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Inside

Keeping a watchful eye on things

-- Page 21



News

News 1-5, 8

Sections

Op-Ed Views 6-7

Schools 9-11

Community Pages 12-13

Community 14-19

Obituary Notices 20

Out & About 21

Poetry 22

KPMS, PSD admin avid over new pilot program to get students into college

By Scott Turner, KP News

Key Peninsula Middle School teachers and administrators were touring Jason Lee Middle School in Tacoma recently, to learn about a new education program being used there called AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) — that helps under-performing students to learn the right tools for getting into college and preparing themselves for the future.

While there, a student who gave a presentation on the program, said both his parents were in jail and he had all but given up on his studies until he was enrolled in AVID, and said to KPMS Principal Jeri Goebel, “If you don’t get AVID, you don’t love your kids.”

“That was a very emotional statement,” Goebel said. And it struck a chord.

AVID was started by an English teacher in California years ago when she realized students who were capable of succeeding

(See AVID, Page 2)



Photo by Scott Turner, KP News

AVID instructor Janet Eidsmore speaks with student Larueen Hammon about the importance of a tidy notebook.

Pierce County Sheriff: Serving the Key Peninsula

By Sara Thompson, KP News

In Key Peninsula’s rural and unincorporated setting, the Pierce County Sheriff’s Department provides the community with crime-protection and prevention services.

Sgt. Brian Ward, who is one of two sergeants heading the Peninsula Detachment, recently reviewed the basics of how the department works and the resources available for the Key Peninsula. Ward has 27 years with the sheriff’s department; he worked the Peninsula Detachment as a patrol deputy (1994-2001) and has served as sergeant here since 2007.

The sheriff’s department is responsible for unincorporated Pierce County and has three detachments (Peninsula, Mountain and Foot-hills), all overseen by Lt. Larry Minturn.

Peninsula Detachment has two districts: District 14 (unincorporated Gig Harbor and Fox Island) and District 15 (Key Peninsula).

Two sergeants are responsible for the Peninsula Detachment, and 17 patrol deputies cover both districts.

With three 10-hour shifts, there is always one deputy on duty in each district. Deputies provide backup for each other if needed and this can sometimes cause a delay in responding to local calls.

Community policing is often discussed in urban settings — officers get to know a community and develop relationships beyond simply law enforcement. When asked how that pertains to the Key Peninsula, Ward noted, “In a rural setting, there can be a real advantage — because we have a small number of officers, if there are problems, residents are seeing the same people.

“And the officers on the Key Peninsula tend to be more senior,” he said. “They like working here and tend to take more time when dealing with complaints. The consistency is usually good, though it

(See Sheriff, Page 3)

(From AVID, Page 1)

in college weren't even getting in, largely because they didn't understand the application process and how to successfully navigate it.

School districts nationwide are picking up on the program — now run as a non-profit organization — with the Peninsula School District being one of them, Goebel said.

Being run as a pilot program in the district, the elective AVID class is only being offered at Key Peninsula Middle School to mostly eighth-grade students and to ninth-grade students at Peninsula High School. The program will be evaluated by district administration and if successful, will be implemented district wide.

Students must meet certain criteria to be asked to enroll in AVID, such as having a GPA of 2.5 to 3.5, be of minority status, be in low socio-economic conditions and be the first in their family to attend college.

"Students need to meet one or more of the criteria to be qualified," said Andrea Bowman, assistant principal at KPMS. Students are then put on a waiting list and must fill out an application for the course and be interviewed by school staff.

"We want kids who want to be in the class," Bowman said.

Once fully implemented, students will stay in an AVID class from middle school until graduation, with Goebel noting that students in schools where the program is up and running refer to others in the program as "their AVID family."

The daily curriculum includes three days where a specialist goes over writing and inquisitive reading strategies. Two days of the week are tutorials, where a college-age volunteer or other trained adult facilitates a session where the students stand up before their peers to present a topic and discuss what they found difficult. The student is then encouraged to find the solution on her own and through a collaborative effort of the peers.

Volunteers needed

Adult or college-age volunteers are needed year-round to help facilitate the tutorials twice a week, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays, at Key Peninsula Middle Schools. There is no teaching involved or required.

"These students are set up for success," Goebel said. "They must present to their peers, much like a masters program in college. This is a lifelong skill and the program gives them the belief they can do it." AVID makes the students be better organized, she said. They learn to discuss answers rather than just asking for the answer.

"During the tutorial, they have to tell what they understand and say what they don't," Bowman said.

"A lot of students out here (the Key Peninsula) don't think college is even a

future they can think of having," Bowman added. But results at other districts are showing a high rate of students in the program going on to colleges.

"In Mount Vernon, there were \$1.5 million given in scholarships and \$1 million of that went to AVID students," Bowman said.

AVID also is having an effect across the KPMS campus, she noted. "We're taking the basic concept and spreading it across the campus." An example she gave was the Cornell notes system of taking class notes that is taught in AVID is now being utilized by the whole staff.

"We want parents to get excited about AVID as well," Goebel said. "They need to promote their student for the class." They are hoping to build a waiting list to get into the class, as has happened at other schools, like Jason Lee.

That student who almost gave up on school and was turned around by AVID is now applying for admission to Ivy League colleges.

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KEY PENINSULA NEWS

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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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(From Sheriff, Page 1)

can be a problem if the resident and the officer don't have a good interaction."

Ward and Minturn attend the monthly Citizens Against Crime meetings whenever possible, and along with deputies, they also try to attend community events including National Night Out.

Since the economic downturn in 2008, there have been some significant losses in staffing. Ward noted that the department has lost several positions in the Peninsula Detachment. The first was a noncommissioned position, the community support officer. That person did community outreach and education and helped groups like Citizens Against Crime and neighborhood block watches organize.

Active patrol positions were also eliminated. The position of neighborhood patrol deputy ended about five years ago. That deputy was called in for non-911 types of calls such as neighborhood disputes. In addition, the detachment lost a traffic officer who was responsible for dealing with congestion, speeding and accidents.

Minturn said that all Pierce County detachments lost positions, and the problem with staffing is compounded by the dif-

ficulty in filling vacancies. The recruiting and training process is slow. Currently the Peninsula detachment has one open position that he hopes to fill by the beginning of 2016. Shifts are filled through overtime in the meantime.

When asked about trends on the Key Peninsula, Ward noted that most crimes are related to property, and that the root cause is probably drug activity — thefts to pay for illicit drug use. A special investigative unit has helped to decrease the number of methamphetamine labs but he said the processing of marijuana has become more of an issue recently.

Minturn concurred, adding that heroin has become a major problem now that methamphetamine use and manufacture has declined.

He said that compared to the other Pierce County detachments, Peninsula has a few challenges. First, the physical isolation caused by both bridges does have an impact. The large waterfront means that there are more boat-related property crimes.

And, because of the proximity to both Mason and Kitsap counties, he describes the problem of "border hopping" in which criminals living in one county go to another to perpetrate their crimes. It means the de-

partments from all three counties need to work closely together.

Both Minturn and Ward agreed that there are "hot spots" on the Key. Crimes tend to be more concentrated in areas where there is higher population density, more inexpensive housing and a younger population

A single murder occurred and was solved last year. One murder this year was uncovered in July. Investigation of an abandoned car led to discovery of the body of Lynn Carver, 69, in her home. An autopsy revealed the cause of death to be multiple stab wounds. The case is still under investigation.

Ward shared information comparing the manpower available to cover the Peninsula District compared to that for the Gig Harbor Police Department — and the numbers are telling. The Peninsula District has one deputy per 3,667 people, while Gig Harbor has one officer per 850 (see sidebar).

Although this difference between rural and more urban staffing is not unusual, there are a few takeaway points, which Minturn endorsed. First, if citizens feel that they need more law enforcement and prevention, they need to advocate for more funding. Second, communities partnering with the sheriff may help in these times of

fewer resources. And groups like Citizens Against Crime serve as a valuable resource in that partnership.

Ward reported the following statistics for Key Peninsula in August: seven felony arrests, 25 traffic accidents, 15 false alarms and 36 traffic stops (speeding, reckless driving). Statistics for a full 12 months are available on the department's website.

Minturn had this advice for those wanting to know what to do: "First, if there is an emergency or a crime in progress, call 911. To report incidents no longer in progress, call (253) 798-4721. If you want to report suspicious drug activity, the number is (253) 798-7537. Good descriptions, license plate numbers and pictures are all very helpful. The online system is especially helpful. We read and heed."

All phone numbers and web-based contacts are listed on the Pierce County Sheriff's Department website at co.pierce.wa.us (follow the Safety & Judicial navigation menu).

Editor's note: A graft comparison between the Pierce County Sheriff's Department peninsula detachment and the Gig Harbor Police Department's manpower and crime statistics are attached to this story at keypennews.com.

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Senior housing on the Key Peninsula moves forward

KP News staff report

The Mustard Seed Project's (TMSP) plan to build senior housing on the Key Peninsula is moving forward, and the public was invited to share their ideas of what they want and need as they consider aging in community at a public meeting held at Blend Wine Shop on Sept 29.

TMSP plans to build 10 one- and two-bedroom cottages for independent living, and three 10-bedroom homes for

assisted living. In addition there will be a central commons which will house a café, office and meeting spaces. The location will be Key Center, though the specific site is yet to be finalized.

"There are days when I am completely amazed by all we have done since we presented the results of our feasibility study last November, and equally amazed by all that remains to be done," said TMSP Founder and Executive Director Edie Morgan.

TMSP, established in 2007, is a non-profit senior service organization located in Key Center. With a small staff, a cadre of dedicated volunteers and partnerships, the organization provides senior transportation and volunteer assistance, produces a resource guide for services and holds informational meetings once a month.

Senior housing was identified as a top priority when TMSP was founded. With a generous donation from longtime supporter Lois Crandall, TMSP hired a housing consultant who did a preliminary study to confirm the need for hous-

ing and to determine that it was economically feasible. Last November the results of that study were shared.

