at 530-4441 or via email at ahlheims@psd401.net.

backgrounds, ages and expectations. Debates were tough, but fulfilling, I felt honored to be there among the Northwest's best."

Jensen said the state competition was a stressful but challenging and exhilarating experience. His partner, Dionne, added, "It's been Dylan's and my goal to go to state. It was amazing. Making nationals was unexpected, but not unwelcome. We are excited and working hard to raise money for nationals."

Gainey competed in both dramatic interpretation and impromptu and said the state meet had a different atmosphere from other tournaments.

According to Ahlheim, PHS had seven teams competing this year, part of a much larger and more active team than in the past.

"There's enough talent and depth that we will continue to grow and become even more competitive over the years," she said. "They work together and develop strategies, collect and share evidence, support each other."

"We are determined to get to Kansas City," she added. "I am so proud of them; even more because most will be back and more awesome next year."

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Creating a Stronger Community

Bruce Macdonald, Key Peninsula Civic Center Association, Treasurer
Macdonald has been a board member at the Key Peninsula Civic Center Association since the early 1990's and was president from 2008-2012.

First things first: at the April 10th Key Peninsula Civic Center Association Board meeting, a new mission statement was approved:

"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."

Second, you will find, contained within the pages of this edition of the KP News, an article about our annual spring event, the Key Peninsula Livable Community Fair (LCF). We hope you'll take the time to give the story a look and then visit the livable fair on May 10th.

The LCF fits our mission so well, and we are both happy and proud to bring it to you. But, we couldn't, and don't, do it alone. This seems the perfect opportunity to mention and celebrate those longtime sponsors that help bring us to this 13th Annual Key Peninsula Livable Community Fair.

At the Civic Center we strive to give back to our sponsors whenever, and whatever, we can. It's how this is supposed to work. However, we are always worried that we don't do enough and that they might go under-appreciated and they should never be under-appreciated!

It seems that Peninsula Light Co. is there for us every time we approach them and, more often than not, they approach us with support and initiatives of their own. They underwrite, donate equipment and materials, and are responsible for bringing these venerable old buildings into the new century with modern lighting, solar panels and such

Equally as important to our successes, and to our growth, for that matter, is Key Peninsula Parks. Besides their events and programming conducted at the Civic Center, they include us as part of their Parks Appreciation Day, as if we were one of their own.

CIVIC CENTER CORNER

Key Pen Parks brought us the new playground and the picnic shelter. We may have provided the space, but it was their idea, and they made sure it happened.

We don't know what the Key Peninsula, or what the Civic Center, would do without the Angel Guild. There isn't enough space to list all the funding we have received from them over the years; most recently, however, they helped to fund the building of the picnic shelter.

How great is it to have an enterprise that takes their profits and puts those funds right back into the community through sponsorships and grants? They would get our vote for Citizen of the Year, every year.

What a difference the Food Market at Key Center has made to the peninsula! Central to the peninsula, with a modern and extensive grocery, they also sponsor many of the major events up and down the Key-Pen Highway including the Livable Community Fair and our Golf Tournament. They allow us space in their parking lot for our firework stand, one of our major sources of annual income. They have even been known to deliver supplies to events if something is running low!

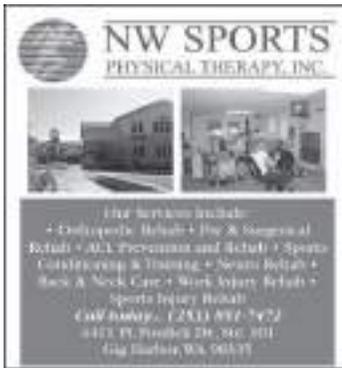
We could keep going, and we should keep going, because there are still more to thank. That's what so great about the KP. We'll need to do this again for all our other great supporters like Key Peninsula Community Services, Aspen Land Surveying LLC, Bardside Aminal Lodge, Ltd., Key Peninsula Business Association, Sound Credit Union, Samycrest Nursery and Floral, Westwynd Motel, Apartments, and others!

You, too, can help make a difference for the Key Peninsula Civic Center, and the community, by becoming a "Friend of the Key Peninsula Civic Center." Register online at: <http://bit.ly/FriendsOfKPCivicCenter>

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The Key Peninsula Civic Center is a 501(c)(3), private non-profit. We rely on meals, fundraisers, and donations to keep our doors open, and our website affordable for the community. Thank you for your support!



