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THE VOICE OF THE KEY PENINSULA

September 2016 Vol.43 No. 9

KP Athlete to Compete in Rio Paralympic Games

IRENE TORRES, KP NEWS

Megan Blunk will spend her 27th birthday in Rio de Janeiro playing for the USA National Women's Wheelchair Basketball Team at the 15th Summer Paralympic Games.

"This is very good for the Paralympic Movement when others find out they can play sports. It can change a lot of people's lives," Blunk said. She was paralyzed from



Former Key Peninsula resident and Peninsula High School graduate Megan Blunk at a recent practice in Gig Harbor. Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News

the waist down in a motorcycle accident in Belfair in 2008, two months after graduating from Peninsula High School.

"I do the dirty work and make things happen for other players. I foul and set screens for the shooters. I pick and roll, and dive to protect the shooters," Blunk said.

A basketball wheelchair is customized to fit the player, who is strapped in. Blunk recently received a new basketball wheelchair and a chair for everyday use through a sponsorship from Quickie Wheelchair-Sunrise Medical. Each cost \$6,000 with tires, spokes and tubes. "I am extremely grateful for the donations," she said. "They read what I wrote about the fundraiser for my other chair and wanted to be a part of it."

There is only one other USA basketball team member from Washington. The other 10 "come from Texas, Michigan, Colorado, Alabama, everywhere," Blunk said. Their coach, Stephanie Wheeler, is a two-time Paralympics gold medalist with the team. Blunk herself won a gold medal at the 2015 Parapan American games. She is also a championship paracanoeist.

CONTINUED PAGE 2



Site map shows two newly purchased lots that will expand Gateway Park. Courtesy Key Pen Parks

Gateway Park Is Expanding

ALICE KINERK, KP NEWS

Key Pen Parks is getting ready to make Gateway Park bigger and better after purchasing two adjacent wooded parcels in July totaling 33 acres.

"We're excited because it's all connected. It's all right there," Key Pen Parks' Executive Director Scott Gallacher said. The new parcels connect Gateway Park with nearby 360 Trails, adding up to a combined 430-acre park.

Plans include expansion of the wooded

trails for walking, horseback riding or viewing the resident herons and other animals in their habitats. Multiple fields, a picnic shelter, playground equipment and a splash pad will make the park a family destination.

Gallacher hopes to add a synthetic turf field for team sports as well as a rain garden and flag pavilion. Key Pen Parks has also talked with the Key Peninsula Historical Society about the possibility of moving to Gateway Park.

CONTINUED PAGE 2



The scarecrow-building contest returns with the rest of the Farm Tour festivities this year. "Hay Bale Square Pants" by Kathy Lyons won in 2014. Courtesy David Montesino/Longbranch Chronicles

Annual Farm Tour Celebrates Traditions of the KP

KAREN LOVETT, KP NEWS

The Key Peninsula is gearing up for the Oct. 1 Farm Tour. Preliminary activities start with an art show at Blend Wine Shop in Key Center featuring pictures related to farming. The show runs from Aug. 31 to Oct. 4.

Be on the lookout for a scarecrow invasion lining the road through Key Center from the library to the stoplight. To be eligible for prize money, scarecrows must be preregistered in the parking lot at Blend Saturday, Sept. 17, between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. "Prizes will be awarded for Best Organization, Best Business and Best Individual," Farm Tour treasurer Carolyn Wiley said. "Check with businesses if you would like to put one up."

Scarecrows will be on display from Sept. 17 through Oct. 1.

Farm Tour Night Out is Sept. 22 at the Key Center Library at 7 p.m., featuring a slide show about farming on the KP.

The Key Center Fire Station is a good starting point for the Farm Tour on Oct. 1. Staff and volunteers will be serving up pancakes, ham and juice from 8 to 11 a.m. "We'll have a fire demonstration in the back parking lot," Fire Chief Guy Allen said. "We'll be done by 1 p.m."

Farm Tour information guides will be available at Gateway Park, 10405 SR-302. An exhibit there by The Key Peninsula Parks Foundation will explain the development.

CONTINUED PAGE 3

GATEWAY PARK FROM PAGE 1

One immediate change will be the removal of the line of cedar trees that run between the park and State Route 302. Key Pen Parks is required to remove the trees as part of the permitting process by Tacoma Public Utilities, which owns the strip of land between the park and the road.

"Our arborist believes these trees will soon be an issue for our power lines and topping them will only prolong the problem, so we would like Key Pen to remove them when the other tree work is being performed on-site," Dylan Harrison, real estate officer with Tacoma Public Utilities, wrote in an email.

"We don't take down trees just to take them down," Gallacher said. "The positive is that we are going to plant the right tree in the right location. For every tree that we take down, we plant three."

