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## Former KP resident nets Olympic team spot

By Scott Turner, KP News

All through middle school and high school, Megan Blunk excelled in sports. She ran track and played basketball in middle school. At Peninsula High School she played soccer, fast pitch, basketball, volleyball and ran track.

On July 20, 2008 – two months after graduating from PHS – her life changed forever.

“I got into a motorcycle accident in Bel-fair,” Blunk said. “I broke my back and became paralyzed from the waist down.”

(See **Blunk**, Page 2)

## Local equestrians meet with KP Parks

By Rick Sorrels, KP News

Thirty-nine local equestrians (horse aficionados) hosted an initial meeting at Volunteer Park on April 15 to discuss forming a committee to develop a plan for equestrian use of park land. The intention is to eventually have a fully developed plan to present to the KP Park’s Board for consideration.

In 2005 a very popular series of meetings took place to discuss the same subject, with 60 to 80 persons attending each meeting. Interests were determined, but no plan was developed. The newly formed park district first wanted to conduct a survey and complete its comprehensive plan.

(See **Equestrians**, Page 4)



Photo by Scott Turner, KP News

### Homecoming hug

Jaxin Patrick got a surprise visit at Evergreen Elementary school from his dad, Nathan Patrick, on April 23. Patrick, who works as an electronics technician with the U.S. Navy, returned early from an eight-month deployment in Afghanistan. Jaxin Patrick, 6, had no idea his father was coming home. “I thought it was a dream. I was really surprised to see him, and I missed him so much,” he said. Visit [keypennews.com](http://keypennews.com) for more homecoming images.

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(From **Blunk**, Page 1)

Megan spent the next two-and-a-half years in therapy, trying to walk again.

It was a rough time, but her friends and family rallied around her.

“Without our community – the KP and Gig Harbor people – she wouldn’t be where she is today,” said Megan’s dad, David Blunk. “There’s so much love and support among the people that it’s just amazing.”

At her mother Wendy Ricketts’ urging, Megan said she got her degree from Tacoma Community College in 2010, but she wasn’t sure what to do after that.

“I was pretty sad and pretty lost. I cried practically every day. I thought I couldn’t really do anything any more, like play sports,” she said.

She tried playing wheelchair basketball for teams in Tacoma and Seattle, “... but it wasn’t as high a level as I wanted. I got really frustrated because I didn’t have the coaching and level of play I was used to. I had to learn to set up plays and to maneuver around people,” she said.

Then in the summer after her TCC graduation, Blunk went to a basketball camp in Texas and met coach Patty Cisneros.

“It was eye-opening,” she recalled. “She had a great attitude and was fun to be around. She taught me better mechanics and I played with college girls. They played really fast and helped me play at a higher level. I fell in love with the game there. Wheelchair basketball is the same game, but more strategic. It’s really a team sport – you depend more on your team-



*Courtesy photo*

**Former Key Peninsula resident and Peninsula High School graduate Meagan Blunk, left, is caught maneuvering during a recent college basketball game. Blunk, 23, recently made the Women’s USA National Wheelchair Basketball team.**

mates,” Blunk said.

When she returned home from the basketball camp, she searched for similar competitive opportunities and heard about a college camp in Seattle. She said a coach from the University of Illinois saw a lot of potential in her.

“He asked me to try out for the school. It was an eye-opening trip once again, because I never thought I’d go to a four-year university,” she said.

Blunk was offered full scholarships to

four colleges: Alabama, Arizona, White-water and Illinois.

“I chose Illinois over all the other schools,” she said. She’s the first one in her family to go to college.

But a few months before she moved to Illinois in August 2012, fate intervened again and Blunk started rowing with the Gig Harbor Canoe and Kayak Club.

“Coach Alan Anderson has made a big impact on my life. He did everything he could and worked with me every day.

I practiced every day learning to kayak, even though I couldn’t steer because I couldn’t move my feet,” she said.

“When I got down on myself, he’d ask if I wanted him to get out his violin. He treated me just like everyone else. That was pivotal in my life.”

After several grueling tryout sessions, on April 7 of this year, Blunk got word that she had made the Women’s USA National Wheelchair Basketball team. She’ll spend July and August at training camps and playing against teams from other countries.

“There will be tryouts every year,” she said, “and next year’s team goes to World in Rio, then the next team goes to the 2016 Paralympics. Each year there will be more competition than the year before.”

She’s also training for a kayaking tournament this May in Gig Harbor.

“Then I’ll go to New York in July to qualify to go to Germany. Then after that I’ll try to qualify for the World (Kayak) Championships,” she added.

Blunk, 23, has come full circle – from star athlete in junior high and high school, to accident victim, to budding Olympian in two sports.

She and her family credit their community for helping her get there. “I’m overwhelmed by the love and support the people of the Key Peninsula and Gig Harbor have given us,” David Blunk said.

“This whole experience has taught me how much strength I have,” Megan Blunk said. “I couldn’t have done any of this without my family and my friends. It’s what keeps me going. It’s the only thing that’s gotten me through this.”

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**Key Peninsula News**  
17010 S. Vaughn Road  
P.O. Box 3, Vaughn, WA 98394  
Phone: (253) 884-4699  
Fax: (253) 884-4053  
Email: [news@keypennews.com](mailto:news@keypennews.com)

# 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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**Staff and contributors:** Ron Cameron, Ed Johnson, Karen Lovett, Hugh McMillan, Michelle M. Mondeck, Kevin Reed, Colleen Slater, Frank Slater, Rick

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**MAY 2013**

**Key Pen Parks PROGRAM GUIDE**

Recreation Coordinator: Jessica Smeall, [jessica@keypenparks.com](mailto:jessica@keypenparks.com) 253-884-9240 x22

REGISTER ONLINE: [www.keypenparks.com](http://www.keypenparks.com)



**THANK YOU**

to lead volunteers who made our annual PARKS APPRECIATION DAY on 4/20 a great success!

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and local groups who sponsored projects and sites— we couldn't do it without you!

- KP Civic Center • Harbor WildWatch • Bayshore Garden Club • KP Little League Children's Home Society • Key Center & Minter Creek LDS Wards**

Do you want to make a difference?

**Park PALS** is the program for you!

PALS is a group of middle school volunteers who help at special events for the Parks. Call Jess for more info: 884-9240 x22

**Upcoming Public Meetings**

Park Board Meetings are at the Volunteer Park office, at 7:30pm on the following dates:  
**May 13 (2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month)**



**KP CAMP FAIR**



Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup> 10am-3pm at the Civic Center

Look for the BIG tent outside at the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual KP Livable Fair, and come check out many local options for youth summer camps, both day camps and resident camps!

2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday ART For Adults  
**Travel Jewelry Box**

Our May class with Kathleen Gray, from FineArt Gray will teach you how to create a portable jewelry box using heavy paper or paste paper. An up-cycled project using recycled match boxes!



During the Livable Fair!

**CIVIC CENTER**  
VFW Room  
Sat. May 11  
9:30am-12:30pm  
Fee: \$25

**FITNESS CAMP**

**SPRING 2 SESSION**

Instructor: Shannon Reichl  
Location: Volunteer Park (first 3 weeks of the session) & 360 Trails (last 3 weeks)

Day: Mon & Wed Time: 6-7pm

Dates: Apr. 22 – May 29

Fee: \$30 for 1 class/week, \$60 for 2  
Join mid-session and we will prorate the fee!

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9:30am-12:30pm • Fee: \$45 for all 3 sessions

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**Thursdays**  
**May 9-June 13**  
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**Volunteer Park**  
**Fee: \$45**



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**10am - 3pm**  
**Key Peninsula Civic Center**

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(From *Equestrian*, Page 1)

Forming a new committee was sparked by a recent realization that trails being developed in the 360 Park for "joint use" by horse riders, hikers and bikers, may have a built-in safety concern.

Darcy Howell, who lives near the 360 Park, and others have been riding horses on trails through the park for more than 20 years. A race track for mountain bikes was recently developed on the same grounds (see April issue for the March race event). KP Parks will be encouraging hikers to use the same trails.

KP Parks has posted rules. Horses have the right-of-way over all others. Potential users of all persuasions are concerned that a "rule" won't be sufficient, that conflict and injury are inevitable with joint use.

Bike riders racing on rough trails must focus their attention on the ground immediately in front of them to prevent spills and injury. They are unable to focus on anything other than the fast moving terrain. A man with kneepads and a helmet for protection moving at 25 mph with 12 pounds of aluminum tubing between his legs does not fare well when abruptly stopped by a collision with a much larger horse. The horse and rider don't fare well either, or a parent with a child hiking the same trail.

Parks commissioners Mark Michel and Kip Clinton organized and hosted the recent meeting, where the attendees vocalized their concerns.

Lakebay resident Gail Shriner was con-

cerned over the recent loss of access to places like the Haley property where equestrians can no longer access the beach, where they had been welcome before.

Many equestrians voiced that they would love to be able to have linear trails where they could go on three-hour rides without conflict.

