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Butch Long: a Vietnam vet's story

By Rick Sorrels, KP News

U.S. Congressman Derek Kilmer recently presented Key Peninsula resident Butch Long with numerous medals, including the Purple Heart, 45 years after he was wounded in Vietnam. This is his story — but could have been the story of anyone who was of age in that time period.

Long was born in 1948 at Puget Sound Hospital on Pacific Avenue in Tacoma. The same hospital that Pierce County is planning to tear down to construct a new county administrative building.

His family moved to California when he was 9 years old. He attended Petaluma High School, followed by work on chicken ranches.

At the age of 19, on April 4, 1968, Long received a letter that started with, "Greetings." It included a bus ticket and instructions to report to an "induction center." Long was drafted into the Army.

Barbara, his wife since July 1967, fol-



Photo by Scott Turner, KP News

Key Peninsula resident Butch Long is reflected in the glass covering his box of medals. He was recently award for his service in Vietnam.

(See *Vet*, Page 3)

Minter woman battling Crohn's disease gets community help

By Scott Turner, KP News

Ivy Griffith is one brave woman.

Griffith, 37, was diagnosed with Crohn's disease 10 years ago, and recently had a very complicated surgery to fix some of her problems — at least temporarily.

"The way I describe Crohn's disease is your body starts attacking itself," Griffith said. "It's an inflammation of the intestines. It's a debilitating disease that affects so many other parts of the body, hair, teeth and joints. It's constant pain."

Gina Singer, Ivy's best friend, describes Ivy as "a wonderful mother, a very hard worker and someone who never asks for help."

The two women have know each other for more than a decade through their work delivering papers throughout the Key and Gig Harbor peninsulas every morning.

"We work seven days a week — every morning from about

midnight to 5 a.m.," Singer said.

"A few years ago, Ivy was in the hospital for a couple of weeks but she was able to get through that and was right back to work.

"Even on her worst days of pain, she was still out delivering those papers no matter what," Singer said.

But things have gotten progressively worse and Griffith has been unable to work, or even eat anything, for several months.

"You get terrible diarrhea and you vomit and you basically can't digest anything," Griffith said the day prior to bowel surgery. "And there's this awful twisting, stabbing pain."

Since January, Griffith has only been able to eat ice chips. Her nourishment has come from daily IVs.

It became obvious that Griffith was going to need surgery. And even though her family has insurance, not being able to work was becoming a big hardship.

(See *Crohn's*, Page 4)

'Spring Fling' looks to draw crowd to help artists, KP students

By Scott Turner, KP News

You know spring has officially arrived on the Key Peninsula when Two Waters Art Alliance hosts its annual Spring Fling.

"It's our biggest fundraiser of the year," said Taylor Reed, co-chair of this year's event.

The 2015 Spring Fling will take place May 2, 7 p.m. at the Key Peninsula Civic Center.

"It's kind of a fancy gala with hors d'oeuvres, and champagne when you enter," Reed said.

"People wear fancy cocktail attire and it's a fun way to see some of the wonderful art that's created in our community and to get together and have fun getting kind of dressed up."

This year's Fling includes a juried art show and sale of art created by KP residents, live and silent auctions and music

by the Tacoma Youth Symphony quartet.

There will also be artist demonstrations and an exhibit of artwork done by local students.

"Two Waters was started more than a decade ago when school art programs were severely cut back," Reed said. "The goal was to get arts back into the schools because so many kids respond to art. It often helps them improve their grades and even stay in school."

Every year, TWAA selects a topic that students respond to through drawings and paintings. "We start in November and it goes through the end of the school year," Reed said.

"This year we had the Ravens Stories that included an amazing presentation on Native American art and Native American contributions to our culture," she said.

Proceeds from the Spring Fling support the local TWAA artists who teach art

Want to know more?

TWAA also sponsors a monthly first Tuesday "Artist Blend" at Blend Wine Shop in Key Center. This month's meeting takes place May 5, from 4-6 p.m. The goal is to engage with other artists and learn about each other's processes and artistic inspiration.

On July 29, TWAA will hold an art walk with exhibits at many Key Center business establishments. For information visit twowaters.org.

classes in Key Peninsula schools.

The event will also feature an exhibit of work by nationally known artists who live in the Gig Harbor area, all of whom have had their work shown at the Smithsonian

and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

Featured artists include Tip Toland of Vaughn, winner of a 2014 United States Artists Fellow Award for ceramic sculpture.

Phoebe Toland, also of Vaughn, is a nationally recognized oil and printmaking artist who won an Artist's Innovation Award from the National Endowment for the Arts in 2009.

Raft Island resident Barbara Lee Smith will have some of her mixed media work on display at the Spring Fling.

Ceramic artist Richard Notkin of Vaughn will also show some of his creations.

Spring Fling ticket prices are \$30 for TWAA members, \$40 for nonmembers and \$50 for families. Tickets can be purchased at Sunnycrest Nursery, Blend Wine Shop, Fresh Food Revolution co-op and online at twowaters.org.

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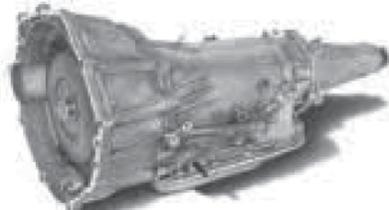
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Photo of Mount Rainier in the masthead was taken from the dock in Longbranch by Thomas Morgan, a KP News reader and Key Peninsula resident.

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KEY PENINSULA NEWS

www.keypennews.com

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

Executive editor: Scott Turner
Ad sales: Brett Higgins, Wendy Kleven
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(From Vet, Page 1)

lowed Long to Fort Lewis for his basic training. She has remained in Washington since.

After basic training, Long went straight to Vietnam. He was only there for four months before receiving critical injuries — four very eventful months he will never forget.

Long was a private, or as he calls it, a “grunt,” a “ground-pounder.” No specialized training, except aiming and shooting.

He was a member of a platoon that would either walk out of the base camp for patrols or be dropped off and later picked up by helicopter 5 or 10 miles from camp where they would patrol.

The patrols would last up to 10 days. The longest one took them 30 miles up to the Cambodian border. Some patrols were during the day, some at night. The jungle was filled with poisonous spiders, snakes, tarantulas and centipedes.

“The centipedes and millipedes would be 3 inches wide and 4 feet long,” he recalled. “The nightcrawlers (worms) were 2 inches across and 3 feet long. The leaches were 3 to 4 inches long and wide, and we would constantly need to remove them from our arms and legs using a cigarette lighter or knife.

“We needed to be on constant alert. The enemy liked to sit in the trees and fire down on us from above, and then scurry away when we tried to go after them.”

Being of small stature, on one occasion Long had to crawl 50 yards after an enemy, down a very tight tunnel in pitch black, not knowing what he was going to bump into. Long almost got stuck and had a heck of a time backing out. The enemy made it through to another exit and ran away.

“The enemy constructed their own ‘bombs’ using a 5-gallon ‘jerrycan’ with C4 or dynamite and metal shell fragments. They would light a short fuse just before we would walk up to it,” he said.

“I experienced a lot of these special

bombs, up close, my last day in country,” he said. “They were placed and thrown throughout the camp. One landed on a fellow soldier 4 feet away, with pieces of him flying everywhere. Another landed 2 feet away from me, with metal embedding in my back, legs and arms. I was deaf and could not see (because of the blood in his eyes). There was a hole in one eye.”

Long recalled crawling up a hill to the medic station.

“But the medic had to be dug out from under 500 pounds of sand bags before he could help us,” he said.

A Huey (helicopter) ride had Long in the field hospital within a half hour. He was in the hospital in Da Nang the next day, and then on to Camp Zama (the big hospital) in Japan. A month later, Long was at Letterman Army Hospital, near Oakland, Calif.

He was given limited duty at the Oakland Army Terminal helping to in-process new draftees. He was discharged in April 1970.

The military and VA doctors have not wanted to remove the many pieces of metal Long still carries throughout his body, for fear of infection. Those pieces have gradually worked their way closer to the surface and have been a continuing source of pain and difficulty walking and using his arms.

Since 1970, Long has worked as a machinist and has built mobile homes. He has also worked in a wrecking yard and at a chicken hatchery. He is still married to Barbara and has four children, none of whom have shown any interest in the military.

Local resident and fellow veteran Chris Copeland was surprised that Long had never received a Purple Heart or other recognition for his military service and combat injuries. Copeland’s extensive campaign finally resulted in well-deserved recognition 45 years after the fact.

Long said, “My experiences were little different from a great many men that got involved (and not by choice) in that nasty little war.”



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New Caretaker Needed at Gateway Park 

Key Pen Parks is taking applications for a new caretaker at the Gateway Park residence, 10215 State Route 302, Gig Harbor, 98329. An open house for interested applicants will be at 11 am on Saturday, May 9. The application deadline is May 15. Further details, rental criteria and a link to an online application is on our website home page.

CINEMA UNDER THE STARS

Announcing this summer's movies



Finding Nemo
August 7



Mary Poppins
August 14



Monsters University
August 21



Maleficent
August 28

Family fun activities begin at 7:30 pm, movies start at 8:30 pm. at Volunteer Park

The next park board meeting will be at 7:30 pm on Monday, May 11, in the park office at Volunteer Park in Lakebay. The public is always welcome to attend.

Sun Fun?

Our staff is keeping busy planning some fun in the summer sun. Here's a peek at some things we're working on. More details will be in our June KP News ad ... or check our website for the latest scoop!