Sara Thompson, board president, summarized what has happened since then. "We established a housing advisory committee, bringing together people with the expertise we needed to move the project forward. We have received a pre-development loan to allow us to fund the next steps," she said.

Thompson said they hired a project management team — Mauro Hernandez and Sharon Nielson from the Portland area — and are working to secure a site. They also hired an architecture firm to determine site suitability and to design a concept plan, she said.

"Together, the project manager and the architect will determine the actual costs — not a theoretical budget as we had with the initial feasibility study, but the cost of actual site development and building as well as operational costs.

"This is really still part of due diligence. We need to know that we can secure the financing and raise the additional funds

to make this a successful venture. We will be planning a capital campaign as we fully understand the budget," Thompson said.

The architectural firm Rice Fergus Miller, from Bremerton, was hired in August.

According to Thompson, Steve Rice, who will be the chief architect for the project, has deep roots on the Key Peninsula.

"He grew up in Minter, and fell in love with architecture as a youngster when he watched his parents' new home take shape there. The firm has experience with senior housing, has worked extensively in Pierce County, and brings expertise in environmentally sustainable building. Rice and his team have made several visits to the Key Peninsula to get a good feeling for the sensibility of the region," she said.

The members of the TMSP said they are excited to begin getting community input into the project and plan for additional opportunities as the project moves forward. Updates will be available through TMSP office at (253) 884-9814.



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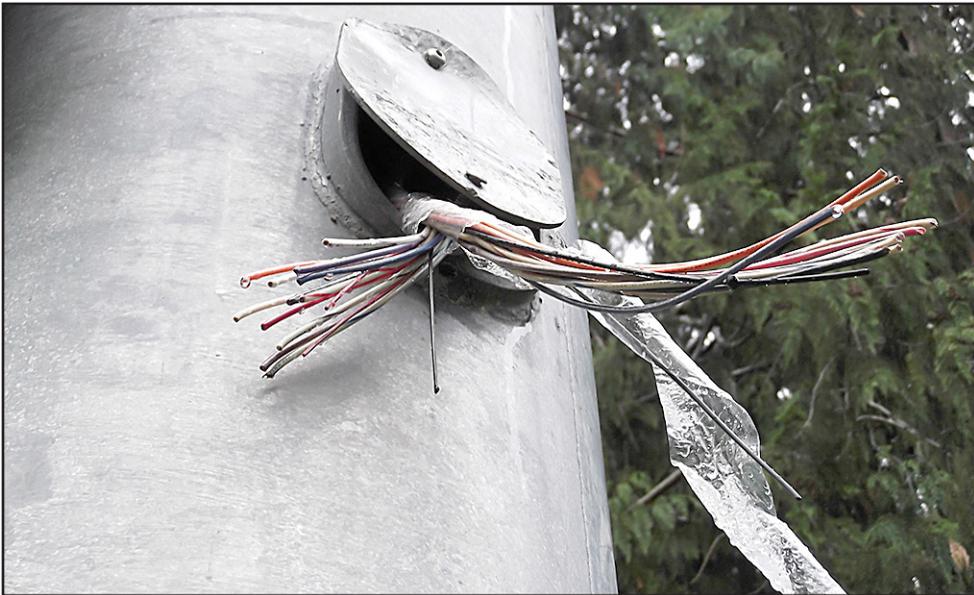


Photo courtesy Key Pen Parks

Someone damaged a light pole at Volunteer Park Sept. 1, cutting wires worth an estimated \$50 to \$100 and costing \$20,000 or more to repair.

Thieves cause extensive damage to light pole at Volunteer Park

By Scott Turner, KP News

One or more vandals struck Key Pen Park's Volunteer field sometime during the night of Sept. 1, damaging one of the six light poles used to illuminate the field.

Scott Gallacher, executive director of Key Pen Parks, said the damage is estimated to be around \$20,000 — but that figure could go higher depending on a number of unknown factors.

He said park staff doesn't know the full extent of the damage until the work to replace the copper and aluminum wiring that was ripped out of the pole is undertaken.

"If the wiring was successfully pulled out all the way up to the top of the pole, we could need a crane and lift," Gallacher said.

The parks department filed a police report and contacted its insurance company, but there is a deductible, Gallacher said.

He said they contacted a local electrical company for an estimate, which is where the damage estimate comes from and he hopes they can affect repairs soon, "hopefully before Legion ball starts in March," he said.

Gallacher said other hidden costs might come up if the weather turns bad and they need to bring heavy equipment on to the ball field to repair the light after rain has soaked the field. The equipment could

cause extensive damage to the field, adding cost to repair the field as well.

He said the irony is that the vandals only got away with "less than \$100 in wire, probably closer to \$50."

Park staff first noticed something was awry when a donated bench was seen in the outfield near a light pole. The thieves had cut the wire at the base and then used the bench to access a power box approximately 8 feet up on the pole and removed the wire between those two points.

KP Parks has applied for a grant back in July to upgrade the lighting system and are expecting to hear back on whether they get the grant sometime in October.

So Gallacher is waiting to see if the light needs to be repaired or replaced, if the grant is approved. But that pushes any possible repair work into the rainy fall weather season.

"It's frustrating, because we are using resources that we could use for other things," Gallacher said. "Someone knows who did it. We hope they will be upstanding citizens and contact the park district or the Pierce County Sheriff."

He asks that people in general keep an eye out for any suspicious activity at any of the Key Peninsula parks, and to call 911, the Pierce County Sheriff's Department or the KP Parks Department if they see anything unusual.

"We need extra eyes," he said.



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GATEWAY PROJECT PLAYGROUND

The playground committee has met and ideas have been sent to playground vendors, who will turn the ideas into various drawings. In the next week or so, you'll be able to see these drawings on our website. You'll even be able to vote on your favorites!

Breakfast with Santa



December 5, 2015
Key Center Fire Station

Advance tickets (\$5 per person) will be available through our website or in the Key Pen Parks office beginning in November. Tickets at the door will be \$10. Shop smart and buy your tickets early! Breakfast, crafts, time with Santa & Mrs. Claus!

The Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District (dba Key Pen Parks) 2016 budget hearings will be held during the regular board of commissioner meetings at 7:30 pm on Oct. 12 and Nov. 9 in the Volunteer Park office, as required per State of Washington RCW 84.52.020.

Peninsula Views

Open your eyes and see

I was waiting in the checkout line of the local big box store. Two women ahead of me were deeply engaged in conversation. One at a time, they placed their items on the conveyor belt, waited as the checker scanned their purchases, handed him their credit cards, signed the receipts, loaded up their items, and walked away.

Throughout this time they never stopped talking. So engrossed were they in their repartee that they failed to even acknowledge the young man working the checkout stand. Nary a “hello” or “thanks” were heard. They walked out into the evening without having even glanced at the clerk.

Then it was my turn. He offered the obligatory “How are you tonight?”

I responded, “I’m fine. How are you?”

For a moment he stood in stunned silence, and then said softly, “Wow. Thanks for noticing I’m alive.” He and I, and the man behind me, all burst into laughter. He told me he was quite happy because he’d just gotten a new cat. He rang up my purchases, we wished each other well, and I headed out toward my car.

Everywhere we go, we are surrounded by living, breathing, dreaming, mourning, happy, sad, exhausted, lonely, madly-in-love human beings. I’m sure the ladies ahead of me must have had a vague awareness that someone was helping them out, but by the way they treated him, he just as well could have been a machine. In their self-absorbed conversation, they couldn’t even see him.

Humans are inherently social creatures; as a pastor and a Christian, I believe we were created to live in relationship with each other. I also believe that extends beyond our immediate social

Dan Whitmarsh
Writing by Faith



circle.

There’s a story about Jesus, in which he goes to a place of worship. In the corner is a woman who has been crippled for two decades. She can’t stand up straight. We can imagine that she goes there desperate for a human touch, or any acknowledgement that she matters. Unfortunately, she is probably ignored, treated like a piece of furniture pushed up against the wall.

Then, the story says, “Jesus saw her, and called her over.” He talked to her. He reached out and touched her. He treated her with dignity and respect. The story says he healed her.

So much is wrapped up in that phrase “he saw her.” Too often we look over people, or around people, or we simply ignore them. Like the women in line ahead of me, we become blind to the reality of fellow humans standing mere feet away from us.

There’s an example here for me, and for all of us. People are standing on the margins of our lives, people we come into contact with every day. Do we say “hello?” Do we ask “How are you?” and wait to hear the answer? Do we have eyes to see all these amazing, beautiful, broken, scarred, brave people with whom we share this time and place?

Take a look around. See the people in front of you. Say “hello.” Let somebody know you see them. It could make all the difference in their life, and in yours.

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

Progress made toward near, distant future projects

We had a successful first committee meeting in August to plan the new Gateway Park playground. Those in attendance were asked to look through various vendor catalogues and highlight playground components they would like to see at the new park. There were many great ideas raised and some consistencies in the committee members’ desires.

As you may recall from the July 2015 Key Peninsula News article, Key Pen Parks learned earlier this year that we were awarded a \$500,000 matching grant for Gateway Park development, as part of the state legislature’s 2015-17 capital budget. This unexpected money will now allow us to jump start the Phase 1 plans of the project, including the design and construction of a new destination playground.

Immediately following the first committee meeting, I submitted the feedback and ideas to several playground vendors with the request that they use the information to draw up sample playground plans. We anticipate receiving these drawings in the first week of October. Shortly thereafter, these drawings will be available for viewing by the general public. We will also open an online voting platform for the public to choose their favorite layouts, keeping in mind that the final design will remain fluid. If all goes well with permitting and any unplanned delays are avoided, we could see a playground as early as sum-

mer 2017.

