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Community rallies around KP family

By Scott Turner, KP News

On May 30 Melissa Smeltzer's life changed forever.

It was the seventh birthday of her son, Noah, and her husband, Aaron's, day off.

The day started out like most Fridays. "We said happy birthday to our son and we talked about what we were going to do that day. It was very ordinary," Melissa, 31, recalled.

After picking up some cupcakes and dropping them off at Vaughn Elementary, where Noah is a special education student in the Options Program, Aaron announced he was going for a short run.

"I was going to go to the gym to give another friend a birthday card, so I told him I wasn't going to be on my phone for a little while and that I'd talk to him later," Melissa said.

"He said he wasn't going to be running for very long because he wanted to relax before Noah got home. We said 'I love you,' and that was the last time we spoke." Aaron Smeltzer, 33, never made it

(See Smeltzer, Page 4)



Photo by Scott Turner, KP News

Melissa Smeltzer and her son, Noah, were in good spirits at a recent family gathering. They hold a family photo taken with (father and husband) Aaron Smeltzer, who died suddenly last month while running near their Palmer Lake home.

KP Bischoff food bank reopens

By Rick Sorrels, KP News

The grand opening for the KP Bischoff Food Bank took place on June 21. Its new location is 1916 Key Peninsula Highway, across the street from the Home fire station.

The Bischoff Food bank was originally started at the Key Peninsula Lutheran Church, where it remained for seven years until it was absorbed by the FISH food bank system and moved to Key Center in May 2013. In March 2014, FISH moved the food bank to a portable, semi-truck/trailer operation relocated to the parking lot for the LDS Church at SR-302 and 134th Avenue.

The volunteers who had run the food bank for its first eight years did not follow FISH's streamlined portable operations.

Under FISH, the hours of operation were also cut back from seven days a week in Key Center to only Friday and Saturday for the portable operation.

The displaced volunteers, led by Kimberly Miller, were left out, and after hearing complaints concerning the new FISH operation and transportation difficulties for needy persons trying to travel there, they were charged with a new resolve to re-create a better food bank in the model of the original, she said.

Hours of operation are 2 to 7 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday.

Miller and her crew already have obtained their business license and created a nonprofit corporation. A church on the other side of Pierce County will act as their parent organiza-

(See Bischoff, Page 2)

Key Peninsula Red Barn Youth Center moves forward

By Colleen Slater, KP News

The Red Barn Youth Center, located on the Key Peninsula Highway just south of Key Center, is "partially open," according to Glen Ehrhardt, board vice president and facility committee chair. "The main meeting room (the galley) is completely finished," he said.

Several groups, including the Y, Tacoma Community College (GED program) and a new church have used the facility in the past several months.

The current plan is to have the center fully open in September for after-school activities for Key Peninsula youth, a safe place to recreate, socialize, find guidance, get homework help and develop positive relationships.

"We now have the funding and are actively seeking a program coordinator

(who) will be in charge of youth activities," Ehrhardt said. "In the meantime, we hope to have some fun activities during the summer," he added.

According to Ehrhardt, as funding becomes available, the multi-purpose room will be finished. He said that some local teens have helped with the planning.

A big event is set for Aug. 9, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. or so, called Red Barn Splash, to raise awareness and exhibit the progress to date.

Five local bands will be featured in an outdoor setting, and a couple of local comedians will spice up the stage between bands.

Asked if it was a fundraiser, Jo Ann Maxwell, former board member and current volunteer grant writer, said it was "more of a 'friend raiser,' or in other words, a community outreach event, but a

request for donations will be announced."

The event food, prepared by chef Oliver Coldeen, is to be donated by community members, so there will be no charge for it.

"The Red Barn will be operated in ac-

cordance with Christian values and principles," Ehrhardt said. Young people of all backgrounds are welcome.

For information and to donate, visit redbarnkp.com.

(From Bischoof, Page 1)

tion until their 501c3 application is fully processed. This allows tax write-offs for donations now, instead of waiting, organizers said.

Affiliations have been established with Northwest Harvest, Food Lifeline, Emergency Food Network and Peninsula Market at Lake Kathryn. A bountiful supply of food is promised.

FISH never registered the names Bischoff Food Bank or Key Peninsula Bischoff Food Bank, so they were available for use. The formal registered

name for the new food bank is Key Peninsula Bischoff Food Bank, Inc.

Organizers said the three buildings at the new location will allow room to collect and distribute more clothing, appliances, furniture, beds, et cetera. This additional service and free distribution to those in need were started at the Key Center location, but were severely limited due to space requirements.

Individuals or businesses that would like to donate either time or money can contact Miller at (425) 444-2374. A web page and Facebook account are being established.

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KEY PENINSULA NEWS

www.keypennews.com

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

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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!

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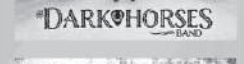
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(From **Smeltzer**, Page 1)

home.

In the middle of his run, he collapsed and died on Whitman Road, near Camp Colman, not far from the couple's Palmer Lake home.

At press time, the cause of his death had not yet been determined. "It takes 10 weeks for an autopsy report," Melissa explained.

But the doctors at St. Anthony Hospital, where Aaron was taken, were baffled.

"He was a nonsmoker, nondrinker, no tattoos, no drugs because it never appealed to him," Melissa said. "He was 33 and very healthy. They said it was very rare for a young man to be that healthy and to pass away that suddenly and for their organs to be so healthy."

The family was able to fulfill Aaron's desire to be an organ donor.

"The doctors said he saved hundreds of lives with what he was able to give — parts of his heart, kidneys, pretty much everything," she said.

Seven-year-old Noah, who is autistic, seems to be handling his father's death fairly well.

"Someone gave me a book with lots of pictures of us as a family, and Noah said he didn't know whether to be sad or happy, but he's mainly sad," Melissa said.

"He's getting to understand that dad is in heaven. He pictures him with wings. We even had a burial for a piece of fruit (an apple) because he wanted his dad to have an apple in heaven. It's just his way of processing it," she said.

As frequently happens, the KP community has reached out to help Melissa and Noah.

"There's a lot of people looking at the KP Facebook page and a lot of people I don't even know have helped us," she said. "One fellow came over and dug up our back yard where we were planning to put a patio. That was going to be our summer project and somehow this fellow heard about it and came over and just did it."

"People I've never met are bringing food to us; a neighbor had a garage sale and donated part of the money to us. My LDS church has also helped out a lot," she said.

Aaron's family in Utah, Texas and Oregon have set up a gofundme.com account for Melissa and Noah, although they, too, were devastated by Aaron's death.

"They haven't ever had a death in their



Photo by Scott Turner, KP News

A memorial marker is covered in handwritten tributes to Aaron Smeltzer.

Want to Help?

Donations for the Smeltzer family can be made through Kitsap Credit Union — Aaron Smeltzer Memorial Fund.

family," Melissa said. "Aaron is the only person in their family who has passed away, so it was really hard for them."

Melissa's family also has rallied around her, including her older sister, Stephanie Sauter, who came from Montana.

"From the moment Melissa and Aaron started dating, they really enjoyed being with one another. He really loved her and he loved Noah and he looked forward to spending time with his family," Stephanie said tearfully.

"But this community has been so supportive and helpful, and my sister is really strong. All the Facebook posts have been so amazing," she added.

"I think all their immediate needs are being taken care of, but a couple of months or a year from now is when she'll really need support," she said.

One of the biggest ways people can help Melissa is to pray for her, Stephanie said. "And also they can give to the memorial fund that's been set up at Kitsap Credit Union. That will be what ultimately helps them get through the future."

For her part, Melissa is relying on her faith and the love she feels around her.

"Having God in my life, I feel comforted knowing that he's gone to be with the Lord, that he's comfortable and he's happy and he's in a better place. That gives me comfort and hope," she said, eyeing her son.



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August ballot measure is based on public input

Peninsula School District will be asking voters in August to approve a capital bond and a levy. The proposed ballot measures are the result of extensive feedback the district and the school board sought from the community in the past few months.

The two ballot measures compliment each other. Should both of them be approved by voters, the \$60 million bond will be used to finance capital improvements and upgrades and the levy will be reduced to only pay for technology needs.



If only one measure passes, the identified projects would be funded. If both measures pass, then the bond and ONLY the technology portion of the levy would be collected.

If both measures pass, the bond will cost property owners 92 cents per \$1,000 in assessed property values, and the levy will cost 4 cents per \$1,000.

“The ballot measures are the result of the board listening and compromising. The two pieces don’t compete but rather compliment each other,” said Superintendent Chuck Cuzzetto.

The changes the board made as a result of the community input include:

- Proposing both a levy and a bond and making the levy contingent if the bond passes;
- Creating a plan that would not cost taxpayers more than \$1 per \$1,000 in assessed property values;
- Using the bond for long-term capital projects and launching projects that are part of the 30-year facilities plan;
- Designing the measures so no tax increase will be required while continuing to finance the 30-year plan;
- Adding Key Peninsula Middle School to the list of major projects.

“The two measures work together to meet the needs of the community,” Cuzzetto said. “The board tried to come up with a plan that will work for everybody while meeting the needs.”

For more information, visit the PSD website at psd401.net, or follow via social media at Twitter (@PSD401) and Facebook ([Facebook.com/psd401](https://www.facebook.com/psd401))

We Listened: Turf Fields

Our community was clear: “We care about maintaining our turf fields for school and community use.” Both the levy and bond have provisions to upgrade/enhance the turf fields at GHHS and PHS. We also hope to add additional fields using partnerships whenever possible.

For more detailed information, please explore the links under Facility Planning at the Peninsula School District website: www.psd401.net.

Thank You to Students and Staff

On behalf of Peninsula School District, congratulations to all our graduates, retirees and employees who are leaving us for new adventures.

We thank you for everything you have done to make a positive difference in our schools!

Central Office Summer Hours

The PSD District Office is open all summer long; however, we reduce our “public hours” during the summer. If you need assistance outside the public hours, please feel free to call.

Summer hours
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
June 30 through August 15
(253) 530-1044 or (253) 530-1048

Key Dates

- 9/3 - First day of school - NO LATE START
- 9/10 - Late start Wednesdays begin
- 12/23-1/3 - Winter break
- 2/17-21 - Mid-winter break
- 4/14-18 - Spring break

Communication Update - New Facebook Pages - Social media is here to stay. In response, we are launching two new Facebook groups to support our students and families.

