

INSIDE&ONLINE

AUGUST 2015

Online



Cadence Michel and Moose

- Joemma Beach park hosts
- Eruption drum and bugle corps
- Primary candidates

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Purdy Spit
popular spot
to watch
fireworks

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Resources are available for children with developmental needs

By Scott Turner, KP News

Having a baby is a life-changing event. For new parents, there are so many questions and sometimes those questions lead to deeper concerns about what is normal behavior and development.

For those parents, or others who may be concerned with lack of development in a young child, there are professionals ready to help both the parents and the child.

Michelle Harrison is one such individual. She works in the Peninsula School District as a Family Resource Coordinator (FRC) and it's her job to identify children who have special needs under the Early Childhood Development program within the district.

"I want parents to know there is a place they can call, where we won't be judgmental about their circumstances or if their living room is clean," Harrison

(See Resources, Page 4)



Photo by Scott Turner, KP News

The Sampson family, from Minter, enjoy some family fun. Here, Sawyer, 2, makes a move out the family fort window as his parents Neil and Miri Sampson look on. Sawyer's little brother, Asher, is also pictured.

MOPS starts up on Key to support young mothers

By Scott Turner, KP News

Sarah Jones thinks moms on the Peninsula need more opportunities to relax and feel supported.

So the Lakebay mom has started a MOPS program at Lakebay Community Church.

MOPS — short for Mothers of Preschoolers — is an international organization with the slogan "Better moms make a better world."

"MOPS is about nurturing moms, meeting them where they are and encouraging them and just bolstering them up," Jones said.

She said that 100 percent of moms need encouragement.

"And when they come to MOPS they're going to get that. They're going to get a time to just be themselves and take a mo-

ment where they're not answering 100 questions or doing 100 different tasks — they're just being cared for. It's really vital. When a mom leaves MOPS, she'll be encouraged and lifted up and energized to go back into her home," Jones said.

Childcare is provided at every MOPS meeting as participants eat breakfast together and listen to a speaker discussing a parenting-related topic.

"And then there's just a time for building relationships with the other women who're there. It's not like a play date. It's geared totally to the moms," she said.

"When I had a new baby, I had postpartum depression and I went to my first MOPS meeting when my daughter was just 7 weeks old.

(See MOPS, Page 5)

Key Center goes Hawaiian with Ohana Luau and parade

By Karen Lovett, KP News

The Key Peninsula Civic Center is kicking off its first ever Ohana luau and parade on Aug. 1.

Join the fun and tantalize your taste buds with Hawaiian cuisine.

"We hope it will be an annual event," KPCC event coordinator Kathleen Wingers said. "The executive board did some brainstorming and came up with the idea."

Organizers are hoping the community will dress up in their favorite Hawaiian clothes and march in the parade.

Registration for entries is free. Line-up starts at 2 p.m. at the staging area behind the Key Center fire station. The parade starts at 3:30 p.m. and winds around Olson Drive to finish at the Key Peninsula Civic Center.

There plans to be plenty of festivities at the center. Live music will be provided by Dr. Roes' Down Home Band and Purdy and the Spits. DJ Spencer Abersold will keep the music flowing.

Kids can romp in the bounce house and have fun with bubbles. Everyone can join the dance or hula hoops and test their flexibility in limbo. Who will win the three-legged race or pass the coconut? Two Waters Arts Alliance will have a Hawaiian-themed activity for kids too.

There will be something for everyone: classic car show, kid-friendly games, raffle, auction, arts and crafts and more.

Hawaiian cuisine menu: Kahlua pork, white rice, potato and macaroni salads or chicken long rice and lomi lomi salmon, rolls and fruit. One water is included.

Adult signature drink: Mai Tai, wine and beer and 7 Seas Brewery beer on tap.

Kids' signature drink: Hawaiian 50 (fruit punch).

Ohana luau ticket prices: adults — \$15, children under 12 — \$5, family of four — \$35.

Tickets available through Sunnycrest Nursery, Blend Wine Shop, KPCC's office and online at brownpapertickets.com.

All proceeds to benefit the Key Peninsula Civic Center. For information, call (253) 884-3456.

KP archaeological survey meeting set for Aug. 4

On Aug. 4, the Pierce County Landmarks & Historic Preservation Commission will hold an informational meeting for area residents about the Key Peninsula Archaeological Survey to take place in Delano, Mayo and Von Geldern coves. Statistical Research Inc. (SRI) is conducting the survey and will make a brief presentation at the meeting.

The meeting will take place at 6 p.m. at the Key Center Library.

Shoreline residents within the coves have been told of the meeting, but the public is encouraged to attend.

For information, contact Chad Williams, cwillia@co.pierce.wa.us, (253) 798-3683, or Cory Ragan, cragan@co.pierce.wa.us, (253) 798-2590.

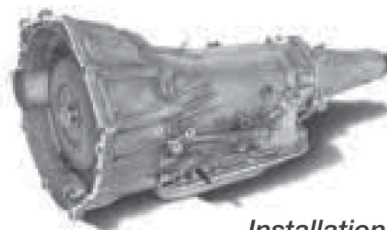
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**KEY PENINSULA
NEWS**

www.keypennews.com

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

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

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STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP AND OPERATION OF THE KEY PENINSULA NEWS

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

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Webmaster: Brett Higgins
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Guest columnists: Monica Rakowski and Bill Trandum

the KEY PENINSULA CIVIC CENTER ASSOCIATION.

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

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

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



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August 2015

GATEWAY PROJECT PLAYGROUND

Be a part of building something big!

Questions? Email Scott Gallacher at ScottG@keypenparks.com

We are looking for citizens to be involved in a new playground design committee, especially anyone who has, or spends a lot of time with, playground-age kids. The first meeting is at **6:30 pm** on **Tuesday, Aug. 18**, in the Key Pen Parks office in Volunteer Park, 5514 KP Hwy. N., Lakebay, WA 98349

'SICK' SKATEBOARDING SKILLS CAMP

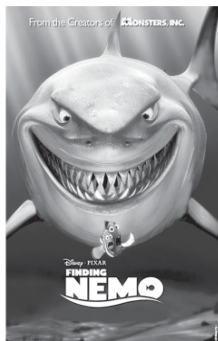
10 am to 1 pm
Wed-Fri, Aug. 19-21
Ages 7-13. Cost is \$70.

Develop skills, safety knowledge and confidence to be successful with skateboarding at a skate park!

Helmets and skateboards will be available to use during camp! Half-cost scholarships are available!

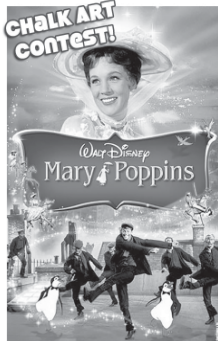


Cinema Under the Stars FRIDAY NIGHTS IN AUGUST



AUGUST 7

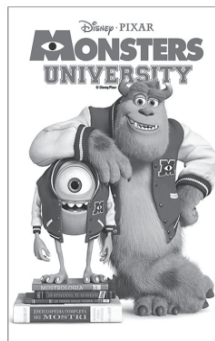
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AUGUST 14

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AUGUST 21

Monsters University
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AUGUST 28

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Fun craft activities begin at 7:30 pm, movies start at dusk (around 8:30 pm). Movies show at Volunteer Park.



The first-ever Fourth of July Community Hot Dog Social turned out great! Over 300 neighbors attended! Thank you to park staff, commissioners and the volunteers who made this day a success: Jerry & Marilyn Hartley, Sami Jensen, Chad & Tracey Oliveira and Susan Quigley. Thank you to KP Veterans for the yummy ice cream, Zachary Smith for the soda pop, Costco, Food Market of Key Center, and the KP Parks & Recreation Foundation for the food! Did you attend? **Take the survey!** Click the link on our home page.

Bee Boppin' Bugs

with Nancy Stewart

Children's recording & performance artist

The Key Center Library, the Friends of Key Center Library & Key Pen Parks present a **FREE** family concert

**11 am on Saturday, August 8
at Volunteer Park**



*Bring some
lawn chairs!*

*pack a
picnic lunch!*

Pierce County
Library System
Information & Registration



What will you do with the money you save?

Proper septic use and maintenance will help preserve your investment and avoid the cost and hassle of a septic failure. Get your septic system inspected and help protect our water quality.

Good news! If you own a pressure distribution or gravity septic system in the Key Peninsula you could get:

- \$125 off your inspection.
- \$200 off your tank pumping.
- \$125 off your riser installation.

Routine inspections are required for septic systems, so this is a great opportunity!

To take advantage of these savings:

- Log on to www.tpchd.org/incentive
- Email at EHsepticssystem@tpchd.org with "Incentive Program" in the subject line, or
- Call (253) 798-4788

Savings are available for a limited time. Log on today!



(From **Resources**, Page 1)

said. "We're here to help their child."

As an FRC, she gets referrals from doctors, nurses, agencies, counselors — basically anyone who sees a child from age birth to 3 and notes a developmental concern.

Parents can contact her as well and there is no charge for her evaluation and referral services. Children older than 3 are screened through the school district's preschool program. Her services are paid for through the federal government, Pierce County and the school district.

If a child needs specialized therapy — such as feeding, physical, occupational or speech — Harrison connects the parents with an early intervention agency in Tacoma called HopeSparks, a family resource center. From there, parents are connected to therapists who often make home visits to work with the child and the parents.

Harrison said HopeSparks bills insurance companies and there is no co-pay or deductible. There is a sliding fee scale based on what a parent can afford, but she wants no one to avoid reaching out based on financial concerns.

"If their child qualifies for early childhood development, and their income falls below the 200 percent of the poverty line, then I can help them fill out any financial paperwork," Harrison said. "I don't want anyone not getting the services they need because of financial needs."

Miri and Neil Sampson connected with Harrison after their pediatrician confirmed a speech problem they were concerned about with their oldest child, Sawyer. The pediatrician connected them to the school district and that got them in touch with Harrison.

"Peninsula School District really came out of the woodwork for us," Neil Sampson said. "We didn't know this process existed."

A developmental evaluation on Sawyer was completed and within two weeks of the first meet-ing, the family was working with a speech and occupational therapist. "The whole process moves very fast and efficient," Miri Sampson said.

And she's equally impressed with the results.

"We started occupational therapy 10 weeks ago and have had seven sessions. My kid did not talk at all and now he talks. He had extreme social anxiety about go-

ing into public places, and he can now function in most settings," she said.

Miri Sampson has known Harrison since she was 5, when she was in a kindergarten class at Voyager Elementary School in Gig Harbor and Harrison volunteered in the class as a parent.

"Michelle's been great every step of the way," Sampson said. "She's been advocating for us and keeps in constant contact through emails. She's always assuring us and gets every resource (Sawyer) has needed."