Fourth of July Hot Dog Social

A free community event sponsored by Food Market at Key Center and Lake Katherine, 11 am to 2 pm, Volunteer Park.

Day at the Tacoma Rainiers

For youth entering 6th grade through 12th grade, in partnership with The Red Barn Youth Center, Monday, July 27.

Bee Boppin' Bugs - A free concert with children's entertainer Nancy Stewart, presented in part by the friends of the Key Center Library, 11 am, Saturday, August 8, Volunteer Park.

Summer camps! TBA ... 

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KEY PENINSULA NEWS

Thank yous, thank yous

Thank you to the volunteers at the Pet Easter Treat Hunt on March 28: Dan, Adrian and Joey Cusick; Ric Hallock, Marilyn and Jerry Hartley; Sami Jensen; and Tara Trammel.

We're also thankful to the exhibitors and sponsors: Bayside Animal Lodge, Brookside Veterinary Hospital, CenturyLink, Gig Harbor Real Estate, Our Best Friend Doggie Daycare, Petco and Wilco.

And more thank yous!

The first-ever 360 Trails Poker Pedal was a success! Nearly \$3,000 was raised for further hiking, biking and equine trail development. at 360 Trails.

Thank you sponsors: Giant Bicycles, Grant Spangle Physical Therapy, Haggan, Horseshoe Lake Golf Course, The Hub of Gig Harbor, Iron Horse Brewery, Silverdale Cyclery, Stevens Pass and Tacoma Bike.

Thank you volunteers: Kathy Anderson, Marilyn and Jerry Hartley, Will Houdeshell, Roger Ozbirn, Noah Roberts, and the Silverdale Cyclery staff

(From **Crohn's**, Page 1)

She and her husband, Bill, have lived on the Key Peninsula for 25 years and have three children ages 10 to 19.

Since Ivy has been laid up, Bill has had to be in charge of everything in their home, much to her dismay.

"He hasn't been able to get hardly any sleep, and I feel awful that he has had to do all the work and then come and stay with me in the hospital so much of the time," Ivy Griffith said. "I've worked all my life but suddenly I haven't had a paycheck."

Without her income, it became harder and harder to make ends meet.

So Singer set up a GoFundMe account and got in touch with the local Key Peninsula Facebook sites.

The people at the KP Cares site rallied their supporters and in early April they held a bake and rummage sale to help the Griffith family.

"We raised \$1,905.79," said Susan Mendenhall. "So many people from this community stepped up and donated baked goods and their time. And so many others stopped by and bought cookies and brownies and other goodies."

The GoFundMe account has helped



Photo by Scott Turner, KP News

Key Peninsula resident Ivy Griffith flushes her intravenous line after taking a vitamin concoction one day before surgery. She is living with Crohn's disease: an inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). It causes inflammation of the lining of the digestive tract, which can lead to abdominal pain, severe diarrhea, fatigue, weight loss and malnutrition. There is no known cure for this disease.

even more, and friends and strangers have also stepped up to help.

"The community has been so supportive," Griffith said. "One lady cut my hair for free. Another woman brought dog

food and cat food and kitty litter. Everybody has been so wonderful."

There was even a surprise late night visit from Deputy Chris Todd from the Pierce County Sheriff's Department.

"He showed up here one evening around 9 or 10 o'clock, and said 'I heard you needed some help. I've got some groceries for you,'" Griffith recalled. "He brought in about 12 bags of groceries."

When Griffith gave a shout-out to the deputy on Facebook, donations increased immediately. "All of a sudden we started getting lots and lots of help," she said.

On April 16, Griffith had surgery to remove damaged sections of her large intestine.

As soon as he had talked with the doctors, Bill Griffith added a post to the Facebook pages. "Ivy is out of surgery and it went well," he wrote. "She had to have not one but two resections. Her doctor said it was extremely bad, but here's the good news! So far she does not need a colostomy bag!"

Ivy was up and walking the first day and she was looking forward to having some real food. "It's been since Jan. 27 that I've actually tasted anything," she said.

At press time, Griffith was still in the hospital adjusting her body to taking any type of food by mouth.

For information or to make a contribution to Ivy's fund, visit gofundme.com/p7c6kw.

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Photo by Scott Turner, KP News

Key Peninsula Veteran's president Frank Grubaugh shows off an example of a stamped brick he and his group are trying to sell to help get a flag pole up at Gateway Park.

Key Peninsula Veterans plan for large 'Aisle of Honor' turnout

By Scott Turner, KP News

Every May for the past 25 years, the Key Peninsula Veterans have held an Aisle of Honor at Vaughn cemetery.

This year's event will take place May 24 at 1 p.m.

It's the largest Aisle of Honor ceremony west of the Mississippi, according to Frank Grubaugh, president of the local veterans group.

"The purpose of the Aisle of Honor is to honor all who have served their country — not just the fallen," Grubaugh said.

Volunteers from the organization put out flags in the cemetery — one for each person who is somehow tied to a local Key Peninsula family.

"Last year we put up 336 full-size flags," Grubaugh said. "Each flag goes on a specific pole with a name on it."

That's up from 54 flags at the first ceremony in 1990.

The ceremony has grown since then and now includes a full service with a guest

speaker, two color guards, singers and a bagpiper.

This year's guest speaker is retired Brig. Gen. Stan Fleming, Grubaugh said.

"We also have a military color guard and a Boy Scouts color guard. And the Key Peninsula Singers will sing the national anthem," he said.

The choral group also will sing the songs that signify each branch of the military, he said. "They'll sing the Army song when we're reading the Army names, the Navy song when we read the Navy names and so forth.

"When we recognize what others have sacrificed for our freedom, that also puts the honor on us, for recognizing them," he said.

Typically about 400 people attend the ceremony. "We often have politicians there also, but we don't announce them because we're there to recognize the veterans," he added.

The group would like to connect with

(See **Aisle**, Page 9)

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Peninsula Views

Defining the 'self'

There is an old Southern story that says:

In the days when people kept pet squirrels, a lady had a pet squirrel. Every day, she would throw whole pecans in the cage with the squirrel, and all the neighbors would come and thought the squirrel busting the nut and eating all the meat from the hull was the cutest thing.

One day, the lady was walking through the grocery store and saw a 5 pound bag of shelled pecans. The lady thought it would be nice to get the shelled pecans for her squirrel and so she did. About four weeks later the little squirrel got very sick.

When the lady took her pet to the vet, the first question was what she was feeding the squirrel. When she answered that she was feeding shelled pecans the doctor became upset and told her to stop immediately.

In nature, it is the job of the squirrel to break open pecans and this grinds the rodent's teeth back; without this task, the animal's teeth will grow into its brain and kill it.

The lady then took the squirrel home and began throwing whole pecans back in the cage; however, after a month of free food, the squirrel refused to eat. The squirrel had become lazy. Three days later, the little squirrel was graveyard dead.

The moral of the story is a simple but true one.

In this life, we are all given jobs to do; we are given talents and skills that if we are not allowed to use, it is just as good as being graveyard dead.

While we receive regular input from media, society, friends and family often telling us what we can and can't do and things we need and don't need, the one certainty in life is that there is

Chad Beaver
Guest columnist



no such thing as an untalented person.

We all have an innate drive that leads our life forward and a primordial instinct to work toward a goal that is often not spoken aloud. When we listen to those who play on our insecurities and we stop listening to the feelings that drive us, we lose sight of our path and need redirection.

To give up on following our desires and finding that which drives is like the squirrel that gives up on busting pecan shells because there may be an easier way to get something for nothing.

In refusing to aim for our goals and accepting mediocrity, we become graveyard dead on the inside.

Someone once said that the true tragedy of mankind is not aiming too high and missing; it's aiming too low and hitting. We should always have goals that are beyond our immediate reach and when we reach our goal, it is important to acknowledge our accomplishment and quickly move on to the next out-of-reach project. This is life and this is how we define who we are and what impact we have in the time we are given.

If you are looking to redirect your current path to seek your bigger goals, there are good mental health counselors and others here in our community who can help. Give them a call and tell them your pet squirrel story.

Chad Beaver is a licensed marriage and family therapist and the owner of Key Peninsula Counseling Center. He can be reached at cheaver93@yahoo.com.

What is 'literacy' and do our schools attain it?

For centuries, the term "literacy" referred merely to the ability to read, write and count. That definition no longer applies. The world is now far more complex and much more is required to function in today's society.

The Workplace Investment Act of 1998 (federal legislation) defines literacy as "an individual's ability to read, write, speak in English, compute and solve problems at levels of proficiency necessary to function on the job, in the family of the individual and in society." In other words, literacy is the knowledge necessary to function adequately in the workplace and society.

The term "functional literacy" came into use in the 1960s and places literacy into its real-life context. For example, an American visiting a foreign country without knowledge of the local language is considered functionally illiterate.

Literacy requirements are different for a date peddler or camel driver in Yemen or Somalia compared to the requirements for a programmer at Microsoft, a welder at the Bremerton shipyard, or even a new car salesperson in Puyallup.

You would think that our governments would have established at what grade levels or what subject completion an individual would achieve literacy in reading, writing, math, et cetera. Not so. Very few such references exist. There are no established standards to measure literacy, and some of the

published results of "literacy testing" are so bizarre that they must be read along with a bucket of salt.