When so much of the time of running a park district is spent in laying foundations for future projects, it is energizing to work on something so close to being tangible. Another project still in a lengthy foundation laying phase, but which recently had some activity is Key Central Forest. Similarly to 360 Trails, the 480-acre Key Central Forest is managed by Key Pen Parks through a 50-year lease from the property owner, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). It is located north of Key Center and Vaughn between Wright Bliss Road and Key Peninsula Highway North. Last month, DNR acted on a federal mandate to remove some culverts that existed on this property in an effort to enhance the salmon habitat in Vaughn Creek, which runs through Key Central Forest. We partnered with DNR and granted them access to the property via an easement through an adjacent Key Pen Parks-owned parcel off Wright Bliss Road in exchange for DNR clearing enough trees and bulldozing land to form a forest access road. They will sell the felled trees — about 15

(See **Gallacher**, Page 7)

Scott Gallacher
Beyond the Backyard



Letters Policy

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Fall organic gardening checklist

Our outdoor growing season is winding down, but that doesn't mean you're off the hook for gardening chores just yet. There are many things you can do right now to make the best of the remaining season and set yourself up for success next year.

Monica Rakowski Living Close to Nature



Fall planting

You still have time to plant fall flowers to enjoy until the frosty weather hits. Now is a good time to plant mums, winter pansies, decorative cabbages and kales.

According to the almanac, we aren't supposed to get our first frost until Nov. 16, but keep an eye on the weather for cold nights and early frosts. On cold nights, cover your plants with a light cloth or plastic bag to protect them. If you are growing late season lettuce, protect them with a row cover before the first frost.

Now is the time to plant bulbs that will pop up in the spring. Plant garlic, tulips, daffodils, hyacinths and crocus. It's also a good time to transplant trees and shrubs that have gone dormant with the cold weather because they won't get as stressed.

Fall harvest and clean up

Harvest and preserve the last of your fruits and veggies. Can, freeze, dry or store them in a root cellar.

Share extras with your friends, neighbors, and the local food bank. Throw what's left of your plants on the compost pile.

Build your soil

Fall is the best time to focus on re-building your soil for next spring. It's a good idea to test your soil to see what it needs. If necessary, adjust your soil's pH with lime or sulfur.

Dig compost into the top 3-4 inches of

soil and around the base of established plants. You can also spread a thin layer of compost on your lawn to fertilize it. Add organic soil amendments such as kelp meal, greensand, rock phosphate and bone meal.

Cover your bare soil with mulch or cover crops. Shred the leaves from your yard with your lawn mower then spread them over your garden. The leaves will break down, feed the soil, prevent soil erosion and encourage microbial life.

In place of mulch, cow peas, clovers or soybeans are ideal cover crops. When you till them into the soil in the spring, they will provide nitrogen for your plants. Nitrogen is essential for early seedling growth.

Deal with pests and disease

Slugs can destroy a spring garden. Shrink next year's slug population with one final slug bait application now.

Keep an eye on your perennials for signs of pest and disease so you can treat them in the early stages. We are entering mold season.

Cleaning

Tools are expensive. If you take care of them, you'll only have to buy them once. Make sure to clean and oil them before you store them away.

Once your garden is cleaned up and resting for the winter, make sure to request your seed catalogs so you can plan next year's garden.

Monica Rakowski owns KP Indoor Garden Store in Key Center. She also blogs at The-NatureLifeProject.com.

(From Gallacher, Page 6)

acres worth in total — to pay for the clearing of our property.

This new road, although rough, is one of the first stages of laying the foundation for the future public access and development of Key Central Forest. For now; however, the road will give Key Pen Parks the abil-

ity to maintain this property on both sides of Vaughn Creek for the unforeseeable future.

It is partnerships like this one with DNR, as well as the generous involvement of our community members, which help Key Pen Parks leverage resources so we can continue to build for the recreation future of the Key Peninsula.



**NEW
Halloween
Night &
Skate Night**

October 30th



CORNER

CIVIC CENTER

This year the Key Peninsula Civic Center is changing it up and inviting all middle school and younger trick or treaters to enjoy skate night and an **early Halloween on October 30th**. Kids in costume get a special discounted Halloween Skate Night rate of \$2.50. This special themed Halloween Skate Night will replace the traditional Civic Center's Halloween festivities typically held on the 31st. Costume contest, door prizes, Halloween games, music and more. Get your costume on and check out the weird and ghoulish concessions to be offered on this special night. 6 pm to 9 pm.

From the Maintenance department.....



Up a ladder—from 24 feet above—leaning against the Annex building...given the choice between staring into a gutter full of moss, gravel, dirt and grime or looking down on a lush green garden with explosions of color...I choose the garden every time. Such gardens remind us, as we prepare for the fall and winter changes, that summer is still holding on and we should (dare I say it) stop and smell the fuchsias. Or, at least, appreciate them.

The Demonstration Fuchsia Garden here at the Civic Center, developed by the KP Fuchsia Society and maintained in keeping with our herbicide policy, still holds onto its many colors and lushness aided by our milder and moister late summer and the work of the Society members. Trying to describe the variety of reds, pinks and purples is impossible, but the volunteers have the garden well-groomed and they/we invite you to visit and enjoy. The Society's gardens provide not only visual interest and beauty to what could be a somewhat institutional site, but they also provide the opportunity to observe, inspire and learn about this cultivar.

The Fuchsia Society and its members hold an annual fuchsia and plant sale in May. 15 years ago they graciously shared their event with our Livable Community Fair. They are happy to answer questions and work with anyone interested in learning. If you see members out working in the garden, stop and ask for information, the gardens are for all to use and enjoy. The Civic Center (and the gutter cleaners) greatly appreciate what the Fuchsia Society brings and provides here on our grounds.



BLUES & BREWS FEST

OCTOBER 24TH

Featuring

The Dean Reichert Band

•TICKETS•ON•SALE•NOW•

Crafters & Chili Cooks

Submit your registrations for the
8th Annual Winter Warm-up
& Chili Competition

November 7th

9 am — 5 pm



The Key Peninsula Civic Center Association through its facility and the effort of its members, fosters and promotes the civic, social, cultural and general well-being of the Key Peninsula community.

The Key Peninsula Civic Center is a 501(c)3, not-for-profit organization.

Red Barn 'Raising the Roof' and seeking more volunteers

By Scott Turner, KP News

The Red Barn Youth Center, the Key Peninsula's one and only after school place for kids to get together and connect in a safe, fun location, recently celebrated its one-year anniversary with a "Raise the Barn" fundraiser. The event featured live music by Rokkerbox, barbecue from JT Barbecue and a variety of family activities.

According to Red Barn Executive Director Laura Condon the money that was raised will go toward creation of a multi-purpose room that will also serve as a gymnasium.

"Our mission is just to provide kids on the KP with a safe place to go after school," Condon said.

The facility is open every day after school during the school year. "When school is open, we're open. We follow the school schedule," she said. "We're open Monday through Friday, 2:30 – 6 p.m."

This month, while parent-teacher conferences take place at Key Peninsula Middle School, the Barn will open at 10:30 a.m.

All middle- and high school kids are welcome and there's no charge for the activities, she said.

"Just in our first year we have had such an awesome turnout of kids," Condon said. "The response has been great. Some days we have 30 kids."

While the good weather continues there are plenty of outdoor activities such as gardening, basketball, soccer, baseball and volleyball on the new sand volleyball court.

Indoors, there are video games, board games and art supplies. "Two Waters Arts Alliances gives art classes once a week and the KP Library comes once a month and does a special project," she said.

In the past, a guitar teacher has given lessons on a regular schedule, but right now Condon and her staff are looking for a new music teacher.

They're also looking for other volunteers to help every day with basic supervision and other tasks.

"We really need adult volunteers," Condon said. "We're growing and we're developing our 8-acre lands for outdoor games, so we really need more and more adult volunteers to be outdoor supervisors."

There's also a big need for volunteers to help the kids with homework during study time.

"The very first thing kids do when they come here is spend 30-40 minutes in a structured homework setting. We need volunteers for that right now," she said.

Anyone over 18 years of age can be an adult volunteer. High school volunteers need to be at least 16 years old. And all volunteers must pass a background check.

Because the Red Barn is a nonprofit organization, "we can't afford to hire staff, so we have to have volunteers because we need to have adult supervision," she said.

There's also a need for food donations, because after school snacks are provided for the

kids every day.

Although they fell short of their fundraising goal at the Raise the Barn party, Condon said the event brought the community together and increased awareness of the Red Barn's financial and volunteer needs. "I think we really got our message across that it's truly a community effort," she said.

The group has a Facebook page and has also set up a Go Fund Me account on their website, where there's also a list of upcoming activities and information on how to volunteer and how to make donations.

Visit redbarnkp.org for information.

Key Pen Parks host annual pre-Halloween event

Get ready for sneaky schemes, spooky silliness and spellbinding sweets at Key Pen Parks seventh-annual All Hallows Eve Celebration from 6 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 24, at Volunteer Park.

According to organizers of this free event, "It is perfect for families looking to enjoy a little ghoulish time outdoors roasting smores, searching for treats, launching apples or traveling through

the Red Barn haunted forest."

"There will be a costume contest, music by a local DJ, and some new, hair-raising features to thrill you. Bring your already-carved pumpkin for the ghastly gourd face-off," said Christine Hallock, marketing coordinator/recreation specialist.

For information, visit keypenparks.com, click "Stuff to Do" and "Events."

TPC Health dept
1/2-page ad

Recent PSD forum focuses candidates on spring levy vote

By Rick Sorrels, KP News

School district personnel presented the reasons for renewing the maintenance and operations (M&O) levy that will expire in 2016 at a forum held at Key Peninsula Middle School on Sept. 22.

The primary reason for the forum was to identify any concerns that might have been overlooked before finalizing a resolution to be presented to the school board in October for a spring ballot.

The failed levy vote last year was for capital improvements, (construction and remodeling of school facilities).

The proposed levy would be simply a renewal of the expiring levy for operating costs the state has failed to fund. Seventy-five percent of the levy would continue to cover staffing costs, 15 percent for supplies, nine percent for service contracts and one percent for equipment maintenance and replacement.