Michel and Clinton stressed that KP Parks does not have any money to develop trails, and has no hope of any funding for at least two or three years. They also stated that the current district's survey will help establish priorities for where the money will be spent, when they again have money to spend, and it is an expensive and lengthy process to acquire land for trails, they said.

Other equestrians would like to see one or more arenas for working their horse and holding events and competitions where the Renaissance Fair used to host its jousting on what is now part of Gateway Park. Michel commented that other organizations also would like that same land for soccer fields, baseball fields and other uses.

Brian Combs stated, "We need to develop a strategic plan, ignoring what we cannot afford, to accommodate our interests, needs and desires."

A strong desire was shown to connect existing trails and obtain access to the 480 Park (just north of Key Center), which has no legal access.

Michel and Clinton encouraged the equestrians to meet again, become organized and develop a plan.

For information, contact KP Parks at 884-3481.

## Filing deadline for 2013 elective office

Anyone interested in becoming a candidate for elective office must file their candidacy for the November general election by May 17. Candidates must be registered voters within their district at the time of filing.

Open positions for Key Peninsula residents are:

State Senator: Incumbent is Nathan Schlicher, appointed to replace Derek Kilmer. This election is to complete the final year of Kilmer's unexpired term. The position will be on the ballot again in 2014 for a full six-year term.

Port of Tacoma commissioner: Three positions open for four-year terms.

Peninsula School District director, District 2: Wendy Wojtanowicz is the incum-

ment; position is for a full four-year term.

Fire District 16 commissioner, Position 1: Frank Grubaugh is the incumbent; position is for a full six-year term.

Key Pen Parks commissioner, two positions open, both for a full six-year term. Position 1: Mark Michel is the incumbent, and Position 3: Greg Anglemyer is the incumbent.

Neighboring Gig Harbor Peninsula residents can seek the state Senator position and the Port of Tacoma positions, the two school board spots, four positions on the Gig Harbor City Council, two positions for fire commissioner, and two positions for park commissioner.

The Primary Election will take place on Aug. 6. The General Election will be Nov. 5.

# Community Café forum opens discussion on KP

KP News staff report

The Mustard Seed Project of Key Peninsula hosted its third Thursday Community Forum on April 18 at Key Peninsula Community Services (Home Senior Center).

They were asked by Pierce County Aging and Disability Resources to partner on the event after a similar interactive session about two years ago.

This is the first of three such planning events around the county this spring:

Pierce County Community Connections -- Aging & Disability Resources (ADR) is hosting a series of Community Cafés to learn from older adults, adults with disabilities, community leaders, family members and service providers what essential services and supports are needed to create livable communities for people of all ages throughout Pierce County.

During the event, participants addressed critical questions about what challenges exist in becoming a community for all ages, and what role Pierce County can play in helping to address these challenges.

According to Edie Morgan, Mustard Seed founder and executive director, insights gained at these events will be used in developing ADR's 2014-15 Area Plan



Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News

**Last month people filled the Key Peninsula Community Services (Home Senior Center) to help Pierce County Aging and Disability Resources determine what role the county and community leaders can take to better create livable communities for people of all ages throughout Pierce County.**

Update, ADR's guide for planning and funding programs and services that can best serve older adults and adults with

disabilities in Pierce County, including the Key Peninsula.

"This is an important and infrequent

opportunity to help with community planning for seniors at the county level," Morgan said.

## County executive assesses State of the County

By Rick Sorrels, KP News

Pierce County Executive Pat McCarthy gave her "State of the County" address at a meeting of the Key Peninsula Community Council on April 10.

McCarthy chose to spread her message to the citizens by attending various local gatherings.

Her presentation on the Key primarily covered finances and accomplishments, followed by a question-and-answer session.

McCarthy explained that when she took office in January 2009, Pierce County's coffers were full, in a time of plenty. That was when the economy crashed, and tax receipts had just plummeted.

She said her first task upon assuming office was to reduce county expenditures and to cut the budget. That gets difficult when only 31 percent of the \$894 million budget is discretionary, and 78 percent of the remainder is for public safety. She has had to cut more than \$80 million from the county budget.

"After years of continuous budget cuts, Pierce Coun-

ty's budget has now stabilized, with no cuts this year," said McCarthy. "Assessed values for real estate appear to be rising, which will result in increased revenue."

During McCarthy's term, she said that county offices have been reorganized, and a performance audit has been conducted for each department. The number of county employees has been reduced by 14 percent since 2008.

There is better customer service, especially with in PALS (Planning and Land Services), and District Court scheduling has been greatly improved. The county has partnered with more than 80 aerospace businesses, and will host the U.S. Open Championships (golf tournament) in 2015, she said.

She also spoke about the start of a new South Sound 911 system, the Port of Tacoma, Joint Base Lewis-McChord and other facility and recreation growth, and then spent the remainder of her time fielding questions from concerned citizens.

To contact McCarthy, call (253) 798-7477 or email [pcexecutive@co.pierce.wa.us](mailto:pcexecutive@co.pierce.wa.us).

## KP emergency shelter in the works

Key Peninsula Civic Center Association President Mark Roberts and others have been working with Pierce County and American Red Cross to get the civic center established as an emergency shelter.

The center has been approved as a Volunteer Reception Center (VRC) through the Pierce County Department of Emergency Management, has recently partnered with Peninsula's Emergency Preparedness Coalition (PEP-C) and has a committee ready to accept volunteers for training.

"We need to prepare both volunteers and the center for the event of an emergency in our community. We need a generator, and due to the age of the building(s) and various remodels, a generator large enough to power everything," Roberts said.

The county's Emergency Management Plan, which describes emergency shelters, is available for review at [wa-piercecounty.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/View/3472](http://wa-piercecounty.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/View/3472).

Contact the civic center at 884-3456, or Roberts at (206) 225-3590 for information.

# Peninsula Views

## In the game of life, results truly matter

There's a story about two brothers. Their dad asks them to get out in the field and do some work. One says, "Sure dad." but then gets lazy and forgets. The other son, sounding like a typical teenager, says, "No way," but then changes his mind and actually does the work.

In a similar story, my friend Mike and I were sharing a cup of coffee the other day, and he said, "You know, intentions are well and good, but sometimes you actually have to focus to accomplish something."

The world is full of people with good intentions. Most of us don't start the day saying, "I'm going to be a bad person." Most don't see themselves as angry, as obstinate, as bad parents, as lazy, as lit-terbugs, as detriments to society. Most of us mean well.

However, in our age of affirmation and positive self-esteem, intention has become the standard by which we are judged. "Sure, he blew that project at work, but he meant well." "I didn't get you a birthday present, but I did think about it." "I know I failed the test, but I did try to study, sort of."

Some will protest that results are beyond our control -- which is absolutely true. Sometimes the best intentions combine with great effort, and the result is still disastrous. NASA blew up a lot of rockets while trying to get to the moon. Budding sports stars have career-ending injuries. Cars break down and make us late to work. Stuff happens, in spite of our best efforts.

None of that should dissuade us from being concerned about results and accomplishments, especially when it comes to the really important things

**Dan Whitmarsh**  
Writing by Faith



in life. Like parenting. I've never met a parent whose stated intention was to yell at their children all the time, or who didn't really want to love their children and give them a stable life. The intention is there.

But no matter your intention, if you are losing it with your kids, if you are sending them to school inadequately clothed or fed, then your intention is pretty much worthless. It may be that you don't plan on screaming at your kids, but if you do -- the fact that you scream at them is what counts, not your intentions not to.

Maybe you've always meant to get in shape or volunteer for a charity, or tell your wife you love her. Maybe you've wanted to clean out the back room or climb Mount Rainier or get involved in local politics, to donate to a worthy cause and to learn to play the banjo.

Maybe your intention is to be a good parent. Maybe it's to stop throwing trash out your window, or to support your family.

Those are all good intentions. The question is, are you going to be like that first son who has great intentions but just never seems to find the time to actually accomplish anything? Or will you be the second, who makes up his mind, goes to work, and gets the job done? Intentions are nice; results are what matter.

*Dan Whitmarsh is pastor at Lakebay Community Church.*

## The Chehalis Gap, the Coriolis effect and the Aleutian Low

Our fall, winter, and springtime weathers here on the Key Peninsula pretty much come from the same place. The Chehalis Gap. And no, you can't buy jeans there.

This gap is the space between the southernmost of the Olympic Mountains and the Willapa Hills to the south. The gap is an opening that allows winds and weather systems to come ashore from the Pacific Ocean where they are born.

Whoever heard of the Willapa Hills? The highest of the hills is Boistfort Peak, 3,087 or 3,113 or 3,120 feet high, depending upon which true Internet information you use. It's just west of the little town of Winlock in Lewis County. Some locals not only call it Baw Faw Peak, but name cheese and yogurt after it. The hills are actually the foothills of Oregon's coastal range.

You could ask, well why don't those weathers, which nearly always seem to be sopping wet, blow right through the Chehalis Gap and head east staying to the south of us? Well some do, so the Columbia River Gorge gets fairly constant high winds, but Mount Adams, Mount St. Helens and the rest of the southern Cascades get in the way. A phenomenon called the Coriolis effect is also a force that affects the direction the weathers move.

Every fall as winter approaches, a gigantic low pressure system, caused by the difference in temperature between the sea, the

land, the ice pack and the air, forms over Alaska's Aleutian Islands. It's called the Aleutian Low.

It is low pressure because there just aren't as many molecules of air in it as there are in a normal chunk of atmosphere. Many air molecules decide they don't want to hang around in the freezing cold, so they rise up and leave the party. They hitch a ride out of there on the jet stream.

Well, Mom Nature simply can't tolerate an imbalance of molecules, so she rushes replacements in from the south. Yup, from the central Pacific Hawaiian Island area: it's called The Pineapple Express.

Those air molecules are nice and warm, and as they move towards the Aleutian Low they skim the ocean and pick up tons of moisture. If the earth didn't spin on its axis they'd travel toward the low pressure system in a straight line. But, because we are spinning at a little more than 1,000 miles per hour at the equator, the air molecules move to the low pressure area in a huge counter-clockwise arc caused by the spinning force, again, the Coriolis effect.

(See **Trandum**, Page 7)

**William T. Trandum**  
Winds, Tides & Weathers



### Letters Policy

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# Fuchsia Society plant sale returns to the Key

By Colleen Slater, KP News

The Lakebay Fuchsia Society sets up its 18th annual plant sale on the lawn at the Key Peninsula Civic Center on Saturday, May 11, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Old favorites and new fuchsia varieties will run the gamut of sizes from “starts” to full blooming baskets, all on sale for gardeners or as gifts for Mother’s Day.

As always, a good selection of geraniums, perennials and annuals for shade and sun is available.

Mel Kortlever of Shoestring Valley Nursery in Cinebar, a new supplier for the group, will bring all of the fuchsia hanging baskets this year as well as some starts.

Tammy Brown of Off Grid Greenhouse in Olympia, provides most of the starts of hardy and non-hardy fuchsias, both upright and trailing varieties.

Annuals, herbs and vegetable starts will come from Jackie LaVerne of Magellanica Gardens in Olympia.

An assortment of other plants grown by society members add to the mix to tempt browsing customers.

Organizers are saying to come early for the best selection.

Anyone who makes a purchase may sign up for the drawing for a large hanging fuchsia basket in bloom.

Russ Smith from Blue Frog Garden Nursery, in Gig Harbor, will have even more small trees and shrubs than last year. He offers gallon size Japanese maples, plus conifers suitable for Bonsai.

Fuchsia experts and Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer questions.

Hardy fuchsia booklets are for sale, showing some of the favorites that grow well in the area.

The display garden at the Civic Center, established in 1998 by the local society members, features hardy fuchsias for this climate, plus companion plants that provide an extended season of color. Hundreds of varieties grow well here.

The event also will have non-hardy varieties that need protection, include the hanging favorites, with a wide variety of colors, growing styles and ultimate sizes available.

The Lakebay Fuchsia Society welcomes new members or interested visitors to its regular meetings on the first Thursday of each month, 7 p.m., at the Key Peninsula Library. Call 884-9744 or 884-2283 for information.

(From **Trandum**, Page 6)

To complicate matters further, the Aleutian Low keeps spinning off smaller low pressure systems which again, because the earth turns beneath them, move relentlessly eastward until they are stalled by the Vancouver Island Ranges (yes, Ranges!) and the Canadian Rockies. Then, one after another they spin over Vancouver Island circulating moisture laden air from Hawaii.

As the earth spins and the sopping wet air molecules try desperately to fill in each low pressure spot, a whole bunch of them come pouring through the Chehalis Gap only to find they’re again stalled, this time by the Cascade Mountains, including the big guy, Rainier, that you can see across Carr Inlet if you live here, but not if you’re a visitor. Too rainy for them to wait for a chance to see him.

Eventually the spinning of the earth wins out, each low pressure system moves east and the air molecules rise to pass over and

through the mountain passes. We get rain, mist, and humidity. Our atmosphere becomes a cool damp sponge that soaks everything in its path.

And the Olympics, Canadian Rockies, and Cascades get snow. The Willapa Hills don’t get squat. They are just tall enough to help funnel southwest winds to us, but they don’t even get to be snow capped most winters.

One last tidbit about the Coriolis effect. It’s a myth that you can see the effect by watching water circling a drain. Whether it goes clockwise or counter-clockwise is purely random, mostly influenced by the shape of the sink, tub or basin that you’re draining. Next time we’ll talk about summertime and the Coriolis clockwise spin.

*Bill Trandum is a retired U.S. Navy Captain, an avid boater, and a now retired sailboat racer. He has sailed in ocean weather conditions ranging from dead calms to typhoons where he became a student of winds, tides and weathers.*

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# Breaking down the Second Amendment historically

Recent events involving guns and dead bodies have triggered proposed changes to our right "to keep and bear arms," a guaranteed right under the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Debate has been intense, but legislative changes have failed utterly at both the state and federal levels.

The Constitution details the powers and duties of the federal government. The Bill of Rights (the first 10 amendments) guarantees the people's rights that the government cannot infringe.

In fear that a future government might attempt to deny the people's rights, our Founding Fathers intentionally made it difficult to change (amend) these rights.

The only rights that our Founding Fathers ranked higher were the First Amendment rights of freedom of speech, religion and the press. In order to understand the importance and meaning of the Second Amendment, we need to review history and the intentions of our Founding Fathers.

**Rick Sorrels**  
The Pragmatic Sophist



We were a British colony. When our ancestors found that the oppression they tried to escape followed them across the Atlantic, they eventually rebelled and fought for their independence. The Charters for the 13 colonies, and later, our Constitution and Bill of Rights, were all based on English law and traditions.

Like all other countries of that time, England was an absolute monarchy, where the king had absolute ownership and control over all lands, chattel and the life and death of all persons within the king's domain.

The feudal barons of England rebelled and defeated the king's army at Runnymede, forcing King John to sign the Magna Carta in 1215, which limited the king's power and guaranteed the barons the right to "overrule the will of the king." The Magna Carta

is recognized as the most important document in the history of democracy.

King John soon renounced the barons' power and Catholicism was reestablished in England.

England's transition from an absolute monarchy to a democratic parliament was a long process with a lot of "re-dos." The English Civil War ran from 1645 to 1651.

These were all recent events when our Constitution was adopted in 1787 and when the Bill of Rights was ratified in 1791.

Only Catholics were allowed to own and carry weapons prior to the English Bill of Rights, and only Protestants after 1689. The religion in control wanted to make sure that opposing religions did not have the tools (weapons) necessary to unseat them.

In the First Amendment, our Founding Fathers forbade the establishment of a "state religion," thereby trying to ensure against religious battles and influence over our government (like the English experienced). Religions, at that time, were more powerful than governments.

The Second Amendment guarantees the right "to keep and bear arms," not only for

hunting and protection from Indians, wild animals, brigands, highwaymen and thieves, but also to fight off invading armies and to rebel and reform our own government, if it should go awry in the future.

Writings in the Federalist Papers recognized that our progeny needed the tools necessary to rebel against the establishment, if needed, just as our Founding Fathers had.

State-of-the-art weapons in the 18th century were the long sword, a smooth-bore muzzle-loading long gun, the long bow and a single-shot cannon.

Our ancestors could not have imagined today's machine guns, chemical weapons, artillery and nuclear weapons. These modern weapons are all banned from private possession today, with Second Amendment Rights limited to single-shot (per trigger pull), hand-held firearms.

Gun ownership is deeply embedded in our psyche as a necessary "right," so do not expect enough of our population to change sufficiently during our lifetime to meet the mandates for a Constitutional amendment.

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# NEWS BRIEFS

## Community News

### Annual Vaughn Aisle of Honor event returns

On May 26, the Key Peninsula Veterans will host its annual Aisle of Honor event at the Vaughn Bay Cemetery, showcasing more than 320 flags that will be flying from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Organizers say there will be a public ceremony starting at 1 p.m. with a special guest speaker. The program includes the U.S. Navy band from Bremerton, a U.S. Honor Guard from Joint Base Lewis-McChord and musical selections from the Northwest Pipe and Drum team and Key Singers.

A roll call of military veterans whose flags are flying in review at the cemetery will be recited during the ceremony.

Golf carts and handicapped facilities will be available for the disabled. Local Boy Scout Troop 220 and Cub Scout Pack 222, as well as many other community members, will lend their assistance to transport, raise, lower and fold the flags being displayed.

The Vaughn Bay Cemetery is located at the corner of 100th Street KPN and 186th Avenue. KPN and can be reached by following "Aisle of Honor" road signs along SR-302 and Key Peninsula Highway.

For information, visit [kpveterans.net](http://kpveterans.net) or call (253) 884-9852.

### KP fire chief available to speak to local groups

The Key Peninsula Fire Department wants to share information about its budget, operations and goals for the next five years.

In a report released April 17, Fire Chief Tom Lique is seeking invitations to speak to local community service organizations, church groups, homeowner associations and other groups.

"We appreciate the support of our community," said Lique. "We want to report back on how we are improving public safety because of their tax dollars."

In November 2012, the voters on the Key Peninsula passed a special levy to hire more full-time firefighters/emergency medical technicians (EMTs) to improve emergency response times.

Since that time, the district has started the

process of hiring two new firefighters by the end of this year and two more sometime in 2014.

The report said the firefighter hiring process can take up to a year to complete for each new hire. Lique is interested in hosting local meetings, sharing a detailed PowerPoint presentation and fielding questions from interested community members.

Interested parties can contact Lique at (253) 884-2222 or [tl lique@piercefir e.org](mailto:tl lique@piercefir e.org). For information, visit [keypeninsulafire.org](http://keypeninsulafire.org).

### Emergency preparedness fair coming to the KP

On May 11, the Key Peninsula ward of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is hosting a community emergency preparedness fair.

Church members are inviting the community to spend some time at their 12521 134th Avenue KPN facility for a day of informative and interactive learning to prepare for a disaster of emergency.

According to organizers, during the 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. event, attendees will have access to emergency kits, gardening advice, neighborhood organization tips, shelter advice and a host of other safety tools and topics.

For information, call (253) 858-9414.

### Key's Got Talent coming

Auditions for the 2013 Key's Got Talent performance will be Sunday, June 26 from 2 to 6 p.m. on stage at the Key Peninsula Civic Center. This event showcases the talents of Key Peninsula residents who are 5 years of age and older.

Organizers say this will be the only audition prior to the final performance at KeyFest, but video auditions may be submitted for consideration.

All acts must be appropriate to a family audience and can include vocal, group, theatrical, dance, acrobatics or other.

There is no fee to register. Those selected to perform on July 14, at KeyFest, will have their admission fee waived.

Rules and registration forms are available [keyfair.org](http://keyfair.org). For information, email [kgt@keyfair.org](mailto:kgt@keyfair.org) or call (253) 444-3547.



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### CROSSWORD PUZZLE

**ACROSS**

1 Reimbursed  
5 Free  
8 US dam  
12 Project  
13 Guido's note (2 words)  
14 Outer portion of Earth  
15 Sleep (pref.)  
16 Albania (abbr.)  
17 Design  
18 Arabian domain  
20 Shore  
21 Tumor (suf.)  
22 Three (pref.)  
23 Irish foot soldier  
26 Block  
27 Celsius (abbr.)  
30 Shoe size  
31 Fr. meat dish  
33 Have (Scott.)  
34 Plus  
35 Indo-Chin. people  
36 Voltaire play  
38 Computer chip  
39 Ounces (abbr.)

**DOWN**

1 Long  
2 "Cantique de Noel" composer  
3 Yesterday (Ital.)  
4 Silk substitute  
5 "Giant" ranch  
6 He (Lat.)  
7 Flounder  
8 Willow  
9 Love of Radames

**Answers**

M	E	R	E	S	B	A	S	I	E	T	A	L
C	I	O	U	D	I	B	A	V	A	D	D	A
N	O	V	A	Y	R	O	A	S	V	L	A	V
E	L	E	B	A	S	P	A	V	A	N	A	S
S	Z	O	S	O	A	R	A	M	A	S	E	S
R	E	H	A	I	Z	A	V	A	N	D	A	
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10 This one (Lat.) (suf.)  
11 King of Israel  
19 Amer. Sign Language (abbr.)  
20 Swlm (2 words)  
22 Hat  
23 "The Jungle Book" python  
24 Belonging to (suf.)  
25 Energy unit  
26 Palestine Liberation Organ. (abbr.)  
27 Greek letter  
28 Fruiting spike  
29 Civil War commander  
32 Air-to-air missile (abbr.)  
37 Wild ginger  
38 Polishing material  
39 Watering hole  
40 Hall (Ger.)  
41 Mother of Erubhide  
42 Walk through  
43 Para-aminobenzoic acid  
44 Foreshadow  
45 Hole  
46 Noun-forming (suf.)  
48 Science class

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# New Arcadia Montessori school has huge KP influence

By Scott Turner and  
Charlee Glock-Jackson, KP News

Cyndi Cashman and her husband have lived in the Key Peninsula for some 25 years.

Back in the '80s she and her husband were teaching in the Alaska bush when she was hired to teach at Evergreen Elementary.

In 2007, Cashman met Carmela Micheli, owner of a Montessori school in Tacoma.

"Carmela asked me if I would be willing to come to Tacoma one day a week and do a music program for her in her school," Cashman recalled.

Cashman was soon teaching both music and non-violent communication at the Tacoma school.

Last fall, Cashman transferred to Micheli's new Arcadia Montessori School in Gig Harbor, located on three-and-a-half acres of forest on Crescent Valley Road.

"Cyndi works with music and she uses her non-violent communication training to help our children learn what their needs and feelings are and how to express them,"



Photo by Scott Turner, KP News

**Arcadia Montessori student Olivia Mercado, 4, works with instructor Cyndi Cashman, of Key Peninsula, on a project tied to part of Cashman's "non-violent communication" curriculum set to help students better express feeling and needs.**

Micheli said.

Cashman also shares her non-violent communication skills at Minter Elementary where her three children attend.

Cashman is also "very environmentally friendly," Micheli said. That's important because Crescent Creek runs through the back corner of the Arcadia property, and

walks through the woods to the creek are part of the Montessori school's environmental education curriculum.

"We also go out into the yard every day and learn about what's going on," Micheli added. "We do art and painting of the trees, and we do watercolors out in the yard."

Arcadia offers classes from preschool through third grade and also includes day-care. Micheli said the location is convenient for Key Peninsula families.

"It's only a few minutes to the Purdy bridge and straight down 144th Street, so we have easy access to the Key Peninsula," Micheli said.

Arcadia has another Key Pen connection. "It was built by Pete Grobins and Grobins Construction," Cashman said. "It's a beautiful building and Pete did an incredible job with it."

Cashman is very fond of the Montessori curriculum, especially as it's practiced at Arcadia.

"When I was a parent of young children, I was really looking for a way for my kids

(See Arcadia, Page 11)

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(From Arcadia, Page 10)

to really explore their learning process, not necessarily through the traditional preschool environment," she said. "I wanted my daughters to have the freedom to learn what they were curious about — and that's what Montessori does.

"We have a little opening circle where we talk about peace and kindness and compassion. We also talk about the project we're working on — like right now we're working on animal tracks. Then the children decide what they want to study, maybe they want to work with numbers or geography. They can work with the number board or work with maps," Cashman said.

She said the students get a very independent kind of learning, with the goal of prepping them for kindergarten.

Cashman said teachers also put an emphasis on socialization.

"That's a huge part. You're getting a 3-year-old into a community of kids learning how to be kind and compassionate, how to use their words. It should be the norm," Cashman said.

Even the childcare kids are included in the Arcadia learning experience.

"They get a Montessori experience throughout the day. It's a continuing learning process that never really stops," she said.

"My girls transitioned from (the original Gig Harbor) Arcadia to Minter, and they were very successful at Minter. They came in with some wonderful skills," she said.



Photo by Scott Turner, KP News

**Trevor Easley, 5, takes a closer look at one of his treasures he found while exploring the frounds at Arcadia Montessori School.**

Micheli, the Arcadia school's owner, "has a real interest in the Key Peninsula," Cashman said. "She's a former resident. She lived out here three years ago and she loves the culture of KP. We want to bring that culture and energy to Arcadia."

For information, call (253) 858-1114 or visit [arcadia-montessori.com](http://arcadia-montessori.com).

## PSD superintendent to answers questions at open KP forum

The public and parents can ask any question they want regarding schools at the Superintendent's Forum to be hosted at Key Peninsula Middle School on May 21 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the library.

This is the fourth and last such forum this school year. The earlier forums were hosted in the evening hours at each of the other three middle schools (Harbor Ridge, Kopachuck, and Goodman). Key Peninsula will now have its own convenient venue to voice questions and obtain answers.

Superintendent Chuck Cuzzetto also hosted a "Coffee with the Superintendent" in December and in April to provide additional opportunities for public interaction during morning hours, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

During the April 9 "coffee," discussions covered possible security changes as a result of the massacre of grade school children in Connecticut, grading for gym classes, school scheduling effect on circadian rhythm, etc.

The Superintendent and the School Board also welcome comments on their draft revision to the District's Strategic Plan goals, available online at [psd401.net](http://psd401.net), which will not be reviewed again until 2018.

The last day of the school year is June 18. School will start up again Sept 4.

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*Nation's Largest Single-Day Food Drive Collected More Than 70 Million Pounds of Food Last Year*

On Saturday, May 11, 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.keypeninsulacommunityservices.org) and [www.facebook.com/KeyPenCS](http://www.facebook.com/KeyPenCS)

# COMMUNITY PAGES

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

## NOW

### Youth orchestra

Peninsula Youth Orchestra is accepting applications for experienced string students (9-19 years old, 1-plus year's string experience) to join the PYO for String Camp 2013. Camp will take place Aug. 19-23. Camp activities include daily rehearsals, treat and activity breaks and free public Friday concert performance. Contact (253) 534-5384, [info@harborpyo.com](mailto:info@harborpyo.com) or [www.harborpyo.org](http://www.harborpyo.org) to download an application after May 1.

### Marine program

Harbor WildWatch's "Get Your Feet Wet" program takes place at local beaches throughout the summer. Locate them by looking for the blue canopy on the beach and the naturalists and volunteers in the blue shirts. Catch a beach walk, discover new life forms, and learn how human behaviors impact these fragile critters. Come to the beach, and "Get Your Feet Wet." Contact [harborwildwatch.org](http://harborwildwatch.org) or (253) 514-0187.

## MAY 2

### Fuchsia group meets

The Lakebay Fuchsia Club meets at 7 p.m. in the Brones Room at the KC Library. Ginnie, 884-9744.

## MAY 2 and 9

### Hemingway movies

The Friends of the Key Center Library present a free movie and discussion at 7 p.m. at the library. The movie May 2 is "Farewell to Arms" and "For Whom the Bell Tolls" is May 9. Contributions to the KP Food Bank are welcomed. (253) 543-3309.

## MAY 2 and 16

### Senior shopping

The senior van meets at the KP Community Services at 9 a.m. and returns between 3-5 p.m. giving seniors an opportunity to go grocery shopping and any scheduled Gig Harbor doctor's appointments. Also

## To submit an event

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

included is a "Dutch" lunch. 884-4440.

## MAY 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

### Skate night

Geared for kids 5-13, skate night is hosted 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the KP Civic Center. This is a safe place with roller skating, arcade games and concessions. Parents are welcome to attend and visit with others on the observation balcony. Contact [kpciviccenter.org](http://kpciviccenter.org) or 884-3456.

## MAY 5

### Camp program

"Seymour Sunday" hosts a free family program including camp activities and a camp meal at Camp Seymour. Email Diane [djackson@ymcapkc.org](mailto:djackson@ymcapkc.org) for a digital pass.

## MAY 8

### Garden club meets

The Bayshore Garden Club meets at 1 p.m. at the Longbranch fire station. Francine, (253) 569-1381.

## MAY 9

### Ashes meet

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

## MAY 11

### Community fair

The Community Livable Fair is hosted 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the KP Civic Center. 884-3456.

## MAY 14 and 22

### Knit or crochet

Loving Hearts volunteers knit and crochet hats for chemo patients and the backpack program for kids, baby items and

blankets, wheelchair/walker bags and fingerless gloves for veterans in the community. They meet from 1 to 3 p.m. on May 14 and 7 to 9 p.m. on May 22. Donations of yarn and needles are always welcome. Virginia, 884-9619 or [lovingheartsonkp@aol.com](mailto:lovingheartsonkp@aol.com).

## MAY 16

### Community forum

The Mustard Seed presents its community forum at 10 a.m. at the KC Fire Station. 884-1205.

### PYO open house

The Peninsula Youth Orchestra hosts an open house 4 to 6 p.m. at the Harbor Covenant Church in Gig Harbor. PYO is an educational and recreational opportunity for students ages 9-19 that also includes a beginner program. Some scholarships and instrument rentals are available. Register now for the 2013-14 season. (253) 534-5384, [harborpyo.org](http://harborpyo.org) or [info@harborpyo.com](mailto:info@harborpyo.com).

### Friends' annual meeting

The Friends of Key Center Library hosts its annual membership meeting at 6:30 p.m., at the KC Library. Donations to the KP Food Bank are appreciated. (253) 543-3309.

### Words & Wine

Words & Wine is free and hosted at 7 p.m. at Blend Wine Shop by the Watermark Writers. Jerry, (253) 778-6559.

## MAY 18

### Garage sale

A garage sale to benefit the KP Co-op Preschool is hosted 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Way-Point Church. [Kyhenley77@gmail.com](mailto:Kyhenley77@gmail.com).

## MAY 19

### Key Singers' concert

"Key Singers Do Broadway" by the Key Singers at its annual spring concert features show tunes through the years at 3 p.m., at McColley Hall, KP Lutheran Church (corner of Lackey Road and KP Highway).

Light refreshments are available. This concert raises funds for two Peninsula High School scholarships and sheet music. Tickets, a \$6 donation, are available from Key Singer members or at the door; children 8 and younger are free. 884-5615.

### Sunday bluegrass jam

Bluegrass Gospel Jam session is hosted at Longbranch Church (16518 46th Street KPS) 6 to 8:30 p.m., for all acoustic instruments, ages and skill levels. Everyone is welcome to play, sing or simply listen. Bring a music stand and finger food to share; music and beverages are provided. (253) 492-4177.

## MAY 23, 30, JUNE 6

### Creative blogging

Rodika Tollefson will teach "Blogging for Creative Expression" from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Register at [keypenparks.com](http://keypenparks.com) or 884-9240 extension 22.

## MAY 25

### Dance hosted

The Longbranch Improvement Club hosts a Memorial Day Dance featuring Fingertips, a local blues/funk R&B band, 7 p.m. to midnight at the LIC. Visit [licweb.org](http://licweb.org) for more information.

## MAY 25-27

### Plant sale

My Mother's Garden hosts its annual plant sale from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 414 Delano Road KPS, Lakebay. Find garden starts, Heirloom tomatoes, peppers and more. Ten percent of sales will be donated to Communities in Schools and non-perishable food items for the KP Food Bank will be collected. 884-3427.

## MAY 31

### Teen skating

Club Cosmic, for teens in grades 8-12, is hosted 9 p.m. to midnight. Group games and activities, DJ battles, arcade games in the Whitmore room and concessions are offered; all for \$5. [kpciviccenter.org](http://kpciviccenter.org) or 884-3456.

# PUBLIC MEETINGS

## KP Lions' dinner and program

May 1 and 15, 5:30 p.m. in VFW Room, KP Civic Center; 853-2721.

## Key Peninsula Veterans

May 6 and 20, 7 p.m. at KP Community Services; www.kpveterans.net.

## Key Peninsula Council

May 8, 7 p.m. at KC fire station; kp-council.org.

## Peninsula School District Board

May 9, 6 p.m. in Artondale Elementary gym; May 23 at district office.

## KP Civic Center Association Board

May 9, 7 p.m. in Whitmore Room; kpciviccenter.org.

## Key Pen Parks

May 13, 7 p.m. at Volunteer Park; keypenparks.com.

## KP Community Fair Association

May 14, 6 p.m. in Roadhouse Restaurant VIP room; keyfair.org.

## KeyFest

May 14, 6 p.m. at Roadhouse; president@keyfest.org.

## Fire District 16

May 14 and 28, 6 p.m. in meeting room, Key Center fire station; keypeninsulafire.org.

## LIC

May 15, 6:30 p.m. at Longbranch Improvement Club; 884-6022 longbranchimprovementclub.org.

## KP Citizens Against Crime

May 16, 7 p.m. at Home fire station; kpcitizensagainstcrime.org.

## KP Farm Council

May 27, 6:30 p.m. at Key Center fire station; dwebsterkp@gmail.com.

# WEEKLY EVENTS

## MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS, FRIDAYS

### Open walk

Get some exercise 9 to 11 a.m. this spring in the gym in the KP Civic Center and meet new friends. Open to all ages; families welcome. \$2 suggested donation. 884-3456.

### Senior exercise class

The S.A.I.L. program, taught by Marilyn Perks, includes aerobics, light weightlifting, stretching and balance techniques and is hosted 10 to 11 a.m. at the KP Community Services in Lakebay. Participants MUST register with Marilyn, 884-4440.

## TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS

### Preschool playtime

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. 884-5433.

### Senior tai chi club

Senior tai chi is hosted 10 to 11 a.m. at the KP Community Services in Lakebay. 884-4440.

## WEDNESDAYS

### Writers meet

The Lakebay Writers meet 1 to 4 p.m. at the Blend in Key Center. 884-3931.

### Writers' workshop

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

## WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS

### Senior meals

Nutritional meals for ages 60-plus seniors 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 KC Library. Join the fun and improve your speaking ability. Toastmasters International is the most efficient, enjoyable way of developing great communication skills. Website at 3409.toastmastersclubs.org or (253) 740-7891

### Seniors' lunch

The Key Peninsula Senior Society meets at 11:30 a.m. for a potluck, fellowship and games in the Whitmore Room at the KP Civic Center. All are welcome. 884-4981.

### Bingo

Free Bingo is hosted at the KP Community Services beginning at 7 p.m. 884-4440.

## THURSDAYS & SATURDAYS

### Logging display

A logging display "Tall Trees, Tall Men, Tall Tales" is open at the Key Peninsula Historical Society Museum 1 to 4 p.m. or by appointment. Free admission; money donations appreciated. 884-2511 or 884-5403.

## SATURDAYS

### Writers meet

The Writers' Guild meets 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the KC Library. 884-6455.

# OFF THE KEY

## MAY 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

### Farmers Market

The Farmers Market at Skansie Brothers Park is open on Wednesdays and Sundays.

## MAY 4, 11, 18, 25

### Farmers Market

The Gig Harbor Farmers Market at Uptown is open 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays.

## MAY 4

### Community meeting

Michelle Vest, a consultant with Care-Sync Consulting LLC, will discuss the effects of the Affordable Care Act on health care provided in doctors' offices, the ER and in hospitals at an informational community meeting. The focus is on care coordination, illness prevention

and patient involvement care. There will be time for questions. The forum will take place at 2 p.m. in the Port Orchard Givens Community Center and is sponsored by Organizing for Action.

## MAY 3-5

### Play presented

"Steel Magnolias" is presented at Paradise Theatre. ParadiseTheatre.org or (253) 851-7529.

## MAY 11

### Bloodmobile

A bloodmobile is at Adventure of Faith Church, Port Orchard, and at St. Nicholas Catholic Church, Gig Harbor, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

## MAY 16 and 18

### Bloodmobile

The bloodmobile is at Kiwanis Club of Peninsula-Gig Harbor, noon to 7 p.m. on May 16 and at Gig Harbor Safeway, 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on May 18.

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# New KP grooming business is primping pooches

By Steve Whitford, KP News

There is a new dog grooming business on Key Peninsula. Meet Barbara Whitt, the owner of Happy Paws Pet Grooming.

She presently works out of her residence in Lakebay, but she's got big plans. In the near future she plans to build a grooming shop on her property separate from her house to make room for more customers. Eventually she wants to have a grooming shop in Key Center.

Whitt's a California girl who knew what she wanted to do with her life at a very early age.

A love of animals was the motivation that got her into the dog grooming business at the age of 15, when she worked as a bather for DogWorld in Napa, Calif.

Her first patron was a Shih Tzu, a breed with the unusual talent of being able to bug its eyes out.

"I didn't know they could do that and it really scared me," she said. "I wouldn't do Shih Tzus again for a while because of that."

By the time she was 17, Whitt was working at Kresmark Kennels in Sonoma County, training and caring for potential law enforcement dogs, where she performed her first grooming tasks. She left that job after a large German Shepherd named Reo went crazy. "He lunged at me and bent the bars of the kennel in an attempt to seize my throat," she said.

Undaunted, by age 23 she was grooming dogs for Tails in Napa. She also began working out of her house. She later worked at the Pampered Pooch and had her own licensed shop called Barb's Nails and Tails.

Sometime later, she moved to Oregon and Barb's Nails and Tails went with her. Her memory of times and dates here was a little foggy, as she was being treated for an asbestos mesothelioma cancer. Time, her will and surgery got her through it.

Whitt moved to the Ken Peninsula in February of 2011.

"I moved here because I wanted to raise my son in a better place than California. The community and the people are great," she said.

Whitt is presently training a new apprentice, Kristin Milard. Together they work the Happy Paws Pet Grooming shop and offer services that include nail cutting, baths, flea and tick removal and haircuts. She even does specialty cuts like "Dutch" and the startling "lion cut," which turns a poodle into a jungle cat.

Whitt said prices vary depending on the weight and breed of the animal. She also has discounts for seniors (humans). Like most places on the Key, finding her shop can be a bit interesting, but she does have paw print signs along the way.

Happy Paws Pet Grooming is located at 1513 197th Ave., KPS in Lakebay.

For information, email [happypawspetgrooming@live.com](mailto:happypawspetgrooming@live.com) or call (253) 884-1515.



Photo by Michelle M. Mondeck, KP News

Happy Paws Pet Grooming owner Barbara Whitt gently clips out matted fur and removes all tangles from Bugsy during a recent grooming.

## The Mustard Seed Project

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May Third Thursday Community Forum

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# Serenity Salon celebrates 10 years of service

By Irene Torres, KP News

Earth-toned walls set the mood in the Serenity Salon and Spa.

It is a cozy place where clients are welcomed with tea or espresso and a smile.

Located on State Route 302 near Minter Creek, the building housed Collins gas station and garage in the 1920s. Later it served as a video store, then a pizza restaurant, and was purchased in the early 2000s by the owners of Ravensara — a locally-owned coffee stand.

The popular salon leases the front section of the space. On April 5, the Serenity Salon celebrated 10 years of business at this location.

Co-owners Tracey Hasenbuhler-Oliveira and Rachelle Erdt hosted a Key Peninsula Business Association social to mark the occasion.

They want clients to know they will be open during upcoming road construction which will permanently block their current driveway. A new entry is being planned to allow vehicles to enter the parking lot

from 118th Street, as a left turn lane is added at the intersection.

Serenity is a full-service salon for hair, nails and aesthetics.

They provide manicures, pedicures, and apply acrylic nails. They give haircuts and permanent waves, and apply hair coloring and foils. They also offer paraffin hand dips, and face and body waxing. Three pedicure chairs and a make-up station are set in a room off the main salon, offering a degree of quiet and privacy. To complement their services, the owners said they are looking for a massage therapist, either as an employee or to lease a station.

Hasenbuhler-Oliveira compounds bath salts and foot scrubs for use during pedicures. She is an artist who crafts jewelry.

Her Kruk-id Stitches line includes beaded earrings, necklaces, hair clips, beach glass pieces and rock hangers. She supports local artists, several of whom have work displayed for sale in the salon, along with her own creations. She also offers a line of aromatherapy calming scent pouches, as thoughtful last-minute gifts.

Both owners live on the Key Peninsula. Erdt has been in the beauty business for 25 years and is licensed for all services available at Serenity Salon. Stylist Corina Henry, a seven-year employee of the salon, lives in Gig Harbor near Fox Island. Tanya Ames travels to work from her home in Tacoma to style hair. Both are employees of the shop. They all take walk-in customers, subject to already-scheduled appointments. Clients who make four referrals are rewarded with a free haircut. Gift certificates are available.

To continue their anniversary special, they have agreed to take 20 percent off any hair service during the month of May.

“We are all very thankful that we were able to get our voices heard within the state planning. We are thankful for the upcoming road improvements for the safety of our community. We are thankful that we will continue doing business on the Key Peninsula,” Hasenbuhler-Oliveira said.

For hours and information, call (253) 841-0009.



Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News

Serenity Salon co-owner Rachelle Erdt, watches as hairdresser Corina Henry applies a full foil treatment to add new dimension of color to her hair.



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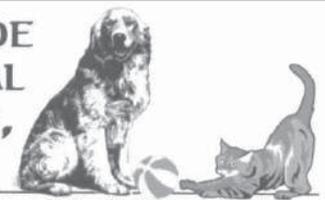
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Photo by Michelle M. Mondeck, KP News

Claude and Claudia Gahard stand behind the bar of their cozy tasting chalet at Trillium Creek Winery. The couple lift their glasses full of a Burgundy Syrah, while explaining the process of winemaking. The couple has put their Home-area property up for sale.

## KP winery is up for sale

By Irene Torres, KP News

Before it was Trillium Creek Winery, it was a tiny ad in the Tacoma newspaper that read: Three parcels of land totaling nearly 12 acres of blackberries, trees and possibilities.

Claude Gahard had been making raspberry and blackberry wines for 20 years before moving to the Key Peninsula in 1992. In 2000, just prior to planting their Pinot Noir vineyard, his wife Claudia told him: "You're French, let's make wine ..."

They did. It was educational and fun, and soon turned into a labor of love lifestyle.

"It was luck and divine guidance," said Claudia Gahard. "We didn't know they (the grapes) needed to be planted on a hillside."

In the years before the first crop was harvested, the couple had designed and built their dream French farmhouse.

The two-bedroom home, complete with a den/office, features open-beam ceilings, hardwood floors, a brick fireplace and stainless steel appliances.

The happy-go-lucky duo added an Alsatian cottage tasting room, a rockery, a shop and a large underground wine cellar to the Home-area property.

Gahard continued his career as a commercial pilot while his wife worked on the property between his junkets with Continental Airlines, until he retired after 18 years of service.

Gahard said he met with Gerard Bentren from Bainbridge Island Winery for grape-growing and wine-making tips and contracted with Paul Burgess vineyards to

purchase bulk Syrah, Merlot, Riesling, Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignon varieties from Eastern Washington.

The winery buys between 30,000 and 50,000 pounds of grapes every year to make low sulfite (50 parts per million) wines. "There are no headaches and no hangovers," Claudia Gahard added, "but you can't store them on the top of your refrigerator."

She said the two of them are solid business partners. "Claude takes care of the inside and I take care of the outside."

They met in a grocery store in Oak Harbor, where Claudia worked in public relations. She said the chemistry between them was "instant." They will celebrate 35 years of marriage in September.

The Gahards have recently put the winery up for sale with Wilson Properties.

The couple plan to build a bed and breakfast winery in Lake Chelan after their granddaughter graduates from high school in two years. When it happens, they plan on being open during the summer months.

"I will deliver to my best customers," Claude Gahard said.

Gahard said about half of his present customers have become good friends, most of whom prefer wines made in the French style.

"This is a people business. It's all about personal relationships," he said. During tastings, he emphasizes wine and food pairings, in the French tradition.

"No matter how you feel when you come in, you leave happy," Claudia Gahard said.

For information, call (253) 884-5746.

# BRIEFS

## Community

### Spring Fling draws a crowd and needed cash

Two Waters Arts Alliance held its annual "Spring Fling" in early April and met its goal of raising \$10,000 for the Artists in Schools program.

Area artists displayed their talent in media from photography to woodworking while silent auctions filled the gymnasium at the Key Peninsula Civic Center.

Emcees Bill Trandum and Jessica Smeall took the stage for a live auction and attendees raised their paddles as they sampled gourmet desserts and mingled.

Judge's Choice awards from the juried show went to Bryan Peterson for his photograph, "Misty Morning Fog" and to Taylor Reed for her painting, "The North Side."

On the list for Honorable Mention were Chris Bronstad's charcoal drawing, "All Mine;" Darlene Dihel's "Octopus and Shrimp;" and Laura McClintock's "Jew-

eled Planet." The People's Choice was "Venice Canal" an impressionist painting by Norma Meyer.

The student art awards went to seventh grader Carly Cashman-DiBiase for mask work and to eighth-grader Sierra Rose Nason for photography. Both are students at Key Peninsula Middle School.

### LIC to rename wharf after the late Geoffrey Baillie

On May 4, members of the The Longbranch Improvement Club (LIC) will hold a dedication ceremony to rename the Longbranch Wharf as the "Geoffrey L. Baillie Wharf."

Baillie, the LIC past president and community leader, passed away last year. He spearheaded the replacement of the previous wharf. The current one was completed in 2011.

"We will be renaming the wharf in consideration of the extraordinary efforts of

our late president," said Tim Heitzman, LIC events chair. We are creating a beautiful commemorative panel which will be mounted on the wharf."

The event starts at 10 a.m. Former Pierce County councilman Terry Lee will be the guest speaker.

The marina is located at 5213 Key Peninsula Highway S, Longbranch. For information, call (253) 884-6022.

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# Vaughn Troop 220 is bringing on a dozen Eagles Scouts

By Colleen Slater, KP News

Vaughn has had a Boy Scout Troop in the area since the late 1940s.

Don Mills was in Troop 95, led by Wes Davidson. He never made the Eagle rank, but tells stories of those Scouts hiking in the Olympic mountains.

Matthew Mills and his brothers, sons of Don, belonged to Troop 213, under the leadership of Bob Beal, Bob Downen, Steve Wood and then Mills. Mills was the only one to reach Eagle and knows of only one other from Troop 213: Cecil Beal.

Mill's son, Kelson, is a third-generation Vaughn Scout.

Boy Scout Troop 220 was started by Bill Macaras, Lethanial Ray and Mark Burris. They held their first summer camp in 1996. Under their leadership, and that of John Odell as Scoutmaster when Macaras retired, during the past 18 years, 19 boys have reached Eagle



Photo courtesy of Matthew Mills

Local Boy Scouts moving toward Eagle rank include, from left, Timmie Calhoun, Alex Ramirez, Michael Odell, Ryan Barry, Kelson Mills, Nicholas Wiklund, Jon Crane. Scouts missing include Evan and Collin Pernu and Kyle Fritchman.

(See Scouts, Page 19)

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(From Scouts, Page 18)

rank.

Troop 220 is poised to add another 12 Eagles to the roster.

Ryan Barry, Timmie Calhoun, Jon Crane, Kyle Fritchman, Brendan Greetham, Kelson Mills, Michael Odell, Collin Pernu, Evan Pernu, Kevin Pszczola, Alex Ramirez and Nicholas Wiklund will be completing the requirements for the rank of Eagle Scout.

Eagle Scout demands are extensive, with approximately 74 requirements covering first aid, menu planning and cooking, route finding, fitness and woodsman skills for a boy to attain. These include active participation in their troop, community service projects, a minimum of 21 merit badges and troop leadership positions.

Barry, Crane, Mills, Pszczola and Ramirez spent their Cub Scout career in Den 2 with Pack 222, which is still active on the Key Peninsula. The original den consisted of 14 boys ages 7 and 8. They rode the school bus home to meet at Mills's shop building for den meetings. Other afterschool activi-

ties took more and more of their time until Den 2 was left with only five, all ready to finish their last required merit badges, leadership positions and service projects.

Seven others will complete their requirements to attain that coveted Eagle rank within the next two years.

"As a proud Eagle Scout, wearing the badge (now a knot because I'm all grown up) is both an honor and a responsibility. What we learned in Scouts taught us perseverance, courage, humility and honor. When people hear that I'm an Eagle, they expect more and better. It's a challenge I gladly try to answer. It doesn't make us better than anyone (but) does prepare us to be better men ... to ask more of ourselves than others will. And it's a lot of fun," Matthew Mills said.

Mills believes it's important to give back to Scouting, and is now Troop 220's Scoutmaster.

As a troop high-adventure guide for the past several summers, he always encourages his Scouts to pursue their Eagle, he said.

"I just attended two Eagle Courts of Honor for the Scouts from my troop.

Luke Vander Poel and Scott Odell were about 14 years old when I met them, they are 18 and have achieved Eagle. It means a great deal to me that I played a small part in their lives on that long road," Mills said.

"Being an Eagle Scout is being the example not just for younger Scouts, but for everyone around me," Mills said.

"It's not just holding doors and helping little old ladies cross the street, but being the one to stand up and say 'I'll take care of it' when something goes wrong, or being the one who stops at an accident and knows what to do beyond calling 911. It's taking blame and giving praise, being the first one to start working and the last one to quit. Simply put, to me, being an Eagle Scout is being a true man," he said.

*The Voice of the Key Peninsula*

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- Open to everyone living or working (5-years old and up) in the Key Peninsula region.
- Acts may be of any nature including but not limited to music, theatrical, dance, acrobatics, stand-up, etc.
- Unique acts are always appreciated!
- Registration Closes July 1st.
- Auditions will be held June 26th at the KP Civic Center 2-6pm. If you are unable to make it on June 26th, send an Audition video of you/your group when you register.

Acts will have the opportunity to perform Friday or Saturday, then the Main Event, Sunday July 14th on KeyFest's Main Stage.

Visit [KeyFest.org](http://KeyFest.org) for more information and to Register

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## Popular KP Livable Community Fair is back

By Colleen Slater, KP News

The 12th annual Key Peninsula Livable Fair runs 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 11 at the Key Peninsula Civic Center.

The organizations, agencies and individuals who help maintain a more livable community are the focus of this free event.

More than 40 non-profits, organizations, businesses, local artisans and emergency preparedness vendors offering services to local residents will be located in the gym.

Organizers say that an art activity for kids, a trout pond and a rope bridge make this a great family event for all ages. Local musicians, including Key Peninsula Middle School Jazz Band, will perform. Various booths offer items for sale and/or freebies as well as information on their services.

New groups this year include the Greater Gig Harbor Foundation, Harbor Wild-Watch and Taylor Bay Shellfish.

Also new will be a few local artisans selling their wares.

The KPCC will have a table showing its efforts to become an emergency shelter.

Two "Spotlight" booths will showcase a local business or organization, artist, and/or person of special merit to the Key Peninsula community.

Registration for artisan space is still open, but only a few more vendor spaces are left in the service organization fair, organizers said.

Lunch items will be available for purchase, such as wraps, sandwiches and beverages.

KP Parks will hold a Camp Fair outdoors under a carnival tent next to the playground. This is a "one-stop shopping" for summer programming for families, as well as fun activities for the kids, including a bubble machine.

The onsite KP Historical Museum has an open house from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., sharing the new display on logging on the Key Peninsula, with books, T-shirts, mugs, postcards and other items for sale.

The Lakebay Fuchsia Society annual plant sale begins at 9 a.m. on the center's lawn, with fuchsias in many sizes, geraniums, perennials and annuals available.

Some outside plant vendors also will be there with other offerings.

For information, contact 884-3456.

### New community bulletin board at Volunteer Park

Key Pen Parks has a new community board available for use at Volunteer Park.

According to Jessica Smeall, recreation coordinator, the purpose of the board is to share upcoming events.

She said it was needed for a variety of reasons, like alerting "the community when a pet is missing and to view the KP Community Calendar — a comprehensive list of all the meetings, events and programs happening on the Key."

Smeall said the new bulletin board is located just outside the Murph's BBQ business. She is asking people to drop off public notes and flyers at the park office for approval before posting.

For information, call 884-9240 or email answers@keypenparks.com.



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# Tunnel garden for winter vegetables coming to KP, co-op

By Karen Lovett, KP News

Before Gig Harbor ceased operation of the Key Peninsula Farmers Market, local farmers brainstormed to come up with an alternative plan to market fresh local produce.

Holly Hendrick and Barb Schoos co-founded the Fresh Food Revolution, a Key Peninsula Cooperative. Taking orders online and having products delivered indoors at the civic center in Vaughn allows sales to continue into the cooler months. Schoos said they "batted around a lot of ideas."

Erin Ewald of the Pierce County Conservation District helped direct producer and member Lyn Apodaca find federal grant money to build a high tunnel, allowing for year-round produce sales through the Fresh Food Revolution Co-op.

Apodaca, owner of Stoney Earth Farm, applied for three federal grants to build the high tunnel. The grants were awarded from the USDA under the National Resource Conservation Service in April 2012. The first grant is for the building and cover crop planting, a second grant for the inside, and a third to finance testing soil and fertilizer indoors.

No grant money would be received until the building was erected, so Apodaca borrowed money to get started. The 30-foot by 96-foot tunnel garden was purchased from Oregon Valley Greenhouse and delivered in August 2012.

According to Schoos, Apodaca is one of the main co-op suppliers.

"She is the hardest worker I know and grows an amazing variety of produce. Most people who helped were members of the co-op and were very excited about having an extended growing season," Schoos said.

The project became a real community effort. Friends and family volunteered labor and money. Some people paid in advance for produce to meet the cost.

Schoos worked with Apodaca to square up the site. They screwed the frames together before it was raised. Darin Richardson and Jeremy Hicks, from Kiwi Fencing, were hired to install support posts, complete the steel frame and mount plastic sheeting. The plastic, guaranteed to last four years, but expected to last six, covers the sloped roof and sides.

Norm Brones came out one day and helped Apodaca put up the high struts.



Photo by Karen Lovett, KP News

Lyn Apodaca, owner of Del Terra/Stoney Earth Farm, received three federal grants to build a high tunnel, allowing her to grow cold weather crops through the fall and winter months.

They used a big orchard ladder in the back of her pickup to reach the top. That simplified the work to make it easier for the rest of the job.

"We eat a lot of vegetables from her, so if we get more for a longer season, that's a good thing," Brones said.

Thirty truckloads of topsoil were purchased from Green Earth Development in Silverdale. Cory Morello, company owner, donated another four loads of topsoil and compost as well as all trucking and delivery costs.

"The amount of produce she supplies is staggering for the amount of property she has. Her farm is quite impressive. She is doing it all on her own," Morello said.

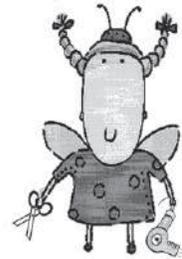
Thirty-inch raised beds will be planted for spring and will include tomatoes and peppers. Produce should be available year-round in addition to crops grown outdoors.

The co-op has continued through the winter offering beef, pork, lamb, poultry, eggs, dairy and root vegetables; carrots, beets, parsnips and sunchoke.

Other local farms, including Dee Hendrix's My Mother's Garden, and Tahoma Farms in Puyallup are supplying fresh products.

There is a \$25 annual application fee to join the co-op.

For information on the Fresh Food Revolution co-op, call 884-1088 or visit [freshfoodrevolution.org](http://freshfoodrevolution.org). For information on Stoney Earth Farms, call 677-6589.



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## PALS program a boon to Key Pen Parks and middle schoolers

By Scott Turner, KP News

It started last fall, when Jessica Smeall, recreation coordinator for Key Pen Parks, needed volunteers to help with the annual Harvest Festival.

"We needed help with the hayride, so I went to the middle school," Smeall said. "I just asked the kids if they could help, and our sign-up table was rushed by students who wanted to be part of it."

That was before the program that's now called "Park PALS" even had an official name. It stands for "people who all love to serve."

"The response was just overwhelming," Smeall said. "The kids were especially excited about doing something they could dress up for and have fun, and also be giving service to the community."

After the success of the hayride, the PALS group went to work on another big Key Pen Parks event — the annual Breakfast with Santa. "The kids became the elves and they directed people to tables and helped with the crafts," Smeall said.

In April, PALS helped judge the costume contest and handed out eggs at the annual Pet Easter Egg Hunt, "... and they even got to make some of the announcements," she said.

Smeall and her co-workers now realize that



Photo by Scott Turner, KP News

**Key Peninsula Middle School student Kaitlin Hall helps Jessica Smeall, Key Pen Parks recreation coordinator, recruit new "PAL" members to sign up for last month's Park Appreciation Day.**

the PALS program serves a dual purpose.

"We have a real need for more people at the events, just being there as event support. But also, the middle school age group needs things to be doing as well. "This program kind of fills that gap for those three years while they're in middle school. It also gives them a chance to have a lot of responsibility."

According to Smeall, about 40 kids have participated in the program so far.

"The school staff loves it. They're just over the moon with what this has done with their

kids. There was really nothing like it before," she said.

One of the major benefits of this type of youthful volunteerism — which Smeall calls "service learning" — is that it's not just about volunteering.

"It's getting the kids to really see the difference they make, that they're doing something in the community," she said. "They're also learning to organize themselves into action groups and analyze how things are working."

Jeri Goebel, Key Peninsula Middle School

principal, agreed. "It's amazing how much leadership it's building with our students.

"I was surprised with how much the students really want to give back to the community at that age. They're just really excited to help the community and help other kids. Jessica has found niches for the kids that don't involve sports or other activities. I think it's amazing," Goebel said.

One of Smeall's regular PALS volunteers is 11-year-old Kaitlin Hall, a KPMS sixth-grader.

"She was the very first one to run up to my table and say 'I want to help,'" Smeall said. "And after the first event she made a commitment to help at every event — and she's been at every one since then."

Hall said she signed up because she thought it sounded "pretty cool, and I thought it would be really fun.

"We're entertaining people, letting other people have fun, and we're volunteering and helping people. I guess you could say we're helping people be happier," Hall said.

Hall said the program has also made a difference in the way she communicates with people.

"I used to get nervous talking to people, but in these events we talk to people a lot and this just has really helped me communicate better," she said.

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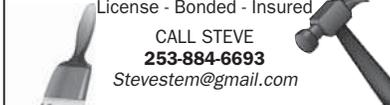


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Right: Bill Lloyd, of Longbranch, took top prize in the inaugural "Adult Spelling Bee" last month at the Blend Wine Shop in Key Center. Lloyd and six other spellers joined in the two-hours of fun and raised money for the Watermark Young Writers program. The list of words were chosen from a 1900s-era, New Century Dictionary. The definitions were read by emcee Dix Hare, and Mardies Van Cise served as the event judge.

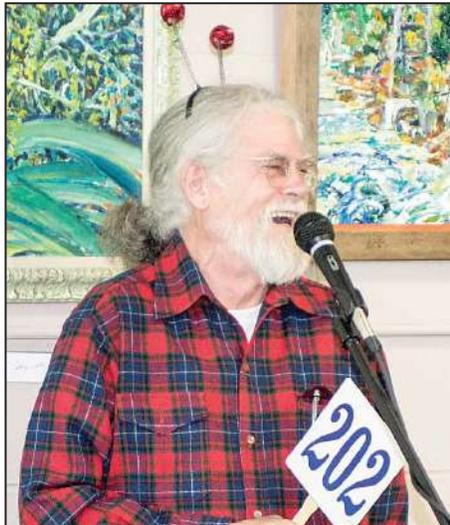


Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News

## Where in the World...



Denise and Holly Hendrick spent a month traveling around Australia and Fiji with Holly's parents in March 2012, in part, to celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary and to escape the Pacific Northwest winter drudgery. It did snow on the KP in March 2012. As you can see from this photo, it was very sunny during their stay in Sydney!

Denise owns Romantic Recollections, a historical costume and millinery business in Lakebay. Holly is the marketing and facilities coordinator at the KP Civic Center and co-founder of the Fresh Food Revolution Co-op.

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Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News



Courtesy photo by Adam Scroggins

Above: Landon Forsell, Logan Rutz and Brooklynn Goins clean up a corner of Volunteer Park during Parks Appreciation Day, April 20. "We had about 200 volunteers help at the Purdy Spit, the Gateway Park, 360 Trail Park and Volunteer Park," said Jessica Smeall, Key Pen Parks recreation coordinator. "I want to thank everyone that took the time to help, especially all the groups who brought out their members." Smeall said volunteers spent some 600 hours beautifying KP parks. "Our Earth is happy with us this year for sure," she said.

Left: Last month bassist Ron Strom and percussionist Pam Delgado, along with other members of the popular Blame Sally band, performed in front of more than 150 fans at the Longbranch Improvement Club.