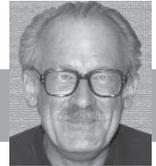
A few connections have been found, however, between functional literacy in America and specific grade-level equivalents. The West Virginia Department of Education cites that during World War II, the average worker was expected to perform at a fourth-grade level, with the standard for functional literacy rising to an eighth-grade level by the 1960s, with new jobs today already requiring a 12-grade education. A second source stated similarly, expecting for a grade 12.6 requirement for today's 2015 workforce.

Washington state has adopted testing requirements for graduation, but the last tests are conducted while the students are still in 10th grade, measuring only a 10-grade achievement. This obviously does not test for achieving the grade 12, or grade 12.6 workplace requirements for functional literacy. It should also be noted that only 76 percent of Washington students receive a high school diploma.

More is needed from our children's

(See Sorrels, Page 7)

Rick Sorrels
The Pragmatic Sophist



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KP Lions vote Jud Morris 'Citizen of the Year'

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

The Key Peninsula Lions Club-sponsored 31st annual Citizens of the Year Awards dinner on March 28 culminated in the announcement that Jud Morris had been selected by the Lions in a secret ballot to be the 31st Citizen of the Year.

The most vociferous applause at the announcement came from the other 26 nominees for the honor among the more than 200 attendees who enjoyed the evening at the Key Peninsula Civic Center.

Beyond his paid work, Morris devotes hours behind the scenes supporting youth, families, education and services improving KP's quality of life.

Keynote speaker Mark Linquist, Pierce County prosecuting attorney extolled the virtues of volunteerism, noting that his office would be unable to cope with its tasks without the assistance of its many volunteers.

Before his talk, to establish an orderly manner in which tables of diners went to the buffet line, each table was encouraged to contribute dollars in envelopes on each table, the highest bidders gaining first access



Jud Morris

to the dinner prepared by chef Dorne Webster. The more than \$1,000 contributed to this "orderly solution" were given to support the activities of the Key Free Clinic.

KP Lions-sponsored Boy Scout Troop 220 members were there in force to assist with setup for the event and to present the U.S. colors at the opening ceremony.

Food was served and tables bussed by a team of Peninsula High juniors: Mackenzie Mills, Kasey Davis, Derek Erikson, George Clark, Kaytlyn Johnson, Jacob Conn, Teagan Horkan, Zach Winter, Gol-Dann Slater and Max Mikelson.

To everyone's delight, music was provided by the trio "302." A large number of prizes were awarded through the raffle process thanks to contributions by local businesses.

(From **Sorrels**, Page 6)

schools. Even computer literacy is required today for a minimum-wage burger flipper working a computerized cash register, or somebody frustrated at home with a vehicle or a computerized appliance they can't get to work.

The Washington state Constitution requires the state to adequately fund "basic education" as the state's "paramount duty" "to make ample provision for education of all of the children residing within its borders" (Wash. Constitution, Article IX, section 1). Education is the only funding activity identified as "paramount" in our Constitution. All other funding is secondary to education.

At statehood in 1889, basic education requirements may have been met by the fourth grade. Today at least some college or trade school, beyond high school, is a necessity.

President Obama recently proposed that the federal and state governments need to pass legislation that ensures free education

for any student qualifying for community college. The state of Kentucky has already implemented a free-tuition program.

Our legislators should take note that a K-12 education funding, by itself, is now insufficient. Community college funding should have the same priority as K-12, and a high school graduation rate where only three out of four students receive a diploma is unacceptable.

Failure to attain functional literacy in school condemns those individuals to low pay and low achievement for life, something our Founding Fathers sought to avoid, at all costs.

Our state Legislators will have a tough time this budget year fully funding education, while avoiding a constitutional crisis, and a threat from the Washington State Supreme Court to find the Legislature in contempt under its 2012 McCleary decision and their 1978 Seattle School District decision.

I wish them well in finding the billions of dollars needed. The voters will be watching.

This month we turn our attention to Key Peninsula's Boy Scouts of America Troop #220.

CIVIC CENTER CORNER



The Scoutmasters and Parent Group of Boy Scout Troop #220 wanted to share some of the major accomplishments from 2014.

Six Eagle Scout projects that benefited the Key Peninsula Civic Center, the Key Peninsula Historical Society, and the Peninsula School District were completed, providing a meaningful impact to the community.



Two of those projects included the refurbishment of the Orca whale and enclosure and installation of a

checkered patio and picnic table near the museum.



Twenty active Boy Scouts:

- Meeting/Training and preparing - 1,323 hours per Boy Scout; totalling 26,460 hours overall
- Volunteering - 50 hours per Boy Scout, totalling 1,000 hours overall for the troop
- Day events, camping, and high adventure - 387 hours per Boy Scout; overall for the troop, 7,740 hours

We also wanted to express our gratitude to the community for providing so many opportunities that engage the scouts and enable them to become outstanding members of our community.

Annual fundraisers, such as popcorn and wreath sales, do not cover all scouting expenses; the troop welcomes any donations. They may be sent to: Boy Scout Troop 220, PO Box 642, Vaughn, WA 98394.

Troop #220 was formed in 1996, sponsored by the Key Peninsula Lions, and meets weekly at the Civic Center on Tuesdays at 6:30pm.



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

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---	--

\$10 Registration fee
\$15 after June 13th

Register Online at
www.keyfest.org/carshow
www.keyfest.org/mcshow

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<p>Antique (1964 and Older) Classic (1984 to 1965) Sportster Bobber Sport Bike Chopper Custom British Sidecar/Trike Stock Rat</p>	<p>Sunday June 21st</p> <p>10AM to 4PM</p> <p><i>Motorcycle Show</i></p> <p>ABATE of Washington Key Peninsula Chapter</p>
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Sunday June 21st

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Gate Entry

General Admission: \$6
Youth (12 and Under): \$4
Youth under 42" Tall: Free



Photo by Sara Thompson, KP News

Christa Begin discusses a writing assignment with teacher Leigh Sutherland at the Red Barn.

TCC updates its adult basic education program

By Sara Thompson, KP News

Janine Mott's eyes light up when she talks about the changes in adult education that Tacoma Community College (TCC) is bringing to Gig Harbor and the Key Peninsula. Mott, TCC executive director for the Gig Harbor Campus and Continuing Education, discussed the innovations in Adult Basic Education, which is more commonly known as the GED program.

TCC has had an adult basic education program for at least 15 years, with support from the Gig Harbor Garden Tour (gigharborgardentour.org/toursroots.htm) since 1998. Mott said that until recently, the program focused only on GED test preparation. Over time two trends have surfaced: Potential employers, if given two equivalent applicants, will prefer the one with a high school diploma over one with a GED; in addition the GED test is becoming more difficult to pass.

Enrollment was spotty by late 2013. TCC cancelled the winter 2014 class to reassess and make changes. The new program opened the following spring.

The TCC basic skills department redesigned the curriculum with the goal to offer a learning experience that went beyond teaching to the test and would give students the opportunity to see themselves as life-long learners. In addition, students do more

Want to know more?

Visit the TCC Gig Harbor website at tacomacc.edu/abouttcc/our-campuses/gigharborcampus/adult-educationhighschoolcompletion, or call (253) 460-2424.

Tuition is \$25 a quarter though students may be eligible for a waiver. There is also a \$4 fee for course materials.

Interested in Adult Continuing Education? Visit the TCC Continuing Education at continuingedtacomac.com, or call (253) 460-2424.

then get a GED — they can enter a high school completion program.

The class was relocated — the Red Barn offered space and was more central than the Home fire station.

The new course includes two classes. Each class — read/write and math — meets twice a week for two hours. Students meet with an advisor prior to registration to review transcripts and job experience in order to understand their individual needs.

Tony Sincich, attending his second quarter, quit high school in his senior year. "It

(See Education, Page 9)

(From Education, Page 8)

just wasn't for me," he said. After two years of working, he was too old to participate in programs offered through the high school. He thinks this program is great, citing the one-on-one attention, flexibility and lower pressure. He appreciates being able to pace himself, and plans to continue to work toward his high school diploma with electives at the Tacoma campus after this quarter.

Garrett Loney dropped out after the ninth grade. As with Sincich, high school was not a good fit. He, too, loves the program. He thinks the small size helps kids who may have trouble focusing. He plans to take the GED test at the end of the quarter, then wants to go to the Tacoma campus to complete his high school diploma and get an associate degree.

Mott discussed technology and its role. "It is not the only answer," she stated. "Using technology in outreach takes both skill and access, and access can be a real problem in more rural communities. But we also know that we must develop those skills for

adults to be successful." For that reason the program purchased 15 laptops, which students receive for the quarter, along with an email account through TCC.

How is the new program working? "We are very pleased," said Mott. With a target of 15 to 25, current enrollment is 12, so there is capacity for more. And she noted, "This quarter we have six students who returned for a second quarter. That simply never happened before. It is huge and we are thrilled."

Aaron Murphy, attending his first quarter, was enthusiastic. He dropped out after his junior year because he needed to work, and more recently moved to the Key Peninsula. He has a quote from Benjamin Franklin that means a lot to him: "If you do tomorrow what you did today, you will get tomorrow what you got today." With that in mind, he decided it was time to "change it up" — joining the adult basic education program for high school credit and a diploma is "pretty cool." "And the schedule still lets me work here at the Red Barn in the afternoons," he said.

(From Aisle, Page 5)

more vets on the KP, "but we have a hard time finding them," he said.