The removed trees will also be put to good use. Options include selling the cedar boughs to a company that makes Christmas wreaths with proceeds going to Key Pen Parks, making wood chips for use on trails, or using the lumber for split-rail fencing on park properties.

Manke Lumber was the previous owner of the two parcels. With easements already in place from Manke for trails between 360 and Gateway Park, Key Pen Parks had been asking Manke about the possibility of buying it for more than three years when they finally agreed to sell. "We were kind of shocked. We'd been working on this for a while," Gallacher said.

Harry Rydell, a local resident and land surveyor at Manke Lumber, was instrumental in helping with the sale, along with former Key Pen Parks Commissioner Bill Trandum. County Councilman Derek Young also worked to make the sale possible.

Key Pen Parks is trying to move forward as quickly as possible, though construction might not begin until 2017. "We're plugging along on permits," Gallacher said. "The challenge is if we start construction this year, there is the potential for wet conditions."

Key Pen Parks received significant financial assistance to purchase the parcels from Pierce County Conservation Futures Program (PCCFP), which has reimbursed about \$160,000 of the total \$280,000 price.

While Key Pen Parks did need to borrow some of the funds to purchase the land, expenses related to improving the land will come from other sources. In August, Gallacher traveled to Olympia to urge government leaders to help with the cost of the planned splash pad. A splash pad is a recreation area for water play that holds little or no standing water, reducing the risk of drowning and eliminating the requirement for lifeguards on-site.

Key Pen Parks has a history of performing restoration on its properties, such as removing invasive species like Scotch broom and English ivy, and will seek opportunities to restore areas with native plantings, according to Gallacher. A significant portion of the new land will be kept in its current wooded state, with the goal of reducing the adverse impact on habitats.

Little Minter Creek and 6.5 acres of wetland also run through the new parcels. "The restoration planned for Minter Creek will benefit salmon, amphibians, the heron rookery and other local wildlife," said Nicole Hill, PCCFP program coordinator with Pierce County Parks and Recreation Services.

KP ATHLETE FROM PAGE 1

"All of my teammates have a good story to tell. Our sports psychologist, Dr. Roberta Krause, is making our team awesome," Blunk said. She has been very open about fighting clinical depression and found that counseling helps. "I talk to good people who remind me of reality instead of what I'm thinking in my head. They push me to work harder." She started a course of antidepressants, which she had avoided for a long time. "When you can't see light, keep pushing forward. Don't give up. That's when things start to get better," she said.

Competition at the games will come mainly from the Netherlands, Germany and Canada. Teams from China, Brazil, Great Britain and Australia will also compete.

Blunk said that when watching wheelchair basketball, it is helpful to know the rules. There is a classification system based on the degree of disability, ranked from 1 (least functional ability) to 4.5 (most functional ability). Blunk is classed as a 3.0 because she has a weak lower back. A player with cerebral palsy is ranked a 2.0.

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OUR GRATEFUL THANKS TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTE The opinions expressed herein are the opinions of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the publishers or staff. 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. Key Peninsula News reserves the right to edit all submissions. Mail letters to: P.O. Box 3, Vaughn, WA 98394, or email to news@keypennews.com. Deadline for unsolicited submissions including press releases: 15th of month prior to publication

The five players on the court must limit their total points to 14 or less to be fair. "The game is crazy intense," she said. "You need to compare the 1's with the 1's, not with the more able-bodied players."

Blunk graduated this year from the University of Illinois, which she attended on a basketball scholarship. She spent the summer in training camps in Colorado and Germany, and was one of three athletes featured on the PBS program "A Capitol Fourth" when she visited Washington, D.C. She has since moved back to Gig Harbor to deliver her message to high schools and alternative schools. She recently helped run an activities day for children with physical disabilities and has shared her story with Little Rainbow Daycare and at an elementary school. "Knowing that I'm helping others makes it worth the effort," she said.

FARM TOUR FROM PAGE 1

of Gateway Park. Key Peninsula Historical Society will also be there with a historic huckleberry-cleaning machine. Hayrides will be offered.

Event headquarters will be at Blue Willow Lavender Farm. "This is Blue Willow's last hurrah," owner and Farm Council President Tracy Ketts said. "I leave the next day. Most of the plants are gone, but there are 37 you-dig plants available for \$2.00 a plant. Pick lavender for free in the field. We will have the lavender Barbie hospital, carved pumpkin wall, Rib Ticklers, music and animals." The Bee Lady will be selling honey and Chuck Kraft will demonstrate horse handling and techniques for dealing with troubled horses.

Four Winds Riding Center will also be there presenting equestrian vaulting on the hour every hour from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Girls aged 8 to 19 will demonstrate their gymnastic abilities on horseback. There will also be pony rides; bring your own camera. Snacks and drinks will be available.

