



Spring is in the air ... and in the trees

Photo by Ron Cameron

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Lakebay Marina aims for April 1 reopening

By Danna Webster, KP News

On Friday, Feb. 26, Pierce County employees boarded up the entrance to Lakebay Marina for the third time in a year. Reports to Pierce County Planning and Land Use about the public coming through a security gate and using the dock resulted in the action by county officials and the sheriff's department.

"We are re-securing the dock for public safety," said Rick Hopkins, building official for Pierce County. "We are more than willing to work with him (marina owner Mark Scott). We just need proof that people can get out there and that it's safe."

It was not the first time the county took such action.

On July 20, 2015, the pier and building were condemned based on concerns about the restaurant structure, new finger float docks and moorage of people living on boats. With no pump out station or legal agreements required by the state, both the docks and liveboards compounded the difficulty of the owner's situation.

In late July, Pierce County Councilmember Derek Young worked with Pierce County Planning and Land Services to expedite the issuance of needed building permits in less than two days.

The county barricaded the dock entrances again Aug. 11 after learning the restaurant was still open and serving

(See **Marina**, Page 2)

Prop. 1 may decide fate of marijuana on KP

By Ted Olinger, KP News

The Pierce County Council voted Dec. 15 to hold a one-issue advisory-only election April 26 to gauge whether or not local residents want retail marijuana stores and growers to operate in unincorporated areas of Pierce County, like the Key Peninsula.

Clint Pipkin, co-owner of Herb N Wellness, the medical marijuana dispensary in Key Center, said, "Pierce County has already voted this in. The Republicans on the county council are calling for a redo at a cost of \$425,000, even though it (the result) is nonbinding."

Pierce County Councilman Derek Young (District 7), who represents the Key Peninsula, said, "Typically you have an advisory vote before you take action. We've already

(See **Prop. 1**, Page 4)



Photo by Ted Olinger, KP News

The marijuana store in Key Center could close by July 1.

Local teens arrested for alleged sexual assault

By Ted Olinger, KP News

Three Key Peninsula males aged 13, 14 and 17 were arrested March 17 for their roles in an alleged violent sexual assault on a 15-year-old girl at her Lakebay residence March 14. A 20-year-old man police believe was present during the alleged assault was arrested on an outstanding Mason County warrant for first-degree child rape, but was not charged in connection with the Lakebay assault at the time this report went to press.

According to Pierce County Sheriff's spokesman Ed Troyer, at least three males and possibly more attacked the victim in a shed behind her family residence. The victim's 14-year-old sister was present but hid herself to escape harm. The victim's family was in their residence at the time. Her mother found the 15-year-old later partially clad and seriously injured and took her to a hospital, where police were notified.

The assailants used the 14-year-old sister's cellphone to record and photograph the attack, according to Pierce County detectives. The assailants posted the results online through Snapchat instant messaging service, which automatically deletes messages after receipt. Detectives were able to retrieve the video that led

to the arrests.

The incident did not occur at or near Key Peninsula Middle School, but Principal Jeri Goebel issued a statement to students and parents that read in part, "Please know that even though the media has opted to set up near KPMS, we are doing everything possible to limit the disruption to our students' education... We have always and will continue to make student safety our number one priority."

The 13-year-old arrested is a student at KPMS.

A second school district employee not affiliated with KPMS said, "The statistics are real. Nine out of 10 times it's (the assailant) someone you know. Kids have got to learn how pervasive this is, not just here but everywhere, and how to avoid a potentially bad situation, and parents have got to learn how to talk to them about it before it happens." The employee spoke on the condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to represent the district.

"The victim and her family are going to need a lot of support from us and from the community, and, it may be hard to

(See **Assault**, Page 2)

(From Marina, Page 1)

the public. And seven days later, all required permits were approved and the marina was again allowed to begin needed repairs. Most recently, Feb. 26, after the county received a call about public accessing the pier, Hopkins, construction workers, and a Sheriff's Deputy arrived at the marina to board up the dock.

According to Lakebay Marina owner Mark Scott, the pier and the building requirements were completed Feb. 21 and he is hoping to be open for business April 1. "I've been breaking my back working on this since July 27. The pier has been ready for a long time. I just need to get the county to sign off on that and remove the gates," he said.

Hopkins said the county made a promise to Scott to help him reopen the marina, but a lack of monthly updates and lack of a letter from Scott's engineer caused the county to close the dock completely at the end of February.

From Scott's perspective, the county's on-again-off-again decisions seemed mean-spirited, though he noted the county has supported his efforts to register the marina as a historic landmark. "The county could have handled it differently. On one end they (landmarks

commission) were great while the other end (building officials) condemned," Scott said.

On March 16, the marina's application with the Pierce County Landmarks and Historic Preservation Commission moved forward. Pierce County Planner Chad Williams said the commission has some more information to gather and, if Landmarks recommends it, there is a good chance the county council will approve it. Successful applications give the owners the ability to apply for preservation funds for maintenance improvements.

Councilmember Young continues to support the progress of the marina. His assistant, John Jolibois, said Young "heard loud and clear from concerned constituents that they wanted Lakebay Marina up and running. Having grown up in the area, Derek knows this is a popular boating destination and helps the local economy."

Progress on landmark status and lifting of the recent condemnation was good news to Scott, but to reach his goal of opening the first of April he has several items to check off his to-do list: food permits, hiring cooks and servers, a redesign of his septic system, and a working alarm system. "There are a lot of moving parts," Scott said. "All I can do is just keep checking them off. I'm aiming for April Fool's Day, April 1, to open up. Let's see if we get fooled."

(From Assault, Page 1)

hear this, but so are the boys who did this," said the employee.

One local resident, who also declined to be identified, said the shed where the alleged attack occurred is known as a "party house" for local teens and was "a ticking time bomb."

"This hurts all of us," she said. "We need to circle the wagons and help the family. All of the families involved."


The youths are confined in Remann Hall Juvenile Detention Center in Tacoma. The 20-year-old is in Pierce County jail.

For more information on preventing or recovering from sexual assault, go to: sexualassaultcenter.com.

The Key Peninsula News will not identify the victim in this case or her family, nor will KP News identify the youths arrested unless or until they are convicted of a crime. The man arrested will not be identified unless or until he is charged in connection with it. KP News will not reveal any details of the alleged assault unless or until a criminal trial has been concluded and records are publicly available. Records in such cases are often sealed.

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KEY PENINSULA NEWS

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

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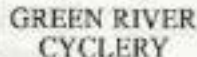
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The 2nd annual 360 Trails Poker Pedal will take place on Sunday, April 10 at 360 Trails on the Key Peninsula.

The 360 Trails Poker Pedal is a family-friendly, unique bike riding event where riders visit five to seven checkpoints, drawing a playing card at each point. The object is to have the best poker hand at the end of the ride. This event raises funds for further hiking, biking and equine trail development at 360 Trails in Gig Harbor.

Riders complete a moderately difficult loop of about 8 miles. There is an option to bike to up to two additional checkpoints for up to two additional playing cards.

Pre-registration is \$25 per rider, day-of registration is \$35. T-shirts can be purchased online. Check-in begins at 8:30 am. Hands will be played, prizes awarded around 12:30 pm. Register at www.BikeReg.com.

Additional details: www.keypenparks.com, click "Stuff to Do" and "Events"
Recommended minimum rider age is 10 years.

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Sunday, May 1 at Volunteer Park

Two seating times.
Tickets are \$15 for one adult and one child.

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Wednesday Walks with Walter

Explore three distinctly different KP parks during these FREE walk and talks with candid retired forester Walter Briggs.

Learn interesting facts about the amazing plants, trees and creatures in our area. Ask Walter questions you have about things along the walk, forestry, or even log home building.

Walks begin at 6:30 pm at the parking area of each location. This is a family-friendly activity; however, strollers are not advised.



- June 15, Rocky Creek Conserv. Area
- July 13, 360 Trails
- August 17, Maple Hollow Park

A tail-waggin' thank you to our doggie pals

Great times were had at the 8th annual Pet Easter Treat Hunt on March 19.

Thank you to this year's sponsors: Bayside Animal Lodge, Brookside Veterinary Hospital, Green Cottage Pets, Life Line Pet Nutrition, Mud Bay of Gig Harbor and Wilco Farm Stores.

And thank you event partners, KP Little League, Canine Health Education & Welfare (CHEW) and Olympic Bird Fanciers.

And we couldn't do it without our special volunteers: Jerry and Marilyn Hartley and the Easter bunny, Roby VanHouten!



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Republican Caucus held in February

By Colleen Slater, KP News

Pierce County Republican caucuses for precincts west of the Tacoma Narrows Bridge took place Feb. 20 at Chapel Hill Church in Gig Harbor.

Walker Allen, the Pierce County GOP 26th District leader, reported a lower than expected turnout of less than 200 people, including perhaps 35 from the Key Peninsula.

Attendees "were energetic and wanting to have their ideas put forward for the Republican Party platform," Allen said. "This caucus was the beginning

(From Prop. 1, Page 1)

repealed the local prohibition."