Harrison has been working at the school district for nine years, and the past three as an FRC, after the county cut the program from its budget in September 2012 and tasked school districts and other outside agencies to pick up the program.

"I think parenting is the hardest job in the world," Harrison said. "You are given this baby and as a parent, you don't know what is normal and what isn't normal."

"You may be concerned your baby is crying a lot, not rolling over or not calming itself down."

Harrison provides an intake and screening session with the child and parent and sends that to HopeSparks for referral. She stays in contact with the parents, making visits every six months, or more if the parent requests it.

Because of the relative isolation of the Key Peninsula and her work as a social worker, she's been to clients who haven't been across the Purdy bridge in three years, so she knows there are many who may not know the services are even available.

"If anyone has any concerns about their child, from birth to age 5 they can contact the district's early childhood resources Phone Line at (253) 530-1168," Harrison said. Her direct line is (253) 530-1097 or parents can call the Early Childhood Referral line at (253) 530-1168. She also has her information on Facebook at PSD Early Childhood Connection.

"We set the plan with the parents and provide services in the child's natural environment," she said.

"No matter where you're at — you can be unemployed or working full time — you can afford the resources for your child and their development," Miri Sampson said. "Just talk to your pediatrician to get a professional assessment. "It changed our whole life," she said.



Photo by Scott Turner, KP News

A couple of local mothers (and their friends) are starting a Mothers of Pre-school group at the Lakebay Church. Pictured here, from left, is Amy Walker with her niece Kayla Tudor, 4, and daughter Charlee Walker, 1, and Sarah Jones and son Caleb, 3.

(From MOPS, Page 1)

"A mom right next to me held my baby so I could eat breakfast and just let me take a deep breath. And when I left, I had a little bit more energy to go back and just deal with it all again," she said.

Jones emphasized that although MOPS is a Christian-based organization, it's not about church or Bible study. Anybody can come to MOPS, she said, "because all moms need to take a break and have breakfast and need encouragement and someone to tell them they're a good mom. That's really the key."

Every year, MOPS has a worldwide theme. This year's theme is "A fierce flourishing," Jones said. "We're taking a year to choose to live 'flourishing,' not just surviving. We're going to work on thriving in this stage of life.

"The description on the MOPS international website says that flourishing 'looks a lot like celebrating lavishly, embracing rest and noticing goodness.' We become more ourselves when we celebrate, rest and notice and that looks a lot like flourishing," she said.

Vaughn resident Amy Walker is helping Jones coordinate the local MOPS group.

"I think that being a parent is really, really hard and I think there are days when you're discouraged and think you're a terrible parent," Walker said.

"And little do you know that your neighbor feels the same way and we all need just a little fellowship to bring everybody together and just to realize that we're all on the same page feeling overwhelmed

and exhausted.

"It's nice to have somebody in your corner who knows what you're going through and somebody older who's been there and understands. Getting together with other moms who really understand is a wonderful thing," Walker said.

Dan Whitmarsh, pastor at Lakebay Community Church, welcomes the new organization back to his fold, noting that there was a MOPS group at Lakebay many years ago.

"It's going to be a good thing for the church and for the community," Whitmarsh said. "Sarah's mother has been a part of our church for a long time so there are some connections going back.

"Sarah brings fresh energy and fresh passion. The church is here to serve — but it's always exciting to have someone here who is also interested in serving and not just being served. It's nice to have people who are ready to give back and don't just come to receive," he said.

For Whitmarsh the MOPS group is at the heart of what he wants his church to be about.

"It's creating a space where people can connect and find a place. I'm excited we have another opportunity for people to be connected and feel supported and cared for and give people the opportunity to make some real friendships," he said.

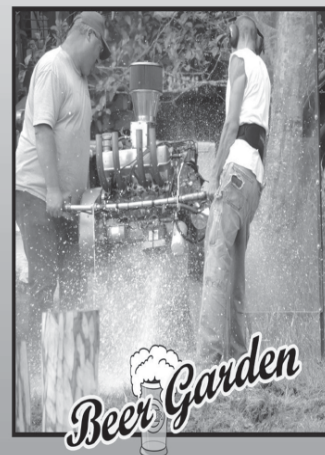
The MOPS group will convene on Sept. 14. For information visit facebook.com/pages/Lakebay-Community-Church-MOPS/645546638914240 or call the church at (253) 884-3899.

30th Annual Key Peninsula

Saturday
August 15th
Gateway Park
SR 302-Wauna
Opens at 10AM



Logging Demonstrations
Arts & Crafts Booth
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Old Time Machinery
Exhibits
Live and Silent Auctions



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1st Prize
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Peninsula Views

You are not my enemy

Much has happened in our world in the last few months. The Supreme Court made it legal for people of the same gender to marry. A nuclear deal was signed with Iran.

NASA sent a spacecraft past Pluto. We all celebrated Independence Day with explosions, fires and chaos.

The political season arrived with daily announcements of another potential candidate. Recently passed laws, like the legalization of marijuana, still garner debate. Racial tensions have erupted as well, with the murder of black church-goers in South Carolina, the murder of a woman by an illegal immigrant in California and a spate of church arsons across the South.

All these events have a way of dividing us against one another. Regardless of the issue, we Americans stake out our position as the only correct position, and then get about the business of shouting down all other voices.

Television newscasts devolve into people shouting at each other. Online comment pages turn into torrid streams of insults and accusations. Social media fills up with posts and articles denouncing and demonizing those

Dan Whitmarsh
Writing by Faith



with whom we disagree.

In short, we make enemies out of each other, even though we are all residents of this same beautiful country.

French-American philosopher René Girard has written extensively about the scapegoat mechanism with which humans manage their stress and anxiety. He wrote that when our unfulfilled desires bump up against reality and fall short of our expectations, we seek a sacrificial victim to take the blame.

In other words, when we aren't feeling happy, we search around for people to blame. We turn them into enemies who are responsible for all that is wrong with the world. We demonize, we dismiss, and with great malice we seek to destroy.

Unfortunately, some people have figured out this is an easy way to gather a following and raise support. Politicians, political action committees, reli-

(See Whitmarsh, Page 9)

Good ol' 46121, Carr Inlet's high tech bouy

Spread around Puget Sound, including Hood Canal, are bright yellow buoys that stand about 8 feet tall from sea level. They are actually about double that height when you include the underwater component.

Our local such buoy, 46121, sits in Carr Inlet about midway between Maple Hollow on the Key Peninsula and Green Point near Horsehead Bay on the Gig Harbor Peninsula. Our buoy is one of six placed by NOAA, the National Oceanographic and Aeronautics Administration, to feed data via satellite to its computers that work diligently to track the health of Puget Sound, among other important things.

Measurements, which are collected and transmitted at least every four hours, include tide height, average wave height, water temperature, air temperature, surface wind speed, salinity, oxygen concentration, humidity, current-flow speed and other data needed to help predict winds, weathers, tides and currents to help keep mariners (commercial, military and recreational) safer from the perils of the sea than they otherwise might be.

The buoys are owned and managed for NOAA by the University of Washington. They are part of what is called The ORCA Project.

Here's how NOAA describes it: "The Oceanic Remote Chemical Analyzer

William I. Trandum
Winds, Tides & Weathers



(ORCA) is an autonomous, moored profiling system providing real-time data streams of water and atmospheric conditions. It consists of a profiling underwater

sensor package with a variety of chemical and optical sensors, and a surface-mounted weather station, solar power system, winch and custom computer and software package equipped with WiFi/cellular communication.

"Since its deployment in 2000, the ORCA system has provided a near-continual stream of high-resolution water quality data from locations in Puget Sound, Washington state. There are currently six mooring systems deployed, spread throughout Puget Sound and Hood Canal."

Bill Trandum is a retired U.S. Navy captain, a guest columnist and a self-described student of all things winds, waves, weathers, tides and waters.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Hats off to Lakebay resident Kathy Lyons and her crew who hatched the idea to beautify downtown Key Center and made it happen in time for the Fourth of July.

Large pots are brimming with flowers and beautiful baskets now hang at the Key Center traffic signal intersection to welcome visitors and residents to the heart of the Key Peninsula.

Big kudos and a thank you to the Bayshore Garden Club, LIC and the many friends, neighbors and one anonymous donor who made this happen for the 2015 summer. And a salute to all the Key Center businesses for their encouragement, support and contributions —most especially: Key Peninsula Liquor Store, O'Callahan's Pub and Sunnycrest Nursery.

Danna Webster
Rocky Bay

Letters Policy

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

The opinions expressed on this page are not necessarily those of the KP News. We neither endorse nor oppose issues or proposals discussed on this page and present these views for public information only.

Important measures on Aug. 4 primary ballot

There are two important measures on the Aug. 4 primary ballot that require close scrutiny.

Fire District 16 fire levy

This levy to increase real property tax will help fund the Key Peninsula fire department over the next six years and will also reset the amount of future levies. The annual property tax rate would increase from \$1.34 to \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

It would be impossible to present in-depth information here on Washington tax laws, initiatives, imposed limits, priority distribution regarding lower-level municipal governments and contradictory impacts. In brief, it is very complicated, so I will attempt to cut to the bone.

There are two reasons to vote against the proposed levy. One, the voter believes that he or she cannot afford the payment and two, it is the only opportunity that the voter has to punish the fire commissioners for some reason.

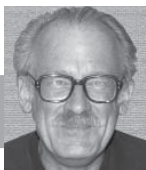
The first reason only affects persons who actually own real estate for which property tax is paid. Renters and leaseholders get a free ride for fire protection and emergency medical. Comments below will explain how it is more cost-effective for property owners to vote for the levy.

For the second reason, the forced retirement of a beloved fire chief, Tom Lique, without any discernable reason or notice or explanation would be the most recent act to raise the most ire. To that, the voter should choose a different voice and recognize that larger immediate concerns exist.

The fire department provides essential services, all focused on protecting life and property. Funding comes primarily from property taxes paid by property owners in the district. During 2013, FD-16 received a total of \$4.1 million from property taxes, and for 2014, that dropped to \$3.3 million. For 2012 and 2011, it was \$3.2 million.

In recent years, four of the last eight fire levies have failed. This was at a time when costs for everything have increased. For

Rick Sorrels The Pragmatic Sophist



example, in the last few years, the price for milk has increased from \$1 per gallon to \$3-\$4 per gallon. A loaf of bread from under \$1 to \$3. A chain-link fence post from under \$3 to \$12. Go see what just one pound of hamburger costs now.

Fire department operating costs have increased too, while revenues to pay basic costs have lost purchasing power, resulting in an inability to fill vacant positions, delayed equipment purchases, delayed maintenance, et cetera.

Property owners may be unaware that the insurance industry does a detailed evaluation of all fire departments each five years, with the results determining how much is charged for fire and homeowners insurance. Factors reviewed include age of fire trucks, response time, number of firemen on duty, distance that volunteer firemen must travel to respond, et cetera.