Bea's Flowers is a popular stop on the Farm Tour. "We have two new goats for the

petting zoo, ponies, ducks, geese, rabbits and chickens," Bea Morrison said. "Alaskan Tammy will be the musician." Bea's large variety of dahlias, pumpkins and other produce will be available.

Minterbrook Oyster Farm will be selling clams and oysters with 10 percent of proceeds going to the Farm Tour. Oyster beds will be open for viewing at low tide between 10:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. An oyster shucker will be at work until about 3 p.m.

Packleader Farm will have chickens, ducks and varieties of sheep, a petting zoo and snacks. The All-Breed Herding Club of Western Washington will be working all the herding breeds.

YMCA Camp Seymour is joining the Farm Tour this year. "We are really looking forward to being part of this community event," Marketing and Development Director Diane Jackson said. Come and see Washington's largest Living Machine: their sewage treatment facility. It's a large greenhouse filled with plants and other organisms housed in hydroponic tanks to treat the camp's wastewater. Final processing is done in a wetland outside the greenhouse. Learn how sustainable systems can work cooperatively with nature. There will be games and activities for children.

Lakebay Marina will be open for breakfast at 10 a.m. "We'll have fish and chips and a special on Minterbrook oysters," owner Mark Scott said. The KP Historical Society will display a history of KP food co-ops. The KP's current co-op, Fresh Food Revolution, will also be there. Harbor Wild Watch will have a scuba diver gathering sea life for an outdoor classroom. Tweed Meyer will be painting and country singer Donn Allard will play at noon. Local band 302 will play that evening.

The Fiber Arts and Antique Tractor Show at the Longbranch Improvement Club will feature a variety of artists and vendors, music and food, including Peg's famous apple crisp.

Key Peninsula Civic Center



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Thumbs Up for KP Fire Levy

LISA BRYAN, KP NEWS

Even before the final ballots were tallied, it was clear Key Peninsula voters turned out in sufficient numbers to overwhelmingly approve the four-year maintenance and operations levy for Key Peninsula Fire District 16 on the Aug. 2 ballot. The levy passed with an approval rate of 69.72 percent, the largest margin of victory for an FD 16 M&O levy on record, according to the Pierce County Auditor.

"We felt confident we had good support from the community prior to the vote, but with the levy passing by such a large margin, it was truly humbling," said Assistant Chief Hal Wolverton. "We would have lost eight positions without this levy approval," he said.

FD 16, like other fire protection districts in unincorporated Pierce County, is largely dependent upon the regular passage of M&O and EMS property tax levies, each running in four-year cycles. Unlike fire departments located within city limits, FD 16 does not capture any portion of sales tax revenue generated by Key Peninsula shoppers. The emergency services funding mechanisms differ from county to county within the state. For example, a portion of the Pierce County Sheriff's Department is funded by sales taxes collected in unincorporated Pierce County.

"This really speaks to how important it is to be connected with the community," said Chief Guy Allen. "Thanks to this approval, we're able to look into the future so we have plans 5, 10, even 15 years out. We will continue laying the foundation for others to follow so that when projects present themselves we are able to do it."

Sometimes unplanned things affect those plans.

"During an annual pump testing required to maintain our insurance rating, we had a catastrophic failure of a tender pump" in early August, Allen said. "That 36-year-old vehicle will go into surplus to get it out of our fleet. We're down to two tenders. One of the things we had in motion already was to replace that tender by 2017, but that may have to be moved up to see if we can get another tender in here for the summer months. To keep costs down, we may be able to piggyback onto another fire department's bid," he said.

Free Mobile Dental Clinic in Key Center

TED OLINGER, KP NEWS

A rolling dental lab and team of volunteer dentists treated anyone with dental needs free of charge in the parking lot of the Key Center library and medical building on Saturday, July 23.

Pacific Dental Services Foundation coordinated with Smile Generation and local dentists to provide the free services.

"The Key Free Clinic has a lot of people that need dental services, so we partnered with Pacific Dental to bring those services to the community," said Executive Director Anne Nesbit. The clinic has offered some free dental services in the recent past, but this is the first time partnering with Pacific Dental and Smile Generation. "This is larger scale, including follow-up," said Nesbit. "I get the patients, but this organization does everything else. That is huge because that just doesn't exist anywhere.

"All in all, we're going to see over 30 people today," she said.

The foundation mobile lab is based in Irvine, California, but travels the country to provide a facility to offer treatments including X-rays, extractions, cleanings, crowns and fillings. Dr. Jessica Ahn of Olympic Modern Dentistry in Gig Harbor will follow-up with local patients requiring more than a single visit.