First, we will have an Early Childhood Resource page called “PSD Early Childhood Connection Serving Children Birth-Kindergarten.” This will be a great place for our families with young children to connect to our District and a variety of community resources that are available to them.

Second, we will be starting the “PSD Class of 2027 for Kindergarten Parents” group. All of our incoming Kindergarten parents will be receiving an invitation to join the class of 2027 parent page.

The vision is to provide resources to parents as well as a place where parents can get their questions answered about the various things that happen in school as they navigate the new world of Kindergarten. All questions are welcome. This is the place you can ask, “What happens if my child forgets his/her lunch?” or “Is my child supposed to be able to read on the first day of school?” Parents will have the opportunity to network across the District. When these students graduate in 2027, this might be our most connected parent group ever.

Nondiscrimination Statement The Peninsula School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, honorably discharged veteran or military status, sexual orientation including gender expression or identity, the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Inquiries regarding compliance and/or grievance procedures may be directed to the District’s Title IX and Compliance Officer, Dan Gregory, at (253) 530-1009, email gregoryd@psd401.net or the Section 504 and ADA Coordinator, Sean Whalen, at (253) 530-1080, email whalens@psd401.net. Mailing address: 14015 62nd Ave. NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98332.

Peninsula Views

Encounter with an angel for all the right reasons

He saw me first as I rounded the corner.

Our eyes locked and his smile grew with each step I took toward his sterile hospital room perched high above Tacoma.

Bill Ketts shook my hand for the first and last time.

Bill thanked me for stopping by his room while I was en route to my vacation.

I told him that as a journalist, “this is what I do: I try to help people and unite communities.”

He told me that God sent me to his room for a reason — and I agreed. He also told me that he could tell that I was smiling under my mask. I had donned a gown and mask to help prevent the passing of germs, as he was quite ill and battling for his life.

Bill, 56, was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia back in April. We ran a KP News cover story about him in our June edition.

Our interview went well. Sometimes I feel like I may come across as a therapist, however, as I bring people back through their lives in detail and guide them gently into the present with my relentless questioning.

Bill rolled through the process with ease.

The love for his wife, Tracy, and children was obvious. He spoke highly of the community and parishioners of his church.

A couple weeks ago a colleague of mine posed a question to me that was asked to her by a KP News reader. She asked me, “Why do we put so many stories of sick people on the cover of the paper instead of happy people?”

Well, talking with Bill reaffirmed my beliefs as an editor and a person of faith.

It’s my job to tell stories that stir emotion, enlighten and engage people to act and understand.

If it’s a happy story or a sad story, or a story of hope, I’m going to run it because

Scott Turner
The Editor’s Desk



that’s what I (we) do. The Key Peninsula is made up of bright, caring people who go out of their way to help others. My goal — with your help — is to chronicle people and events so we never forget.

I spent about an hour with Bill that day. He looked me in the eye when he spoke. He listed intently as I spoke about my life and the recent passing of my mom. It was like I had known this man forever. We connected. Our goal of helping others was evident to both of us.

Unaware of his short time left on Earth, Bill was amazingly thankful and full of life. He was fearless, I got schooled.

He spoke about his private window view that framed Mount Rainier perfectly. I will think of him every time I see that giant snow cone. I wept as I left the hospital that day. I felt like I was leaving a brother, but was comforted in knowing he was in good hands.

Bill Ketts passed away on June 7. I missed his memorial, but the community didn’t. It was standing room only at the WayPoint Church, the sanctuary packed with friends and loved ones.

For a community leader and a gentleman, Bill was one of the most humble individuals I have ever met. He credits everything to Jesus Christ, his Lord and Savior.

I know it was only 60 minutes, but my time with Bill impacted me deeply. He taught me to follow my heart and the light. He said in doing so that everything else would be just right. And I believe him.

Community members wishing to support Tracy Ketts and her family can make donations at any Sound Credit Union branch to the Tracy Ketts account.

Let’s work together to end the cycle of bullying

Bullying can take the color out of lives. To be honest, it makes food taste bad. It’s like a weight on your chest; you’re weighed down by bullying.

I believe we should work to stop it.

When I moved from Nebraska last summer, I thought it would be a break from being bullied. But, boy, was I wrong. Kids came crying from recess almost every day, and it’s still happening.

Sometimes I think people wonder if it’s even possible to stop bullying for good.

Rebecca Maffei, counselor of Minter Creek Elementary School, said, “I like to think of a possible ideal school where students and adults are only ever kind and never use cruelty as a way of getting social power.” See? Even a counselor thinks it’s impossible to stop.

Ms. Maffei works hard, but often bullying takes place behind teachers’ or parents’ backs. Some kids aren’t brave enough to talk about it, and when it’s brought up, they deny it. Then, after being abused for a long time, they feel it’s time to let the pain out, and sadly, become bullies themselves.

I bet you’re wondering, “Why should I care?” You should care because this is happening to people in your community! It’s your job to help them stand up. Now,

Sophia Dzyban
Guest columnist



ask yourself these questions: Have you been a victim of a bully? Have you bullied others? Has your child or grandchild been bullied?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, I think you should help work to stop it.

Here’s my idea: Parents, if your children are acting quietly, talk to them. Teachers, listen carefully for mean words and for signs of abuse. Kids, listen to teachers or counselors when they explain bullying and if you’re being bullied, talk about it. And onlookers of bullying, help the victim stand up. Together, we’ll get closer and closer to stopping bullying.

Sophia Dzyban is a third-grade student at Minter Creek Elementary whose favorite subject is writing. She also likes to read, sing and dance.

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How to grow better food with less labor and toil

Most of our store-bought food is processed, genetically modified and nutrient-deficient. To improve our health, it's wise for us to grow some, if not all, of our own food.

Yet we live stressful lives. How are we supposed to find the time to grow our food? The solution is to work smarter, not harder. We must use a low-maintenance method that takes as little time, money and labor as possible.

Depending on the method you use, you can either be a slave to your garden or your garden can be a source of relaxation, thriving health and delicious fruits and veggies.

Today's traditional gardening methods include using expensive chemical fertilizers and toxic pesticides. These promise better yields and fewer pests, but create a slew of other challenges.

Chemicals deplete the soil of nutrients and minerals, which cause a dependence on chemical fertilizers. These chemicals create weaker plants, attracting pests and disease. This creates a dependency on toxic pesticides and fungicides.

Bare soil causes erosion and soil compaction, so we till the soil every season. Weeds grow easily in this bare, compacted soil and are difficult to pull. Man's way works against nature.

Sustainable permaculture works in harmony with nature. No gardener tends to the forest, yet it is lush and green. Sustainable permaculture brings Mother Nature's method into your garden.

To design an organic, sustainable, low-maintenance home garden, use a mulch covering. The forest floor is covered in leaves and pine needles, which compost over time to feed the soil. The covering retains the perfect amount of moisture, and prevents erosion and soil compaction.

Replicate this method and you will

Monica Rakowski
Living Close to Nature



water less. Your soil will not erode or compact, allowing oxygen in the root zone and making weeds easier to pull.

Instead of depleting your soil, it will grow healthier each year, becoming a home to rich and diverse biological life. You won't need to till every spring. Eventually you won't need additional fertilizers.

This biodynamic soil will grow sweeter, juicier plants. Pests will bother your garden less. The minerals in your veggies will heal your body.

Woodchips are an excellent covering. You can get these chips from a local tree service or from your own yard, if you have a chipper.

It is important to choose wood that decomposes fairly easily, unlike cedar, and not to till the chips into your soil. If you do, the chips will leach nitrogen from the soil and your plants will suffer a deficiency.

Instead, layer the chips on top of a layer of compost. As they decompose, more compost is created. Every time you water or it rains, your garden will be nourished with compost tea.

Woodchip gardening is a low-maintenance way to grow your own organic, nutrient- and mineral-rich food. It will solve many common challenges and make gardening a relaxing experience instead of a chore.

In a culture saturated with low-quality food and poor health, home-grown food is the medicine we need to turn things around for our bodies and our planet.

Monica Rakowski is one of the owners of KP Indoor Garden Store in Key Center. Contact her at naturegirlslife@gmail.com.

It's about time to lighten up

We on the Key Peninsula are about as lucky daylight-wise as anybody in the Lower 48 states. When the summer solstice occurs, about June 21 each year, we are blessed with very long daylight hours. That is to say that twilight signaling the onset of darkness lasts for a considerably long time.

Technically, there are three twilights. Civil twilight lasts from before sunrise, when the geometric center of the sun is six degrees below the eastern horizon until it is again six degrees below the western horizon in the evening. Here on the Key, that translates to daylight, including Civil twilight, lasting at the summer solstice for 15 hours and 57 minutes. It is the period when you can almost read a newspaper even when there's no moonlight, the horizon is clearly defined, and the brightest stars are just visible under clear atmospheric conditions. The end of civil twilight is when you're legally required to turn your headlights on if you're driving a vehicle.

Nautical twilight starts earlier and ends later than civil twilight. As a result, the sky is darker near its ends. It is defined as the time from when the sun is 12 degrees below the horizon before sunrise until it is again 12 degrees below at sunset. In clear weather, at the beginning and end of nautical twilight, a sailor using his or her navigation tools can see the horizon at sea, but would have to use artificial light to read anything including instruments.

Then there's astronomical twilight, defined to begin in the morning and to end in the evening when the center of the sun is geometrically 18 degrees below the horizon. From the end of astronomical twilight in the evenings to the beginning

of astronomical twilight in the morning, the sky (away from urban light pollution) is dark enough for all astronomical observations. Astronomical twilight, according to the U.S. Naval Observatory, commences when the first bit of light from the sun just starts to brighten the horizon.

Key Center sits at about 47 degrees, 20 minutes north latitude. If we were north of 48 degrees, 30 minutes, at the summer solstice with clear skies, astronomical twilight can last all night long because the center of the sun never dips more than 18 degrees below the horizon, so there's just a smidgen of light on the horizon all night long.

The western entrance to the Strait of Juan De Fuca is just north of 48 feet 30 inches so a sailor doesn't have far to travel to experience that phenomenon. Inland, it doesn't work so well because hills and mountain ranges block the light.

Even though in July we're just past the summer solstice, we still get to enjoy many hours of daylight and our warmest days of the year are just ahead of us. The longest day, June 21 is not the warmest day because the Earth, like the oven in your stove, takes some time to heat up after you turn it on to high.

