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Man arrested after shots fired at Lakebay Marina

By Rick Sorrels, KP News

On Aug. 4 at about 3 p.m., some 30 law enforcement vehicles responded to a report of “shots fired” at the Lakebay Marina.

Responders included federal ATF agents and special teams from the Pierce County Sheriff’s Department (PCSD) that included a negotiating team, SWAT team, bomb squad and a dive team.

The incident was resolved with no injuries and one arrest, and the scene was vacated by 7 p.m.

“As normally occurs, the initial efforts were to gain control of the situation, eliminate any threat and start gathering evidence,” said Ed Troyer, PCSD spokesman. “Many questions remain with facts and answers to be discovered over the next days and weeks.”

Russell Beery, 56, was the person arrested. Officers reported that Beery appeared to have been living on his 30-foot cabin cruiser for a long time, most recently at the Lakebay Marina. The extent of Beery’s connections with the Key Peninsula was unknown at press time.

Beery was disturbed by noises at the marina, resulting in three shots fired from a



Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News

Evacuated crowds gathered around the Aug. 4 Lakebay Marina shooting incident — watching and waiting for something to happen.

shotgun with threats made, Troyer said.

The PCSD crisis negotiating team worked to have Beery drop his weapon, surrender himself peacefully and exit the boat. Mention was made of a bomb at that time.

Troyer said the bomb — inspected by the PCSD’s bomb squad and ATF agents —

was found to be some shotgun shells connected by wires to a Coleman fuel tank, a propane tank and a gaso-line tank.

“The ATF agents’ first impression was that it would not have exploded, pending a

(See **Shots**, Page 3)

Inside
Bayshore Garden Club adds color to Key Center
-- Page 28



Much to see and do at annual farm tour, Oct. 3

By Scott Turner, KP News

With its rural setting and open acreage, the Key Peninsula is a natural for those looking to live the life of a farmer. On Saturday, Oct. 3, many of those who chose the life of farming will open up their pastures to the general public so others can get a glimpse — and taste — of life on a farm at the ninth annual Key Peninsula Farm Tour.

But don’t think going on the Farm Tour will mean just seeing a bunch of cows and chickens — that’s selling the farmers on the KP short. The 10-12 farms slated for the tour this year run a wide gamut of products and services and stretch the very definition of what it means to be a farmer.

A favorite stop on the tour for many families is the PackLeader Farm, a dog-training facility to develop herding dogs

and conservation detector dogs (trained to find specific animals such as snakes or wildcats) — and the farm includes a training and trial facility.

During the tour, PackLeader can test visitors’ dogs to see if the animals have an instinct for leading, said Carolyn Wiley, president of the KP Farm Council, which hosts the farm tour.

New to the Farm Tour this year is Four Winds Riding Center, where the proprietors will be giving vaulting exhibitions and other horse riding demonstrations throughout the day.

If all that action proves to be a bit too much, visitors can take in Bea’s Flowers, Blue Willow Lavender Farm or Kaukiki Ranch, where sheep rule the day.

“There is a lot to see, so budget your time and prioritize

(See **Farm Tour**, Page 2)

News
News 1-3, 8-9

Sections
Schools..... 4-5, 10-11
Op-Ed Views 6-8
Community Pages 14-15
Community..... 12-13, 16-17, 20-26
Business..... 18-19
Obituary Notice 26
Out & About 28

(From Farm Tour, Page 1)

what you want to see, because it's hard to do the entire tour in one day," said Danna Webster, event coordinator for the farm tour.

The first stop for those on the tour will be at Gateway Park, where an information booth will help visitors to decide which farm to visit first. The Key Peninsula Historical Society will provide background information on how the peninsula went from logging to farming.

The second stop for most on the tour will be the fire station in Key Center for the free firehouse pancake breakfast that runs 8 a.m. to noon. With full bellies, the decision will be to head north or south to begin the heart of the tour.

Visitors can take in working farms such as Minterbrook Oyster Farm Co. to see the process of seeding, growing and harvesting oysters. And an always popular must-stop is the Trillium Creek

Winery, where visitors not only experience a working winery but can taste the end results as well.

"Kids like the PackLeader Farm and the old folks end up at the winery at the end of the day," Webster said with a laugh.

A must-see will be an event all its own, wrapped within the farm tour — the Fiber Arts Show at the Longbranch Improvement Club. The theme is Fiber Arts Threads Through Time, looking at how fiber arts have played a role in human history, from wool to thread to weaving; traditional to modern uses; and utilitarian to artistic.

There will also be live demonstrations of fly tying, an antique tractor exhibit and furniture building.

A couple of potential stops on the tour are still in the approval stage so visit the website at kpfarmtour.com for the latest updates, or pick up a tour map at Gateway Park the day of the tour for up-to-date stops.

The farm tour is run under the nonprofit umbrella of the KP Community Council, Wiley said, and remains a free, family-focused event, operating with an annual budget of \$10,000. Most of that goes to advertising and marketing the tour and to pay for incidentals such as signage.

"The money goes to pay for publicity, porta-potties, permits and insurance," Wiley said. The Farm Council accepts donations to help offset the annual costs and major sponsors — such as Angel Guild, Bruce Titus, Key Pen Parks and Pierce County Planning and Land Development — get their company names on the promotional material.

Tour officials keep track of visitors by ZIP Code and last year had more than 1,000 visitors from 44 ZIP Codes, Wiley said.

In conjunction with the farm tour, local residents and businesses are asked to create scarecrows to place along the highway for the Scarecrow Invasion in

Key Center Sept. 19. Another site may be selected if the Key Center sidewalk project isn't completed.

Prizes will be awarded to the best scarecrows based on a People's Choice ballot. For information on the Scarecrow Invasion, call Kathy Bauer at (253) 884-1592.

The KP Farm Tour Art Show will take place at the Blend Wine Shop, Sept. 1 to Oct. 6, with an artist reception 5 to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 22. Contact Wiley by email at c.wiley@mac.com for information or to participate.

Visitors to the artist reception can then head over to the Key Center library for a Meet the Farmers event, 7 to 8:30 p.m., where many of the farm tour participants will be on hand to talk about their specialties.

All three events will serve to focus attention on the farm tour.

So be prepared to take in a lot. Just be sure to "go to KP Farm Tour time once you get here," Webster said.

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Staff and contributors: Ed Johnson, Alice Kinerk, Karen Lovett, Hugh McMillan, Ted Olinger, Colleen Slater, Frank Slater, Rick Sorrels, Sara Thompson, Jessica Takehara, Rodika Tollefson, Irene Torres, Steve Whitford, Dan Whitmarsh.

Distribution: Vic Renz, Connie Renz, Phil Bauer, Frank Slater, Bill Dietz, Kevin Reed, Bob and Mindy Wilkins
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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.

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(From **Shots**, Page 1)

more com-plete evaluation,” Troyer said. What motivated Beery and his intended use of the bomb were unknown at the time of his ar-rest.

According to Troyer, the dive team was a standard standby precaution to help recover a deputy wearing heavy bulletproof armor were he to fall off the dock or boat into the water.

An Information and Declaration of Probable Cause were filed on Aug. 5, citing Berry with threat to bomb property with firearms sentencing enhancement, and felony harassment with fire-arms sentencing enhancement. Both are felonies. The declaration cites threats against three vic-tims with the last names of Arvin, Parker and Renzo, along with an alleged threat to kill the vic-tims and to blow up the marina.

The declaration states that Beery was talking to himself in the back seat of the deputy’s vehicle while being transported, saying that “the New York crew was out to get him and that they were after his kids.” Beery also allegedly stated that “the community was full of socialists who had the government in their pocket, and that he wanted the FBI and ATF to follow up on his complaint because local law enforcement officers were corrupt.”

The declaration also states that Beery had an odor of intoxicants on his breath.

On Aug. 5, Judge Thomas Feltnagle found “doubt as to defendant’s fitness to proceed and there may be entered a mental defense,” and ordered an examination be conducted with a competence hearing set for Aug. 18.

According to official documents, Beery

was confined at the Pierce County Jail with bail de-nied.

On Aug. 6, Jerry Arvin and Gary Parker were interviewed by the KP News. Arvin and Parker were working on their boat moored near Beery’s boat. Neither Arvin nor Parker felt threatened by Beery’s actions or threats.

Arvin and Parker both say they recognized a person under mental distress.

“There was obviously a lot going on inside Beery’s head, which got to the point that firing the shotgun into the air was more like an explanation point to his frustration in trying to deal with his troubles,” Arvin said.

Arvin said he made the 911 call, because the shotgun had been displayed and because of Beery’s threats to blow up his boat and the marina.

On Aug. 17, an eight-page forensic psychological report was filed that found that Beery displayed “bizarre and seemingly delusional beliefs which would impair his ability to maintain a rational understanding of the pending proceedings as well as his ability to communicate with his attorney for the purpose of constructively assisting in his defense.”

At a hearing on Aug.18, Judge Feltnagle ordered Western State Hospital to attempt to restore competency for Beery, with a report to be reviewed at a competency hearing continued to Sept. 30.

Under Washington law, if competency can be restored, then Beery can be arraigned on the charges filed and proceed to trial.

At the Aug. 18 hearing, Beery’s attorney stated on the record that Beery believed himself to be competent, wanting to proceed to trial now, without further delay.

Mark Lindquist speaks at KP Democrats Club meeting

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

Monday, Aug. 17, at the Home fire station, the main speaker was Pierce County Prosecuting Attorney Mark Lindquist.

He was at a well-attended meeting sponsored by the Key Peninsula Democrats Club, which is open to anyone of any political persuasion.


Lindquist discussed a variety of subjects ranging from the pressures law enforcement officials face (thanks to reported alleged police excesses in other parts of our country), to the mechanics of his office’s dealings with the judicial system. He also spoke about the admissibility and non ad-

missibility of evidence in cases before the courts, as well as local issues — including reports of recall efforts by some citizens against him.

According to many in attendance, he dealt with all issues openly, professionally and succinctly and fielded questions for some 45 minutes.

The KP Democrats Club invites the public to attend these informative sessions the third Monday of each month at the Key Peninsula fire station in Home at 7 p.m.

For information, call (253) 853-2721 or (253) 884-3319.



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MARY POPPINS RESCHEDULED TO SEPT. 4

Due to an earlier rain cancellation

Craft activities begin at 7:30 pm, movies start at dusk at Volunteer Park.

Thank you to Peninsula Light Co. for committing to being the new annual sponsor of this FREE family event!

Thank you, again, to this year's craft sponsors: Goin' Postal of Lakebay, The Great Car Care Center of Gig Harbor and Jerry & Marilyn Hartley.




In July, we offered two unique and popular camps for kids: Fairy Camp and Carnival Camp. While we plan to offer those two camps again in 2016, we'd love to hear your ideas on what camps you would consider enrolling your kids in next summer. For more information on what we're looking for, visit the Camps page of our website or email recreation@keypenparks.com.

Key Pen Parks is a proud sponsor of the 2nd Annual Cider Swig - the Greater Gig Harbor Foundation Cider Festival from noon to 5 pm on Saturday, Sept. 26, at Sehmel Homestead Park in Gig Harbor.

This event supports the Lu Winsor Memorial Environmental Grants Program, which provides annual grants to area schools and organizations within the greater KGI watershed for projects focused on water quality, environmental education, watershed enhancement, parks and trails, etc.

There'll be family fun in the Kids Apple Zone and live music for all to enjoy. Tickets are required for, and you must be 21 to enter, the Cider Garden. For more details, visit www.gigharborfoundation.org/cider-swig.




The next Key Pen Parks board of commissioners meeting will be at 7:30 pm on Monday, Sept. 14, in the park office at Volunteer Park. Meeting agendas are posted on our website on the Friday preceding a board meeting. The public is always welcome to attend these meetings.

The Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District 2016 budget hearings will be held at 7:30 pm on Oct. 12 and Nov 9 in the Volunteer Park office.

Take the survey, pretty please!

If you attended the first-ever Fourth of July Community Hot Dog Social on July 4th, we'd love it if you would take the survey. We'd like to make this an annual event, but need your input! Click the survey link on our website home page before Sept. 30!



Are you a contractor, consultant, or vendor? If you are interested in doing business with Key Pen Parks, contact Scott at scottg@keypenparks.com.

The responsibilities of the school board

Editor's note: Because 80 percent of Key Peninsula households don't have children in the public schools, we wanted to provide an overview of our schools through a series. The first article provided a brief snapshot of the three elementary, one middle and one high school that serve our students. Articles on school funding and testing followed. This, the final in the series, describes the role of the school board, as a reminder about the board's role as the November election approaches. Questions and comments are welcome.

By Sara Thompson, KP News

In the Peninsula School District, students routinely outperform those in other districts. Principals sing praises for the quality of the teachers and support staff, and many parents are thrilled with what their children learn and experience. The Peninsula School Board, a nonpartisan group of five elected directors, plays a critical role in shaping the schools.

According to Chuck Cuzzetto, Peninsula School District superintendent, the major board responsibilities are to approve the strategic plan every four to five years (the current plan was approved in 2014), approve the budget and hire and evaluate the superintendent.

"The board sets policy," he said. "The superintendent and staff then implement that policy."

At a day-to-day level, the responsibilities include attending meetings that are generally twice monthly (once in July, Oc-

tober and December) and participating in one or two committees, which are staffed by district employees. Committees include audit, early learning, core 24 (graduation requirements), diversity, legislative issues and levy.

Each board director is elected to a four-year term. Voters cast votes for all directors but each director represents a specific district — this means that directors are responsible for all students but they also should be aware of needs within their own individual regions. (In some school districts in the state, all members are elected at large and represent all students, while in others members are elected only by those living within their defined region.)

Four director positions are open this year: Districts 1, 2 (the current board member moved out of the area), 3 and 4. A map is available online at psd401.net/index.php/board-of-directors/board-boundary-map.

District 1 covers most of the Key Peninsula; District 2 covers the northernmost Key from the Minter area and extends to Purdy and Canterwood; District 3 covers Rosedale and Maplewood; District 4 covers the Wollochet area and District 5 covers Artondale and Fox Island.

"The board sets the vision," Cuzzetto said. "We need strategic, visionary thinkers. Directors need to represent all students, to understand that needs can differ in the different regions. They need to care about all kids — from those struggling to the high achievers.

"Collaboration is also essential — with peers, community and partner organizations," he added. "And each director needs to be connected to his or her own community."

How does the work of the local school board fit within the context of federal and state legislation? In Washington state, unlike some other states in the country, school districts are not under the control of city or county officials. The Peninsula School District is one of 295 in the state.

According to the Washington State School Directors Association (www.wssda.org), Washington state's public school system is shaped by federal law, the state Constitution, state law, administrative rules adopted by the superintendent of public instruction and the state board of education, as well as by court decisions.

The state Legislature establishes general requirements and provides the money, which is allocated by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). The state board of education and OSPI adopt the more specific rules needed to implement the laws. Federal funding requires adherence to federal mandates — 5-10 percent of district funding comes from the federal government.

Within that framework, the legal language describing the school board's responsibility, from the Washington State Legislature website, is as follows: "... each common

(See **School board**, Page 5)

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KEY PENINSULA FIRE NEWSLETTER



E47 at Evergreen Elementary School

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In an effort to keep our community informed and up to date with fire department happenings we will be generating a quarterly newsletter. This newsletter will be available at local business areas on the Peninsula as well as on our Facebook page and website.

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Peninsula School District releases school budget for 2015-16 year

A small group of interested members of the public attended a community forum last month to see the proposed school budget for the coming year. Karen Andersen, chief financial officer of the Peninsula School District, presented.

The distribution of funds is very similar to past years — 80 percent is for staffing. The budget reflects an increase in income of about \$6.5 million. The additional money comes primarily from the increased funding from the state — the Legislature’s response to the Washington State Supreme Court’s mandate for adequate support of education.

Increased funding will support cost of living and benefit increases for staff, more training and technical support for district initiatives, funding of kindergarten to provide full-day, five days a week for all kindergartners, and a decrease in classroom sizes for grades K-3.

The district plans to increase outreach to all residents of the district, and rather than use newspapers as a communication mechanisms but plan to send quarterly newsletters to all households.

The last school levy, passed in 2013

with its cycle ending this year, will help to fund the kindergarten expansion, to cover capital improvements (there may be need for additional space to accommodate testing and classroom portables), as well as school buses (there is a schedule to replace old buses).

A committee is now meeting to discuss recommendations for the next levy, expected to appear on the ballot in February 2016. Nearly a quarter of the school budget relies on levy funding.

When asked if there is anything controversial in this budget, Andersen replied, “No. I think that the only thing that might be controversial will be the possible response of the Supreme Court to what the state Legislature has budgeted. For that, time will tell.”

A public hearing was held on Aug. 13 with the school board approving the budget as presented.

The slides from the forum are available on the district website at staticfiles.psd401.net/psd/documents/District/Budget/2015-2016Budget2015-2016Budget_Board_Budget_Forum_08102015.pdf.

Jerry Gibbs appointed to PSD school board

Jerry Gibbs was sworn in as the school board director for District 4 on July 30, replacing Harland Gallinger, who had resigned. Gibbs’ term will last only about four months, until the elected replacement is sworn in following the November general election. Gibbs is not a candidate for that election.

Gibbs chaired the committee that opposed the last two school levies that failed at the ballot box.

Gibbs said, “As a school board member, I hope to influence next year’s schools budget currently under consideration, and also plans for the school levy that the board is considering for vote in the spring of 2016.”

(From **School board**, Page 4)

school district board of directors shall be vested with the final responsibility for the setting of policies ensuring quality in the content and extent of its educational program and that such program provide students with the opportunity to achieve those skills which are generally recognized as requisite to learning.”

Those policies cover such areas as establishing an evaluation process of the superintendent and other staff, providing information to the local community, determining of the number of instructional hours necessary,

establishing curriculum standards and evaluating teaching materials.

Three candidates ran in districts 1 and 4 for the primary election, and results narrowed the race to two in each district. On the ballot in November are:

District 1: Marcia Harris and Matthew Wilkinson (incumbent)

District 2: Deborah Krishnadasan, unopposed for the remaining two years of the term

District 3: GERALYN (Lyn) McClendon and Rand Wilhelmsen (incumbent)

District 4: Leslie Harbaugh and Garth Jackson



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Peninsula Views

Because parks matter

Several years ago, Park Commission President Greg Anglemyer was approached by parks supporter Nancy Lind with the question, "Is there a way to leave property

to parks and have the district keep it in its natural state?"

Not really. Land deeded to the district might not be used for athletic fields but its use would depend on the needs of the community.

There must be a way, thought Anglemyer. Research showed that other districts used a foundation that could take title and hold the land as a public trust. So he and I (being the vice-president) recruited Mike Hays and asked him to figure out a way.

Thus was the Key Peninsula Parks and Recreation Foundation born.

After much research, Hays, the foundation's first president, affiliated the foundation with the National Land Trust Alliance and saw to it that its charter met all the qualifications required by the alliance.

Now an organization existed that could do exactly what Lind had asked. Property could be donated to the foundation and held in perpetuity as a nature preserve. No park district official or em-

William I. Trandum
Winds, Tides & Weathers



ployee has a foundation vote. It is a totally independent organization.

Sadly, following Lind's death, other arrangements for her property prevented its donation to the foundation. But she is fully deserving of credit for instigating the actions that brought the foundation into existence. And today, another property owner who wishes to remain anonymous has approached the foundation about preserving his property, just as Nancy Lind had envisioned.

Hays retired from the presidency when he moved away from the Key Peninsula. Today, the seven-person, volunteer board is headed by Taylor Bay resident Susan Quigley.

The foundation exists to help the park district and to aid local citizens who want to preserve their land. Donated foundation money most often is used to provide 50 percent scholarships for Key Pen kids whose families can't afford fees for parks activities.

(See **Trandum**, Page 8)

Fences and nails as a metaphor for living

There was once a boy who lived with his father. Daily the boy felt upset and angry and lost his temper. The boy felt alone, scared, disoriented and at times simply needed to test the boundaries of the system he was in.

The father had tried everything he knew to correct the boy. Finally one day when the boy came home, his father asked if he had lost his temper and when he said he had, his father gave him a nail and said to drive it into the fence.

Every day for weeks when the boy lost his temper, his father gave him another nail and had him drive it into the fence. Finally the boy learned to control his temper and one day came home without a report of losing his temper. The father instructed the boy to pull a nail from the fence.

For every day thereafter, the boy controlled his temper and the father told him to pull a single nail. The day came when the boy had pulled the last nail. The father then told the boy, "Look at the fence" and the boy noticed that for every nail he had driven, there was still a hole in the fence. His father explained that even though he had learned to control his anger, simply pulling the nails he had driven in anger was not enough.

This story has been a moral for many people in treatment and has helped to demonstrate the boundaries of respect, communication and value that is our personal

Chad Beaver
Guest columnist



fence with which we surround our family and loved ones. Even as we have built these fences strong and stable, as we lose our temper and make choices that drive nails into these fences, we create holes that cannot be fixed by simple changes in our behavior.

We continually strive to build a structure of safety and security around our loved ones; however, simple acts can create gaps in our communication, mistrust and troubled family dynamics. When we yell, scream, hit and handle our emotional turmoil in a manner that is inappropriate and harmful, we create holes in the feelings of trust, intimacy and love; ironically these feelings are often the very things that cause us to lose our temper and feel the stress in the first place.

Understand that in our life, we are both the parent and the child, the student and the master. In our actions, we both build fences and drive holes. Fences can be mended and families can be rebuilt. Being able to examine these patterns and find ways to repair our fences is the key to happiness.

Chad Beaver is a licensed mental health professional and can be contacted at Key Peninsula Counseling Center at (253) 884-3644.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thank you for an informative article

Dear Editor,

We from the Pierce County Public Information Committee would like to pass along a note of thanks for Karen Lovett's July article about Alcoholics Anonymous.

When I first read your article, I was impressed about the truth and honesty of the article. As a recovering alcoholic and a member of this information com-

mittee, I brought the article to our July meeting in Tacoma for them to read and get approval and group conscience to send this to you. It was approved.

It makes our job easier to get the message out to the problem drinkers.

Thanks again.

Editor's note: Name changed for privacy.

Letters Policy

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

Do teachers work summers? Some say yes — others no

The real answer — and I'm a teacher — is yes. And no. Teachers work very hard when school is in session and a lot less hard when it isn't.

**Alice Kinerk
Farm Facts**



Robin Wilks, a custodian at Minter Creek Elementary, thinks teachers deserve the vacation time they get. "I know teachers are here more hours than they are paid for during the school year, so summer break is their only chance to have any personal time with their family," Wilks said.

I know that's true for me. I usually come home from work and immediately flop down on the couch with a cup of tea, so I gave myself one job during the summer of 2015, and that was to enjoy it as much as possible.

In doing, so I played Scrabble with my husband, baked a few pies, hosted visiting relatives, rigged up a slip-and-slide for my kids with plastic sheeting and a garden hose, and in general just relaxed and did the things that make me happy.

Because I am a teacher, one of the things that makes me happy is daydreaming about the new school year, and so that is another thing I did this summer.