“We haven’t lost an M&O levy since 1998,” said Chuck Cuzzetto, PSD superintendent. The levy periods are for four years. If passed, it would continue to col-

lect approximately \$2.28 per \$1,000 assessed value from property tax for 2017 through 2020.

The Washington Supreme Court has ruled that the legislature has failed in its paramount duty to fully fund schools as mandated by the state Constitution. Local levies have been filling the gap.

The state Legislature has admitted to its failure and set a deadline for itself to fix the problem by 2018.

Larry Seaquist, a former state Rep. and education committee chair (until he lost re-election last fall) was at the forum and said “The 2018 deadline was not just to develop a plan to fix the problem. The 2018 deadline is to actually provide the full funding required for local school districts.”

The Supreme Court has found the legislature in contempt for failing to provide even a plan to correct the funding problem by an interim deadline that has already passed. The Governor is currently working with the legislature to develop a plan to present to the Legislature in another expected special session in the next

couple of months.

“The legislature does not have a good track record in resolving the problem,” said Cuzzetto. “We must act to obtain a replacement levy. Current discussions are that legislation would provide for the dissolution of existing levies upon funding changes made by the legislature. This would ensure that tax payers are not hit twice for the same school expenses,” he said.

According to many, the problem re-

mains that there is no telling what actions the legislature will actually pass, or when.

Karen Andersen, the chief financial officer for the district — who led the forum and presented the numbers — showed the M&O levy provides 24 percent of the total school budget, including 24 percent of all teacher pay, which suggests that a failure to replace the expiring levy would significantly impact the education of our youth.

School District superintendent set to resign in 2016

The following personnel changes have been announced at the local and state levels in education:

Chuck Cuzzetto, the superintendent for the Peninsula School District, will retire from his position with a departure slated for June 2016.

Randy Dorn, the state superintendent of public instruction (SPI) will not seek re-election in November 2016.

Larry Seaquist, former state Rep., is planning to run for the vacant SPI position in November 2016.



Chuck Cuzzetto

Key Peninsula Community Services
Senior Center & Food Bank
Helping our citizens to eat and live healthy
 PO Box 392 Lakebay WA. 98349 253-884-4440 Fax: 253-884-6196
 Located at : 17015 9Th St Ct KPN Lakebay, WA. 98349

The Pasado's Spay and Neuter Van will be here on October 6th. To get services you need to be here at 6:45AM.

Sunday meals are back! Starting at 3:00PM. ALL are WELCOME!

Happy Fall to the KP!

Senior meals are served every Wednesday and Friday at 12 noon.

Center hours are 9:30AM to 4:00PM

Food Bank hours are:
Food Baskets:
 Tues, Thurs and Fridays 10 - 11:45AM and 12:45PM - 3PM. Bread closet open till 4PM
 Wednesdays 10 - 11:45AM and 12:45PM - 5:30PM. Bread closet open till 6PM

Attention: Volunteer Riders are needed!
 Please call Susie @ 253-884-4440 for more info.
www.keypeninsulacommunityservices.org and www.facebook.com/KeyPenCS

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| 3 | 1 1/2 Inch <i>Clean</i> Gravel 15 tons=30,000 lbs. BASALT |
| 4 | Pea Gravel 15 tons=30,000 lbs. |
| 5 | 7/8 Inch Drain Rock 15 tons=30,000 lbs. |
| 6 | 1 1/2 Inch Drain Rock 15 tons=30,000 lbs. |
| 7 | 5/8 or 3/4 Inch <i>Minus</i> Crushed Gravel 15 tons=30,000 lbs. BASALT |
| 8 | 1 1/2 Inch <i>Minus</i> Crushed Gravel 15 tons=30,000 lbs. BASALT |
| 9 | Topsoil 10 cubic yards |
| 10 | Medium Beauty Bark Fresh Bright Orange 10 cubic yards |
| 11 | 3/4 Inch Crushed Asphalt 15 tons=30,000 lbs. |
| 12 | 1 1/4 <i>Minus</i> Crushed Concrete 15 tons=30,000 lbs. |

CISP's Woodstock party parlays fun, dollars for PSD children

By Scott Turner, KP News

Last month the staff and volunteers of Communities In Schools Peninsula — CISP for short — threw a “Happy Birthday Woodstock” party that raised close to \$30,000 for the organization that’s dedicated to helping local students stay in school and graduate.

“We had about 200 people and a band called Driving Sideways that did Woodstock tunes and we had Jim Valley come and sing a couple of songs,” said CISP Executive Director Colleen Speer.

“It was really fun. There were lots of people in tie-dye, and St. Anthony donated 40 sheets that our planning committee tie-dyed and used for tablecloths. We also had some old VW cars. It was totally groovy.”

Refreshments were donated by Gig Harbor’s Heritage Distillery (“... they served Hippie Juice”), The Boat Shed restaurant in Tacoma provided food and wine and The Hub provided beer, Speer said.

“The whole purpose was to put money



Photo courtesy of Janette Ryan

From left to right are Mary Jo Clapp, Chantel Anderson, Cierra Clapp and Cheyenne Anderson. They are speaking at the CISP fundraiser Woodstock Birthday Bash about their experiences with CISP programming.

(See Woodstock, Page 11)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

CANDIDATE FORUM

7 p.m. on Tuesday, October 6
★ at Key Peninsula Civic Center ★

Presenting candidates seeking these elected offices:

Charter Review Commission, District 7, Pos. 1, 2 and 3
 Peninsula School District 401, Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4
 Fire Protection District No. 16, Pos. 2 and 4
 Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District, Pos. 2 and 4

Sponsored by:

Key Peninsula Business Association Key Peninsula Community Council
 Key Peninsula Civic Center Association Key Peninsula News

Key to Life CLR
1/4-page ad

(From **Woodstock**, Page 10)

back into programming so we can help students in the Peninsula School District," said Program Director Laurel Schultz. "But it was an awesome party — a really great event."

A highlight of the evening was an appearance by Key Peninsula resident Mary Jo Anderson and her three daughters Cheyenne, Chantel and Cierra.

All three girls have received help from CISP, and the mom and the two older girls spoke about some of the challenges they have faced and how important CISP's help has been to them.

Cheyenne, 18, graduated from Henderson Bay High School this past June and is now enrolled at Olympic College.

Chantel, 17, is currently a senior at HBHS and Cierra attends Key Peninsula Middle School.

Last September, when Cheyenne was going through a bad period of depression, CISP coordinator Robin Malich came to her rescue, Mary Jo Anderson said.

"Robin was right there for her; she was really great," Anderson said. "She helped Cheyenne the most she was a good friend. Cheyenne was comfortable talking to her

and Robin pretty much was there for her with anything she needed."

Malich also "adopted" the family at Christmas time.

"Robin would call me and ask if I needed anything and at Christmas we got all kinds of gifts," Anderson said.

Currently Chantel is involved with CISP's Interact Club at Henderson Bay and is volunteering at The Red Barn as her senior project. "Robin and Laura have been so great to us and Chantel just wants to give something back to the community to show here appreciation," Anderson said.

Last year at Vaughn Elementary, Cierra, the youngest girl, was in CIS's Husky Helpers. "I think that CISP has somebody at KPMS where Cierra goes now," Anderson said.

"I think they should be in every school in the community. They help people with so many things. Cheyenne wanted to be in water polo, but I couldn't afford to buy her the stuff she needed to play so CISP helped pay for it.

"And if you need school supplies for your kids, you just to go CIS and they have all sorts of supplies — backpacks, binders, whatever you need.

"And they have a lot of mentors who go

into the schools and help kids with reading and with math," Anderson said.

And most important, she added, they're good friends to the kids "who really need people like that in their school. They've been wonderful to my girls, and my girls just love Robin."

Chantel agreed. "I think CIS is an amazing program and they should be in every school," she said. "They're always there whenever you need them. If you ever need anyone to talk to about anything, they will be there for you,"

Regarding the Woodstock event, Mary Jo Anderson said she really didn't know what to expect. "I thought there would be other families there — but there were all these rich people and we were the only family. But after we were done talking, so many people came up and patted us on the back and some of them donated three times when they asked people to raise their paddles and pledge some money."

Schultz and her CISP team invited the family to the event "to sort of show what we do," she said.

"We don't put a lot of money into marketing, we just do as much as we can to provide services to kids. So we wanted to demonstrate to the crowd that this wasn't just a

fun party — a far out, groovy thing to do on a Thursday night — that Communities in Schools really means something to families.

"We wanted to give them an overview into some of the services that CIS provides — and show that we're more than just a mentoring program," Schultz said.

Communities in Schools Peninsula is always in need of volunteers and also monetary donations, Schultz said.

Donations can be made via the CISP website at peninsula.ciswa.org or by sending a check to CISP, P. O. Box 684, Vaughn, WA.

For information about becoming a volunteer call Laurel Schultz at (253) 884-5733.



Longbranch Community Church

www.longbranchchurch.net

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Sunday School 9 am Church Services 10:30

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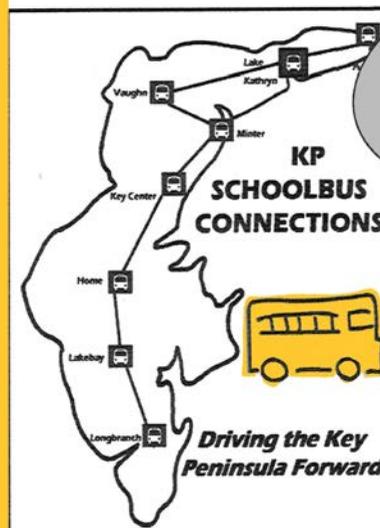
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For info & User's Guide, please contact www.kpcouncil.org or call: 253-884-BUSS (2877)

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

COMMUNITY PAGES

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

NOW

ABE classes

Tacoma Community College offers adult basic education classes for individuals 16 years of age and older. Complete a high school diploma, prepare for the GED, increase job skills, or prepare for college or vocational programs. Classes are \$25 (tuition waiver available for those who qualify) and take place at the Red Barn Youth Center in Key Center on weekday mornings. Call 460-2424 for more information.