Fire Chief Guy Allen says that the most recent insurance industry evaluation for the district has been released, but not yet received. Allen expects us to be hard hit for age of equipment, especially for Heron Island and Longbranch, where the stations are unmanned and there are few volunteers who live close to the stations.

The expected increase in insurance rates would far exceed any property tax increase resulting from the proposed levy. Further deterioration in fire department revenue and expenditures will surely see insurance rates increase for the entire district.

In this particular case, greed and self-interest, by itself, should ensure passage of the levy.

Pierce County advisory vote

This advisory vote informs the county council whether the voters want or don't

(See Sorrels, Page 9)



CIVIC CENTER

CORNER

Parade & Ohana Luau
August 1, 2015

Hurry, Hurry, Hurry! – Get out and join the parade! Have fun with the Key Peninsula Civic Center's Parade and Ohana Luau, August 1st! Join or watch the parade then enjoy music, crafts, games and more at the Ohana Luau, 17010 South Vaughn Rd, Vaughn, WA.

Business Development

Key Peninsula Civic Center's (KPCC) mission is to support the Key Peninsula and its citizens. Part of that assistance includes helping new businesses to get their start. For new businesses, the KPCC offers a graduated rental rate that increases over time as each business grows. The Center is excited to have two new entrepreneurial businesses starting out in its commercial kitchen.

Paula Galloway aka "**Pie Squared**" is launching her new bakery business specializing in baked goods. Currently Paula is selling traditional and gluten-free carrot cakes, cheese cakes and chocolate cakes through the Fresh Food Revolution Co-op <http://www.localfoodmarketplace.com/freshfoodrevolution/Default.aspx>. Paula states she is very flexible, loves to bake and will also take special orders directly through her email account, pasdedeux@centurytel.net.

Our next business is local gal, Stephanie Brooks aka "**GNOSH**". Stephanie was born and raised on the Key and is excited to get her food truck rolling. Stephanie's fare will include toasted and grilled cheese sandwiches, garlic Rosemary fries, chicken wings, sweet dessert grilled sandwiches and a "nibbles" menu, quite a step above traditional food truck fare. In addition to assisting with corporate and special events, Stephanie plans to set-up next to the Inn of Gig Harbor and the Wine Shop. Have questions or an event to plan – contact Stephanie at beepjeep72@icloud.com.



Moving from food to our furry friends....

Northwest Spay and Neuter



will return to the Civic Center on August 5. Northwest Spay and Neuter is a non-profit organization that provides affordable spay/neuter, vaccines and micro-chipping for dogs and cats. Their facility is state-of-the-art; the expert staff performs roughly 60-65 surgeries a day and these services are open to anyone who wants to help decrease animal overpopulation. Northwest Spay and Neuter will pick up animals at KPCC from 7:00 to 7:45 AM on August 5 and return them by 9:00 AM on August 6. Animals are driven to the clinic in a safe, climate-controlled vehicle for surgery. After recovering overnight, pets are returned to KPCCA the following morning. The Clinic accepts pet cats, pet dogs and feral cats in traps. For pricing information call the NW Spay and Neuter Clinic at 253.627.7729 or visit www.nwspayneuter.org

Finally, a big thank you to all who contributed to our blue er appeal! The drive isn't over—so don't be shy—mail in that e today!

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

A tale of a whale

The best adventures may involve a certain degree of danger. Us Whitfords do not as a rule, shrink from danger, we embrace it.

Some folks go to sea in search of a living. Some search for game fish or food fish.

This summer my wife and I went to sea in search of the great gray whale.

On July 1, we arrived in Depoe Bay, Oregon at 7:30 a.m, to join up with our captain from Whales Tail LLC, Gary Stephenson. My wife Estella had never been to sea before, but we already knew that her stomach didn't like small airplanes. (A past mildly dangerous excursion.) "Are you here for whale watching?" our captain asked. "Yes, I replied, thinking of my wife I said, "we're your eight o'clock chum run!"

Now there are a few things about whales and Depoe Bay you need to know in order to understand the grav-

Steve Whitford
Words of Whit



ity of our position. Depoe Bay was originally discovered by Dr. F.W. Viney in 1878 while sailing his 40 foot boat along the Oregon coast. The entrance to the harbor is through a hard to find 150 ft. dogleg entrance and it's the smallest harbor in the world. In 1963 the government widened the 30 foot wide passage to 40 feet and dredged it so it was at least 8 feet deep at low tide.

At 8 a.m. we powered through it at low tide. We Washingtonians like our Orcas who get between 22 and 32 feet long and can weigh up to six tons.

Compare that to our adversary who gets up to 50 feet long and can weigh up to 40 tons! We left the security of

the harbor in Captain Stephenson's 26 foot zodiac pontoon boat, a boat half as big as our quarry.

Stephenson managed the narrow rock-lined channel with the ease of experience and as soon as leaving that comparatively easy passage you encounter the bar. Most bays have a bar of some kind. For the unenlightened, a bar is a stretch of water where the water is lifted up by the ever shallowing shore; creating large shifting waves. In this case waves were five to eight feet swells. But our captain cut through them with ease. Good thing too, as the sides on the zodiac are only about two feet. Foggy grey clouds obscured the sky and most of the time the shore as well. Grey skies make for grey water and we were looking for a grey whale.

Our captain was good at spotting whales. He can actually smell them when they breach, and with a little practice so can anyone. When whales spout they eject a certain amount of

water and sea foam that smells like a beach at low tide. Our captain eventually used this method and placed our craft where he thought a whale might be. Sure enough a few minutes later the whale surfaced approximately four feet away.

To see an enormous leviathan that close is breathtaking. We saw what passed for the head on a whale. You could see the lid covering its large eye, and as he was rising you could see him closing his gapping maw. We couldn't see his tail, but we could observe part of his lower torso. He paused there for a minute or two then sunk out of sight, ignoring us like the little bit of flotsam we were.

Unfortunately big waves and going backwards was taking a toll on my wife. Her maiden name was Green and she was now displaying it. She had the camera so no photos, but she did get to see

(See Whitford, Page 9)

AWANA September 09, 2015

Runs through May 2016

6:45pm- 8:15pm

CUBBIES: 3 & 4 YEAR OLDS

SPARKS: K – 2ND GRADES

T&T: 3RD – 6TH GRADES

TREK: 7TH & 8TH GRADES

JOURNEY: 9TH – 12TH GRADES

Awana is non-denominational Bible centered curriculum that helps kids build a firm foundation for their faith.

For more information call: 253-853-6761

Email: kpbcawana@wavecable.com

Meeting at the Key Peninsula Civic Center in Vaughn.

Sponsored by Key Peninsula Baptist Church

www.kpbfellowship.org

Coming
Soon

The Mustard Seed Project Building an Elder-Friendly Key Peninsula

We ♥ Our Volunteers!!

Thank you to our many dedicated volunteers who:

- Drive seniors to essential destinations like the doctor and grocery store, senior lunches and Silver Sneakers;
- Connect people with needed resources and programs through our Key Senior Information Center;
- Clean up homes and yards as our Community Volunteer Network;
- Lead our organization as Board and committee members;
- Work to bring affordable senior housing to the KP;
- Guide our planning as the Council of Elders;
- Help with special events and everyday needs;
- Make what most would consider impossible, possible.

We believe an elder-friendly community is a good place for everyone to live! Our amazing volunteers make it so!

We thank you with all of our ♥ s!

Edie, Amanda, Robyn & Maureen

(From **Whitford**, Page 8)

the whale and she eventually felt better and didn't chum the whale. This writing is proof that our Captain brought us safely back to terra firma.

For information on Depoe Bay, visit cityofdepobay.org/pages/history.html, researched and completed by Emma Lu Maye 2011-2014. Whale Tales LLC is located at 270 Coast Guard Dr., Depoe Bay, Oregon 97341, phone (541) 765-2545 or toll free (800)733-8915 also at www.whalestaildepobay.com

We're already thinking about our next summer adventure. We plan to go up in a hot air balloon and hopefully fly over something exciting like maybe a volcano or perhaps a nudist camp.

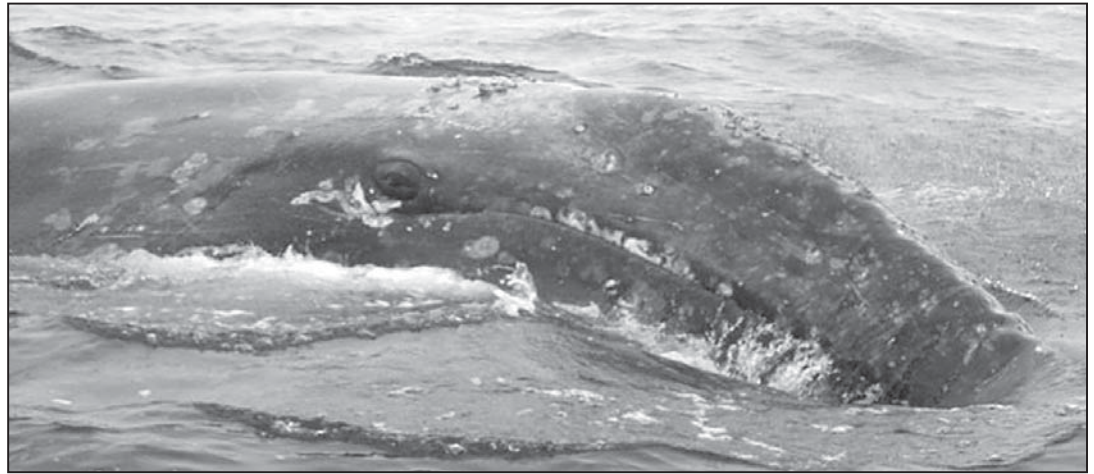


Photo courtesy Whales Tail, Depoe Bay, Oregon

(From **Sorrels**, Page 7)

want the county to proceed with a new administrative building that would cost about \$230 million. This advisory vote is in advance of a referendum (with 38,648 signatures) that will appear on the November ballot — which, if passed, would overturn a council vote and stop construction.

Pierce County is one of only seven Washington counties that have chosen to become "home-ruled," with its own charter (Constitution), responsible for creating its own laws and choosing how to conduct business under the direction

of its own citizens. The other 32 Washington counties operate under laws and rules established by the Washington State Legislature.

In a home-ruled county, it is logical and expected that the county council would seek a nonbinding advisory vote on such a large expenditure of its citizens' tax money. Expect a barrage of mailings explaining the county's arguments for the construction.

Incidentally, every 10 years, the citizens vote for representatives for a Charter Review Commission that proposes amendments to the County Charter. This is that year.

The six months that the charter review representatives will meet during 2016 may well result in a charter amendment that would require binding advisory votes for future high-dollar construction projects.