This daydreaming took many forms. I clicked through classroom decorating ideas on Pinterest. I read a few of the novels my students are always asking me to read aloud. I researched classroom-organization tips.

But I did more than just daydreaming. For one, there was the task of packing up each and every item in my classroom and hauling it out to my new room in the portables, my part in the process of creating additional teaching spaces within Minter Creek Elementary School. Moving is hot, sweaty work and by chance, I picked a hot, sweaty day to do it. I am grateful to our custodians for getting the heaviest stuff.

Also this summer, I spent multiple days meeting with other teachers at my school to preview PSD's new elementary reading and writing curriculum, Reading Wonders, and begin mapping out lesson plans for the first weeks. Optional work-for-pay

opportunities such as this are common within the teaching profession throughout the year, including summer.

Teachers also use summer months to learn. In late July, PSD's technology services began offering teachers a series of web-based trainings on various topics related to technology in the classroom. Previously, district technology trainings had only been conducted in person.

The new online meetings work well for teachers in summer, allowing someone on vacation to take part in training he or she might have otherwise missed. Ron Stark, PSD's assistant director of instructional technology, said "We are excited about 'Go to Training' because staff can join a session from anywhere and don't have to travel to a face-to-face session to receive the content."

By mid-August, I had my boxes unpacked, most of my classroom decorating done, and I was ready to begin creating the infrastructure for my incoming class. This includes everything from photocopying first-day documents to updating the links on my website to preparing my notebooks for collecting student data. These myriad tasks must be completed before teachers attend multiple days of staff meetings at the end of August.

Lastly, just prior to the first day of school, all PSD staff members gather at one of the area high schools for an annual kick-off rally. There are a few speeches, new teachers are introduced, and then the whole group joins together to cheer the upcoming school year. I love that. After a long, quiet summer, teachers come back renewed and ready for an incredible school year, and the energy in that cheer is inspiring.

Alice Kinerk is a staff reporter for the Key Peninsula News.



CIVIC CENTER

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New Heat at KPCC (and AC too!)

With all the record heat wave temperatures making so much news of late, it may seem odd to be talking about getting new components in our HVAC system—but we're excited none-the-less. After several years of coaxing just a little more work out of our old units, we have new heat pumps and a new furnace!

The various modules making up our HVAC system are all past the end of their anticipated life span and we have been working hard to identify the most critical components as well as a strategy for getting the job done. Like most not-for-profit organizations on the KP, the Civic Center operates on a very tight budget and replacing our entire HVAC system is well beyond our means.

During his term as our district representative on the Pierce County Council, Stan Flemming allocated funds for a grant to help us replace our two aging and deteriorating heat pumps and the furnace which services the Children's Home Society/Key Peninsula Family Resource Center offices (CHS/KPFRC). We are happy to announce that this portion has been completed; so whether you visit CHS/KPFRC, the Whitmore Room, or the Spanish/Library you will enjoy warmth in winter, cool in summer and comfort all year round. We also had enough funds to update the control mechanisms for the boiler which heats the annex (where the Office, VFW Room and the Museum reside.)

There is much more to be done to get our full HVAC situation updated and fully operational, but this has been such a wonderful first step that we had to stop and say, THANK YOU!! to Stan Flemming and to the Pierce County Council.

Thanks to all who made our first Ohana Luau & Parade a wonderful success! From those creative and fun parade entries, to the children's craft area, music, food, classic cars, raffle and silent auction, a grand time was had by all. The success of this event was due to the out-pouring of volunteers who donated their time and resources - thank you, thank you, thank you for your generous contributions!



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

Community Council receives grant for full-time director

By Sara Johnson, KP News

The Key Peninsula Community Council (KPC) has been awarded a \$150,000 grant by the Gary E. Milgard Family Foundation.

"The purpose of the grant is to build a first-class, healthy-community model — one that may inspire and benefit service organizations throughout the Kitsap Peninsula region," said Danna Webster, co-president of KPC.

About a year ago, the Milgard Family Foundation convened a group of Key Peninsula human-services leaders with a desire to make a significant local investment that would lead to cooperative and sustainable community improvement. They wanted to focus on increasing the quality of life for families in need.

The group included leaders from Boys and Girls Club, CHI Franciscan, Children's Home Society, Communities in Schools, Key Peninsula Community Services, Red Barn, KP School Bus

Connects and The Mustard Seed Project. They met monthly to discuss the optimal way to make a lasting, positive impact, according to organizers.

The group decided establish an infrastructure rather than funding ongoing or new services.

"Those at the meetings wanted to have a better way to allow them to collaborate, strategize and coordinate so that they can serve their communities without redundancy or unnecessary overlap," Webster said.

One model the group explored was that of the Rainier Hills Wellness Foundation in Enumclaw (rfwellness-foundation.org), which has operating for 25 years.

Because KPC is not a service provider and represents the whole community, it was selected as the supervisory backbone for the next steps, including the grant application to the Milgard Family Foundation.

According to the KPC application, if the incomes of those living

on the 70 miles of waterfront are not included, the Key Peninsula community is the poorest in Pierce County. More than 30 percent of the population is 55 and older. The poverty level of children in the schools on the Key Peninsula is double that of Gig Harbor schools.

The grant will provide salary and basic support for a community partnership director as well as funding for some direct services. It is for one year, with the possibility of renewal.

The first-year work plan includes: Building community leadership and engagement

Increasing direct services with a focus on transportation, hunger, and

health and wellness

Assessing and report community assets, needs and gaps

Creating a multiyear community action plan.

The next step will be to hire the director. A job description is available on the KPC website at kpcouncil.com.

Expectations are high, Webster said. "One of my favorite quotes is from Moms Mabley: 'If you always do what you always did, you will always get what you always got,'" she said. "The healthy-community model is an opportunity to improve upon the good work that our service agencies have been doing and increase the success of their programs."

(From Trandum, Page 6)

The foundation also raised money to help build the picnic shelter at the Key Peninsula Civic Center. But wait, there's a much bigger opportunity just ahead.

The district sought and got a substantial grant to help purchase the 39-acre property that will become Gateway Park and is seeking an additional grant to expand that park.

The district, following several public meetings created and approved a master plan for improving the Gateway property, which includes parking, restrooms, a trailhead to the 360 trails, an equestrian arena, a substantial children's playground, and on the additional property now being sought, two lighted soccer or other general-use fields.

The foundation has been asked to embark on a major fundraising campaign to help pay for those improvements.

Board members include Susan Quigley, Rob Home, Rosie Rosenbach, Maureen Reilly, Mike Hays and Susan Coughlin. The board presently has a vacancy likely to be filled by this writer, Bill Trandum. The charter allows for nine board members so the foundation earnestly seeks volunteers who feel called to help. Its website includes a link for volunteering, or contact Scott Gallacher at scottg@keypenparks.com.

Bill Trandum is a guest columnist for the Key Peninsula News and is just finishing seven years as a KeyPenParks commissioner, six as vice-president and chairman of Land and Improvements, and one as president of the commission. He has attended every meeting ever held by the Foundation as a nonvoting observer.

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Lakebay Marina closed following a complaint

By Sara Thompson, KP News

According to Lakebay Marina owner Mark Scott, Key Peninsula residents and local boaters have been thrilled to have the Lakebay Marina back in business he reopened the landmark spot in 2013.

This summer there was a setback.

Following a Beatniks concert in mid-July, Scott said someone called Pierce County expressing concerns about the pier. The county Planning and Land Services sent an inspector, who declared the pier supporting the café and outdoor picnic area to be unsafe. A barrier was erected and the café will be closed until further notice.

Scott had an engineer assess and draw up plans for the repairs. He said just a few of the 42 pilings need replacing at this time, but it is expensive work. The initial bid was for about \$150,000, and the county then told him that additional lateral support for earthquake safety would be required. Those plans have been submitted and he is awaiting

approval. He expects that the additional work will increase the cost significantly, and will also impact the historic architecture of the pier.

"It is frustrating," Scott said. "We were really just taking off this summer and I have been planning to steadily make the improvements and repairs that are needed. The café is really an anchor in this community and I want to see it here for many years to come."

He also pointed out that eight employees lost their jobs as a result of the closure.

When asked what his next steps will be, he said he will keep everyone updated on the Lakebay Marina Resort Facebook page. He plans to start a community-based funding campaign for the current repairs.

In addition, he is developing a strategy to get historic landmark status (at a local or a national level), which may help with future fundraising needs. Scott said that support with letters would be very helpful, and he will post details about whom to contact as soon as he has completed the plan.

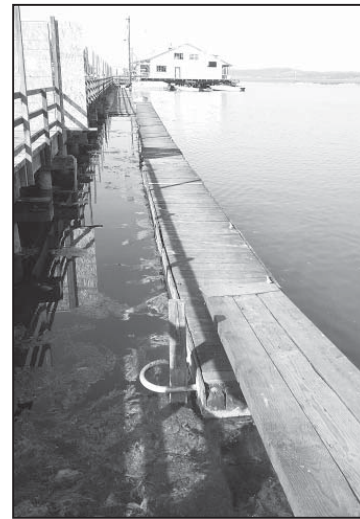


Photo by Xxxx, KP News

Following a complaint to Pierce County, parts of the Lakebay Marina are closed and in need of expensive structural repair.

Primary election results set ballot for general election

By Rick Sorrels, KP News

There are 454,124 registered voters in Pierce County, of which 21 percent cast votes in the 2015 primary election. Key and Gig Harbor peninsulas had a better return rate, at 26 percent.

The FD 16 fire levy passed with 55 percent of the vote. Fifty percent was required to pass.

The Pierce County advisory vote concerning the new administrative building failed, with 56 percent of the voters in opposition.

For Peninsula School District board Position 1, Matt Wilkinson will be challenged by Marcia Harris. For Position 4, Leslie Harbaugh and Garth Jackson will face off in the November general election.

The large field of candidates for the Charter Review Commis-

sion was narrowed to Martha Lantz and Randy Boss for Position 1, Brenda Wiest and David Olson for Position 2 and Katie Baird and Beckie Krantz for Position 3. Boss, Olson and Krantz are Gig Harbor residents; the other three reside on the other side of the Tacoma Narrows Bridge. Fifty-seven percent of the registered voters for Council District 7 who vote for these positions live on the Key or Gig Harbor peninsulas.

Fire department personnel are thrilled with the passage of the fire levy.

"Levy funds will not be received until April and later. An immediate effect will be to act to fill a recently vacated position," said Chief Guy Allen. "The pending possible downgrade affecting insurance premiums for the Longbranch and Herron Island areas can only be overcome if volunteers come forth that reside in those areas."

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Murals at Evergreen inspire hope, creativity and learning

By Scott Turner, KP News

When Evergreen Elementary kids and teachers return to school this fall, they'll have two new murals greeting them.

One mural is inside the staff break room, the other is on an outside wall and ceiling in front of the school's main doors.

Shortly before school ended for the summer, Tawnya McGraw, a Lakebay parent whose six children have all attended the school, painted a mural on a wall in the teachers' lounge. The mural depicts sailboats on the bay near Home.

She also painted a small watercolor painting (with a similar nautical theme) that hangs near the coffee maker in the same room.

"The teachers at Evergreen are so amazing," McGraw said. "My youngest kid, Jason, is going to be in fifth grade next year and when he leaves, that will be all my kids. So it's nice to give something back to the school."

The outside mural is the more publicly visible of the two.

It was created by Sylvia Wilson, an artist who did her student teaching at Evergreen three years ago.

Wilson is also the Artists-in-Schools director for Two Waters Arts Alliance and the mother of an Evergreen student.

Both McGraw and Wilson credit Beth McCord, the school's office manager, with spearheading the projects.