The Key Free Clinic is a nonprofit organization that works out of the Key Center medical building every Thursday from 5:30 to 8 p.m. "Our mission is to provide medical services for people who can't reach services or don't have the funds to pay for them," said Nesbit. The clinic's work is paid for by grants and donations.

Dr. Brian Polillo of Lynwood Crossroads Modern Dentistry and Orthodontics volunteered his services for the day. "I've had several patients whose teeth have been hurting them for a while and they're not able to get care any place else, so I've been taking some of those out." This was Polillo's seventh time serving with the mobile lab in Washington and Oregon. "This van has the same things our offices have. We can take digital images and mill out a crown for you in one appointment. It's a service we can provide for people they really can't get anywhere else," he said.

"It's always hard trying to organize an



Volunteer dentists and hygienists served 30 patients during a free dental clinic July 23. Photo: Ted Olinger, KP News

“It’s the first time with this particular clinic, so we’ll see what happens, but we’d love to come back and continue to serve the community. We’re just trying to get people out of pain,” she said.

Patrick Supplee, who just moved to Longbranch four months ago, works in dental support for Smile Generation. “Each one of these doctors reaches out to groups in their own community to do pro bono dentistry. I work to support these doctors from an operation standpoint. I’m very passionate about it. It’s all about taking care of people,” he said.

Tacoma resident June Loftus brought a friend on a limited income to the clinic. “My daughter, who lives on Herron Island, read on Facebook that something was going to be here today,” she said. “We were just thrilled. We only found out two or three days ago that they had time to see him.” Loftus said her friend, who declined to be interviewed, is missing teeth and needs fillings and

cleaning. “I just kind of help him, he helps me. We’re old people; we have to stick together,” she said. “We’re not turning anybody away,” Nesbit said. “If they say they need help, we’re going to help them. We’ve had people that have been walking around with abscesses for six months. If they’re having trouble paying for their lights or their food, they’re not going to go see a dentist.” The mobile lab will be returning, Nesbit said. “The dream would be quarterly, but it sounds like twice a year is more realistic.”

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In July the Angel Guild awarded grants to:

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- Longbranch Improvement Club Fiber Arts Show \$450
- Bischoff Food Bank \$2,500

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Key Pen Parks will hold two public meetings to discuss the 2017 budget as required per State of Washington RCW 84.52.020. The meetings will be at 7:30 pm on Oct. 10 and Nov. 14 in the Volunteer Park office.

Save the Date!

Breakfast with Santa

December 3

at the Key Center Fire Station

Tickets go on sale in November



FOURTH OF JULY THANK YOU!







A great time was had by more than 550 people at the second annual Fourth of July Community Hot Dog Social on July 4! We're looking forward to next year at Volunteer Park! We are looking for sponsors, volunteers and ideas for 2017! Email Christina@keypenparks.com.

Thank you sponsors: KP School Bus Connects, Key Peninsula Co-op Preschool, Key to Learning Childcare & Preschool, KP Parks & Rec Foundation, New Beginnings Real Estate, KP Sportsmen's Club, KP Veterans, Longbranch Improvement Club, Angel Guild, Red Barn Youth Center, Tom Taylor YMCA, Lindquist Dental Clinic, Costco, Key Peninsula Lutheran Church and Zach & Sarah Smith Family.

Thank you volunteers: KP Parks commissioners Kip Clinton, Mark Michele & Ed Robison; Jerry & Marilyn Hartley; Rob & Dianna Home; Chad, Tracey & Jane Oliveira; Ben, Susan, Charles & Annamarie Paganelli; Zach & Sarah Smith and family; Tim, Tina, Isaac & Megan Stobbe. Thank you PenMet Parks loaning us tents, Mary Blythe for painting so many happy faces, and the surprise visitor - Uncle Sam!



Take the survey, pretty please!

If you attended the Fourth of July Community Hot Dog Social on July 4th, we'd love it if you'd take the survey. Your feedback and ideas will help us plan next year's event. Click the survey link on our website home page (keypenparks.com) before Sept. 30!

The next Key Pen Parks board of commissioners meeting will be at 7:30 pm on Monday, Sept. 12, 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.

Key Pen Parks is a proud sponsor of the 3rd Annual Cider Swig - the Greater Gig Harbor Foundation Cider Festival from noon to 5 pm on Saturday, Sept. 24, 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. For details and tickets, visit www.ggharborfoundation.org/cider-swig.



Ted Olinger
EXECUTIVE EDITOR



From the Editor's Desk

Sometimes small things make a big difference.

Each of us has the power to improve our community through our individual actions, and it doesn't take much.

Hold the door. Say hello. Listen to someone's story.

Or, tell their story.

I have received many comments about what's appeared in these pages since I took over as executive editor in April, but more often I am asked about things that didn't appear. "Why didn't you talk about this [fill in the blank]?" Then I'll hear some remarkable or moving or intriguing story for the first time that indeed should have been in the paper, and might be the following month.