A vote in favor of construction would still face the November referendum vote. A vote against construction would likely cause the Pierce County Council to rescind its decision, making the November referendum moot.

(From **Whitmarsh**, Page 6)

gious leaders or public figures denounce "those people" as a threat, and then ask us to support them (usually financially) as they rally against the evil scourge.

Just in the last week, I've witnessed this in action, with the enemy including immigrants, people of color, those in the LGBT community, Christians, the New World Order, people who listen to rap music, teenagers, tailgaters and drug users.

As a Christian, I follow one who commanded we love our enemies; a man who, in fact, chose not to create enemies but instead crossed boundaries and barriers to seek relationships with all people. I have friends like this, friends who don't see "us-vs.-them," who don't look at oth-

ers and see enemies; friends who reach out to people across the aisle, seeking peace, rather than blame.

This is what healthy and mature people look like, and it's a good model for us all to follow. Recognize that most of our anxiety can only be resolved when we address our own issues. Stop looking for people to blame, but instead reach out and seek to know and understand the other.

You are not my enemy, regardless of your beliefs and practices. I hope you'll recognize that I'm not your enemy, either.

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

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884-3937

Group provides summer lunches for children in need

By Scott Turner, KP News

Summertime is special to kids. It can be that magic time to sleep in, to visit and play with friends all day, and to not worry about homework.

But for families struggling to make ends meet, it presents an additional hardship trying to keep their children fed as there is no school lunch program offer by the school district during the summer months.

The Peninsula Community Foundation, which runs the nonprofit Food Backpacks 4 Kids program during the school year, recognized this need and has stepped in to try and fill the void.

For the fifth year, the Simplified Summer Food Program has been in operation at the Key Peninsula Civic Center, providing a nutritious hot lunch for children ages 1-18 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Unlike the reduced-cost lunches during the school year, there are no income guidelines — anyone can stop by and get a good

meal.

"We want people to be aware of this resource, to take advantage of it and tell others about it," said Karen Jorgenson, president of the foundation and overseer of the Food Backpacks 4 Kids program during the school year. "No one goes away hungry."

The program, which is run under the guidance of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and is managed by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Education, makes certain that the meals have a nutritional value and are balanced with fruits and vegetables.

An example meal was Sloppy Joes with coleslaw and watermelon as a Fourth of July lunch, said Micky Bearden, a volunteer with Food Backpacks who oversees compliance of the meals for the summer program. "The kids love the chicken fries," she added.

Jorgenson added that they provide a variety of meal types, such as gluten-free and vegetarian, to meet the differ-

(See Lunches, Page 11)

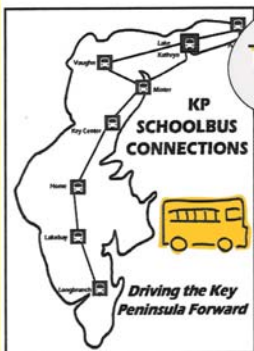


Photo by Scott Turner, KP News

Charlie Mason, 5, reaches for his lunch recently as his mom, Heidi, looks on, and others, including Belle Goodman, wait in line for their free lunch as part of the Simplified Summer Food Program at the Key Peninsula Civic Center.

KP SCHOOL BUS CONNECTS

Tuesday Trips to Town
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KPCS/FOOD BANK, LOCAL STOPS
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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

Morning Route

8:50 PALMER LKE - LAKE DR@ 21ST KPS (SUNNY SIDE OF LKE)
8:52 PALMER LKE - 21ST ST@ 193RD AV
(PARK SHELTER /SHADY SIDE OF LKE)
8:56 KPCS SENIOR CENTER & FOOD BANK
8:58 HOME GAS STATION - KP HWY NORTH
9:03 VOLUNTEER PARK
9:07 FOOD MARKET IN KEY CENTER
9:10 WRIGHT BLISS & OLSON DR KN
9:12 4 CORNERS/DRIVE THRU FEED
9:14 SR302 & 150TH AVE KPN (LAKE HOLIDAY)
9:15 SR 302 & 140TH KPN (LAKE OF THE WOODS)
9:17 11612 SR 302 (CHARBONEAU'S))
9:20 LAKE KATHRYN /SR 302 PULL OFF
9:25 PURDY PARK&RIDE
9:35 PHS

Late-afternoon Route

4:35 PHS
4:40 PURDY PARK & RIDE
4:45 LAKE KATHRYN CENTER @ COSTLESS
STOPS BEYOND THIS POINT BASED
UPON PASSENGER REQUEST
(STOP TIMES WILL VARY)
4:53 11615 SR 302 @ WINDERMERE REALTY
4:56 SR 302 & 140TH (LAKE OF THE WOODS)
4:57 SR302 & 150TH AVE KPN (LAKE HOLIDAY)
5:00 4 CORNERS @ 76 STATION
5:02 WRIGHT BLISS & OLSON DR KPN
5:05 FOOD MARKET IN KEY CENTER
5:09 RED BARN /VOLUNTEER PARK
5:14 HOME GAS STATION
5:15 KPCS SENIOR CENTER & FOOD BANK
5:18 PALMER LKE - LAKE DR@ 21ST KPS (SUNNY SIDE OF LKE)
5:20 PALMER LKE - 21ST ST@ 193RD AV
(PARK SHELTER /SHADY SIDE OF LKE)
5:30 RED BARN /VOLUNTEER PARK

Midday Route

12:30 PHS
12:35 PURDY PARK & RIDE
12:41 LAKE KATHRYN CENTER @ COSTLESS
12:44 11615 SR 302 @ WINDERMERE REALTY
12:46 SR 302 & 140TH (LAKE OF THE WOODS)
12:47 SR302 & 150TH AVE KPN (LAKE HOLIDAY)
12:49 4 CORNERS @ 76 STATION
12:52 WRIGHT BLISS & OLSON DR KPN
12:54 FOOD MARKET IN KEY CENTER
12:56 RED BARN /VOLUNTEER PARK
1:01 HOME GAS STATION
1:02 KPCS SENIOR CENTER & FOOD BANK
1:06 PALMER LKE - LAKE DR@ 21ST KPS
(SUNNY SIDE OF LKE)
1:08 PALMER LKE - 21ST ST@ 193RD AV
(PARK SHELTER /SHADY SIDE OF LKE)
1:13 KPCS SENIOR CENTER & FOOD BANK
1:14 HOME GAS STATION - KP HWY NORTH
1:19 VOLUNTEER PARK/RED BARN
1:22 FOOD MARKET IN KEY CENTER
1:23 KP HWY N @ MINTERWOOD DR KPN
1:27 11612 SR 302 (CHARBONEAU'S))
1:30 LAKE KATHRYN /SR 302 PULL OFF
1:35 PURDY PARK&RIDE
1:37 PHS



(From **Lunches**, Page 10)

ent eating habits people may have.

The meals are cooked and served at the KP Civic Center until Aug. 21. Bearden said the civic center is great, as it provides a cool place during the hot days for the kids to enjoy a hot lunch.

They serve 25-35 kids at each meal; on the first week in June they served 103 meals.

Funding comes from donations of both cash and food from churches, service groups and individuals in the community. A large portion of the food staples comes from the Emergency Food Network, Jorgenson said.

Monetary donations allow parents to have a meal along with their children, as the USDA regulations state that adults must pay for the meal.

Bearden is amazed at the community support they receive. "I didn't know what they contributed until I started volunteering," she said. She said donors could rest easy knowing every dollar and every can of food donated for the summer programs goes to feeding children on the Key Peninsula.

"Lots of good things come out of this," Jorgenson said of the summer program. "We're feeding families. We get food donated that can't go into the backpack program, like glass jars of pasta, so I bring them here," she said.

The group also partners with United Way's Gifts in Kind program, so once a month Jorgenson picks up linens, clothing and household goods to give to the families.

On Mondays and Wednesdays, Boy Scouts from around the region come to the center and involve the kids in games and activities, and the boys in attendance can even earn merit badges.

"Because of them coming here, we were able to start a group (of Scouts) at Evergreen," Jorgenson added.

The benefits, beyond the obvious of providing nutritious meals to children who otherwise may go hungry, are seen — and heard — from the children who fill the dining hall.

"They are engaged, saying 'Hi,' and socializing. It's always loud, they are so energized," Jorgenson said.

Food Backpacks 4 kids started six years ago, sending home a backpack on Fridays during the school year with

Want to donate?

Food Backpacks 4 Kids and the Simplified Summer Food Program always accept donations and volunteers. To do either, call 253-857-7401 or go online to foodbackpacks4kids.org.

enough food to feed a family of four for the weekend.

That program is going strong with 75 volunteers filling backpacks at three locations — KP Middle School, Agnus Dei Lutheran Church and Harbor Fellowship Church, both in Gig Harbor. They also have helped start a program in Silverdale to assist Kitsap County families.

The first-year, they had nine backpacks. This past year, the number was 450, but Jorgenson said they could serve 2,000 qualifying students, many of them residing on the KP. "I wish we could reach out to them," she said, adding the summer program is "like an extension of the backpack program."

They've even been providing transportation to the civic center for children to attend the lunches. A van goes out to Palmer Lake, where the greatest percentage of the children come from each summer.

Recently, Bruce Titus Ford in Port Orchard gave the organization a great deal on a 2014 12-passenger van. Jorgenson said they detailed it with the group's logo to help advertise their services. The new van replaces a 1991 van they were using that "just wasn't appropriate for our purposes," Jorgenson said.

They also started a new program providing crockpots, spices, recipes and bouillon to families. A grant from United Way has allowed them to expand the crockpot program to give them to any family on the Key Peninsula.

"I wish people would come visit at lunch time and see what's going on," Jorgenson said. "They would see these kids are so respectful."

She is especially touched by the reciprocity. "It makes me feel good when I see people who are helping who come out to help. This is their way of giving back," she said.

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COMMUNITY PAGES

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

AUG. 1

Ohana luau and parade

A parade from Key Center to the KP Civic Center begins at 2 p.m. followed by a family luau with family activities, live music, car show and more from 4 to 8 p.m.

AUG. 1-15

Directors needed

Six director positions are open on the Key Peninsula Community Council. Applications are at kpcouncil.org, at the Logging Days KPC booth on Aug. 15 or call 884-2877. Committees needing directors are: Annual Candidates' Forum, KP School Bus Connects (free public transportation), Safe KP Roadways, Key Center Walkways, KP Farm Tour, KPC & KP Land Use Advisory Commission Pilot, and Building a KP Healthy Community.

AUG. 1, 13, 28 and 29

WildWatch

Learn about the ocean and ocean life at Penrose Point State Park 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Aug. 1, on Purdy Spit 11 a.m. to noon on Aug. 13, Aug. 28 at Penrose Point 10 a.m. to noon and 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Aug. 29. Visitors may need a state parks pass for Penrose Point events.