OCT. 1 and 15

Cat tales

Children, ages 5 to 18, in 4-H learn all about cats from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the VFW Room at the KP Civic Center. Contact Dianna at 884-4182 or emailcat.tales4h@gmail.com.

OCT. 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30

Skate night

Skate Night is hosted at the KP Civic Center 6 to 9 p.m. Admission is \$5. Call 884-3456.

OCT. 3

Farm Tour

Fire up the day with a pancake breakfast, 8 a.m. to noon, at the Key Center fire station, map your route on the back of the KP News, and enjoy a day of free family fun activities and sights on the annual KP Farm Tour and Fiber Arts Show 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visit kpfarmtour.com.

OCT. 5 and 19

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. Call 884-9265.

OCT. 5, 12, 19 and 26

Bloodmobile

The bloodmobile is at Albertsons 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

OCT. 6

KP candidates' forum

The annual Candidates' Forum will feature the November races for Peninsula School District Board, Fire and Parks commissioners and the Charter Review Commission candidates for Pierce County District 7. The forum is a collaborative presentation of the Key Pen Business Association, KP Community Council, KP Civic Center and KP News. Panel discussion is 7 to 9 p.m. in the Whitmore Room of the Civic Center. Call 884-3456.

OCT. 10

Library activity

Second Saturday at the library is creating colorful tiles with alcoholic ink 12:30 to 2 p.m. at the KC Library. Registration is required at piercecounitylibrary.org or 548-3309.

OCT. 13 and 28

Crochet or knit

The Loving Hearts group knits and crochets for charities and meets Oct. 13 at 1 to 3 p.m. and Oct. 28 at 7 to 9 p.m. at WayPoint Church. Yarn donations are always needed. Call Virginia at 884-9619 or visit lovingheartsonkp@gmail.com.

OCT. 14

Pet neuter program

The Northwest Spay and Neuter Center animal shuttle will be at the Key Peninsula Civic Center at 7 a.m. Call (253) 627-7729 ext. 217 or email shuttle@nwspayneuter.org for questions or to schedule an appointment. The Northwest Spay and Neuter Center offers affordable spay and neuter services for cats and dogs including special programs for feral cats and pit bull dogs. Check with nwspayneuter.org.

Ashes meet

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

Garden club meets

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

OCT. 15

Community forum

The Mustard Seed's Third Thursday Community Forum meets at 10 a.m. at the Key Center Library. Transportation is available by prior arrangement. Call 884-9814.

OCT. 15 and 29

Web design

Adults may work on web design: Intro to HTML 6 to 8:30 p.m. at the KC Library. Learn the basics and gain skills of HTML using Treehouse. Make sure to bring your Pierce County Library card number and your Apple ID or Google account logins. Call 548-3309 for information.

OCT. 17

Barter fair

KP Barter is at the Lake Holiday Clubhouse from 10 a.m. to noon. The event is free. Please contact Alice at 884-2723 or check out the Key Peninsula Barter Facebook group.

Flu shots

Adult flu shots are available to KP residents 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Key Medical Center, 15610 89th St. Court KP N, Key Center. Medicare generally covers these shots; adults without insurance may get one for a donation to the nonprofit Key Peninsula Health Center. Call 884-9221 for more information.

OCT. 18

Sunday bluegrass jam

Bluegrass Gospel Jam session is hosted at Longbranch Church, 16518 46th St. KPS, 6 to 8:30 p.m. for all acoustic instruments, ages, and skill levels. Everyone is welcome to play, sing or simply listen.

Bring music stand and finger food to share; music and beverages are provided.

OCT. 19

Fundraiser

El Sombrero Night is hosted from 5 p.m. to closing at the restaurant. The De La Cruz family will donate a portion of the dinner proceeds to the KP Civic Center. Support a local restaurant and the community.

Oct. 21

Flu shots

Adult flu shots are available at the senior luncheon at Key Peninsula Community Service Center, 17015 9th St, KP N. Please bring your Medicare card if you are not a regular patient at the Key Medical Center. Call 884-9221 for more information.

OCT. 22

Tech help

Adults may drop in for assistance by staff to help with tech-related problems. Bring devices to the KC Library 6 to 8:30 p.m. Call 548-3309 for more information.

OCT. 23 and 24

Book sale

The KC Library hosts a used book sale from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call 548-3309 for information.

OCT. 24

Blues Fest

The Blues & Brews Fest, featuring the Dean Reichert Band, is at the KP Civic Center with the doors open at 7 p.m. and music at 8 p.m. Cost is \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door; brews, brats and dinner are available for purchase. Proceeds benefit the KPCC. Tickets are available at Sunnycrest Nursery, Blend Wine Shop, KP Civic Center or bluesandbrewsfest.bpt.me.

OCT. 31

Halloween carnival

KP Civic Center hosts a free Halloween carnival for children 6 to 8 p.m. Call 884-3456 for information.

To submit an event

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

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, Call 884-4440.

TUESDAYS

Key Singers sing

The Key Singers rehearse at 7 p.m. for its annual Christmas program at KP Lutheran Church. Annual dues are \$10 which covers costs of music, rental and scholarships. No

auditions required. Call 884-5615.

Story times

Every Tuesday, discover books, learn nursery rhymes, sing songs, play with blocks, and do arts and crafts at the Key Center Library. Music/Motion Story time (ages 0-2 years old with an adult) is at 10 a.m. and Preschool Science Story time (ages 2-5 years old) is at 11 a.m. Call 548-3309.

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS

Senior tai chi

Senior tai chi meets 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at

the KP Community Services in Lakebay. Call 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. Care-givers must stay with child. Drop-ins are welcome; stay for as long as you wish. A \$1/child donation is suggested. Call Tami, 884-5433.

TUESDAYS & SATURDAYS

KP Museum

The Key Peninsula Historical Society features "The Story of the Key Peninsula: Its Past – Its People – Its Places" 1 to 4 p.m. on Tuesdays and Saturdays. No charge, although monetary donations are appreciated. Visit facebook.com/KPHistoricalSociety or keypeninsulamuseum.org or call 888-3246.

WEDNESDAYS

Writers meet

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

Writers' workshop

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

WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS

Senior meals

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

THURSDAYS

Toastmasters

The Toastmasters meet 8 to 9 a.m. at the

KC Library. Join the fun and improve your speaking ability. Call 858-5761 or 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. Call 884-4981.

Bingo

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

FRIDAYS

Family activities

Families with young children enjoy art activities, stories, singing and finger plays at the KC Library 11 to 11:30 a.m. Call 548-3309 for information.

STEM for preK and K

STEM at 2:30 p.m. at the KC Library for preschool and kindergarten kids. STEM is for science, technology, engineering and math. Call 548-3309.

SATURDAYS

Writers' Guild

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

Every other Saturday

O'Callahan's Irish Pub Blues Jam, 6 to 9 p.m. hosted on Oct. 10 and 24.

OFF THE KEY

OCT. 1

Democrats meet

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

Art walk

The Gig Harbor Art Walk is 5 to 8 p.m. in downtown. Visit gigharborguide.com.

Oct. 2 through 10 Play presented

Paradise Theatre presents "Into the Woods" Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. Call 954-PLAY.

Oct. 3 Scarecrow festival

The annual Scarecrow Festival is hosted at Sehmel Homestead Park 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The festival has live music and entertainment, hay maze and hay rides, farm animals, camel and pony rides, carnival games, food and fair treat vendors. See penmetparks.org for a scarecrow contest form.

Oct. 10 Gardening talk

A free talk about propagation by Master Gardener Kerrie Wilson is at 1 p.m. at Sehmel Homestead Park in the pavilion or demonstration garden. Learn to multiply plants with simple techniques. This program is sponsored by Pierce County Master Gardeners.

Emergency preparedness fair

Peninsula Emergency Preparedness Coalition, a nonprofit group dedicated to promoting preparedness, is hosting a free preparedness fair sponsored by Peninsula Light Co., Puget Power and Chapel Hill Presbyterian Church from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the church, 7700 Skansie Ave., in Gig Harbor.

Oct. 10 and 15 Bloodmobile

The bloodmobile will be at Haggen Northwest Fresh Oct. 10 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and at Kiwanis Club of Peninsula-Gig Harbor noon to 7 p.m. on Oct. 15.

Oct. 15, 16, 17 and 18 Film festival

The Gig Harbor Film Festival features independent films at the Galaxy Theatre in Uptown shopping center in Gig Harbor. Visit gigharborfilmfestival.com.

Oct 24

Jamieson performs

Reid Jamieson's performance at 7 p.m. at the Olalla Community Club features his new music "Presley Sessions Revisited."

Oct. 31 Uptown events

Trick or treat Uptown merchants. Visit uptowngigharbor.com for more information.

Harbor Halloween

Trick or treat in the downtown corridor. Visit ghhwa.org for more information.

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Busy KP Fire Department seeks new volunteer firefighters

By Scott Turner, KP News

It was a busy summer for the Key Peninsula Fire Department.

According to Chief Guy Allen, the department responded to a record number of 911 calls in July — 256 calls — and a near record in August.

The local calls weren't just because of the hot dry summer and increased fire danger, he said.

"We had a handful of grass and brush fires but not a huge amount. But as the economy improves, people become more active and the population on the Penin-

sula increases in the summer months because this is a fun place to be with all our parks and marine activities.

"In the summer, there's more people and people bring 911 calls, unfortunately," he said. Add to that the fact that KPFD sent equipment and firefighters to help fight the blazes in eastern Washington.

The department sent a brush engine with a career firefighter and a volunteer to the Chelan Complex fire for 21 days. And A KPFD structure engine with a career firefighter and a volunteer was in Okanogan for about two weeks, he said.