Bill Trandum is a retired U.S. Navy captain, an avid boater and a now retired sailboat racer. He has sailed in ocean weather conditions ranging from dead calms to typhoons where he became a student of winds, tides and weathers.

William T. Trandum
Winds, Tides & Weathers



Do you have a story suggestion or photo to share with your Key Peninsula friends and neighbors? Send it to: editor@keypennews.com

Vaughn family escapes burning home; belongings, some pets lost

By Scott Turner, KP News

At 4 a.m. on June 14, Vaughn resident Christina Saily was awakened by strange noises. "I thought it was the fire alarm at first, but it was kind of intermittent — not a solid noise. So it might have been my dog."

As it turned out, the noise was probably both, and it saved the lives of Saily and her two children because it alerted her to the fact that her house was on fire.

Saily ran through the smoke and flame-filled house to her children's bedrooms, woke them, managed to unlatch the dog's kennel so he could escape and hustled the kids — Madison, 11 and Gage, 6 — outside.

She also tried to rescue the family's six cats and kittens, but the smoke was so thick she had to abandon that idea. "It was so thick and black that I could hardly find the door or the handle," she said.

"I knew it was going to go fast. You could hear the windows starting to break and I wanted to get my kids as far away as possible and I wanted them to see as little as possible of what was going on," she said.



Photo by Scott Turner, KP News

Christina Saily comforts her children, Madison and Gage, after a visit to their burned out home and a search for missing pets. Their Vaughn rental home caught on fire on June 4. Saily said that faulty wiring was determined to be the cause.

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Mentors of the Month

Selected by **Communities In Schools of Peninsula**

Reading Mentors:
John and Sharon Ciccarelli


John and Sharon Ciccarelli have been reading mentors for nine years at Vaughn Elementary! John and Sharon met in Germany and have travelled extensively, but chose to retire in Gig Harbor in 1978. John retired as a Colonel in the US Army, and Sharon worked for the City of Tacoma in Community Relations. All three of their children graduated from Gig Harbor High School. John has served as a board member for Communities In Schools of Peninsula since 2006 and was Board Chair from 2010-2012. Sharon enjoys mentoring because she loves the way the kids improve as the year goes on. She explained, "You can really see a difference in the month of May, when it all clicks. You can make such a difference in their lives. We received a card from the parents of one child; they wrote, 'The tools you have taught my son will last the rest of his life.'" Sharon said, "You never know what kind of positive impact you can have on a child and what difference you can make until you volunteer."

We thank John and Sharon for their incredible dedication to the youth in our community.

— Communities In Schools

These dedicated volunteers donate an hour a week to help kids in our community achieve success in reading and math. Can you help too? Call 253-884-5733 to volunteer.

Communities In Schools www.peninsula.ciswa.org
Many thanks to Pat and Carole at Harmon Brewing Co.



Within minutes, the fire department arrived. "We responded with three engines, one tender and a medic unit," said Interim Fire Chief Guy Allen.

Allen credited Saily with fast thinking and the fact that her smoke detector worked. "It's the thing that made the difference in this case," he said, adding that it also is a reminder of how important it is for every family to have an exit plan as well as good batteries in their smoke alarm.

"Every time you change your clocks for daylight savings time or regular time, you should also change your batteries in your smoke detectors," he said.

As frequently happens when there's a tragedy of some kind, the people of the Key Peninsula have rallied to the Saily family's support.

The Red Cross has helped, as has Vaughn Elementary School, which the kids attend, and the KP Facebook page has rallied support.

"I'm just amazed at the outpouring of support my sister is getting from her community," said Melanie Brisbin, Christina's sister. "People have been calling the fire department wanting to help, and the school was so helpful and the pouring out of help from the counselors and the students. They

suggested that we put out flyers and jars for donations. It's her face on that jar asking for help, which is hard, because our family never asks for help. But the community is just coming out everywhere to help her."

Shari's Restaurant next to the Port Orchard Day's Inn, where the family has been staying, has even given them free meals.

At press time, Saily was trying to find another home to rent. "We haven't really had time to look for housing, but the hotel is pretty expensive," she said.

Brenda Parsons, Christina's mother, noted that Christina and the kids "are coming through this so well" and she's proud of them.

"And I want to say a very heartfelt thank you to the community for all the blessings we've received. I was just shocked and kind of amazed by how many people have come up and said, 'What can I do? What can I do?' And every time someone helps, they smile. And I love that," Parsons said.

"I hope to find another place out here," Saily said. "My mom and sister are trying to encourage me to move up north to be closer to them in Stanwood/Marysville area.

"But I feel like the kids' school was so

(See Saily, Page 13)

Key Peninsula residents using Facebook to help others

By Scott Tuner, KP News

A few years ago — no one is quite sure of the exact date — a Key Peninsula page was set up on Facebook.

About a year ago, Vaughn resident Susan Mendenhall took over as administrator of the page, with help from Sylvia Wilson.

“It’s all about community building, having people be aware of each other and local events and it provides opportunities for people to meet each other after they’ve met online,” Mendenhall said.

It’s also a place where people can spread the word about lost pets and learn where resources like the food bank are located, she added. “Somebody’s always available to answer their questions.”

Lately, the Facebook site also has been used to spread the word about fundraising events and other “reaching out” opportunities.

It started in April with a fundraiser for the mudslide victims of Oso, Wash.

Vaughn resident Mindy Wilkins challenged the community to do something to help.

“She posted a request that we wanted to create a fundraising event and we raised \$4,300 to give to the victims of the mudslide,” Mendenhall said.

During the planning sessions for that event, a small group of organizers discussed that there were “people in our own community who also needed help,” she recalled.

The group has come to be called KP Cares. It’s a “loosely-banded” group of Key Peninsula residents who prefer to remain in the background. “We don’t really want any recognition,” Wilkins said.

“There are a lot more good people out here than bad and we take care of each other. And when the need arises, all you have to do is put it out there and people step up,” Wilkins said.

Following the success of the Oso fundraiser, the KP Cares group looked homeward to identify local needs.

In early June, the group held a combination bake sale-yard sale-fundraising event to raise money for 5-year-old Robbie Jackson, who has a type of cerebral palsy.

Marilyn Hartley organized the yard sale and Amy Walker and Sylvia Wilson handled the bake sale, Mendenhall noted. Several other local residents also helped.

They hung flyers around town telling how to contribute to a gofundme.com account that had been set up for the youngster, she said.

In the midst of planning for Robbie’s

event, the group got word that Melissa Smeltzer’s husband, Aaron, had died suddenly (see the story on page 1), so they decided that the funds they received over and above what had been designated for Robbie would be given to Melissa.

“Again, we raised more than \$4,000,” Mendenhall said.

People also brought donations to the event for the Saily family, who had just lost their home to a fire. “People dropped off baskets of laundry items, gift cards and toys for the Saily children,” Mendenhall said.

“I think the people here have always had a history of helping each other, and our Facebook page has provided a place for people to come together and discuss the needs, and it’s just supporting what we’ve always had. The happy part of it is that people who didn’t even know Melissa or the mudslide victims came together to help.”

The Facebook page now has more than 2,000 followers, Wilkins added. “We have so many amazing people who live out here.”

To sign up, go to facebook.com and search for Key Peninsula, Washington.

(From Saily, Page 12)

helpful — they jumped in immediately and I wasn’t expecting that even a little bit, and for the community to just be so supportive. I don’t even want to move out

of this area,” she said.

An account has been set up at Chase Bank, where donations can be made for the Saily family. Donations can also be made through youcaring.com/sailyfamily.

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User's Guides available at: The Mustard Seed Project office, the Library,
and the KPCS/Food Bank

Route: KP SUMMER AM

9:00 am	EVERGREEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
9:04 am	LAKE DR KS @ 24TH ST KS SUNNY SIDE OF LAKE
9:05 am	21ST ST KS @ 193RD AV KS PARK SHELTER SHADY SIDE OF LAKE
9:10 am	KPCS SENIOR CTR/FOOD BANK
9:11 am	KEY PENINSULA HWY N @ HOME GAS STATION
9:16 am	VOLUNTEER PARK
9:19 am	FOOD MARKET @ KEY CENTER
9:22 am	WRIGHT BLISS RD KN @ 104TH STCT KN
9:24 am	4 CORNERS/DRIVE THRU FEED
9:26 am	SR302 KN @ 150TH AV KN LAKE HOLIDAY
9:27 am	SR302 KN @ 140TH AV KN LAKE OF THE WOODS
9:29 am	11818 SR302 KN RAVENSARA OFF ROAD (OFF ROAD)
9:32 am	LAKE KATHRYN SHOPPING CENTER @ COSTLESS
9:38 am	PURDY PARK & RIDE
9:40 am	PENINSULA HIGH SCHOOL
10:57 am	PENINSULA HIGH SCHOOL
10:59 am	PURDY PARK & RIDE
11:05 am	LAKE KATHRYN SHOPPING CENTER
11:08 am	11615 SR 302 WINDEMERE REALTY
11:10 am	SR302 KN @ 140TH AV KN LAKE OF THE WOODS
11:11 am	SR302 KN @ 150TH AV KN LAKE HOLIDAY
11:13 am	4 CORNERS/DRIVE THRU FEED
11:15 am	WRIGHT BLISS RD KN @ 104TH STCT KN
11:18 am	FOOD MARKET @ KEY CENTER
11:21 am	VOLUNTEER PARK
11:26 am	KEY PENINSULA HWY N @ HOME GAS STATION
11:27 am	KPCS SENIOR CTR/FOOD BANK
11:31 am	LAKE DR KS @ 24TH ST KS SUNNY SIDE OF LAKE
11:33 am	21ST ST KS @ 193RD AV KS PARK SHELTER SHADY SIDE OF LAKE
11:37 am	KPCS SENIOR CTR/FOOD BANK
11:38 am	KEY PENINSULA HWY N @ HOME GAS STATION
11:43 am	VOLUNTEER PARK
11:46 am	FOOD MARKET @ KEY CENTER
11:47 am	KEY PENINSULA HWY N @ MINTERWOOD DR KN
11:51 am	11818 SR302 KN RAVENSARA (OFF ROAD)
11:54 am	LAKE KATHRYN SHOPPING CENTER
12:00 pm	PURDY PARK & RIDE NO Intersection
12:02 pm	PENINSULA HIGH SCHOOL