AUG. 3-7

Sports camp

KP Baptist Church sponsors sports camp for ages 5 to 12 from 8:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. at the KP Civic Center. Experienced coaches will teach basketball, soccer and cheer. \$35 registration at kpbefellowship.org, 853-6761 or kpbcsportscamp@gmail.com.

AUG. 3 and 17

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.

To submit an event

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

AUG. 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31

Bloodmobile

The bloodmobile is at Albertsons in Gig Harbor, 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

AUG. 5

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. nwspayneuter.org.

AUG. 6

Fuchsia meeting

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

AUG. 7, 14 and 21

Summer reading programs

Key Center Library presents events for children on Fridays. Kids 5 and older may fold paper into origami superheroes at 2:30 p.m. on Aug. 7. Children in grades 3-6 will discover common wildlife species with the Tacoma Nature Center: Washington Wildlife folks at 2:30 p.m. on Aug. 14. Registration is required for both events; register online at piercecountylibrary.org. On Aug. 21, kids in grades K-3 will learn how marine mammals survive in frigid waters of Puget Sound by listening to Blubber, with Harbor WildWatch at 2:30 p.m. 548-3309.

AUG. 7, 14, 21 and 28

Free movies

Key Pen Parks presents Cinema Under the Stars at Volunteer Park on Friday nights

with crafts at 7:30 p.m. followed by a movie at 8:30. Bring a blanket to sit on. Aug. 7 is "Finding Nemo," which is G-rated, Aug. 14 is "Mary Poppins," rated G, Aug. 21 is "Monsters University," rated G, and Aug. 28 is "Maleficent," rated PG.

AUG. 8

Family concert

A free family concert "Bee Boppin' Bugs," with children's recording artist Nancy Stewart is hosted 11 a.m. at Volunteer Park. Bring lawn chairs and an optional picnic lunch to enjoy a day in the park. This event is sponsored by Friends of the KC Library, the Key Center Library and Key Pen Parks.

Faraway centennial

The Faraway Centennial culminates 2 to 4 p.m. at Longbranch Improvement Club with free admission. This event features items from the McDermott family and is sponsored by KP Historical Society. Connie Hildahl's book about Faraway is for sale and tea and cake will be available.

AUG. 11 and 26

Crochet or knit

The Loving Hearts group knits and crochets for charities and meets Aug. 11 from 1 to 3 p.m. and Aug. 26 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Way Point Church, 12719 134th Ave. KPN. Yarn donations are always needed. Virginia, 884-9619 or lovingheartsonkp@gmail.com.

AUG. 12

Ashes meet

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

Garden club meets

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

AUG. 16

Logging show

The 29th annual KP Logging Show is 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Gateway Park. Local entertainment, kids' activities, food vendors, a beer garden and silent and live auctions will

accompany the antique displays.

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.

AUG. 17

Penrose family presentation

Stories from the Puget Salish People to family camping by Dr. Penrose and family will be presented at 7 p.m. at Penrose Park. Presentation is free, but the park charges for parking.

AUG. 18

Playground meeting

The public is invited to participate in a new committee to design the playground at Gateway Park. Meet at 6:30 p.m. at Volunteer Park. keypenparks.com.

AUG. 19

Career options

Children in K-3 may explore career options in fun, hands-on activities sponsored by the University of Washington, Tacoma in a program called "I Can Be Anything! HealthCare" at 2:30 p.m. Registration is required.

AUG. 19-21

Skateboarding camp

Children ages 6 to 13 develop skills, safety knowledge and confidence at a 'Sick' skateboarding skills camp from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free loaner skateboards and helmets available during camp. Register at keypenparks.com/camps.

AUG. 20

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. 884-9814.

(See Community, Page 13)

PUBLIC MEETINGS

KP Veterans

Aug. 3 and 17, 7 p.m. at KP Lutheran Church; membership open to veterans and military service members and families age 16 and older. 253-509-8656 or keypen-veterans@outlook.com.

KP Lions' dinner, program

Aug. 5 and 19, 7 p.m. at Key Center Fire Station; 853-2721.

Key Pen Parks

Aug. 10, 7:30 p.m. at Volunteer Park administrative office; public is encouraged to attend.

KP Fire Department

Aug. 11 and 25, 5 p.m. in meeting room, Key Center Fire Station; keypeninsulafire.org.

Key Peninsula Council

Aug. 12, 7 p.m. at Key Center Fire Station; Karen Meyer from Tacoma Pierce County Health Department discusses the KP community health needs assessment, which is used by both CHI Franciscan and MultiCare.

KP Civic Center Association Board

Aug. 13, 7 p.m. meeting in Whitmore Room, KP Civic Center; 884-3456.

Peninsula School District Board

Aug. 13 and Aug. 27, 6 p.m. at district office.

KP Democrats

Aug. 17, 7 p.m. at Home fire station; school board candidates are invited to speak. georgerobison@centurytel.net.

KP Land Use Advisory Commission

Aug. 18, 6:30 p.m. at the KC Library; email: bigdswensen@gmail.com.

KP Democrats

Aug. 18, 7 p.m. at Home Fire Station; all are welcome.

Longbranch Improvement Club

Aug. 18, potluck, 7 p.m. at Longbranch Improvement Club; 884-6022, longbranchimprovementclub.org.

KP Citizens Against Crime

Aug. 21, 7 p.m. at Key Center fire station.

KP Farm Council

Aug. 24, 6:30 p.m. at Home Fire Station; c.wiley@mac.com.

(From Community, Page 12)

AUG. 21

Barter fair

Barter Fair is hosted Friday, 6 to 8 p.m. at Volunteer Park. Stay for Cinema Under the Stars afterward.

AUG. 22

Ice cream social

The Key Peninsula Historical Society presents an Ice Cream Social at Cape E Farm in Home, 2 p.m. Music provided by Down Home Band. Colleen Slater will read from her new book, "Peninsula Pioneers," available for sale.

AUG. 27 to OCT. 1

Job track

Adults may work with Forward TRACK-Job TRACK: Tech Readiness and Career Kickstart every Thursday, 3 to 4:30 p.m. at the Key Center Library. Gain skills in basic web development and get to the next level with your job. Learn online at home (5-7 hours of homework/week) and get help from library staff in class. Check out a Chromebook as your textbook. Registration is required. Email roundhouse@piercescountylibrary.org to reserve your seat. Class space is limited.

AUG. 29

Craft a notebook

Are you ready for school? Come to the library first and craft your own customized back-to-school notebook 2 to 4 p.m. at Key Center Library. 548-3309.

OFF THE KEY

AUG. 1

Car show

The annual Cruise the Narrows Classic Car Show begins at 8 a.m. in Uptown Gig Harbor. No pre-registration. Gigharbor-cruisers.com.

AUG. 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29

Classic boat rentals

Rent a classic boat at the Gig Harbor BoatShop from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Prices vary. Gigharborboatshop.org or 857-9344.

AUG. 4, 11 and 18

Park concerts

Free concerts at Skansie Brothers Park take place every Tuesday beginning at 6:30 p.m. Aug. 4 features Ranger and the Rearrangers, who play unique music; Aug. 11 is Austin Jenkes, a folk/jazz/rock artist; Aug. 18 is the Funaddicts, who play all genres. Bring chairs or blankets, no smoking, and riding the Gig Harbor Trolley is suggested. Concerts are sponsored by CHI Franciscan Health, Harbor Hill, Metagenics and the City of Gig Harbor.

AUG. 6

Democrats meet

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

AUG. 6, 8, 10 and 13

Bloodmobile

The bloodmobile is at Kiwanis Club of Peninsula-Gig Harbor 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Aug. 6, at Haggen Northwest Fresh 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Aug. 8, at AllianceOne from 1 to 4 p.m. on Aug. 10 and at Kiwanis Club noon to 7 p.m. on Aug. 13. Thank you for donating to help save lives.

AUG. 6, 13 and 20

Uptown concerts

Uptown summer concerts feature Common Ground (rock) on Aug. 6, Budapest West Hungarian soul on Aug. 13, and the Rokkerbox (rock) on Aug. 20. All concerts begin at 6 p.m. uptowngigharbor.com.

AUG. 6, 13, 20 and 27

Waterfront market

The Waterfront Farmers Market at Skansie Brothers Park is on Thursdays 3 to 7 p.m. Join Harbor WildWatch for live animal touch tanks by the market.

AUG. 7 and 8

Cinema Gig movies

Free Friday night date night movie at Donkey Creek Park is "Blackfish" and the Saturday night family movie at Skansie Brothers Park is "Happy Feet." Movies begin about 8:30 p.m. Bring chairs or blankets; no smoking. Gigharborguide.com.

AUG. 7 to 29

Play presented

Paradise Theatre presents "H.M.S. Pin afore" Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. 253-954-PLAY.

AUG. 15

Bluegrass festival

The Olalla Bluegrass Festival, featuring local and national bluegrass, folk and jam bands, plus food, arts and crafts, activities for children and a berry pie contest is from 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Advance tickets are available July 31-Aug. 13 at brownpapertickets.com. For festival schedule or other information, go to ollalabluegrass-festival.com.

Author shares

Key Peninsula author Leslie Bratspis will be at Barnes and Noble Bookstore - Kitsap Mall introducing her second novel, "Vanilla Grass, a novel of redemption," from 1 to 3 p.m., 10315 Silverdale Way NW, Silverdale. The novel tells the story of a Vietnam veteran with PTSD who rescues a golden retriever that changes his life. Free bookmarks and autographed books are for sale. (360) 698-0945.

WEEKLY EVENTS LISTINGS ONLINE

See what's happening at keypennews.com

State matching grant allows Gateway Park development to move forward

By Scott Turner, KP News

The Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District got some unexpected yet welcome news recently when the staff learned they were awarded a \$500,000 matching grant for Gateway Park development as part of the state Legislature's 2015-17 capital budget.

Scott Gallacher, executive director of Key Pen Parks, was pleasantly surprised when he received the call about the award, as he noted the statewide grant process is a ranked process and that their grant proposal written and submitted last year was ranked 60 out of 70 applications.

"The legislators focused on proposals that had a development component to them and we had that, so that helped us to be selected," Gallacher said. Prior to being selected for funding, he said the district anticipated the state approving funding for approximately half of the proposed projects submitted to the legislature.

Gallacher is confident the district can fund its end of the matching grant because of its past stewardship of tax mon-

ies collected for its capital projects budget.

"Each year, our budget includes anywhere from \$300,000, \$400,000 to \$500,000 to put toward capital improvements," he said.

The grant, which for technical reasons will actually match 48 percent to Key Pen Parks' 52 percent of up to \$500,000, will now jumpstart the plans of phase 1 of the project that includes ingress and egress points, a picnic shelter, restroom facilities, parking and the design and construction of a new playground.

The district is working with Bob Droll & Associates of Lacey to develop the 39-acre Gateway Park, located in the 10200 block of State Route 302.