On Dec. 15, 2015, the council voted to lift the moratorium on recreational marijuana shops and grow operations in unincorporated Pierce County effective July 1, but also approved a special election April 26 for Proposition 1, asking voters living in unincorporated Pierce County whether that moratorium should, in fact, be lifted.

Councilwoman Joyce McDonald (District 2) added the special election to the council's vote to repeal the moratorium.

"This is about maintaining local control," said McDonald. Current bans in cities like Gig Harbor have pushed marijuana shops and producers into unincorporated areas that don't have local control, like the KP, she said. "It's like the cities are saying it's not OK in my town, but it's OK in yours."

"It's a last ditch effort," said Young, "but the law will remain the law regardless of the outcome."

If the advisory vote on Prop. 1 is "no," meaning against repealing the moratorium, the council would need to reverse its previous action and the county executive would have to sign off on it. "I don't see four votes (of seven) on the council to make that happen," said Young.

"I would like to hear from the people in unincorporated Pierce County," said McDonald. "Wouldn't it be rather difficult to ask them for an advisory vote and then ignore their advisory vote?"

In 2012, voters passed Initiative

of the 'we the people' process; 'grass-roots' as we sometimes say."

Marty McClendon, running for Lt. Governor of our state, gave the invocation and Linda Siegel, Pierce County GOP vice chair, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Miss Washington, Anikka Abbott of Gig Harbor, whose reign ended that day, sang the national anthem.

State Senator Jan Angel and state Reps. Michelle Calder and Jesse Young, all from the 26th District, each spoke briefly.

The county GOP platform was dis-

502, legalizing possession of certain amounts of marijuana for private use, though users can be arrested for driving under the influence or using in public. Licensed marijuana businesses can grow, process and sell marijuana in some counties if they follow state law.

Under that law, retail marijuana shops in Pierce County must have a license from the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Control Board, and other relevant county permits. Conflicting interpretations of state and federal law have created confusion among retailers, consumers and police, resulting in both lax enforcement and federal prosecutions. The federal Controlled Substances Act prohibits production, possession and use of marijuana in all circumstances.

The Legislature passed Senate Bill 5052 in April 2015, requiring all marijuana retailers without a recreational license to close by July 1. All medical marijuana dispensaries in the state will cease operations by that date.

Pipkin has applied for a recreational license, but may close even if he gets it because his store near the corner of the KP Highway and Olson Drive KPN is within 1,000 feet of a public library. "I'm 140 feet too close," he said. "But there are six different establishments that are within 200 yards of the library that all sell alcohol."

Pipkin and his brother, Todd Dote, have been running the business at its current location since purchasing the building a year ago. "I'm going to apply for a conditional use permit to keep my store open that's been there since 2010. My brother and I got \$300,000 in this

cussed in precinct caucuses, issues were voted on, and presidential candidate preferences noted.

Representatives were elected for the county convention at the Puyallup Fairgrounds April 9.

State delegates will be elected at the state convention in Pasco April 19-21 before the state presidential primary May 24.

This year the Republican caucuses did not vote for a presidential candidate, as the party believes a better representation of voters will come from the primary.

business," said Pipkin, including the now closed stores he operated on the KP Highway near 118th Street. Those stores will not reopen due to rural zoning restrictions, but Pipkin and Dote kept their staff of eight and employ them all at the Key Center store.

"I'm kind of on the fence," said Cindy Worden, who serves on the KP Community Council and is president of the KP Citizens Against Crime task force.

"I've never had a problem with medical marijuana," she said. "I've got a relative who used it with a prescription for cancer treatment and is still alive because of it." Worden does not consider the dispensaries a nuisance, she said. "You hardly know anything is going on over there at all."

"But you bring it out in public, now it's my business," said Worden. "How do we curtail the DUI aspect? What will the prosecution rate be? Now it's legal, what do we do with that?"

"In the bulk of the county you won't see (marijuana stores) at all, and there's really only one spot on the Key Peninsula that will work under the current zoning," said Young, if the moratorium ends as planned. "But there are people (on the KP) who do need this option, it's working for chronic pain or anxiety, even the VA is working with them. It would be a real burden for folks to have to go to Tacoma."

But if the vote goes against allowing marijuana in unincorporated Pierce County, it would be incumbent on the council to act, said McDonald. "I would introduce an ordinance that would assert the will of the people," she said.

Get ready: 'the big one' is coming

By Matthew Dean, KP News

The Pacific Northwest is a paradise in many ways. It's free from extremes of temperature, rarely subjected to tornadoes or hurricanes, and has a distinct absence of venomous snakes. This being said, the Northwest is especially vulnerable to one particular form of natural catastrophe: earthquakes.

A large-scale seismic event would collapse bridges, rupture gas lines, and destroy power and phone lines. It's entirely possible that a truly massive geological event won't even occur in the reader's lifetime; this being said, it's equally possible that a 9.0 magnitude quake might strike the Key Peninsula tomorrow. This is why local government and emergency services personnel recommend taking a few simple steps to be prepared.

One of the first steps in preparing for any disaster is to assemble a survival supply kit. This is a simple collection of essential items that could be easily stored

and used to survive a lack of food, water, or utilities in the event of a crisis that might last for days.

Pierce County Department of Emergency Management (DEM) Planning Coordinator Nicole Johnson recommends the following for a simple emergency kit: "Something for shelter (a tent or tarp), a first-aid kit, small nonperishable food items, a battery powered radio, basic hygiene essentials, flashlight, drinking water, a bucket, an emergency blanket, any current medications and duct tape."

Another piece of common advice, especially for families, is to create an emergency plan. Think about each step of your day and how it would change in a catastrophic event. Consider things like where to shelter inside your house, where to meet in case of separation, or how to contact each other in case of power failure and downed phone lines.

If you live alone or in an isolated area, Johnson recommends you "have at least three people who can check on you" in

case of a disaster.

In addition to an emergency kit and an emergency plan, reflect on your daily needs, says Johnson. If you are dependent on glasses or hearing aids, or rely on larger devices like an oxygen tank or other medical device, consider how to include them in your emergency preparation. Important legal documents should also be a part of your preparation, as well as some cash: "ATMs will be down, and money in small bills will be very important," said Johnson.

"In a major catastrophe, anything that's not a fire or major accident would be a pending call and we'd respond as needed, if possible," said Anne Nesbit, volunteer battalion chief and administrative assistant at the Key Peninsula Fire Department.

"Our guys probably would be forced to stay at the stations, either because they couldn't get out to respond to calls, or in anticipation of mass casualties. There'd be a general alarm for all volunteers to

come in and we'd get the word out to the public that you need to get here if you can," she said.

Staffed stations include Home and Wauna, and emergency shelters would be activated to receive the injured or people in need, said Nesbit.

The Key Peninsula Civic Center would be one such emergency shelter, according to KPCC board member Peggy Gablehouse, in coordination with the Red Cross.

"They bring the equipment, cots, food, anything they need. We supply the space and support them in any way they need us," she said. Local emergency volunteers would also be on-hand to support the community for logistical tasks from transportation to clearing roads of fallen trees.

For more information, go to: co.pierce.wa.us, and pep-c.org. For information about KPCC emergency volunteer and first aid training, contact kpciviccenter@centurytel.net.

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Peninsula Views

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

The Key Peninsula has been home to anarchists, millionaires and poet-loving loggers, and remains the summer refuge for whatever the opposite of a snowbird is. I have lived here a scant 12 years, and imagine I've met everyone that lives on this craggy finger of land at least once. But of course that's not true. We all lead separate and even solitary lives in private circles. Residents south of Home may have little to do with the northerners in Vaughn, to say nothing of Wauna. Those on the water may never visit the many who live inland, encircled by towering trees on land owned for a century, or in simple homes rented month to month. And who are all those people out there on Herron Island anyway?

But we do know one another.

We stand next to each other at the coffee place, at the library, at bake sales, fundraisers and funerals. We have worshipped together, served together, and fought one another across plates of fried eggs and gravy, over cups of coffee and glasses of beer. We walk the same aisles in the market, and the same trails through our parks, and all those other trails that lie beyond. We have stood to welcome the joining of families and the birth of new life, we have stood to join our voices together in celebration or protest, and we have stood side by side to bury our dead.

The KP News calls itself "The Voice of the Key Peninsula." Our

mission is to inform and entertain, and to support and create community by providing a forum for local information. We share 501(c)(3) status with the Key Peninsula Civic Center but operate independently. Your newspaper is a non-profit venture that pays its own way through advertising, subscriptions and donations.

But like so much of the KP, we do not stand entirely on our own.

This newspaper was founded in 1974 to say what you want said and what you want to learn about. That means the KP News is not the voice of the Key Peninsula.

You are.

You are a reader, subscriber, advertiser, volunteer or writer. We at the paper are only here to make your voice heard. Read the masthead to learn our names and if you'd like to see your name there too, join us.

I welcome your comments, questions, suggestions and complaints. You will always find me at editor@keypennews.com.



Ted Olinger,
executive editor

You can stop suicide

All you have to do is listen.

Most people thinking of suicide want to stay alive. They are instead struggling to live with the pain they feel and are looking for help. A decision to live is far more likely when a person at risk can talk

to someone who is comfortable with talking about suicide. The simple phrase "let's talk," wields power that must be learned and socially accepted.