According to Evergreen Principal Hugh Maxwell, McCord came up with the idea for the murals. "We had a gray, blank wall



Photo by Scott Turner, KP News

Sylvia Wilson, Evergreen parent volunteer and Vaughn Elementary School teacher, poses by the mural she painted at Evergreen. It was designed to be an interactive project for students. The cost of her services were covered by a grant.

(See Murals, Page 11)

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Photo by Scott Turner, KP News

Evergreen Elementary School volunteer, Tawnya McGraw, painted a mural and watercolor art to help brighten up the staff lounge.

(From **Murals**, Page 10)

out there and the idea of doing a mural started to take shape," he said.

McCord, Maxwell and second-grade teacher Beth Porter decided it would be good to try to tie in the murals' subjects with some of the science taught at the school.

They brought in Wilson, who has a background in set design for film and television. Wilson sketched a few ideas and painted the background scene for the outside mural over spring break.

When school gets back in session in the fall, the students will start adding three-dimensional pieces to the mural.

"From the beginning, we wanted to be able to involve the students," Wilson said. "And we wanted the mural to be something that speaks to our natural environment and includes the natural features and creatures of the Peninsula — the natural elements from seashore and woods — and make it realistic and local."

So next school year, students will create 3-D insects, birds, bats, salmon and other creatures to add to the mural.

Each grade level will have specific art projects that integrate what the students are studying in science, Wilson said.

"For example, the first-graders learn all about the lifecycle of insects so they'll create insects out of copper and glass," she explained.

In third grade, Harbor WildWatch comes to the school and teaches about the lifecycle of salmon, so the third-graders will create copper salmon to live in the stream that's painted on the mural.

Two Waters artists will help the students create many different creatures that will be

added into the local habitat Wilson has created on the huge mural. All the creatures will be sculpted out of ceramics or copper or glass, Wilson said.

"Right now it's just an empty habitat, but when it all comes together with the students' own artworks, it will be totally magic," Wilson said.

Her goal is for the whole community "to experience what a beautiful and amazing place the KP is and how lucky we are to have Evergreen right at the center of it." "Evergreen really is at the center of a beautiful universe. The students and faculty and staff make it such a wonderful, magical place," Wilson said.

"The mural is just a byproduct of that. I can't wait to see it come to life with all the sculptures the students make."

Wilson is thrilled to be a part of bringing rich art experiences to the kids of the Peninsula, she said. "It's something they can take ownership of, which is so important. They'll get to look at it as they grow up. Even when they go into middle school, they can still come back and look at it and say, 'I did that,'" she said.

With all the budget cuts over the past years, small schools no longer have art specialists, Wilson said.

"So we as teachers and as a community need to bring art experiences to the students, whether it's in the classroom or after-school programs or anywhere we can.

"We need to try to integrate art into their education. There are studies that show that art improves kids' performance in science and in math and all of the STEM subjects. Art is important in all the areas of the curriculum," she said.

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Lakebay teen riding strong in competitive world of horse jumping

By Scott Turner, KP News

At 17, Lakebay resident Cadence Michel knows what she wants to do. Actually, she's known since age 11, when she began taking her horse-riding lessons seriously.

She's in pursuit of her dreams to compete at the highest level of three-day eventing — competitive horse riding that includes dressage, cross country and stadium.

The highest levels? They would be the Olympics, the Rolex or other 4-star equestrian events. She's currently competed at 1- and 2-star events. Even that is a point that few who compete in the sport ever attain.

"If she stays dedicated, she can be one of the top riders in the country," said Beth Ness of Starr Valley Farm in Longbranch. Ness is Cadence's dressage coach. She first met Cadence when she was 11 and just starting to take her riding to the next level and compete.

Like any athletic sport, it takes countless hours of practice, dedication and sacrifice to become one of the best.

And with equestrian events, it also takes a



Photo by Scott Turner, KP News

Cadence Michel, and her horse, Moose, have been competing together for the past four years.

fair amount of luck.

"You can invest an infinite amount of money and still the horse can get injured," Cadence said. "It takes years to find just the right horse and then years to get the proper training for the rider and the horse to get the timing just right. It's a carefully balanced mechanism."

The horse she is currently leasing is called

Moose, a Cleveland Bay thoroughbred out of Canada. The owner called up Cadence one day and mentioned that she had heard of Cadence and had an upper-level horse she could work with.

She was excited about riding Moose as he had more experience than the previous horses with which she had worked. "This was the first horse that could teach me something," Cadence said.

Moose will be going back to his owner soon and Cadence will again be on the lookout for an upper-level horse.

She's hoping to find a horse similar to Moose in experience so she won't have to start at the beginning with the training.

As for the dedication and sacrifice — she's all in.

"Fresh off earning her driver's license, she's behind the wheel of a truck towing a four-horse trailer with me in the back getting some sleep on a 26-hour drive to compete in Temecula, California," said her dad, Mark Michel.

She first began riding when she was about 5 and the family — Mom, Traci Michel, her dad and Cadence — moved to Lakebay. A guy who was clearing their property had a daughter the same age and she rode competitively.

"She (Cadence) got her first horse around 7, and we knew she had a passion," Mark Michel said. "It became more and more a priority in her life."

She began competing and focused on jumping. She has been competing on three-day eventings (competitors are called "eventers") since third grade. In eventing, day one involves dressage — roughly translated from French to mean ballet or horse dance.

The rider must take the horse through a series of memorized steps and movements.

The second day, cross country, "is why we do what we do," Cadence said. It involves a riding course in woody terrain with jumps, natural obstacles, bushes, ditches and shallow water. The run can take upward of 10 minutes to complete.

The third leg of the competition is stadium, which involves jumps over rails that can fall if struck by the horse. Points are deducted for fallen rails.

"There has to be a nonverbal, continuous conversation with the horse," Cadence said. "Every day, we practice making a special bond to make it all possible."

"It's a cutthroat sport," she added. She likes to use a quote from her jump trainer, Anni Grandia of Grand Farm in Vaughn: "The sport is the hardest because it has the highest highs and the lowest lows." A rider can win and then the horse can become injured and they are done, she said.

Cadence recently competed in a North American Junior Young Riders Championship in Lexington, KY, with two other riders from Washington state, Sophie Click of Sammamish and Madelynn Snoozy of Ridgefield. The three represent Area 7, which includes Washington, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Alaska. There are only nine areas across the country and only one team from each area gets to compete. The Olympic Committee looks upon the annual event as the Junior Olympics.

Cadence isn't even thinking of slowing down. She's going to California to train with Dayna Lynd-Pugh, a trainer with 40-plus years of experience working with Pan-Am gold, silver and bronze medalists.

Having graduated from the Tacoma School of the Arts, she's off to college in the fall at the University of Portland, but will continue her dressage and jump-training on the Key Peninsula.

"I've been incredibly lucky to have the support of my parents and having amazing coaches all my life," Cadence said.

"She's mature beyond her years and been so since age 5," Mark Michel said. "As parents, we're very proud of her accomplishments in SOTA and with horses."

"She's an incredible rider," Ness added. "She's intuitive and a natural rider. When she has the opportunity to have the right horse, her skills will flourish and blossom."

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'KP Logging Show' was a rip-roaring crowd pleaser

By Karen Lovett, KP News

Key Peninsula Community Services (KPCS) volunteers labored day and night to make sure this year's Aug. 15 KP Logging Show exceeded all expectations.

"We've been gearing up for this all year," KPCS Executive Director Penny Gazabat said.

"Because it's our second year at Gateway Park, things seemed to fit together. We're very fortunate to have Susie Donahue as the chair. We made a couple of adjustments. Parking is closer to the vendors and the vendors are closer to the logging show. The loggers are our partners. We couldn't do it without them," Gazabat said.

The Henningsen family of Belfair have been a cornerstone of the popular logging show for more than 20 years.

"I'm the one who keeps them all in line," Kerri Henningsen said. "All our drivers set up and compete. We brought our equipment in the rain, but it was dry when we were setting up. We enjoy doing the show, but it's a lot of work. People see what we do in a pleasant setting."

Kerri's brothers, Jason and Jordan Henningsen, were competing in events as well as being event announcers. Jeff Davis, their uncle does setup and competes. Niece Morissa and nephew Patrick take part in the family affair. This year Kerri's 8-year-old son Bobby Jute was competing for the first time in double bucking, a two-person handsaw event.

"We love having the logging show here. That's what this land is for, to be used by organizations that want to hold their events here," said Christina Hallock, Key Peninsula Parks marketing specialist and recreation coordinator. "It will be less complicated to have events here once it's designated as a park. Ingress and egress have to be addressed."

Doctor Roes and the Down Home Band filled the air with familiar tunes while everyone perused the 19 booths. Profits from the silent auction and rummage sale will benefit the KPCS Food Bank and Senior Center.

Key Peninsula Veterans sold raffle tickets for a red, white and blue quilt at their booth. The drawing for the patriotic quilt made by Roxyanne Wooldridge will be



Photo by Karen Lovett, KP News

Andrea Van Slyke and son Mike Van Slyke, 8, compete (for his first time) handling the two-man saw during the double bucking contest. They are fourth and fifth-generation members of the Key Peninsula family of loggers.

held on Veterans' Day. The larger than California-king-size creation took her more than one year to make. Raffle tickets are \$1 and remain on sale until the Nov. 11 drawing.

Karl Bonn was on hand early, cooking breakfast for the loggers and volunteers. Eric Donahue and Jackie Daigle manned the kitchen throughout the day, keeping the public and workers well fed.

"I had a chilly dog," Jane Allen said. "It was massive, messy and good. I didn't realize how much this logging show meant for fundraising for Key Peninsula Community Services and the senior center."

During the double bucking event (two people pushing and pulling at each end of a handsaw) had an unusual twist this year. Fourth-and-fifth generation descendants of the Van Slyke family, owners of Vaughn Bay Lumber Co., put out a good effort. Andrea Van Slyke and her son Mike took a turn on the so-called "misery whip."

Be it young or old, the popular event had plenty of fun for everyone. Six-year-old Olivia Wilson's favorite thing was playing Plunko and mini golf.

"This is our second year staffing a Gater, four-wheel drive," said Anne Nesbit, a Key Peninsula Fire Department volunteer battalion chief. "It belongs to a Gig Harbor paramedic. It's great for this park because it gives quicker access

to trails. We can handle any first aid and this keeps a fire department presence in the community. We've never had any accidents or major incidents at a logging

show."

"I'm really tired," said Brett Higgins, KPCS food bank manager. "We loaded up all the stuff for the rummage sale and food and waited out the rain to get set up for about 12 hours. Between tonight and tomorrow morning, it will be torn down and cleaned up. KPCS volunteers and families clean up. The loggers clean up their area."

"Everybody who donated to the raffle has been awesome," Henningsen said. "Mahnke Lumber also donated a ton of woodstove pellets for the auction and supplied a truck to secure logs. Big Bubba's in Alln also donated \$100 in gift cards"

"It went fabulous," said Susie Donahue, event coordinator. "The loggers put on a fantastic show. We couldn't do it without our sponsors, the Peninsula Light Co., Bruce Titus Automotive Group, and all the volunteers that make this happen. It's a great family event for the Key Peninsula."

Editor's note: Visit keypennews.com for a series of photographs from this event.

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COMMUNITY PAGES

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

NOW

ABE classes

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

NOW to SEPT. 22

Director position

The KP healthy community initiative has been awarded a \$150,000 Milgard grant primarily to fund the salary and benefits for a one year, full-time, executive director. The grant will also fund the costs of first-year increases in direct services to health and wellness, transportation and hunger for high-need residents. The director must have experience in community engagement and partnerships, program/service development, leadership, project and budget management, evaluation and reporting, and fund development. Deadline for applications is Sept. 22. Job description and application information online: kpcouncil.com.