Gallacher said the parks department is doing its due diligence now that includes the permitting process for the work, and construction could start early next year, with a completion date and opening of the playground in 2017.

But much of the timing is subject to change, Gallacher noted. "A lot is still to be determined because we were not ex-

Want to volunteer?

Key Pen Parks is looking for volunteers to be part of the Gateway Playground Planning Committee, especially those who have or work with young children, to help plan and develop the specific components of the proposed playground. To volunteer, contact Key Pen Parks Executive Director Scott Gallacher at (253) 884-9240, ext. 21 or email scottg@keypenparks.com.

pecting this grant — so moving forward, the planning is still very fluid," he said.

Topping the district's agenda is to form a playground planning committee. They are looking for residents with young children to help fill the volunteer committee that will provide design input and help develop the specific components of the playground in Gateway Park. The first meeting is scheduled to take place 6:30

p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 18 at the Key Pen Park office in Volunteer Park, according to the district's website.

Anyone who is interested is asked to contact Gallacher by phone or email.

Another way residents can help is to donate money to the KP Parks Foundation, a nonprofit arm of the district that help raise funds for a variety of projects.

"We've been very good stewards of the money raised," Gallacher said. "We've been able to leverage the money and make \$1 grow to \$2 or \$2.50 to make the parks a better place for Key Peninsula residents."

He said they aren't sitting still as they continue to write new grant applications and continue to seek funding from a variety of sources, with the main focus currently being the development of the Gateway Park.

"We are working to build a park in the 98329 ZIP code for the north Key Peninsula area," he said.

For more information, follow Key Pen Parks on Facebook or visit keypenparks.com.

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MEET YOUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

Jan Angel, 26th District state senator

By Sara Thompson, KP News

Jan Angel is not new to the political scene, but her path was indirect — it started with banking, then passed through business and real estate on the way to her current role.

Angel was raised in Colorado and was recruited, along with her husband, as a banker in Alaska. For nine years, she was known as “the blonde lady banker” in Anchorage, working in a new bank started by the tribes. She joined the National Association of Bank Women and was asked to run as one of eight national directors. There, she got a taste of campaigning and loved the chance to travel through the region. When her husband’s work drew them to Washington state in 1983, she decided to go into business for herself rather than continue in banking.

For a number of years, Angel ran a successful haircare franchise. Life took a difficult turn when her daughters were in college and her husband committed suicide. As she was still reeling from the shock and loss, her most successful haircare location lost its lease and she decided to sell the franchise. At that time, she entered the world of real estate.

Her mother’s words served as inspiration: “When you have a job to do, find a way to get it done.”

“What doesn’t kill you makes you stronger,” Angel commented as she described those initial years of adjustment. She was named “agent of the year” in her first year in real estate. She has since remarried, with a family that now includes two daughters, a stepdaughter, a stepson, nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. She and her husband live in Port Orchard.



Jan Angel

As a realtor, working with clients to understand what they could do with their own property, she became involved in land use issues. When she was asked to run for Kitsap County commissioner she agreed, was elected, and served for eight years.

Although she planned to retire after eight years, she was approached to enter the race for state representative. “I was told that everything I fought for at the county level I could affect at the state level,” she noted. Her bid was successful and she served for five years. When Derek Kilmer’s seat in the state Senate opened, she chose to run for that position. She was elected in 2013.

Angel stated that her office spends a lot of time working directly with constituents,

dealing with individual problems concerning such issues as land use, Labor and Industries, and Department of Social and Health Services. She sees herself defending people’s freedom, and as “scissors, cutting through the red tape tied to government.” She enjoys being a part of the majority party in the Senate. “Playing offense is very different from playing defense,” she said. “Our job is to lead the way. In the House, we were mostly holding the line.”

She currently serves on three committees: Financial Institutions and Insurance (she is vice chair), Healthcare, and Trade and Economic Development.

When asked what she sees as the key issues on the Key Peninsula, she cited transportation, business and education.

She wondered about the possibilities of private companies coming in to help provide transportation, though this is a local county more than a state issue. She discussed her support of an adequate revenue package for transportation at the state level

— to complete the environmental impact study on SR-302 and to carry out congestion studies between Gig Harbor and Purdy.

As a member of the Key Peninsula Business Association, she has met with businesses to see what she can do to help.

In terms of education, she commented that although the state budget was not finalized at the time of the interview, she supported increased teacher salaries and benefits, was concerned about the level of compensation for some administrative positions, and was not sure that lowering classroom sizes above the fourth-grade level was necessary.

“It is hard to stay in touch with all my constituents,” she acknowledged. She attends events as she is able, including a Key Peninsula Community Council meeting in June with Reps. Jesse Young and Michelle Caldier. In addition, she has hosted several “tele town halls.” Constituents call in and are able to interact with her via a phone call.

Angel encourages constituents to contact her office with questions or concerns. Her office tracks issues closely and pays attention to how voters weigh in. Her Olympia office number is (360) 786-7650. Her local district office number is (360) 443-2409 and her email is jan.angel@leg.wa.gov.

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A huge THANK YOU to all the individuals & businesses who contributed to our appeal letter in June. The Key Peninsula Civic Center relies on your contributions and support to sustain our mission.

Mission

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.

For those of you who haven't sent in your envelope—it's not too late! Envelopes are available in the office but not necessary to contribute.

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Through the generous contributions of individuals, groups and agencies, we have been able to make significant improvements to our facility and services. We will still need your support to ensure the Civic Center remains a valuable resource for our community.

We do depend on our members to maintain the Civic Center. The Civic Center is not just a building; it is a place where we can all come together to support our community. We need your support to ensure it remains a valuable resource for our community.

We will be happy to provide you with more information about the Civic Center and how you can help. Please contact us at (360) 786-7650 or visit our website at www.kpcca.org.

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Key Peninsula Lions stage 26th annual Volksmarch

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

After the blistering heat of previous days having abated, bringing perfect walking weather, the Key Peninsula Lions, sponsors of the club's 26th annual Volksmarch, anticipated a large number of participants on the trails for the always scheduled first-Saturday-after-Independence-Day event. Surprisingly, it didn't happen.

Whereas the first of the walks in 1989 was a Saturday/Sunday event that drew more than 1,200 walkers, and since then the low-est number of participants has been 100, this 2015 event had only 50 people participate.

"We were surprised that no walkers from the Key or Gig Harbor communities participated," said Neal Van der Voorn, the event chairman.

The walk, held at Key Peninsula Parks' 360 Trail Park, nonetheless pleased participants with the route's layout swinging through from the park's perimeter road.

"Many said that the trail on the east edge of the park was the most beautiful, tracking through groves of ancient trees and views of the Horseshoe Lake golf course," said Van

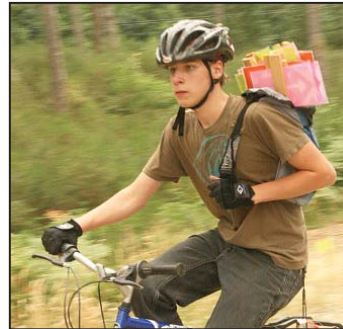
der Voorn. "It is a more challenging trail with several short switchbacks dropping down into small water holes and back up over little hills. When asked, several walkers thought the low turnout was due to so many events on summer weekends and a threat of rain showers.

"In my opinion," said Van der Voorn, "it was the smoothest Volksmarch in years, with only one route, no doubling back and forth."

To KP Lion Dan Van Antwerp, "The cool day was a welcome relief from the summer heat."

"It made for an ideal day for walking in the quiet solitude of the 360 Trail Park. A few light sprinkles did nothing to dampen spirits of participants. Boy Scouts of Troop 220 did a masterful job of laying out directional signs. Many participants noted the ease with which they were able to follow the route through the forest," he said.

"Despite a cold morning breeze, diehard hikers traveled from far away to participate in the annual march," said KP Lions President Hal Wolverton. "The annual event is made possible by hard work and the combined efforts of the KP Lions and our Boy Scout Troop 220. Many hikers said this was the best



By Hugh McMillan, KP News

Star Scout, Robert Quill, a member of the Boy Scout Troop 220 team of eight, who rode their mountain bikes over the 26th annual Key Peninsula Lions Volksmarch trail in Key Pen Parks' 360 Trail Park. Here, Quill prepares to pound in another of the arrow-signs marking directions for walkers.

Volksmarch yet and they thoroughly enjoyed the day."

Participating walkers hailed from Seattle, Fife, Orting, Kirkland, Bellevue, Olympia,

Auburn and even Vancouver, Wash.

First Class Scout Mark Lemon said, "Helping set up the Volksmarch trails was fun, even though we were working at the same time." Lemon also participated in recovering all the trail markers after the event, for which Assistant Scoutmaster Matthew Mills counseled, "If you can join me, bring a good-sized day pack and flat-bladed screwdriver for removing staples; it should be easier to store everything in our packs that way."

As they did on the Friday before the event when they pounded in countless directional arrows to guide walkers, on Saturday the scouts' cleanup team rode their mountain bikes to clear the trails and remove all markers that will be used again on the Volksmarch in 2016.

"Thank you to scouts Mitchell, Robert, Blake, Nick, Mark, Alexander, Joseph and Mackenzie for helping set up and clean up the Volksmarch trail," said Mills, who worked with the scouts both days. "The Lions Club and the Volksmarchers really appreciate your help and support."

For information, contact Van der Voorn at nealvandervoorn@yahoo.com.

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Annual Cider Swig squeezes the best out of apples

Calling all cider lovers, hard cider aficionados, apple lovers, kids. The second-annual Cider Swig — The Great Peninsula Cider Festival promises cider sipping, delectable regional tastes, music and family fun.

Rain or shine, the Cider Swig will be in full swing from noon to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 26, at Sehmel Homestead Park, 10123 78th Ave. NW, Gig Harbor.

At the Cider Swig, discover some of the finest ciders the Northwest has to offer — 50 and counting — by more than 15 cideries. And while cider varieties are the focus of the festival, some infused with flavors like ginger and chili, there will be much more to do and see. Food options by area restaurants and food trucks will range from Southern barbecue to traditional comfort food. There also will be live music throughout the day.

Bring the entire family — there will be something for everyone. The Kids' Apple Zone run by the Curious By Nature School will have games and activities for all ages. There is even a drop-off option for a small fee, so parents can enjoy some kid-free time.

Admission is free to all festival areas ex-

cept the cider garden and sales tent, where entrants have to be 21 to enter (ID required). Advance ticket purchase for the cider garden is recommended, as the event is expected to sell out. After sipping and sampling, take home your favorite ciders from the cider tent for savoring later.

Proceeds from the Cider Swig support environmental education and conservation to maintain and expand area parks, trails and natural areas around the Gig Harbor and Key Peninsula community.

Tickets are \$28 in advance or \$35 at the gate (while supplies last). Cider Swig volunteers may purchase a ticket for \$18 and there is a designated driver ticket option for \$10. Admission includes five drink tokens and a festival glass. Extra tokens will be available for purchase.

Tickets are available online at www.ciderswing.eventbrite.com, from the Greater Gig Harbor Foundation (253) 514-6338, or from the Greater Gig Harbor Foundation booth at various local events. Anyone who is interested in volunteering can call the foundation at (253) 514-6338 or email ciderswig@gigharborfoundation.org.

Summer camp more than just archery, songs around the campfire

By Scott Turner, KP News

It may be high season for back-to-school sales, but summer break is actually only half over. For children needing something fun and challenging to do during the dog days of August or for parents who need a break from their kids sitting around playing video games all day, the answer remains the same: Camp Seymour.

Camp Seymour has been providing a safe and affordable recreational opportunity for children of all ages since 1905.

It started when Tacoma Mayor W.W. Seymour let youth from the YMCA come to his property during the summer to camp, said Scotty Jackson, executive director of Camp Seymour. Around 1907, Seymour deeded the property to the YMCA and it remains the camping arm of the YMCA of Pierce and Kitsap Counties today.

The expansive grounds on Kramer Road along Glencove total 130 acres, "110 when the tides is high," Jackson added, and there is more than enough room for 20 cabins that house 10-12 campers and two leaders, a climbing wall, a rope course, sailing and canoeing, archery, a swimming pool, crafts, games and sports and even an organic garden.

Key Peninsula resident Jayce Richerson, 12, is at his third year of summer camp and he appreciates the values the camp and its counselors provide. "The adults treat us well and guide us to not do bad things. They teach 'SAD TV,' which stands for sex, alcohol, drugs, tobacco and violence and to stay away from those," he said.

Summer programs range from day camps that run for a week to two-week overnight camps that include paddle trips around the peninsula, with campers staying at state parks overnight, and three-day backpack trips in the Olympics. For students in grades 9 and 10, there is a two-week trek teen leadership program where the campers learn the responsibilities of being a camp leader.

"I wouldn't be able to do the scheduling with the confidence I do now without doing the camp," said Bremerton resident Ambrielle Anderson, 21, who is assistant camp director, manages the program directors and schedules camp program activities. "Just to say I've been in a leadership program gives others confidence in me," she said.

Summer programs are run for students



Photo by Scott Turner, KP News

Camp Seymour day campers (from left) Connor Wilking, Sean McConaughy and Taj Hughes paddle their way into Glen Cove.

from elementary to high school age and costs are around \$600 to \$900. But no one gets turned away from an inability to pay.

Jackson said the Y's annual campaign helps a number of children to experience camp life. Recently, YUSA offered a \$15,000 matching grant to provide 100 percent scholarships and the Y raised \$30,000 to more than meet the goal.

Camp staff works with Communities in Schools Peninsula and with school district counselors, teachers and principals to provide outreach to kids who could benefit from a scholarship.

"It's really a fun and comfortable place to come and hang out," said 16-year-old Nate Martin, of Kent. He has been attending summer camp since he was 9. "You learn about who you are. It builds up my confidence because everyone is nice and supportive," he said.

The eight weeks of summer camp activities isn't the only time the camp is busy, as there also is a September through June marine science program run in conjunction with the Peninsula School District and other schools. In total, the program reaches nine counties and 135 schools, Jackson said, and uses state-approved science curriculum.

"It's very hands-on marine science," Jackson added. "We even have 'belly' biology where the kids lay on the dock and see what's going on underneath."

In between the school year and summer programs, the camp also runs weeklong camps for the Muscular Dystrophy Association in Seattle and for the Washington Air National Guard.

This past year, Lowe's wanted to partner with the camp that is run for MDA and several stores across the region pooled

their community funding along with 40 volunteers as part of the Lowe's Hero Program.

"They (Lowe's) have the skill set to actually get some work done," Jackson said, noting they helped install fencing for the pool and also built a new deck for the amphitheater, making it wheelchair-accessible.

Although the older structures on site are grandfathered in and don't need to meet current ADA standards, the camp

Want to go to camp?

Although some summer programs at Camp Seymour are at capacity, many others still have openings. To see what's available, go online to campseymour.org.

is upgrading cabins and bathrooms to be handicap-accessible and Lowe's recently provided \$20,000 in supplies to help further that goal.

A new program, called Camp Corral and sponsored by Golden Corral Restaurants, provides 100 percent scholarships to children from military families of fallen, wounded or disabled veterans, and the camps serves 180 children of all ages for that program.

"We're thriving, we make camp accessible to everyone and we never turn anyone away," Jackson said. "Kids go home more resilient, better prepared for school, and have a greater ability to make new friends."

"Probably the most fun I've ever had is at Camp Seymour," Martin said.

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Bob came from Iowa where his accomplishments range from being a high school English teacher to Lieutenant Governor of the state of Iowa. He has lived in our area for five years now.

Bob is a member of the mid-day Rotary group, and is helping to form the Rotary's Interact Club for Henderson Bay students.

Bob says, "I love the chance to work with young people, and the opportunity to give back to the community. It's only an hour a week, and the return to the mentor is much greater than what we give."

Bob also works with the high school in suicide prevention and awareness.

We thank you, Bob, so very much for your dedication to our students.

— Communities In Schools

Reading Mentor: Doug Knapp

Doug Knapp has been a reading mentor at Harbor Heights Elementary for seven years. He has lived in the Purdy area his entire life and loves it there. Doug works in the financial services business, but takes time from his work schedule to mentor.

Doug says, "I love to read, and the kids are so eager to please. I'm pretty lucky. The kids want to do well, and my challenge is to do things a little different!" Doug has definitely done this because the kids love to read the comic strips he brings in!

Doug encourages people to volunteer. He says, "It's only an hour a week, anyone has time for that."

Thank you, Doug, for your many years of service with Communities In Schools of Peninsula!

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Local Schools and Students: Testing

Editor's note: Because four out of five households in this area don't have children in public schools, we wanted to provide a useful overview through a series in the KP News. The first article provided a brief snapshot of the three elementary, one middle and one high school that serve our students. The second article covered basics of school funding. Here we review testing. The final article will cover the local school board. We welcome questions and comments.

By Sara Thompson, KP News

Testing has become an emotional issue for students, teachers and parents over the past few years. For some, it represents an unwelcome intrusion, a symbol of encroachment by authorities into the classroom, a cause of anxiety for students and possibly even a threat to teachers' integrity. For others, it is a way to measure student progress, a tool to identify gaps and find approaches to improve outcomes for students, teachers and schools.

The role of the federal government

The federal government first became actively involved in public education in the 1960s, when President Lyndon Johnson, who had been a teacher, identified education as an important tool in fighting poverty. In 1965, Congress passed the El-

ementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) as part of the war on poverty. Title I, federal funding to support the education of students living in poverty, grew out of this program.

No Child Left Behind, passed in 2001 with broad bipartisan support, was a reauthorization of the ESEA. It expanded the federal role in public education through annual testing, annual academic progress report cards, teacher qualifications and funding changes.

It did not establish national learning standards but it did require states to develop assessments in basic skills. To receive federal school funding, states were required to assess all students at select grade levels.

Race to the Top was a program established in 2009 during the Obama administration. Using competitive grants, it

sought to encourage educational reform. Grant recipients were required to adopt the Common Core standards and to use data in a more sophisticated way than is required by No Child Left Behind — students were followed for progress longitudinally and in addition, teacher evaluations were tied to student achievement.

The first two rounds of Race to the Top grants were opened in 2010. Washington applied for the second of the two rounds and was not awarded the grant.

History of standards and testing

It is impossible to talk about the history behind the current tests without including the history of common learning standards — proficiency tests are meant to measure whether or not students have mastered the concepts outlined by the standards. Jennifer Dempewolf, director of assessment and accountability at Peninsula School District, noted that Washington state was an early adopter of common learning standards.

The state's first standards (in reading, writing, math and science) were established in 1994, with testing for assessment (Washington Assessment of Student Learning or WASL) starting in 1997. Passing exams as a high school graduation requirement started in 2006. Over the past 20 years, tests and their acronyms have changed, as have the learning standards, testing intervals and graduation requirements.

During this time, at a national level, governors and business leaders joined to form Achieve, a nonpartisan group helping to lead education reform. Their resulting report in 2004 concluded that high schools were not providing the skills necessary for students to succeed in a world with increasing demands for college and career readiness. In response, the National Governors Association convened a group to develop the Common Core standards. They were released in 2010 and Washington adopted them in 2011.

Chuck Cuzzetto, superintendent of the Peninsula School District, had this to say in support of the Common Core: "It's like mom and apple pie. The learning standards are more rigorous than earlier ones, are consistent across all states, and are competitive internationally."

He thinks that most of the negativity

arises from confusion between the learning standards and the tests designed to measure proficiency.

This year saw big transitions in Washington state. Four years after introducing the Common Core, testing based on these new standards took place.

How test results are used

Cuzzetto emphasized that evaluation of student progress has always been a part of the educational system, and described it as a pyramid approach. At the base is the classroom — teachers judge how effective their curriculum is on a daily basis by observing their students; they also use homework, projects and classroom exams. On a buildingwide level, schools evaluate progress toward their identified goals (which may involve the standardized test scores or other measures, depending on what is in their schoolwide strategic plan).

The district, likewise, uses test scores as part of its overall strategic plan evaluation. Finally, the state uses test data as part of its evaluation and reporting of schools and districts.

Prior to high school, test results can help identify individual students who might need additional support the following year but progression to the next grade level is based on teachers' classroom evaluations and not standardized test results. Passing standardized tests (biology, math, English/language arts) is a high school graduation requirement. The tests required for graduation have recently changed, and for many students there are alternatives.

Uproar over testing

The Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) was used for the first time this year. Refusal to take the exam was widely reported. Cuzzetto and Dempewolf noted that refusal was not a major issue in the Peninsula School District. Statewide, 95 percent of students in third through eighth grades took the SBA; that dropped to 50 percent in high school.

Some high school students simply had no personal benefit from taking the new exam. Students who will graduate in 2016 must pass the 10th grade HSPE (or the

(See **Testing**, Page 19)

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(From **Testing**, Page 18)

11th grade SBA). They took the HSPE last year. So when they were asked to take the 11th grade SBA this year, many students refused. For schools and districts, the results could serve a useful role, allowing them to assess curriculum and begin the process of improving and adjusting.

Testing takes time

Many teachers and parents have expressed concern about the amount of time that testing requires and its impact on classroom teaching. Dempewolf summarized the actual amount of time as follows:

Grades three through eight and 11th are tested yearly. The math and the English/language arts exams take three to four hours each.

Grade 10 biology exam (taken at the end of the biology class) takes two hours.