Sadly, we are living in an age where people are growing further and further apart as we hide behind our phones and computers. We choose to build relationships through text

and express our opinions through the anonymity of Facebook. Instead, we must return to our roots and regain our compassion and empathy.

An admission of thoughts of suicide is not an end but a new beginning. However, it is

(See Nesbit, Page 7)

Anne Nesbit Siren's Song



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Retail marijuana

To the Editor,

I support retail businesses selling their product, although with marijuana sales my concern is the regulation of THC levels, and that it is still illegal in the eyes of the federal government. At this time there is no way to define if someone is actually driving under the influence that will hold up in court. I believe that the research was not thorough prior to legalizing marijuana in Washington State.

I am a chemical dependency professional who has to deal with addiction each and every day, working with people who suffer from substance use disorders that include, but are not limited to, marijuana. Overall, it comes down to the individual; there are people who can use marijuana responsibly and those who do not. Marijuana does impair a person's motivation and cognition, and can induce psychosis.

*Jeremiah Saucier, CDP
Administrator/Director of Crossroads
Treatment Center
Lakewood*

Jeremiah Saucier lives in Vaughn and serves on the KP Community Council.

Cost of health care

To the Editor,

The efforts to help Mindy Wilkins with her medical bills speak well of the community, but it might also be an opportunity for people to give some deeper thought to America's health care system.

As most people are probably aware, the U.S. spends significantly more per capita on health care than any other developed country while getting inferior results. Unfortunately we get hung up on the term "socialism" whenever the topic of single payer health care comes up.

Socialism is not communism. Socialism simply proposes that in some areas of a nation's life focusing on "we" rather than "me" is both appropriate and moral. We don't have to copy the European or Canadian systems verbatim, but if we really are "the greatest nation in the world" we ought to be able to come up with something a lot better than what we have now.

In a great country good citizens like Mindy Wilkins should not have to live in fear of financial ruin due to illness.

*Dick Schwartz
Longbranch*

Letters Policy

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Tides of change roll on

It was 1975 when I first stepped ashore on Herron Island. I've been here off and on ever since. I've come to realize this unique little island offered childhood Suzie constant stability amid frequent changes over which she had no control, and became a place of peace and security she had not previously known. Herron Island helped shape her into the person I became and it still holds my heart in its salty grasp.

Lieutenant Peter Puget was an officer in the British Royal Navy exploring our local waters under the command of Captain George Vancouver. Puget first saw the island treasure we know as Herron in May 1792, calling it Wednesday Island according to the English Calendar. (It was a Tuesday in America.) This jewel in Case Inlet, just offshore from the Key Peninsula, is just 1-1/4 miles long and 1/2 a mile wide. Wednesday Island later became Herron Island when the U.S. Navy's Wilkes Expedition charted Puget Sound in 1841. The name was changed to Herron to honor ship's carpenter Seaman Lewis Herron, not the lanky Great Blue Heron often seen along our shoreline.

But I was just a 7-year-old girl who rarely strayed from the cul-de-sacs of Puyallup the first time I saw Herron Island. I was the youngest of five in a large, busy family where

Sue Kingsbury-Surratt Insights of an Islander



my older siblings sometimes saw me as a hindrance. But on Herron, I literally dove into the nature that called to me as a new islander.

By the time I turned 11, I was driving my stepdad's Blazer.

My family started with a trailer and built our home over time. I combed the beach, dug clams and collected shells. I searched for salamanders in the woodpile and crabs under rocks. I climbed ravines and built forts in the trees. My friends and I jumped off pilings, floating logs, or from the giant rope swing on One Way Road, and never missed a chance for a good jellyfish fight. I hardly ever remembered to "check in" with my parents, and often walked home alone on brilliant starlit nights, along the glowing phosphorus waters of my island home.

I came of age on nature's stage. I cherish those days and am thankful for this place. I'll tell you more about it next time.

Sue Kingsbury-Surratt is the health technician at Evergreen Elementary School in Lakeway and is a cashier at Food Market in Key Center.

(From Nesbit, Page 6)

only a path to a healthy life if the admission is heard. People who are thinking of killing themselves often find ways to invite help from others, but these invitations are often missed. If it goes unnoticed, or ignored because of the taboo that shrouds suicide, we cannot move forward.

Suicide can be prevented. Anyone with thoughts of suicide should be taken seriously and we as a community must provide them with resources so that they may begin their journey toward a healthy life.

The Gig Harbor & Key Peninsula Suicide Prevention Coalition includes educators, parents, mental health professionals, social service providers, first responders and youth working together to erase the stigma related to suicide. Our goal is to make resources available to help depressed youth through a program that trains teens to recognize signs

of distress within their peer group.

The coalition sponsors a program called SafeTALK, a half-day alertness workshop that prepares anyone over the age of 15 to become a suicide-alert helper. SafeTALK-trained youth become an important part of suicide-safer communities by learning to connect peers with life-saving intervention resources. These young people are working alongside adult intervention resources to identify people at risk and prevent death by suicide.

You can save a life by listening.

For more information, contact 253-753-3013 or ghkpsuicideprevention@gmail.com. More is available at [facebook.com/GigHarborKeyPeninsulaSuicidePreventionCoalition](https://www.facebook.com/GigHarborKeyPeninsulaSuicidePreventionCoalition).

Anne Nesbit is a volunteer battalion chief in Fire District 16 and administrative assistant at Key Peninsula fire department.



CIVIC CENTER

Crab Feed Recap

Thank you all for making our 2016 Annual Crab Feed a wonderful success. From community members who attended and the very many volunteers - it wouldn't have happened without you.

Special thanks to: Barbara Heard, Melissa Stanton and Ellie Kravets for staffing the front door; Ruth Bramhall who has made our 50/50 raffle successful through the years; Boy Scout Troup 220 for helping with the heavy work of setting up, serving and cleaning up; Girl Scout Troop 40956 for serving and bussing tables; and last but not least a special thanks to Jena Henak, Carlie Schulz and Amy Shaffer who helped board member Pat Medveckus run the kitchen so efficiently. As always, the KPCCA board was front and center as the lead volunteer corps - Phil Bauer, Peggy Gablehouse, Sharon (Roger) Kaffen, Dale & Claudia Loy, Bruce Macdonald, Mark Roberts, Kat Wingers - *Major kudos to Bruce Macdonald who dodged weather and driftwood strewn roads to and from Tokeland getting our crab...*

There were over 31 individuals who assisted in our crab feed - a whopping total of more than 150 hours of volunteer time! Thank you! Thank you!

Livable Community Fair - May 7th - 10 am - 3 pm

Registration is now open for our 15th Annual Peninsula Livable Community Fair. Not-for-profit groups interested in participating, please call the Civic Center 253-884-3456 - the online registration application is available at www.kpciviccenter.org. This annual event is in conjunction with the Lakebay Fuchsia Society Plant sale - at the Key Peninsula Civic Center.



PARKS APPRECIATION DAY



The Civic Center will once again participate in Parks Appreciation day in partnership with Key Pen Parks. Grab your gardening equipment (shovels, gloves, rakes, pruners, loppers, mattocks/Pulaski's, etc...) and participate in this annual rite of spring here on the Key (April 23rd - 9 am-noon)

As in years past, we will be doing a general cleanup of the grounds, playground and tennis courts and all points in between. We have a variety of projects slated for the day that will make sure all are busy, - skilled or un-skilled. We'll match all skill levels. James, KPCCA caretaker, reminds everyone to wear appropriate clothing for the season, weather and work and to label any equipment you bring. Most of all, he asks that you all bring your enthusiasm, smiles and appreciation for our parks. Burn a few calories and have some fun, too! Extra Credit for Guys: This does count as a date!

Key Pen Parks will provide a hot dog lunch for workers at noon at Gateway Park.

Upcoming events at the Civic Center

Ohana Luau - July 9, 2016 The Civic Center hosted this successful grand event last year for the first time - complete with Hawaiian music and food on the grounds of the center - it's a fun family event not to miss.

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

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

WONDERS OF SPRING

Blooming Beauties

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SHRUBS - Rhododendrons, lilac, kerria, viburnums



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Content, context and corrections

Have you noticed that the national political split we see in the presidential race seems to rip all the way down to each of us as individuals? Makes for some lively discussions. One big thing this time around is this odd pride in not being "politically correct," or PC for short. The term originated in the Soviet Union as a compliment, meaning someone who was PC knew the party line. Now it basically means trying to say something without offending someone else.

Proudly stating that you or your candidate say things that are not PC seems like a false badge of self-perceived honor, because what's politically correct depends on who you are and who's talking about whom. In other words, context. You can always tell who doesn't understand this, regardless of their politics, because they will criticize lots of people different from themselves, and then howl like mad dogs when the slightest criticism comes their way. It also seems some groups are confusing "politically correct" with other ideas like "consideration," "respect," "professional behavior," and just being a person that can live with people different from themselves.

But nobody has a market on being PC. It's based on who you are and where you're standing.

