

INSIDE&ONLINE
SEPTEMBER 2014
Online



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KP students get 'Jump Start' to school life

By Scott Turner, KP News

Last month about two dozen Key Peninsula children who'll be starting kindergarten at Minter Creek got a jump start on school.

They attended Peninsula School District's new, free Jump Start program.

According to Lisa Reaugh, PSD's assistant director for student services, the goal of the program is to help youngsters who haven't attended preschool get ready for kindergarten.

"These are kids who've never been in preschool or had some similar experience, so we're trying to make sure they are ready for school, that we have them prepared as much as possible," Reaugh said.

This is the first year the district has offered the Jump Start program.

The program is district wide, she added, "but we know that a lot of our kids on the KP don't have access to preschool. There aren't a lot of daycare or preschool programs so we especially wanted them to have access to this. We had two full classes at Minter Creek," she said.



Photo by Scott Turner, KP News

Minter Creek Elementary School teacher Katie Nettlebeck helps Jump Start student Caleb Johnson with a classroom project.

(See Jump Start, Page 2)

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KP Logging Show and Festival a roaring community success

By Karen Lovett, KP News

At 10 a.m. the flag went up in a ceremony provided by Key Peninsula Veterans and music from the Key Singers launched the annual Key Peninsula Logging Show and Festival at the new Gateway Park location.

Appetizing aromas drifted from the grill as festival goers wandered among booths sponsored by local organizations or businesses displaying everything from jewelry, hand-carved pens and hand looms to antiques. A silent auction in the Key Peninsula Community Services booth offered an array of services from kickboxing and fly fishing lessons to oil changes, artwork and other goods.

Sounds of the bulldozer leveling dirt and the excavator setting logs accompanied Dr. Roes' Down Home Band as they livened the

atmosphere with a series of rousing marching songs. Antique cars rolled in at intervals and formed a line between the booths and logging area, providing onlookers a chance to view the vintage autos. Across the field old steam engines added to the audible mix of the popular community event.

The logging show was a bit late getting started. Excitement built as axes bit into wood. Saw buckers followed, single handsaws cross-cutting logs. Seats were filled and onlookers stood or sat on the grass — all eyes on the loggers.

The shrill wail of the old steam engine whistle punctuated the sound waves announcing changing events. Wood-biting echoes of axes changed to buzzing chainsaws disgorging sawdust.

(See Logging, Page 4)

(From **Jump Start**, Page 1)

The first couple of weeks of kindergarten are chaotic, no matter what you do, Reaugh said.

"You've got kids who've never seen a classroom before or never had to stand in line or put their things away before. This lets the teachers find a couple of good role models who can kind of show the other kids how to do things," she said.

Katie Nettlebeck, who's been teaching kindergarten at Minter Creek for three years, said the Jump Start program "makes a huge difference. I love it. And it's free."

As one of the Jump Start teachers, Nettlebeck got a chance to really get to know some of the kids who'll be in her class when school starts Sept. 1.

"The first day in Jump Start we learned classroom rules, how to line up, where things are in the school and where things are in the classroom," she said.

"And then after that we did little art projects so we could see if they needed help holding a pencil or holding scissors.

"A lot of them needed help with how to cut — to cut away from them not toward them. And they

learned how to use a glue stick and how not to roll it up all the way, putting the cap back on," Nettlebeck said.

One child told her that he wasn't allowed to use scissors so he had never used them before.

"So I could tell the kids 'Well, now you get to use them,'" she said with a laugh.

The youngsters also learned how to ride the school bus.

"The bus driver came and talked to them and they got to take a little bus trip down the road. They got to see a farm and the farm animals," she said.

Reed Lobdell and Ellee Gray were two of the students in Nettlebeck's Jump Start class.

"We're trying to learn everything about kindergarten," Reed said. "It's fun."

Ellee agreed. "I'm getting ready for school," she said. "I like kindergarten already."

Reed and Ellee and their Jump Start classmates got a big boost toward their first real school experience, Nettlebeck said.

"It set them up to be leaders in their classroom so they can teach other kids how to do things and that makes them feel successful."

KPCC summer mixer a success

Thinking out of the box is one thing. The Key Peninsula Civic Center Board took its thinking out of the building to hold their first board recruitment social at Blend Wine Shop in Key Center. Current board members greeted a couple of dozen curious folks who turned out on Aug. 14.

They wanted to learn more about the history of the center, its mission, activities and plans for the future. President Phil Bauer gave a short welcome at the start of the two-hour event, while other board members mingled and answered questions.

The civic center is a private 501(c)3 non-profit association. It does not receive any tax levy funding to support the cost of maintenance and upkeep, and relies solely on rentals, donations, and fundraisers to cover the operating expenses.

According to Bauer, the center promotes the civic, social, cultural and general well-being of the entire Key Peninsula.

A stack of glossy brochures, touting the services and space offered at the center was nearly depleted at the end of the evening, as interest in the success of the center filled the room with chatter.

The KPCC will host its semi-annual auction and dinner fundraiser, Flavors of Fall, on Oct. 11. The theme for 2014 is "An Evening in Paris."

Elections to the 30-member board will take place later in the fall. For tickets or information, call (253) 884-3456.

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KEY PENINSULA NEWS

www.keypennews.com

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

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

Key Peninsula News is published monthly by the Key Peninsula News publishing board in Vaughn, Washington. The Key Peninsula Civic Center Association is the non-profit parent organization. Copyright 2014 with all rights reserved. Reproduction of editorial or graphic contents in any manner without permission is prohibited. Annual subscriptions (12 issues) are available for \$30.00 and are mailed first class. Copies are mailed presort standard to residents and post office box holders of the Key Peninsula. Single copies are available at the newspaper office in the basement of the Civic Center annex and at various distribution points located on the Key Peninsula. Approximately 19,000 people live in the distribution area.

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, AND OPERATION OF THE KEY PENINSULA NEWS

1. THE KEY PENINSULA NEWS is a community newspaper, owned and published by the KEY PENINSULA CIVIC CENTER ASSOCIATION, a nonprofit, 501-C3 corporation with main offices in Vaughn, Washington. The name, goodwill and any copyright assets that may exist pertaining to the NEWS are among the financial assets of

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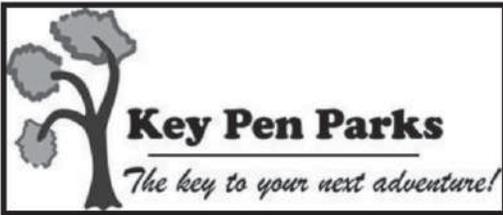
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Guest columnists: Monica Rakowski and Bill Trandum

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

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

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



SEPTEMBER 2014

Key Pen Parks PROGRAM GUIDE

Recreation Department: recreation@keypenparks.com 253-884-9240

REGISTER ONLINE: www.keypenparks.com

36 Miles @ 360 Trails



10 am-4 pm on Saturday, Sept. 27
 Teams of singles, doubles, or trios
 Ages 11 and up, \$36
 Register online at keypenparks.com
This is a FUNraising event!

KIDZ LOVE Z SOCCER

Fall Sessions

Days: Mondays
 Dates: September 15 - October 27
 Ages: 3-10 years old Fee: \$60

Class	Times
Tot/PeeWee	4:30-5 pm
Soccer 1	5-5:45 pm
Soccer 2	5:45-6:35 pm

Register online at keypenparks.com

Upcoming Events in 2014

- Oct. 5 - KP Farm Tour, 10 am to 4 pm, Gateway Park
- Oct. 18 - Harvest Party, 6 to 8 pm, Volunteer Park
Carved Pumpkin contest, S'mores, costume contest and Flashlight hunt for ghoulish goodies.
- Dec. 7 - Breakfast with Santa, 9 to 11 am, KP Fire Station

Gateway Park Public Workshops

Public planning workshops are slated for the fall and winter of 2014-15. Conceptual planning will include a series of 2-3 public workshops. For more information, email scottg@keypenparks.com

Park Board Meetings

- Monday, September 8, 7:30 pm
(regular meeting)
- Monday, September 22, 6 pm
(special meeting, study session on Gateway Park)
- Monday, October 13, 7:30 pm
(regular meeting & budget hearing)



Volunteer Park Concession Stand RFP

Key Pen Parks is requesting proposals for the furnishing of all staffing and equipment necessary to provide food concessions at Volunteer Park. For more information, visit keypenparks.com.



HELP WANTED

Marketing Coordinator/
 Recreation Specialist Position
 For more information, contact answers@keypenparks.com.
 Application deadline is 4 p.m. on September 16.

Spotlight: Two Waters Arts Alliance **CIVIC CENTER**

Margo Macdonald, Two Waters Arts Alliance Co-Founder

Two Waters Arts Alliance is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization launched in 2001

Two Waters Arts Alliance (TWAA) is a Key Peninsula arts organization that focuses on bringing the arts into the schools and public spaces of the Key Peninsula. It offers a variety of programs across the arts spectrum from After School classes to live performances. TWAA works in collaboration with other KP organizations to bring the people of the Key Peninsula a strong arts presence.

Currently, TWAA is looking for new Board Members to help in directing the future of this important resource for our community. Arts programming is slim on the KP and your participation would make a vital difference to the success of TWAA's efforts. Contact Kathy Bauer at 253-884-9172 for more information about the organization.

This Fall, TWAA is hosting two events that invite the public to participate. The first will be the Key Center Scarecrow Contest to run in conjunction with this year's farm tour. Applications are available online at www.twowaters.org, with Sept. 20th as the deadline.

Set up will take place Sept. 20th and 21st, and the scarecrows will remain on display until after Oct. 4th. Scarecrows need to be able to stand or sit on their own and be able to withstand the elements for the duration of the contest. For more information, contact kathybarrett03@gmail.com or by phone 253-884-1592.

TWAA is also exhibiting the work of its member artists beginning Oct. 3rd and running until Dec. 1st at the Key Center Library. The Fourth Annual Members Juried Art Exhibit will be juried by Gig Harbor tapestry artist Cecilia Blomberg. There will be a public reception from 4-6pm Friday, Oct. 3rd in the Brones Room. Interested artists can find more information at www.twowaters.org or contact Robin Peterson at entries@fernwoodstudio.com.

For a more comprehensive look at local artists' works, the Gig Harbor Open Studio takes place on the weekend of Sept. 19th - 21st from 10am - 5pm in studios around the harbor. For a com-

plete list of participating artists and map go to www.gigharboropenstudio.com. Open Studios would like to add more KP artists to its roster next year; interested artists can go the website for contact info.

Looking ahead, Tears of Joy Theatre presents an all new production based on that trickster of Native American lore, Raven. Like his cousin Coyote, Raven uses his wits and cunning to get what he wants. He may be sneaky but his tricks have given us the sun, fire, and more!



Raven Stories is written by Shoshone-Bannock poet and storyteller Ed Edmo and features original music. The principals at the three KP elementary schools have agreed to schedule the Tears of Joy Raven Stories who will perform in November.