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KP Civic Center to host 'Livable Fair' highlighting disaster prep

By Peter Ruble, KP News

The Key Peninsula Civic Center will be hosting its 13th annual Livable Fair on May 10, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

This year's theme will be "Together We Make Our Community Stronger." It will include more than 40 nonprofit and service organizations serving the Key Peninsula.

According to organizers, emergency preparedness classes will take place to teach

people how to cook without power, bottle and store their own foods. Guests also will learn how to build outdoor shelters during an emergency; how to help injured pets and how to organize a neighborhood in the event of an emergency. This will take place in the center's VFW room.

Minter Creek Elementary School and its xylophone band will perform along with the Vaughn Elementary School choir.

The fair will also hold its "Community Spotlight," which showcases a local busi-

ness, artist or organization that deserves special attention.

For the first time, a photo booth will be included with local portrait photographer Kellie Ann Henley. There will be artisans selling art in the Whitmore Room. Food will be available including fresh made turkey bacon, ham and cheese and vegetarian wraps. There also will be specials for children.

For information on the Livable Fair, contact 884-3456.



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'Minter Moves' fundraiser comes this month

By Jessica Takehara, KP News

On May 16 from 4:30 to 7 p.m., Minter Creek Elementary students will get a chance to burn some energy and raise some money for their school. This is the PTA's spring fundraiser to support programs like Watch DOGS, Math Rocks, Read and Lead, Staff Appreciation and many more.

The event will have a carnival atmosphere and feature jogging/walking laps. Students will have the opportunity to seek flat dona-

tions from friends and family or for each lap achieved. Games, face painting and even a dunk tank are just some of the activities being planned.

Matt Kusche is the lead coordinator and invites the entire family to come and be part of this first annual event. Apart from food served by Murph's BBQ, there will also be a silent auction and raffle.

Reaching out for community involvement has been a main theme of the planning so far. Kusche said that parents, businesses and

community organizations have been incredible with the positive response. More help is needed to make sure the event reaches the \$10,000 goal, he said.

Kusche said donating time and items for the auction and raffle will assist in keeping overhead minimal. Helping Minter Creek students collect pledges is another way to get involved. Becoming a benefactor by donating \$75 or more will ensure your name or business appears on the back of the official 2014 Minter Moves T-Shirt, he said.

For information, contact Kusche at (360) 265-6739 or mpkusche@hotmail.com.



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Pets, humans have fun at Easter Egg Pet Hunt

By Leila Larson, KP News

The sixth annual Pet Easter Egg Hunt was hosted at Volunteer Park in April by Key Pen Parks in collaboration with Park Pals. Park Pals is an opportunity for youth to get involved in the parks system, according to Key Pen Parks recreation director Jessica Smeall. They volunteer to help organize and run many events and activities.

The free event kicked off with registration for the egg hunt and the costume contest. The only requirement to participate was for the pets to be both people- and pet-friendly. All of the dogs had costumes.

In addition to the parks department organizing and running the event, Park Pals members were serving hot chocolate and taking the redeemable "pet bucks" from the eggs and exchanging them for prizes including dog toys, treats and dog accessories.

There were several raffles that included assorted gifts from the Humane Society and an array of bird supplies donat-

ed by the Olympic Bird Fanciers. Other prizes were donated by the Brookside Animal Hospital, The Wild Bird Shop of Gig Harbor and Key Pen Parks.

The last portion of the official program was the costume contest, complete with more prizes.

Olympic Bird Fanciers had a booth and club members were offering advice to people who may consider a feathered friend to add to the family. There are many things about birds that owners should find out prior to adoption. Some may not be very good around young children or other pets. Other breeds may make noise at night or even peck at owners or visitors.

Several club members brought their birds to the event, including two very brilliantly feathered parrots, a lovebird and the star, a 30-year-old macaw. He was not very sociable, but was very colorful.

Key Peninsula-based 4-H Club, called Wags N Whiskers, also had a booth to provide information about joining or volunteering. The club works with dogs

and members begin with obedience training. Ages for members are 8 to 21 years old. Adult volunteers are needed to provide information as well as structured events and activities for members.