NOW to OCT. 1

Directors needed

Six director positions are open on the Key Peninsula Community Council. Deadline for applications is Oct. 1. Applications are at kpcouncil.com, 884-2877 or see KPC ad in this issue.

SEPT. 3-OCT. 1

Job track

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

piercescountylibrary.org to reserve your seat. Class space is limited.

SEPT. 4

Movie night

Key Pen Parks Cinema Under the Stars showing of "Mary Poppins," originally postponed on Aug. 14 due to thunder-showers, has been rescheduled for Friday, Sept. 4. Pre-movie activities will be at 7:30 p.m. with the movie showing at dusk.

SEPT. 5

Benefit concert

The Friends of Pierce County Fire District 16 host a free performance by Puget-brass from 4 to 6 p.m. at ½ mile south of Vaughn Bay/east side of Case Inlet. Donations will go toward purchase of defibrillators. Access is by boat only; bring your own drinks and food. Send donations to PO Box 536, Vaughn, WA 98394 or contact taylorjwilliam@hotmail.com.

Labor Day Dance

The Longbranch Improvement Club hosts the annual Labor Day Dance featuring the popular Fingertips. The doors open at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available at the Blend Wine Shop, Sunnycrest Nursery and the Longbranch Marina for \$12.50 in advance or \$15 at the door.

SEPT. 7 and 21

Senior shopping

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

SEPT. 8, 14, 21 and 28

Bloodmobile

The bloodmobile is at Albertsons 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 8 and on Mondays the rest of the month.

SEPT. 8 and 23

Crochet or knit

The Loving Hearts group knits and crochets for charities and meets Sept. 8 at 1 to 3 p.m. and Sept. 23 at 7 to 9 p.m. at Way Point Church, 12719 13 th Ave. KPN. Yarn

To submit an event

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

donations are always needed. Virginia, 884-9619 or lovingheartsonkp@gmail.com.

SEPT. 9

Ashes meet

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

Garden club meets

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

SEPT. 10

Open house

The KP Toastmasters host an Open House called "Laugh Out Loud" at 7 p.m. at the KC Library. Gain confidence and learn new skills. 858-5761 or (206) 409-7890.

SEPT. 12

Mega reunion

The first dozen classes of Peninsula High School hold their annual "Mega Reunion" at Gig Harbor Eagles, 4425 Burnham Drive, starting at 6 p.m. No food is served, no cover charge, donations offered for the use of the facility will be appreciated. 858-6901.

SEPT. 14

Youth groups begin

Lakebay Community Church's youth groups fall activities are every Monday from 6:30 to 8:15 p.m. All youth in middle school and high school are invited to join for games, music and activities. The fall theme is SHIFTING our lives to live better for Christ. Lakebay Community Church is at 11 Cornwall Road KP S. Gene, (253) 355-8635.

SEPT. 17

Community forum

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

SEPT. 19

Wrestling

NW Pro Wrestling presents wrestling 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. in the gym of the KP Civic Center. Admission is free and the show starts at 7 p.m. facebook.com/NWPWrestling

SEPT. 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.

SEPT. 22

KP farmers

Meet the farmers participating in the KP Farm Tour at 7 p.m. at the KC Library. 884-9157.

SEPT. 26

Written history a la mode

The KP Historical Society hosts sales and readings of local author Colleen Slater's new book, "Peninsula Pioneers," from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Whitmore Room at the KP Civic Center. Music and ice cream are included. The museum will be open before and after the program. 884-3246.

SEPT. 29

Mustard Seed project

The Mustard Seed Project invites all interested to meet at Blend 4 to 6:30 p.m. with the project managers and architectural team as they begin concept design work on the senior housing project. Learn more about the project and give input to the team about what people living on the Key Peninsula want and need as they consider aging in the community.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

KP Lions' dinner, program
Sept. 2 and 16, 7 p.m. at Key Center fire station; 853-2721.

KP Veterans
Sept. 7 and 21, 7 p.m. at KP Lutheran Church; membership open to veterans and military service members and families age 16 and older. (253) 509-8656 or keypenveterans@outlook.com.

KP Fire Department
Sept. 8 and 22, 5 p.m. in meeting room, Key Center fire station; keypeninsulafire.org.

Key Peninsula Council
Sept. 9, 7 p.m. at Key Center fire station; Karen Meyer from Tacoma Pierce County Health Department discusses the KP community health needs assessment, which is used by both CHI Franciscan and Multi-Care.

Peninsula School District Board
Sept. 10, 6 p.m. at the district office.

Key Pen Parks
Sept. 14, 7:30 p.m. at Volunteer Park administrative office; public is encouraged to attend.

KP Civic Center

Association Board
Sept. 10, 7 p.m. meeting in Whitmore Room, KP Civic Center; 884-3456.

KP Advisory Commission
Sept. 15, 6:30 p.m. in VFW Room of KPCC. Hear a report on special needs transportation funding on the KP as provided in Ordinance 2015-24. Funding proposals by the public will be accepted. Toni Fairbanks, 253-798-7156 or tfairba@co.pierce.wa.us.

KP Land Use Advisory Commission
Sept. 15, 6:30 p.m. at the KC Library; Email: bigdswensen@gmail.com.

Longbranch Improvement Club
Sept. 15, potluck, 7 p.m. at Longbranch Improvement Club; 884-6022, longbranchimprovementclub.org.

KP Citizens Against Crime
Sept. 18, 7 p.m. at Key Center fire station.

KP Democrats
Sept. 21, 7 p.m. at Home fire station; school board candidates are invited to speak. georgerobison@centurytel.net.

KP Farm Council
Sept. 28, 6:30 p.m. at Home Fire Station; c.wiley@mac.com.

WEEKLY EVENTS

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

TUESDAYS
Key Singers Sing
Beginning Sept. 15, the Key Singers rehearse at 7 p.m. for an annual Christmas program at KP Lutheran Church. Annual dues are \$10 which help cover costs of music, rental and scholarships. No auditions required. 884-5615.

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

Preschool play time
Beginning Sept. 15, the Children's Home Society KP Family Resource Center offers a preschool/toddler indoor park program 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the KP Civic Center. Caregivers must stay with child. Drop-ins are welcome; stay for as long as you wish. A \$1/child donation is suggested. Tami, 884-5433.

TUESDAYS and SATURDAYS
KP Museum
The Key Peninsula Historical Society: "The Story of the Key Peninsula: Its Past - Its People - Its Places." Hours are 1 to 4 p.m. Tuesdays and Saturdays. No charge, although monetary donations are appreciated. facebook.com/KPHistoricalSociety or keypeninsulamuseum.org or kphmuseum@gmail.com. 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
Bingo
Free Bingo at the KP Community Services in Home 7 to 9 p.m. 884-4440.

MORE WEEKLY EVENTS LISTINGS ONLINE
See what's happening at keypennews.com

OFF THE KEY

SEPT. 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30
Waterfront market
The Waterfront Farmers Market at Skansie Brothers Park is on Thursdays 3 to 7 p.m. Join Harbor WildWatch for live animal touch tanks by the market.

SEPT. 3
Democrats meet
26th Legislative District Democrats meet 7 to 9 p.m. at Givens Community Center, 1026 Sidney Road, Port Orchard. All are welcome.

SEPT. 5
Run
The Galloping Gertie Run is held on the Narrows Bridge beginning at 8 a.m. Go to overthenarrows.com for information and

registration.
SEPT. 5, 12, 19 and 26
Classic boat rentals
Rent a classic boat at the Gig Harbor Boat Shop from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Prices vary. Gigharborboatshop.org or 857-9344.

SEPT. 10
Art walk
The Gig Harbor Art Walk is 5 to 8 p.m. in downtown. Gigharborguide.com.

SEPT. 12, 13 and 29
Bloodmobile
The bloodmobile visits Adventure Faith Church 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sept. 12, St. Nicholas Catholic Church 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sept. 13 and Peninsula Light Company

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sept. 29. Please donate to save lives.

SEPT. 18-20
Open studio tour
A free, self-guided tour of Key Peninsula and Gig Harbor area private artists' studios rarely open to the public is planned. Peninsula artists Gail Kelly, Brad Stave and Taylor Reed are participating this year. For detailed information visit gigharboropentudioutour.org or pick up a brochure with a map at various peninsula businesses and the library.

SEPT. 18-27
Play presented
Paradise Theatre presents "Into the Woods" Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. (253) 954-PLAY.

SEPT. 19
Chum festival
The Donkey Creek Chum Festival begins at noon at Donkey Creek Park. Gigharborguide.com.

SEPT. 26
Glass pumpkins
Enjoy an array at the Glass Pumpkin Patch at Uptown in Gig Harbor. uptowngigharbor.com

SEPT. 27
Marathon for soldiers
The annual Race for a Soldier marathon begins at noon and starts and ends at the Tom Taylor Family Y in Gig Harbor. Register at raceforasoldier.com.

Fiber Arts Festival returns during farm tour

By Sara Thompson, KP News

All things fabric are featured at this year's Fiber Arts: Threads Through Time, a show that is an integral part of the Key Peninsula Farm Tour on Saturday, Oct. 3 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The definition of fabric truly runs the gamut — from silk, rags and oil cloth to crochet and duct tape. And the range of fiber arts on display will also run the gamut — from traditional techniques to modern adaptations, from utilitarian uses of fiber to the purely artistic.

Eight years ago, the Longbranch Improvement Club was asked to open its doors and perhaps show a few quilts during the first farm tour. What has come to pass is a far cry from that initial request.

Twenty-four artists will display their work indoors. Outside, Creighton Cheney will show his willow-and-maple furniture and Fred Leenstra will display his antique tractors. The Girl Scout Troup 40956 will host Weave-a-Wikki — demonstrating how to use yard trimmings to build compost bins.

Patty Carroll of Longbranch is the featured artist this year. Working with fabric for the past 15 years, she now describes herself as “retired” but she still creates work for friends, family and special commissions. She shows her work at exhibits once or twice a year and in 2014 was chosen as a participant in An Occasion for the Arts, a juried exhibition in Williamsburg, Va.

Her path as an artist was a winding one.



Courtesy photo

Patty Carroll of Longbranch will be the featured artist at the Fiber Arts show held at the Longbranch Improvement Club during the popular KP Farm Tour, Oct. 3.

After starting a career as a nurse and then becoming a homemaker, she found herself creating costumes for her daughter in school drama productions.

“I had been sewing since grade school and took design classes in high school,” Carroll said.

She took a class offered by a shop in Seattle and, in her words, “got hooked”

on silk. She began designing silk flowers and fell in love with the flow and color that silk offered.

As time went on, Carroll began to incorporate ribbons and kept introducing new materials and techniques to keep herself and her customers engaged.

She saw soutache at a museum exhibit and was intrigued. It is a quarter-inch, flat

braid used to trim clothing such as matador costumes. Carroll said it took a year to find out more about it — she then took courses, started working with it and began to create jewelry, wrapping the braid around stones and pearls.

In the last year, she has expanded yet again, combining soutache with ribbons and silk into kumihimo, a Japanese form of braiding used in such things as samurai costumes.

Her creations are time-consuming. “You have to love sewing,” Carroll said. “I may work over a period of weeks on a given piece, considering the color and design.”

Delia McGinnis, LIC events co-chair; Robin Gould, LIC fiber arts committee chair; and Carolyn Wiley, Key Peninsula Farm Council president, all thanked those helping to make this show a success. They also thank the sponsorships of Angel Guild and Bruce Titus Automotive Group that make it possible to keep the event free to the public.