<http://www.tojt.org/on-stage/2013-2014-family-series/raven-stories/>

The Two Waters Arts Alliance Board meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month, at the Key Peninsula Civic Center, in the VFW Room or other locations, at 7pm. Check out the TWAA calendar online for events, info, and meeting locations. www.twowaters.org

CORNER



Courtesy photo by David Musser

Makenzie Gleffe celebrates her 16th birthday completing the choker obstacle course at the 29th annual Key Peninsula Logging Show and Festival. Gleffe was the only deaf participant this year. See more images at keypennews.com.

(From *Logging*, Page 1)

Onlookers covered their ears as the deafening roar of unmuffled car engines hoisted by two-person crews sliced through large logs in two seconds.

Between events, truckloads of crushed rock, dirt or split firewood were auctioned off to the highest bidders. Proceeds from the donated materials were all going for a good cause, KP Senior Center and Food Bank.

"The biggest challenge to get the logging show off the ground was the permit process," Key Peninsula Community Services assistant Susie Donahue said.

"Key Pen Parks Department has been fabulous. They gave us signs and Scott Galacher helped with the permit process. I want to give special thanks to the Henningson family: Jason, Kerri and Jordan. I had a blast doing this for a long 10 months, but it's been so worth it. It benefits the Food Bank and Senior Center," Donahue said.

Kerri Henningson has been coming to the event for 16 years. She started working on this year's event about two months ahead of time and began procuring prizes about two weeks prior.

"There are lots of loggers," Henningson said. "Some participate in a few of the events. Others compete in all. It costs \$5 to enter. The fee hasn't changed over the years. The one-time cost covers any and all contests. We love the new location. We come from Belfair," she said.

Kerri's brother Jason Henningson was the main announcer and brother Jordan co-announcer. Father Walt and Jordan work for Manke. Jason owns his own company,

JH Trucking, and bought logs for the show. The chopping logs and bucking log were donated by Bob Codal of C&S Forestry and Management in Burlington.

"Things are going great at the new location," said Brett Higgins, KP Food Bank manager. "It's bigger and there's room to organize. The park department set up the tent for the beer garden and got the license for beer. Loggers came from all over and camped out last night," he said.

Logger Bill Pelham was there. He grew up in the logging industry in Demming, WA. He was invited to come to Old Timers Day about 13 years ago by Dale Boquist and has been coming to the event ever since.

"We do shows all over the country," Pelham said. "I like the new location. Like the saving events. Like it all."

"This is where logging gets fun," Jason Rygaard of Rygaard Logging of Port Angeles said. Rygaard came down with sons, eleven-year-old Hank and nine-year-old Peyton. Jason's brother, Gabe, who brought his son, nine-year-old Tucker was competing in the log chop. All the boys have been coming since they were babies. The boys can use a wood splitter and an ax, but are still too young to use a chain saw.

Two men from the television show *Ax Men* were filming for the History Channel to capture the sounds and sights of excitement of the day to be televised at some undisclosed future date.

"It's exciting to get up a new location," said Penny Gazebat, KP Community Services executive director. "For the last 29 years we've really enjoyed doing this for the community and always tried to make it an affordable event."



www.kpciviccenter.org
kpciviccenter@centurytel.net
 253-884-3456

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!



Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News

Roadwork started on the State Route 302 corridor in mid August. Here, workers begin the project set to add turn lanes at the 118th Street and SR-302 intersection.

State Route 302 corridor construction work in progress

KP News staff report

The construction work on State Route 302 started Aug. 18.

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) contractors will focus their efforts at 118th through September where a contractor will be adding street lighting and making left turn lanes.

According to Steve Fuchs, WSDOT project engineer, a team made up of design, safety and traffic engineers met to evaluate the best way to lower the incidence of “run off the road accidents” throughout the SR-302 corridor.

Fuchs said the team identified that the leading causes of collisions seems to be related to inattention, speed, drowsy driving and nighttime collisions.

“While the collision history is significant, they appear to be very random in where they occur,” he said.

Fuchs said the team expressed a concern that the planned tree removal would open up the corridor and ultimately lead to an increase in the operating speed of the traveling public.

“Based on that probability, the team suggested the following ‘emerging countermeasures’ be considered in this corridor in lieu of the tree removal.”

- Widened edge stripe: Provide a 6 or 8 inch edge stripe that would increase the visibility to the driver and at the same time slightly narrow the appearance of the lane to improve compliance to the posted

speed. The wider stripe would encroach into the lane so as not to reduce the width of the shoulder for bicycles and pedestrians.

- Widened center line strip: Provide a double 6 or 8 inch center line to further provide a slight narrowing appearance of the lane to improve compliance to the posted speed.

- Increase guideposts: Provide additional guide posts with closer spacing in wooded areas and curves to better delineate the road and catch drivers’ attention.

- Increased reflective lane markers: Provide a doubling of the number of reflectorized lane markers used to delineate the centerline.

Speed limits: Monitor speeds after the above changes and construction of enforcement pullouts to see if additional measures are needed.

Fuchs said the main “corridor” work area is in-between the Key Peninsula Highway/SR-302 intersection and the Purdy spit.

He said the emergency pullout work is not currently scheduled until later in September/early October. Most of the work should be complete by early October with final striping occurring in mid to late October, Fuchs said.

“I want to encourage the traveling public to stay focused on driving safely through the work zones and to avoid being distracted by construction equipment and the changing landscape,” Fuchs said.

For information, visit wsdot.wa.gov.



Key Peninsula Council (KPC) BALLOT

Please SUPPORT the work of the KP Community Council. CLIP OUT THE BALLOT AND DELIVER----

Mail: KPC P.O. Box 13 Vaughn, WA 98394	Drop off: KPNews at Civic Center Office or drop box by door	In person: KPC voting Booth Food Market in Key Center Sat. & Sun. Sept. 20-21 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
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Check here to verify you are at least 18 years old by September 21 and you live on or own property on the Key Peninsula.

ELECTION CLOSES 3:00 pm Sunday, September 21

Check boxes in ALL four areas below to indicate your choice of candidates. Write-in votes are welcome

Area 1: Vote for 2: (Zip code 98395 and 98329).

- *Ruth Bramhall
 - *Phyllis Henry
 - John Kelly
- Write-in: _____ phone _____

Area 2: Vote for 2: (Zip code 98394 and 98329).

- *Danna Burnett
 - Shelley Lynn Comfort
 - Adison Richards
 - *Irene Torres
- Write-in: _____ phone _____

Area 3: Vote for 2: (Zip code 98349).

- Tim Kezele
 - *Lavera Holwill Spain
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Area 4: Vote for 2: (Zip code 98349 and 98351).

- *Marcia Harris
 - Carol Opalinski
- Write-in: _____ phone _____

(Zip codes indicate where the candidates live)
(* indicates incumbent)

THANK YOU! FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION

Elected KPC Directors serve two year terms.

KPC works for Key Peninsula

Safe SR 302—WSDOT partner for 302 projects

KP School Bus Connects—Peninsula School District partner for free public transportation

KP Farm Tour 2014—KPC Farm Council partner for annual farm tour

KPC Youth Council—Key Pen student partner for youth civic activities

Candidates Forum—KPBA, KPCCA, KPNews partner for annual fall election forum

This ad paid by the KPC 2014 Elections Committee
Find KPC on Facebook and online at: www.kpcouncil.org

Peninsula Views

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Clarifying the legacy that is the Bischoff Food Bank

Dear Editor,

I would like to clarify the legacy of the Bischoff Food Bank.

It was started 10 years ago by Mr. Ross Bischoff, a member of the Key Peninsula Lutheran Church. His daughter Carol is still an honored volunteer working for the clients of this food bank.

Under the care of our wonderful director, the Bischoff Food Bank grew. We even received a shiny award for being the best in the northwest...food bank, that is.

However, this growth became too disruptive for the Lutheran Church, so FISH Food Bank of Pierce County helped us to relocate to Key Center. When they could not renew that lease, the Bischoff Food Bank had to move again to our present location at 1916 KPN near the Home fire station.

The Key Peninsula has different issues than big cities like Tacoma.

There is no public transportation, and there are fewer jobs and lower pay scales. Still, the gas and electric and food cost the same.

The Bischoff food bank serves

many homeless clients. People who are so far off the grid, even welfare can not reach them. However, the majority of our clientele are the "working poor." These people earn just enough money so they don't qualify for DSHS help. Often they work more than one job and still have to choose between buying a gallon of gas to get to work or a gallon of milk for their children.

These clients are the reason we are open five days a week, Tuesday through Saturday from 2 to 6 p.m., when they can receive commodities and produce once a week. Although we are limited on meat and dairy right now, we are blessed with great amounts of bread and fresh fruit and vegetables.

Working at Bischoff is not a "job" because no one receives a salary. That is why all the volunteers of the Bischoff Food Bank would like to thank the businesses and generous people of the Key Peninsula for their donations. It is truly neighbor-helping-neighbor.

*Monika Verstrate,
Home*

Letters Policy

The opinions expressed herein are the opinions of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the publishers or staff. All letters to the editor must be signed and include a daytime phone number for verification. No anonymous letters will be published. Submissions are used on a space available basis and may be edited if used. The 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@keypennews.com.

The KP News distribution team, your support entwined

The newspaper you hold is a product of many dedicated volunteers.

As you probably know, the majority of KP News staff are community members passionate about sharing what's going on in their own backyard.

What you may not know is what it takes to get the paper into your hands.

I have been at the helm going on a couple years, and until last month, the only thing I knew about the distribution process is that it gets handled, soundly, by a special band of hardworking volunteers.

The KP News is printed offsite and delivered to the Key Peninsula Civic Center monthly — usually the last Thursday of the month. The paper rolls into the center bundled on pallets.

It was a warm summer morning the day I walked in to help.

The looks I was getting from team members were not that of surprise, but perhaps more inline with the "what-took-you-so-long" variety.

It was a friendly bunch, and before I knew it I was counting papers and stuffing bags just like volunteers have been doing for more than a decade.

Many folks get credit for the system in place, including Frank Slater, Phil Bauer, Bill Dietz, Kevin Reed, Bill Trandum, Gary Gebo, Dave Stratford, Connie and Vic Renz, and the late Marty Marcus.

The dynamic Renz duo have been leading the team as of late.

Prior to "distribution day" the two pick up large mail bags from the post office, bring them home and put tags on each bag. Each tag shows the number of papers to go into each bag, the mail route number and the post office location.

I paired up with Bill Dietz, the KP News publishing board president. "Cut this, count these and put them in those bags with the colored labs on it," he said, flatly (but with heart).

Being a nonprofit, this was part of the pro-

cess I get schooled on.

Out of the corner of my eye I noticed other team members flying through the task. I was all thumbs and quickly humbled.

In a short amount of time, the correct amount of papers were separated into their tagged bags and stuffed into two SUVs, and soon, they were off to the Wauna post office to get weighed.

Connie did the paperwork and Vic the heavy lifting. After the papers got weighed, Vic re-loaded the sorted bags of newspapers and drove them to the Vaughn and Lakebay post offices just like he's done for years.

We send 8,000 newspapers through the mail. Some also get dropped off at businesses and some 50 others are sent out as paid subscriptions.

My time spent as a distribution agent was short, but my appreciation for our crew and our community will only grow.

Speaking of growing: I am always looking for more writers, so if you have an interest in joining the editorial team, please shoot me an email to editor@keypennews.com.

At about this time every year we ask for your help to keep us afloat. Included in this issue is our annual donation mailer. On behalf of all of us at your Key Peninsula News, we truly appreciate your ongoing generous support.

Check out a behind the scenes video with KP News volunteers at keypennews.com. If you would like to help in the distribution process, or if you'd like copies of the KP News at your business, email connierenz@aol.com or call 884-4699.



Scott Turner, editor

Discover healing herbs of the Key Peninsula

For millennia, human beings and plants have evolved with one another in a symbiotic relationship. We take care of the plants and they take care of us. Plants grow when and where we need their nutritional and healing properties.

Monica Rakowski
Living Close to Nature



This is true here on our very own Key Peninsula. In fact, our peninsula is covered in healing medicine, and more likely than not, you have these useful herbs growing in your backyard. Unfortunately, in our modern world, we view these plants as nuisances and weeds instead of the little green miracles that they are.

Every Washington hiker has felt the painful sting of nettles. Most people try to kill the dandelions in their yard. However, these two herbs are valuable medicines that should be harvested regularly instead of eradicated from your lawn.

Both dandelions and nettles are rich in vitamins and minerals. Dandelions are full of calcium, magnesium, iron, and vitamins A, B and C. Nettles are abundant in iron, calcium, potassium, silicon, magnesium, manganese, zinc, B vitamins, and chromium. Modern day food is severely lacking in vitamins and minerals, so it is especially beneficial to consume these herbs daily.

Most of us could use more B vitamins in our lives. They boost our mood, reduce our stress and increase serotonin production when combined with vitamin C, of which dandelions have plenty. Serotonin will promote calm moods and deep sleep. This is especially helpful during the dark days of winter when many of us suffer from seasonal depression.

Both nettles and dandelions contain high levels of calcium, which builds strong bones and teeth, and is essential for healthy nerve function. Calcium prevents nervousness, irritability, muscle spasms, cramping, hyperactivity and insomnia.

Taken over time, both dandelion and nettle tea will restore and build energy within our bodies. These teas are nature's energy drink.

Dandelions will cleanse the liver and blood, aid digestion, lower your blood pressure and cholesterol, regulate blood-glucose levels, stimulate the digestive system and are great for constipation. They are a diuretic and mild laxative. Dandelions relieve inflammation and congestion of the gallbladder and liver, and are Commission E-approved for urinary infections and appetite loss. Drinking the tea regularly will even ward off herpes outbreaks.

Nettles are helpful with treating allergies, asthma and cough. Nettle tincture can be used for flu, colds, pneumonia and bronchitis. Dried nettles are an effective styptic when applied to wounds. Drinking nettle tea regularly will make your skin clearer, and treat eczema and psoriasis. The tea can also be used as an effective hair and scalp tonic. If you are feeling worn out or mentally exhausted, drink nettle tea to reduce your stress and tone your nervous system.

Our Key Peninsula is teeming with Mother Nature's healing medicines. Try your hand at foraging wild dandelions and nettles. Create teas, tinctures, poultices and healthy meals from your own backyard. Take care of the plants and they will take care of you.

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You might think: "I don't want to know where it goes." If you are like most people on the Key Peninsula, you have a septic system and that is where "it" goes. Knowing and understanding how your septic system works is important—for you and our community. Plus, when all of our septic systems are working properly, far fewer pollutants work their way into our beautiful marine shorelines and sea life.

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- Get copies of your system's records
- Learn do's and don'ts for septic system care
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- See a display of septic system parts

Saturday, Sept. 13, 9:00 a.m.–noon
Key Peninsula Civic Center
17010 South Vaughn Road KPN, Vaughn, WA 98394



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McNeil Island meeting opens door of possibilities

By Sara Thompson, for KP News

What's in the future for McNeil Island? With the state prison closing, will the families of old settlers resume ownership of their land? Will the native tribes harvest shellfish?

Back in July, a group of some 45 Key Peninsula residents gathered at the Lakebay Marina to get the facts.

Rep. Larry Seaquist organized the meeting in response to a request from the "Save McNeil Island" group. Six representatives from the Office of Financial Management, the Department of Corrections, the Department of Social and Health Services/Special Commitment Center and the Department of Fish and Wildlife came to share information and respond to questions.

Although the prison itself closed in 2010, the Special Commitment Center (SCC), a legislated program designed to house and treat sexually violent predators who have completed their prison terms and have been civilly committed by a court, remains open. And as long as the (SCC) remains on McNeil, there will unlikely be any significant change, according to the officials.

John Lane from OFM said McNeil, now a part of unincorporated Pierce County, was a site for food gathering by native tribes, and settlers arrived in the 1850s to live there. By 1940 the island was entirely owned by the federal government.

According to Lane, McNeil served as a site for a federal prison from 1875 until 1981 when Washington began leasing the prison. In 1984 the island ownership was transferred to the state, conditional on public benefit purposes as defined in federal law. One of the two deeds (about 30 percent of McNeil, or 1,300 acres) was for use as a correctional facility. The other deed (70 percent of McNeil and all of Pitt and Gertrude Islands) was set aside for wildlife conservation.

When the state decided to close the McNeil prison, power and water were disconnected and the buildings were

boarded up. No further work is planned.

Mark Strong said the DSHS, which is responsible for the SCC, takes community safety very seriously. The facility is separate from the old prison, surrounded by a monitored double perimeter security fence. There are currently 266 residents and that population is projected to be stable through 2032.

Shane Belson from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife described the wildlife preserve. "The island complex is part of WDFW's South Puget Sound Wildlife Area. McNeil, Pitt and Gertrude Islands are unique — they remain as rare, relatively undeveloped islands in the South Sound. Staff from DFW monitor the harbor seal population carefully — some 400-600 live on Gertrude Island, the largest and therefore most important seal haul-out site in the South Sound," Belson said.

Several people posed the question whether there is a chance the island could revert back to federal land.

Lane said both deeds restrict use of the property in perpetuity to the designated public benefit purposes of corrections and wildlife; contain conditions and restrictions related to archaeological properties, wildlife and public access; and require, at the option of the federal government, reversal of ownership to the federal government if the state fails to use or maintain the property for the designated public benefit purposes.

"We come away from this meeting with a clear, practical way forward. If the KP Community Council so wishes, we'll introduce legislation and a budget item to build on the 2012 OFM study to create a specific action plan for specific set of uses," Seaquist said.

Seaquist said he has "informal indicators" that the federal government would work with the Legislature. "We are within a year of a specific set of next step plans and, if budgets allow, very rapid action after that," he said.

A public discussion meeting with Seaquist, hosted by the KP Council, is scheduled for Nov. 12, 7 p.m. at the Key Center fire station.

2014 primary election results

By Rick Sorrels, KP News

The final voting results for the 2014 Primary Election are listed below. The top two contenders that will appear on the November General Election ballot are:

U.S. representative: Derek Kilmer (63 percent) vs Marty McClendon (32 percent).

State senator: Jan Angel (57 percent) vs Judy Arbogast (43 percent).

State representative: Nathan Schlicher (47 percent) vs Jesse Young (39 percent).

State representative: Larry Seaquist (51 percent) vs Michelle Calder (48 percent).

County councilmember: Derek Young (50 percent) vs Stan Flemming (50 percent). Young received 50 more votes than Flemming.

District court judge: Lineberry (38 percent) vs Williams (31 percent), who edged out Allen by 448 votes.

The remaining elected offices were unopposed.

Schools Prop 1 (bond): Failed 51 percent to 49 percent (60 percent vote required, plus validation requirement).

Schools Prop 2 (levy): Failed 53 percent to 47 percent (50 percent vote required, without validation requirement).

Pierce County had 442,910 registered voters with 122,061 ballots cast, with 28 percent of the registered voters casting ballots.

Peninsula School District had 42,850 registered voters with 21,047 ballots cast, with 49 percent of the registered voters casting ballots, which is by far the highest return rate for the entirety of Pierce County.

With both school funding measures having failed, the PSD school board will be discussing options on how to best fund their needs, what to cut, additional requirements for redistricting, et cetera, at their next school board meeting to be held on Sept. 11 at 6 p.m. at the district office. The public is welcome to attend and comment.

Artists and scarecrows gear up for farm tour

By Karen Lovett, KP News

The Key Peninsula Farm Tour takes place on Saturday, Oct. 4.

The popular event kicks off with an introduction in September as the community prepares for the main event.

An art show featuring farm and garden themes will be on display at Blend Wine Shop beginning Thursday, Sept. 18. Local Artist Tweed Meyer is coordinating the show.

"Faces of Farming," a film produced by Pierce County Agriculture, will be shown at the Key Center Library Sept. 18 at 7 p.m. Pierce County planner Diane Marcus Jones will be introducing the film. Blend and Pierce County Agriculture will be hosting a reception party to view the art work at Blend at 5:30 p.m. before moving to the library for the film later that evening.

Two Waters Art Alliance will ramp up enthusiasm for the farm tour with an early display of scarecrows.

"We want to fill up Key Center with scarecrows representing groups, businesses and individuals," KP Farm Tour president Carolyn Wiley said.

Artist Kathy Barrett is in charge of the contest. The theme for the contest this year is: Going on the KP Farm Tour.

Entry forms are available at Blend and Sunnycrest Nursery. Set up will be Sept. 20 and 21 and the scarecrows will be up for viewing until after the Farm Tour event.

For information, call Kathy Barrett at (253) 884-1592 or Tweed Meyer at (253) 514-9939.

Online 24/7 at keypennews.com

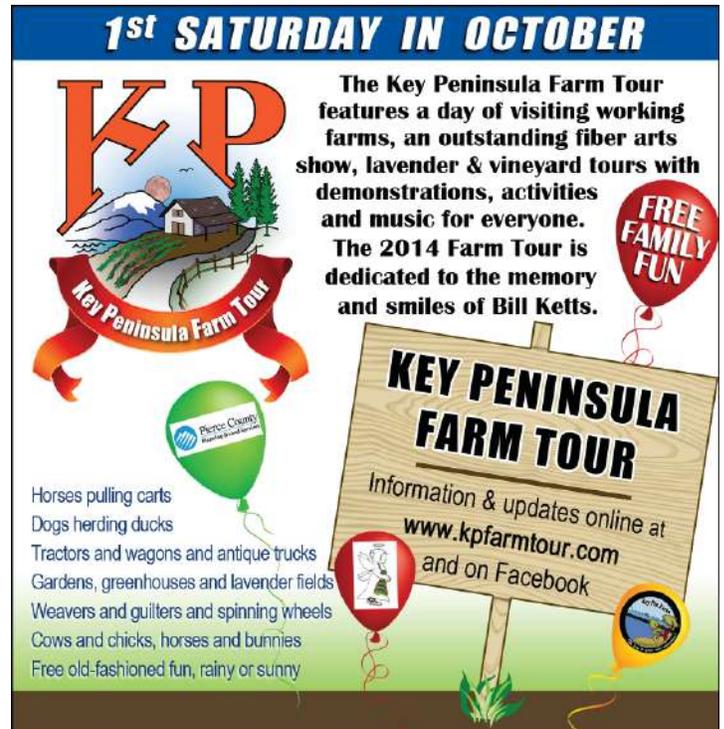


Meetings are 7 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month at Key Peninsula Lutheran Church, 4213 Lackey Road KPN, Lakebay

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'Flavors of Fall' fundraiser ready to impress

By Alice Kinerk, KP News

Do you dream of visiting Paris? Ever wish the city of love was located a little closer to our neck of the woods? If so, mark your calendar for the Key Peninsula Civic Center's Flavors of Fall Dinner Auction on Saturday, Oct. 11. Coordinators say this year's theme, "An Evening in Paris," promises to be truly memorable.

Now in its 25th year, the dinner auction has become known in the Key Peninsula area as a chance to support the civic center while reconnecting with old friends, making new ones, enjoying delicious food and drinks, and scoring deals on one-of-a-kind auction items.

Not to mention an opportunity to mar-

vel over decorations converting the center's gym into the evening's locale.

Event coordinator and KPCC board member Claudia Loy wouldn't reveal details about this year's decorations, but hinted that there might be a mime wandering among the crowd, as well as a photo booth where couples could take a snapshot of themselves with the Eiffel Tower visible behind.

"The decor is a big part of it," Loy said. "You walk in and people are amazed that we've transformed that gym."

Charged with coordinating the event from the beginning, Loy is always looking for ways to improve. As a result there is a change this year in the way the meal will be served, she said.

In the past the dinner was a sit-down af-

fair, but Loy noticed that with everyone eager to socialize it was difficult to get folks to make their way to their assigned seats so waiters could begin. This year, food will be located at various stations set up around the gym, with everyone free to visit the stations at will. Loy plans a cheese bar and an oyster bar, among others.

Also new this year will be a complimentary glass of champagne for each guest at the check-in table. The event, restricted to those ages 21 and up, will feature a selection of excellent French wines, a signature French drink, as well as a full bar.

After dinner, the live auction is a showcase of unique items and services. Guests will be encouraged to bid on exquisite, locally-made artwork, generously donated vacation spaces, as well as a variety of fun outings.

Loy works hard to select the perfect collection of auction items. Seeking a balance between physical objects and experiences, she notes that as people get older, many are trying to pare down their belongings and aren't interested in acquiring more "stuff." For this reason guests are also invited to do-

nate directly to the civic center during the event.

For the civic center, raising funds is what the evening is all about. With ticket prices set at \$50, and between 180 and 200 people expected to attend, the civic center brings in the bulk of their donations during the Flavors of Fall fundraiser.

"It is always our aim to try and raise two years' worth of operational funds for the Center, so, you can imagine how important this event is to us," said Bruce Macdonald, KPCC treasurer. This year much of the money raised at the auction will go toward the purchase of a new HVAC system.

Loy encourages both new and returning guests to attend.

"The Key Peninsula Civic Center plays a vital part in our community activities. Functions like this are what really brings the community together," she said.

Tickets are available at Sunnycrest Nursery or at Key Peninsula Civic Center. For more information or to donate an auction item, contact the center at 884-3456, or call Claudia Loy at 884-4169.



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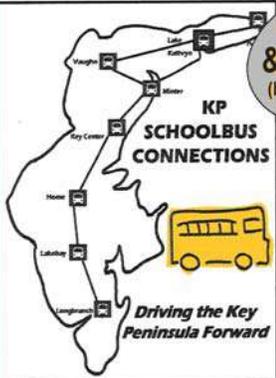
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KP COMMUNITY COUNCIL is a partner with the PENINSULA SCHOOL DISTRICT.
User's Guides available at: The Mustard Seed Project office, the Library, and the KPCS/Food Bank



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Obituary Notice



Gladys Mae (Urch Kamke) Keating

April 2, 1929 - July 17, 2014

Keating was born in Erie, PA. She enjoyed life and living in many places and spent 40-plus years on the Key Peninsula until eight years ago when her and husband, Bill Keating, of 41 years, moved to Port Orchard.

She has four children; Harvey Kamke, Howard Kamke, Tammy Sanders and Barb Rippon, and 10 grand children and numerous great grand children.

Vaughn's 'Ready Set Go' program gives advantage to students

By Rick Sorrels, KP News

The Ready Set Go program at Vaughn Elementary gives special attention to students in first through fifth-grade who need extra help with reading and math skills.

The program was available throughout the district 15 years ago, but Lisa Selfors, the program coordinator at Vaughn, believes that Vaughn is the only school in the district currently offering it. This is its fourth year at Vaughn.

Some Title One funds come from the federal government, which is supplemented by grants from Angel Guild and Community in Schools.

"During the last school year we helped 95 children in small groups throughout the school year," Selfors said. "For the summer session, we invited 60, with 24 attending."

Selfors said that about three months of learning is lost over the summer months, so a lot of time at the start of each school year is spent relearning that lost information.

"Our two-week program held just before the start of the new school year and not only recovers a lot of that lost information, but allows the students to re-adjust to school life again — to the extent that a lot of the kids become class leaders at the start of the new school year," said Selfors.

Selfors is a credentialed teacher who grew up here, has lived on Rocky Bay for 17 years and attended Vaughn when she was young, just like her three children have.

Patti Wilson is the second teacher for the program. Wilson has been a para-educator at Vaughn for 15 years, and lives near Elgin Clifton Road.

The second teacher allows a lot of personal attention for every student.

Items taught include reading, comprehension, strategies, multiplication and division, telling time, place value and math review.

"We have lots of fun, too," said Selfors, "We read about making lemonade and then we make some. The same with kites."

TWAA juried art show set

The fourth annual juried Art Exhibition will be presented by Two Waters Arts Alliance (TWAA) from Oct. 3 through Dec. 1.

Cash prizes of \$150 will be awarded. Current membership in TWAA is required for entry.

The judge for this show is Gig Harbor artist, Cecilia Blomberg, who holds a Master of Fine Arts degree from the National College of Art, Craft and Design (Konstfack) in Sweden. Blomberg specializes in tapestries and has finished commissioned pieces for Washington State Arts Commission, Bonneville Power Administration, banks, hospitals and college and school campuses.

Hanging space restrictions limits the framed size to 24 inches in the vertical dimension.

According to TWAA, all submissions

must be original two-dimensional work by the artist. Three-dimensional entries must be wall mounted. All work must be appropriately framed and wired for hanging. Saw tooth hangers are not permitted. TWAA allows the work to be offered for sale with a 30 percent commission.

An entry fee of \$10 for one or two images will be charged. Artwork may be dropped off at the Key Center Library on Thursday, Oct. 2 between 5 and 6 p.m. Work not selected for the show may be picked up between 4 and 6 p.m. Fri., Oct. 3 during the opening reception.

Membership applications may be downloaded at twowaters.org.

For special arrangements or questions, email entries@fernwoodstudio.com or call Robin Peterson at (253) 884-2286.



AUTUMN

Our Annual Fall Sale is now on.

DISCOUNTING ALL NURSERY STOCK 25%
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Fall Vegetable Gardening
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Beets, lettuce, broccoli, kale, leeks, brussels sprouts
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2 C. bag, reg. \$19.99 ea
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Key Peninsula Community Council candidates speak up

The Key Peninsula is a unique place in the universe. Representing the issues and concerns of our unincorporated, without a town, barely in Pierce County, accidental peninsula-almost an island-community to elected government officials is a unique task.

The Key Peninsula Community Council (KPC) has been doing the job for a decade and from this work has grown such projects as: the KP Farm Tour; the KP School Bus Connects and the Safe SR-302 road improvements.

Each year half of the KPC director positions are open for election. The election is a community-wide process. Every resident who is 18 by election date is eligible to vote. Receiving the ballots rewards the KPC for the work they do.

For 10 years, the KP News has provided candidate statements and photos for the KPC election to help residents determine their vote. KPC appreciates the generous support of KP News, the dedication of candidates and the consideration of the voters to turn in their ballots.

Voting deadline is Sunday, Sept. 21 at 3 p.m. and details are on the KPC ballot in this issue. (See page 5.)

AREA 1

Phyllis Henry

“Currently serving on the KP Community Council, I’m aware of issues concerning Peninsula citizens. I would continue to aid in the development of Council initiatives, including safety issues on SR-302, youth activities and safety on the Peninsula, fundraising, and awareness of governmental processes that affect the citizens of the Peninsula.”



John Kelly

“I look forward to the opportunity to use my skills and knowledge to serve oth-

ers by working with the Key Peninsula Community Council, and especially to represent my neighbors in the northern part of the peninsula. As a park commissioner, I work to represent all citizens of the district, while focusing on developing our parks for families, with an emphasis on involving the youth in our community. My goal with KPCC is to continue to make Key Pen a great place to raise a family.”



Ruth Bramhall

“I have been a Key Pen resident for 45 years and involved in a lot of different organizations such as the Key Pen Fire Department, KP Business Association; Jackson Lake Sportsman’s Club, Longbranch Community Church; Mary Bridge Children’s Hospital and the Children’s Home Society. I have an interest in improving the conditions for people, businesses and roads. I appreciate your support and your vote.”



AREA 2

Danna Burnett

“I am currently serving on the Key Peninsula Community Council and am co-chair of the “Make 302 Safe” Committee. With your support I would love to continue working with the Department of Transportation, the KPC SR-302 Safety Committee and help better our community here on the Peninsula.”



Shelley Lynn Comfort

“As I was a homeless person at one point in my life, I have a passion and caring heart to help strengthen people in the Key Peninsula community. My goals as a KPC representative are to help the Key Peninsula with better disaster preparedness; to assist many of the struggling families in the KP; to help create more quality jobs and transportation for families on the Key Peninsula; to tie the non-profit organizations within the KP together so they can be more efficient and more effective; and to bring pride back into the Key Peninsula.”



Adison Richards

“As a member of the Key Peninsula Community Council, it will be my goal to be a strong advocate for making safety improvements to our roads and bridges, maintaining key educational opportunities for our students like the NASA Explorer Program, and for finding solutions to the challenges facing small businesses.”



Irene Torres

“My work with non-profits in our area has given me insight to the challenges and opportunities that we, as neighbors, face. We must be engaged ‘at the table’ with the county and state to ensure our voice is heard. I am honored to help the KP Council continue building our vibrant community.”



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Key Peninsula author Colleen Slater will be here to sell and sign all three of her books!

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(From **Candidates**, Page 12)

AREA 3

Tim Kezele

“The KP is a fast growing community that needs involvement from the community into how it is developed. This includes preserving the past and keeping current with new trends. The natural beauty needs to be preserved for its health. Roads and public transportation are a big concern as we grow. Public transportation is missing out here. Let’s get that back. I guess the bottom line is that we can make it happen or wonder what happened.”



Laverna Holwill Spain

“I have lived on the Key Peninsula for over 18 years. I have been in the mental health field for over 15 years. I’m currently self-employed as a private Certified Coun-

selor in Tacoma and Key Peninsula under the name Stepping Stones. I was asked to fill an Area 3 director vacancy in May of 2014, which I am honored to complete. I like being involved in the Key Community Council’s goals in addressing and responding to the needs of the community. Their actions of monitoring developments on the Key Peninsula’s Community Plan have facilitated in the improvement of the quality of life on the Peninsula.”



Don Swensen

“The Key Peninsula is a place unlike anywhere else, with unique advantages as well as our fair share of unique challenges. I believe it’s our responsibility, as members



of the community to address the challenges while minimizing impact to the advantages that make this such a wonderful place to live.”

AREA 4

Marcia Harris

“After a 37-year career in public education, I retired in 2012 to live full time on the Key Peninsula. We have lived here since 1995 and enjoy the diversity and spirit of community that is ‘the heart’ of who we are out here on the ‘Key.’ Serving on the KP Community Council for the past two years has been a rewarding experience. I would like to continue to serve on the council for another term. I wish to continue to support the KP Bus Connects program as coordinator of this unique partnership with the school district to provide transportation services to KP citizens. The KP Community Council gives our residents a



voice that represents KP interests locally and at the county and state level.”

Carol Opalinski

“I work as a legal assistant/victim advocate at the Kitsap County prosecutor’s office and have lived in Palmer Lake for the past seven years. I am on the Board of the Palmer Lake Homeowners’ Association and am also on the Board of the Key Peninsula Lutheran Church. It would be a privilege to represent the area in and around Palmer Lake, in the care of the Key Peninsula. The Key Peninsula is a beautiful place to live and I would be honored to help enhance the lives of our residents and our surroundings.”



Online 24/7 at
keypennews.com

The Mustard Seed Project
Building an Elder-Friendly Key Peninsula
Our September Third Thursday Community Forum
Senior Wellness and Falls Prevention

The first day of Fall is annual Falls Prevention Awareness Day

Please join us for

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Key Center Fire Station Meeting Room
 Transportation Available ~ Please call 884-9814 for details

The Key Peninsula Civic Center invites you to the
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FLAVORS OF FALL
 Auction Fundraiser

“An Evening in Paris”
Saturday, October 11, 2014

Doors open at 5pm with a champagne greeting
 French cuisine served throughout the evening,
 prepared by guest Chef, Richard Houle

Tickets available at Sunnycrest Nursery,
 the Key Peninsula Civic Center, and
www.kpciviccenter.org

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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COMMUNITY PAGES

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

SEPT. 2, 8, 15, 22, 29

Bloodmobile

The bloodmobile is at Albertson's 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Note the 2nd is a Tuesday.

SEPT. 2 and 16

Senior shopping

Seniors have an opportunity to go grocery shopping and attend any scheduled Gig Harbor doctor's appointments with transportation provided; a "Dutch" lunch is included. 884-9265.

SEPT. 4

Cat-lover meeting

Cat Tales 4-H Club, for children 5 to 18, meets 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., in the VFW of the KP Civic Center. Learn all about cats with some cat-loving friends. Dianna, 884-4182 or cat.tales4h@gmail.com.

SEPT. 4, 11, 18, 25

GED help

Teens, young adults and adults receive help, from local educators, preparing for a GED, completion of high school or college and placement tests 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., at the Key Center Library. Call 548-3309 to make an appointment.

SEPT. 5

Golf tournament

Lakebay Community Church holds its inugural Scramble Golf Tournament with a shotgun start at 1:30 p.m. Entry fee (\$95) includes cart, hamburger dinner and prizes with proceeds to be used for renovation of LCC fellowship hall. Information and registration: www.lakebaycovenant.net or Scott, 223-4243 or sludlow@geiger.com.

SEPT. 5-6

Huge book sale

The Friends of Key Center Library Fall Book Sale is Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., in the Brones Room of the Key Center Library. Funds raised through the book sale allow the Friends

To submit an event

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

to supplement programming and materials for children and youth and provide free programs for adults, purchase magazine subscriptions and other materials and purchase incidental equipment for the library. Donations of books should be delivered on Thursday, Sept. 4. 548-3309.

SEPT. 9

Drop-in help

Adults may learn basic computer skills, Microsoft Word, establish an email account, or otherwise get "unstuck" from 1 to 5 p.m., at the Key Center Library. Bring your laptop, tablet or smartphone for one-on-one help. 548-3309.

SEPT. 9 and 25

Crochet or knit

The Loving Hearts group knits and crochets for charities and meets on Sept. 9 from 1 to 3 p.m., and on Sept. 25 from 7 to 9 p.m., at WayPoint Church. Yarn donations are always needed. Virginia, 884-9619.

SEPT. 10

Garden club meets

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

SEPT. 11

Ashes meet

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

SEPT. 11 and 25

Free clinic

Non-emergency medical care for KP residents without any medical insurance

is provided 5:30 to 8 p.m., at Key Peninsula Health and Professional Center in Key Center. 884-2234.

SEPT. 12 and 26

Teen fun

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

SEPT. 12, 19, 26

Skate night and teen fun

Skate Night is hosted at the KP Civic Center 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

SEPT. 13

Barter

The Autumn Barter Fair is 10 a.m. to noon at the KP Civic Center. A TPCHD septic workshop is available.

SEPT. 14

Sunday bluegrass jam

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

SEPT. 18

WorkSource help

Learn to sell yourself and detail your skills to make employers notice you at an "Advertising Your Abilities" Workshop by WorkSource at 11 a.m., at Key Center Library. Prepare an effective professional profile statement and discover the benefits of using social media. A workshop called "LinkedIn Help" is also offered at 2 p.m. Expand your network, search for advertised jobs and research employers. A current LinkedIn profile and familiarity with the Internet and computers is required. If you need help setting up a LinkedIn account, ask a librarian. Both events are sponsored by WorkSource and Pierce County Library System and require registration. 548-3309.

Film and wine

A film and reception is hosted to highlight the upcoming Farm Tour. The Blend Wine Shop tasting room hosts a wine tasting at 5:30 p.m., and the film "Faces of Farming" shows at the KC Library at 7 p.m. Both the Blend and the library sponsor the premiere showing of the film, a Pierce County agricultural production. Photography by David Montesino is included in the art display focusing on KP farming by local artists at the Blend. 884-9157.

SEPT. 20-21 until OCT. 4

Make a scarecrow

Groups, businesses or individuals may make a scarecrow to display in Key Center to promote the Farm Tour to take place Oct. 4. It's called a "Scarecrow-pocalypse in Key Center." This is fun and there will be prizes. Contact Kathy, 884-1592 or kathybarrett03@gmail.com. Entry forms are available.

SEPT. 23

4-H meeting

The 4-H Guinea Pig group meets 6:30 to 8 p.m., in the Civic Center Library (upstairs). Nanette, (360) 981-5292.

Story times

Story time for babies ages 0-24 months is at 10 a.m., and for toddlers ages 2-3 years is at 11 a.m., at the Key Center Library. All children must be accompanied by an adult. 548-3309.

SEPT. 26

Family story time

Family story time including stories, art activities, rhymes, singing and finger plays followed by a learning-filled play time for caregivers and children is at 11 a.m., at the Key Center Library.

SEPT. 27

Dance hosted

A KGHP dance, in partnership with the KPCCA, is hosted. Contact Spencer Abersold for more information. abersolds@psd401.net

PUBLIC MEETINGS

KP Lions' dinner and program

Sept. 3 and 17, 5:30 p.m., in VFW Room, KP Civic Center; 853-2721.

KP Veterans

Sept. 15, 7 p.m., at McColley Hall/KP Lutheran Church; Frank, 509-8656 or John, 884-5042, kpveterans.net or keypenveterans@outlook.com.

Key Pen Parks

Sept. 8 and 22, 7 p.m., at Volunteer Park; keypenparks.com.

KP Fire Department

Sept. 9 and 23, 5 p.m., in meeting room, fire station in Key Center; keypeninsulafire.org.

Key Peninsula Council

Sept. 10, 7 p.m. meeting, featuring a presentation by DOT who plan to do night work in the State Route 302/118th area in September, at Key Center fire station; kpcouncil.org.

Peninsula School District Board

Sept. 11, 6 p.m., at district office.

KP Civic Center Association Board

Sept. 11, 7 p.m., in Whitmore Room, KP Civic Center; kpciviccenter.org.

KP Land Use Advisory Commission

Sept. 17, 6:30 p.m., at the KC Library; chuck-west@hotmail.com.

KP Citizens against Crime

Sept. 18, 6 p.m., at fire station in Key Center; kpcitizensagainstcrime.org.

LIC

Sept. 20, dessert potluck, 7 p.m., at Longbranch Improvement Club; 884-6022 longbranchimprovementclub.org.

KP Farm Council

Sept. 22, 6:30 p.m., at fire station in Home; c.wiley@mac.com.

WEEKLY EVENTS

MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS

Free lunch

Free lunch for all children, ages 1 to 18, is served 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at KP Civic Center from Aug. 4 to 20.

MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS

Community walk

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

Senior exercise class

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

TUESDAYS

Story times

Summer stories for babies (ages 0-24 months) at 10 a.m., and stories and crafts for toddlers (ages 3-6 years) at 11 a.m., at the KC Library runs all summer starting June 24. 548-3309.

Swim

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

Key Singers rehearse

Key Singers, a local community chorus, begin rehearsals for the Christmas season on Sept. 9, 7 p.m., at Key Peninsula Lutheran Church. Open to all who love to sing; annual dues are \$10, which pays

for rent, scholarships, sheet music and concert refreshments. 884-5615.

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS

Senior tai chi club

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

Preschool play time

Beginning on Sept. 16, 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.

WEDNESDAYS

Writers meet

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

Writer's workshop

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

TUESDAYS & SATURDAYS

KPHS Museum open

KPHS Museum open seum, located at the KP Civic Center in Vaughn, is open Tuesdays and Saturdays, 1 to 4 p.m. 'Forest to Farms - The Land, the People, the Legacy' is this year's display. No admission charge, but monetary donations are wel-

come. Check us out on Facebook — Key Peninsula Historical Society. 888-3246.

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 11 a.m., for a potluck, fellowship and games in the Whitmore Room at the KP Civic Center. All are welcome. 884-4981.

Bingo

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

SATURDAYS

Writers' Guild

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

Lakebay Jam with 302

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

OFF THE KEY

SEPT. 6

PHS reunion

1948 to 1960 Peninsula High School alumnae and classmates meet for their annual reunion at 6 p.m., at the Gig Harbor Eagles at 4425 Burnham Drive. No charge, but donations requested to pay rental. No food available. 858-6901.

SEPT. 7

Local authors sign

Key Peninsula authors Dick Dixon and Ted Olinger and Gig Harbor author

Jan Walker will read from and offer their books for sale from 3 to 5 p.m., at Lele Restaurant, 4747 Point Fosdick Drive. Sponsored by Gig Harbor Lions, a portion of proceeds will benefit the Lions. Lele Restaurant offers a 25 percent discount coupon on one complete dinner following the event, alcoholic beverages excluded.

SEPT. 13

Hounds walk

The 12th annual Harbor Hounds Charity Dog Walk along the waterfront begins with registration and 9 a.m., and walking from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The walk benefits the Prison Pet Partnership, and

the many charities supported by the Gig Harbor Middy Rotary Club. Enjoy a day of fun with neighbors, family and your furry best friend. Visit the registration or sponsors page at harborhounds.com.

SEPT. 28

Half-marathon

The annual "Race for a Soldier" Half-Marathon is hosted throughout Gig Harbor. Support this race by running, walking, volunteering, donating or just watching, and make a difference in the lives of our brave soldiers and their families. Raceforasoldier.org/contact.

Key Peninsula church hosts long-running VBS program

By Scott Turner, KP News

For more than three decades WayPoint Church has held a free, week-long Vacation Bible School in July for kids through sixth grade.

According to Sharron Dean, a Vaughn resident who has served as VBS volunteer coordinator since 2012, this year's session drew more than 160 kids and 80 volunteers.

Many of the volunteers are themselves youngsters, Dean said, and many are former VBS kids.

"They're 12 and 13 and 14 and 15 years old. They can't drive yet and they don't have a job so they come and help. I think they get just as much out of it as the kids themselves.

"They're helping and giving of their time but they're hearing the Bible story and the missionary story every day.

"They don't get to do the crafts, but they help with that and they fully participate in the opening and the closing lessons."

Maitlin Banks, 16, was one of this year's volunteers. "I was a navigator for the parents of the 6-year olds," the Gig Harbor resident said. "I led them around and made



By Scott Turner, KP News

WayPoint Church actors, from left, Jonathon Brewster, Tim Stobbe and Anna Marshall performed and shared lessons of Christ during the popular VBS program.

sure they're all in order and all having fun and safe."

VBS is important to the kids because "they're growing spiritually. They're growing and they need to know how Jesus Christ died on the cross for us. It's really neat to watch them spiritually grow," Banks added.

Nine-year old Gabriel Nieto had attended VBS at another church before his family moved to the Key Peninsula. "I got experience from my old church," he said.

"Here we learned a lot about how Jesus saved us when he died on the cross, and all the teaching is good lessons," Nieto said.

Each day at VBS is carefully orchestrated, Dean said. This year's schedule included a skit that was performed every morning and afternoon.

This year's skit, called "Arizona Slim and Carolina Jane," featured Jonathon Brewster as Slim and Anna Marshall as Jane. A third character, Jungle Jim, was played by Way-

Point pastor Tim Stobbe, a Lake Holiday resident.

The scene was decorated with vines and artifacts reminiscent of an Indiana Jones setting, and there were work areas throughout the church where kids did crafts, had snacks, played games and listened to Bible stories.

The youngsters also took part in a missionary project to raise funds for KP residents Jon and Jen Meyers who recently relocated to Papua, New Guinea. "They live in a very remote area," Dean said. "Jon really helped with our youth group here at our church.

"They send us videos that the kids watched each day about what they're doing — like planting banana trees. The kids were so engaged with that and they raised money for a water tank for their house," she said.

This year's VBS attendance was quite a bit bigger than last year, Dean said.

"But it's not about the numbers. For me, to look at the kids at the end of the week and to know that they had a good, safe time and that they learned some really valuable things — some truths for their lives — that's the most important thing."

For information visit waypoint-church.org

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Lakebay Community Church hosts party for 90 years of service

By Scott Turner, KP News

On a beautiful August Sunday, a group of Key Peninsula residents celebrated the 90th birthday of Lakebay Community Church with cake and ice cream and a hearty chorus of "Happy Birthday to Us."

The church began as a Sunday school class in the old Lakebay schoolhouse in 1913, according to Pastor Dan Whitmarsh.

In 1924, members bought the property and officially chartered as a church on Aug. 16, 1924.

For this year's birthday celebration, the church's fellowship hall was festooned with birth-day decorations and displays of photos and documents from bygone days.

A couple of visitors even showed up with armloads of fresh flowers that had been used at a local wedding the day before.

"They just wanted to say congratulations and that anybody who wanted some flowers was welcome to take some

home with them," said Whitmarsh. "It was a fun way of seeing how the church and the larger community intersect."

Long-time church members reminisced and extended the hand of fellowship to newcomers.

"We have some people who've been with us for 30, 40, 50 years," Whitmarsh said.

Rebecca Hatch Robert is one of the "old-timers." She first attended the church in 1952.

"This community has changed so much in 90 years, but Lakebay Community Church is still at its center," Robert said.

"LCC has been a constant welcoming place in my life where I have made friends, raised my daughter, accompanied my mother through her final years, learned leadership and humility, all because Jesus and the people of this church loved me first," she said.

Many of the picnickers enjoyed reminiscing about the old-time items that were on display.

"It was interesting to look at all the

old photos; it brought back memories to long-time members and filled out the story for the newer people," parishioner Jo Hamilton said.

For church member Ron James, 90 years is "a demonstration of God's faithfulness."

James recalled that there have been ups and downs in the church's history, "but every step along the way God has met this church and led us along," he said.

Pastor Whitmarsh agreed. "There were periods of time when the church couldn't afford a pastor and they actually shut down for a while," he said. "And then they saw growth as the Peninsula saw growth."

He added that the church is even more community-minded today than it was in the past.

"We're much more concerned about being involved in the larger community and being here to help out and being servants in the community," he said.

"We'll go clean up peoples' yards and we've adopted part of the road to clean up trash."

Church members recently spent a day at Blue Willow Lavender Farm weeding and mowing lawns "and doing what we could to help them out with all the stuff they've been through. We try to stay aware of needs," Whitmarsh said.

Monday evenings, a youth group gets together at the church. On Wednesdays the church hosts a food bank and every Thursday there's a meet and mingle gathering.

"We're proud to have been a part of this community for 90 years and we cherish the role that we've been able to play. We're excited to look back in the history and see the names like when Dr. Penrose used to come here." Whitmarsh said.

"But at the same time we're trying to move ahead and be a healthy, vibrant community of people who are still proud to call this place home and want to make a difference for the good in this place. We're not just resting on the past. We're seeking ways to be a blessing to this community in the future."

For information visit lakebaycovenant.net or call (253) 884-3899.

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KP church spiffing up and holding fundraising auction

By Scott Turner, KP News

Key Peninsula Lutheran church is celebrating change.

Church members have been building a new sidewalk around the church, renovating the playground and generally spiffing-up the place.

"We're getting ready to paint the building after umpty-ump years, and we're also cutting down brush along the highway so people can actually see the building," said long-time parish administrator Julie Johnson.

"A lot of people here on the Peninsula don't even know there's a church here. We have all these trees around us. I think

we've reached a point in our life where we need to come out of the woods."

Inside the church, there's more change afoot. There's a new computer and new monitors for PowerPoint presentations and the church will soon begin holding Saturday evening services.

"It's all about change and celebrating change," Johnson said.

To support their outreach efforts and further increase visibility, on Sept. 14 the church will host a fundraising auction.

The event will take place right after the regular Sunday service and will include lunch, silent auction and a live auction.

Elsie Vezzani, vice president of the church council, is a member of the auction committee. Her group has been hard at work collecting prizes for the event.

"We have some wonderful entertainment items," Vezzani said. "One is a night out with a nice dinner and theater tickets — the whole ball of wax. Another is a three nights at a local waterfront cabin."

Troy Miles, a teacher from Bremerton who moonlights as an auctioneer, will

run the show. "He's a hoot," Vezzani said. "It's going to be a real fun time."

Money raised at the auction will support the church's outreach programs.

"We sponsor three community meals per month," Vezzani said. "And this year we sponsored our first Little League team. And we also collect school supplies."

The church hosts AA meetings and a veterans group's meetings, and also serves as an emergency shelter for the Peninsula.

"I want the public to know that we're alive and well, we're progressing and we welcome newcomers to our area and also people who've been here for awhile," Vezzani said.

At press time the church was still accepting auction items and monetary donations.

For information, call the church office at (253) 884-3312.

Key Peninsula Lutheran Church is located at 4213 Lackey Road, at the intersection of Lackey Road and Key Peninsula Highway.

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Colleen Slater unveils third book 'L is for Leaping'

By Karen Lovett, KP News

When Colleen Slater's pastor, Bob Postma, went on a three week vacation from the First Presbyterian Church in Hoquiam in the early 1980s, Slater stepped up to take his place writing her first lay sermon.

She led the congregation for one Sunday and two other members, a teacher and a businessman, each took the remaining weeks. This set a precedent for Slater in a direction of developing her own a personal spiritual teachings.

Slater was born in Gig Harbor, but her parents lived in Vaughn. Other family members resided on the Key Peninsula. When her husband Frank retired in 1989 the couple returned to Vaughn to be close to family.

Her spiritual connection continued here when they joined the Chapel Hill Presbyterian Church in Gig Harbor and they became involved in the ministry at the Washington Corrections Center

for Women in Purdy. She recycled and shortened some of her prior lay sermons and wrote one new one for them.

Grace Presbyterian New Church Development was their next move. The church began with lay pastors, and Slater recycled and added a sermon there. The last lay sermon she wrote was for them in the mid-nineties.

When their current worship home, Historical Vaughn Bay Church, began worship services, the fledgling spiritual center asked Slater to preach until they located visiting pastors. Her sermons were recycled for the third time. She used some lay sermons in this setting until a roster of visiting pastors was set up.

Although some of the sermons were used in all four places, at least one was only used once. Included are some of the prayers used with the sermons.

In addition to her collection of sermons, she has accumulated a variety of other writings including six essays, most published as columns in the Pen-



Photo by Karen Lovett, KP News
Colleen Slater with her latest book "L is for Leaping."

insula Gateway. present them at a future date, I would likely make more changes," Slater said. "However, these reflect the knowledge and understandings I had at the time, some of which have changed a bit over the years between."

Slater is working on publishing a nonfiction historical collection of writings from her Key Peninsula Pioneers columns in the KP News.

Slater is working on publishing a nonfiction historical collection of writings from her Key Peninsula Pioneers columns in the KP News. "L is for Leaping" is available from Colleen Slater, Cost Less Pharmacy, Dightman's Bible Bookstore, Plicata Press.com and Amazon.com.

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"L is for Leaping" is available from Colleen Slater, Cost Less Pharmacy, Dightman's Bible Bookstore, Plicata Press.com and Amazon.com.



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Local girl volunteers her way to winning community service award

By Karen Lovett, KP News

Ten-year-old Alyssa Garcia is a familiar face around the Key Peninsula. A member of Girl Scout Troop 40956 and an active member of the Key Peninsula Youth Council, Garcia can't seem to get enough of doing good deeds for the community.

Garcia's name was submitted last year for the Kohl's Cares for Kids scholarship program. The Vaughn Elementary student was awarded a \$50 gift certificate as the local Western Washington winner. This put her in the running for a chance in the regional competition and the opportunity to take home a scholarship. She did not win the regional title for last year's efforts, but is eligible to compete again in the future.

Her mother, Audra Garcia, is a District 2 director of the Key Peninsula Community Council. She heads the KP Youth Council and is also the leader of Girl Scout Super Troop 40956.

In 2013, the fourth grader participated in beach cleanups at Purdy with Scouts and at Penrose Park with the KP Youth Council. Again with KP Youth she did clean-ups

at the three KP elementary schools, Evergreen, Minter Creek and Vaughn. When the KP Youth Council was scheduled to check out the disc golf course for problems at Volunteer Park, Alyssa Garcia was the only one of nine members to show up. She worked at the Key Peninsula Civic Center crab feed fundraiser, too.

"During the Race for a Soldier in Gig Harbor, Alyssa stood in the rain and handed out water to runners," Audra Garcia said.

On Halloween Garcia worked at a game booth at the civic center. She also joined fellow Scout members at the Longbranch Improvement Club to assist with Kids and Christmas.

When she appeared at a Gig Harbor charity event to make fleece blankets for an orphanage in Mexico, Garcia was told it was a graduation project for seniors. Undaunted, she stayed and made blankets. She was the only elementary student there.

This was her second year working at Key-Fest as a "Helper Monkey." Fifteen Girl Scouts were among the 25 youth volunteers. She is also a member of Kid Zone, volunteers for Key Pen Parks.



Photo by Karen Lovett, KP News

Alyssa Garcia, 10, prepares a sign for the Girl Scout rummage sale at Lake Kathryn Village on Aug. 16.

Garcia's Girl Scout Troop will be at Creston Valley Farm volunteering during the KP Farm Tour.

When asked why she likes volunteering, she said, "I meet lots of people I don't know. In Girl Scouts we make crafts and learn about other places and meet other girls from other places."

On Aug. 16, Garcia and other girls from her troop were busy running a rummage sale to earn gas money for a van. This time

the money will be spent for themselves. The girls are headed to a theme park in Silverwood, Idaho for Labor Day weekend.

Scholarship America took over running the Kohl's Cares Scholarship Program four years ago. The program is for children ages 6 to 18. This was the biggest year ever with 37,000 nominations and 2,300 local winners throughout the country.

For information, visit Kohlsscholarshipamerica.org or call (319) 688-4336.

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Key Pen Parks Foundation

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For more information: www.keypenparksfoundation.org or on Facebook: [Key Peninsula Parks Foundation](https://www.facebook.com/KeyPeninsulaParksFoundation)

Al Twidt deposits his raffle ticket at the registration and information table at the first meeting of the KP Barter Fair, June 21. Watching are Nicole Bothwell and her daughter Evelyn, Norma Toland and Dan Campbell.



Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News

Citizens trade homemade items through new barter group

KP News Staff Report

On a recent Saturday morning the Key Peninsula Civic Center hosted what looked, at first glance, like a craft fair. Folding tables were set up beside the picnic shelter and people began arriving with a wide variety of homemade and homegrown items.

On offer were jars of home-canned fruits and veggies, home-brewed beer, dried herbs, bread, jam, pickles and preserves, eggs and all manner of baked confections. But not just food — there was jewelry cleverly crafted from metal scraps, crocheted newborn caps, homemade bookmarks and bags sewn from pillowcases.

On the far end, a woman painted henna tattoos. Elsewhere, a man filled his table with robust tomato starts and ready-to-plant annuals. The event differed from a craft fair in one crucial way: Not a single item was sold for cash.

It was KP Barter's first-ever barter fair. The group, which formed in April, provides a venue for area citizens to trade their homemade or homegrown items with those of neighbors. There is no cost to attend a barter fair, use a table or trade. Raffle tickets, sold for a dollar each, helped with printing costs and fees for renting the facility.

"If you made it, you can trade it," said Alice Kinerk, one of the group's founders. "We know that there are many Key Peninsula folks who are skilled craftsmen, excellent gardeners, bakers, and so on. Many of us are already trading with neighbors, so we thought, why not provide a central location where trading can happen in a fun and efficient way," she said.

No trades were allowed while people were checking in and setting up. Then, after a bell

was rung, raffle winners drawn and a few announcements made, the bartering began.

The mood was pleasant and casual as friends and neighbors strolled about, discussing what they had brought and considering what they might like to take home. Others, just curious about how it all worked, stopped by to browse and ask questions.

Cofounder Nicole Bothwell sees barter as a chance to make friends and improve self-reliance.

"I think the barter group contributes to our community by helping neighbors come together to discover common interests. Where else would you discover that someone has a passion for making mustard? It also helps broaden our minds, and gets us thinking about what else we could make at home, rather than having to run to the store," Bothwell said.

For items that could not easily be transported to the fair, such as goat cheese or firewood, vouchers were available to fill out as an agreement to trade off-site. Norma Toland, another founder, received a hen in an off-site trade.

Toland said bartering gives people access to a wide variety of items.

"I believe the community benefited by creating an avenue to obtain something they otherwise (maybe) wouldn't be able to purchase. By bartering your crafted goods everyone benefits," said Toland.

This year, the group plan to host four barter fairs, and may increase to six or 12 events in future years. The next barter fair is scheduled for 10 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 13 at the civic center.

For more information, visit Key Peninsula Barter on Facebook, kpbarter.wordpress.com or call 884-2723.

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WildWatch program watches Key Peninsula

By Steve Whitford, KP News

Gig Harbor's Harbor WildWatch program not only serves Gig Harbor, it is also an important part of life on the Key Peninsula.

The organization was created in 2004 by Dee Dee Howser of Gig Harbor and has since grown into a volunteer organization of some 60 members.

WildWatch's calling is for marine environmental education and the preservation of nature's bounty.

The organization features five basic programs. "Get Your Feet Wet" occurs at local beaches and displays touch tanks filled with local animal, fauna and other marine objects. Guided tours of intertidal zones are also available.

The "Pier into the Night" provides viewing of marine specimens via use of submersible lighting. Harbor Outreach Program provides classroom science for K-8 students. "Explore the Beach" offers in the field courses for K-20 students, and for children ages 8 to 12 there is the "Sea



Photo by Steve Whitford, KP News

From left, Carolyn Butafco, Hannah Benoit and Rachel Easton provide information from their Harbor WildWatch station last month at Penrose State Park.

Star and Beyond" program, a three-year course in junior naturalist training.

Though founded and physically located in Gig Harbor, many of the Harbor WildWatch activities occur on the Key in places like the Purdy Spit and Penrose State Park.

Many of the people who make Harbor WildWatch work are Key Pen residents

who include president Joyce Murray, volunteer chairperson Cheri Patch and program coordinator Rachel Easton.

Back in July, Harbor WildWatch presented a "Get Your Feet Wet" program at Penrose State Park.

The group uses a blue canopy as its trademark and to make them easy to find on the beach.

Under it reside several touch tanks of aquatic interest such as black crab, moody chitons and sand dollars.

Easton, along with Liz Svigah and Holly Pierce, provided enlightenment and entertainment, teaching proper beach etiquette, as to what you should and should not touch in the intertidal zone.

Pierce, 9, of Puyallup — part of the Junior Naturalist program — was busy displaying an empty limpet shell that was now a home for barnacles.

Pierce said she enjoys her work immensely.

"I love nature and this way I get to help the ocean," she said, beaming a smile. Her mother, Liberty Pierce, is delighted with the educational opportunities that Harbor WildWatch provides.

"The youth programs are excellent with lots of hands on training and it's very nurturing," Liberty Pierce said.

WildWatch recently moved to its new (land) location at 3207 Harborview Drive in Gig Harbor. For information call (253) 514-0187 or visit harborwildwatch.org.



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'Skate Night' keeps on rolling at civic center

By Scott Turner, KP News

Troy Milles is a guy who likes to go around in circles. He's in charge of the weekly Skate Night sessions at Key Peninsula Civic Center.

Skate Night has been a regular activity at the civic center for more than three decades and Milles has been the manager of the program since 2007.

Skate Night is geared to elementary and middle school kids who want a safe, wholesome, affordable place to hang out with their friends on Friday nights.

In addition to roller skating, Skate Night also offers games, a snack bar stocked with candy bars, cheese burgers and pizza and even an area for dancing.

"And it's all for just \$5 which includes your skate rental," Milles said.

Until a few years ago, there were as many as 150 youngsters at Skate Night every week, but recently numbers have decreased.

So Milles and his team are giving Skate Night a bit of a facelift.

For starters, DJ Kip Miller is bringing in new lights and changing some of the games.

"I've also got raffle prizes and other fun stuff," Miller said. "And I always pay attention to the music that the kids are listening to so I can have tunes they like."

Want to go?

Skate Night takes place every Friday from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at the Key Peninsula Civic Center, starting Sept. 12. Cost is \$5 for the evening, which includes skate rental.

Milles added that his team is also scheduling special theme nights, "and we're partnering with local groups like Subway and the Pierce County Library to come in once a month to provide treats and special activities for the kids."

He's also working with local elementary schools to give away half-off and free coupons in support of their walk-a-thons and reading programs, he said.

According to Holly Hendrick, marketing and facilities coordinator for the Key Peninsula Civic Center Association, Skate Night is the longest, continually running youth program on the Key Peninsula, and possibly the county.

"It's a safe, family friendly event that many parents remember from when they were kids growing up on the Key Peninsula," Hendrick said.

Many of the kids — especially the elementary school kids — come to skate and participate in the games, Milles said.

"The middle school kids just like to hang out with their friends whether it's in the game room or on the dance floor," he added. "I think the biggest thing for everybody is the social aspect."

Parents can drop off their kids at 5:30 and then go someplace and have some time to themselves for a couple of hours, Miller said. "We don't let any kid leave without a parent coming to pick them up," he said.

Skate Night is also a great place for high school students to earn community service hours needed for graduation.

"Our staff and volunteers are all mentors," Hendrick said. "And the teen volunteers are great role models for the younger kids."

For information, visit kpciviccenter.org or call Holly Hendrick at (253) 884-3456.

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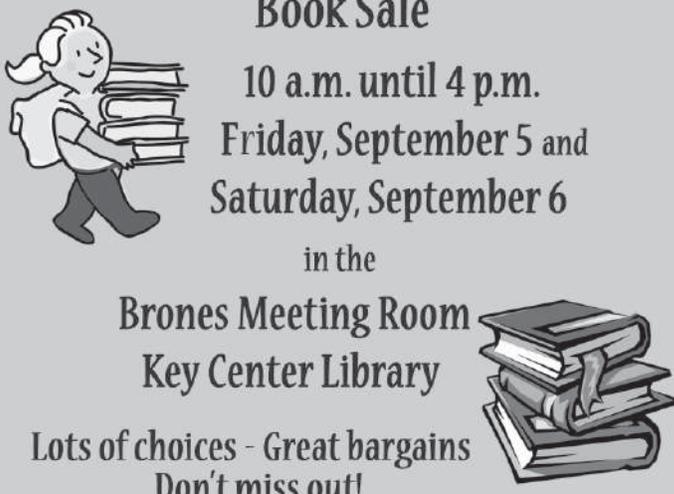
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Vaughn Elementary students take a pioneering field trip

By Peter Ruble, KP News

On May 6, Vaughn Elementary School fourth graders got a chance to travel back in time to 1901 to take classes in an authentic schoolhouse built in 1893 at the Gig Harbor History Museum.

Vaughn school teacher Carolyn Russell helped prepare the students by making sure they were dressed in 1901 regalia. She said it was a great experience for the students to learn about history.

"Many of them have never been to a museum," Russell said.

"It was awesome," said student Josh Voight. "I wish this was my school all the time."

Harbor History Museum volunteer Leanne O'Neil, who played the teacher Miss Bennett, said a great deal of attention was paid to authenticity. There were pictures of President Washington and President Lincoln and a 45-starred American flag. The students used chalk and slates to solve arithmetic and sang period themed songs such as "Skip to My Lou" and "Flies in

the Buttermilk." According to O'Neil, the singing aspect lent to the joy of learning during that period, which she believes is somewhat absent today.

"Education has changed so much because of testing," O'Neil said. "We've lost a little bit of the creativity and fun of learning. What we do here is allow kids to imagine and have fun."

O'Neil has an education and theater background, which helps her in her role. She created the persona of Miss Bennett after doing thorough research starting in 2009. She contacted fellow educators and actually spoke to people who had attended the school house. "It needs to be a pioneering school experience," O'Neil said. "I think we need to realize that the past has value and learning from the past is how you create your future."

According to O'Neil, the dedication to authenticity has led to some misunderstood criticisms. O'Neil had the students recite the pledge of allegiance with the "Bellamy salute." The "Bellamy salute," which was named after American social-



Photo by Peter Ruble, KP News

Leanne O'Neil, playing the teacher Miss Bennett, instructs Vaughn Elementary School fourth graders in the Gig Harbor Midway schoolhouse, built in 1893.

ist, minister and author Francis Bellamy, involves extending your arm during the recitation. According to O'Neil, this has received some criticism since it resembles the salute used by Adolph Hitler and the Nazis during the Third Reich. This caused President Franklin Delano Roosevelt to replace the Bellamy salute with the hand over the heart gesture in 1942. The words "Under God" were missing from the pledge, which has caused some visitors to claim it was an attempt at political correctness. However, this was how the pledge was written at the time, according to O'Neil. The words "Under God" were not added until 1954.

O'Neil said the Vaughn students were wonderful in their first time coming to the museum.

"The teachers did a great job preparing them to make sure they were in authentic regalia," said O'Neil.

After class the students got a chance to enjoy period lunches complete with

mason glasses, jerky and root beer all wrapped in wax. They later got to have recess at Gig Harbor Bay and Donkey Creek that runs behind the museum. They learned about Captain Charles Wilkes and the history of Gig Harbor.

After recess, the students received lessons in penmanship, reading and botany, which were taught by the school master "Mr. Jacob" who was played by volunteer Dave Martin.

Martin, who is a retired school teacher, said that he appreciates the higher level of discipline that was evident in 1901. Misbehaving students would have to stand in the corner or place their nose on a dot on the chalkboard just like students did in 1901.

"School used to be kind of a break for students because of all the farm work they had to do," said Martin. "Today there's a lot more information and distractions. A teacher has to be a real performer."

For information about the schoolhouse please visit harborhistorymuseum.org.

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

Vaughn custodians working through summer

By Scott Turner, KP News

When Key Peninsula kids head back to school on Sept. 3, every classroom, auditorium, gymnasium and office space will be sparkly clean from floor to ceiling, thanks to Peninsula School District's custodians.

At Vaughn Elementary, head custodian Carol Sicotte and a couple of helpers have spent the summer going from room-to-room detailing every nook and cranny.

"It's like spring cleaning," Sicotte said. "We dust the ceilings, wash the walls, strip the floors and re-wax them and shampoo the carpets."

Stripping the floors is usually step one, she said. She and her crew spend the first three weeks after school lets out on that task. Then they re-wax and polish them.

"We also spiffy-up the outside and get things looking the best we can before school starts again," Sicotte said.

In all, there are 24 classrooms at Vaughn, "and I think we have 34 rooms all together, not including the gym," she added.

Sicotte, who lives in Lakebay, has been head custodian at the school for eight years. Before that she worked at PHS and even at Gig Harbor High School for a while.

"I love living here on the Key Peninsula," she said. "It's country. You see all these animals. You've got deer that go through the yard, rabbits, the occasional coyote."

"And the people are good for the most part. They stick together and they all look out for each other."

Sicotte has two helpers, both of whom work the night shift during the school year. "I have one eight-hour night guy and one four-hour night guy — Don Worley and Troy Romo," she said.

"We've got a really good team and everybody does a great job."

"We try to make sure the school is as clean as possible and looks great when the kids come back. We take pride in our building and we want the public to come in and say 'Yes! This is our school,'" she said.

By the middle of August, most of the work is finished and the schoolhouse is ready for summer school to begin.

But a couple of years ago, when there



Photo by Scott Turner, KP News

Vaughn Elementary School head custodian Carol Sicotte (and her crew) worked through the summer, prepping the school for the return of staff and students.

was "a lot of vandalism at Vaughn," Sicotte and her crew had to spend a great deal of time cleaning up debris.

"The school didn't get as thorough a cleaning as it's getting this year. When you have outside things happening, that influences what you can't do inside," she said.

Custodial work isn't just about cleaning, however.

Custodians are always on the alert to what's going on with the kids.

"Sometimes the kids need to talk and sometimes they just kind of open up to us, when they won't talk to some other adult," she said.

"And we're also kind of security. We're keeping our eyes open and we try to keep it as secure as possible."

She loves her job and she loves the

kids. "Most kids are respectful and they're good kids out here," she said. "But there are a couple who are just '...this is your job. You're getting paid for this...'"

Sicotte has her fingers crossed that voters will approve the district's levy request on Aug. 5.

"We're really hoping the levy passes," she said. "It reaches the whole district. There are things we really, really need. There's playground equipment the kids need because we can't get (replacement) parts any more, and we need a new HVAC system and some other upgrades."

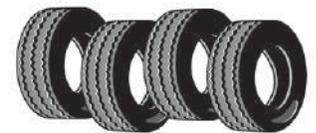
Still, she said, the school always does the best it can with what it has. "At Vaughn, we all work together here for the benefit of the kids — from the principal and the parents on down."

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KP Middle School celebrates 10 years with NASA

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

In 2004, Key Peninsula Middle School became the first NASA Explorer School in Washington. It was to be for three years. Somehow, KPMS students under the direction of founder, teacher Kareen Borders, and a crew of dedicated teachers, excelled and caught the attention of NASA which added another year to the relationship. Last June, NASA and KPMS celebrated their 10th anniversary.

KPMS teachers have flown in the “weightless” atmosphere simulated by NASA aircraft. With their students they’ve visited NASA sites and participated in activities most can only imagine.

KPMS students’ experiments have flown in space on NASA vehicles — including the very last shuttle flight. The kids have been in NASA facilities and worked with bona fide astronauts.

Borders is very proud of her “aerospace students.” She said they are curious, respectful, innovative and inclusive.

“I’m not surprised their proposals were selected from worldwide competition to fly ex-



Photo by Hugh McMillan, KP News

Astronaut Nicholas Patrick enjoys comments from KPMS students Natlie Pierson, Max Goins and Alana Willms, each of whose experiments were chosen to fly in space as part of the “Cubes in Space” program.

periments to the edge of space in the “Cubes in Space” program.

“We are fortunate to have so many partners in science, technology, engineering and math industries who provide mentor and collaboration opportunities that strengthen college and career readiness of our students,” Borders said.

Former NASA students returned for the anniversary celebration.

Among current NASA students, Natalie Pierson said that being in aerospace lets her

learn her favorite subject: “Aerospace.”

Student Haile Devers said she feels that “it would be really cool to have a job at NASA.”

“My favorite part of the assembly is when Nicholas Patrick talked about life in space and what it looked like because it got me to imagine what I would do up there and what I would do in those situations,” said Lilli Roberts.

Donald G. James of NASA Ames Research Center said he was “thrilled” to celebrate KPMS’ anniversary.

“As part of the team that established the Explorer School Program, it was gratifying to see bright students and KPMS alumni doing what we dreamed: becoming this nation’s future explorers and innovators. KPMS is a shining example of what’s possible when exceptional teachers and administrators, a supportive community and a world class agency like NASA come together,” James said.

Dan Newell, assistant superintendent of public instruction, the agency which oversees all 2230 public K-12 schools in Washington, said he noticed several things that put KPMS in a select group at the top: “Teachers, administrators, office professionals, parents and community members want students to know that they are there for them at all times. I’ve been in front of hundreds of thousands of middle school students and have never felt as respected as I did at this NASA assembly.

“Students are having doors opened for them which will let them be in careers they are truly interested in. KPMS students aren’t just exposed to the NASA Explorer Program, they’ve stayed with it a decade. The culture of being curious is ingrained in this school system,” Newell said.



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Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News

The Red Barn held its grand opening celebration, called "The Splash" on Saturday the Aug. 9. The food was good, as was the music while the young people quickly took to the amenities offered by the facility. The two pool players are Levi and Grace Schintz, son and daughter of Jeremy Schnitz, one of two newly hired program directors. The second director is Laura Condon.



Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News

The excursion boat "My Girl" hosted a recent cruise around McNeil Island, sponsored by the Key Peninsula Historical Society.



Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News

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Courtesy photo, Ric Hallock

Face painting is a serious affair and Marilese Donaldson, 4, of Wauna, displays a look of concentration as she get a colorful design applied by Marlena Kellogg, of Olalla, during the annual Olalla Bluegrass festival, Saturday, Aug. 23.

Left: Folks flock to the Purdy spit earlier this month and enjoy a day of nice weather.