Route: KP SUMMER PM

4:40 PM	PENINSULA HIGH SCHOOL
4:45 pm	PURDY PARK & RIDE
4:50 pm	LAKE KATHRYN SHOPPING CENTER
STOPS BEYOND THIS POINT BASED UPON PASSENGER REQUEST	
4:53 pm	11615 SR 302 WINDEMERE REALTY
4:56 pm	SR302 KN @ 140TH AV KN LAKE OF THE WOODS
4:57 pm	SR302 KN @ 150TH AVE KN LAKE HOLIDAY
5:00 pm	4 CORNERS/DRIVE THRU FEED
5:02 pm	WRIGHT BLISS RD KN @ 104TH STCT KN
5:05 pm	FOOD MARKET @ KEY CENTER
5:09 pm	VOLUNTEER PARK
5:14 pm	KEY PENINSULA HWY N @ HOME GAS STATION
5:14 pm	KPCS SENIOR CTR/FOOD BANK
5:18 pm	LAKE DR KS @ 24TH ST KS SUNNY SIDE OF LAKE
5:20 pm	21ST ST KS @ 193RD AV KS PARK SHELTER SHADY SIDE OF LAKE
5:24 pm	KEY PENINSULA HWY S @ 17TH STCT KS EVERGREEN ELEM

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Horseshoe Lake open to Key Peninsula residents

By Rick Sorrels, KP News

Horseshoe Lake (HSL) is considered a “regional” park by both Kitsap County and Pierce County. It is located just inside Kitsap County where 94th Avenue changes to Sidney Road.

The park has a 39-acre freshwater lake, swimming area, walking trails, picnic areas with picnic tables and barbecues, playground, open play field, baseball field, restrooms and boat launch (electric and row only).

The HSL Park is open daily, from sunrise to sunset, from May 16 through Sept. 30. There is no cost for the public.

A partnership exists between Kitsap County Parks Department and Key Peninsula Met-

ropolitan Parks District (Key Pen Parks) to share daily maintenance responsibilities.

“We contribute staffing for maintenance needs,” said Scott Gallacher, the director for Key Pen Parks. “We’ve been doing this for about four years now.”

Key Pen Parks had a property tax levy on the ballot last November which failed. Gallacher, back then, said the district was expecting to lose essentially all tax revenue starting in 2014.

“If the economy had not turned around, we would have been forced to make drastic cuts, including our support of HSL,” Gallacher said. “Resources are now available to help us keep this park open. This is a wonderful park for KP residents to use.”

Safety improvements for SR-302 coming

By Danna Webster, for the KP News

Safety improvements to State Route 302 are scheduled to begin this summer.

The Key Peninsula Community Council (KPC) and WSDOT have worked together the past two years to provide much needed safety improvements to the SR-302 corridor.

If you have been through the SR-302/118th intersection area lately, you likely noticed the utility relocation work that has been in progress. This was the last step needed to clear the way for project construction at the intersection.

Crews will make several safety improvements through the corridor, including widening to add left turn lanes on each

side of 118th Avenue intersection, a new entrance to the Ravensara coffee shop and Serenity Salon near that intersection, and there will be hazard-tree removal and construction of emergency pull-outs.

Near the Purdy Spit, repairing the slope erosion and potholes in the curves are planned. Those repairs will require a complete closure of SR-302 during night hours, between 9 p.m. and 5 a.m.

The work is currently scheduled to occur in late July or early August. While the work is under way, traffic will be detoured around the closure via Purdy Drive NW, S.E. Pine Road and 94th Avenue NW.

WSDOT will provide weekly construction updates at wsdot.wa.gov/Regions/Olympic/Construction/.

KP Fire Department's call for a new chief goes public

Would you like to earn \$10,500 per month as a starting salary, managing a bunch of highly trained and motivated professionals who save lives and property as part of their daily routine?

If so, you could apply for the position of chief of Key Peninsula Fire Department.

Minimum qualifications include seven years of fire service command experience, three years of experience in labor

management and relations, a bachelor of arts degree in fire science or public administration, a driver's license, no criminal history, being fit and having an advanced first aid certification.

Application deadline is 4 p.m., July 28.

Obtain a complete list of qualification and have questions answered by contacting Christina Bosch, 8911 Key Peninsula Highway KPN, Lakebay, WA 98349; 884-2222; or at keypeninsulafire.org.

Special Feature Brought to You by Citizens for Peninsula Schools

WHY VOTE YES TWICE?

Peninsula School District will have two funding measures on the ballot on August 5th.

What are the measures?

Prop 1 is a \$60M 20-year bond. Prop 2 is a \$55.9M five-year **contingent** levy.

When Prop 1 and 2 Pass

When the bond and levy both pass, the levy will change to a \$2M five-year levy. The levy will then pay for technology and the bond will pay for capital improvements which include buildings, safety upgrades, modernization of existing buildings, technology and field improvements.

Are the schools asking for \$115 million?

NO. When both bond and levy pass the bond remains the same and the levy changes to \$2M and only pays for technology. Passage of both = \$62 Million dollars.

"Communities In Schools of Peninsula believes that our young people need a safe place to learn and grow. We also believe that all of our students need to acquire marketable skills upon graduation. I will be voting yes to both Prop 1 and 2 because the kids in our school district are the future leaders of our community. Let's give them the facilities and tools they need to become successful adults."

- Colleen Spear

Why two measures? Compromise!

The two measures are the result of compromise. Based on community feedback, the decision whether to fund our schools' capital needs with either a levy or a bond were evenly split. The School Board chose to run a capital bond (Proposition 1) and a contingent levy (Proposition 2) to allow the voters to decide how best to fund our schools' capital needs.

What does contingent mean?

This term means that if both the bond and levy pass, the district's needs will be funded by the bond. The levy will then change into a \$2M levy that will fund only the district's technology needs.

Key Peninsula Middle School

Key Peninsula Middle School is in need of critical upgrades. The passage of both the bond and levy is crucial. If the levy alone passes, Key Peninsula's fire flow issues will be addressed. If both the bond and levy pass, the district will not only address the KPMS fire flow issue, but it will also repair and improve the school's interior and exterior finishes, upgrade the mechanical and electrical system, improve ADA accessibility, technology upgrades, and increase the usability of the field and track.

For more information please visit StandUp4Schools.org or email voteyestwice@yahoo.com



NEWS BRIEFS

Community

Balloon launch scrubbed

The third weather balloon launch that was originally scheduled for June by Key Peninsula Middle School's aerospace class was postponed due to an illness.

Science teacher Richard Miller was forced to take a medical leave of absence from teaching until September.

"The new launch date is planned for sometime this fall if everything works out," Miller said. "The next launch will hopefully have four cameras, including video and various sensors for measuring things like CO2 and oxygen levels. This time we will be doing real science."

The first launch occurred on May 31 of last year. The weather balloon was launched from the school playground and traveled 217 meters cross country, well above 40,000 feet and landed some 20 miles north of Pasco with a total flight time of five hours 42 minutes.

The second launch occurred on June 15

from the town of Ashford, near Mount Rainier.

It reached an altitude of 91,000 feet and landed near Duvall with a passenger. The raw egg named "Phil" crewed the balloon until being jettisoned at 700 feet for a free fall drop to the ground. Though obviously shaken, Phil survived intact.

Steve Whitford contributed to this report

Summer food program gets started

Peninsula Community Foundation, doing business as Food Backpacks 4 Kids, is sponsoring the Simplified Summer Food Program for Children and Youth.

Meals will be made available at no charge to any children and youth, ages 1 to 18.

All meals are available without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability.

Meals will be provided at Key Peninsula Civic Center, 17010 South Vaughn Road, Vaughn, on Mondays and Wednesdays, through Aug. 20, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

On Fridays, June 27 through Aug. 15, meals will be provided at Palmer Lake at the 21st Street picnic area, 11:30 a.m. to noon. No meal service on July 4. Free transportation available. For information, call 884-4449.

Key Peninsula Farm Tour call for vendors

The KP Farm Council invites vendors and entertainers to contact them if they wish to participate in the 2014 KP Farm Tour. Deadline for program inclusion on the Farm Tour publication is Aug. 15.

The tour is a free family event on Oct. 4 and is planned and staffed by volunteers. The KPC Farm Council plans the Farm Tour on the fourth Monday at 6:30 p.m.,

at the Home fire station. For information, contact c.wiley@mac.com or 884-9157.

KPCC hosting fireworks fundraiser

Key Peninsula Civic Center will host its annual fireworks fundraiser sale in Key Center from June 28 through July 4. The stand, located at the Food Market parking lot, 9021 Key Peninsula Hwy. N, Lakebay, will be open noon to 6 p.m., June 28; 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., June 29 through July 3; and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., July 4.

The civic center is a nonprofit community association which does not receive any tax support. It relies on fundraisers, building and room rentals and special events to host and support of programs and services, all for the benefit of the Key Peninsula community.

(See News Briefs, Page 13)

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(From News Briefs, Page 12)

Children's Home Society, the Key Peninsula News, Two Waters Arts Alliance and the Key Peninsula Historical Society all rely on the Civic Center for office and museum space.

The center also is home to the Fresh Food Revolution Co-op, Historic Vaughn Bay Church, Key Peninsula Baptist Church, Key Peninsula Lions and the Key Peninsula Senior Society.

Local authors gather at KeyFest

A dozen or more local writers who have published books will host a booth at KeyFest at Gateway Park on July 11-13. Some will read selections, discuss writing, sell and sign their books. A schedule of readers and available authors will be posted at the booth.

Authors include Kathryn Arnold, Leslie Bratspis, Richard Dixon, Larry Fowler, Karen Hale, Richard Heller, Karen Lovett, Elizabeth Murray, Ted Olinger, Claudia Patchen, Maureen Sikora, Colleen

Slater, Jan Walker and Lucinda Wingard.

Books include fiction, nonfiction, poetry, young adult and children's.

KPC calls for candidates

The KPC Board of Directors rotates positions each year, and six board seats are open for the 2014 election. Applications to serve on the Key Peninsula Community Council (KPC) are due Aug. 17.

KPC is a nonprofit organization whose purpose is to maintain and improve the quality of life on the Key Peninsula. Director candidates must be 18 years of age and live or own property on the Key Peninsula. Copies of applications are at kpcouncil.org and from dwebsterkpc@gmail.com or call 884-BUSS.