Fiber Arts will have something for everyone. There will be food including tomato bisque, corn chowder and Peg's famous apple crisp. Everyone is invited to enjoy the exhibits, meet local and regional fiber artists and watch them demonstrate their work.

“You may find the perfect hat, scarf, jacket, basket, rug or adornment,” McGinnis said. “Or maybe you will learn how to make a duct tape billfold, tie flies or build furniture — after all, wood is fiber, too!”

School celebrates 30 years of distinguished dolphins

By Jessica Takehara, KP News

The 2015/ '16 school year at Minter Creek Elementary will begin with all the usual exciting moments: making new friends, and getting to know a new teacher,

There is something extra special about this year, however. Thirty years ago, this school first opened its doors to students.

Minter Creek PTA and the school's staff are actively planning several ways to commemorate this occasion throughout the year.

At the annual summer PTA meeting, members brainstormed many ideas on how to involve the community as well as fund celebration events. These ranged from a tiled

mural highlighting student art, proposed by Minter parent Ben Warfield, to suggestions for pancake breakfasts and an '80s themed dance.

One of the first plans to kick off this yearlong anniversary fete is through the revamping of the school's Spiritwear. The logo will flash back to the original 1985/'86 design on blue, white and gray colors. Shirts and sweatshirts were agreed upon at the PTA meeting, with the addition of beanies this year as well. There was also the suggestion to make sales available online for alumni who are out of the area.

Overseeing the preparation for all the fun and festivities is Maria Kusche, the event chair of the 30 Year Committee. To get the ball rolling, she encourages anyone in-

terested in helping to attend the first PTA meeting of the year at Minter on Sept. 10 at 4 p.m. Separate planning meetings will be held as the year progresses to discuss activities and funding.

Kusche also wants past alumni to lend their memories and stories. The committee is seeking correspondence via email and Facebook that relates to Minter's history, tell what you are doing now or share any special thoughts. Kusche really wants “the community to spread the word about meetings and start getting excited about this moment,” she said.

The PTA email is mintercreekpta@hotmail.com and the school's Facebook page can be searched as Minter Creek PTA.

‘Art Walk’ a feast for the eyes in Key Center

By Karen Lovett, KP News

Local artists and art lovers strolled through Key Center enjoying many colorful creations during the first Key Center Art Walk.

The art display was open to all Key Peninsula artists the evening of July 29. The unjuried show, as well as food and drinks, were free to all exhibitors and the public. Artists received 100 percent profit of all sales.

Paintings and weavings were hung in the library, adjoining medical building, Key Center fire station, Blend Wine Shop

and outside the Close to Home Espresso stand by the Food Market as well as at Sunnycrest Nursery.

A glittering array of intricate, beaded bracelets and necklaces were for sale at Blend. “It takes from six to 36 hours to make a piece,” Helen Roosa said. “I’ve been doing beads for eight years. I took every class and read every book. I used to teach classes at Gig Harbor Bead Shop. I get most of my beads from bead shows.”

Handwoven baskets and wall hangings were a testament to their creators’ expertise.



Photo by Karen Lovett, KP News

Barbara Bence settles in on a bench with her daughter, Virginia, left, to listen to music while taking a break at Sunnycrest Nursery during the Key Center Art Walk.

Approximately 300 works were on display including ceramic sculpture, pottery, drawing, photography, painting, weaving, beads, glass, baskets and woodcraft.

The reception, including food and wine, were provided by local artists in conjunction with Two Waters Art Alliance and advertisers.

The pleasant weather provided a comfortable atmosphere to sit and partake in refreshments and wander among flowers and shrubs and wide variety of artists’ work on display. Live music was provided by Purdy and the Spits.

Margo MacDonald and Taylor Reed

were the two collaborators in charge of putting on the show.

Danny Martin had a live exhibition across the Key Peninsula Highway near the espresso stand. His colorful totem poles filled a table while he demonstrated carving of a new piece.

“I started carving totem poles in 1986 and learned from Raymond Williams,” he said.

The hand-crafted ketch built by Frank Garratt was on display outside the Key Center fire station. It will be auctioned off later in the year, with proceeds going to Mustard Seed.

Bluegrass Festival a booming hit in Longbranch

By Karen Lovett, KP News

Seats were filled and some took to dancing on the parquet as the Coyote Hill Bluegrass band electrified the crowd, with sound waves reverberating inside and out the landmark Longbranch Improvement Club, on July 25.

Concert-goers dined on pulled pork sandwiches prepared by chef Oliver Coldeen and nibbled on strawberry shortcake while listening to the original bluegrass gospel sounds of the music.

Between sets of the featured band, Coyote Hill Bluegrass, pastor John Day joined two of his brothers, David and Daniel, to keep the music flowing.

The brothers grew up near Stanwood and sang about the Stillaguamish River. They were instilled with a love of music by their father.

“Father played a banjo-uke, and whistled and sang,” John Day said. “Mother forced us to play piano.”

Fifteen years ago, all three brothers started playing stringed instruments. Daniel lives in Oklahoma and David in Portland. They both earn their living as chiropractors, following in their father’s footsteps. John studied theology and earned his master’s degree at Western Seminary in Portland. He went on to get his doctorate from Dallas Theological Seminary. He came to the Key Peninsula four years ago to become the pastor at

Longbranch Community Church.

Every summer, the band hits the road for the touring season. They came to the Key Peninsula for a fundraiser for the church and the LIC, paying their own way including lodging. Tour expenses are paid by love offerings and CD sales, they said.

A silent auction and raffle contributed to the fundraiser.

The local-based Bluegrass Minstrels jammed outside until they took to the stage at 5 p.m. Other musicians, including bass player Joe Casalini from Seattle, took a turn in jamming with the band.

“I think the Longbranch Church did a great job putting it on,” said Dorene Paterson, a banjo player with the Bluegrass Minstrels. “The music was varied and the Day brothers played songs from their first CD “Prime.” It was a great day all around.”

The Minstrels played “Blackberries,” a song written by musician and chef Oliver Coldeen, who came out of the kitchen long enough to listen while they wowed the crowd.

Another local song written by Evergreen Elementary School teacher, Teri Hamon, was another hit.

The song was written for the school kids to sing at a school play, “Down Key.” The Bluegrass Minstrels had played the music for that event, and laid down a great rendition for the general audience at the festival.



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New latte stand offers hot, cold refreshers with family-friendly service

By Karen Lovett, KP News

Customers are rolling up in increasing numbers at the new Peninsula Perk coffee stand in Purdy.

Sean Watson became frustrated with inconsistency of hours and product availability at the coffee stand in Purdy. The Gig Harbor realtor, who also does a lot of sales on the Key Peninsula, decided to take action and open a new latte stand that would provide quality service and meet consumer demands.

Watson and business partner Dave Morris, also of Gig Harbor, worked on the project for one year. The custom building took six months.

They use a local roaster, Cutter's Point in Gig Harbor. Seven employees keep things running smoothly.

"We have a great staff," Watson said. "It's doing really well. From day one, I've heard how much the local businesses and customers appreciate having a family-friendly business. We have a lot of customers, serving at least 120 cars a day. Lots of vacation properties on the Key



Photo by Karen Lovett, KP News

Janice Talkington serves up conversation and hot or cool drinks at Peninsula Perk latte stand in Purdy.

Peninsula are a big factor in summertime. We have no problem with traffic."

Watson is involved with daily operation and does deliveries himself. "I am so

grateful for support from the Key Peninsula," he said. "People thank us for being here. I get feedback on Facebook and in person."

Want a cup of Joe?

Peninsula Perk is located in the Purdy shopping center. Hours are Monday through Friday, 5 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Sunday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"I've worked here since day one," barista Janice Talkington of Lakebay said. "I love this job. It's so great here. It's awesome. A lot of regulars we know on a first-name basis. They come from all over the Key Peninsula and Gig Harbor. Kids and teachers come during school. The kids get frappes and smoothies at lunch. Everyone says it's a great location."

"I used to work at Sodexo at Weyerhaeuser," Talkington said. "I ran the café and espresso bar. They trained me how to pull shots and make different coffees. There are usually two of us working here at a time. We interact with our customers.

(From Latte, Page 19)



Blues & Brews Fest

Key Peninsula Civic Center
October 2015

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Key Free Clinic expanding to weekly services in October

By Scott Turner, KP News

People with medical needs — or even someone with a medical question — will have an easier time getting those needs met and questions answered, thanks to the dedication of a number of medical professionals working at the Key Free Clinic located in the Key Peninsula Health Center in Key Center.

The clinic is expanding its days of operation from two times a month to weekly in October. Dr. Jessica Schlicher, who volunteers at the clinic and serves as its volunteer medical director, said the need in the community is growing — and the clinic is growing to meet that need.

“We see everything from arthritis, asthma, diabetes, blood pressure, sports physicals — all kinds of interesting problems from people who haven’t had medical care for a long time,” she said.

Schlicher also serves as the volunteer medical director, making sure the other volunteer doctors and nurses have up-to-date credentials, as well as recruiting new volunteers. Although the clinic’s volunteer list is lengthy, she said there is a core group of about eight doctors and five nurses who help see the majority of the patients.

Medical malpractice insurance is provided for free by the state for the doctors and nurses who volunteer their services.

The clinic is the brainchild of Dr. William Roes, who, with the help of his long-time practice manager Carla Cameron, got it started at KP Community Services in Lakebay. Within its first three

months of operation, the once-a-month clinic expanded to two Thursdays a month to better serve the number of people coming in.

Now the clinic is expanding its hours to 5:30 to 8 p.m. every Thursday, on a first-come, first-served basis “so everyone in the community can have access to a friendly neighborhood doctor,” Schlicher said. There is no income requirement for patients.

It takes a budget of about \$12,000 a year to keep the clinic open and Schlicher said the goal is to have about one year in reserve to help keep it stable. She said thanks to Project Access in Tacoma, St. Anthony Hospital in Gig Harbor that donated X-ray services and Costless Pharmacy that donates to the clinic and provides cost-effective medications, they can continue to provide free primary medical care to anyone who walks in the door.

She and her husband, Nathan, an ER doctor at St. Joseph Hospital in Tacoma, recently hosted a major fundraiser with 70 people at their home and raised

Need a check up?

Key Free Clinic will be open weekly, 5:30 to 8 p.m. on Thursdays, beginning in October. Current hours are 5:30 to 8 p.m. the second and fourth Thursday of each month. The clinic is located at 8903 Key Peninsula Highway, KP N, in the Key Professional Building, next to the library, in Key Center.

Phone: 253-313-5539

Email: keyfreeclinic@gmail.com

To donate, send to Key Free Clinic, P.O. Box 1095, Vaughn, WA 98394 or visit keyfreeclinic.org.

\$7,400 for the clinic. There was live music, food and a silent auction. The couple also started an online donation campaign and shared it with people they knew and brought in \$1,000 prior to the fundraising event. She said this was the first major fundraising effort for the clinic and they plan to do it again next

summer.

Schlicher, who works at Harrison Urgent Care in Port Orchard, takes her work seriously.

“The idea a child can’t play sports because their family can’t afford a sports physical makes me sick,” she said. “It takes me five minutes to do.

“Jud Morris (a member of the clinic’s board of directors) told me he has three rules in his life: No kid goes hungry; every kid is warm; and every kid has a Christmas, and that’s how he lives his life — it gives purpose to his life. That’s what it really stands for,” Schlicher said.

“A doctor who had worked his or her entire life in the medical field and still wants to serve people but on a part-time basis, can do so at the clinic. It’s a huge blessing in their life to come here and continue to have a purpose,” she said.

She did note that it takes some volunteers a bit of time to how they operate at the clinic.