It's so bad now that even the word "science" immediately divides the room like Moses parting the Red Sea, with people ready to froth and gnash their teeth over religion/atheism, evo-

lution, climate change, vaccines, birth control, reproductive rights and just basic medicine. Bringing up one religion or another has the same effect, as does criticizing religion. And you can see the same pattern with health care, opportunity, race, sex, sexual orientation, gun ownership and so on. We're so busy being offended and counter-offended that if we don't watch it, we'll slide to a point where we stop communicating at all, which can only lead to conflict. Perhaps violent conflict.

This obsession with what is or is not PC—or who is or is not PC—hinders our abilities as a community, nation, and planet to talk about important things we need to talk about, and even to prioritize what we should be talking about at all. Maybe we'd do better to consider our motives. Are we genuinely trying to figure something out, or are we just trying to justify a prejudice?

We'd all do well to ground our views in observable fact. What is true, what can be measured and proven as true, and what is emotion, hate, prejudice, fear or wishful thinking. Seems like the further away we get from reality, the more deep-seeded we get in being offended by those who disagree with us, instead of engaging with them to better understand their point of view, and therefore our own.

Kevin Reed
Here's Something



Mark Christel
Belfair
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Cannabis has potential to be a powerful herbal medicine

I was warned against writing this column. After considering the consequences, I decided this topic is too important not to write about.

After living through decades of the War on

Drugs, even though laws have changed in a majority of states, there is still a stigma attached to one of the most healing herbs on the planet: cannabis.

Cannabis was the most widely prescribed medicine until the early 1900s, and has never caused a single death. Before cannabis prohibition laws were passed in 1937, the American Medical Association stated the world would be denied a potent medicine if it were illegal. However, when the Marijuana Tax Bill was up for a vote in Congress, Representative Vinson blatantly lied by saying the AMA was behind the bill.

The AMA knew then what we are rediscovering now. Cannabis is one of the safest, most powerful healing herbs on the planet. It is known to help a variety of ailments, including epilepsy, glaucoma, cancer, nausea, stress, PTSD, migraines, anorexia, depression, arthritis and chronic pain.

I volunteer at KP Healing Center, a medical cannabis dispensary. I have met countless patients who have had success with cannabis. Local cancer centers routinely send patients our way.

One patient first started using cannabis for her incessant migraines. She also has a genetic mutation that limits her body's ability to uptake serotonin and dopamine, causing tremendous depression. Once she started using cannabis, her migraines were less frequent and she was able to experience her emotions for the first time, which made her more empathetic and less depressed than she had ever been.

Another patient of ours was diagnosed

Monica Rakowski
Living Close to Nature



with triple negative breast cancer, an invasive and aggressive form of cancer that is extremely difficult to fight. She ingested cannabis oil by mouth along with chemotherapy and radiation. The cannabis oil drastically reduced her pain during treatment. When the time came to remove any remaining cancer after treatment, her doctors were shocked to find there was no sign of it.

We have a large number of retired veterans who successfully use cannabis to help with their PTSD.

Many epileptic patients have drastically reduced the number of seizures they suffer from. Some have gone from having 10 or more per day down to one or two per month.

I have met many patients who have reduced the amount of prescription painkillers they take by using cannabis. Opioids alone caused over 165,000 deaths between 1999 and 2014. Cannabis has never killed anyone and can reduce or replace the need for opioids. Considering the harmful side effects of prescription drugs, it seems like common sense to use a safe, effective herbal medicine instead.

We have a genuine need for medical cannabis here on the KP. It would be a shame to force people already struggling with their day-to-day lives to drive 30 minutes or more to get this medicine. For this reason, I encourage you to vote yes on Advisory Vote No. 1 on April's ballot.

Monica Rakowski owns KP Indoor Garden Store in Key Center, and blogs at [the-naturelifeproject.com](http://thenaturelifeproject.com).

Call for writers

The KP News is looking for guest columnists and reporters. Columnists will write on a subject of their choice four times a year for one year. Reporters will write assigned news articles as their schedule allows. No pay, perks or benefits beyond representing your community in its paper of record, plus bragging rights. Send three 150-word samples by April 30 to editor@keypennews.com.



What will you do with the money you save?

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

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

- \$125 off your inspection.
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- \$125 off your riser installation.

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

To take advantage of these savings:

- Log on to www.tpchd.org/incentive
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- Call (253) 798-4788

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Tacoma-Pierce County
Health Department
Healthy People in Healthy Communities



In 2012, Washington voters overwhelmingly passed Initiative 502, legalizing recreational marijuana and state licensed marijuana stores. Unfortunately, politicians in Pierce County blocked the will of the people, costing taxpayers millions and driving profits back to gangs who sell drugs to our kids. Funds that could go to public safety are instead ending up in the hands of dealers and gangs.

It's time for a better approach.

"I'm State Representative Christopher Hurst. I spent 25 years as a law enforcement officer specializing in Narcotics and I know how to fight crime. Every week, criminal organizations sell drugs to kids and commit violent crimes like homicides, shootings, and home invasion robberies.

Now, as a voter, you can do something about this. We can stop violent crime and drug dealers

dead in their tracks by voting **Yes on 1**. Marijuana already exists in our communities. State licensed marijuana stores will protect us from crime, and keep drugs away from kids. Let's all fight crime together by voting **Yes on 1**."

- Christopher Hurst, State Representative, 31st District

Join us in Support of Prop. 1!

Chuck West, Battalion Chief

Derek Young, Pierce County Councilman (D)

Jesse Young, State Representative (R)

Cary Condelta, State Representative (R)

Javier Figueroa, Candidate for Lieutenant Governor (R)

Kelly Houghton, Former 26th Dist. Chair (R)

David Morris, Keller Williams Real Estate

David Olson, Peninsula School Board

Director/Pierce County Charter Review

David Sawyer, State Representative (D)

Larry Seaquist, Former State Representative (D)

Pam Smith, Rotary President, Former Law Enforcement

Rick Talbert, Pierce County Councilman (D)



Vote "Yes" on Advisory Vote 1

Paid for by: Alliance to Protect I-502 • 13005 Pacific Ave S. • Tacoma, WA 98444 • 305-298-8577

Top 5 Contributors: The Gallery • Natural Extractions • Top Shelf 420 • BMF Washington • Adam Smith

Follow the rules

A recent GOP survey I completed contained this question: "Would you support immigration reform that included securing our borders and a path to citizenship for some people living in the U.S. illegally if they would be required to learn English, go to the back of the citizenship line, have a job, pay taxes and pass a criminal background check?" A related question was, "Do you believe our government is doing enough to protect the homeland from future terrorist attacks?"

The phrases "secure our borders" and "protect our homeland" seem designed to incite fear and incline the respondent to choose the answer desired by the pollster.

These are all the Federal agencies that have immigration and integration responsibilities as of 2005:

- Department of Homeland Security
- Citizenship and Security Service
- Department of State
- Bureau of Consular Affairs
- Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration
- Department of Justice
- Executive Office for Immigration Review
- Board of Immigration Appeals
- Department of Labor
- Department of Education
- Department of Health and Human Services

These are all in the executive branch of the federal government under President Barack Obama. If the Republican Congress, the members of which swear or affirm that they will support and defend the Constitution (like the president) think our borders are inse-

Frank Slater
A View from Here



cure and our homeland is in danger of terrorist attack and can produce facts to support their case, then it seems to me the Congress is derelict in its duty if it fails to call the president to account. If they don't have a case, they should advise their party public information section to quit crying wolf because quite a few of us out here take them seriously.

The first question refers to a path to citizenship for persons here illegally who want to stay. I think they should know their obligations, rights and privileges under our law. They should be required to learn English, have a job, pay taxes, pass a criminal background check and go to the back of the citizenship line. Becoming a naturalized citizen includes an oath swearing, among other things, that "I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same."

The framers of our Constitution had much experience with, and a healthy respect for, the inroads a willful monarch could make on the rights of his subjects. They were careful to divide power between three branches of government. The Congress, representative of the people, is to make the law. The president is to defend the Constitution, command the armed forces of the United States and enforce the law. The Supreme Court is to decide the constitutionality of laws passed by Congress.

Our system is slow and messy but it protects the rights of each individual under its jurisdiction better than any other, as long as everyone is doing the job they've sworn to do.

Frank Slater, retired math teacher and Korean War veteran, lives in Vaughn.

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Parks Appreciation Day a great way to invest in community

Key Pen Parks staff and supporters have an extra spring in our steps as we look forward to some exciting times in 2016. Funds awarded to the parks in 2015 mean we are able to move forward with some long-anticipated modifications to the vibrant Volunteer Park and the birth of a brand-new recreation destination: Gateway Park.

Thanks to a Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office Youth Athletic Facilities grant of \$250,000, along with assistance from Peninsula Light, the KP Little League and Cross Engineers, we will have new LED field lights installed late this summer at all three baseball fields at Volunteer Park.

We also received a \$500,000 matching grant from our state Legislature as a part of its 2015-17 capital budget. This money allows us to jump-start Phase 1 of the construction of Gateway Park, including a new playground, picnic shelter and restrooms, among other things. We hope to have a groundbreaking ceremony at our second annual Fourth of July Community Hot Dog Social this year.

In the meantime, Key Pen Parks is busy planning for one of its favorite springtime activities: Parks Appreciation Day, Saturday, April 23, 9 a.m. to noon, rain or shine. Locations this year include Home Park, 360 Trails and especially the Rocky Creek

Conservation Area.

We hope to see many of our great Key Peninsula neighbors come out with gloves, loppers, rakes and smiles and help us get our parks ready for the busy season ahead. This is a great opportunity for families and friends to spend just a couple of hours doing something to celebrate Earth Day or Arbor Day, and to make our parks a better place to enjoy. There is no need to sign up, just show up!

Tasks include raking and clearing trails, pulling invasive species, pruning growth, digging up root balls and removing brush. Afterward, a chili dog lunch will be held for volunteers at Gateway Park.

The beautiful state of Washington has shown that the Key Peninsula is a community worth investing in, so we hope our residents will offer an investment in return: a donation to the Key Peninsula Parks and Recreation Foundation, or an investment of a little time Saturday, April 23. Please join us!

Scott Gallacher is the executive director of Key Pen Parks.



Scott Gallacher
Beyond the Backyard

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\$500,000	\$60,000	\$40,000	\$20,000
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energyspecialist@penlight.org | 253.857.5950



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COMMUNITY PAGES

Submit calendar items to connierenz@hotmail.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. Classes are \$25 (tuition waiver available for those who qualify) and are held at the Red Barn Youth Center in Key Center on weekday mornings. 460-2424

APRIL 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29

Skate night

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

APRIL 4 and 18

Senior shopping

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

APRIL 4, 11, 18 and 25

Bloodmobile

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

APRIL 7

Fuchsia group

The Fuchsia Club meets at 7 p.m. in the KP Civic Center Whitmore Room.

APRIL 7, 21 and 28

Cat tales

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

APRIL 7 and 21

Tech help

Technology help for adults is available by appointment only 3 to 5 p.m. at the Key Center Library. 548-3309

APRIL 8

Farm tour

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the KP Farm Tour. Applications are due April 8 for locations interested in hosting the tour. Forms are available online at kpfarm-tour.com/about-us.html. 884-6455

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.

APRIL 9

Second Saturday

Planting a mini garden class is at 2 p.m. at the KC Library. Registration is required due to limited space. 548-3309

APRIL 10

Poker pedal

This family-friendly bike-riding event is held at 360 Trails, 10215 State Route 302. Riders must visit five to seven checkpoints, drawing cards to make the best poker hand at the end of the ride. This event raises funds for further hiking, biking and equine trail development at 360 Trails. Pre-registration is \$25; day of registration is \$35. T-shirts are \$15. Check-in begins at 8:30 and prizes for best hands awarded around 12:30 p.m. 884-9240

APRIL 12 and 27

Crochet or knit

The Loving Hearts group meets 1 to 3 p.m. at WayPoint Church April 12 and 7 to 9 p.m. April 27. Yarn donations are always needed. lovingheartsonkp@gmail.com or Virginia, 884-9619

APRIL 13

Pet neuter program

The Northwest Spay and Neuter Center animal shuttle will be at the KP Civic Center 7 to 7:30 a.m. to pick up dogs and cats. Animals will be returned to the civic center at 9 a.m. the next day. Appointments are required. Call 253-627-7729 ext. 217 or email shuttle@nwspayneuter.org for questions or to schedule an appointment. The Northwest Spay and Neuter Center offers affordable spay and neuter services for cats and dogs including special programs for feral cats and pit bull dogs. nwspayneuter.org

Ashes meet

The Ashes support group for FD #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

KP Council

The KP Council meeting at 7 p.m. at KC fire station features Jim Bellamy from Penlight, who will discuss highway lighting and background on the first local rate adjustments in four years. 884-6455

APRIL 14

Book discussion

A discussion of Sherman Alexie's "Reservation Blues" begins at 11 a.m. at KC Library. This is a Pierce County Reads event; pick up a copy of the book at the help desk at the library. 548-3309

APRIL 16

Medicare information

Learn about all things Medicare with State-wide Health Insurance Benefits advisors 1 to 3:30 p.m. at the Key Center Library. 548-3309

APRIL 17

Sunday bluegrass jam

Bluegrass Gospel Jam session is held at Longbranch Church (16518 46th Street 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.

APRIL 18

Robots

Kids ages 8 to 18 build and program a robot using LEGO Mindstorms 4 to 5:30 p.m. at the KC Library. Register at piercecoun-tylibrary.org/calendar or 548-3309. Maximum capacity for event is 25. Sponsored by Friends of the KC Library.

APRIL 18 and 25

Job Track

Are you unemployed or underemployed?

This free six-week program helps tech skills and careers at the KC Library Mondays 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Attendees are furnished with a Chromebook to keep for the duration of the class. Registration required at piercecoun-tylibrary.org/calendar.

APRIL 18-20

Camp offered

Spring Break Camp on the Key: The Salmon and the Sea, 9 a.m. to noon at Volunteer Park. Naturalists from Harbor WildWatch will lead three days of fun, hands-on workshops, games and crafts exploring how salmon played an integral role in the history and prosperity of the Pacific Northwest and their place in the ecosystem. Cost is \$65/camper; second child is discounted. keypenparks.com

APRIL 21

Community forum

The Mustard Seed's Third Thursday Community Forum is at 10 a.m. at the Key Center Library. 884-9814

APRIL 23

Super sale

The Longbranch Improvement Club is hosting a "super" community garage sale 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the LIC, 4312 Key Pen Hwy. S. Indoor and outdoor booths, a raffle, auction, baked goods, lunch and free coffee are available. 884-2030

Love the parks

Parks Appreciation Day is 9 a.m. to noon at 360 Trails, Home Park, KP Civic Center and Rocky Creek Conservation Area. Bring gloves, rakes, loppers, clippers, shovels and handsaws and remember to mark them as yours. Following the event, there will be a chili/hot dog lunch for all Parks Appreciation Day participants from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Gateway Park/360 Trails. 884-9240

KP barter

Key Peninsula Barter hosts a free and fun barter fair 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the KP Civic Center. Bring homemade items to trade. Facebook or 884-2723

(See Community, Page 13)

PUBLIC MEETINGS

- April 4, Artists' Blend, 4 to 6 p.m., Blend Wine Shop
- April 4 & 18, KP Veterans, 7 p.m., KP Lutheran Church
- April 6 & 20, KP Lions, 7 p.m., KC fire station
- April 11, KP Parks, 7:30 p.m. at Volunteer Park office
- April 12 & 24, KP Fire Dept., 5 p.m., KC fire station
- April 14, KP Civic Center Assn. Board, 7 p.m., Whitmore Room, KPCC

- April 14, TWAA Board, 7 p.m., VFW Room, KPCC
- April 14 & 28, Peninsula School District Board, 6 p.m., KP Middle School library April 14 and district office on April 18
- April 18, KP Democrats, 7 p.m., Home fire station. geongerobison@centurytel.net
- April 20, Longbranch Improvement Club, 6:30 p.m. social, 7 p.m. meeting.
- April 20/third Wednesday, KP Advisory Commission, 6:30 p.m., VFW Room, KPCC

OFF THE KEY

APRIL 2-3

Paddlers Cup

The Gig Harbor Paddlers Cup for kayaks, canoes, stand up boards and dragon boats is held at Skansie Brothers Park and sponsored by the Gig Harbor Canoe & Kayak Racing Team. Register at gigharbordpaddlerscup.com.

APRIL 4

Call to artists

Small is beautiful at Gallery Row this spring. For the second year, Gallery Row in Gig Harbor holds its ITTY BITTY Show which has limits of 6" x 6" x 6" or a perimeter of 24". Application deadline is April 4, notification of juried selection is April 15, delivery to Gallery Row is April 23-30, artist reception is May 6, the show is May 7-31, and pickup of artwork is June 1-8. Prizes awarded. www.gigharborgalleryrow.com

APRIL 5, 12, 19 and 26

Support Group

The Freedom from Tobacco Support Group meets on Tuesdays 5:30 to 6:30

(From Community, Page 12)

APRIL 25

Homeschoolers learn

Homeschoolers, ages 5-8, learn about chemical reactions through stories and hands-on activities 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the KC Library. Online registration required. Sponsored by Friends of the Key Center Library. 548-3309

p.m. at St. Anthony Hospital. The meetings are free. 223-7538

APRIL 7

Democrats meet

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

APRIL 21

Bloodmobile

The bloodmobile is at Kiwanis Club of Peninsula-Gig Harbor, 4926 Point Fosdick Drive, 12 to 7 p.m.

APRIL 22-24, 29-30

Play presented

"Next to Normal" is presented at Paradise Theatre, now located on Judson Street in downtown Gig Harbor. Shows are 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday. 954-PLAY

APRIL 30

Healthy Kids

A free event, YMCA Healthy Kids Day, includes healthy games, food and lifestyle for the whole family from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Tom Taylor YMCA in Gig Harbor. Enjoy demos, community partner booths and games.

APRIL 28

Share a poem

Friends of the KC Library celebrate Poetry Month by listening to poems read by participants at 11 a.m. at the library. 548-3309

APRIL 29

Live streaming

Watch Sherman Alexie, a talented and irreverent performer and comic, via live streaming at 6:30 p.m. at the Key Center Library.

WEEKLY EVENTS

MONDAYS

Play to Learn

In a partnership with Peninsula School District and the Tacoma Children's Museum, Play to Learn has been added to children's opportunities on Mondays from 10 to 11:30 a.m. in the KP Civic Center gym. Play to Learn is for parents, grandparents and others who nurture children ages six and under. Themed curriculum invites individual play, group activities, songs and a circle time for kids and adults. This is a drop-in program and no registration is required. 884-5433

MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS

Senior exercise class

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

TUESDAYS

Story times

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

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS

Senior tai chi

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

Preschool playtime

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 as long as you wish. A \$1/child donation is suggested. Tami, 884-5433

TUESDAYS & SATURDAYS

Visit the museum

The KP Historical Museum has a new display of Historic Hotels and Resorts of the Key Peninsula. The main focus is on the history of the Delano Hotel and Resort, but photos and sto-

ries of other places are included. New display cases in the VFW Room expand the area to show off the various artifacts and photos of the area. Free admission; monetary donations welcome. 888-3246

WEDNESDAYS

Writers meet

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

Writers' workshop

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

WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS

Senior meals

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

THURSDAYS

Toastmasters

The Toastmasters meet 8 to 9 a.m. at the KC Library. Have fun improving your speaking ability. 858-5761 or 548-3511

Seniors' lunch

The KP Senior Society meets at 11 a.m. for a potluck, games and fellowship in the Whitmore Room at the KP Civic Center. All are welcome. 884-4981

Bingo

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

FRIDAYS

Story time

Families with young children enjoy art activities, stories, singing and finger plays at the KC Library 1:30-2 p.m. 548-3309

SATURDAYS

Writers' Guild

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

The Mustard Seed has sprouted

By Ted Olinger, KP News

Affordable senior housing. Aging in place. Bracing for the "silver tsunami."

No, it's not Bernie Sanders talking.

It's Edie Morgan, founder and executive director of the The Mustard Seed Project (TMSP).

Morgan founded TMSP 10 years ago with a small group of volunteers dedicated to assisting local elderly residents with daily chores. Under her leadership it has evolved into a burgeoning nonprofit with plans to build the only affordable senior housing on the Key Peninsula.

For years their hope has been to build a campus for people to "age in place," as Morgan puts it, in the community of their choice, with easy access to what that community offers. Their vision calls for eight one-bedroom and two two-bedroom cottages, and three 10-bedroom assisted living homes designed to accommodate residents for the rest of their lives, whatever turns those lives may take.

"That includes memory care," said Morgan, referring to residents who may develop dementia, along with whatever other services are

needed as a resident ages.

At a public meeting March 17 at the Key Center library, Morgan announced to a capacity crowd that TMSP has made an offer on a five-acre parcel of land across from the old Roadhouse restaurant on 154th Avenue in Key Center, and has verbal agreements to purchase two adjacent 1.5-acre parcels. The envisaged campus there will include gardens, walking paths, common areas and a cafe for community gatherings and socializing and will employ approximately 26 staff, not to mention local vendors and tradespeople for construction and maintenance.

Morgan has been looking for the right place for some time.

"We had thought that zoning was perhaps more flexible than it is," Morgan said, listing issues from septic to rural zoning requirements. "We've learned a lot about wetlands," she said.

TMSP is considering a partnership with the Greenhouse Project, a new model of elder care that is replacing the standard nursing home design on the East Coast. Single buildings have 10-12 bedrooms around a central common area and kitchen to encourage connection with housemates and participation in

daily activities.

Sharon Nielson of the Nielson Group is coordinating financing for the building project. "We've already secured a \$150,000 pre-development loan," she said. "We'll need to raise about 3 million in our capital campaign, together with loans from the USDA and private banks." The USDA offers financing for assisted living projects in rural areas with a rate 100 percent loan-to-value ratio, she said.

Nielson put the total cost of the project at "around \$8 million." The price to live there has not been finalized and will change as a resident's needs change, but she estimated a rate no higher than competing markets, with some offset by Medicaid.

If all goes according to plan, they should be ready to buy the first piece of land they need by mid-April. Construction should take about 18 months and the campus could be ready to open in 2019.

"I've been working on this already for 10 years. By the time it's open I'll be ready to move in," said Morgan.

For more information, contact tmspirifa@mustardseed@gmail.com, or go to thegreenhouseproject.org



Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News

Matthew Mills congratulated by Lions President Hal Wolverton.

Vaughn teacher is KP Citizen of the Year

Science teacher and KP native Matthew Mills was selected as the 2015-16 Citizen of the Year by the KP Lions at their 32nd annual awards banquet March 26. Mills' family has been on the KP for generations and he continues their tradition of public service as a Peninsula School District teacher and Boy Scouts of America Troop leader.

Live Music & Karaoke

Th March 31-Karaoke
 Fri April 1-Boy Blue & Moon
 Sat April 2-Soultice

Th April 7-Karaoke
 Fri April 8-Karaoke
 Sat April 9-Woodies

Th April 14-Karaoke
 Fri April 15-Ignite
 Sat April 16-Knucklehead

Th April 21-Karaoke
 Fri April 22-Karaoke
 Sat April 23-No Slack Jack

Th April 28-Karaoke
 Fri April 29-Karaoke
 Sat April 30-Rocker Box

M-Th 6:30am-midnight
 F-Sat 6:30am-2am
 Sun 7am-midnight

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4	3 inch Clean Crushed Gravel BLACK BASALT 1/2 get more rock 15 tons=30,000 lbs = 12 cubic yards
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8	Screened Fill Dirt (no rocks) (for fill) 10 cubic yards
9	Screened DR Rocky BY THE TON 15 tons=30,000 lbs = 12 cubic yards
10	3/8, 3/4 OR 1 1/2 MIXED Crushed Gravel BLACK BASALT 15 tons=30,000 lbs = 12 cubic yards
11	1/2, 3/4, 1 1/2 DRAIN ROCK 15 tons=30,000 lbs = 12 cubic yards
12	Medium Beauty Bark Fresh Bright Orange - 10 cubic yards

Seattle Times reports Wauna 10th worst suburb in Washington

By The Pedantic Dissembler
Special to KP News

WAUNA, Washington, April 1 – The Seattle Times reported March 8 that Wauna was the 10th worst suburb in Washington State, according to a survey produced by the brain trust known as Roadsnaaks.net.

Using "science and data," researchers at Roadsnaaks.net determined that among other faults, Wauna suffers from low unemployment, affordable housing and, in their words, "no thing (sic) to do."

Roadsnaaks.net called Port Orchard the fourth worst place to live in Washington because of their unemployment rate of 5.5 percent (cowering in the shadow of the national average 4.9 percent) and because "it's not a real port."

Bainbridge Island was branded the 10th worst place to live in Washington because of "being surrounded by water."

Roadsnaaks.net does not define the difference between "worst suburb" and "worst place."

Local reaction in Wauna ranged from

puzzlement to resignation. A fly fisherman casting his line into the waters of Henderson Bay said, "We're a suburb?" Another resident, who likewise declined to give her name, confessed on hearing the news, "It's true. Like all Key Penners, I have no thing (sic) to do," she said while walking her dogs and playing with children on the Purdy Spit on a sunny spring day.

The methodology of Roadsnaaks.net includes mining census reports and "data from around the Web." According to their own website, "We try to paint a picture of what's happening in a region based on 'Friday Night Science' — how'd you argue at a bar."

Headquartered in Durham, NC, Roadsnaaks.net has conducted similar in-depth analysis into their own state, producing lists of the worst places to live, the most dangerous cities, and their "most redneck places."

Durham does not appear on any of them.

Remarkably, Roadsnaaks.net did accurately identify Seattle as the fifth snobbiest city in the U.S.

For more information, go to: seattlerefiner.com/travel/new-study.

OBITUARY NOTICE

David Andrew Clark

David Andrew Clark, 59, died Feb. 20, 2016, after an extended illness. Born July 20, 1956, and raised in the United Kingdom, Clark moved to the Key Peninsula in 2000 when he married his wife, Judy. He was educated in two disciplines: culinary arts and mechanical-electrical engineering. Clark attained the level of Chef de Cuisine after working in large hotels in London, and later was awarded a certificate of excellence by the Siemens Corp. of Europe for his innovative design of an in-car hearing aid. His hobbies included computers, photography, and talking and joking with his CB radio buddies, among whom he was very well known as "Wombat." Before his illness, he and Judy loved taking road trips up and down the West Coast, but he particularly loved his home on the Key Peninsula. Clark is survived by his wife Judy and son Adam who wish to thank their community for the many acts of selfless generosity, kindness and support



David Clark

during this difficult time. The family is humbled beyond words. Friends will be notified of a celebration of Clark's life to be held at a later date.

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Food Market

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

Key Center Food Market opens 'The Cellar'

By Alice Kinerk, KP News

Local drinkers can raise a glass to the expansion at the Key Center Food Market. In March the grocery store nearly tripled its wine, beer and liquor section, with a new section called "The Cellar," knocking through walls to take over two adjacent storefronts that had previously been vacant.

According to Food Market operations manager Kip Bonds, customers will see two main benefits from the expansion. First, Food Market alcohol prices will be similar to those at large chain stores. Bigger stores can purchase and warehouse huge quantities of alcohol, allowing them to sell at lower retail prices. Previously, as Bonds explained, he had been paying a surcharge of about \$1.50 a bottle to purchase smaller amounts. That's gone now, and the savings will be passed on to customers.

Secondly, the market will also begin offering growlers. Growlers are glass jugs of various sizes that are purchased empty,



Liquor Manager Stacy Stoican fills a growler at The Cellar.

Photo by Ted Olinger, KP News

then filled with draft beer or cider and capped to take home. Customers bring the empty growlers back for refills. The

Food Market will offer 32 and 64-ounce growlers, among others, and plenty of varieties of beer.

Also coming soon is a machine allowing customers to fill 32-ounce cans with draft beer of their choice. Bonds pointed out that with many folks visiting the Key Peninsula's beaches, cans are a more responsible choice than glass. "We also have a really nice mixer section with way more items than before," he said.

Customers who stop by for both food and alcohol can make a quick exit with the new cash registers. The registers, which will be limited to 15 items or less, make it easy to pay for a bag of ice, chips, or other snacks along with your booze. However, if your cocktail requires limes, you'll have to pay inside the store, as the new registers will not have scales for produce.

Down the street at the Key Peninsula Liquor Store, manager Samantha Dennis is confident the changes will not disrupt business as usual. "We're a small community and we're all about small business.

I hope our customers stay loyal to us," Dennis said.

Don Swensen, owner of Blend wine shop in Key Center, believes the changes will not impact his business either. "We're in the same business but I don't believe we'll be in direct competition. I sell different wine and beer than them," he said.

Local citizens had various opinions on the expansion. "Something other than more pot or liquor would have been nice," said Key Peninsula resident Maggie Kamke.

When hiring for The Cellar, Bonds chose employees who know the Key Peninsula and have experience. "We hired local folks who know the liquor business," he said.

The Food Market chain includes four western Washington stores: two on the Key Peninsula, one in Auburn and one in Kingston. Although there are no plans for expansion at other stores at this time, Bonds does not rule it out as a possibility. "We'll test it here and see how it goes," he said.

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New business opens in Purdy strictly 'Local'

By Danna Webster, KP News

A new taproom has opened at the top of the Key Peninsula. In the interest of full disclosure, this is not a school of dance. The Local Boys Tap Room is an establishment dedicated to the introduction of all 338 breweries crafting beer in the state of Washington.

You can tour Washington's breweries without leaving your barstool.

Although there are wonderful Oregon breweries, according to co-owner Bobby Holstein, "the name of the place is Local Boys," so one of the first business decisions was to make the tap room all about Washington.

In spite of the coincidence of the name, the taproom is not a business affiliate of the Local Boys Fruit and Produce market. The name is, however, a salute to the family ties of co-owner Trevor Jones, who is the son of market owners Bob and Cathy Jones. "Local Boys was the name of Dad's basketball team," Trevor Jones says.

Bob and Cathy Jones were the owners of the Tacoma Boys Fruit and Produce



Co-owners of Local Boys Tap Room, Bobby Holstein and Trevor Jones, opened their doors for business Feb. 4.

Photo by Danna Webster, KP News

Market for 42 years until they sold that business in 1998.

This year the Local Boys Market will expand to include a butcher shop with Painted Hills Beef and fresh seafood supplied by local fisherman. So the taproom won't be the only newly designed shop on the block.

Both Jones and Holstein reside with their families in the Wauna neighborhood. Jones plans to relocate to Lakebay with his wife and their toddler son, Tucker. Holstein and his wife have two daughters and one son. They are staying put on the Butley Lagoon while their daughter, Olivia Danche, completes her studies at

Peninsula High School. Olivia painted the artwork for the taproom entrance.

Their mission is to introduce the art and stories of local beer brewing. When a keg on tap blows, there are 10 new options in the refrigerator waiting to rotate in. Holstein says there are "more than 100 breweries that have never seen the light of day outside of 100 miles from their brewery and we are going to change that." Holstein is a beer aficionado who claims to have tasted over 2,100 different brews and has nearly completed a book on the subject.

The Tap Room offers the convenience of good parking and an invitation to bring in food of your choice. With Dexter's hamburgers and pizza, Bridgeway's Teriyaki, Massimo's Italian and the Taco Food Truck, Purdy is "a mecca of culinary delights," observed Holstein.

Local Boys Tap Room is located directly behind Local Boys Fruit and Produce Market on the corner of SR 302 and 14006 Purdy Drive NW, just east of the Purdy Bridge. Currently they are open seven days a week after 1 p.m. until they establish regular hours.

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Marnie Farmer's opens doors with vintage and handmade goods

By Irene Torres, KP News

There is no more "Makin' Bacon" at the corner of 134th Avenue and the Key Peninsula Highway, where Marnie Kirk has reopened her vintage and handmade home decor store, "Marnie Farmer's."

Kirk was finally realizing her childhood dream to have her own shop at its original location across from Charboneau at Brookside on SR-302, when another tenant leased that site and she had to move. She spent two years looking for a building.

"I was determined to find a place on the Key," Kirk said.

For years, she had visited her grandparents here while on vacation from Northern California. She fell in love with the Northwest and moved up 11 years ago. She and her son, Dillon, worked for about a month to prepare the space for opening in October 2015. Kirk lightened the interior from its previous black cave-like color.

"I have a clear vision, a passion. I want to make a community resource center. This is the perfect place for it," Kirk said.



Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News

Kirk shows off her new Key Peninsula shop.

Most of her inventory is newly acquired and is constantly undergoing change and

rearrangement, with new inspiration.

There is free wall space for local artists, artisans and wood carvers to display their work. Spring and summer will bring an opportunity to expand the sales floor into the parking lot for the community to sell local produce, flowers and cottage industry products, along with arts and crafts and other consignments. Commissions are negotiable, she said.

Kirk is enthusiastic about her business philosophy: helping others. "This is the beginning of a really good thing. I hope the community embraces it. I'm doing something that feels right, keeping it where we live," she said.

Art classes are also planned on-site for

those interested in watercolor, basket making, collage, textile weaving, embroidery and other media.

Gifted people want to share their talent," Kirk said. Prices range from \$1 to \$500. Credit and debit cards are accepted, along with cash.

"Everything is negotiable," she said. "My price point is something that everyone can afford. I like letting things go to the excited new owner. Carrying out transactions is therapeutic. People open up, talk about what's going on in their life. No purchase necessary."

For information, call (253) 851-0988, or go to Facebook.com/Marnie-Farmers-LLC.

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.

Wood

By Dale Goodvin

My cousin tells me that my father was a master in

Making things with wood, that his father and mine

Built barracks on the West Coast
That my father "carried" his father during those days

Would that my father had been a master in building himself

Finding a refuge in a world gone wrong
Building a resting place in the ashes
Caressing a wisp of cotton clouds in the

storm

Would that my father had been a master in building himself

Would that his days had been less bruised
Would that his nights had been tender
Would that his sight had been clear

For we are here for barely a whisper
Within the flashing of the stars
And we are so fragile
Amongst the hardness of the world

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Key Pen salutes Jeff Nelson, tireless volunteer

By Danna Webster, KP News

Jeff Nelson was a good neighbor and devoted friend of the Key Peninsula who died Jan. 30 this year. The many volunteers who worked with him described him as a "can do" gentleman with a tremendous sense of responsibility that made him work beyond the restrictions of his serious health issues.

"He was very devoted to KeyFEST and really worked hard at making that happen from its inception until he fell too ill to participate," said KP Fire Department Battalion Chief Chuck West. Nelson served as president, treasurer, talent scout and Webmaster for KeyFEST.

Above all else, this Washington native was devoted to his family. Nelson was drawn to the Key Peninsula to be near his grandmother, Dorothy Parrott, who lived at Jackson Lake. The Nelson home was a gathering hub for the extended families on his side and those of his wife, Jean'et.

The couple was away from their Washington family during the years when Nelson

worked as an engineer at Todd Pacific Shipyards in San Pedro, California. He worked during the time when shipbuilding peaked for the yard in 1983 only to close in 1989. Jean'et said he was "one of the last guys who left after the yard closed in the 80s." But he came home with a new career idea. "He told me, 'Babe, I think this computer thing is going to be the next big thing,'" Jean'et said. The couple moved back to their families on the Key and Kitsap Peninsulas and Nelson reinvented himself with computer design work.

Serious medical problems began to plague Nelson while in California and continued during his retirement years. But he still camped, hiked Mount Rainier, joined a search and rescue club, flew radio-controlled airplanes, built over a dozen websites, and joined the Key Pen Fair Board. He built websites at low or no charge for Key Peninsula nonprofits such as Two Waters Arts Alliance, Key Peninsula Business Association, Key Peninsula Community Council and KeyFEST. After

his first year on the fair board, he became president.

According to Jud Morris, director of the Children's Home Society, for about three years Nelson "was the heart and soul of the fair. He was so dedicated to keeping the fair going."

Morris said that Nelson and his family took on the Key's Got Talent event, an idea of Claudia Loy's, co-owner of Sunnycrest Nursery. "Even with his health issues it was always 'can do.' He was always such a gentleman. Never anybody but himself," she said.

Morris and Nelson worked very hard on the talent show. The decision to include all the contestants at the fair, not just the final winners, resulted in a community-involved event with about 30 acts. "It was really, really good stuff. First-rate," Morris says.

Nelson is one more example of the extraordinary volunteer culture that flourishes on the Key Peninsula, said Morris. "He deserves all the memories and accolades he gets."



Photo by Danna Webster, KP News
Jeff Nelson announcing the 2012 Key's Got Talent contest winner.

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Doug MacLeod Live: Exactly Like This

By Irene Torres, KP News

It was the third concert for songwriter Doug MacLeod at the Blend Wine Shop in Key Center, where he played and sang to a sold-out house Mar. 12. Blend's proprietor, Don Swensen, said, "I could have sold twice as many tickets if I had room."

MacLeod began his career as a bass player in St. Louis in 1962. He said he had been abused as a child and developed a stutter, but when he sang there was no trace of a speech impediment. He said he'd "rather be in that world without a stutter."

MacLeod watched as lead players had better success with women, so he switched from playing bass to guitar to change his luck.

"The old blues men liked me," he said. "Otherwise I wouldn't have been allowed with them. If they had an honest feeling about you, they would accept you, and maybe teach you."

MacLeod's main influence was George (Harmonica) Smith, who called him Dobb, "or Dobbless when he was mad at me. For some reason he could never pronounce my

name." Dobb is inscribed on MacLeod's leather guitar strap. "He taught me a lot. Not just about music. About life, and overcoming adversity," he said.

MacLeod's original music is in the style of early blues musicians. He has written over 250 songs and recorded 22 albums, CDs and "a whole mess of download only music." The most memorable experience in his career was "opening for and meeting BB King," he said.

Recognition of MacLeod's work includes two blues music awards and three nominations. He said, "It's a 'humblization' to know all the musicians gone on before you, and here you are. If the King is carrying his own luggage, like he did when I saw him at the airport in Amsterdam, I don't need a big head."

Denny Hall, a longtime blues musician now living in Gig Harbor, said, "The fact that so many of the old blues legends have recorded his songs tells me he is true to the idiom." Both Hall and Kitsap resident Tom Welch have attended all three of MacLeod's Key Peninsula concerts. Welch said, "I told Don (Swensen) that I would pay \$100 to hear



Photo by Robert Hanken

Bluesman Doug MacLeod played to a full house at Blend Wine Shop on March 12.

Doug play. He is a storyteller. He's funny and imaginative."

MacLeod plays a National brand guitar

with three internal cylinders that produce a mellow tone, similar to a dobro. He tunes it "with too many G's...one foot on the sidewalk, one foot in the gutter." He bends the strings into soulful notes as he sings his blues stories, which he says "go exactly like this." He keeps a steady, strong beat with the heel of his ostrich leather boots.

MacLeod has a project in the works to "record the ilk" with his reminiscences of legends Wes Montgomery, Honeyboy Williams, John Lee Hooker, Louis Jordan, Duke Ellington and Tony Joe White.

MacLeod was in Gig Harbor with an organization called United by Music, where he is mentoring young musicians. His advice to aspiring entertainers: "Make sure your partner has health insurance." Then his face turned serious. "Be honest." He quoted Ernest Banks, "Never play a note you don't believe," and Luther Allison, "Leave your ego. Play the music. Love the people."

If he had his life to live over, MacLeod said, "I would have found my right mind sooner. I wouldn't have hurt so many women. I was a scoundrel when I was young."

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KP Sportsmen's Club: Less about sports, more about social good

By Sara Thompson, KP News

In March, Key Peninsula Sportsmen's Club President Don Holman called its 830th meeting to order. Members of this local nonprofit organization have gathered to enjoy each other's company and raise money to support the community for nearly six decades.

And on Sunday, April 24, they are holding the Key Peninsula's longest-running annual fundraiser: the Fisherman's Breakfast. From 7:30 a.m. to noon \$6 will get you a meal of pancakes, ham and eggs. For those six and younger the meal is free. A yard sale that Saturday and Sunday will add to the experience. Tickets are available from club members and at the door.

They look forward to a bigger-than-ever event, hoping to feed at least 300. Proceeds will go to support local nonprofits. Each year the club supports Key Peninsula Community Services and the KP Little League. They also give children scholarships to go to camp for a week on Orcas Island and adopt two families at Christmas through the Children's Home Society.

"We were established in 1947," said club president Don Holman. "It started out as a sportsmen's club with such activities as skeet shooting, but over time we have shifted to be a social club."

Located on Jackson Lake, the clubhouse was built from lumber cut on the property in 1955. The club leases land to the 12 households there, and income from the leases supports the basic infrastructure and maintenance for the homes and clubhouse.

There are scheduled events each



Photo by Sara Thompson, KP News

Orderly mailboxes greet visitors to historic Jackson Lake sportsmen's club property.

month. Members meet for a potluck dinner and business meeting, enjoy a bingo night and a Bunco night as well as a luncheon. Connections run deep; several members are second-generation.

tion.

Randy Viets, board member and publicity chair, is one of several second-generation members; his parents used to live at the club, and now his

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brother has moved there. "We welcome new members," he said.

When asked about membership requirements, Holman said, "We ask that new members be sponsored by a current member and be at least 45 years old. But the main qualification is that you should want to have fun!"

Anyone interested in joining should contact Bill Smith, the club secretary, at: proteus@centurytel.net.

For more information, go to: facebook.com/Key-Peninsula-Sportsmen's-Club.

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Opening Day marks the return of youth baseball

By Matthew Dean, KP News

Young athletes and their families turned out in droves March 19 for the annual festivities surrounding Key Peninsula Little League's (KPLL) Opening Day Jamboree.

While early weather reports indicated rain, that didn't stop parents and children from packing Volunteer Park to celebrate the beginning of a new season. Luckily for players and spectators alike, the showers tapered off.

The ceremony began with a general assembly on the main field. The first step was the introduction of the new season's players and coaches: each team jogged out and stood in formation on the infield as music blared and the audience cheered. Every bracket of KPLL play was represented, from the bewildered but enthusiastic first-year tee-ball players to the world-weary teenagers of the senior league.

After all the teams had gathered and nearly 100 young baseball players stood in the infield, KPLL President Lee Miller took the microphone to thank the volunteers and sponsors that make KPLL a reality. He also praised the Volunteer Park fields and announced an upcoming field renovation that will include brand-new stadium lights for late-running games. "We'll be able to play



Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News

Coach Brian McLean of the Peninsula Light team Golden Hawks leads his players in reciting the Little League Pledge.

under the lights next year, starting 2017," he said to general applause and approval.

After the team introductions and speeches were done, the players removed their caps and turned toward the flagpole in the center of the park as softball player Tara-Lynn Perkins delivered a stirring rendition of the national anthem. Then came the Pledge of Allegiance and the Little League Pledge, a

short refrain where players recite, "I trust in God, I love my country, and will respect its laws. I will play fair and strive to win, but win or lose I will do my best."

The ceremony concluded with recognition of last year's League All-Stars and ceremonial first pitches thrown by honorees from last year's groups.

With the opening formalities finished, the

teams scattered immediately to the other three baseball, softball and tee-ball fields located at Volunteer Park. There was a short lull as players warmed up for games and parents flocked to the park's own Home Base Concessions.

The day's games were fairly short affairs, consisting of four or five inning scrimmage matches between the various KPLL teams in preparation for full-length games against out-of-league teams in the coming weeks. First-day jitters were evident, with errant pitches and missed catches plaguing even the most experienced players. Despite these early mistakes, coaches took advantage of the practice-game format to identify and correct errors, and many players were showing marked improvement by the end of the contest.

The day was a hopeful start to another year of community-building team sports and athletics on the Key Peninsula's baseball fields. For many, KPLL is popular simply "because it's a great opportunity to play baseball," as one young player put it, but for the volunteer coaches and managers the motivation is deeper. "At the end of the day, the baseball is just a tool," said Kip Miller, a seven year KPLL coach. "It's all about the kids; we're here for them, to keep them out of trouble, and to teach them to be better kids."

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Out & About

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

Ethan Lee, left, and Parker Bare, 9-year-old third-graders at Lighthouse Christian School in Gig Harbor, asked for donations to Food Backpacks 4 Kids instead of birthday gifts. Friends and schoolmates supported their idea and March 19 they delivered their donations to the new FBP4Kids donation shed at Westwynd Motel in Purdy. Also pictured from left are board president Gina Menard and co-founders Karen Jorgenson and Ray Montero.



Photo by Donna Webster, KP News



Photo by Ron Cameron

St. Patrick's Day came with a strong north wind. Looking north from Von Geldern Cove across Carr Inlet to Purdy at mountain peaks, left to right, White Chuck, Three Fingers and Pilchuck.

Where in the World...



Penny Grant shows us no trip to Hawai'i is complete without the right reading material.



Taya Strauss and her dog Rapunzel found the coveted golden egg that earned them the grand prize at the annual KP Parks Department Pet Friendly Egg Hunt. The prize basket is held here by event volunteer Marilyn Hartley.

Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News