New TNB toll rates coming

New toll rates for the Tacoma Narrows Bridge take effect on July 1.

Rates will increase for all toll categories by 25 cents. The Good To Go! rate will be \$4.50, cash tolls will be \$5.50 and pay by mail will be \$6.50. For information, visit wsdot.wa.gov/tolling.

Evergreen teacher receives award

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

During a morning staff meeting in May, Therese Souers was surprised. She was even more surprised when Jan Kampbell, public relations and market development manager for CenturyLink, called her up front to honor her with a 2014 CenturyLink Teachers and Technology Award of \$4,733.

Souers, a second and third-grade teacher at Evergreen Elementary School who wrote the grant for the award in January, had told school principal Hugh Maxwell she did not think the school was in the running since she had not heard anything.

A couple of days later, Maxwell said that Chuck Cuzzetto, Peninsula Schools District superintendent, called to let him know that Souers was one of only 21 recipients from across Washington who received an award.

The grant will provide 12 Dell Chromebooks and a cart to support student research using a problem-based learning approach. It also will help close the digital divide that exists in rural areas due to a lack of access to technology and the Internet.

"I was surprised and delighted when I was awarded the grant from CenturyLink. Being able to provide our students with opportunities to access mobile technology is so exciting," Souers said.

"Therese is very dedicated to helping all students in our school and excels in the area of technology integration," Maxwell said. "Her excitement and energy around technology for teaching and learning was evident from the moment I accepted the Evergreen principal position last summer. She really deserves this award and the recognition that comes with it."

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COMMUNITY PAGES

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

JULY 1 and 15

Senior shopping

The senior van meets at the KP Community Services at 9 a.m., and returns between 3 and 5 p.m., to give seniors an opportunity to go grocery shopping and attend any scheduled Gig Harbor doctor's appointments; a "Dutch" lunch is included. 884-4440.

JULY 2

Puppet theater

Pierce County Library Puppet Theatre presents "Little Red Riding Hood" and "The Dog House" for ages 6 and up at 2:30 p.m., at the Key Center Library. 548-3309.

JULY 5

CPR class

The Key Peninsula Fire Department hosts a "Heartsaver First Aid CPR AED" class 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the fire station in Key Center. 884-2222.

JULY 7, 14, 21, 28

Bloodmobile

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

JULY 8 and 23

Crochet or knit

The Loving Hearts group knits and crochets for charities and meets on July 8 from 1 to 3 p.m., and on July 23 from 7 to 9 p.m., at WayPoint Church. Yarn donations are always needed. Virginia, 884-9619.

JULY 10

Fuchsia group

The Lakebay Fuchsia Society will meet at 7 p.m., at the fire station in Key Center. Ginnie, 884-9744.

JULY 10-15

Enjoy the beach

Join Harbor WildWatch at Penrose State Park or Purdy Sand Spit for the "Get Your Feet Wet" program. Look for the blue canopy on the beach. Will be at Penrose Park on the following

dates and times: July 10, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; July 11, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.; July 12, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; July 13, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.; July 14, 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; and July 15, 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. Will meet at Purdy Spit on July 13, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. For information, visit harborwild-watch.org.

JULY 10 and 24

Free clinic

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

JULY 11

Volcanoes

Children ages 8-16 can enjoy information about volcanoes at 11 a.m., at Key Center Library. 548-3309.

Skate night and teen fun

Skate Night is hosted at the KP Civic Center 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Club Cosmic for high school kids is 9 p.m. to midnight at KP Civic Center. 884-3456.

July 11-13

KeyFest

KeyFest takes place at Gateway Park (10405 State Route 16) 4 to 11 p.m., on Friday; 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., on Sunday. Visit the carnival, kids' zone, booths, or the beer and wine garden; listen to different bands each day; talk to one of the many local authors; enjoy the car or horse show on Saturday; visit the motorcycle show on Sunday. Pre-sale tickets are available at SCU in Gig Harbor or Key Center, Ellis Accounting, and Goin' Postal on the Key Peninsula. For a coupon: keyfair.org/kpnews.

JULY 12

Ashes meet

The Ashes support group for FD16 meets 10:30 a.m., at the fire station in Key Center. 884-3771.

To submit an event

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

JULY 17

Tech class I

Explore the library's databases, Microsoft IT Academy and Universal Class Courses at noon to 1:30 p.m., at the Key Center Library. This free technology class helps users with e-readers, laptops or other devices. Call for individual assistance. 548-3309.

JULY 18

Washington habitat

Tacoma Nature Center presents: "Habitat Is Where It's At" at 11 a.m., for kids in grades K through 6 at the Key Center Library. Take part in a survey of Washington habitat types. 548-3309.

JULY 19

Park presentation

Stories of early KP campers told by Puget Salish people to the family of Dr. Penrose are told by members of the KP Historical Society at 8 p.m. This free event is at Penrose Park. 888-3246.

JULY 20

Sunday bluegrass jam

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

JULY 22

4-H meeting

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

JULY 24

Lego robots

Children ages 8 to 18 may build and program a robotic vehicle using Lego Mindstorms from 2 to 4 p.m., at the Key Center Library. Preregister online or by calling 548-3309.

McNeil meeting

The long-range plan for McNeil Island, published by the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office, is the subject at this third meeting. The Share McNeil Island group meets at 7 p.m., at the Lakebay Marina. Rmsjr98110@yahoo.com or 206-619-3777.

JULY 25

Wildlife and plants

Children ages 5-12 learn about the wildlife and plants on the Key Peninsula from Penrose Park Ranger Janet Shonk at 11 a.m., at the Key Center Library.

JULY 26

BBQ festival

The third annual free Bluegrass & Barbeque Festival is 2 to 6 p.m., at the Longbranch Improvement Club. Listen to live music and enjoy Chef Oliver Coldeen's world-class barbeque sandwiches accompanied by coleslaw and chips for \$6. Strawberry shortcake is \$3 and pop is \$1. 425-492-4177.

JULY 26 and 27

KPHS cruises

Take a cruise around McNeil Island on "My Girl" while learning the history of the island and nearby mainland. The boat leaves for a cruise from the Longbranch Marina on Saturday, 2 to 5 p.m., and on Sunday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Snacks and no-host bar are on board. Ticket donation is \$50 per person. Contacts: 884-1400 or cahildahl@gmail.com. Proceeds help benefit the Key Peninsula Historical Society, a 501(c) 3 dedicated to preserving and presenting the community's history through exhibits and education.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

KP Lions' dinner and program

July 2 and 16, 5:30 p.m., in VFW Room, KP Civic Center; 853-2721.

KP Veterans

July 7 and 21, 7 p.m., at McColley Hall/KP Lutheran Church; 884-4407 or 884-9852, kpveterans.net.

KP Fire Department

July 8 and 22, 5 p.m., in meeting room, fire station in Key Center; keypeninsulafire.org.

Key Peninsula Council

July 11, 12, 13; Booth at KeyFest at Gateway Park.

KP Civic Center Association Board

July 10, 7 p.m., in Whitmore Room, KP Civic Center; kpciviccenter.org.

Key Pen Parks

July 14 and 28, 7 p.m., at Volunteer Park; keypenparks.com.

KP Land Use Advisory Commission

July 16, 6:30 p.m., at the KC Library; chuck-west@hotmail.com.

LIC

July 16, dessert potluck, 7 p.m., at Longbranch Improvement Club; 884-6022, longbranchimprovementclub.org.

KP Citizens Against Crime

July 17, 7 p.m., at fire station in Key Center; kpcitizensagainstcrime.org.

Pierce County Council

July 17, 5:30 p.m., Pierce County Council will host a public hearing on proposed amendments to its Shoreline Plan at the PHS Auditorium.

Peninsula School District Board

July 24, 6 p.m., at PSD district office.

KP Farm Council

July 28, 6:30 p.m., at fire station in Home; cwiley@mac.com.

WEEKLY EVENTS

MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS

Community walk

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

Senior exercise class

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

TUESDAYS

Story times

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

Swim

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

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS

Senior tai chi club

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

WEDNESDAYS

Writers meet

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

Writer's workshop

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

TUESDAYS & SATURDAYS

KPHS Museum open

The KPHS museum, located at the KP Civic Center in Vaughn, is open Tuesdays and Saturdays, 1 to 4 p.m. "Forest to Farms - The Land, the People, the Legacy" is this year's display. No admission charge, but monetary donations are welcome. Visit them on Facebook, Key Peninsula Historical Society. 888-3246.

WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS

Senior meals

Nutritional meals for seniors ages 60-plus are served at noon at the KP Community

Services; a \$2 donation is requested. Guests (ages 50-59) of senior attendees are requested to donate \$2.50. 884-4440.

THURSDAYS

Toastmasters

The Toastmasters meet 8 to 9 a.m., at the Key Center Library. Join the fun and improve your speaking ability.

Seniors' lunch

The Key Peninsula Senior Society meets at 11 a.m., for a potluck, fellowship and games in the Whitmore Room at the KP Civic Cen-

ter. All are welcome. 884-4981.

Bingo

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

SATURDAYS

Writers' Guild

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

Lakebay Jam with 302

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

OFF THE KEY

JULY 1, 8, 14, 22 and 29

Concerts

Summer Sounds at Skansie Concert Series presents the 133rd Army Band on July 1, Off the Hook on July 8, Ranger & the Re-arrangers on July 15, The Beatniks on July 22, and Chris Anderson on July 29. St. Anthony Hospital and CenturyLink bring this free live music to Skansie Brothers Park. Concerts begin at 6:30 p.m.

JULY 10, 17, 24 and 31

Uptown concerts

Uptown Summer Concerts are presented every Thursday at the Uptown Gig Harbor pavilion. July 10 is Rokkerbox, July 17 is Blues Redemption, July 24 is The Malo Band, and July 31 is Michael Anthony Pratt. Uptown-gigharbor.com. Concerts begin at 6 p.m.

JULY 11 and 25

Adult outdoor movies

Friday Night Date Night at Donkey Creek Park features are "The Help" on July 11 and "Remember the Titans" on July 25. Free movies begin at dark (about 9 p.m.) and are canceled during rain or high wind. Bring chairs or blankets for seating.