But she and Cuzzetto acknowledged that the logistics of administering a new test using computers presented logistical

challenges and the impact on classroom time this year was significant, particularly in middle and high school.

Looking into the future

Cuzzetto and Dempewolf see value in Common Core and in the data that standardized testing can offer. They noted that the last few years have been especially full of change. With new learning standards and new curriculum — and now with new tests — students, teachers and administrators are all part of a steep learning curve. It is likely that the tests will be tweaked. Perhaps the testing frequency and intervals will be adjusted.

It is certain that the percentage of students judged proficient on the tests this year will be lower than in the past. This is virtually always the case when new standards and tests are introduced.

And early state reports indicate that this is true — “passing” scores have gone from an average of about 80 percent to an average of 50 percent.

Cuzzetto is confident that students in the district will outperform the state average, as has been the case in the past. But the number of students graded as proficient will fall. And over the next several years, as the curriculum builds, the number of students passing will rise again.

Over time, testing requirements and intervals will undoubtedly change. At the state level, the Legislature stepped back from the requirement to pass the biology EOC exam to graduate this year. At the national level, as Congress reviews the ESEA, it is likely that earlier stringent testing requirements will be decreased.

KP Historical Society set for a busy August

By KP News staff

The KP Historical Society is preparing for many free events open to the public to take place this month.

The Faraway Centennial Celebration culminates on Aug. 8 at the Longbranch Improvement Club, with complimentary admission from 2 to 4 p.m.

Faraway, the summer estate of the McDermott family on Filucy Bay, was a magical place where many visited over the years, organizers said. Although no longer owned by the family, the rich history of the idyllic retreat belongs to the Key Peninsula.

Featured at the celebration will be photos, unique artifacts and documents of the McDermott family of Bon Marche fame.

Rather than a set program, there will be knowledgeable folks to answer questions about Faraway and the family who owned it. Discussions are welcomed.

Cake and tea will be offered in honor of Josephine Nordhoff McDermott's birthday.

Connie Hildahl has written a book about Faraway that will be available for sale.

The story takes place between 1850 and 1950. The book includes over 250 photos plus maps and is an important piece of Pacific Northwest history. More than a

historical narrative, this is a story of the American dream.

“It has been a privilege to meet family members, listen to their memories and explore the boxes of photos and documents they shared,” Hildahl said.

Penrose Park

Members of the Key Peninsula Historical Society will tell tales of the Penrose family who had annual summer camps on their property that later became Penrose Park. There is a fee for park parking, but the presentation is free on Aug. 15. at 7 p.m.

Ice Cream

An Ice Cream Social is planned for Aug. 22 at Cape E Farm and Vineyard in Home.

Colleen Slater, local author and historian, will read from and sign copies of her latest book, “Peninsula Pioneers.”

The program is free, beginning at 2 p.m., with “make-your-own” ice cream sundaes. Museum

Museum hours are Tuesday and Saturday 1 to 4 p.m. or by appointment.

The museum's current display, is “The Story of the Key Peninsula — Its Past, Its People, Its Places.”

Free admittance, children welcome. For information, call 888-3246.

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Key Pen barter fair planned at Volunteer Park

KP News staff report

Do you have homegrown tomatoes you would be interested in trading for jam? Do you make beaded jewelry you'd like to exchange for soap? Key Peninsula Barter is joining with the Tacoma Barter group, Fair Tradin', to host a barter fair Friday, Aug. 2, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Volunteer Park in Key Center.

Area residents are invited to bring their homemade and homegrown items to trade at the free event.

This event is unique as it is the only barter fair of the 2015 season to be held at Volunteer Park. Typically the fairs are held at Lake Holiday Association Clubhouse. Organizers say it is their only event in 2015 scheduled for a Friday night.

"We wanted to schedule an event which our friends in the Tacoma barter group, Fair Tradin', could attend as well," said Alice Kinerk, one of the group's founders. "We were able to

work with Key Pen Parks to hold this fair just prior to their Cinema Under the Stars event for that evening. Our hope is that Tacoma folks will decide to make the drive over the bridge if there is an outdoor movie to round out their evening."

All are welcome to attend the barter fair, whether or not they have items to trade.

"Since the idea of barter is new to many, we encourage 'walk-throughs' who are just there to check it out. However, people should not feel that they need to make huge amounts of one item or be intimidated about the process. If you have a bag of kindling, bring that and stroll around the tables with it, you will probably go home with something wonderful in trade," Kinerk said.

Kinerk said that setup begins at 6 p.m.; those just there to browse should know that bartering will not begin until around 6:30 p.m. Those who come just to browse may make

arrangements to purchase items off site, but the one strict rule the group maintains is that nothing is sold for cash, Kinerk said.

Leslie Dalton has taken part in local barter fairs and plans to do so again. "I enjoy getting together with like-minded people to exchange not just products and services, but to share ideas and create community. Another thing is, I hate dealing with money, it makes me uncomfortable and this helps alleviate that a little. The actual bartering can be so fun. And seeing different people's creative genius is a joy, a joy that I can take home," she said.

The group does hold an auction at each event. The funds raised offset printing costs and help pay rent at the Lake Holiday Association Clubhouse, Kinerk said.

"Our auctions are awesome. It's \$1 for a ticket, \$5 for six. We get wonderful donated items — knit scarves, wooden toys, baked goods — and auction three items at each fair. Your chances are very good, and you can buy a ticket even if you didn't bring anything to barter," Kinerk said.

Between events, the group maintains a Facebook page where locals can ask questions or post about items they would like to trade.

Kinerk also writes periodic blog posts for the group, including photos of past barter fairs, FAQs and a list of all scheduled events for 2015. For information check out Facebook/keypeninsulabarter. Or visit wordpress.kpbarter.com.

Alice Kinerk can also be reached at 884-2723.

OBITUARY NOTICE

Anna Rogers

Anna Rogers was born on Nov. 9, 1920, in Sandy Creek, NY, to Harold DeShane and Julia (Hall) DeShane. When Rogers was 15 the family moved to Springfield, Massachusetts. There she met and married her husband, Derwood Rogers in 1939.

They had four children: Robert, Judith, David and Carol. Her husband passed away in 1983, after 43 years of marriage.

In later life she moved to Lakebay to

live with her daughter Carol. She especially loved her friends at Lakebay Community Church, where she was actively involved.

On Sunday, July 12, she passed away at home in the presence of her family. At her passing, she was the Lakebay Church's oldest active member at 94 years old.

A Memorial service was held at Lakebay Community Church on July 19.

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Teenager makes surprise donation to food bank

By Rick Sorrels, KP News

Seventeen-year-old Chanel Mortimer surprised her parents and others with her decision that, instead of presents for her recent birthday, guests and relatives provide cash or food donations for food banks.

"This came out of the blue, totally unexpected," said her mother, Darla Mortimer. "We are very proud of her, and touched as well. She does think of others, not herself, and has a heart for the needy."

When asked where the idea come from, Chanel Mortimer said that she participated in the Good Karma 5K Run last May, and obtained commitments for donations that were dedicated to NW Harvest that provides food to food banks.

"Prior to my birthday this year, I realized that I already had everything I needed. Clothes, family, house and food. I didn't need anything else. I remembered NW Harvest, but wanted to do something more local. A family friend makes donations to the Bischoff Food Bank, so that's



Chanel Mortimer

what I decided to do," she said.

Mortimer received \$157 in cash which she donated online to NW Harvest. She received enough food to fill three large boxes which were wrapped in cellophane and delivered to the Bischoff Food Bank

in Home.

"We were surprised and shocked that a 17-year-old would be so selfless and compassionate. There is always a shortage for food for those in need. This restored our faith in the upcoming generation," said Kimberly Miller, the operations manager for Bischoff.

Mortimer has been homeschooled her entire life. She expects to receive her high school diploma in June 2016. She is in the

Running Start program, taking college classes at Tacoma Community College. Her current goal is to obtain a master's degree in occupational therapy.

She babysits for spending money, and is learning how to drive.

"It's important for young people to get involved in charities," Mortimer said. "Maybe do without your daily cup of coffee, and make a donation. It gives you a real good feeling."

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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.

Love, In a Garden Grows

By Sandy Rogers

Days begin with a walk to the little house.
I feel her presence there in the garden
where
the beauty she brought is quietly dis-
played
Stooping to pull a few weeds, I am
compelled to work the ground
As the dirt and I become one
I feel, most likely a breeze, kiss my face
The chirping of the birds beckons me
I stroll, lost in my thoughts,
logical time slips away,
We are walking side by side, holding
hands
I remember we planted this one on her
birthday
Warmth surges through me
Squirrels dance at my feet,
I hear the shuffle of her walk
Hummers buzz playfully past my ears
I smile, she has whispered to me through
them
The snowball tree is blooming already

We planted it together, along with the
lilac bush and hydrangeas
Her garden was a place of joy for both
of us
While she has gone, her spirit has not
It was her time in the garden then.
She left all these things,
cultivated by her love
Now they all look to me for nurturing.
I don't have her knack
The garden and its residents are patient
with me
In time, we all will grow

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Peninsula friends and
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*Summer is here
the days are clear
It's here but a moment
the winter lies dormant
Take time for some fun
go play in the sun!*



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*Stop in and see
what we have
for fun in the sun!*

THE 10,000 Laughing

By Scott Heffernan

greet my arrival with thunderous ap-
proval.
I feel as they've been waiting for me,
just for me.
I take my place amongst them,
a seat upon the sand
and listen with all I am
to all they care to share
on this beautiful morn'.
What's left of the full moon back-lights
the clouds and leaves its glow on endless
waves.
Alive,
without interference;
even the wind has died.
The sun takes its time too,
knowing maybe,

that with its rising will come
the others
whom today,
I care nothing about.
This day is ours,
hers and mine.
She talks to me,
says, "It's okay, I'm okay.
Go live your life."
And if ever, now I know.

Tao itself — the main concept in Taoism
— is presented by Lao Tzu as something
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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 by Ed Johnson, KP News

Last month, Mount Rainer was picture-perfect as it loomed over Henderson Bay.

Sunday evening, July 19, Key Peninsula Fire Department crews responded to reports of a large brush fire with structures threatened, near the Kitsap County border at 118th Avenue NW and 146th Street KPN. According to a fire department spokeswoman, a multiple unit strike team, with crews and equipment from outside agencies, were called in to help battle the blaze. The 5-acre fire took about five hours to extinguish, and no homes or buildings were lost. At press time, there is no known origin of the fire.



Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News



Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News

This Pierce County crew spent their Monday cleaning up the beach on the Purdy Spit after a major fireworks display on the Fourth of July.

Want to see your picture here?



When you are out and about just get a snapshot of you and/or your family with the KP News and submit it with a caption to sales@keypennews.com



During the Fourth of July the Purdy Spit was a popular place to view fireworks.

Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News