Everyone in the KP organization is a current or past veteran, including spouses and children more than 16 years old. "But not all of us stayed in the service long enough to retire. Some, like me, were just in four years," he said.

Two years ago the group installed an American flag at Volunteer Park and now they're raising money to purchase a flag for Gateway Park by selling engraved bricks for \$45 each.

It will take a lot of bricks to buy a proper flag. "People don't realize that a commercial flag pole costs \$12,500 and that's just for the materials, not the labor," Grubaugh said.

The vets will be selling bricks at the KP Livable Community Fair on May 9, and at several other events during the summer.

"It's a great way to honor a special member of your family, your dog, your business or even yourself — whatever you want to be permanently remembered," he said.

The first order will be placed when the group sells 100 bricks "because with 100 bricks it's free shipping," Grubaugh said with a smile. "Otherwise you can just imagine how much it would cost to ship

Want to go?

The 25th annual Aisle of Honor, sponsored by Key Peninsula Veterans, will take place May 24 at Vaughn cemetery. Free shuttle service will be provided from Vaughn Elementary School at noon. The event is free and open to the public and is handicapped accessible.

100 bricks."

KP Veterans is also looking for more volunteers to help at the Aisle of Honor.

The Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts always show up to help. "We just couldn't do this without them," Grubaugh said.

He'd welcome help from other community volunteers as well.

"I can't describe what it feels like when you stand in that field and you see all those flags flying. The emotions just run the gamut," he said.

Grubaugh's wife, Linda, agreed. "The Aisle of Honor just gives me goose bumps to see all those flags," she said. "It's a very special feeling."

For information, visit keypeninsulaveterans.com.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Community

2015 election candidate filing week May 11-15

Prospective candidates for the August Primary and November General election in 2015 must file for the specific office during the week of May 11 through May 15. Open positions available to KP residents are:

- Superior Court judge, two positions
- Port of Tacoma commissioner, two positions
- Peninsula School District 401 commissioner, both positions requiring residency on the KP
- KP Fire District 16 Commissioner, two positions
- KP Metropolitan Park District commissioner, two positions
- Charter Review commissioner, three positions

The unique offices available this year are the 21 positions on the Charter Review Commission (three positions for each of the seven Pierce council districts). The commission is convened for six months every 10 years to propose amendments to the Pierce County Charter, which is in effect the county's constitution.

Procedures and details are available at co.pierce.wa.us/index.aspx?nid=328.

Key Pen Parks announces commissioner vacancies

The Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District's (Key Pen Parks) Board of Commissioners will have two open positions up for election in November 2015: seats 2 and 4.

Citizens interested in running for either open seat need to file with the Pierce County auditor's office during the week of May 11-15. To be eligible to run for a position on Key Pen Parks' Board of Commissioners, interested parties must be a Key Peninsula resident and a registered voter.

The board of commissioners sets the vision and policy that guides Key Pen Parks' services and is elected to staggered six-year terms. Commissioners attend a regularly scheduled meeting once a month and are encouraged to attend other park district events when their schedules allow.

Filing can be done during the filing week

of May 11-15 only at the Pierce County auditor's office, 2401 S. 35th St., Room 200, Tacoma, or online at the Pierce County auditor's office elections web page, co.pierce.wa.us.

Shellfish companies join in annual beach cleanup

The Pacific Coast Shellfish Grower's Association held its annual spring beach cleanup on March 27.

With daylight low tides just beginning and not yet in full swing, the water height allowed the shoreline to be visible, with access remaining for boats to load and remove the collected debris.

Ten companies with more than 60 crew, including those from Seattle Shellfish and Taylor Shellfish, both of which have farms on Key Peninsula, divvied up shorelines from Burley Lagoon down to South Key Peninsula, through Totten Inlet and up Hood Canal, worked to clean up over 49 cubic yards of garbage.

Organizers said the garbage, from large styrofoam chunks and filled tires off old docks or bulkheads, to boat pieces, residential garbage, derelict fishing gear and aquaculture debris, was all removed from the shoreline and disposed of at the local landfill or pulled out for recycling.

For information about the spring and fall beach cleanups, visit pcsga.org.

Free lunch program prepares to launch

The Food Backpacks 4 Kids program starts ramping up for its Summer Lunch Program.

According to organizer Diba Wickline, this will be the second year in a row the Boy Scouts of America, Pacific Council, will be bringing the Boy Scout experience through its Scoutreach Program.

"Come join us for a free lunch and for a free Scoutreach experience," Wickline said.

The popular program will be held from June 22 through Aug. 2, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at the Key Peninsula Civic Center from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

It is a free program for girls and boys. For information, call (253) 720-4453.



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The 14th annual 'Livable Community Fair' returns to Vaughn

KP News staff report

The KPCCA hosts the 14th annual Key Peninsula Livable Community Fair from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on May 9, with the theme of "Living Well on the Key Peninsula."

The event provides the community with a unique opportunity to learn about 40 nonprofits and resources on the Key Peninsula in a fun, family-friendly atmo-

sphere, thanks to volunteers, sponsors, local organizations and youth.

Two Waters Arts Alliance will host a kids' craft table, and schoolchildren and musicians will entertain attendees. Emergency preparedness remains a focal point with both vendors and workshops.

According to organizers, the civic center association has partnered with CHI Franciscan Health's Peninsula Vio-

lence Prevention Coalition, will host a "Healthy Choices Expo" in conjunction with the fair. The expo will offer additional activities and workshops for youth and families.

The Key Peninsula "Summer Camp" fair also will return with information from regional recreational organizations.

The Lakebay Fuchsia Society will host its 20th annual plant sale outside. The Washington State University Master

Gardeners will be on hand to answer plant questions. Concessions will serve breakfast and lunch items all day.

The "Community Spotlight" also will return to showcase a local business or organization, artist and/or person of special merit to the Key Peninsula.

The civic center is located at 17010 South Vaughn Road KPN. For information visit kpciviccenter.org or call (253) 884-3456.

Bischoff Food Bank sees changes in its hours and drop off locations

By Rick Sorrels, KP News

There are new hours of operation for the KP Bischoff Food Bank, located at 1916 Key Pen Hwy North, across from the Home fire station. They are Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 2 to 6 p.m.; Wednesdays 2 to 8 p.m. and Saturdays 2 to 5 p.m.

Sound Credit Union will accept financial donations at any branch office during normal business

hours. The Key Center branch is located at 8920 Key Pen Hwy North. Contact soundcu.com.

Serenity Salon will accept food donations during normal business hours at 11818 SR-302. Contact serenitysalonkp.com.

KP Indoor Garden Store will accept food donations during normal business hours at 8912 Key Pen Hwy North, Unit 2. Contact at 884-7873.

KP Healing Center will accept food donations

during normal business hours at 9507B SR-302 (next to Harvest Time Country Store). Contact at 858-6375.

KP Middle School will accept food donations for the Food Backpacks4Kids program on Wednesdays only between 9 and 10:30 a.m. at the school, located at 5510 Key Pen Hwy North. Check in with the office for instructions. Contact at peninsulacommunityfoundation.com.

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Our May Third Thursday Community Forum:

Home Modifications & Safety Features

Safety First! Do you need home modifications such as Handrails, Safety Bars and Ramps?

Please join us to see what services are available to you



THURSDAY, May 21st, 10 a.m.

BRONES ROOM – Key Center Library

Transportation for this event is available by prior arrangement.

COMMUNITY PAGES

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

MAY 1, 6, 15, 22 and 29

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. 548-3309.

Skate night

Skate Night is hosted at the KP Civic Center 6 to 9 p.m. (note new times). 884-3456.

MAY 2

Mini-golf

The first round of a free Mini Golf Tournament to celebrate the US Open in Tacoma begins at 11 a.m. at the Key Center Library. Balls and clubs are provided, with six winners per library branch. This is open to all ages and pre-registration is at 548-3309.

MAY 4 and 18

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

MAY 4, 11, 18

Bloodmobile

The bloodmobile is at Albertsons 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. It is at Peninsula High School on April 6 from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

MAY 5, 12, 19, 26

Story time

Music and Motion Story Time for ages 0 to 3 years (with an adult) is hosted 10 a.m. at the Key Center Library. Children will enjoy songs, rhymes, dancing, play and instruments. Preschool Science Story Time for ages 3 to 5 is hosted 11 a.m. and includes hands-on

To submit an event

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

science exploration. Both activities are sponsored by Friends of the Key Center Library. 548-3309.

MAY 7

Fuchsia meeting

The Lakebay Fuchsia Club meets at 7 p.m. at KP Civic Center. Ginnie, 884-9744.

Music/poetry

Eclectic chamber jazz group Primal Mates performs poems set to music, music set to poems and music by well-known writers who were also accomplished composers at 7 p.m. at the Key Center Library. 548-3309.

MAY 7, 14, 21, 28

GED help

Adults get help preparing for the GED, high school completion, college and placement tests 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Key Center Library. Local educators will tutor in English reading and writing, mathematics, sciences and social studies. Call 548-3309 to make an appointment.

MAY 7 and 21

Cat-lover meeting

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

MAY 9

Community Fair

The KPCCA hosts the 14th annual Key Peninsula Livable Community Fair from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with the theme of "Living Well on the Key Peninsula." The event provides the community with a unique opportunity to learn about 40 non-profits and resources on the Key Peninsula in a fun, family-friendly atmosphere, thanks to volunteers, sponsors, local organizations and youth. Two Waters Arts Alliance hosts a kids' craft table and school children and musicians will entertain attendees. Emergency preparedness remains a focal point with both vendors and workshops. For information, visit kpciviccenter.org or call (253) 884-3456.