The good side of that is that the brush engine makes \$61.50 per hour for the department and the structure engine makes \$131.50 per hour. "It's the one time a vehicle actually makes money for our district," Allen said.

Still that's a lot of work for an organization that relies in large part on volunteers, which is why Allen is currently in recruitment mode to sign up volunteer firefighters, especially in the Longbranch area and on Herron Island.

There's a critical need for at least six

volunteers at the Longbranch station, Allen said.

"If we don't get six volunteers out of the Longbranch station area, then that area of our district will most likely get defaulted to a Class 9 rating — and that's not good."

That will probably nearly double the homeowners' annual insurance premiums because anyone who lives more than five miles from a fully staffed fire station pays much higher insurance rates.

"Anybody who lives more than five driving miles from the Home fire station, they're going to be defaulted to a nine rating if we can't show that we have a minimum of six volunteers in the Longbranch station" he said.

Currently one volunteer lives within five miles of the Longbranch station. The Assistant Fire Chief also lives within five miles of the station.

"And that's it," Allen said. "Those two people are all we will get credit for."

The situation is similar on Herron Island, where six volunteers are also needed. Herron Island volunteers must actu-

ally live on the island, he said.

The qualifications are fairly simple. Volunteers must be at least 18 years old, have high school diploma or a GED, have no criminal record and have a Washington State driver's license, Allen said.

"And they need a willingness to sacrifice time and energy to be part of the organization. It's a big time commitment."

The Key Peninsula Fire Department was founded in 1952 by a group of people who decided they didn't want to rely on Gig Harbor and Tacoma fire departments to come out to the Peninsula.

"They decided that we needed to help ourselves," Allen said. "There's a rich history of community volunteerism out here, and we're going to need volunteer support out here forever, because we just don't have the money to pay full-time firefighters."

Volunteers get a small stipend of \$52 per shift. They must do 36 hours of on-shift work per month, he said.

Volunteer recruitment is open through the end of October. For information, call Chief Allen at (253) 884-2222.

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KP fire chief unfolds his department plans for the future

By Scott Turner, KP News

Key Peninsula Fire Chief Guy Allen is relieved that the recent lid lift levy passed.

“That was a huge step forward,” he said. “It wasn’t a huge victory — it was a 55 percent yes vote, but it was well in excess of the 50 percent that was required. That’s a positive statement, I think.”

With the levy’s passage, the department’s first task will be to replace the chassis of one of the ambulances. The project, called a “box remount,” requires transferring the ambulance’s “box” to a new chassis.

“The chassis we have has more than 200,000 miles so it’s time to replace it,” he said. “But we’re going to save about \$60,000 by taking the box off of it and putting it on a brand new chassis, and not having to pay for a new box.

“We can do that for the next two units — one in 2016 and one in 2019. After that we’ll have to buy a whole new medic unit, but that’s down the road a ways.”

Other work funded by the levy’s passage includes purchase of a new water

tender in 2017 and a new fire engine in 2018. “Basically every year over the next several years there’s at least one vehicle that will be replaced,” he said.

Upgrades to several facilities are also planned and Allen also wants to slowly build up the department’s reserve account.

Training is another key item, he said.

“Over the past several years we have kind of sliced our training budget down to the bare bones and I need to invest in our people too.”

He plans to hire one new firefighter by the end of this year — probably a paramedic “to replace the person we lost last summer who went to Everett. We’re short this person and when you’re short a person, you have to pay a lot of overtime.”

The passage of the lid lift levy is also a step in the right direction for future funding needs.

Allen wants the community to understand the department’s five-year plan. “I think it’s important that we’re telling everybody that for the next five years you’re going to see us do something. I think peo-



Guy Allen

There’s a chance, he said, that in 2020 there may not be a need for an M & O levy again. “If property values can come back in the four- to six percent range between the multiple year lid lift and renewing the EMS levy in 2019, there’s a chance that come 2020, we can say OK folks, finally we have the M&O levy off the books.”

Allen is working hard to help the fire department regain its credibility and earn the trust of the community.

“I think we’re making a difference here with our image in the community. We’re being a lot more transparent, especially with social media and with me being connected with the community with the groups I attend,” he said.

“I think people are beginning to trust us more. And that’s huge. We need to rebuild the community’s trust in us. I know that will take time, but every little bit helps.

“I take the responsibility of being the face of the organization to heart and I’m trying to get out there as much as I can. If anybody wants me to come and speak at their groups about anything, I’m very happy to do that,” Allen said.

ple deserve to know what’s coming.”

In 2016, there will be a need to renew the Maintenance and Operations levy. If that passes, there will not be any levies in 2017 or 2018, he said. “But in 2019, we’ll have to renew the EMS levy.”

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KP woman publishes her second book on local history

By Alice Kinerk, KP News

For all those interested in local history, the long wait is finally over. Eight years after Arcadia Publishing put out "The Key Peninsula," Colleen Slater's collection of historic photos and local history, Slater is back with a second book detailing the life and times of those who occupied the peninsula before us.

"Peninsula Pioneers," Slater's newest book, includes significantly more text and goes into greater detail about local history. It is partially based on the From Pioneer Stock stories she wrote for the Key Peninsula News beginning in 2003. For several years Slater interviewed local residents who are third, fourth, or fifth-generation Key Peninsula residents, asking them about their family stories, how they came to live on the peninsula, and what life was like here in the early days.

After meeting so many interesting people and hearing so many interesting stories, Slater began to think it would be a good idea to organize the stories in one book. Slater had labored to keep her From Pioneer Stock stories short enough to fit the 600 word limit required by the newspaper. She said she had a great quan-

tity of information that had never been published due to space restrictions. Slater is thrilled that these stories are in print now for the first time in Peninsula Pioneers.

Slater also had other historic topics she wanted to write about — the history of schools and stores on the peninsula — which she included in the book as well.

Slater is also part of an extensive Key Peninsula family which arrived on the Key Peninsula in the 1900's. Slater enjoyed including details of her own family's history as well. Slater's mother, as a 6-year old, appears in a black-and-white photo the bottom of the new book's cover, along with other family members.

She said one of the most arduous aspects of creating the book was gathering the historic photographs. Slater borrowed well over 200 photos from local residents and wrote captions to identify each place and person pictured.

She also painstakingly created the book's index. The index includes the last name of every person mentioned in the book, however briefly. Although her husband Frank Slater chuckled that creating the index sometimes kept his wife up until 2 a.m., they both feel the

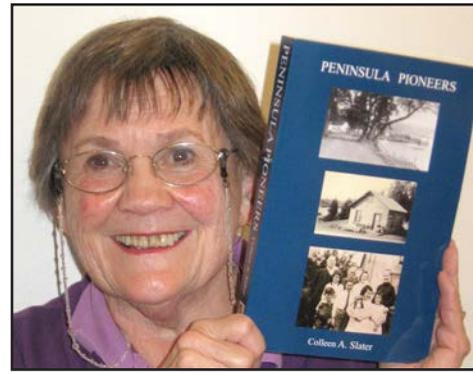


Photo courtesy of Frank Slater

Key Peninsula resident Colleen Slater has recently released her second book about history on the Key Peninsula.

index warrants the effort. Key Peninsula residents can look up their own family names and quickly access the pages on which their ancestors are mentioned.

Although Slater enjoys writing about local history, taking on a second history book was a big task. "I thought it would be easy to write because most of it was already written. However, there were challenges, such as finding pictures and formatting the book," Slater said.

Slater's writing style makes history accessible

for those who do not know much about the area, but also includes details to pique the interest those who consider themselves experts on local history. For example, most local residents believe that the first white child born on the peninsula was Bill Victor. However, as Slater reveals in her new book, that is not accurate. Victor was the first white male child born on the peninsula, but was preceded in birth by three sisters. Virginia, Victor's eldest sister and born in 1871, is believed to be the first white child born on the peninsula.

Slater thinks her book has something to interest everyone. "I hope that every person who reads it, no matter how steeped they are in local history, can find one item or picture they haven't seen before," Slater said.

Remarking on how quickly current events slip into historical events, Slater hoped the book's publication will be an inspiration for families to record their own histories.

"Peninsula Pioneers" is available for purchase at the Key Peninsula Historical Museum, Costless Pharmacy, and Sunnycrest Nursery. You can also purchase a copy directly from Colleen Slater by emailing her at cas4936@centurytel.net.

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Mentors of the Month

Selected by **Communities In Schools of Peninsula**

Math Mentor
Jane Ostericher



Jane Ostericher has been a math mentor at Purdy Elementary for seven years. She and her husband moved to Gig Harbor 22 years ago and raised two boys who attended Purdy Elementary. Jane is a retired pharmacist, but when she moved to Gig Harbor she became a full time mother, and she has been giving back to our community ever since.

Jane explained that it's not really that important to have a college degree in math to be a mentor. According to Jane, anyone who finished high school math can do it.

Jane continued, "I am a math mentor because I recognized the need, you have to step up and help these kids out. I have the time, just one hour a week is basically what it takes. I do see results, and I love helping them not to be afraid of math, anyone can do this."

Thank you so very much, Jane, we're so happy to have a mentor like you!
~ Communities In Schools

Reading Mentor
Cheri Patch



Cheri Patch has been a reading mentor at Minter Creek Elementary for five years. She and her husband have seven children and ten grandchildren.

Cheri has always been community minded, and enjoys getting involved. She is also a volunteer coordinator for Harbor Wild Watch.

Cheri has always been passionate about reading and says she constantly reads to her children. She loves the look of delight on a child's face when they are successful and are tickled about a book they are reading. She said, "I've been the lucky one, my students have always been eager to learn, and I get to find out about all the best books for my grandkids!"

Cheri concluded, "It just feels good to give time to a worthy cause." CISP wants to thank Cheri so much for her commitment to helping young people succeed in school!

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Library incorporates high-tech changes to meet community needs

By Scott Turner, KP News

“This is not your mother’s library any more.”