JULY 12 and 26

Family outdoor movies

Saturday Night Family Night at Skansie Brothers Park features are "The Black Stallion" on July 12 and "Little Giants" on July 26. Free movies begin at dark (about 9 p.m.) and are canceled during rain or high wind. Bring chairs or blankets for seating.

JULY 19 and 20

Arts festival

The Gig Harbor Summer Arts Festival, one of the largest outdoor art festivals, takes place. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday. Peninsulaartleague.com.

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Free transport for low-cost spay and neuter services on KP

By Karen Lovett, KP News

Northwest Spay & Neuter Center in Tacoma has been expanding service and began pet pickup service on the Key Peninsula in April.

The organization feels that spaying and neutering animals should be a high priority.

The nonprofit organization employs two full-time staff surgeons and has additional relief surgeons. NWSNC outgrew its original location and moved to a larger facility in January 2013.

Cats and dogs are kept apart. All crates are covered with sheets during transport. In the clinic, animals are separated by owner or through the Humane Society. Rabbits also are accepted at the clinic, but must be brought in. Transportation for them is not provided.

There is an added risk for animals 8 years old and older, as well as for obese or pregnant animals. Some breeds have physical issues that may pose a problem. A veterinarian examines each animal at admission. No sick animals will be accepted, especially



Photo by Dan Whitmarsh, KP News

Transport coordinator Louise Adams poses beside the Northwest Spay & Neuter Center transport truck during the Key Peninsula Livable Community Fair in May.

with upper respiratory illness.

“Our mission is to eliminate unnecessary euthanasia due to overpopulation,” Louise Adams, transport coordinator, said. “There has been a 75 percent reduction in intake at the Humane Society

in Tacoma and Pierce County since the Northwest Center opened in March 2008.

“They have stopped having to euthanize any healthy adoptable dogs. They are shooting for no euthanasia for healthy adoptable cats. Intake numbers are down

for cats, so we can now help feral cats. Instead of being euthanized, they are neutered, vaccinated and returned,” she said.

Pickup is Monday and Wednesday the second and third week of the month, 7:15 to 8 a.m. Animals will return on Tuesday and Thursday with dropoffs from 8:45 to 9:15 a.m. More days will be added as need arises. The transport truck will be on site at the Civic Center in Vaughn. There is no cost for the shuttle. The schedule is posted on the website and at the Civic Center.

Payment for the surgeries can be made at either time by cash or credit card. Checks will not be accepted. Proof of low income is necessary to qualify for free service. There is no charge for pit bulls or feral cats.

There is no size limit for dogs and no extra charge for large animals; carriers are provided.

July 16 is the next pickup date. Call for an appointment and to reserve a spot.

Northwest Spay and Neuter Center is located at 6401 Pacific Ave., Tacoma. For information and pricing, visit nwspayneuter.org or call 253-627-7729.

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JULY 2014



Key Pen Parks PROGRAM GUIDE

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

REGISTER ONLINE: www.keypenparks.com

Summer Camps

Week long specialty programs

ECO ADVENTURE: INSECT SAFARI
 Explore the world of bugs through fun games & activities. Includes a visit from "The Insect Safari," with live and collected insects from around the world.
Dates: July 7-11 **Time:** 1:00pm-4:00pm
Ages: 5-9 **Fee:** \$69 **Location:** Volunteer Park
Instructors: Key Pen Parks Staff & Insect Safari

PeeWee ECO ADVENTURE
 Our beginning nature program will foster a love for the wilderness, ecosystems, water, and the natural world—with lots of learning through fun games & experiments.
Dates: July 14-18 **Time:** 9:30am-12:00pm
Ages: 4-7 **Fee:** \$59 **Location:** Volunteer Park
Instructors: Key Pen Parks Staff & Insect Safari

YOGA & MEDITATION - a calming practice for youth
Dates: July 21-25 **Time:** 9:00am-10:00am
Ages: 7-12 **Fee:** \$49 **Location:** Volunteer Park
Instructor: Theresa Glasscock

ECO ADVENTURE: WILD WATER
 Every day of camp will feature a visit to a site with a natural water source to explore: Puget Sound, creeks & lakes!
Dates: July 21-25 **Time:** 10:00am-4:00pm
Ages: 8-12 **Fee:** \$109 **Location:** meets at Volunteer Park
Instructors: Pierce County Enviro Educators, Staff

ECO ADVENTURE: FARM TOUR
 Starts at a permaculture wonderland & forest, then to Blue Willow Lavender, Gentle Giant, Cape-E & Kaukiki Farms!
Dates: Aug 4-8 **Time:** 9:30am-4:00pm
Ages: 8-12 **Fee:** \$109 **Location:** meets at Volunteer Park
Instructors: Pierce County Enviro Educators, Staff, Farmers

LEGO: Superhero Academy
 Join Bricks 4 Kidz instructors in a superhero Lego adventure!
Dates: Aug 11-15 **Time:** 9:30am-12:30pm
Ages: 5-7 **Fee:** \$135 **Location:** Volunteer Park

LEGO: Angry Birdies & Bad Piglets
 A creatively themed Lego camp with Bricks 4 Kidz! CATAPULT!
Dates: Aug 11-15 **Time:** 1:30pm-4:30pm
Ages: 8-12 **Fee:** \$135 **Location:** Volunteer Park
 At @@@ Camps with Bricks 4 Kidz, the "models" are designed for different skill levels, appropriate for all ages and abilities, even the motorized models!

PENLIGHT SUMMER FUN RUN

June 14 at the 360 Park Trails



5K RACE RESULTS:

ADULTS: Male-Thomas Kaminski Female-Kelly Egge
KIDS: Boys-Elijah Brambila Girls-Stephanie Vanderbank

KIDS RACES RESULTS:

K-2nd DASH BOYS-Connor Burton **GIRLS**-Annie Shipp
3rd-5th DASH BOYS-Carter Kronin **GIRLS**-Indigo Clark
6th-8th MILER GIRLS- Ella Cashman-DiBiase
1st-5th MILER BOYS-Joby Kaminski **GIRLS**-Jane Oliveria

THANK YOU: PenLight and Lunchbox Laboratory!

VOLUNTEERS: Dylan Vanderbank, Leyla Vanderbank, Stephanie Vanderbank, Caleigh Gainey, Kobe Frederick, Eddy Frederick, Jeatonn Abbott, Geni Schwesinger, Celia Emens, Alexandra Emens, Destiny Verble, Zander Steele, Nature Cuevas, Sophia, Carly & Ella Cashman-DiBiase, Becky & Ilean Perron, Sherrie & Rod Pierson, Marilyn & Jerry Hartley, Jessica Blount, Kendra Sewell, Sharla Schuller, Michelle Hockmuth, Tami Miller-Bigelow, Julie Miller, Nicole Neimann-Carr, John Kelly, Carolyn & Brian Kane, Jeff Stafki, Marla Karabinos, Merilee Kennedy, Michelle Huseby, Alisa Padilla, Cyndi Cashman, Steve Hagen, Scott Glogovac, Cindy Drager, John Hanish, Sami Jensen

KIDZ LOVE Z SOCCER

Day: Mondays
Dates: June 30 – Aug 18 (late registration OK!)
Classes: 8
Fee: \$68
Location: Volunteer Park Field 2

Class	Times	Ages
Mom/Dad & Me	3:20-3:50pm	2-3.5 yrs
Tot Soccer	4:00-4:30pm	3.5-4 yrs
Pre Soccer	4:30-5:05pm	4-5 yrs
Soccer 1	5:05-5:50pm	5-6 yrs
Soccer 2: Skillz & Scrimmages	5:50-6:35pm	7-10 yrs

Upcoming Meetings:

Mon. July 14th – Park Board Meeting 7pm @ Volunteer Park, PUBLIC IS WELCOME

TEEN ADVENTURE: Week of July 28th

Monday 7/28: 3pm Orientation to week
Tues 7/29: Camp Seymour Adventure
Wed 7/30: Penrose State Park
Thurs 7/31: Haley Beach State Property

FITNESS CAMP

SUMMER 2 SESSION

Instructor: Shannon Reichl **Ages:** 16+
Location: Volunteer Park (indoor & outdoor)
Day: Tues & Thurs **Time:** 6-7pm
Dates: June 24 – July 31
Fee: \$30 for 1 class/week, \$60 for 2
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Cinema Under the Stars

Free Movies at Volunteer Park on FRIDAY NIGHTS
August 1 – 29
 Pre-Movie Activities at 6:30pm: Showtime at 8:30!
 Bring chairs, blankets, & snacks:
 Murph's BBQ is open too!

8/1 Charlie & the Chocolate Factory	8/22 WALL-E
8/8 Despicable Me 2	8/29 Frozen
8/15 THE LEGO MOVIE	

Giving Big to the Civic Center

*Bruce Macdonald, Key Peninsula Civic Center Association, Treasurer
Macdonald has been a board member at the Key Peninsula Civic Center Association since the early 1990's and was president from 2009-2012.*

Consider BIG for a moment. Some might think of "big trouble" (what I'm most often in) or "big returns" (of which I've seen none) and others think of the "big game" or of chasing "big game." For the Civic Center it doesn't get any BIGger than the Flavor of Fall Dinner/Auction. This is by far our biggest fundraiser...so big we only have it every other year and it's coming this October.

An intrepid group of volunteers have been meeting for months considering, planning and preparing to take us out for an evening along the boulevards and in the Cafés of Paris. Attendees will have the chance to sample the great foods and refreshments found along streets and in the bistros on a Paris evening. And, when you're not sampling the chef-prepared fare, you'll have the opportunity to wander the auction tables and visit with friends and neighbors.

However, there are still preparations to be made and we can use your help. If you have a flair for decorating...we could use your help. If you love to bake or make desserts...we could use your

help. Good at organizing things...we could use your help. Any "retired" treasures in your attic or basement that you might consider parting with...we could use your help. Good at raising money and getting donations...we could really use your help. Oh, you get the idea.

Why is the Flavor of Fall so important to the Civic Center and why do we ask for your benevolence? The proceeds help to sustain our operations for two years. That's two years of weddings, parties, memorials and gatherings. That's two years of social services, civic events and political forums. Two years of tennis lessons, skate nights, playground, trout ponds and meals for kids. It's also two years of church services, cultural and performance and...oh, you get the idea.