“A new doctor asked me, ‘How long do you want me to spend with a patient?’ I said ‘As long as it takes,’” she said.

(From Latte, Page 18)

This is the best job I ever had, and Sean is such a nice person to work for,” she said.

“They’re real good community people,” said Jim Lince, owner of the nearby Gentleman Jim’s Barber Shop and Beauty Supply. “They have real good coffee.”

“Their coffee is great,” said Trevor Jones of Local Boys Fruit stand.

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

Community outpouring aids family following child's unexpected death

By Scott Turner, KP News

Sometimes, a tragedy brings out the best in the community.

When 12-year-old Kaela Dahl died suddenly and unexpectedly on July 27, family friends and community members mobilized to help her grandparents — who were her legal guardians — to provide both emotional and financial support.

Wauna resident Meredith Dinniman was among the first to action, as her daughter, Lilia, was best friends with Kaela.

"They were peas in a pod, yin and yang," Dinniman said of the girls. The two met on the first day of school in fifth grade at Minter Creek Elementary school, after the Dinniman family moved to the area two years ago.

"I first met Kaela at Minter Creek," Lilia, 12, said. "She sat next to me." The two quickly became inseparable. "We had sleepovers like every day," Lilia said.

Lilia moved on to Harbor Ridge Middle School in Gig Harbor while Kaela attended Key Peninsula Middle School, but that didn't stop the two from seeing each other



Photo courtesy of Meredith Dinniman, for KP News
Best friends Lilia Dinniman, left, and Kaela Dahl are seen here on June 14 during a high school graduation party for Lilia's brother, Zachary. Lilia and Kaela have been friends for more than two years, since the first day of fifth-grade at Minter Creek Elementary School.

Want to donate?

To donate to the Kaela Dahl fund on GoFundMe, go online to go-fundme/kaelamariedahl.

almost every day.

"(Kaela) was so intelligent, had an amazing sense of humor and was fun-loving," Dinniman said. "I loved her like my own daughter."

When news of Kaela's death began to spread, Dinniman spoke on the phone with Carolyn Dahl, Kaela's paternal grandmother, who was her legal guardian. "I asked how we can help. Can we start a GoFundMe account? She didn't even know what that was. After I explained it, she said any help would be very appreciated," Dinniman said.

Carolyn and Peter Dahl didn't have the funds to cover the funeral expenses, which initially came in at \$5,000, so Dinniman set up a GoFundMe account and

(See Support, Page 21)

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Mentors of the Month

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Reading Mentor
Hugh McMillan

For 27 years, Hugh McMillan traveled and served worldwide as a CIA operations officer with his wife, Janice, and sons Lance and Marshall. On retirement in 1978, he returned to the Puget Sound where he and Janice first met in 1950 at the University of Puget Sound. Among his many volunteer activities, Hugh has served as a KPPD Fire Commissioner, KP Lions Club charter member, Citizens Against Crime founder, Peninsula Schools Education Foundation board member, and photojournalist for the KP News and Peninsula Gateway newspapers. Hugh has been on the Communities In Schools of Peninsula board since its inception in 2000, and a reading mentor at Evergreen elementary for six years. "Seeing my students go from 'D' to 'B' in reading is all I need to feel useful to these kids. Every mentor gets high marks with me for being an important adult in a child's life."

Hugh asks you to, "Please consider mentoring a student with CISP. Ten years from now someone will say, 'Thank you for helping me read,'" says Hugh. "Nothing can be better than changing a child's life for the better!" We can't thank you enough, Hugh, for all your service to our community.
 — Communities In Schools



Math Mentor
Shawn Telsey

Shawn Telsey, a retired physical therapist who has lived in Gig Harbor over 25 years, has been a math mentor at Purdy Elementary for four years. At one time, she had six grandchildren at Purdy Elementary!

Shawn wants everyone to know that kids who need help with simple math are being turned away because there aren't enough mentors to help them. "The kids really need the help," she said. "Mentoring is fun and there is nothing to lose. Just give it a shot. I balance the mentoring work with a game, the kids need a little relaxation after the school day."

"I enjoy the kids so much, and now that my grandkids are teenagers, I really miss the kids," said Shawn. "Being a mentor gives me a chance to connect with younger kids, and I love it!"

We thank you so much, Shawn. Keep up the great work!
 — Communities In Schools

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Accepting applications now for Key Peninsula Community Council Directors

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- Key Center sidewalks, crosswalk and traffic signals
- KP Farm Tour, an agri-tourism project
- KPC & KP Land Use Advisory Commission Pilot
- Building a KP Healthy Community



Six positions open. Candidates must be 18 years of age and live or own property on the Key Peninsula.

Applications available on-line: www.kpcouncil.org by phone 253-884-BUSS (2877) and at the Logging Days KPC booth. Applications and reservations accepted until August 15.



(From **Support**, Page 20)

set the goal at \$15,000, knowing there were going to be incidental costs involved beyond the funeral expenses. The family held a private burial service on Aug. 7 at Longbranch Cemetery.

Within four days of establishing the account, she had secured nearly \$6,000 in pledged donations.

"There is still the cost of the headstone, miscellaneous costs, and the family is planning a memorial service Aug. 23 at Longbranch Improvement Club," Dinniman said.

She also started posting on Facebook about the fundraising and has been amazed at the response. "I started getting private messages from people I never knew. It's amazing how many people care about the community and how many people want to help," she said.

That includes Susan Mendenhall, Mindy Baxter-Wilkins, Marilyn Hartley and Sylvia Nord Wilson. The four founded KP Cares two years ago, and its mission is to address emergency-based or medical-based needs of people with fundraising or to help their cause, Mendenhall said.

The group heard about the tragedy and



Photo by Scott Turner, KP News

People rolled into the Red Barn last month as part of a community fundraiser for the grandparents of Kaela Dahl, 12, who died unexpectedly in July.

threw its fundraising expertise behind the Dahl family to organize a car wash and bake sale that took place in early August, hosted at the Red Barn. Children who attend the Red Barn helped with the car wash, as did Boy Scouts from Troop 220.

"We have the resources on our KP WA

page (on Facebook) to create an event such as this," Mendenhall said.

Sami Jensen, a volunteer at the Red Barn Youth Center, heard about the KP Cares connection and helped to facilitate the car wash to take place at the Red Barn. "Kaela was a classmate of my daugh-

ter, and I know her stepfather and step-grandmother," Jensen said.

She approached Laura Condon, executive director of the Red Barn, to get the green light. "I didn't hesitate one moment to do it," Condon said. "This is a very close-knit community and I felt this is something we should do."

Along with the car wash and bake sale, the daylong fundraising event included face painting (Lilia helped with that activity) and crafts and gift sales. Bake sale items also were sold at the Food Market in Key Center.

All told, the event raised \$5,311 for the family.

"The best part of this community is when something tragic happens, you find you're not alone," Condon said. "It's amazing how many people come out to support you."

"Kaela is worth all this and more," Dinniman said. "She was taken at such a young age.

"I just hope we can hold on to her memory, I want her to rest peacefully, and I want to be able to say goodbye in a good way," she said.

Kaela's best friend put it in the simplest terms. "I miss her a lot," Lilia said.

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Concert by the Sea to raise funds for fire department defibrillators

By Scott Turner, KP News

Friends of Key Peninsula Fire District 16 may be small in number — right now it consists of Bill and Petty Taylor — but their goal is lofty: to raise upward of \$30,000 to purchase new defibrillators that will replace the current department units that are aging and soon-to-be obsolete.

The couple moved to the Key Peninsula after Bill Taylor spent years working overseas in banking. They purchased their property near Vaughn decades ago with the idea of one day settling here, and built their home six years ago.

Being money-minded in his professional career spilled over into his personal life and he's always made a habit of supporting groups and organizations in whatever community the couple lived, whether it was in North America, South America, Asia, Europe or the Middle East.

"We looked at different alternatives for who we could raise money, such as the library, the Red Barn, the police or the fire department," Taylor said. "We want to do something that is beneficial for the commu-

nity."

After speaking with Fire District 16 Chief Guy Allen, Taylor said his mind was made up.

Taylor found out the department has a desperate need to replace its aging fleet of defibrillators (lifesaving tools for monitoring and shocking hearts into viable rhythms), four large units and a host of smaller portable automated electronic defibrillators (AEDs). Taylor said he found out the company that services the units will no longer be servicing them next year and one of the large units is already out of commission.

They aren't cheap to replace, coming in between \$30,000 to \$40,000 each, Allen said. He added the department has been unsuccessful to this point in acquiring a grant for the funding of the units.

To replace all the units in the district, he said it would be in the neighborhood of \$186,000.

"Mr. Taylor came to us and proposed an idea" for fundraising, Allen said. "Initially, I didn't know if he could pull it off, but he's a pretty determined guy."

What Taylor is proposing is a big band concert on the water, and only accessible by boat.

Want to donate?

To donate to the inaugural Benefit Concert by the Sea to raise funds for the Key Peninsula Fire District 16's need to replace its defibrillators, send donations to Friends of KP Fire department, P.O. Box 536, Vaughn, WA 98394, or make a donation to an account set up at Chase Manhattan Bank, account No. 992013243. For information and map coordinates, email taylorjwilliam@hotmail.com.

He has been successful in the past, he said, in South America when he hosted a concert on land to raise funds for an orphanage.

The county's many permits and questions made a land concert on his property unfeasible, so he decided to host a "water" concert where the band is on the shore and plays for an audience gathered on boats anchored nearby.

He has arranged for Pugetbrass, a British

brass band comprised of 25 musicians, to come to his property which has beach front along the east side of Case Inlet, about a half-mile south of Vaughn Bay entrance.

The free concert will take place 4 to 6 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 5. He will accept donations, but stresses the concert is free so people can enjoy the music. Taylor said he is aware they won't raise very much passing around a bucket. He hopes to raise the funds "inviting people who are particularly important donors to have dinner in our home."

There will be two 45-minute sets with a break between and the KP Fire Department plans to have its fireboat on display during the concert.

"That would be amazing, if it were true, that he could raise enough money," Allen said. "That would be \$40,000 savings that we could apply to other needs. We're not short of needs."

If the benefit is successful, Taylor would like to do this again next year, again to benefit the fire department. "I hope people have a good time," he said. "But this is a cause that is very serious and I hope people will contribute."

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KP resident sews, repairs leather products from her home in Home

By Scott Turner, KP News

Longtime Home resident Mary Hammeley has an unusual business.

She creates, repairs and embellishes leather clothing and makes other leather items at Mary's Leathers.

She started out in 1979 in Wisconsin, where she learned to do shoe repair. Later she had a similar business in California before moving to the Key Peninsula 20 years ago.

Today most of her work is custom jobs, primarily for motorcycle enthusiasts.

"I do patches, boots, chaps and bags, repair work, zippers, snaps — all on leather," she said.

"I go to motorcycle runs, motorcycle parties, motorcycle swap meets — and I set up outside, on site."

She also set up her booth at a recent poker run on the Key Peninsula.

"I've been doing it all my life and I enjoy doing it. I have a workshop in my house, but I'm out in the field on weekends," she said.

She can also be found at Harley David-

son dealerships in Silverdale and Tacoma and she's a regular at motorcycle swap meets and bike shows.

"I go to Monroe for a big bike swap meet every year, and there's a big antique bike show in Snohomish and a big motorcycle show in Ocean Shores," she said.

"And I always go to the Anacortes Oyster Run. They have 6,000-10,000 bikes there every year. There are always lots of vendors selling leathers or jewelry or whatever at those events," she said.

The outdoor season usually runs from March through September.

When she's set up at an outdoor event, Hammeley usually has her sewing machine, two tables full of patches and a table where she glues things on before she sews them.