So said Rosina Vertz, community branch supervisor of the Key Center Library, part of the Pierce County Library System.

She noted they made a fundamental change in philosophy following a study conducted by the county library system and they shifted from providing what they felt was needed to providing what the community wanted.

But the change didn’t occur overnight, because the downturn in the economy in 2009 put the brakes on any changes that were in the works.

“They discovered our branch was too small,” she said, but the expansion plans were put off until 2012 when the budget allowed for the work. The survey looked as far ahead as 2030 and what the community needed. “We’re looking to become a community resource center,” Vertz added.

Even though circulation numbers have decreased in recent years — currently at 180,000 items a year — activity at the library is up. Vertz said e-books have had a direct effect on circulation numbers.

The staff also does a door count, but those numbers dropped when they stopped counting people who use the meeting room. The Brones meeting room (named for Kenneth Brones in recognition of his help in providing the land for the Key Center Library and for his contributions to the community) is an active room used by a number of community and civic groups such as Farm Tour, Toastmasters and homeowners’ associations.

Technology has helped change the shape of the library’s scope as well. As with e-books, e-zines and audiobooks have changed



Photo by Scott Turner, KP News

Rosina Vertz, community branch supervisor of the Key Center Library holds up one of her branch’s 10 Chromebook computers she hopes the community will soon start using.

peoples’ reading habits — although there are still patrons who like to check out something they can hold in their hand and turn a page.

“We still have 100-plus (magazines) on the shelf to check out,” Vertz said.

They added four more computers, bringing the total to 12. There is a two-hour daily limit on computer use, but Vertz noted if someone is working on a resumé, they will let them finish.

The library also received 10 Chromebooks from the county system at the end of July. The building is wired for Internet use and provides free Wi-Fi. Patrons can check out one of the laptops, stay in the library, and work on it all day. They can even print from them. Printing services for outside computers and laptops is not yet available, but could be soon — such is the way the

library is adapting, she said.

Another adaptation is the number of classes offered through the library system and staff.

“The services here are almost mindblowing, when you come down to it,” Vertz said. “There are classes here that people haven’t discovered yet.”

Every two months, tech help is offered. Patrons can bring in their e-reader or computer problems and have a one-on-one session to get free help and guidance.

Another class teaches older patrons who may be less computer savvy how to recognize online scams.

Free technology training is offered through Job Track, Tech Readiness and Career Kickstart, a home online service with a once-a-week meeting with library staff to gain software skills such as Word and Excel, or use of Treehouse and Lynda.com to create a customizable WordPress website.

There also is Microsoft IT Academy, teaching the ins and outs of the software such as Microsoft Office, Microsoft Server, .Net and more. Certification upon coursework completion is available for a price. The class is free.

But if this is too much change and a patron is feeling a bit nostalgic — one can still check out a book or two.



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Citizens Against Crime: eyes and ears for the Pierce County sheriff since 1988

By Sara Thompson, KP News

Living in a rural community can be a blessing — peace and quiet, natural beauty. But it can also present some challenges, and dealing with crime in a relatively isolated setting is one of them.

The Pierce County Sheriff's Department is the primary resource for Key Peninsula residents, but with limited resources and a large physical area to cover, Citizens Against Crime (CAC) has been a real help for PCSD for more than 35 years.

"We are the eyes and ears for the Pierce County sheriff," said Cindy Worden, CAC president. "Sheriff Paul Pastor sees our value and talks about Citizens Against Crime when he speaks in the community. I am proud of that."

Sergeant Brian Ward from the PCSD Peninsula Detachment confirmed Worden's statement.

"CAC is an asset. It is good for citizens to organize and to help identify trends that may not always show in reports," he said.

Local resident Hugh McMillan founded CAC in 1988 by following vandalism at the Peninsula School District school bus depot in

Purdy and the Key Peninsula Middle School. McMillan and Rhys Wood planned to file a class-action lawsuit against the parents of the vandals, and word of this led to an interview by KOMO television news.

After that interview, McMillan said, "the phone rang off the hook with people asking what they could do to help. Within a few weeks, over one hundred people attended a community meeting and CAC was born, thanks to the action of many individuals."

The sheriff's department trained volunteers with a 10-hour program.

In 1995 a plan was formulated to have a mobile patrol staffed by CAC volunteers. Gig Harbor car dealers offered to loan cars, but insurance problems left them with the alternative plan, using magnetic signs with the CAC logo mounted on private vehicles.

Sheriff Pastor, then the operations officer, was instrumental in wading through the red tape to make the program happen, according to McMillan. A Seattle Times article in 1998 reported that there were 40 volunteers serving as patrols at that time.

According to Worden, membership has varied over the years. There are currently about 40 members and five teams on car pa-

trol. They always work in pairs, with one person driving and the other taking notes.

Volunteers are trained in the process of observing and understanding what 911 operators will want during a call. The patrols are timed randomly, with volunteers usually covering areas near where they live.

CAC recently had its 501(c)3 status reinstated. With the ability to raise funds, CAC hopes to grow again. The group plans to revise its website, update its Facebook page, purchase more magnet signs for the patrol cars and reimburse patrols for gas and mileage. In addition, members encourage neighborhoods to form block-watch groups — CAC could provide training.

"CAC does a phenomenal job. I am impressed by their organization and efficiency. I wish we could replicate it in the other regions," said PCSD Lt. Larry Minturn.

New members are welcome. Applicants undergo a background check and may have an "active" or "secure" status depending on the results of the background check. Worden encourages all KP residents to consider joining — from the young to the old.

Committees include bylaws (an ad-hoc committee), elections, membership, social

media and patrol.

Meetings are at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at the Key Center fire station. Email for more information: kpcitizens-againstcrime@gmail.com.

Flu shots, skin cancer screening offered

The flu season is approaching, and according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the single best way to protect against the flu is to get vaccinated each year.

Adult flu shots will be available to all members of the Key Peninsula community on Oct. 17 from 10 to 2 p.m. at the Key Medical Center, at 15610 89th Street Court KPN in Key Center, as part of the health fair being sponsored that day at the clinic.

According to organizers, Medicare will generally cover these shots, and they will also be available to adults without insurance for a donation to the nonprofit Key Peninsula Health Center.

During the Oct. 17 event, skin cancer screening by a qualified clinicians from Cascade Eye & Skin Centers will also be available, as well as tobacco cessation information and resources and mammogram referrals for qualified candidates. To schedule your skin cancer screening contact (253) 530-2936, or email jamedobosz@chifranciscan.org.

Flu shots for adults will also be available on Wednesday Oct. 21 at the noon senior luncheon at the Key Peninsula Community Service Center, 17015 9th St, KPN.

If you have questions about either flu vaccination event, call 884-9221.

Emergency preparedness fair comes to area

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Barbara Nelson with Pierce County Department of Emergency Management said "the more you do now before a disaster hits, the better your chances are of making it through. Preparedness begins at home with yourself and your family then extends out to

(See Fair, Page 19)

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KP Civic Center gets help with community fundraisers

By Karen Lovett, KP News

Join Key Peninsula Civic Center board members and Key Peninsula residents dining at "El Sombrero Night," on three Mondays in support of the popular center, starting this month.

El Sombrero is a popular gathering spot for anyone seeking fine Mexican cuisine on the Key.

El Sombrero owner Pablo De La Cruz takes his role in the community seriously. He believes in giving back to the people who support him. Donating a portion of income from sales to worthy local organizations is a good way to do that.

Patty Ghiossi, the civic center's marketing and facilities coordinator, heard about the restaurant's generosity and saw an opportunity for the civic center. She introduced the idea at a recent board meeting, and got the green light.

"Pablo has offered this out to people," said board member Claudia Loy. "The Historical Society did it. Patty talked to Pablo and took the bull by the horns."

"The community comes together, and if you have the tools to do it why not?" De La

Cruz, said. "A percentage of the proceeds will go to the civic center."

"Save up and come out to dinner," Loy added. "It's a great way to support the civic center. There's no set up or clean up. I'm looking forward to my Margarita Cadillac Grandé."

El Sombrero Night three Monday nights are Oct. 19, Nov. 2 and Dec. 7, from 5 p.m. to closing.

Key Pen "Blues and Brews Fest" is coming to the Key Peninsula Civic Center on Oct. 24.

Event organizers say a rich blend of music from a masterful guitarist promises an evening to remember.

The Dean Reichert Band, a Northwest group, will play a variety of music on Oct. 24. Doors open at 7 p.m.

Reichert grew up in the Seattle area and later moved to Vancouver. He has played Las Vegas and opened for many bands.

Brats, burgers, garden burgers, hot German potato salad will be available for purchase.

Tickets are on sale at Sunnycrest Nursery, Blend Wine Shop, K.P. Civic Center and Brown Paper Tickets, at bluesandbrewsfest.bpt.me.

For information on both events, call 884-3456 or email kpciviccentr@centurytel.net.

(From Fair, Page 18)

your community."

The Peninsula Emergency Preparedness Coalition, a nonprofit group dedicated to promoting preparedness, is hosting a free fair sponsored by Peninsula Light Co., Puget Power and Chapel Hill Presbyterian Church:

The preparedness fair is Oct. 10, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Chapel Hill Pres-

byterian Church, at 7700 Skansie Avenue in Gig Harbor.

Increase your knowledge and skills about how to plan for and respond to emergencies of all kinds.

The group is offering a hands-on fire extinguisher class and showing how area schools are planning for the safety of your children.

For information, visit pep-c.org or email peninsulapreparedness@gmail.com.