Museum Open House

The Key Peninsula Historical Society Museum celebrates its 20-year anniversary from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in conjunction with the Livable Community Fair. The current display features schools, businesses and communities of the KP over a hundred years ago. A special activity for children will be available. The Bluegrass Minstrels will entertain on stage at 12:30 p.m. and may be heard at the museum before, weather permitting. Museum is free, with donations accepted. 888-3246.

MAY 12

Garden club meets

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

MAY 12 and 27

Crochet or knit

The Loving Hearts group knits and crochets for charities and meets May 12 at 1 to 3 p.m. and May 27 at 7 to 9 p.m. at Way Point Church. Yarn donations are always needed. Virginia, 884-9619 or lovingheartsonkp@gmail.com.

MAY 13

Ashes meet

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

MAY 14

Preschool story time

Stories and songs geared to the current KP Historical Museum's display on early history of the Key Peninsula will entertain preschoolers who attend the 11 a.m. story hour with an adult. Pre-registration isn't required; call 888-3246 for information.

MAY 16

Yard sale

The KP Historical Society hosts a "treasurers from attics to basements" yard sale at Shirley Olson's, 9004 KP Highway N, Key Center, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Profits are designated for the museum building fund. Please do not use the Sound Credit Union's parking lot until after 1 p.m. Look for signs for marked parking areas. If you have items to

contribute, call 225-3036.

Author event

Local author Leslie Bratspis introduces her second novel, "Vanilla Grass," at the Key Center Library from 2 to 3 p.m. A special invitation is extended to veterans and folks with licensed service dogs. Books will be available for purchase and signing. Light refreshments will be served. 548-3309.

MAY 17

Concert

The Key Singers' annual spring concert has the theme "#Key World." The concert is at 3 p.m. in McColley Hall at KP Lutheran Church, and will include a wide variety of musical selections. Cabaret seating and light refreshments are provided. Ticket donation is \$6.

Sunday bluegrass jam

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

MAY 20

Spay/neuter clinic

The Northwest & Neuter Center in Tacoma offers affordable spay and neuter services for cats and dogs, including special programs for feral cats and pit bull dogs. Their shuttle van will pick up at the KP Civic Center at 7 a.m. on May 20 and return them to the KPCC on May 21. Appointments are required. Call (253) 627-7729 ext. 217 or email to shuttle@nwspayneuter.org for questions or to schedule an appointment. Newspayneuter.org

MAY 23 and 25

Rummage sale

Lakebay Community Church, 11 Cornwall Road KPS, Lakebay, hosts its annual Memorial Day Rummage Sale on Saturday and Monday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Furniture, books, clothes, tools, toys, and other items are available. 884-3899.

OFF THE KEY

MAY 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29

Spanish visits

Adults are invited to join in Spanish conversations with El Grupo from 12:30 to 2 p.m. at the Gig Harbor Library. This free event is sponsored by Friends of the Gig Harbor Library. 548-3309.

MAY 1, 9 and 16

Bloodmobile

The bloodmobile is at Henderson Bay High School at 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on May 1 and at Adventure of Faith Church in Port Orchard at 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on May 9 and at LDS Church of Gig Harbor at 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on May 16.

MAY 7

Democrats meet

The 26th LD Democrats meet 7 to 9 p.m. at Givens Community Center, 1026 Sidney Road, Port Orchard. All are welcome.

MAY 9

Money in politics

The League of Women Voters' Gig Harbor/Key Peninsula unit will discuss the

League's Citizens United Toolkit from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Harbor History Museum. "Citizens United" refers to the 2010 Supreme Court decision which treats corporations as individuals and has resulted in more corporate money and influence in politics. Sharon Peace-Doane, 265-0841.

MAY 12

Edible garden

Adults will learn about infusing an edible garden into their lifestyle from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Gig Harbor Library. Creative gardener Sue Goetz shares her sketches and tips. "The Herb Lover's Spa Book" written by Sue will be available for purchase and signing. This free event is sponsored by Friends of the Gig Harbor Library. 548-3309.

MAY 16

Choir concert

The "Joyful Noise" choir presents a concert at 3 p.m. at the Fox Island United Church of Christ at 726 6th Ave. on Fox Island. The community choir sings American pop music, show tunes and a memorial salute to American soldiers. Suggested donation is \$5.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

KP Veterans

May 4 and 14, 7 p.m. at the KP Lutheran Church. Membership open to veterans and active duty personnel and family. 253-509-8656 or keypenveterans@outlook.com.

KP Lions' dinner, program

May 6 and 20, 6 p.m. at the Key Center Fire Station; 853-2721.

Key Pen Parks

May 11, 7:30 p.m. at Volunteer Park administrative office; the public can attend.

KP Fire Department

May 12 and 26, 5 p.m. in meeting room, Key Center fire station; keypeninsulafire.org

Key Peninsula Council

May 13, 7 p.m., hosted at Key Center fire station.

KP Civic Center Association Board

May 14, 7 p.m., in Whitmore Room, KP Civic Center. 884-3456.

Peninsula School District Board

May 14, 6 p.m. at Vaughn Elementary School library.

KP Citizens Against Crime

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

KP Democrats

May 18, 7 p.m. at Home fire station; all are welcome.

KP LUAC

May 20, 6:30 p.m. at the KC Library, Pierce County transportation representative will speak; chuck-west@hotmail.com.

LIC

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

KP Farm Council

May 25, 6:30 p.m. at fire station in Home; c.wiley@mac.com.

WEEKLY EVENTS

MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS

Senior exercise class

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

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

The Children's Home Society KP Family Resource Center offers a preschool/toddler indoor park program 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the KP Civic Center. Caregivers must stay with child. Drop-ins are welcome; stay for as long as you wish. A \$1/child donation is suggested. Tami, 884-5433.

TUESDAYS & SATURDAYS

KP Museum

"The Story of the Key Peninsula – Its Past – Its People – Its Places" is the theme of the display at the KP Historical Museum, with current emphasis on early schools and businesses. Open 1 to 4 p.m. Free admission, with money donations accepted. 888-3246.

WEDNESDAYS

Writers meet

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

Writers' workshop

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

WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS

Senior meals

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

THURSDAYS

Toastmasters

The Toastmasters meet 8 to 9 a.m. at the Key Center Library. Join the fun and improve your speaking ability. 858-5761 or (253) 548-3511.

Seniors' lunch

The Key Peninsula Senior Society meets at 11 a.m. for a potluck, fellowship and games in the Whitmore Room at the KP Civic Center. All are welcome. 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 glorypromo@gmail.com.

CALENDAR SUBMISSIONS

Send your calendar items to connierenz@hotmail.com by the 15th of the month

KEY PENINSULA NEWS IS LOOKING TO TELL YOUR STORY

Send your story suggestions and photo opportunities to Scott Turner, editor, at editor@keypennews.com

Pedal-powered poker play plays out on the Key

By Steve Whitford, KP News

On Saturday, April 4, 360 Trails held its first-ever mountain bike poker run.

Some 140 riders forked out \$20 a piece to participate in the sunny 6.8-mile run that flowed through the 360 Trails' new bike park and through parts of adjacent Gateway Park located near Lake Kathryn.

The land for the bike park was originally leased from the Department of Natural Resources in 2010 for a period of 55 years.

Since then, local enthusiast Courtland Capwell has been busy volunteering his time making bike trails, ably assisted by Shawn Bornhoeft.

The trails are usually open to mountain bikes, hikers and equestrians so all trails are one way in order to avoid collisions.

The poker run was officiated by Key Peninsula Parks Director Scott Gallacher and Christina Hallock, marketing coordinator and recreational specialist. Administrative assistant Karen Armstrong assisted Hallock, checking in the riders.

The first group of cyclists started at 9:30 a.m., and the rest left in spaced intervals to avoid crowding.

Riders followed a mapped route that included passing several checkpoints. At each checkpoint, riders would draw a ping pong ball from a large bucket. Each ball in the bucket had a different playing card written on it. After completing

the entire course, riders would have five cards to make a poker hand out of. Bikers seeking more of a challenge could repeat the entire course, riding 13.6 miles and gaining a sixth card. Some hardcore competitors made a third trip around the course, completing a whopping 20.4 miles and receiving seven cards. All poker hands would be made out of their best five cards.

Aside from a bike, the only required equipment was a bike helmet, although eye protection was highly recommended. Most riders however were sporting full riding regalia. This included team shirts, riding pants and special shoes that clip into the bike pedals. Some riders wore a hydration backpack complete with a tube that allowed them to sip while riding. In addition some carried first-aid kits, bike tools and high-energy foods.

"I usually just bring a peanut butter sandwich," Capwell said.

Checkpoints four, six and seven were manned by Chad Gorman and Doug Rhodes, courtesy of Silverdale Cyclery.

Beside the checkpoint was Kathy Anderson, courtesy of Iron Horse Brewery, who helped keep riders hydrated.

At the end of the run participants enjoyed a hotdog lunch and prizes were awarded.

Three lucky riders had winning hands of four of a kind. Two chose identical passes to Stevens Pass Bike Park and Lift. The third chose a growler donated by the Iron Horse Brewery.

Sponsors for the event included Silverdale Cyclery, The Hub of Gig Harbor, Haggan Foods, Iron Horse Brewery, Giant Bicycles, Tacoma Bike, Horse-shoe Lake Golf, Grant Spangle Physical Therapy, Key Pen Parks and Stevens Pass Bike Park.

"The event was a great success, taking in \$2,500 for future improvements to 360 Trails," Gallacher said. "We hope to do it again next year."

To find out more about this or future events, Key Pen Parks can be reached at (253) 884-9240 or online at keypenparks.com.



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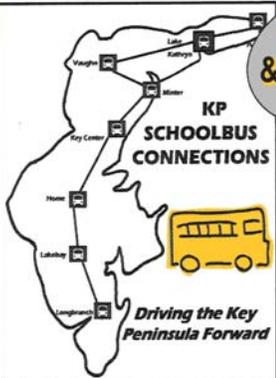
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Eagle project soars at Red Barn Youth Center

By Glen Ehrhardt and Colleen Slater

A.J. Hollaway is an Eagle Scout who soars to amazing heights. He joined Troop 220 a few years ago because he really wanted to become an Eagle Scout.

Hollaway watched the Red Barn slowly develop since he moved to the Key Peninsula nearly six years ago. He selected the Red Barn Youth Center for his Eagle project.

"Last summer at the Red Barn 'SPLASH' event, I learned they were in need of various items for the grand opening," Hollaway said. "Picnic tables were on that list and that is where I thought about this project."

He said he was excited to build something that would be helpful to the kids who would be attending the Red Barn.

Hollaway studied many patterns and styles of tables online before choosing a style.

"It is a very strong construction and I wanted something that would last a long time," he said.

One of the challenges was building the legs so the tables would sit flat. The entire project took about a month to complete.

Hollaway's father, Jeremy, was always nearby to supervise and supplied tools from his workshop.

Hollaway opted to burn checkerboards onto two ta-



Photo courtesy Glen Ehrhardt

River Lance and Joey Cusick help A.J. Hollaway lift one of the picnic tables. Helper Xavier Scott is to the right.

bles, another challenge.

"The rain made things a little difficult when the tables were complete and we needed to stain them," he said.

"Overall, everything worked out well and I was very happy with the end results."

Silverbow Farm donated wood grown and milled at the farm for the tables, adding another layer of uniqueness to the project.

"I think this makes it really special for the youth center," Hollaway said.

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Mentors of the Month

Selected by **Communities In Schools of Peninsula**

Reading Mentor
Merle Witter

Merle Witter has been a reading mentor at Antonsdale Elementary for nine years. She has lived in Gig Harbor for 14 years with her husband and their daughter. Merle takes every opportunity she gets to tell people about the win-win experience of volunteering with CISP. She works in cancer clinical trial research and sees a parallel between her love for that work and the rewarding experiences in mentoring. She said, "In both, there is the process of working day-by-day towards a specific goal and then arriving at a result." As a reading mentor, Merle remarked, "It's wonderful to work with the same student throughout the year helping them to build skills and confidence. It's also fun to watch their enthusiasm grow week-by-week. The result I see every year is a tremendous growth in each student's reading ability and their enjoyment of reading. Plus, I get to know some of the great students in our community, give something back to our schools, and work with friendly volunteers, the terrific staff at CISP and an outstanding teacher. That's actually a win-win-win!" We are so grateful for mentors like Merle. Thank you so much!

- *Communities In Schools of Peninsula*

Math Mentor
Bill Lloyd

Bill Lloyd has been a math mentor for CISP at Key Peninsula Middle School for four years. Bill is originally from Eastern Washington, but settled in Home, on the Key Peninsula, four years ago. Bill moved here with his wife directly from teaching Spanish and French in Kazakhstan and Libya. Bill loves connecting with the kids and seeing the growth in their basic math skills. He said, "Sometimes all they need is just a little bit of help, and then they go like wildfire! Higher concepts are great, but those kids need to know their basic times tables, and sometimes they just don't. You can't progress in math until you can do these problems in your head, and that's my job, to make sure they do." Bill encourages anyone to be a CISP math mentor. He continued, "It's really very simple. The kids come with a smile on their faces, most of them seem to know it's a privilege, not a chore." We feel privileged to have such a great volunteer mentor like you, Bill! Thank you for all you do.

- *Communities In Schools of Peninsula*

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Longbranch Improvement Club has roots in community

By Sara Thompson, KP News

The Longbranch Improvement Club (LIC) has a proud history as a positive force in the community. Although many associate it primarily with the Longbranch Marina, its first commitment was to education. And the commitment to students on the Key Peninsula continues to this day. As the LIC approaches its centennial, Gayle Brewer, the club president, said, "We want to let people know what we do and to expand our presence in the community."

The story of the LIC reflects that of the Key Peninsula — schools, farming, boating and even baseball infuse its history.

The LIC incorporated in 1921 "to encourage any activity for the betterment of schools, homemaking, roads, marketing, dairy, poultry and all its branches" and purchased 10 acres of land just before the first paved county road was completed.

According to organizers, baseball, which was an especially popular way to socialize-influenced the first use of those



Photo courtesy of Larry Bingham

Clark Van Bogart was spotted bringing in ground cover for the LIC trail system.

10 acres — a field and grandstand provided a home for the Longbranch team. Three acres were donated to build a two-room schoolhouse.

The WPA built the timbered a-frame gymnasium next to the schoolhouse, and that building now serves as the home of the LIC. It was upgraded in 1956 with the addition of kitchen facilities and a wooden floor, and it was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1987.

The Longbranch Marina history is as intertwined in the LIC story as the familiar timber, concrete and stone structure, and goes back more than a century.

In 1885 a wharf was built in Longbranch to serve South Puget Sound. The Mosquito Fleet transported families and agricultural products. A ferry, the Elk, was commissioned and served until the late 1930s.

When Pierce County refused to lease the ferry dock to a private for-profit venture, the LIC came to the rescue. County engineers supplied plans and LIC member provided the lumber, labor and funding to build a floating pier that was installed in 1959. More recently, when the wharf deteriorated, Pierce County had plans but no funding to replace it. The LIC stepped in, raising the necessary money through donations and loans.

"This is a remote marine community and people value the beauty and quiet of Filucy Bay. Originally, providing and maintaining the marina was not a business plan — it just happened," said Brewer.

One-third of the floating dock is dedi-

cated to public guest moorage. Made available on a first-come, first-served basis for day and overnight users. Boaters have access to fresh water, garbage disposal and restrooms, all at no cost to taxpayers. "The lack of amenities is in some ways a blessing," said Clark Van Bogart, club vice president. "Boaters really value the incredible setting and its peace and quiet."

The LIC is a heterogeneous group — some are very focused on the water, and others not at all. They rally around the needs of the building as they come up — be it replacing the septic system, updating the kitchen or establishing the nature trail just behind the building that is now open to everyone.

In talking about the activities of the LIC, what excited Brewer, Van Bogart and events chair, Delia McGinnis, was the outreach to the schools and students.

Every year, in collaboration with the Girl Scouts and the schools, they host Trunk or Treat — a Halloween event with treats and activities for KP families. Kids 'N Christmas, in conjunction with Toys for Tots, provides gifts for every child, dinner and crafts tables for the kids to make presents for their parents.

"One mother came up to me last year," said McGinnis, "and said they had been coming for eight years, commenting, 'You have no idea how much this has meant to us.'"

In addition, the LIC offers scholarships to grade-school students to attend summer camp and scholarships to Peninsula High students who started their education at Evergreen.

Other events are geared to building community spirit. The Fiber Arts Fair is coordinated with the KP Farm Tour. Spaghetti feeds and pancake breakfasts are times for friends to gather and enjoy good company. And Memorial Day and Labor Day dances provide a great time for everyone as well as a chance to raise funds.

New members are welcome. The fee for membership is just \$25 single, \$40 family, and each member is asked to attend at least three member meetings a year and to contribute 15 hours of volunteer service.

For information, visit longbranchimprovementclub.org.

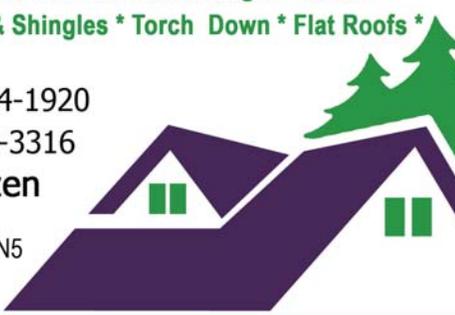
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MEET YOUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

Michelle Caldier, 26th District representative

By Sara Thompson, KP News

Republican Michelle Caldier, elected in a rancorous campaign by a close margin to replace Larry Seaquist, is a political newcomer. She now represents the Key Peninsula as one of the state representatives to the 26th District.

Caldier grew up in Kitsap County, the fourth generation of her family to live there — her great-grandfather served as the first postmaster of Kitsap County. She graduated from Central Kitsap High, then received her associate of sciences from Olympic College before earning her bachelor of science and then her doctor of dental surgery from the University of Washington.

From the ages of 10 to 17, she entered into the state foster care system, largely in response to an abusive stepfather. During that time she lived in many different settings, and she credits a stable school situation for her ultimate success. She was able to stay in the same middle school and high school throughout those tumultuous times. Her junior high counselor ultimately became her high school principal, and he encouraged her to enter the Running Start program.