"I also make key chains, lever and grip covers and tank covers for motorcycles and vest extenders that snap onto a vest so it can snap closed if you're wearing thick clothing underneath. Or if you've maybe gained a bit of weight," she said with a smile.

You won't find her at regular swap meets or farmers markets because, she said, there just aren't any customers there for her kinds



Mary Hammeley of Home, has been sewing and repairing leather products since 1979.

Photo by Scott Turner, KP News

of things.

Her prices range from around \$4 for sewing on a patch to \$45 or \$50 for putting new zippers in leather jackets.

She also replaces zippers in heavy-cloth work jackets.

Patches are one of the most popular items she sells.

"I have patches with skulls on them, POW/MIA things, lots of different types of American flags and military service flags and a lot of Second Amendment things," she said. "And patches with sayings on

them like 'Money can't buy you happiness but it can buy you a bike.'"

When she's not working with leather, Hammeley can be found tending bar at Home Port restaurant in Home.

"If people have things that need to be repaired, they can drop them off at the restaurant or they can contact me through my Facebook page," she said.

"I'm pretty proud of my work and I always try to do the best I can."

Hammeley can be found on Facebook, at facebook.com/marymcleathers.

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September 11, 2015

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Tuesday, September 29, 4 – 6:30 p.m.

Share Your Ideas About Key Peninsula Senior Housing!

Hot weather helps draw many to KP parade and luau

By Steve Whitford, KP News

On Saturday, Aug 1, citizens turned out for the the Key Peninsula's first-ever Hawaiian Days Parade and Luau.

Despite 95-degree weather, an enthusiastic group formed at the Key Center fire station and paraded down the Key Peninsula Highway en route to the Key Peninsula Civic Center, much to the delight of sweat-soaked onlookers.

Besides people, there were many unusual and gorgeous vehicles. There was the big blue bus, driven and owned by Mark Ambler, a vintage Jeep convertible, an antique Honda Goldwing and a very old tractor-thing. There was a float filled with musicians and a unique float from the Westwynd Motel and Suites. It depicted a motel room complete with a bed and children: Dominic, age 5, Ethan, age 9, and Tisa, age 11, as well as a float designer and a motel manager, Mandy Hale. It was later awarded for best theme entry.

One of the more exotic vehicles in the parade was Dianna Marcoe's yellow Frankenstein convertible, which is a composite

car made from parts from many different cars. Seated inside was grandson Giovanni, 7, looking very much like the grand marshal.

Many parade notables were out meeting and greeting folks. Megan Crane and Lexi Graham were expounding the virtues of Skate Night, an event for grades K through eighth that starts in September.

Zachary Smith, running for director of school district No. 4 was out "squeezing the flesh" and exposing his proposed platform that included community involvement, academic achievement and state fully-funded education. "I have five children of my own," Smith said. "Schools are very important to me."

Michelle Calder, District 26 State representative and her family were busy shaking hands and throwing packages of Skittles to her constituents.

Last but not least were Hansel the goat and Dora the sheep, who seemed not to care much about local politics, but were promoting the upcoming KP Farm Tour.

The luau was held at the civic center and there was something there for everybody. There were games and activities for the



Photo by Alice Kinerk, KP News

Rylee Brown, 12 and Amanda Verret, 8, pose with their farm animals prior to the beginning of the Hawaiian Days Parade and Luau in Key Center.

young, a raffle, an auction and a spirits garden for the adults.

The air was filled with sounds of live music and the aromas of luau food, which included barbecued pork, rice, potato and macaroni salad, chicken long rice, salmon rolls and fruit.

Intense heat sent many of people looking for a cooler spot to enjoy their meal. Food

preparation started the night before. Chef Dalbert Kahuli was busy at 10 p.m. seasoning the pork that was slow-cooked for about nine hours.

Kahuli, is a native-born Hawaiian who now lives in Auburn. Through large smiles, he said, "I've been cooking all of my life. I cook for the passion and for all my friends. It comes from my heart." Kahuli was ably assisted by Jim Harper, lives in Spanaway, and by Louise Sagapolu-Jones, a self-described Hawaiian transplant.

Spokesman Tracy Geiss, a Key Peninsula Civic Center board member, summarized the fiscal and physical results of the event.

According to Geiss, Peninsula Light Co. was the largest sponsor, which covered all the costs of the food and spirits.

"Angel Guild and local merchants covered other costs, including providing 300 bottles of water," Geiss said. "We sold over 100 luau tickets, as well as the raffle and silent auction event. We raised approximately \$2,300."

"We would like this to be an annual event, and we plan to make some improvements that will make the event even better," Geiss said.

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

Regional writers conference comes to Gig Harbor

By Sara Thompson, KP News

Words will reign supreme Nov. 6 and 7 at the Gig Harbor campus of Tacoma Community College. Write in the Harbor, a regional writers conference “crafted by writers for writers,” brings authors, editors and publishers to present to local writers.

“We have had writing classes as part of continuing education for years,” said Janine Mott, executive director, Gig Harbor Campus and Continuing Education, Tacoma Community College.

“It was time to do something cool. We have known for some time, based on the interests and requests of those attending our adult continuing education courses, that there is a tremendous interest in a writers conference. And now, after almost two years of planning, it is coming to fruition,” Mott said.

Maria Hays, instructor in written com-

munications, is the conference coordinator. She brims with enthusiasm as she anticipates the event. “We have a huge writing community in our region, organized at varying levels,” she said. “We wanted to take advantage of this, pull in people who have been teaching and have developed networks.”

“This conference will have general appeal — the focus is on general fiction and it is designed for both beginners and intermediate/advanced writers,” Hays said. “It comes after years of conversation with staff, writers and students at the Gig Harbor campus.”

Whatcom County Community College, with its Chuckanut Writers Conference launched in 2011, served as a model, according to Hays, and the staff for that conference was a valuable resource.

A Friday keynote talk by Garth Stein, author of “The Art of Racing in the Rain,”

will kick off the conference. On Friday there will be additional activities including a waterfront walking tour of Gig Harbor and classes. Saturday will be filled with an early plenary session — a master class with Garth Stein — followed by 50-minute concurrent sessions with a mix of panels, hands-on workshops and individual speakers. Appointments with agents will be offered for an additional fee (\$15 for 15 minutes).

Mott and Hays hope that this marks the beginning of a bigger vision. They would like to see Write in the Harbor become an umbrella to encompass all writing — song, poetry, perhaps nonfiction. And they envision quarterly workshops throughout the year along with the annual conference. Future conferences, depending on interest, might explore writing beyond general fiction.

Enrollment is open now, with early-bird savings through Sept. 15.

Two fee waivers will be available for TCC students who qualify. The conference can accommodate up to 100 participants. Registration is available at continuingedtacoma.com/write-in-the-harbor/.

POET SPEAK

KP poetry corner

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

Lesson for Black Dog

By Sandra Lea Rogers

In my garden I see the lovely Goldfinch
That same hue shines way beyond the fir trees

Gray squirrels scramble in the branches above

Scent from my flowers comes to me on a warm breeze

Two doe walk in the meadow below

Silent as a whisper in the air

No one but myself

Knows that they are there

Black Dog sitting out back of the house

Views the Buck just beyond the yard

She sounds a call of readiness

Then she realizes a chase would be hard

The fences are up she can't get out

The buck stands, stares her right in the face

She comes to me her head down

Sighs with a sound of disgrace

All I can tell her is, Black Dog

There is nothing I can do

You know all the animals here

Are as free as me and you

You must learn to like them

Learn to live with them around

You should enjoy their presence

Not howl that awful sound

One day you'll look forward to their visits

You'll enjoy them just like I do

The Buck won't taunt you like he just did

And you won't bellow the blues

The Osprey Chick

By April Myers

This year as the last A head peeks barely above the crest of the nest

You cannot see, but He is watching fiercely In every direction

This time for mamma Bringing food

But soon for you . . .

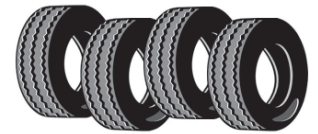
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ATA Black Belt Academy

James Kenneth Inglebritson

James Kenneth Inglebritson, long known simply as "Mr. I", fifth-grade teacher at Evergreen Elementary, died July 30 after a long battle with cancer. He was 64 years old.

Inglebritson was born in Seattle Dec. 12, 1951 to Barbara Utterback and Kenneth Inglebritson. He graduated from Glacier High School in SeaTac in 1970, and went on to earn a bachelor of arts degree at The Evergreen State College and a master of arts in administration and curriculum at Gonzaga University.

Inglebritson came to Evergreen Elementary in 2002, where he taught fifth-graders for nearly 13 years and earned a reputation as a hardworking, innovative educator who liked to play the curmdudgeon.

He wrote dozens of grants for literacy, art and science programs, giving students hands-on exposure to these subjects while exceeding state standards.

Inglebritson also raised thousands of dollars for Evergreen students to attend annual trips to Camp Seymour, the only opportunity many ever had for camp. He created a

"classroom economy" including a student payroll for work completed, income tax, leases for desks, bonuses and fines.

Inglebritson inspired and required students to engage in the world around them, whether by tutoring preschoolers every week, or using their classroom money to "invest" in the stock market, or encouraging volunteer service. Former students still



James Inglebritson

return to Evergreen reunions clutching the last of their Mr. I dollars.

Inglebritson had bus duty every morning for more than a decade, sporting his trademark sunglasses while greeting students by nickname and some wry, often pointed, encouragement. Nearly all Evergreen students got to know him as "Mr. I" this way, whether they were in his class or not. He even went so far as to refurbish the Evergreen Elementary School sign that still greets students today.

Inglebritson retired last spring after 26 years of teaching, less than three months before his death. He is survived by his wife, Olga; daughter Alia; son-in-law Wade; stepchildren Justine, Jeremy and Alexander; grandchildren Zerrick and Sophia; sister Tracey Dean; niece Danika and nephews Zak, Kolton and Jaxon. He will be missed and remembered by hundreds of students and by many more friends.

Larry Blackwood

Larry B. Blackwood, 71, died at his home in Lakebay on July 18, surrounded by loved ones.

Blackwood was born in Sacramento to Harvey and Opallee in 1944. Following his father's death, his mother remarried. Blackwood and his siblings were then raised in England, Alaska and California.

Blackwood joined the U.S. Air Force and worked as a military police officer until his retirement. Thereafter he worked as a mechanical engineer with the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard until he retired again.

During his retirement, he enjoyed creating fine furniture and planter boxes.

Blackwood leaves behind his third wife, Laverna; children from his first marriage Gary and Karen of Washington state; grandchildren Theresa and Jimmy of California, and Ria of Arizona; great grandchildren Eddie and Lidia of California; stepdaughters Juanita and Naomi; step-grandchildren, Amber, Shelby, Isaiah, Elijah and Nina; and stepdaughter in-law Sandy of Longbranch.



Larry Blackwood

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Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News

Glass and color mix during a recent sunset across Glen Cove.

Below: Recycled wagon doing duty as a flower bed on the Key Peninsula.



Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News



Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News

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Vaughn Post Office postal clerk, Jay Wittreich, and his wife, Clarice toured the New York and Boston, Mass., areas last May. Their trip included this stop in Sag Harbor, NY.



Courtesy photo

Flower baskets and pots greet drivers as they enter Key Center. The colorful art has been part of a beautification project started by the Bayshore Garden Club and supported by Key Peninsula businesses and other friends. The garden club crew pulled weeds and planted the pots in time for the Fourth of July holiday. Pictured are Bayshore Garden Club members Wendy Walker, Kathy Lyons and Tedi Spiering.

Bottom left: Picture-perfect sunset looking across Vaughn Bay.