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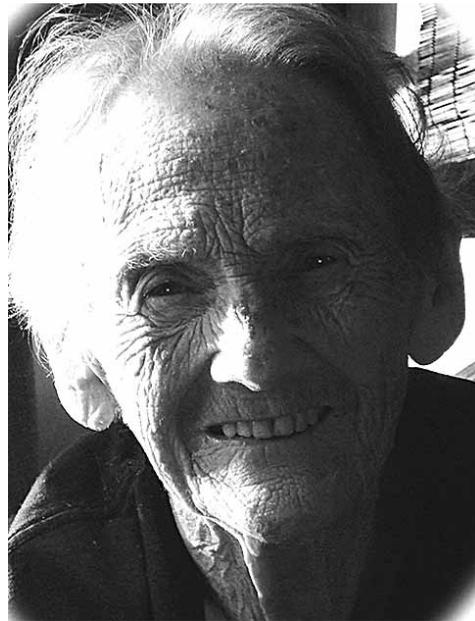
Audrey Jean Whitfield was born in Vaughn, July 19, 1925 to Charles M. and Gertrude E. Whitfield and died Sept. 8

She attended the Vaughn area schools, graduating Valedictorian of the class of 1944. She married Stanley Paul Jan. 16, 1945 in the Vaughn Church.

Audrey Paul was a lifetime church member. She started her church membership at the Vaughn Church, later transferring to the Rosedale Union Church. She was a member of the Rosedale Church for 14 years where she taught Sunday School. Paul was also a charter member of V. F. W. Auxiliary of Post 4990 in Vaughn.

Paul was preceded in death by her husband in 2008 and her sister, Shirley E. Sehmel of Bremerton.

Paul will be buried in the Vaughn cemetery in a private service. Her memorial service will be conducted on Oct. 30, at 2 p.m. at the Longbranch Community Church.



Audrey Jean Paul

Memorials made be sent to the V. F. W. Auxiliary. Please sign her online guest-book at havenrest.com with memories and condolences for the family.

Helena Gohrick

Helena Christine Knudsen was born in San Fernando, Calif. in 1935 to Helen and Chris Knudsen.

She grew up in Shelton and graduated from Irene S Reed High School.

After getting her nursing training Knudsen married the love of her life, Kenneth J Gohrick in 1956.

She has lived most of her time in the Seattle area as well as and Lakebay, until she was diagnosed with Parkinson's in 2005. Most of the time since, lived in Covington in a group home.

Gohrick was preceded in death by her husband, Kenneth J. Gohrick in 1988, and brother Don Knudsen in 1998.

She is survived by and deeply loved by her three children: Cheri Collins, Kenneth B Gohrick, and Pamela Kaczmarczyk; her six grandchildren, three great grandchildren, her brother Lawrence Knudsen and her sister Viola Hanson.

Gohrick died Sept. 14, surrounded by her children, one grandchild, one great grandchild, and Pastor Chuck Wahlstrom. There was be a celebration of life at Real Life Church in Covington.



Helena Gohrick

Donations can be made in honor of Helena Gohrick to the Breast Cancer Foundation or to Fred and Diane Stock who serve with "Fairchild Fellowship House." Donation info can be found at fairchildfellowship.org or by email fred@fairchildfellowship.org.

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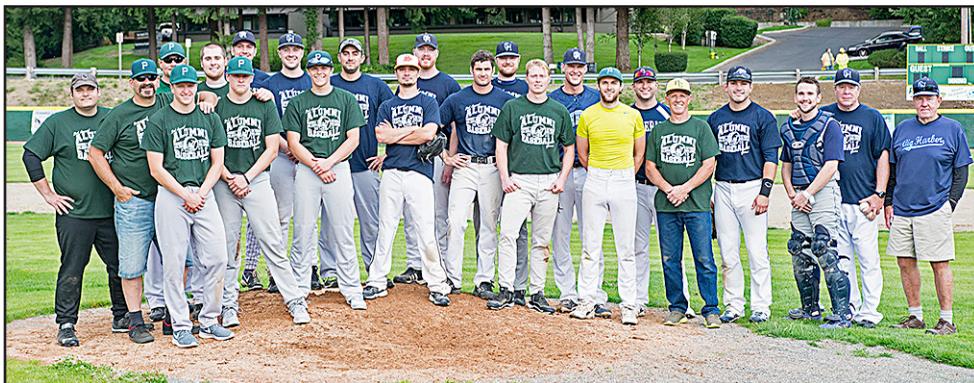
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Out & About

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.



By Ed Johnson, KP News

The annual alumni baseball game between Peninsula High School and Gig Harbor High School took place on Sept. 5, with Gig Harbor beating Peninsula 14-5.



This owl flew over the head of Kathy Lyons while she walked a trail on her Lakebay property. She said it then perched itself in a tree and watched her.

Courtesy photo by Kathy Lyons



Kayakers on the beach at the Lakebay Marina reflect a beautiful summer.

Ed Johnson, KP News

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David and James Kane enjoy the KP News while serving "hard time" on Alcatraz Island.



Courtesy photo by Ric Hallock

Jezzie Riley, 12, of Lake of the Woods, gets her dog, Mayhem Rose, to sit still long enough to get a photo with a ball cap on while Amanda Riley holds her leash. Just a puppy, Mayhem rose is a 15-month-old English mastiff.

POET SPEAK

KP poetry corner

Editor's note: The KP News is offering 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 Ghosts on Herron Hill

By Steve Whitford

If you're walking late at night
And being very still
You just might hear the ravens
Talk 'bout ghosts on Herron Hill

The ravens tell a tale about
Some folks from long ago
One family lived up on the top
The other, far below

Whose young'ins became lovers
And stayed that way until
Their dream became a nightmare
And the haunt on Herron Hill

The white girls name was Jenny
The bronze boys name was John
Her father was a law man
His father was a con

And so their loves a secret
And stayed that way until
Her daddy spied them lying
Neath a bough on Herron Hill



Her daddy whipped his gun out
And pointed it at John
His hatred pulled the trigger
The bullet, it killed John

But Jenny'd slipped in front of John
Now both are lying still
And daddy's got two deaths
He has to hide on Herron Hill

And 'cause they both was murdered

Ode to McNeil Island

By Stanley Paul (1916-2008) courtesy of his wife, Audrey Paul

Sometimes we sit by the rippling bay, that
laps on Radonich's shore
Across the bay was once our home, way
back in days of yore.
At the early dawn we trudged off to
school, to learn our A, B, C's.
Some went to good old 51, others to 103.
We knew every tree, along each trail
We knew every bird, from the crow to
the quail.
I found that the fish in the neighborhood
brook
were too small to catch with a no. 2
hook.
any six inch trout with glistening scales
To us 7 year olds, looked as big as whales.
Each Monday in summer was a great day
For we knew that the "Trader" would
stop at our bay.
Whenever we heard the sirens wail
We knew that a prisoner had escaped
from the jail.

A low steady roar was for the all clear
That meant we were safe, with no more
to fear.
We might take a boat, and row to a store
If the wind was against us, we'd get
plenty sore.
If the weather was warm, and the air was
clear
We'd stop off at John's for a glass of
"root" beer.
Came the last summer, we will always
regret
But the good times we had, we will never
forget.
The last beach party, and the dance at the
hall
was a final farewell, we remember it all.
Now down through the years, whenever
we roam
Our thoughts will return to our old
island home.

Untitled

By Sandra L. Rogers

What Would You Do
If a Kangaroo
came knocking on your door
Would you ask him in
or just stand and grin
wondering what he was there for
It happened to me
back in 2005
I opened the door
there he was
just three foot high
I gestured hello
he waltzed in the door
what else would you expect him to do
I offered him tea and a menagerie
of cakes and cookies too
spreading a cloth
not on the table
but down on the floor
we sat eating
these snacks and more

After our snack
I got out a book
about a cat and a dog
we sat on the couch and I read to him
I know you think that odd.
He fell asleep hugging the book
I covered him with a shawl
a little nap he took
I know it's strange
but I was just in awe
We painted after that
mostly I watched
because such talent he had
when he was done he gave it to me
it made me so very glad
He motioned it was time to go
I cuddled him in my arms
he was so sweet
who knew a Kangaroo
could have oh so many charms.

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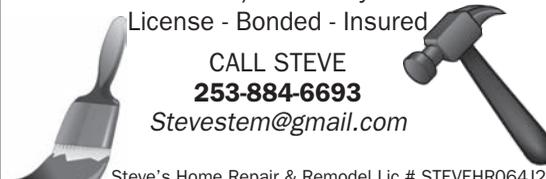
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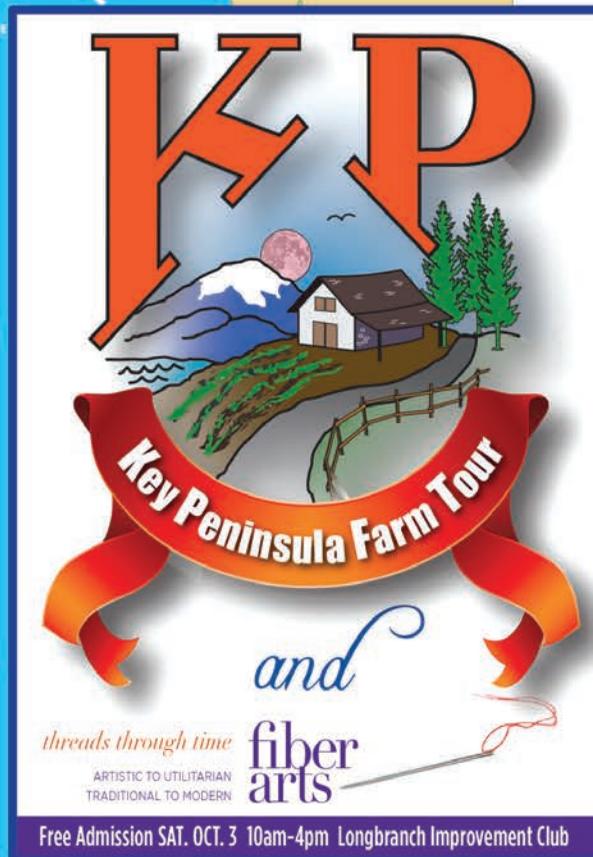
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