The 4-H members demonstrated obedience training with their dogs, which is what they have been working on recently. All the dogs performed well and answered to their handlers.

The Humane Society's main purpose for attending this event was to educate people about caring for bunnies, who all become rabbits someday. Every year, not too long after Easter, they are flooded with bunnies and chicks that people do not want for pets. The Humane Society is trying the education outreach model to help prevent that. They had several flyers about rabbit care, breaking it down so that those who are not ready or set up for an adult rabbit may select another type of pet that would be more suitable.

Everyone enjoyed getting out in the sun and talking with friends and making some new ones.

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Law office in Key Center set to defend KP citizen rights

By Peter Ruble, KP News

Key Center now has another law office with attorney Tracey Munger.

Munger, who lives in Lake of Woods, moved to the area specifically to start a law office in the heart of the Key Peninsula.

In particular, Munger was inspired by the high number of DUI cases on the Key Peninsula. These cases, she said, have affected low-income citizens who became stranded when it came to legal aid after the bus services in Key Center were shut down two years ago.

"It was unbelievable to me that this was the heart of the Key Peninsula and people with DUIs who weren't able to drive, had to somehow find a way to get to Tacoma to find a lawyer," Munger said. "I like to provide services to people who wouldn't normally be able to. I've never not been able to finance a customer."

Munger's fees are as low as \$200 a month.

Munger is a defense attorney who fell in love with criminal law while working

for the department of assigned council in Tacoma.

She prides herself on protecting citizens' rights. In particular, Munger emphasizes protecting the Fourth Amendment which protects against unreasonable search and seizures, the Fifth Amendment which protects against abuse of government, and the Sixth Amendment which guarantees a speedy trial and other traditional court related procedures.

"It's never about getting the bad guy off. It's about making sure that even the most guilty person has their rights protected so you will know that your rights are protected," she said.

A wealth of Munger's experience is in the domestic violence arena. Munger believes that the term "domestic violence" is used too broadly and is being used as an excuse to disarm a large portion of the public. A conviction of domestic violence means that you lose your rights to own a gun for life, she said.

"Domestic violence is about control and there has to be a pattern of abuse," Munger said.



Tracey Munger

She said one shouldn't lose one's gun rights because brothers and sisters get into a fight, or a mother slaps a child.

"By defining domestic violence the way the government has, they've been able to disarm a large segment of society. When

you remove all forms of violent expression you are removing the establishment of the hierarchy and a pecking order. You get a lot of pent up rage," she said.

Munger is also an advocate for medical marijuana.

"We refer to 'Dr. Feelgoods' who are advocated," she said. Munger once had a client who suffered from hereditary neuropathy while in infantry training for the U.S. Army. The pain became so debilitating that the military recommended medical marijuana. She was able to successfully defend her client by proactively providing all the evidence in favor of medical marijuana. "Judges don't like medical marijuana," Munger said.

In the long run, Munger said she wants to have a global legal presence in Key Center where she can use her connections to the Pierce County Bar Association's referral services to access information from attorneys worldwide. She envisions having Saturday afternoon legal clinics in Key Center where anyone can come in and have a lawyer answer all their questions.

For information, call (253) 235-3494.

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Jonathan Lique displays a few of his dance awards.

Photo by Steven Whitford, KP News

Driven to dance stirs KP teen

By Steve Whitford, KP News

Meet Jonathan Lique, a Key Peninsula resident and a young man of rare talent.

Lique is one of the seven children of John and Ronda Lique. He's 18 years old now and a senior at Peninsula High School, but even as a small child, music compelled him to the dance.

Though born in Washington, Lique spent his early years in Utah where at the age of 8 he joined a local school of dance known as "Studio P" and became its very first male dancer.

By age 9, Lique competed in a hip hop solo and began taking tap classes.

In his 10th year, he was doing a tap solo and began taking jazz dance classes. When Lique turned 11, his family moved back to Washington and he enrolled in the Just for Kicks Dance Studio located in Port Orchard.

The school is run and owned by Tanya Bleil Johnson and is managed by her mother, Pennie Bleil. The school has been open for the last 22 years.

Bleil is very impressed with Lique.

"His dance is incredible and he incorporates his personality into every performance, and he's also cute as a button," she said.