During dental school, as a divorced mother with a young daughter, she felt well-supported by fellow classmates, especially other single mothers. “We watched out for each other,” she said. And once she completed dental school and established her practice, she became a foster mother herself, caring for a 16 year old and then a 13-year-old daughter. There were some



Michelle Caldier

rocky times, she admits, but she now describes herself as a proud mother and foster mother of three beautiful daughters, a grandmother and a small-business owner.

“I believe education is the key to a better future for everyone and will support measures to fund education first and make sure children receive our first dollar, and not our last dime,” Caldier said.

Two years ago, after working for more than a decade in a dental practice serving nursing homes and volunteering to care for the underserved, she joined others to lobby the Washington State Legislature to restore funding for adult dental care for those on

Medicaid. When that was successful, she was inspired to run for a seat.

Her legislative priorities are protecting the most vulnerable, prioritizing education in the state budget and efficiency with taxpayer dollars. She serves on the following committees: education, healthcare and wellness, general government and information technology.

She said that transportation has been identified as high priority for the Key Peninsula and she felt she could not support the Pierce County transportation plan because it did not address the needs of her district living on the north side of the Narrows. She said she is still learning about the “buckets of money” and wants to be sure that the Key Peninsula gets some of those dollars — perhaps thinking outside the box and using more fuel-efficient vehicles.

Education is a top priority, and she notes that paying for the mandated changes will be an issue. She remains opposed to increased taxation and feels that the needs

can be met by more efficient use of current funding — spending more wisely. In addition she said that with an improved economy, there is more money in the state budget.

Caldier notes that her roots are in Bremerton and Port Orchard, where she now lives. To get to know the Key Peninsula, she made phone calls from a list of voters provided by the state.

When asked how she will continue to be in touch with the concerns of the Key Peninsula, she said she has attended the Key Peninsula Business Association meetings and the Key Peninsula Community Council. She also attends local events. She encourages constituents to contact her directly.

“I always have an open door,” she said. “I am here to represent everyone. Contact me with questions, concerns or issues you think are important.”

Her email is michelle.caldier@leg.wa.gov, and her phone number is (360) 786-7802.

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Arbor Day contest had many young winners from KP schools

By Scott Turner, KP News

In April, Key Peninsula school kids won a fair share of awards at this year's Arbor Day poster, photography and poetry contest.

According to Carol Alex, president of the Gig Harbor Arbor Day organization, every school in the Peninsula District participates in the Arbor Day activities and several KP students made a big impression on the judges in this year's competition.

Maddie James, a fifth-grader at Minter Creek, won first place in the poster contest for her drawing of animals in trees.

"Arbor Day is important because it's all about trees, and trees provide oxygen and we breathe the oxygen so the trees keep us alive," the 11-year-old said.

The idea for her poster just popped into her head.

"I have a lot of animals in my picture because animals are a big part of my life. My mom is a vet-tech and a lot of our animals have back stories behind them

because they came from hard places and then they were at my mom's clinic and then they came to our house," she said.

The animals in her picture aren't just ordinary critters. They talk to each other.

"I wrote little quotes to show that there's dialog between them," Maddie said. "There's a bird nest and a bird in one tree and the bird says, 'We live here,' and there's a cat up there in a tree and the cat says: 'Trees are good hideouts too.' And a dog says 'Where's that cat? Ooops. Save the trees.'

"I want people to think about helping the environment and not littering and stuff like that," Maddie said.

Her idea was clever and creative enough that Maddie won \$100 as first prize for her work.

Two other Minter Creek students also received awards: 11-year-old Brianna Klahond tied for third place in the poster contest and 10-year-old Savannah Bruno's illustration will be used on the cover of this year's poetry book.

Rylen Hall, a seventh-grader at Key Peninsula Middle School, also caught the judges' eye with a photo of a grove of flowering trees with a body of water in the background. She won first place in photography.

"You just want to walk into that photograph," Alex said. "It's marvelous."

Another of Rylen's photos won an honorable mention in the contest.

Evergreen Elementary student Jackson Clak and Vaughn student Emily Price both received honorable mentions in the essay contest and each was awarded a gift card to Mostly Books in Gig Harbor.

Evergreen kindergartner Rosemary Adams won an award for her tree art.

The awards were presented April 25 at the official Arbor Day celebration at the Gig Harbor Civic Center.

The local event has been held every April since 2001, Alex said.

"We have a tree planting, we pass out tree seedlings to the public, and there are arts and crafts for kids and honor

the students who have participated in our contest.

"Each age level is included and the winners in each level get prizes and they talk about the picture they created or their poem or essay. Some of them have never been recognized before for anything. I get a big kick out of seeing them being honored like this," Alex said.

Funding for the Arbor Day activities comes from private sources, grants and from people in the community.

The organization is always looking for board members, donations and volunteers to help at the event, Alex said.

"Every year, we have high school kids who come and help and so many times they tell us that they remember planting one of our little trees back when they were in the third grade," Alex said. "They remember it and they carry that with them to the rest of their lives."

Planning for next year's event will begin next February.

For information visit gigharborarbor.org.

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Artifact day a big hit on the Key

By Rick Sorrels, KP News

An "artifact day," where archaeologists from the Burke Museum and Statistical Research Inc. (SRI) identified ancient bones, tools and other very old stuff brought in by local residents, was held at the Key Center Library on March 21. It was a big hit. About two dozen individuals brought in hundreds of individual items that were scrutinized.

SRI were the archaeologists under contract with Pierce County for the recent archaeological survey done along Filicue Bay.

The most impressive item was an ankle bone from an extinct horse that archaeologist Stephanie Jolivet described as "looking very similar to today's horses, but stockier and a bit shorter, similar to a quarter horse or a mustang." "These horses lived through the last ice age in North America and became extinct between 10,000 and 12,000 years ago for unknown reasons. They may have had difficulty adapting to the new climate, or man may have killed them off for food," she said.

Horses did not reappear in North America until brought to the Americas by the Spanish explorers after Columbus.

"The horse bone was about 10-inches long and partially fossilized, which is a natural process where minerals gradually replace the calcium and other tissues," said Jolivet. "It would have taken thousands of years for this bone to have been fossilized to this extent. The horse belonging to this bone would have died between 10,000 and 25,000 years ago."

The horse bone was found eroding from a hillside near Dungeness by a person who now resides on the Key Peninsula.

KP resident Cindy Taylor brought in a number of Indian artifacts she inherited five years ago from a relative who lived in Kodiak, Alaska, which included what was identified as "an Indian seal oil lamp, approximately 2,000 years old," and "a predatory whale tooth that could be current, or date back 1,000 years."

Longbranch resident Don Tjossem brought what was identified as being "a magnetic meteorite," but needed involvement by different experts.

Will and Dee Hendrix, who live on Mayo Cove, brought a tool used by Indians for grinding grain into salmon cakes, and also brought a display case filled with about 90 of the thousands of arrow and spear tips Will's family had collected near Benton City on the Columbia River since the 1930s.

Don and Judy Mills brought a wood-working maul that dated "between 100 to thousands of years old," and a spear head that was found in a shallow well on their Vaughn Bay property that dates "from 4,000 and 9,000 years old." Burke archaeologist Laura Phillips explained how "local Indians used a different technique to form spear heads during this earlier time period."

Not all residents received good news. Heather Rogers brought what two small museums had already identified as an Indian artifact, "a tool to smash things." It fit the hand perfectly and even had indents for thumbs. It turned out to have been made by natural processes, commonly called a "mud baby."

Archaeologists and geologists are sometimes referred to as "the cowboys of science." Not because of reckless actions,

like Indiana Jones, but because of the large number of hours spent in the field in wilderness and desert conditions, sometimes reachable only by horseback with pack mules carrying their food, sleeping bag, camp stove, et cetera, just like a cowboy used to live.

Archaeologists work more like a police detective, investigating the few clues left to something that happened tens of thousands of years ago. They are meticulous in detail, relying upon undisturbed sites. Persons who remove artifacts without scientific investigation are known as "looters;" much knowledge can be lost.

If an object is found that may be an artifact, Burke's public outreach coordinator can be reached at (206) 221-6183 to place you in touch with an appropriate expert who can determine what you have found.

The Burke normally has an artifact day to examine items brought in by the public annually in January or February, but it has been postponed to Saturday, May 9, this year, from 1 to 3 p.m. on the UW campus. For information, visit burkemuseum.org.

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KP author pens again

By Irene Torres, KP News

Key Peninsula author Richard A.M. Dixon has published his third and final Dillon's War novel; this one is titled "Weretiger's Deliverance."

It is a 216-page psychological drama, continuing the story of a Vietnam War-era soldier who encounters a tiger in the war-torn jungle of Southeast Asia.

Dixon said each book in the series is designed to stand alone.

"The trilogy was written at the demand of David Duryee, who is a minor character in the first book. David said, 'My part wasn't big enough,' so he became the main character in the 'Revenge of the Weretiger,'" Dixon said.

Dixon served as a 1st Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Airborne on Okinawa. In 1964, "as it turned out, we were the first ones in" at the start of the police action in Vietnam," he said. He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the regular Army after earning a degree in clinical psychology from the University of

Washington.

"This started out as a memoir, and when I got to the part about being in the foxhole, I remembered coming face-to-face with a tiger. I will never forget it," he said.

Dixon was enamored enough with Dillon's character and the tiger to write a second book, and now a third.

"The tiger became the protagonist. It was cathartic," he said.

These books are based on true stories, though the places and characters may have been changed.

Fan and reader Ed Johnson said, "The story moves fast enough and is exotic enough to hold my interest."

When Dixon retired from a very lucrative medical sales career to care for his wife after a serious illness, he found extra time and started writing a children's book.

"I created a living thing that will outlive me. That's what got me hooked," he said.

Dixon writes four hours a day and said he reads his writings to his dog.

"If the dog stays, it's OK to read it to

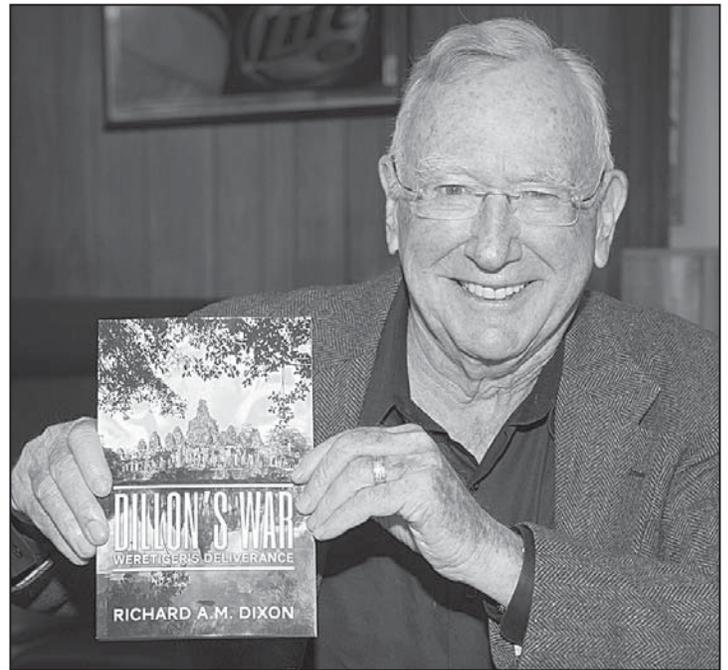


Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News

Local author Richard A.M. Dixon recently published his latest book about a Vietnam War soldier who encounters a tiger while in battle.

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my wife. If she says OK, then I read it to the Lakebay Writers Group. Then I put it in manuscript form and set about to rewrite the whole manuscript, which I give to my son. I get the perspective of a whole group of people. They do the proofreading for free," Dixon said.

He said he has done everything wrong you could imagine in writing.

"I've found it best to hire an editor, preferably one who is far away. They are more objective," he said.

Dixon said he felt remorse when he finished the series and asked himself, "What

am I going to do now?" The answer was: write another novel. "The Tiger of Dien Vien Pu" is now in the works. It is set in the timeframe from 1932 in Hai Phong to 1965 in Bangkok.

Meanwhile, Dixon has scheduled local book readings and book signings and has entered the cover art for "Weretiger's Deliverance" into contests for consideration by The National Indie Excellence and Writers Digest.

All of Dixon's books are available through his website at richardamdixon-books.com and on Amazon.com.

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Gig Harbor BoatShop to host a screening of short films

'Threads' and 'Finding Thea': Stories of inspiration, determination and liberation.

By Irene Torres, KP News

The Gig Harbor Boat Shop is proud to present two short films by hometown filmmakers that tell the stories of two women, one local and one half a world away, who take unconventional paths to self-sufficiency. Area filmmakers Nancy Bourne Haley (Finding Thea), Cathy Stevulak and Leonard Hill (Threads) will be at the fundraising event for questions and answers.

Finding Thea tells the story of Tacoma's Thea Foss. Starting with a single rowboat, this 19th century Norwegian immigrant became the inspiration for the fictional heroine Tugboat Annie and creator of one of the Pacific's largest tugboat companies. Through

her life and work, Foss became a pioneer archetype for women in the first half of the 20th century. Hers is a classic American immigrant success story born in the Pacific Northwest.

Threads was winner of Best Short Documentary award at the 2014 Gig Harbor Film Festival. It is about a visionary Bangladeshi Muslim woman who overcomes social and economic hardships and liberates herself and others by creating timeless works of fiber art, which are now in Queen Elizabeth's collection and museums on four continents. Surayia Rahman takes the future of Bangladesh's women into her own hands, and changes lives for generations.

Stevulak and Hill have owned a house on Herron Island for more than 20 years. Hill told the Key Peninsula News, "We started working on Threads in 2009 while living full-time on the Island, and many of the ideas that appear in the finished film come from friends there and on the Key Peninsula. Some

of our first focus groups were held in the Brones Room of the Library in Key Center. Readers of the Key Peninsula News were some of the earliest financial contributors to Threads."

The film website, kanthatreads.com, has detailed information on the film including images of the art of Surayia Rahman that took several years to find around the world.

"We are extremely grateful for all of the help and encouragement we've received. People can still make tax-deductible contributions through the International Documentary Association to help bring Threads to other communities," Hill said.

Screening of the films will be on Tuesday, May 19, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Gig Harbor Boat-Shop, 3805 Harborview Drive. Tickets are \$20 or \$15 for BoatShop Members. Open seating is limited so plan to book early. Hot and cold refreshments will be served.

For information, call (253) 857-9344 or visit gigharborboatshop.org.

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Charles Russell Schillinger

Charles Russell Schillinger, 85, of Victor, born to William and Frances (Turnbull) Schillinger Feb. 22, 1930 in Auburn, died on March 12, due to complications from non-Hodgkin lymphoma.

Schillinger graduated from Peninsula High School in 1948. After graduation, he joined the Naval Air Reserve and went to active duty in 1953.

He married Patti Ponzoha on May 14, 1954 in Hawaii.

After his honorable discharge in 1955, they moved to the family farm in Victor and have lived there ever since.

He was a self-employed logger and Christmas tree farmer, officially retiring in 1995. He served as a volunteer firefighter for 30 years in Victor District No. 5. He was a member of the Elks.

Schillinger is survived by his wife, Patti; daughters Kay (Mark) Harder, Karen (Tom) Johnson and Karla (Greg) Featherstone; grandchildren Tommy and Nick Johnson, Travis (Lori) Harder, Brittini (Aaron) Young and Kyle Featherstone; and four great-grandchildren, Preston and Elise Harder and Peyton and Parker Young.



Charles Schillinger

Schillinger loved to spend time with his family, tending his vegetable garden, golfing, hunting and spending time in their winter house in Pah-rump, Nev.

There will be a celebration of life held in his honor on May 9 at 1 p.m. at the Victor Improvement Club.

POET SPEAK

KP poetry corner

Editor's note: The KP News is starting a spot for poems submitted by Key Peninsula residents. Please keep them under 200 words and send them to Ed Johnson at edj@edjohnson.net. We will try and run a poem in every issue.

The one that got away

By Steve Whitford

There's a story told by everyone
though not in the same way
You'll hear it on the dock,
a boat, the shore, a bar, the bay.
And the story's always different
though the endings all the same
As the teller spoke of courage
while he fought his wily game
And the story keeps on growing
as they talk on through the day
Of how they just missed glory!
with the one that got away.
They'll tell you tales of fish so big
they almost sank their boat.
And how they had to cut their line
to keep themselves afloat.
They'll brag to you of fish so fierce
that bit their poles in two!
And their eyes will shine with honesty
though the story's never true.
And the story gets more tragic
as they whimper through the day

Cause the dream's become a nightmare
of the one that got away.
They blame it on their tackle
they blame it on their bait
They say their hooks were faulty
the problem was their weight.
And then they curse the weather
or blame it on the sun
They put a pox on Neptune
who made the current run.
They make up good excuses
but they'll never really say
That they just outright blew it!
with the one that got away.

My windows need washing

By Colleen Slater

The birds are full of music
Sunlight beckons
after days of rain
I must go admire the trilliums
Johnny-jump-ups
young green oxalis
Scatters of color
against evergreens and barren earth
Fresh canvasses heralding a new season
Geese overhead
proclaiming spring
Time to move on to new adventures
The windows will be there tomorrow

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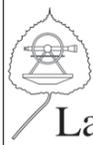
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Out & About

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



Photo courtesy of Deb Kraft

On March 28, a group of Herron Island volunteers gathered for their yearly task of replacing the north beach docks for use during the summer for residents and visitors. Lunch was provided to the team by the Herron Island Boosters, who support all events and foster community spirit, family and goodwill throughout the tight community. Pictured among the many volunteers are Mike Thynes, left, and Bob Hartnett.



Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News

The Band of Brothers motorcycle club made a stop at O'Callahan's Pub and Grill in Key Center on April 4 as part of a fundraiser for multiple sclerosis research. At the high point, there were reported to be some 147 motorcycles in the parking lot. The group and their contributors helped raise \$10,000.



Photo courtesy of C.S Jensen

Where in the World...



Jenny Balman visited the town of Mulege in Baja, Mexico, near the Bay of Conception (Sea of Cortez) in March. She viewed gray and blue whales and their calves in nearby Loreto, as well as two of the oldest Catholic missions and the beauty of the desert.

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Right: The Easter Bunny (aka Kathy Best) shared her treats with the many children who showed up at the Key Peninsula Civic Center, on April 4, to celebrate Easter festivities.

Bottom left: A band of dogs lead their masters during the 7th annual Pet Easter Treat Hunt at Volunteer Park March 28. Despite the early morning wind, the weather was pleasant for the egg-seeking canines and their owners. More than 50 dogs made their way through the hunting grounds and all walked away with dog-related prizes during this popular event.



Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News