That is what we do at the Key Peninsula News. Our mission since 1974 has been to improve our community by telling your stories. But we can't do it without help from you.

The KP News is an independent, nonprofit publication that gives away 9,000 newspapers a month; that's one free to every household on the peninsula. We are sponsored by the KP Civic Center but operate on our own—editorially and financially. That means we print what we think you need to know and pay for it with advertising revenue, subscriptions and donations.

That costs us \$100,000 a year. We earn about 85 percent of that from advertising revenue and paid subscriptions. The rest has to come from donations.

To figure the costs, consider printing and distribution alone is about \$1,500 each month. Add to that the cost of part-time paid staff—editor, designer, bookkeeper and two ad reps—plus some overhead required to run a small business. Then credit the value of 32 people (at last count)—all volunteers—who are the writers, photographers, copy editors, proofreaders and distributors operating under the guidance of one executive editor and our five member volunteer publishing board.

This free paper turns out to be quite a good deal.

But it has only worked for so long because of a community that values its neighbors, honors its past and wants to protect its future.

That would be you.

Without the financial support from our readers, your stories about the peninsula, its people, its problems and solutions simply wouldn't exist. Your dollars help pay for salaries, postage, ink and paper.

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Tucked inside this edition you will find an envelope that can be used to mail us your tax-deductible donation. Or, if you prefer, you can donate online at our website at www.keypennews.com.

Either way, thank you for making a big difference.

You can always reach me at editor@keypennews.com.

Anne Nesbit
SIREN'S SONG



Mental Health Goes to School

Positive mental health is essential for the development of young people, but students are rarely taught how to maintain good mental health and how to recognize and respond to possible disorders. The state Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction decided to change that this year by including mental health education in the health and physical education K-12 standards.

Thirty-six instructors from all over Washington came together this July in Tacoma to learn how to train classroom teachers in the use of the new Mental Health and High School Curriculum Guide. The program will be piloted in 35 state districts in the 2016-2017 school year through the partnership of OSPI's Project AWARE and CHI Franciscan Health's Prevent-Avert-Respond Initiative. It will be part of the required health class at the high school level.

Washington is the only state in the union piloting the new mental health curriculum. Research shows that one in four families will be affected by mental illness,

but many Washington students graduate without any lessons about mental health and recovery. Most serious mental illnesses—bipolar disorder, major depressive disorder, anxiety disorders and schizophrenia—emerge between the ages of 15 and 24. The main goal of the new curriculum is to teach students about these disorders and how vital it is to seek help for themselves or people they are concerned about. The earlier an issue is identified, the better the prognosis for recovery.

The new instructors will be training health teachers at school sites to teach and promote student mental health literacy. The curriculum is broken down into 45-minute sessions delivered over two weeks. It includes web-based modules with videos defining mental health disorders and treatments, and will feature families and adolescents who live with mental health disorders. The material openly discusses these issues to help create a tangible link to mental health and everyday life, to reduce the stigma attached to mental health disorders, and to encourage students to seek help.

The stigma surrounding mental health can be debilitating or deadly. The friends and families of your local fire departments and hospital have lost two first responders to suicide in the last month. These deaths not only shocked us but raised the question: Why didn't these individuals seek help? They were professionals who dealt with the mental health needs of others almost daily. They knew the signs. They knew about resources. Yet they kept their feelings to themselves until they could no longer live with them. If society were more accepting of mental illness, if we understood it more completely, would they have been more inclined to reach out to someone?

If learning and understanding can decrease the stigma that surrounds mental health in younger generations, maybe more people will get the acute care they need and live complete and fulfilling lives.

For more information, go to the OSPI website at k12.wa.us/SecondaryEducation/pubdocs.

Anne Nesbit is a volunteer battalion chief and administrative assistant at the Key Peninsula Fire Department.

Cathy Warner
KEY PEN & INK



Misdirection

"Directions to 12345 345th Avenue Court NW, KPN."

Try asking Siri to help you navigate the Key by giving her a five-digit house number, followed by a three-digit street number, followed by street or avenue coupled with a court, insert a compass point, then tack on KPN or KPS, and she is so flabbergasted she can't even apologize.

She just freezes—discombobulated. And in that I am no different from her.

I'm the first to admit I'm directionally challenged. I grew up in a neat post-World War II suburban grid in Southern California. The numbered streets—1st through 17th—ran in straight lines, bisected by named streets—Central, Electric, Landing—bordered by the beach to the west and Pacific Coast Highway to the east. I was never lost, not even walking the newer subdivisions with curving streets and cul-de-sacs.

The thing about the streets in all the towns I've called home is that the numbers never repeated and the vast majority of the streets had names that didn't change as the road meandered. In college, I spent a summer in Washington D.C., studying its architecture. I learned about Pierre L'Enfant designing the city's grid with its alphabetic streets (A, B, C) running one direction, numbers the other, diagonals named after states, and quadrants designating their location (NW, SE, etc.). It's an idea planners have adopted throughout the country.

While the grid system might work well in D.C., with just the Potomac running through it, plunk that urban design onto peninsulas with coves, bays, fingers, spits, harbors and lakes, and you end up with the same street number making appearances miles apart as if the road runs underwater and we simply pop up in our submersibles, trundling down the same avenue.

And why would anyone think it a good idea for a street to change numbers every time the terrain curves? Once I type in my desired address, Siri often tells me that 322nd street makes a slight right and becomes 425th Avenue, only to revert back

at the next curve. Why not give the long and winding road a name?

And compass points mean nothing to us directionally challenged. When I began driving years ago and visited my grandparents on my own, my grandfather would say, "Turn south on Nordoff, then east on Dearborn."

"Grandpa," I'd reply, "I need left or right." "Is that the corner with the old boat?" a longtime KP resident asked when I gave him directions to my house recently. I'm told that's the way most folks who've been here a while navigate: by landmark. And why not? The red barn, the split-rail fence, the church on the corner—we can see them, store them in memory, find our way back a second time. But the grid numbers and compass points—there's no image to latch onto.

Last month's Key Peninsula News reported that Pierce County planners will be changing up to 10,000 addresses on the Key and nearby islands to aid in 911 response in our cellphone age. I'm all in favor of helping first responders find me. Is it too much to hope that the new system will help Siri and me understand the lay of the land?

Cathy Warner lives in Wauna.

Dale Goodvin
NEXT DIMENSION NOTES



American Mythology

The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines the word "myth" as "An idea or story that is believed by many people, but that is not true."

Millions of Americans fervently inform us that America is stronger and greater if we believe that we are always the good guys, that capitalism is sacred, and that democracy still means something other than an excuse to go

to war. These beliefs have become so ingrained in our national identity they have attained the power of myths, thus preventing millions of us from examining them realistically.

I would like to pose a question: Do you believe the American mythology of perfection is a driving force that elevates us, or has it morphed into a rigid fable preventing us from considering the possibility that old myths might be destroying instead of enriching us?

I suggest that maybe America cannot always be the good guy in this world of greed, war and hate; that our economic system may not be so pure and perfected we can righteously force it, perhaps violently, onto the entire world; and that it is possible our political system may not be so unsullied we can forever believe in our leaders when they claim to be sending us into yet another savage war for the good of humanity, instead of for money and power.

Should not serious issues about who and what we are as a country at the very least be fruitfully debated instead of blindly accepted? If we cannot question the viability of long held images of ourselves with eyes wide-open, how will we ever be able to see who we are in reality even as we drown in the fantasy waters of mythology?

I fully understand that this essay does not provide answers to complex issues concerning how a country can become stuck in a fantasy world and how it might escape from that world. However, I believe it would be wise to question our own national myths as a way of preserving our values, not as a way of dragging us down, and that doing so would allow us to exist as the land of the genuinely free and home of the truly brave so that we might, some day, also be the land of the truth. What a mighty and humble country that would be.

Yours in peace from the next dimension.
Dale Goodvin lives in Longbranch.

Skate
Key Peninsula
Civic Center  **Night**

\$5 Skate Night returns September 9

High School Youth Volunteer orientation 7pm, Sept. 7, Civic Center Shelter

Check out www.facebook.com/KPCC.SkateNight/

Key Peninsula Civic Center, 17010 S. Vaughn Road 253/884-3456 www.kpciviccenter.org 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) nonprofit organization



CIVIC CENTER

CORNER

Flavors of Fall Gala

Come celebrate Key Peninsula Civic Center's 60th year of serving the community **October 8**. The Flavors of Fall Gala is the Civic Center's biggest fund-raising event (only held every other year). Helping fund maintenance and improvement projects that would be otherwise unaffordable, the success of this event is critical to the continued operation of your community center.



This year the Flavors of Fall Committee brings you an **evening of fun and adventure with "Flavors of the World."** Guests will start off with a champagne greeting, taste food and drinks from around the world, and go home with an amazing one-of-a-kind experience and items won during the silent or live auction.

Invitations to past attendees have been mailed, but if you would like to attend please call Claudia Loy at 253-884-3937 or the Civic Center office at 253-884-3456. Tickets are \$50 per person. **This is always a sold out event, so don't wait to join the fun.** For information regarding auction items, sponsorships, menu & guest chef visit www.kpciviccenter.org

P.S. We are still accepting donations, e.g., "experiences," items, or, of course, cash. Individuals interested in volunteering for event preparation, decorations, day of event check in/check out or cleanup please call the Civic Center office at 253-884-3456.



Candidate Forum

Tuesday Oct. 4 at 7 p.m. Whitmore Room

Sponsored by: Key Peninsula Business Association;
Key Peninsula Civic Center Association; Key Peninsula
Community Council; and Key Peninsula News

Upcoming Events at the Civic Center

Flavors of Fall October 8

Blues & Brews October 29 *(note date change)*

Winter Warm-Up November 12

Key Peninsula Civic Center, 17010 S. Vaughn Road 253/884-3456 www.kpciviccenter.org 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) nonprofit organization

KP Parks Commissioner says start now

As a Key Pen Parks Commissioner, my goals for the district are to increase access to our park properties and build a playground on the north end of the Key Peninsula. So I was disappointed when Key Pen Parks decided to put off starting the bid process on Phase I of the new Gateway Park. My motion to instruct our executive director to have our consultant group release the bid package was defeated by a vote of 3-2 on the incorrect assumption that we will get better pricing if we wait until spring to start work. They fear that working in the fall and winter may add extra costs related to the weather.

Sitting on our hands until springtime could mean our kids will wait as much as an extra six months before they have a playground and before our citizens can use Gateway Park instead of being locked out of this beautiful piece of public property.

Board President Mark Michel stated during the meeting that he has never heard anybody complain about the fact that the vast majority of our park property is under lock and key.

I plan to reintroduce the motion to start the bid process again at the next meeting on Sept. 12 at 7 p.m. at Volunteer Park. Please contact the executive director and other commissioners and let them know that you support opening Gateway Park as soon as possible (884-9240 or answers@keypenparks.com). Let them know our kids have waited long enough for a playground and we want public park spaces that are actually open to the public.

*John Kelly
Key Pen Parks Commissioner*

KP Parks President responds

During our August board meeting, a resolution was made to push an aggressive start to Phase I development of Gateway Park. The motion failed by a 3-2 vote. While I can't speak for the others in the majority, I can explain why I voted no.

If we were to start excavation in 2016, chances are very good we'd be compelled to stop work, spend money on erosion control throughout the Pierce County wet weather building moratorium, only to spend more to dig it out and return to work. Our consultants estimated unproductive costs associated with starting this fall could exceed \$35,000.

The resolution was brought forward in hopes of "showing progress to the public." The consultants concluded pushing the

project would lead to a best-case completion date approximately two months earlier. I believe it would have been irresponsible to risk Key Pen Parks' money and staff time for the perception of progress.

Commissioner Kelly incorrectly said in his letter, "The vast majority of our park property is under lock and key." I count 11 properties available to the public. The only property currently closed is the future Gateway Park.

I applaud and respect Commissioner Kelly's passion for progress. I look forward to clearing up any misconceptions he may have about our last board meeting.

I hope to see you at the next board meeting, or on one of our incredible trails soon.

*Mark Michel
Key Pen Parks Board President*

Local Student: Homework

Homework should be optional instead of required. There are at least three reasons for this: Kids need to be kids; we don't have enough time; and teachers should teach us.

Kids need to be kids. Many don't have enough time for extracurricular activities, such as sports or academic clubs. The U.S. Census Bureau says just 57 percent of students between the ages of 6 and 17 participate. Extracurricular activities provide development of social skills, exercise and hobbies.

Homework is extremely time-consuming. The average student spends 3 1/2 hours on homework daily, according to a study by the Los Angeles Times. This is especially difficult in middle and high school, where students have six different classes that assign homework.

Last, teachers seem now to rely on standardized worksheets instead of their own teaching styles. Students need and deserve more than just printed-paper sent home. Homework should be for kids who need help in school or want extra practice. Some kids don't have help with their homework at home. This situation makes good grades difficult to achieve.

Students can have trimester check-ins and projects instead of homework. This is an important movement that should be considered in the Peninsula School District.

*Alivia Mead
Harbor Ridge Middle School seventh-grader*

Local student: Support our schools

I know one of the reasons my family moved to Gig Harbor was because of the outstanding public education system. To

maintain this standard, our community needs to properly fund these schools. Reasons why we should take part in this action are because our schools are overcrowded and need new technology.

There was a bond in 2014 proposed to fund the building of a new school; unfortunately, it failed. Many voters were concerned that this bond would greatly raise their taxes, when the increase was only around \$1 per \$1,000 of property value, gradually decreasing over 20 years. This new school would have helped the overcrowding problem we have today. One example is Purdy Elementary. There are 744 students in a 600 student building. This means the third grade classes are taught in portables disconnected from the school environment.

As new technology enters our world through robotics and engineering, the jobs for the next generation will change. We need to help prepare our students for those new jobs by keeping them up-to-date with technology. Things like iPads for elementary schools and robotic equipment for middle schools help prepare our students for their future.

Schools are a vital part of a community, and they need to be funded to keep them at high quality.

Support our schools for the greater good.

*Audrey Krishnadasan
Harbor Ridge Middle School seventh-grader*

In support of Young

March 15, 2016, was a great day for the toll payers using the Tacoma Narrows Bridge. On that date Judy Clibborn (D-41st), Chair of the House Transportation Committee, came before the Transportation Commission in Olympia to accept a "thank you" from them for her hard work in securing \$2,500,000 in gas tax revenue to prevent the tolls on the bridge from being raised yet again. There were big smiles and accolades all-around the table except for the one person who single-handedly made it all happen—26th District Representative

Jesse Young (R)!

As a member of the Citizen Advisory Commission appointed by the Governor, I personally watched Jesse work behind the curtain, nonstop, throughout the legislative session, working both sides of the aisle to create a fair and equitable state contribution to help us with skyrocketing toll rates.

The \$2.5 million was a onetime contribution, so we need to make sure that Jesse Young gets back to Olympia this year to continue the great work he initiated last year. He deserves our thanks and our vote this November.

Randy Boss / Gig Harbor

In support of Spitzer

When I first saw Randy speak, he struck me as someone more interested in policy solutions than politics. In this time of political gridlock, we need a moderate voice to bring legislators from both sides of the aisle together around sensible legislation that addresses the major issues impacting our state. I can think of no two issues more critical than education and infrastructure.

Our legislature is being fined \$100,000 a day for failing to uphold the state's constitutional obligation to fully fund K-12 education. Randy Spitzer is the only candidate running for State Representative Position 2 in the 26th Legislative District who is committed to fully funding our schools.

The most recent American Society of Civil Engineers report card on our state infrastructure assigned a C- to our bridges and a D+ to our roads. This means longer commutes and more bridges at risk of collapsing. Randy Spitzer is the only candidate running who will make substantial long-term investments in our infrastructure.

In making these investments, we need someone who will spend our tax dollars wisely. Randy Spitzer is a trusted business adviser and certified financial planner. And he will make an excellent legislator.

Douglas Ridley / Fox Island

Letters to the Editor 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 Key Peninsula News reserves the right to edit all submissions for length and content. Mail letters to: P.O. Box 3, Vaughn, WA 98394, or email to news@keypennews.com.



Strengthening the Key Peninsula Connecting the Community

Survey Results are In!

Here are the top 5 items important to the KP, now and in the future:

Now

- Public Library
- Internet Connection
- Youth Programs
- Public Transportation
- Public Areas, like parks

Future

- Public Library
- Public Transportation
- Internet Connection
- Youth Programs
- Public Areas, like parks

More results available on our website: www.kphealthycommunity.org

Key Peninsula Partnership for a Healthy Community
www.kphealthycommunity.org

This Partnership is made possible by the generous funding of the
Gary E. Milgard Family Foundation
and by the support of the
Key Peninsula Community Counsel, a 501 (c)3 non-profit organization.



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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(Across from the fire station in Key Center)

253-884-9688

Tue-Thu & Sat: 12 to 6pm
Fri: 12 to 9pm
Sun & Mon: Closed



Emily Duncanson of Hart Crowser demonstrates how to weave eelgrass into burlap strips as volunteers observe. *Photo: Lisa Bryan, KP News*

Joemma Beach Eelgrass Restoration Underway

LISA BRYAN, KP NEWS

“What are you guys doing?” asked curious onlookers on the dock at Joemma Beach State Park in late July. Local volunteers assisted an enthusiastic team of scientists and students working to restore eelgrass beds in the sub-tidal zone off Joemma Beach.

“We simply could not accomplish this task without the help of volunteers,” said field project manager Emily Duncanson, an environmental scientist for the engineering firm Hart Crowser. She led the team transplanting thousands of live eelgrass shoots carefully harvested by scientific divers from robust eelgrass meadows at nearby Rocky Bay on Case Inlet.

With the hands-on help of students from Eric Wolgemuth’s environmental science class at Gig Harbor High School, the team laboriously prepared the eelgrass for planting by divers at the carefully selected site.

“The chance for students to participate in this restoration work and see with their own eyes what career opportunities await them in science was invaluable,” Wolgemuth said.

The multi agency restoration project is part of the Nearshore Habitat Program, which monitors and evaluates the status and trends

of marine vegetation for the Department of Natural Resources Aquatic Resource Division, the agency that acts as steward for state-owned aquatic lands in conjunction with the Puget Sound Partnership.

Eelgrass meadows provide essential habitat in shallow waters for a wide variety of species including salmon, Dungeness crab and herring that use it for food, shelter and spawning grounds. