



Peninsula School District
Mid-Winter Break

Feb. 17-21

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
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Wauna, WA
98395
Permit No. 2
BOX HOLDER

INSIDE & ONLINE

FEBRUARY 2014

Online



Tennis instruction

- Medical marijuana
- YMCA expansion
- Fire District 16 fire reports

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KP postmaster wants to know your name

By Scott Turner, KP News

There's a new face at the Vaughn post office.

In December, DeeDee Emmett was appointed Postmaster of the local facility.

Emmett had worked for the postal service in Tacoma since 1987.

"I started out as a clerk on a machine sorting letters and we would key in ZIP Codes — one letter a second — for eight hours. It was very monotonous," Emmett said after a recent shift.

In 1995, she was promoted into management in a supervisory position.

"I was working just with employees. I didn't work with the customers at all. So I wanted to make the post office a better place to work," she said.

But she missed the customer service part of the job — "the face-to-face

(See Postmaster, Page 4)



Photo by Scott Turner, KP News

Vaughn Postmaster DeeDee Emmett dives into one of the many Key Center-based post office boxes recently. Emmett became the postmaster late last year. She said it's her goal to get to know every one of her customers' names by heart.

Construction in the works at Lake Kathryn shopping plaza

By Rick Sorrels, KP News

A lot of heavy equipment is moving dirt and trees at the Lake Kathryn Shopping Center. Rumors are spreading across the Key like wildfire.

Don Zimmerman and his wife, Kathryn, have owned the shopping center for 40 years. Don is a licensed pharmacist, frequently found behind the counter at Cost Less Prescriptions.

The most recent major change at Lake Kathryn was the construction of the Burger King restaurant which opened in 2005.

According to Zimmerman, as a result of the calculated increase in vehicle traffic for Burger King, Pierce County required him to construct and pay for more than \$800,000 in road and signal light improvements along State Route 302.

"Those road improvement costs wiped out 40 years' of equity that had been gained by the shopping center," Zimmerman said. "With all of the costs and expense that the governments dump on the small businessman, it's nasty out there for a businessman trying to make a go of it."

The current work being done by Rush Construction will complete the last of the required road improvements. Completion date is set for April 2014.

The current entrance at 92nd Avenue will continue to be an entrance, but will allow exit only, with a right turn onto SR302, toward Purdy.

The primary entrance will be at the 94th Avenue signal light (for which Zimmerman said he paid dearly). That entrance driveway will go south and then turn 90 degrees east to join the existing parking mall parking lot.

In addition to the road work, Rush Construction also will be doing infrastructure work to prepare for potential new business occupants. This includes grading and filling, retaining walls, catch basins, vaults and utilities like electric, water, telephone, cable and additional septic to the building sites.

A review of Planning and Land Services building permit records reveals that all environmental and forest practices permits

(See Construction, Page 2)

(From Construction, Page 1)

and requirements have been reviewed and approved over the past two years. There are no building permit applications filed yet, because there are no contracts yet with any additional tenants, Zimmerman said.

"I've been in negotiations with a number of prospective new tenants over the years, including some 'big box' stores," Zimmerman said. "But there are no commitments. Hopefully, the economy will make an upturn, and we can start to see some real changes on the KP."

Zimmerman admitted that he had to borrow a major portion of the cost of the work being done now.

A review of the Assessor's records shows that Zimmerman owns 52 acres at Lake Kathryn and has an annual property tax bill of more than \$102,000.

"It is not easy being a businessman these days," he said. "The government stacks so very much against a business becoming successful."



Photo by Scott Turner, KP News

Key Peninsula resident Charles Wilber gets a bird's-eye view of the lake Kathryn construction recently. "I have been here a few times to see what's going on," he said.

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KEY PENINSULA NEWS

www.keypennews.com

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

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2. The objective of Key Peninsula News is to support and create community by reporting news and features and providing a forum for local information. News and editorial coverage focuses on the Key Peninsula and immediately adjacent areas within Five Dunes 19.

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The opinions expressed herein are the opinions of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the publishers or staff. All letters to the editor must be signed and include a daytime phone number for verification. No anonymous letters will be published. Submissions are used on a space available basis and may be edited if need. THE KEY PENINSULA NEWS reserves the right to edit all submissions for length and content. Mail letters to: P.O. Box 1, Vaughn, WA 98394, or email to news@keypennews.com.



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FEBRUARY 2014

Key Pen Parks PROGRAM GUIDE

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

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Mid-Winter Break

Grades K-5 CAMPS

Eco Adventures & LEGO Camps!

ECO ADVENTURE: TINKER CAMP

Hands-on RECYCLED ART project!

Day: Tues. Feb 18th

Time: 10:00am-12:00pm

Fee: \$10

Location: Civic Center



LEGO: MINING & CRAFTING

Experience the world of Minecraft® with Lego®!

Day: Wed. Feb 19th

Time: 9:30am-12:30pm

Fee: \$25

Location: Volunteer Park

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LEGO: JUNIOR ROBOTICS

All the fun of building with Lego® bricks, PLUS the challenge of computer programming!

Day: Wed. Feb 19th

Time: 1:30-4:30pm

Fee: \$25

Location: Volunteer Park



ECO ADVENTURE: CAMP ROCKS!

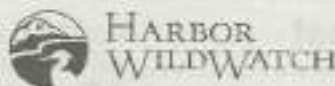
Learn about geology with games & edible experiments, taught by Harbor WildWatch!

Day: Thur. Feb 20th

Time: 9:30am-12:30pm

Fee: \$15

Location: Volunteer Park



ECO ADVENTURE: BIRDS & WALL

Hands-on learning with the Camp Naturalists: binoculars first, then climbing wall after LUNCH.

Day: Fri. Feb 21st

Time: 10:00am-2:00pm

Fee: \$30 includes lunch in Dining Hall

Location: YMCA Camp Seymour



PeeWee Indoor Soccer

Instructor: Kidz Love Soccer

Day: Mondays Dates: Jan 27 – Mar 24

Classes: 8 Fee: \$68

Location: Camp Stand By Me (REC CENTER)

Class	Times	Ages
Tot Soccer	4:00-4:30pm	3.5-4 yrs
Pre Soccer	4:30-5:05pm	4-5 yrs
Soccer 1	5:05-5:50pm	5-6 yrs
Mommy/Daddy & Me Soccer	6:00-6:30pm	2-3.5 yrs

KIDZ LOVE SOCCER



A typical session experience includes age appropriate activities: skill demonstrations, fun games, and instructional scrimmages. Young soccer enthusiasts experience soccer fun in a safe, non-competitive environment. Kidz Love Soccer... "Where the score is always FUN to FUN!"

PeeWee Basketball

ages 4-8

- Learn basic basketball skills, confidence on the court, sportsmanship, and teamwork
- Play some small-sided, non-competitive games

• Instructor is Jess Smeall, Recreation Coordinator, with many years of basketball experience, both playing & coaching, with Park PAL assistants.



Instructor: Jess Smeall

Day: Saturdays Dates: Feb 15 – Mar 22

Classes: 6 Fee: \$51

Location: Civic Center Gym

Class	Times	Ages
Pre Basketball	9:30-10:15am	4-6 yrs
Jr. Basketball	10:30-11:15am	6-8 yrs

(If your child is 6, choose from either class)

Adult Art Classes



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with JUNE MOON BEADS

Sat Feb 8 2014

9:30a-12:30p

\$25

For adults 16 & up

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES:

- Mon. Feb 10th Park Board Mtg 7:30pm @ Volunteer Park
- Mon. Feb 24th Public Mtg 7:00pm @ Volunteer Park

FITNESS CAMP

WINTER 2 SESSION For adults 16 & up

Instructor: Shannon Reichl

Location: Volunteer Park (inside & outside!)

Day: Tues & Thurs Time: 6-7pm

Dates: Feb 18 – Mar 27

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

Join mid-session and we will prorate the fee!

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(From Postmaster, Page 1)

contact."

She has plenty of that at Vaughn.

There are more than 700 box holders in the (Key Center-area) facility and they all come in to the post office to get their mail.

Emmett has already learned most of their names, too.

"As they come in, I at least recognize their face, if not their name. And most of them know my name," she said.

"They come and say 'Hi DeeDec.' I love that! It really makes me feel part of the community," she added.

Emmett has deep roots in the Key Peninsula, even though she lives on Fox Island.

Her grandmother lived in Home and as a child Emmett visited her frequently.

"So this is kind of like over the river and through the woods fun for me," she said with a laugh. "I have lots of great memories."

Her father grew up on the Key Peninsula and graduated from Peninsula High School and several of Emmett's customers went to school with him.

"And my grandfather, Chuck McVicker, was a school bus driver out here forever," she said. "People called him 'Shorty' because he was about 5-foot 4. I asked a couple of my customers if they remember their school bus driver and they said 'Yeab. Shorty McVicker.' And I said, 'Yep, he's the one.'"

One of Emmett's goals is to increase revenue at the popular facility.

"One of the things people don't recognize is that if our revenue goes down, that's how they close post offices. They determine if a post office

is going to stay open based on revenue the post office makes," she explained, adding that her post office doesn't receive any tax dollars.

"We're completely self-supporting. Tax dollars don't supplement us," she said. "All the monies we use to pay our employees and run our facilities come from selling a stamp or a P.O. box," she said, scooting back deeper into her office chair.

So Emmett is encouraging people to come in, to say hi, and to buy stamps or rent a P.O. box.

"We have a big problem with theft out here (on the Key) because this is so rural and so many people live at the ends of little dead end roads," she said.

Post office boxes are a safe alternative. "Your mail stays in a safe environment where no one can touch it," she said.

Emmett also is committed to making the post office a friendly, helpful, comfortable place.

"I'm a people person and I want people to like coming here."

She was surprised recently when a couple of young 20-something fellows came into the post office and needed help muling a letter. "The Internet is really killing the post office, so I'm even showing people how to use a stamp."

But that's just another part of good customer service, she said.

"JoAnn Clark (a former Postmaster) was here forever and ever and ever, and people really liked her. So when people come in here now, I want them to feel comfortable. I want to earn their trust.

"I want people to know that I'm here for them and that community is really important to me.

"And if you want to keep the post office, you've got to use it," Emmett said.

Jesse Young appointed to State House seat

A joint meeting of the Pierce County Council and the Kitsap County Commissioners appointed Gig Harbor resident Jesse Young to fill Jan Angel's vacant seat in the State House of Representatives for District 26.

Angel was elected in November to the State Senate. Young is a Republican and works as a health care consultant at Kaiser Permanente.

Correction

Last month's front page photo caption had a misspelling. The correct name of the Peninsula School District's mechanic is Jori M. Dupille. The Key Peninsula News staff strives to provide accurate information. Corrections should be sent to editor@keypennews.com.



connect with your schools

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Partnership between PSD, community helps provide public transportation

Every Tuesday and Thursday during the school year, several Peninsula School District buses travel up and down the Key Peninsula on specific routes — only instead of transporting students, the bus rides are open to the general public, free of cost.

Now in its third year, an innovative program called KP Bus Connects utilizes empty school district buses for public transportation, through a PSD partnership with the Key Peninsula Community Council and the Puget Sound Educational Service District.

Two morning buses — which would otherwise travel empty from Vaughn or Evergreen elementary schools to the bus barn in Purdy — offer rides on predetermined routes to local services such as shopping centers. The routes end at the Purdy Park &

Ride, where passengers can connect with a Kitsap Transit or a Pierce Transit bus. Another route is available midday, when buses are en route to pick up students, and there are return routes in the evening.

“Our ridership numbers are growing,” said Marcia Harris, former PSD deputy superintendent who is coordinating the program as part of the community council.

She said that the bus hotline, 884-BUSS, has been getting an increased number of inquiries as well. “It’s a good school district and community partnership and use of an underused resource,” Harris said.

The program is funded by a transportation grant, which allows for PSD to be reimbursed for additional driver time and gasoline. The grant funding is available through June 2015.

Rides continue during the summer, and starting this year the service was expanded to two days. Peninsula High School students who need to stay after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays and need a ride home are also taking advantage of the rides.

“This is a win-win situation for all, since there is no other bus service on the Key Peninsula,” said PSD Transportation Director Annie Bell. “Peninsula School District takes great pride in being able to service the community in such a great way and having this partnership with the Key Peninsula Community Council. This is a good way to capitalize empty buses.”



Sam McCoy, pictured with PSD driver Kathy Gardner before a recent KP Bus Connects departure, takes the bus home every week from the Purdy Park and Ride. In the past, he rode his bicycle for six miles, including uphill and on dangerous stretches of State Route 302, to get to Purdy. In a letter to KP Community Council, he said the bus has been a godsend and expressed his “appreciation to all the people whose devotion and caring have made the project a working reality.”

Homeless Assistance Act

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act was authorized by Congress, December 2001, as part of the No Child Left Behind Legislation. The purpose of the Act is to remove barriers to education for homeless/transitional students and provide educational support and stability.

Who is eligible for services?

Any child or youth, including migrant and unaccompanied youth, who lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence is considered homeless and McKinney-Vento eligible for assistance and services. This includes children and youth who are temporarily sharing housing with others due to loss of housing or economic hardship, those living in hotels, camping grounds, emergency shelters, cars, bus or train stations and those awaiting foster care or are in temporary placements. If you are not sure if a child qualifies, call 253-530-1082.

If you have a student/child who may qualify for McKinney-Vento services or would like more information, please contact Lisa Reaugh, Peninsula School District McKinney Vento liaison at 253-530-1082 or reaughl@psd401.net.

Meet the School Board President

Email: gallingerh@psd401.net

Appointed: 12/6/2012

Elected: 11/05/2013

Term expires: 11/2015

Dr. Harlan Gallinger represents District 4, the west side of Gig Harbor, including Fox Island. Harlan has a strong interest in improving



science and math curriculum, educational equality, improving school facilities and planning for long-term growth in the District. Dr. Gallinger is an Emergency Physician with Tacoma Emergency Care Physicians.

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Peninsula Views

Credit, debit card breaches

During the holiday shopping season, supposedly secure confidential information was stolen from more than 110 million credit and debit card users at Target

stores across the nation. It has since been released that similar breaches occurred at Neiman Marcus, with more revelations to come.

The stolen information is resold time and time again for illegal purposes. Many reports have shown high-dollar fraudulent credit card purchases overseas, where the card holder never traveled.

Illegal immigrants and criminals can use stolen Social Security numbers to steal your identification for employment, take your retirement or medical benefits, or have credit cards issued and sent directly to their address.

Stolen account numbers can allow thieves to purchase and then return merchandise for cash, while you get the charges against your account, or they could just resell on Craig's List or eBay. The routing number and account number from your personal check could be enough to empty your bank accounts.

TransUnion, one of the three big credit reporting agencies, suggests taking the following actions for better peace of mind:

1.) Cancel credit or debit cards used at Target, Neiman Marcus and other retailers with confirmed breaches. Call your financial institution and ask them to issue you a new card.

2.) Carefully review your bank and credit card statements for purchases

Rick Sorrels
The Pragmatic Sophist



you didn't make. Keep an eye on your transactions for a long time, as it may take a while for fraudulent activity to show up.

3.) Report suspicious activity to your financial institution as soon as possible.

4.) If you do find fraudulent transactions, you can call all three national credit bureaus (TransUnion, Experian, and Equifax) and place a fraud alert or credit freeze on your accounts.

Your credit reports should be checked periodically and errors corrected. Credit scores are commonly used to determine loan rates, insurance premiums, and even eligibility for employment.

Federal law requires each credit bureau to provide one free credit report upon request each year. This can be done online, but be sure to use their official websites. If not careful, you may end up paying a fee to a middleman to obtain your "free" report.

Hard economic times stimulate a lot of creativity in the criminal mind. The problem is not limited to credit and debit cards. A few years ago, a briefcase containing personal information for 100,000 veteran patients was stolen from a VA employee that sent the federal government into a panic.

Remember that you are your own and best first line of defense.

Don't have an opinion before reading the column

We seem to be an opinionated people.

Name a topic, and people have opinions. Television, radio, and the Internet (not to mention coffee shops and church pews) are drowning in opinions on the president, the best team in football, and the names celebrities give to their children.

True experts are few and far between, but it doesn't seem to matter. Everybody with a Twitter account can share their opinions with the world. We can ignore the science on climate change if enough people share their opinions with clever status updates. Who needs a political science expert when all we have to do is check out the opinions of movie stars and musicians?

I would like to point out two downsides to this publicly opinionated culture.

First, people get too caught up in their opinions and miss out on actually living life. We see this whenever a disaster or triumph occurs. Without taking time to process the moment, many jump on their smart phones and share their opinions on the matter, as if they were the center of the story.

In the Bible, Paul suggested people rejoice with those who are rejoicing, and weep with those who are weeping. We go online and share our opinions about people who are weeping.

It's like the person standing at Paradise, gazing up at Mount Rainier, sharing a long list of opinions about the mountain, ("it's too cold," "It's not as tall as Mount Whitney,") instead of putting on their boots and going for a hike.

Second, we risk making the story all about

Dan Whitmarsh
Writing by Faith



us. An example: After a recent mall shooting, I read responses that ranged from, "I went to a mall just like that once! That could have been me!" to, "Let me tell you all about my gun collection so you can see I'm a real man who wouldn't let this happen to me!"

See the problem there? The story was the mall shooting. The victims were the people at that mall. But the responses were nothing more than opinions that stole attention from the real story, placing the focus in the wrong place.

I should qualify this by saying it's not your opinions that bother me. It's that, to many, an opinion is all that is necessary. Our involvement ends at having an opinion.

Emerson once wrote, "What you are stands over you the while and thunders so loud that I cannot hear what you say to the contrary." His point is that we can say all we want, but our lives tell the true story of who we are.

In the first edition of this article I toyed with titling it, "Nobody cares what you drink." In the end, that seemed a bit too rude (in my opinion). But perhaps it's time we spent less time being opinionated, and more time rolling up our sleeves and actually doing something to make the world a better place.

Dan Whitmarsh is pastor at Lakebay Community Church. He can be reached at dan@lakebaycovenant.net.

Letters Policy

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used. The Ken Peninsula News reserves the right to edit all submissions for length and content. Mail letters to: P.O. Box 3, Vaughn, WA 98394, or email to news@keypennnews.com.

The Jaggi farm features an oversized mushroom comprised of a painted boulder resting atop a tree stump.



Photo by Steve Whitford, KP News

Giant 'shroom of the peninsula worth taking a respectful look

Meet John Jaggi, age 45, a lifelong resident of the Key Peninsula.

He lives with his fiancé, Andrea Lane, and his 15-month-old son, Braxton, on their five acres on Edgin Clifton Road.

Jaggi inherited the land from his great-grandparents, Friedrich and Loretta Jaggi, who purchased the 300-acre parcel in 1909. The Jaggi ranch is a picture of storybook-like perfection.

Besides the main house and scattered outbuildings, there's a picnic area, complete with a table and two wood fire barbecue pits. Each pit is set up with metal rods capable of holding an entire animal, be it hog, cow or wild game, much like you would see in a western movie.

Next to that sits the smokehouse, identified and adorned with a large wood carving of a salmon. Down the hill a bit, the horseshoe pits wait for competitors. The rest of the ranch is strewn with relics from bygone eras.

One example would be the buzz saw used by his great-grandparents. It was portable and was powered by a tractor motor. It was used to cut trees into vertical slabs that could be made into lumber. Alongside the driveway sits the first electric gas pump from the long gone gas station — which was located across the street from O'Callahan's. It's price for gas frozen forever at nine cents a gallon.

This brings us to the story of the giant "shroom."

Approximately two years ago, Jaggi was removing trees from one of his fields when he noticed part of rock sticking out

of the ground.

After considerable digging, he realized that the boulder was huge, approximately six by seven feet in size. Fortunately, Jaggi works in heavy construction, and with his loader he was able to lift and position the rock on top of a large tree stump.

Jaggi estimated the weight of the behemoth at 4,000-plus pounds. With a little imagination and paint, Jaggi created quite possibly the world's largest Amanita mushroom, which is native to our area. The actual mushrooms are reddish brown with white spots. Their beauty belies their deadly nature if eaten.

Jaggi has lots of plans for ranch improvements that include a giant treehouse and tire swing for his young son, Braxton. The tire is immense and originally was on an old John Deere loader. In addition Jaggi has located two more boulders that he plans on digging up, decorating and displaying.

If you want to view the giant mushroom art, just take SR-302. If you're going toward Allyn, it can be seen in all its glory from the road. It's on the left side, just before the Drive Through Feed store and it's definitely worth a look and a like. One thing though, if sightseeing, you will want to respect Jaggi's property and privacy. He values them both and is known to be handy with a gun or a knife.

Steve Whitford Words of Whit



Thank You For Your Generous Support

The Key Peninsula News sincerely thanks everyone who contributed to our fund drive. To those of you who did not wish to be named, we hope you know how much your contribution means to the Key Peninsula News. To those who could not contribute this year, we thank you for reading our newspaper and supporting our advertisers.

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Water, water, everywhere, still a fragile commodity

Seasonally we here on the Key are nearly surrounded by water. Case Inlet is to the west, Carr Inlet to the east, the Nisqually Reach to the south. Sippy rain clouds are above us and our precious ground water is below us.

Of all our waters, our ground water is the most important to us. An aquifer is a layer of sand, gravel, soil, permeable rock and clay that can hold water. Coarse grained sand and gravel hold high amounts of water, as can really porous bedrock if there are large openings or cracks.

Sometimes an aquifer is confined, meaning it is sealed above and below by impermeable rock, clay or silt. If it has internal pressure, springs may erupt. A well punched into it will flow freely. That is an artesian well.

Because the Key doesn't have any rivers fed by glacier melt or mountain snow, we must rely on rain and melted snow to recharge our aquifer. The absorption of surface water through the soil and into the aquifer filters the water as it replenishes. The water table is the top surface level of the charged aquifer. It moves up and down as rain and snow melt changes the recharge pace during the year.

When we drill a well we penetrate silt, soil, sand, gravel, clay and rock until we get below the water table. We want to drill far enough below it that even in dry years when the water table is very low we'll be deep enough to be in a reliable ground water pool. The act of pumping water out causes an unnatural localized depression to occur in the water table. The depression causes the rate of absorption near the wellhead to increase.

Our most important aquifer is called the Salmon Springs Dnft. It is between 150 and 250 feet deep. Aquifer water moves horizontally. Flow rates are typically measured in feet per day. It may take years, decades or more for groundwater to move long distances.

For that reason, buffer zones are needed around wellheads. First is the sanitary zone in which no septic or similar waste-

William I. Trandum
Winds, Tides & Weathers



water discharges are allowed. In Pierce County, that zone is normally a 100 foot diameter circle around a wellhead. Next is travel zone 1. It is the zone in which it would take a year for a contaminant to move horizontally from where it got into the aquifer to where it would be picked up by the well.

Most microbes (coliform bacteria, giardia, and E. coli) cannot survive for a year in groundwater. No matter how fast they get from the surface to the aquifer, as long as it takes a year to move to the well site, human water drinkers (as opposed to beer drinkers, I suppose) are considered safe. Two other zones, a five-year travel and a 10-year travel zone are also calculated and used for protection for major municipal water supplies.

What this means for the Key is that we must pray our annual precipitation is sufficient to recharge our aquifer, and that the Pierce County Health Department will diligently protect it. In that regard, I found it disturbing that the health department website dealing with our aquifer only contains test data through the year 2007. State of Washington data is current, but simply classifies nearly every Key Peninsula wellhead as "unknown-presumed high susceptibility." It gives each a default 1,000-foot diameter travel 1 protection zone. That's not particularly comforting.

The Kitsap Peninsula, of which we are part, gets on average 50.6 inches of rainfall per year. Of that, an estimated 47 percent evaporates or is used by plants, trees and shrubs, while 37 percent runs off into Puget Sound. Fourteen percent provides the base flow for creeks and streams. Just seven percent goes to recharge our aquifer.

(See Trandum, Page 9)

Flemming, Lee, Young compete for November council election

By Rick Sorrels, KP News

Stan Flemming and Terry Lee have both announced that they will be running for county councilmember for Pierce County District 7 in the November 2014 general election. Both have declared themselves as Republicans in past elections.

Just before press time, Derek Young announced that he will be running in the same race, as a Democrat.

Flemming currently holds the position. He was elected in November 2010 and took office on Jan. 1, 2011. Earlier positions held by Flemming were State Rep. for the 28th District and mayor of University Place. Flemming also is a physician and a retired U.S. Army brigadier general.

Lee was Flemming's predecessor as councilman, elected first in November 2002, and again in 2006. He left office on Jan. 1, 2011, after serving the maximum term allowed of two consecutive four-year terms. Lee is currently the director for PenMet Parks on the Gig Harbor Peninsula, and served for years on the Pierce

County Planning Commission.

Young just finished serving 16 years as a city councilmember for the City of Gig Harbor. Young also owns and manages a local graphic design consulting business.

All three candidates have experience serving on the same various board and committees representing other municipal governments such as Puget Sound Regional Council, Pierce Transit, et cetera.

The County Charter requires that each of the seven political districts have equal population. The Key and Gig Harbor peninsulas had contained the majority of the voters for District 7 until the boundary lines were recently redrawn.

According to Flemming, the majority of District 7 voters now live on "the other side" of the Narrows Bridge.

All three candidates live on the Gig Harbor Peninsula, and all have proven themselves excellent candidates for the Pierce County Council.

It's still early in the election cycle; other candidates may still come forward. It should prove to be another interesting election year.

(From *Trandum*, Page 8)

Our septic systems, streets, gutters, parking lots and drainage ditches collect thousands of gallons of contaminants including gas, oil, anti-freeze and tossed-out cold lattes each year. Some evaporates, but aided by rainwater, some seeps into the ground beneath us and commences its inevitable journey into our water supply.

A WSDOT study in 2011 concluded that on an average day, 26,000 vehicles cross the Purdy Spit. If the half heading onto the Key contribute one ounce of contaminant per day, they would send 37,070 gallons of crud onto the Key every year.

If only seven percent actually makes it to the aquifer, that's 2,595 gallons per year. Trees and plants won't touch the stuff, so it flows into our aquifer or the Sound.

East Pierce County is lucky; 62 percent of Puyallup's water comes from two natural springs and the rest from four wells.

Mount Rainier on her outskirts and the Puyallup, White, Carbon and other rivers recharge her aquifer so ground water contamination is not so scary. Here on the Key we don't enjoy that benefit and must be particularly vigilant about protecting the water on our fifth border, the one below us.

Bill Trandum is a guest columnist for the Key Pen News and a self-described student of all things wind, water, tides and weathers.

Purdy creek culvert project in the works

Pierce County Public Works is considering purchasing and eliminating the Chevron gas station at Purdy Drive and 144th Street in Purdy in order to restore Purdy Creek. Decisions will be made in March 2014. Direct comments to Project Manager Ziad Farrah at (253) 798-4228.

Mardi Gras - Here We Come!

The first annual Key Peninsula Mardi Gras Music Festival is ready to vibrate your soul and shake your beads on February 8th. The festival will rock with Filé Gumbo, The Kim Archer Band, Gabriel and Merrilee Rush, whose song "Angel of the Morning" hit #1 in 1968.

An authentic southern dinner provided by Murph's BBQ, best guest costume contest to crown of King and Queen of the parade, and signature Mardi Gras cocktails will keep everyone hopping until midnight.

The music festival features fantastic music from three local bands. Filé Gumbo has been playing their New Orleans R&B for more than 25 years; their distinct rockin' Cajun, zydeco soul makes you feel like you're on the bayous of Southwestern Louisiana. Kim Archer, known for her raw, powerhouse performances, follows in the footsteps of great female singer/songwriters like Joan Armatrading, Melissa Etheridge and Bonnie Raitt; you'll get your groove on with Kim's heavy, funky soul sound.

Our headliner for the evening is Merrilee Rush, with band Gabriel. In the 1970's, Gabriel was one of Seattle's most popular and influential bands, selling a quarter million records worldwide. Their biggest record, "Martha" (1977), reached #32 on the Billboard Charts. These two original hit-making artists perform some of the most iconic hits from the musical era that changed both a generation of young people, and the world at large. Rush's show

Let's get Crackin'!

We invite you to our annual Crab Feed Fundraiser on Saturday, February 15th, 4-7pm. In addition to the fresh Pacific Coast Coast Dungeness crab, the dinner will include spaghetti, Caesar salad, and garlic bread. Soda, beer and wine will be available for sale.

Please bring your own seafood crackers and picks for crab eating.



CIVIC CENTER CORNER

features hit songs like "Every Time I Roll the Dice," Gabriel hit "Take it Back," "Love The One You're With," "China Grove," and, of course, her signature song, "Angel of the Morning."

An authentic Southern dinner with all the fixins - BBQ chicken, pulled pork, Gumbo, dirty rice, red beans and rice, and King cake - from Murph's BBQ will be served. Mardi Gras signature cocktails, including the Hurricane and the Rum Runner, will be featured at the no-host bar, along with beer and wine furnished by Blend Wine Shop.

We will also be crowning best dressed guests for King and Queen, who will lead the parade. Come join us for great Mardi Gras fun. Beads, parade, Southern food, and fantastic music!

Tickets are \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door, includes in/out entry and meal. Doors open at 6pm; dinner served from 6-9pm. This is a 21+ only event. Purchase tickets at All Star Guitar in Gig Harbor, or on the Key Peninsula at Blend, Sunnycrest Nursery, the KP Civic Center or on our website.

Mardi Gras attire encouraged - the more outrageous, the better!

Sponsored by: All Star Guitar, Blend Wine Shop, Sunnycrest Nursery and Floral. Net proceeds benefit the KP Civic Center.

For more information, please visit our Facebook event page: <http://bit.ly/KPCC-2014MardiGras>

Volunteers from Boy Scout Troop #220, Girl Scout Troop #40956, and the KP Youth Council will be helping set-up and serve at the event, giving them an opportunity to take pride in the care and maintenance of the civic center.

Tickets are \$30/Adults, \$10/Kids and can be purchased at Blend, Sunnycrest Nursery, the KP Civic Center, and on our website. Net proceeds benefit the KP Civic Center.

www.kpciviccenter.org

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

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The power to be...

Stan Flemming addresses state of Pierce County

By Rick Sorrels, KP News

At the Jan. 8 meeting of the Key Peninsula Community Council, Pierce County councilmember Stan Flemming gave a "State of the County" report at the fire station in Key Center to a crowded room. Flemming is the councilman for District 7, which includes the Gig Harbor and Key peninsulas.

The focus of Flemming's report was limited to items directly affecting the Key Peninsula.

After many years of budget and service cuts necessitated by declining revenue and mid-year deficits, he said the Pierce County budget has now started to recover, increasing from \$905 million in 2013 to \$978 million for 2014.

His report covered several topics, including struggles the new owners of the Lakebay Marina have had during refurbishing the landmark facilities (grandfathered from requirements of current regulations). Recent challenges were triggered by new building permit applications. Flemming said he assisted with "workarounds" which made completion possible.

The 360 Trails and Gateway Park adjoin each other, but had two different sets of zoning requirements which were complicated and burdensome for Key Pen Parks. The designation has been changed to a "park" zoning for both parks, he said.

Flemming said that the state-required update for the Shoreline Management Plan is nearing completion. "It has proven to be a conflict of stupidity versus common sense," and he added "Shoreline

property owners need to monitor these changes, because they will be affected greatly by new restrictions."

When federal funds were cut from the Children's Home Society, which could have resulted in its closure, Flemming said he helped restore the funding.

He also mentioned that in 2014, Pierce County will see the largest capital improvement project in the history of Pierce County at the Chambers Creek sewer treatment plant. And he discussed plans to consolidate all county operations into a single location at the previous Puget Sound Hospital to reduce redundancy and save money.

The councilman spoke of several public works projects on the KP, which will include shoulder widening for Key Pen Highway from 79th Street to Cramer Road, improvements along Herron Road, construction along State Route 302 at 118th Avenue, and construction through the Wauna curves.

Flemming said the county is working on an abandoned and foreclosed home ordinance to help ensure that properties are maintained when empty, and to discourage vandalism and theft, "placing the owner or bank on the hook," he added.

Also included in his summary was a review of changes that would allow Key Pen Parks to conduct events without seeking approval from Pierce County before each event, which had been a requirement before Key Pen Parks became a separate municipal entity.

He announced Pierce County's pilot program to broaden the responsibilities of the Key Peninsula Advisory Council (KPAC) and its interaction with KP residents.

A recent re-districting of District 7 resulted in a shift of the majority of voters from the Key and Gig Harbor peninsulas to the Tacoma side of the Narrows Bridge. That boundary change could affect whether our elected councilmember lives on or off the peninsulas and could drive decisions on county ordinances, he said.

The council position for District 7 will be on the general election ballot in November 2014.



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State audit finds violations with Key Pen Parks' records

By Rick Sorrels, KP News

State law requires that the state auditor's office conduct "an examination of the financial condition of all local governments at least once in every three years."

The last audit report for Key Pen Parks covered the years 2008 and 2009 and found nothing of significance. The recent examination and report completed in November 2013 was not as kind.

The auditor found that both business and personal purchases had been charged to the district's credit card. Key Pen Park's name appeared on the card, but the card was actually issued personally to the executive director, using the director's personal credit, all in violation of mandatory statutes and policies.

The report said that in 2012, when purchasing 39 acres (Gateway Park) for \$826,000, Key Pen Parks also paid \$5,788.69 to the seller for moving expenses. Such payment was in violation of statutes, policies, and the terms of the grant contract that helped pay for the purchase.

The auditor also found that timecards

were not signed, as required by the district's own policy.

The report showed that vehicle and fuel use was sometimes not logged and monitored, and that park vehicles were not marked as district assets and "for official use only" as required by state law.

The auditor found an inadequate inventory and tracking of small and attractive assets that might be lost or stolen.

According to Executive Director Scott Gallacher, all corrective action recommended by the auditor has already been completed. The credit card has been canceled, with a new one issued using solely the district's name and credit.

The land purchase and related payments were a one-time event that will not recur. Internal policies and procedures have been modified or implemented to better monitor and control park assets, and the proper identification has been placed on the vehicles, Gallacher said.

State law requires that any audit report that contains findings of noncompliance must be forwarded to the attorney general. A determination is made if such re-

port discloses malfeasance, misfeasance or nonfeasance in office or on the part of any public officer or employee, and if so, the attorney general is required to institute, within 30 days, any potential legal action that may be warranted.

The 30-day time limit has passed and no action has been filed. Both the auditor's and the attorney general's offices said that no action is expected.

Gallacher said the findings appear worse than they actually are.

"When Key Pen Parks was created, it had no credit and could not obtain a credit card in its own name," Gallacher said. "I volunteered my own credit card for parks use, placing my own credit at risk. None of us were aware that this violated law or policy.

"There was an emergency situation where my transmission failed on a trip and I was stranded. I used the credit card, and kept the charges and payment separate," he added.

According to the audit report, there was only one other time that a personal charge was made to the card by another district

employee, which again was kept and paid separately.

"The moving expenses were authorized by the parks board only after I had consulted with Washington State Department of Transportation to see how they handle moving expenses for displaced occupants/tenants when they acquire additional right-of-way," Gallacher said.

"We tried to do the right thing and had no idea that we were doing something wrong."

Except for the payment of the moving expenses, the auditor was unable to identify for the report any misappropriation of Key Pen Parks funds, only that "the district cannot ensure accountability of public funds and property in the areas noted."

Gallacher said the auditor's examinations and reports will be used as a needed stimulus and guide to better serve the public.

"Our policies and procedures have all been tightened up and will be monitored closely to resolve the other issues raised," Gallacher said.



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COMMUNITY PAGES

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

NOW

Lifeguarding is offered at Easter Seals Camp Stand by Me during February. Call the camp office if you are interested in becoming a lifeguard. Laurie, 884-2722.

FEB. 3, 10, 17, 24

Bloodmobile

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

FEB. 4, 11, 18, 25

Story time

Baby story time for up to 24 months, accompanied by an adult, is at 10:15 a.m. Preschool Play and Learn for ages 3-6, accompanied by an adult, is at 11 a.m. Both events are in the Beones Room of the Key Center Library. Age ranges listed are recommendations only. Open block play may be offered after story time. Ask your librarian. 548-3309.

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

FEB. 6

Museum reopens

Key Peninsula Historical Society Museum reopens from 1 to 4 p.m., on Thursdays and Saturdays, with an expansion of the logging display that includes Native Americans, early KP mills, settlers and farming. Free admission, although monetary donations are welcome. Family histories of early KP settlers and photos of local schoolchildren are of interest for the museum. 888-3246 for messages.

To submit an event

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

Fuchsia meeting

The Lakebay Fuchsia Club meets at 7 p.m., at the Key Center Library. Ginnie, 884-9744.

FEB. 7, 14, 21, 28

Family story time

Families with preschool children may enjoy story time 11 to 11:30 a.m., at the Key Center Library. 548-3309.

Skate night

Geared for kids ages 5 to 13, skate night is 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., at the KP Civic Center. Kids may safely enjoy roller skating, arcade games and concessions. Parents are welcome to attend and visit with others on the observation balcony. kpciviccenter.org or 884-3456.

FEB. 7-8

Book sale

Friends of Key Center Library host a book sale Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the library.

FEB. 8

Mardi Gras

The KP Civic Center celebrates Mardi Gras. Tickets are available at The Blend and Sunnycrest. Plus 21 entry. kpciviccenter.org.

FEB. 11, 26

Crochet or knit

The Loving Hearts group knits and crochets for charities including veterans, babies, Backpacks 4 Kids and chemo patients. They meet on Feb. 11 from 1 to 3 p.m., and on Feb. 26 from 7 to 9 p.m., at WayPoint Church, 12719-134th Ave KPN. All are welcome. Yarn donations are always needed. lovingheartsonkp@gmail.com or Virginia, 884-9619.

FEB. 12

Garden club meets

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

KP Council

The KP Community Council hosts several of the major non-profit organization

representatives in the first of two summits this year. Some 10 service organizations will discuss their history, mission, goals and challenges for 2014. The meeting is at 7 p.m., at the KC fire station. 884-6455.

FEB. 13

ACA help

The Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department provides information and resources and certified assisters to walk adults through the Affordable Care Act enrollment process from noon to 2:30 p.m., at the Key Center Library. Participants must pre-register at (253) 548-3309.

Ashes meet

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

FEB. 13, 27

Free clinic

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

FEB. 14, 28

Teen fun

Club Cosmic, for teens grades 8 through 12, is 9 p.m. to midnight. Geared exclusively for teens, this twice-a-month event is chock full of DJ battles, dancing, games, including dodge ball (with glow-in-the-dark balls), name that tune and contests: all for \$5. kpciviccenter.org or 884-3456.

FEB. 15

Crab feed

The KP Civic Center hosts the 10th annual Crab Feed from 3 to 8 p.m. kpciviccenter.org

• FEB. 15-MARCH 22

Pee Wee basketball

Key Pen Parks hosts pee-wee basketball Saturday mornings at the KP Civic Center Gym. Classes are 45 minutes with the time determined by ages. Jessica@keypenparks.com or 884-9240, extension 22.

FEB. 18

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.

FEB. 18

KPC Youth Council

The Youth Council will make its annual trip to Olympia to meet with elected representatives from District 26 to underscore important issues for students on the KP. Middle and high school students are welcome to join the trip. There is a \$5 travel fee and students provide their own lunch. Travelers meet at the Key Center fire station at 8:30 a.m. (253) 468-7115.

Fitness camp

The winter 2 session (ages 16-plus) of fitness camp, taught by Shannon Reichl, runs at 6 to 7 p.m., from Feb. 18 to March 27. Camp is both inside and outside at Volunteer Park. Call 884-9240, extension 22, to register.

FEB. 18-21

Camps offered

Key Pen Parks hosts Eco Adventures and LEGO Camps for grades K-5 during the school break. Contact Jessica@keypenparks.com or 884-9240, extension 22.

FEB. 20

Forum

Mustard Seed's Third Thursday Community Forum is 10 a.m., at the Key Center Fire Station. 884-1205.

Crime meetings

Citizens Against Crime of Key Peninsula will resume its regular meeting schedule the third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m., at the KP fire station in Key Center, effective Thursday, Feb. 20. For information, call Cindy Worden at 851-2401.

(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.L.L. program, taught by Marilyn Perles, includes aerobics, light weight lifting, stretching and balance techniques 10 to 11 a.m., at the KP Community Services in Lakebay. Participants must register with Marilyn, 884-4440.

TUESDAYS

Sing

The Key Singers start rehearsing on Feb. 4 for its spring concert. Practices are Tuesdays at 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 now every Tuesday evening from 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. Care-givers 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 10 at 11 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.

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 beginning at 7 p.m. 884-4440.

SATURDAYS

Writers meet

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

Lakebay Jam with 302

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

(From Community, Page 12)

FEB. 22

Film shown

The documentary film, "Second Chance-Reentry after Prison," is presented at 2 p.m., at the Key Center Library. This event is sponsored by Friends of the Library. Food bank donations are appreciated. 548-3309.

Red Barn Open house

The Red Barn will be hosting an open house from 1 to 4 p.m. During the event, visitors will see the finished program area, as well as the Phase 2 construction space set to hold a multi-purpose area for sports, music and theater. The Red Barn is located at 15921 84th St. KPN. For information, contact joannamaxwell@comcast.net or call (425) 420-7070.

FEB. 27

Robot fun

Children (ages 8 to 12) build and program a robotic vehicle using the Lego Mindstorms kit 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., at the Key Center Library. This event is sponsored by Friends of the Library. 548-3309.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

KP Veterans

Feb. 3 and 17, 7 p.m., at McCodley Hall/KP Lutheran Church; 884-4407 or 884-9852, kpveterans.net.

KP Lions' dinner & program

Feb. 5 and 19, 5:30 p.m., in VFW Room, KP Civic Center; 853-2721.

Peninsula School District Board

Feb. 6, 6 p.m., at District Office.

Key Pen Parks

Feb. 10 and 24, 7 p.m., at Volunteer

Park; keypenparks.com.

Fire District 16

Feb. 11 and 25, 6 p.m., in meeting room, Key Center fire station; keypeninsulafire.org.

Key Peninsula Council

Feb. 12, 7 p.m., at KC Fire Station; kp-council.org.

KP Civic Center Association Board

Feb. 13, 7 p.m., in Whitmore Room; kp-civiccenter.org.

LIC

Feb. 8, pancake breakfast, 9 a.m. to noon.

Feb. 19, dinner potluck, 7 p.m., at Longbranch Improvement Club; 884-6022 longbranchimprovementclub.org.

KP Citizens Against Crime

Feb. 20, 7 p.m., at Key Center fire station; kpcitizensagaincrime.org.

KP Farm Council

Feb. 24, 6:30 p.m., at Home fire station; bketts@hotmail.com.

OFF THE KEY

FEB. 5

3D printing

Teens to adults learn about 3D Printing and see a demonstration of the Peninsula Library's Afinia 3D printers at 6:30 p.m. This event requires registration. 548-3305.

Feb. 8 Bloodmobile

The bloodmobile is at the Gig Harbor

Safeway 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

FEB. 18

WorkSource applications

This 11 a.m. workshop will assist adult job seekers in learning how to complete applications and draft resumes in the most effective way possible. This event is at the Peninsula Library and requires registration. 548-3305.

WorkSource resumes

This 2 p.m. workshop will be conducted as a "drop-in" session for resume review,

mock interviewing and other job search related questions and issues. WorkSource job search specialists will be available to answer questions and assist job seekers as needed. This event requires registration. 548-3305.

FEB. 25

Drop-in help

Adults may bring any questions to get answers on using Microsoft Office, e-books and e-readers, email and any Pierce County Library e-source from 2 to 3 p.m., at the Peninsula Library. 548-3305.

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Suicide Prevention Coalition moves forward

By Leah Folden, for the KP News

The Gig Harbor and Key Peninsula Suicide Prevention Coalition has been working since August 2012 to create a community involved task force to tackle the problem of suicide.

Volunteers include mental health specialists, educators, first responders, social service providers, parents and youth who are working together to assess the extent of the issue.

Laurel Shultz, program director at Communities in Schools of Peninsula, has been a long-standing member of this ad-hoc coalition.

"The challenge is getting someone trained in preventative care who is a direct service provider to youth on the Key Peninsula," Shultz said.

According to Shultz, the challenge in finding a provider stems from the lack of mental health specialists in the community. She states that out of 59 members in the coalition, not one on the committee serves the Key Peninsula as a service provider.

Hired by the Peninsula School District,

Sue Eastgard is the facilitator for this coalition. She describes the group as an organic network, forming subcommittees in order to carry out tasks which include marketing, grant writing and creating a widely accessible resource guide for community members.

In reference to the nature of the committee, Eastgard said, "it really does take a village" to make this all work toward a prudent solution.

Since the group's inception, a range of training for youth as well as professionals has been made available to provide education on how to prevent suicides — rather than respond once they have occurred.

The "Safe Talk" training is a three-hour class set to educate community members, with a focus on youth eager to help on identifying peers in trouble and what actions to take in response.

The coalition is currently focusing on facilitating a training session for professionals in order to increase qualified educators who can provide the Safe Talk awareness class. With an increase in qualified coordinators, this training can be available to a

larger, more diverse population within the Key Peninsula community.

The materials for these courses are funded in a variety of ways. The most recent funding source was made possible by Kathy Weymiller, director of district initiatives for Peninsula School District, and Min Simpson, community volunteer.

They recently completed a grant for The Greater Tacoma Community Foundation and were awarded \$1,500 to curb costs in order to make these trainings more accessible for up to 200 community members.

In addition to education, community volunteer Katy O'Neill led the way in creating a resource guide containing several service providers capable of advising community members in matters of suicide.

The guide is equipped with a list of questions aimed to help those interested with choosing a provider best suited for their needs.

For access to the mental health resource list, visit ghkpsuicidepreventioncoalition.weebly.com. The next meeting is 9 a.m., Feb. 27, at the Hope Center in Gig Harbor.

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and the KPCS/Food Bank

Friends, family and community help homeless

By Peter Ruble, KP News

During wintertime, many are comforted by the warmth of family, friends and good cheer. However, some Key Peninsula citizens will be spending the cold winter months without a roof over their heads.

Key Peninsula Community Services Director Penny Gazabat says that the Key Peninsula faces a unique challenge when it comes to homelessness.

According to Gazabat, since there is less visibility when it comes to living in the woods, homeless populations from the city are gravitating to this area. This is putting a strain on the food supply and resources available to help the homeless, she said.

"We work very hard to provide information, referrals and items that will make life just a little easier," she added.

Gazabat has given out tents, camping gear, hats and gloves. The food bank also has coordinated with Access Point 4 Housing for people who qualify for assistance.

"People are always very grateful for any kindness given to them. Many cry and have a hard time with the whole idea of having to ask for help. It is very humbling to me to see the strength they have to muster to ask for help," she said.

The plague of homelessness has put a greater emphasis on family. Gazabat said many people are returning to the nest as a response to the weakened economy.

This is known as a "Walton family" concept. Gazabat believes it's a good model for citizens in the Key Peninsula who are faced with family members who are without a home.

"As a society, we have put guilt and labels on people who don't leave their family of origin by a certain age," she said. "Many are now faced with having to look at this differently and finding the true value of family."

According to Gazabat, many of the homeless are not far removed from the rest of us. Many people are just one paycheck away from homelessness. It is

a humble reminder that it can happen to any of us and that as a community having a safety net is essential.

Jeff Hausmen has been homeless for six months and spends his days holding a cardboard sign by the intersection of Elgin Clifton Road.

"I came here from Seattle to live in the woods. The woods of the Key Peninsula give me a sanctuary that is removed from the pressure and discrimination that happens in the city," Hausmen said.

Hausmen became homeless after losing his job as a Boeing machinist. He said he lives in tents in the woods of Longbranch and credits fellow homeless citizens and the food bank with helping him survive.

"It's funny how I grew up in the Key Peninsula and played in the woods as a kid," Hausmen said. "I never thought I'd return like this."

For information and to volunteer for Key Peninsula Community Services, go online to keypeninsulacommunityservices.org.

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Abstract art display teases the imagination at Key Center Library

By Karen Lovett, KP News

Local paintings by Lakebay artist P. Arnold Thompson brighten the walls at the Key Center Library where viewers can pause to study engaging shapes that span the room in vibrant colors.

Thompson was born in Seattle where he took an interest in art at an early age.

"I started painting in oils at the age of 12," Thompson said. "I studied art at the University of Washington and Green River College."

He has continued to study throughout his life. He has taken classes from Beverly Pedersen, Sherric Bañs and Chris Mathie, among others. He said he developed an interest in mixed media about 10 years ago, and that art form has since dominated his abstract paintings.

Thompson took a 10-year hiatus from painting to cruise the Caribbean Sea, supported with income from

property sales while living aboard a 37-foot sailboat. He is currently writing a memoir detailing experiences of those adventurous years, supplementing his memory with well-kept journals.

Thompson retired from a career as a computer programmer analyst. Enamored with the Gig Harbor area, he settled on the Key Peninsula in 1992. Semi-retired, he works part-time as a landscape designer and spends much of his time with wife, Ruth, maintaining the well-manicured gardens surrounding their home.

He manages to spend three to four hours a week alone in his Lakebay studio where colors come alive. Sometimes he does realistic paintings from photographs, but often his imagination runs wild and shapes spontaneously take form across the paper, he said.

Thompson's exhibit continues at Key Center Library through the end of February.

Former KP student journeys there and back again

By Jessica Takehara, KP News

The path from high school to the next step in life holds new experiences, friendships and uncertainty. Peninsula High School will be the final door entered and exited for most Key Peninsula students during public education.

One former PHS student, Cameron McMillan, made this journey and is now in his second year studying chemical engineering at Oregon State University.

During his time in high school, McMillan challenged himself by enrolling in advanced placement classes and taking part in several extracurricular activities. These ranged from speech and debate to band. According to McMillan, some of his best times at PHS were with the drama program learning "skills invaluable to the college environment."

Even taking advantage of all high school had to offer academically, McMillan acknowledges that the "process of applying to college is, in a word, frustrating." There was a finality in filling out the application, writing the essay and mentally realizing that life was about to become very different. In the end, he focused on just simply starting the process and refining the essay over time. The quick acceptance to OSU became the confidence booster to send out other applications, he said.

McMillan ultimately chose OSU where he is part of the marching band as well. Classes like chemistry and physics push his intellectual thinking. He is now glad he chose demanding courses in high school, but said there are still "noticeable differences in academic rigor" between secondary and post-secondary study.

Current trends in education are seeking ways to alleviate the study shock between high school and college. Peninsula School District specifically is reaching out to the surrounding areas. Claudia Thompson,

district academic officer for learning and teaching, said the district is "working with the community colleges to help students become college and career ready."

For graduates who leave the area, PHS has increased professional development, collaboration and course rigor in-house to support students, she said.

Upon returning to the Key Peninsula on break, one of the first stops McMillan made was back to PHS. Dropping in to just say "hi" or help judge debate tournaments, he said he loves the sense of connection by sharing new experiences with past teachers.

Peninsula Principal Tim Winter said that McMillan is not the only former student "who loves to come back and see teachers."

As far as the entire college experience goes, McMillan is following dreams and building friendships with the proverbial lack of collegiate sleep. Professors offer insight and a new world is built around late night cram sessions. All the while, McMillan is still not backing away from the difficult classes.

This persistence and dedication are a must at the college level, but also while seeking career success, he said.

Winter, who knew McMillan throughout his four years at PHS, saw the tenacity needed for life success in the future marching band member. As an eighth-grade student, McMillan debated with Winter "why he should be allowed to" enroll in AP Biology as a freshman — and won.

One piece of advice McMillan offers students who are thinking about college, is to enroll in the difficult classes because "college isn't just something that your families are pushing you to do, but also something that offers an unmatched experience in knowledge, both interpersonal and academic," he said.

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CISP: Mentors and youth reading for a brighter future

By Scott Turner, KP News

Communities In Schools Program is a national non-profit organization that helps kids succeed in their school work.

Locally, CISP has been at work in the Peninsula School District since 2000.

CISP works with most of the schools in the district — including all the schools on the Peninsula — by linking students who need help in reading or math with volunteer tutors from the community.

The CISP program at Minter Elementary is led by kindergarten teacher Katie Nettlebeck. Nettlebeck has been teaching for three years, and was a CISP mentor at Evergreen for a year.

"We use volunteers from the community who come to the schools to work with students in reading or math. It's a free program. The kids love it and really look forward to it," she said.

For the students, it's like being part of a club, "and they really feel successful," she added.

The focus at Minter is on reading. Nineteen Minter students meet with their tutors every Wednesday afternoon for an hour. The program runs from October through May.

Other schools might concentrate on math, and some schools offer CISP programs in both reading and math, Nettlebeck said.

"We're showing our kids that reading is fun and it's not something they have to struggle with," Nettlebeck said. "We see light bulbs coming on in these kids."

She told about a student who was "really struggling with reading so he got into the CISP program and now he really looks forward to Wednesdays."

"His mom came up to me and said he loves reading now and he just can't wait until Wednesday. He's so excited about it," said Nettlebeck.

Each mentor has their own special teaching techniques and tricks to make the reading sessions fun.

Vic Renz has been a CISP mentor for "about seven or eight years," he said. "The kids learn to visualize the words and to sound them out. We just come up with a unique way of helping them. You can see their eyes get brighter when they figure something out. It really makes you feel good," Renz said.

Renz's student is 8-year-old Audrey Bauml. "I'm doing it so I can get better at reading," Bauml said. "My mentor is Vic Renz."

He's fun and he really helps me a lot. He's like a teacher and a buddy at the same time. We're doing bingo. He's really a good tutor," she said.

Betty Nordfors is in her first year as a CISP mentor. She learned about the program from a golfing friend who has been a mentor for about 10 years.

Nordfors lives in Gig Harbor, "...but I chose to come to Minter because I like the country feel. I went to school in Chimacum on the Olympic Peninsula and this kind of feels like where I'm from. I'm a former banker but I love to read and I love kids," she said.

At first, Nordfors wasn't sure what to expect from the program, but she has become very attached to her student. "My student is a great little girl and I've grown very fond of her," she said.

Sometimes Nordfors and her student "shadow read" and then the student does it by herself.

"CISP has guidelines that we follow and it really seems to be working," she said. "I absolutely recommend this program to other people who might want to be mentors."

The students obviously enjoy the sessions



Photo by Scott Turner, KP News

Community In School mentor Betty Nordfors spends some time in the Minter Elementary library reading and playing bingo comprehension games with Ava Bauml, 8.

and recognize how important they are.

Eight-year-old Ava Bauml, Audrey's twin sister, likes the CISP program "because you can learn to be a good reader and that feels good. We need to know how to read so we can teach our children. It's really, really fun having my own reading mentor. She's really nice and she has her own way of teaching me."

"We read at home too. That's good practice. And it helps me with my other studies, too," Bauml said.

For her part, Nettlebeck said she wants people to know that reading is for everyone.

"It's how we get knowledge and these kids can really be proud of what they accomplish," she said.

She's always looking for more volunteer tutors, as well.

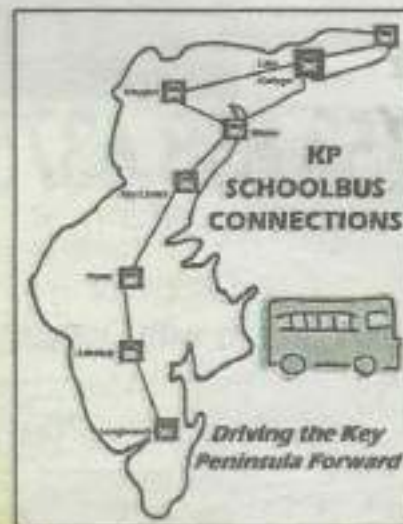
"It's important to make a difference in your community," she said. "If you want to help kids, CIS is a great program for that."

For information, visit peninsula.ciswa.org.

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New Orleans' style Mardi Gras comes to the Key Peninsula

By Jessica Takehara, KP News

New Orleans may be thousands of miles away and on a different coastline, but the Key Peninsula will have a chance to experience a slice of delta life on Feb. 8. The Key Peninsula Civic Center will host the inaugural Mardi Gras Music Festival with dinner, food, music, a parade, prizes and the crowning of a local king and queen.

Organizers Merri Sutton and Claudia Loy put together the event to celebrate in the traditional style of Mardi Gras, which means Fat Tuesday in French.

Tickets are \$30 per person in advance and \$35 at the door. Advance tickets are available at Sunnycrest Nursery, Blend Wine Shop and ticket outlets in Gig Harbor. Re-entry is possible with an event stamp.

The festival kicks off with a mix of Cajun, Zydeco and blues music by Seattle-based group File' Gumbo at 5 p.m. The Kim Archer Band, another local group, will take the stage next to add some old-school soul to the atmosphere.

Mertilee Rush and the band Gabriel headline the occasion with an eclectic combination of rock, blues and jazz. Rush, a Seattle North End native, began her music career in 1960. She recorded the Grammy nominated "Angel of the Morning" in 1968, released several albums and continues to perform across the country in rock and roll nostalgia shows.

The band Gabriel, initially from Tacoma, formed in 1970 and played original rock music during a time of mostly "cover bands." After experiencing the ups and

downs of the music industry, the group broke up in 1980. By 1991, the band reformed with renewed enthusiasm and ongoing local performances.

Local restaurateur Greg Murphy will provide New Orleans' style barbecue as part of the dinner options. Murphy's business, Murph's BBQ and Catering, is located in the concession stand at Volunteer Park. He also has ties to the bayou area, and according to organizer Loy he "knows how to put on a spread in the tradition of Mardi Gras."

Beyond music and food, beer and wine from Blend Wine Shop will help the festival keep moving until midnight. Sutton and Loy also are planning to include signature cocktails and frozen drinks that follow the New Orleans theme.

Partygoers are encouraged to wear bold, bright colors with lots of sparkle. Beads will be provided, but masks must be brought. There will be prizes involved and the two most original costumes receiving votes through applause will be crowned King and Queen of the night. They will have the honor of leading the grand parade too, organizers said.

Since this is the first year, Loy's goal is to turn this into an annual event that helps people "beat the winter blues by coming and listening to the blues," she said.

Proceeds from the event support the Key Peninsula Civic Center. Volunteers are needed to make sure the festival is fun and successful she said. VIP packages will be available; check with the Civic Center for prices and specifics.

For information, visit kpciviccenter.org.

Call for Volunteers - the Key Peninsula Needs You!

If there was an emergency, would you volunteer to help? The Key Peninsula Civic Center is working towards becoming a warming/cooling shelter in the event of an emergency and need a ready network of volunteers on-call.

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PSD Choir Festival blending voices of students

By Karen Lovett, KP News

Thirty Key Peninsula school students, who have been selected by their choir directors, will join 240 representatives from four middle schools and two high schools at the Peninsula School District Choir Festival, taking place at 7 p.m. on Feb. 3, at the Chapel Hill Presbyterian Church in Gig Harbor.

Clinician Bruce Brownell will be coming from the Portland area to rehearse with the students in an all-day preparation for the free concert.

This annual event has been taking place for about 14 years, and school directors help keep things in order on festival day.

Gig Harbor High School choir teacher Wayne Lackman has been involved since the beginning. He has been the coordinator for the Choir Festival for the past three years, and will coordinate a band festival coming in November.

Lackman holds degrees from Pacific Lutheran University and continued his graduate studies at Portland State University. He received his principal and administrative certifications from the University of Washington, Tacoma. He is primarily a vocalist, but plays guitar, piano and bass.

Peninsula High School choir director Ali-

son Ellis was the winner of the Mid-South District Metropolitan Opera National Council auditions and has had an extensive career in opera and music — singing with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, the Memphis Symphony Orchestra and the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra.

Ellis was born in Saudi Arabia to an American family who lived all over the world, wherever her father worked in the oil industry. In the U.S., they lived in Utah, Texas, Montana, Georgia, Tennessee and several other states. She came to Washington where her husband is a pastor. After a long break as a homemaker, she began teaching for the first time. They lived on the Key Peninsula for two years, but moved closer to the high school across the bridge in Purdy.

When she came to Peninsula High School three years ago, the choir had 17 members. This year, that number has grown to approximately 100. She is sending two groups to the festival from the high school this year, an all-girls group and another mixed choir.

"I try to encourage kids who aren't fitting in so well in other aspects," Ellis said. "We have a very diverse choir: athletes, fringe kids. Kids are the best advertising for us.

They get out and tell their friends," Ellis said.

She takes a high school choir on an all the Key Peninsula school concerts tour. They sing at all the grade schools and middle schools to encourage younger kids, seeing big payoffs down the road, she added. Her first year as choir director, she had one freshman student. This year, more than 30 freshmen came in from middle school. About one-fourth of the students are seniors, she said.

The choir meets every day in the afternoon. One group meets after school in the choir room. "So many kids came to one class the fire marshal made us move 20 to another class," Ellis said. "The kids are really fired up."

They perform at the school in concerts for fall and spring. They also sing at community events and sang at McCaw Hall, in Seattle, for the Nutcracker opera.

During the event, Ellis said that everyone wears black and white.

There is no central theme at the Choir Festival, which will feature a variety of music. Each of the three groups: elementary, middle and high school, will perform three songs. Then they will all sing together for the final two numbers.

Key Peninsula schools participate in WE Day

By Jessica Takehara, KP News

On March 21, Key Peninsula Middle School and Peninsula High School will have the chance to experience a celebration called "WE Day." It will be a day of motivational speakers, musicians, sports figures and movie stars hosted in Seattle. There is only one way to receive a ticket: earn it through community service.

Flashback to last March, the Canadian phenomenon WE Day landed in Seattle for the first time. Fifteen thousand area youths who completed both local and global community service projects were treated to a who's who of celebrity and inspirational speakers. Among this list were Jennifer Hudson, Martin Sheen, Magic Johnson, Governor Jay Inslee, Martin Luther King III and home-town favorite Macklemore.

After a storm of positive feedback surrounding the event, Peninsula School District sent out information to KPMS and PHS about participating this year. Both schools jumped in to bring this opportunity to their students.

The middle school is using an already strong community service presence to meet the WE Day prerequisites. The students are organizing three food drives to benefit Key Peninsula Food Services as part of their local community service.

According to Principal Jeri Goebel, 1,600 cans were raised during the first round and "we are upping our goal to 1,700 for our January food drive." For the global portion, KPMS will organize its third-annual coin drive for a war-torn school in Liberia, needing supplies.

PHS will focus its community service for WE Day in February. The group spearheading the efforts is the school leadership team. They will also promote a coin drive for the global requirement, but it will be to specifically build a new school in a developing country.

Locally, the school will take part in "Share the Love Month" as a campaign to choose love over hate. English teacher and ASB advisor Danielle O'Leary emphasized how exciting it is to watch the students "realize the local and global impact this project brings to our community."

WE Day itself is the exclamation point on a yearlong program called WE Act. The overall goal is inspiring young people to take action as agents of social change. Parent organization Free the Children, founded by Craig and Marc Kaelburger in 2007, provides as much help as needed through curriculums, resources, guest speakers and ideas to get involved.

For information about WE Day, visit the Free the Children at freethechildren.com.

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Schools levy and redistricting still on the plate

By Rick Sorrels, KP News

Key Peninsula residents are starting to show up en masse for school levy and redistricting presentations. It was elbow to elbow at the meeting room at the Key Center Library on Jan. 14.

An impending overcrowding condition affects all eight elementary schools district wide, on both the Key and Gig Harbor peninsulas.

There are 1,000 new housing units being constructed in the Gig Harbor North area, with more construction forecast. Some of these homes are already being occupied. The impact will be felt by the September school start.

"The elementary schools on the Gig Harbor Peninsula are already over their capacity limit," said Chuck Cozzetto, Peninsula School District superintendent. "Starting in September, we will be unable to avoid re-districting, and will need to start bussing students from the Gig Harbor Peninsula to the Key Peninsula where some capacity is

still available."

"Re-districting" is where the boundary lines for each school are redrawn and students are shifted from one school to another.

The school levy vote in November failed. It would have provided funds to construct a new elementary school in the Gig Harbor North area.

In 2012, the Washington state Supreme Court found that the State Legislature has not met its constitutional mandate to fully fund education, and is getting impatient with the Legislature in not fixing the problem, as ordered by the Court. Records say the Supreme Court issued a follow-up order on Jan. 9, stating that "The Court is troubled by the lack of progress in funding basic costs for schools as well as pay for educators and administrators."

State Rep. Larry Seaquist, who chairs the House Higher Education Committee, said that "The Legislators are nervous about what action the Supreme Court may take. I expect some sig-

nificant action during the session just starting."

Peninsula School District has no other funding source besides a property tax levy. It must again place a levy before the voters for more funding.

At the Jan. 14 meeting, five levy options were presented, all variations of the levy proposed in November, with property tax assessments varying from .88cents to \$1.46 per \$1,000 evaluation. For a \$250,000 home, these rates would equate to an additional tax payment of between \$220 and \$365 per year.

Audience opinions were electronically tallied. Selecting between the five options presented, 45 percent of the audience chose the levy option with an assessment of \$1.20 per \$1,000 evaluation (\$300 per year additional tax).

For comparison, the failed November levy would have resulted in \$350 per year in additional property tax.

Choosing between five different dates for when the levy should be

placed on the ballot, 54 percent of the audience chose November 2014.

The school board will solicit more public input, and will study the issues involved further before any decision is made.

Regardless of whether voters pass a levy or not, the overcrowding and re-districting issues remain.

"Fifty individuals have requested to be on the re-districting committee, which will study all relevant factors and make recommendations to the school board," Cozzetto said. "Only a few individuals from the Key Peninsula have expressed an interest in joining the committee. We really need more involvement from the KP, as all three of their elementary schools will be affected greatly by the re-districting."

The school board may appoint members to the Re-districting Committee at its Jan. 23 board meeting. If a KP resident wants to join, even after Jan. 23, contact Cozzetto by email through the school website at PSD401.net.

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Music teacher striking the right notes with elementary students

By Scott Turner, KP News

When Lisa Mills took the job as music teacher at Vaughn Elementary School last fall, she had big shoes to fill.

She replaced Mary Farr, the school's much loved music teacher who had retired after many years.

"Everyone loved Mary, so we knew we had our job cut out for us to find a good music teacher to take her place," said Vaughn Principal Susan O'Leary.

But when Mills came for her interview, "... she blew us all away," O'Leary added flatly.

"She had a drum under one arm and a guitar under the other, and she had even written a song about Vaughn Elementary. We knew she was the one we had to have," she said.

Mills taught music in the South Kitsap system for 24 years before coming to Vaughn.

"It was a great job and I enjoyed it very much," she said.

But she lives very near Vaughn Elementary, so when the local job opened up, she applied.

"I thought there must be something powerful about being part of a community and also being able to teach in that community. It's a really cool thing," Mills said with a smile.

It also was something of a homecoming for her. She went to Vaughn Elementary when she was in the second grade. "We had a wonderful music teacher here and I can still sing the songs that she taught us in the second grade."

Mills starts the school year by teaching students how to drum. "It's just be-



Photo by Scott Turner, KP News

New Vaughn Elementary School music teacher Lisa Mills instructs her students to play Kpanlogo, popular drum and dance piece from West Africa. Mills said the song has many "layers of rhythms called polyrhythms, woven together to create an intricate jigsaw puzzle of sound."

ing able to keep a beat, because the beat is essential to everything," she said. "And it also teaches focus and how to control our attention."

"Then we begin to look at notating rhythm. And then we write little four-note rhythms and suddenly they're playing their own music on their drum," she said, moments before students entered her classroom.

The next step is the xylophone. A xy-

lophone is like a drum, but with lots of options for playing different notes, Mills said.

"So then we start talking about notes in the staff and how we differentiate between the notes," she said.

The first-, second- and third-graders are currently learning the notes on a staff and learning to play the xylophone.

Fourth- and fifth-graders add recorders and ukuleles to their musical mix.

"And we all do a lot of singing. My philosophy is if you can say it, you can sing it. And if you can sing it, you can play it. So we move from speech to putting it on their xylophone," she said.

It's obvious that Mills loves teaching as much as she loves music.

"It's so invigorating to teach music," she said.

"Music is my passion. I think music is critical to every child's education. It's good for your self-esteem, it helps you focus, it allows for teamwork and it's good for developing motor skills."

And those are all things that carry over into math and science, she added.

The students at Vaughn love their new teacher.

"She's a really fun music teacher, said Elijah Swissa, 10. "She's very creative. She likes to play the piano and drum and she's just a great teacher."

Fifth-grader Jade Hoskins, 12, agreed. "She's an awesome music teacher. I've been taking music classes since first grade and I just love her. I think if you like music, you should do it. Even if it's just drumming — you should do it."

Jezzie Riley, 10, said that Mills has a great way of teaching that the kids really relate to.

"One time she told us to sing so that if people on the other side of the world heard us, they'd want to be an American, too. She's really awesome and I really like her. I like everything about her," Riley said.

And for Mills, the feeling is mutual. "The kids out here are fabulous and I'm blessed to be here teaching them," she said.

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From Pioneer Stock History of the Coblentz family in Vaughn

By Colleen Slater, KP News

Gail Alscott, whose ancestors in Vaughn include a great-grandfather who operated a store and his father who was a practicing physician, has a house in Home with husband, David, who also has roots on the Key Peninsula.

Alscott's father, Jack Coblentz, tells his family history as a well-loved story.

Henry Staley Coblentz, fresh out of Franklin Marshall College, headed west in 1882 with his father, Dr. Joseph Coblentz, a recent widower.

"He (Henry) wanted to come west to be a cowboy," said Jack Coblentz.

Alscott's brother, Paul, adds more information. He believes Henry didn't want to ride horses as much as he wanted to be a pioneer. He likely inherited a desire to travel from his father, who "traveled the entire East Coast by steamship, train and carriage after his college graduation," said Paul. "He wanted to be a merchant, not a lawyer," Alscott added.

The Coblentz family originated in Germany. Coblentz is a large Roman city built in 9 B.C., as a defensive fort on the Rhine River.

In 1743, Hans Nicholas Coblentz and wife, Anna Katma, of the Reformed German Church, arrived in Pennsylvania seeking religious freedom. They purchased 200 acres. Two of their sons moved to Middletown, Md., and obtained 200 acres. Joseph was born there.

After his father died, Henry took him to Middletown to be buried in the large graveyard filled with Coblentz family.

Joseph Coblentz established his medical practice (obstetrics) in Reading, Pa., where he and his wife built a home in the 1850s for \$1,600 that included indoor plumbing and his office in the basement.

Coblentz became a trustee for Franklin Marshall College, where he'd earned his first degree. He was involved with building a stone and brick building for the Diognothian Society at the college. He later became a trustee at the University of Wichita, Kan.

Paul Alscott has a letter sent to Dr. Coblentz from a friend, saying he'd left everything he'd established to follow his wandering son. Henry Coblentz was his only surviving child.

Henry Coblentz arrived in Kansas, met a beautiful young woman, Julia Catherine

Kipp, who had planned to be a nun like her two sisters. Her brother was a Monsignor, and their family had established and operated a hospital in Yates Center, Kan.

Henry and Julia Coblentz's first two children, Joseph and Anna, named for their Coblentz grandparents, were born in Yates Center.

A close friend in Yates Center was Alfred Van Slyke, who preceded Henry Coblentz to Vaughn by a few months in 1887.

Henry Coblentz and Van Slyke became partners, operating a sawmill and store. Soon, Coblentz managed the store, and Van Slyke took care of the mill. They built a dock and floating walkway from the store.

A third Coblentz son, Walter, was born in Vaughn in 1891. Two more boys, Frank and George, followed.

Dr. Coblentz "doctored the Indians as well as some of the local people," great-grandson Jack Coblentz said.

Joseph Coblentz's journal notes his Vaughn patients. Mrs. George Showers produced a female on Sept. 27, 1889. Charge: \$3. Other patients include Maxwell, Davidson, Alverson, Butterfield, Wright and Olson. Mrs. Wright was treated nearly every day for a month, then trans-

ferred, perhaps to a doctor in Tacoma.

Henry Coblentz enjoyed photography and had a "modern" camera when he lived in the area.

The KP Historical Society museum has copies of several photographs taken by him in and around Vaughn, donated by Jack. One shows Native Americans from Squaxin Island on the Coblentz steps.

Education was important to the family, and they moved to Tacoma when son Joseph was old enough for high school in 1900.

Henry opened the first IGA grocery store in Washington at Fern Hill. Over the years, he purchased and donated property, and helped build much of that area, including The Masonic Temple, of which he was a member.

"He never left the house without a shirt and tie," Jack says of Henry.

Gail Alscott convinced her father, Jack, brother, Paul, and nephew, Benson, to visit Vaughn in July, where they could see the local Coblentz sites.

Benson is interviewing with an administrator of Franklin Marshall College, alma mater of his great-great- and third-great-grandfathers.



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Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News

Julie Miller, owner of Dance Avenue, takes Presley Peterson through the motions last month during a session at the Key Peninsula Civic Center.



By Ed Johnson, KP News

Mount Rainier towers as a picture-perfect backdrop for the Longbranch Marina.

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Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News

A group of teens rendezvous around Jessica Smeall, Key Pen Parks recreation coordinator, last month at the new Y teen center at the Tom Taylor YMCA.