Please consider our need and if you can help in any way give the Center a call. Join Claudia Loy, Phil Bauer, Pat Medveckus, Tracy Geiss, the entire Board and the Civic Center staff in creating and enjoying a wonderful and rewarding Evening in Paris in October.

CIVIC CENTER

CORNER

Annual motorcycle fundraisers rumbles through Key in July

By Scott Turner, KP News

Take a group of big-hearted motorcycle riders, an artistic 11-year-old, a 110-mile ride and a good cause, put them all together and you have the fourth annual benefit run for the Key Peninsula Family Resource Center.

According to Anna Clark-Russo, organizer and co-founder of the event, this year's run will take place July 19. The run starts at O'Callahan's Pub & Grill in Key Center and ends at Jimmy D's 94th Avenue Pub, near Wauna.

The idea began four years ago when Clark-Russo, her husband, Tony Russo, and her brother, Robert Wright, "started talking about what we could do to help the families on the Key Peninsula," Clark-Russo said.

"We had supported so many causes on the other side of the (Narrows) bridge for families, veterans and children, but nothing was going on out here on the Peninsula."

Want to go for a ride?

The fourth annual Benefit Run for Children's Home Society's Key Peninsula Family Resource Center takes place July 19. Check-in time is 9:30 a.m., at O'Callahan's Pub & Grill, 15610 92nd St. KPN. Entry fee is \$20 per person; \$30 per couple. For information, call 253-225-0050 or 253-576-7499 after 2 p.m.

The trio asked Jud Morris, program manager of the Children's Home Society's Key Peninsula Family Resource Center, what could be done to help families here. "We told him we wanted to put some kind of motorcycle run together," she said.

The first year, 10 motorcycle riders participated and the event raised \$752. The money went to Children's Home Society.

"Last year we had 36 riders and we raised almost \$1,100," Clark-Russo said. "The event doesn't have an official title. It's just the annual run for the kids."

Russo said, "We're just a bunch of bikers that are buddies. We all come together for a good cause. It's called the Children's Home Society Run."

This year, organizers got the idea to create an official T-shirt for the run and Clark-Russo, who happens to be a para-educator at Key Peninsula Middle School, suggested having art students design the shirt.

The design submitted by KPMS sixth-grader Kady Soucie was chosen as the

(See Fundraiser, Page 19)

FLAVOR OF FALL
Auction & Dinner
Fundraiser

**Saturday,
October 11, 2014**

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Photo by Scott Turner, KP News

Key Peninsula Middle School's Kady Soucie gets a surprise visit and is lifted onto a motorcycle last month by Tony Russo and Ron "Buffalo" Schmidt, middle. The sixth-grader designed a T-shirt for the annual July benefit run for the Key Peninsula Family Resource Center. A pack of friends honored her by rolling into school with a shirt to show their gratitude.

(From Fundraiser, Page 18)

winner.

KPMS principal Jeri Goebel called Kady "a very artistic, independent kind of girl and an excellent role model for all the kids at school."

Kady's design included a drawing of a motorcycle on the front. "I even signed it," she said. She was surprised when "a bunch of motorcycles" zoomed up to the school to present her with her award — the shirt.

"I think she's a little embarrassed, because she doesn't really like the spotlight, but I know she's excited," Kady's mother, Kali Nesseth, said. "She's such a great kid. She donates all of her time to helping people. She's always volunteering for animals, for people — everything. She's just an amazing kid all around."

Kady's design was a winner in more ways than one.

"As soon as we brought the first shirt out, people wanted to buy them," Russo said.

In addition to T-shirts, there will be "lots of raffle prizes" during the run, he added. There's also a silent auction and a pig roast and live music by Snakebite at Jimmy D's after the event.

"We don't want to put the emphasis

on bikers. If you want to ride a bicycle or drive your car, you can do the whole run with us. Because it's about raising money for the community," Russo said.

"My biggest goal is we're just trying to help the kids and the families on the Peninsula," Robert Clark said.

"Jud (Morris) will be there at the end of the run to talk about what the Family Resource Center is and what it does and has done over the years, and how much this means to them. And I just want people to know that there are people on the Peninsula who want to help others — and if they can, they will. Every little bit we raise will help," Clark said.

According to Morris, the resource center serves more than 3,500 people every year.

"We can always use help. We have a lot of programs that are open to everyone. There's no economic requirement," Morris said.

"I think these folks are fantastic. They're demonstrating a community support that's just fabulous. These are community people helping our community. They all live here so they're all familiar with the kinds of problems we have on the Key Peninsula. They really want to pay it back and pay it forward and give back."

To contribute to CHS, call (253) 884-5433.

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Upcoming bluegrass festival, set to be festive family fun

By Alice Kinerk, KP News

If you like bluegrass music, be sure to schedule a visit to the Longbranch Improvement Club on Saturday, July 26 from 2 to 6 p.m. for its annual bluegrass festival.

Also plan to stop by if you appreciate world-class barbecue, a chance to snag great deals through a silent auction, or just seek a family-friendly place to spend a summer afternoon.

The event, now in its third year, raises money for the programs and services at Longbranch Community Church. But organizers say it's more than a run-of-the-mill fundraiser.

"It's a great family day for Longbranch as much as a fundraiser," said chef Oliver Coldeen, who will be serving up pulled-pork sandwiches at the festival. "It's a local festival and community outreach."

Admission is kept free so that all

community members will feel welcome to stop by and enjoy the music. Instead, funds will be raised through the sale of barbecue chicken and pulled-pork sandwiches, as well as a silent auction.

For many years, the Longbranch church had put on an annual salmon bake in the summer as its signature fundraiser event. However, with the price of salmon rising steadily, basing a fundraising event around it was becoming less viable. In recent years, up to half the money raised at the event was going to pay for the cost of salmon, which church members felt cut too deeply into profits.

In agreement that the event should be kept affordable for families, the decision was made to end the salmon bake and replace it with something less expensive.

(See **Bluegrass**, Page 21)

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(From **Bluegrass**, Page 20)

As the church already had a bluegrass jam on the third Sunday of every month from 6 to 8:30 p.m., a bluegrass festival seemed like an easy alternative. Pastor John Day is a musician himself, and the congregation enjoyed turning out for the monthly jam at the church.

It seemed the church was beginning to make a name for itself on the Key Peninsula as a place to go for great bluegrass music and a fun crowd, he said. With this in mind, "we decided to retool it into a bluegrass and barbecue festival," Day said.

He said the festival would not happen without the dedication of many church members.

"Ruth Bramhall has been a major workhorse running the silent auction," he said. Area businesses have donated high quality items, including handmade silver jewelry crafted locally. According to Day, the silent auction is a must-see for those interested in unique, locally made items. "You can get something nice for a steal," he added.

There also will be games and face painting for the festival's younger visitors.

Showcasing traditional, classical, as well as gospel bluegrass, the headliner band will be Coyote Hill Bluegrass out of northeast Oklahoma. With a local connection (band member Daniel Day is Pastor Day's brother,) the Longbranch church is lucky to land the popular band, which is planning a busy cross-country summer tour.

Other bands scheduled to play at the event include The Old Time Fiddlers, a group of musicians from Pierce and Kitsap counties; as well as The Bluegrass Minstrels, from the Key Peninsula; and Day Brothers, a trio that includes Pastor John Day, his brother Daniel, as well as a third brother from Portland.

With awesome food and music that will keep you tapping your toes, the Bluegrass Festival is a "can't miss" event. "It's a good time for the whole family," Day said.

For information about the festival, contact Longbranch Community Church at 884-9339.

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Blend Wine Shop gets new local ownership

By Karen Lovett, KP News

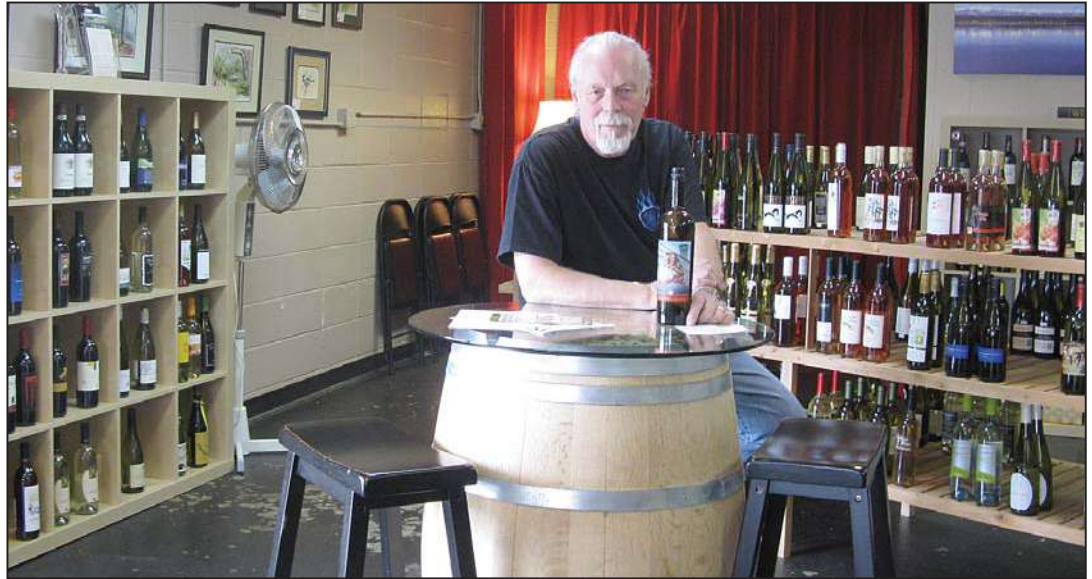
When Jeff Minch announced he was looking for a buyer for Blend Wine Shop, customers Don and Molly Swensen wanted to make sure the shop would stay the way it was.

Molly was retired from 30 years at Weyerhaeuser. Don was nearing retirement at Intel Computer Design, but he was not ready to sit around doing nothing. He decided to take an early re-tirement and take over their favorite hangout at the local shop.

Minch closed the doors on Blend Wine Shop for the last time on April 26. New owners Don and Molly Swensen were busy rearranging and restocking during a four-day closure, and were ready for business on May 1.

"Blending friends, neighbors, community and the world one bottle at a time, was Jeff's slogan," Don Swensen said. "With a few minor tweaks, it will be business as usual."

The familiar shelves stocked with wine have been moved to the other side of the room and into the smaller alcove. Additional



New Blend Wine Shop co-owner Don Swensen is happy to keep the tradition of community alive and well on the KP, as he and his wife, Molly Swensen, move forward with this popular business.