Since then, Lique has been nearly as busy as his feet. In the summer of 2011 and 2013 Lique taught a Saturday scholarship class at Just for Kicks.

He has performed at Peninsula High School and two seasons with the Vashon Dance Academy. On Feb. 14 of this year, he competed in the male division at the Hollywood Connection Dance Generation and

was awarded the "Icon of the Year Award."

Lique dances 20 hours or more each week just to maintain his talent and stamina. He also attends West Sound Technical Skills Center, where he is studying hospitality and tourism, all to better prepare him for a life in entertainment.

He said he wants to dance as much as he can while he can, as time is the thief of talent. "Dancing makes me feel free. I emote through the dance," Lique said.

This summer, Lique has the opportunity to audition for a business called Stiletto Entertainment, known for staffing the entertainment on cruise ships.

In his spare time, Lique is teaching at the Gig Harbor Boys & Girls Club which had a recital on April 25.

This summer, Lique hopes to spend six weeks taking classes at the Oregon Ballet Theater. This experience will be expensive and Lique's parents hope supporters will donate to his cause. They can be reached at liquefamily7@aol.com.

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Pastor Tim's Sermon
"Be Ready, Finish Strong"

Friends of the Key Center Library Present

In May

May 8 - Annual Membership Meeting & Potluck 6 p.m.

May 22 - Edible & Medicinal Plants of the Olympic Peninsula 7 p.m.
Presented by Dottie Beaver

Both at:
Key Center Pierce County Library
8905 KPN 253-548-3309

Coming in June

AMERICA'S ROAD TRIPS
(A 2-PART PROGRAM SERIES)

June 5 "Horatio's Drive" America's 1st Road Trip & "Route 66 Dream of the Mother Road" 7 p.m.

June 14 "AMERICA'S ROAD TRIPS" TOUR at LeMay - America's Car Museum 10 a.m.

Lola Frances Howe

Lola Frances Howe passed away peacefully at her home in Big Springs, Calif., on March 30, at the age of 79.

Howe was born in Klamath Falls, Ore., to John and Ruby Edwards on Aug. 26, 1934, and grew up in Butte Valley. She and William Howe were married on Aug. 30, 1962.

Howe lived in Home for about 10 years, and served on the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars on the Key Peninsula.

Howe loved the outdoors. She enjoyed fishing, hunting and loved going to the ocean with her family. She was an incredible wife and very loving mother.

Howe is survived by her husband, William; her son, Harold Flackus; her daughter, Lola Cash; her sister, Mary Tucker; along with numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Online condolences may be made at girdnerfuneralchapel.com.

Don't forget Mother's Day

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Dance Memorial Weekend
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May 17 11 am **FREE Celebration Concert & Old Fashioned Games**
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MAY LIC MEETING
features author Harriet Baskas,
courtesy Humanities Washington speakers bureau, presenting "Hidden Treasures in Washington's Museums." Free admission, doors open 6:30 **Wednesday May 21**

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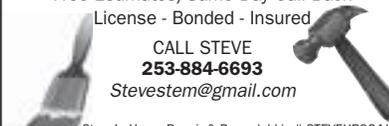


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Out & About

To see more Out & About photos, visit our website at www.keypennews.com and follow the Photo Gallery link. See more of your neighbors out and about, Key Peninsula scenes and happenings.



Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News

On April 22, Vaughn Elementary School second graders, under the direction of Lisa Mills, performed for the rest of the school and parents. They sang and danced their way through a celebration of America. Shown here with a version of "Cotton-eyed Joe."

Where in the World...



Irene Torres and her issue of KP News traveled many miles earlier this month to stand on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, Israel. Photo is courtesy of Robin Denton.

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Photo courtesy of Ric Hallock

Megan Mitchell, of Longbranch, opens one of the eggs with her daughter, Katilyn, 2, while at the annual egg hunt at Gig Harbor's Sehmel Homestead Park on April 19 hosted by PenMet Parks.



Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News

A heron at Minter Creek was spotted fishing from the bank.



Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News

"The Key Peninsula Veterans Institute, local businesses and the Key Pen Parks commission raised funds to purchase a flag pole for Volunteer Park. Saturday, March 22, the flag was raised for the first time during the KP Little League opening day festivities.