Photo by Karen Lovett, KP News

(See Wine, Page 23)



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(From Wine, Page 22)

shelves were purchased to line the walls at that end to display a greater wine selection.

According to Swensen, moving the wine to the smaller end of the store gives the appearance of being in a cozier, more traditional winery. At the same time, it opened up the wider space to accommodate larger crowds. The fireplace is now in a more central location closer to the door. There is still an outside area out back for those who prefer to be outdoors.

He said the community of knitters are continuing to meet there and other groups are welcome. There is no charge for meetings on the premises, but attendees are expected to make a purchase.

Don Swensen said that plans for live music one Saturday a month are in the works, soloists or duos of local or possibly touring musicians. "Words and Wine" is expected to gear up again in the fall. He expects the shop will benefit from entertainment and increase the clientele.

Molly Swensen is president of Two Waters Art Alliance and there will be continued support for local artists to display their work, she said.

An abundance of talented artists living on the Key Peninsula guarantees an ever-changing view gracing the walls of Blend. Watercolors by Leila Luginbill have continued through the change-over, but another artist will rotate in following her.

Friday, May 16, Blend held a fundraiser for Evergreen Elementary School, a paella dinner. The three paellas took four hours to prepare out back on propane burners by four cooks: Ted Olinger, Scott Dervaes, Thaddeus Dickson and Phil Bauer.

According to organizers, three pans holding 40 servings were gone in 15 minutes and \$600 earned in donations was given to the school for prizes for children competing in a walk-a-thon.

Saturday, May 17, a chili cook-off took place at Blend. Contestants did the actual preparation at home and brought in their entries for taste testing. Past winners, Ted Olinger and Chuck West were the judges of this year's competition. Judy Rach took first place, Jon Buday came in second and Rob Vajko placed third.

Wine tasting will continue every Friday night from 5 to 7 p.m.

The shop is located at 8914 Key Peninsula Highway N, Lakebay. For hours and information, call (253) 884-9688 or visit blend-wineshop.com.

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Food co-op manager Holly Hendrick steps down

By Alice Kinerk, KP News

There is change at the top for Key Peninsula's Fresh Food Revolution Co-op (FFR). Holly Hendrick, co-founder of the business and a leader in the group from day one, has decided to step down from her position in order to pursue other projects.

However, Hendrick will remain a familiar face around the co-op and the Key Peninsula Civic Center. In an email to food co-op members, Hendrick wrote, "I'm not going anywhere; I'm still a member/owner and will be retaining my seat on the FFR Co-op board through the end of my term (October 2015)."

Hendrick was elected to her two-year term last fall after being on the provisional board since the beginning.

"At the October 2013 FFR board meeting, I declined the nomination to remain president of the board, opting instead to offer an historical perspective on the business' growth and development, and to advise the newly elected board members,"

Hendrick said. "After the board's retreat in November, I notified the officers of my intent to step down from managing the co-op and gave a May 1 deadline."

Hendrick has long championed fresh, local, organic food on the Key Peninsula.

Dee Hendrix, a food co-op board member at-large and owner of My Mother's Garden in Lakebay, remembers meeting Hendrick years ago at the short-lived Key Peninsula Farmers Market, which Hendrick managed from 2008-10, and says she will be missed. "Holly is a hard worker, and she works late into the night to see that the co-op is a success," Hendrix said.

Norm Brones, president of the co-op board of directors, expressed gratitude in a recent email to co-op members.

"As a co-founder and tireless force for the co-op, Holly was instrumental in creating this unique organization that benefits so many of us. Her efforts have been Herculean and it will take many, many volunteers to fill her shoes. We wish Holly the best in her new endeavors and know that she will be very successful in all that

she does," Brones said.

Future projects for the co-op include aligning with the state's EBT program in order to accept food stamps.

Donations from FFR Co-op member/owners have created a scholarship fund for members unable to afford the co-op's annual membership fee. The FFR also is creating a voucher program, endowed by the co-op's Amazon Affiliate fees, to supplement the cost of food for EBT recipients, thereby providing access to healthy, fresh food to more members of the Key Peninsula community.

Regardless of what the popular business chooses to focus on next, it is clear that Hendrick will be missed. "It will take a lot of volunteers to do her work," Hendrix said. "It's going to be a big learning curve for what she did."

"I volunteered over 1,500 hours to the FFR Co-op in 2013, so, in the immediate future I am looking forward to spending more time with my friends and family," Hendrick said. "I'm particularly excited to help my wife, Denise, expand the scope

of our historical costuming and embroidery business, 'Romantic Recollections,'" she said.

"It has been an honor working alongside everyone to launch and grow this wonderful local food business, supporting our regional food producers, and connecting with the greater food, farming and cooperative communities," Hendrick said.

Key Pen Parks recreation coordinator resigns

Jessica Smeall, who worked as the recreation coordinator for Key Pen Parks, recently announced her resignation in accepting a new position with Peninsula Metropolitan Parks District in Gig Harbor.

She was a staff member of Key Pen Parks from November 2011 to June 2014 where she crafted numerous partnerships within the community. Key Pen Parks and the community wish Smeall the best in her new endeavors with PenMet Parks.

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Caribbean music bounds into KP

By Connie Renz, KP News

The unmistakable, mellifluous, joyous, sweet sound of steel pans wafted through two Key Peninsula schools through the last Thursday of May.

The Limbo Fish, a steel drum band comprised of 40 fourth- and fifth-graders from White Bluffs Elementary in Richland, shared their talents with the students and staff of Evergreen and Minter Creek elementary schools.

The Limbo Fish visit areas of western Washington in even years, and for the last two visits have been in the Gig Harbor/Key Peninsula areas — playing at Artondale Elementary in Gig Harbor and Minter Creek in 2012.

The band is led by Ben Leggett, music teacher at White Bluffs.

Leggett has been a music teacher for 28 years, beginning in Buckley, and has been teaching with steel drums (technically called pans) for about 20 years.

The PTA, parents and students raised funds for two years to finance

their trip to the KP. On the first day, they did two performances at Yakima schools on their way to a Gig Harbor motel.

The drummers started their second morning with an hourlong performance at Evergreen. After loading up all their pans into the pan trailer, they boarded their chartered luxury bus, followed by several cars of parents, for a ride to the KP Civic Center to enjoy the playground and feast on pizza.

They had an afternoon performance for Minter Creek students and staff, including one song in concert with the Minter Creek Marimba Band. Leggett sent music in January to Paula DeMoss, Minter Creek music teacher, who taught her students the song. Leggett keeps the beat for the band by playing the timbales, a drum from Cuba.

The Limbo Fish played music from Jamaica and Trinidad as well as “La Bamba,” “Kiss the Girl,” “Clocks” by Coldplay and several others. Students were invited to participate in a limbo

contest, won by Eli Coen at Minter Creek.

After a lesson by Leggett about where pans originated and how they are made, the band concluded their performance with “Hot, Hot, Hot” while nearly everyone, including principal Ty Robuck, danced in a very long conga line. When asked what he thought about the Limbo Fish performance, Robuck stated, “We will have them back!”

The group unwound at Horseshoe Lake before having dinner in Silverdale. They performed at the Washington Veterans’ Home in Port Orchard before their five-hour drive home on the third day of their tour.

According to Leggett, at the veterans’ home, the staff and some of the Limbo Fish were moved to tears when a veteran, who had been almost comatose for several years, waved and clapped his hands to the music.

For information about the Limbo Fish or other steel drum bands, visit tesba.org.

KP Lions help with heat for those in need

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

During its 30 years, the Key Peninsula Lions Club’s Citizens of the Year Awards Banquet has occasionally produced a profit that has aided in providing eyeglasses to the needy, funds for the food bank and many other services of value to residents of the Key Peninsula.

Cost of the dinner has not changed in more than five years thanks to help of Lions and non-Lions volunteers in every aspect of the event.

In these difficult times, many KP families struggle to pay utilities. The KP Lions and Key Peninsula Family Resource Center have teamed up to assist KP families through a Lions contribution of \$1,000 to provide KP families in need utility assistance to prevent a utility disconnection.

Lions urge community members to join in contributing to the KP FRC or to PenLight’s fund for utility assistance, either as a lump sum donation or as part of paying electric bills each month.

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KP veteran receives overdue service awards

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

On Friday, June 13, Congressman Derek Kilmer awarded U.S. Air Force veteran Alex Graham honorable citations for his performance during the Vietnam War.

The decorations included the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, the National Defense of Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal and the Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon. The awards' ceremony took place at Graham's Key Peninsula home and was attended by members of his family and friends.

Graham employed his talents as a French speaker and various other technical skills while serving in Laos, Cambodia and Thailand during the conflict. His mission often required that he wear civilian clothing to blend into the local scenes. Much of his work was as a solo operator.

Thanks to the unique nature of his

work, his military records were a jumble, and indeed, lost. He spent years reestablishing himself as having served.

During the course of this, he sought and received the effective aid of Kilmer who proudly, but with difficulty, pinned the decorations on Graham's civilian corduroy blazer. Kilmer humorously remarked that "Next time, let's not use corduroy, OK?"

Thanks to the intercession of Kilmer, Graham's efforts to attain recognition that he initiated in 1989 culminated in his being awarded 100 percent disability for afflictions endured during his service in Southeast Asia.

His long, frustrating experiences dealing with the Veterans Administration inspired Graham to write a book that serves as a primer to other veterans seeking successful settlements of their claims.

Graham can be reached at (253) 884-3079.

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Out & About

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Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News

In June, Key Peninsula Big League played double headers against teams from around the Sound. Here, Adam Drage slides into home, avoiding the tag of a player from the Des Moines ball team.



Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News

The Peninsula High School class of 2014 celebrates during their graduation at the Tacoma Dome on June 15.



Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News

Where in the World...

Key Peninsula Little League coach Vincent Sheets and his issue of the KP News take in a May 3 ball game at storied Fenway Park in Boston, Mass.

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Summer's on its way, bringing colorful sunsets as shown here during a June 7 "Words and Music" concert at Jerry and Pam Libstaff's Vaughn home.

Left: Key Peninsula residents Frank and Colleen Slater present scholarships from the Key Singers and KP Historical Society to Peninsula High School seniors Lydia Bill, Chloe Ray and Kelson Mills.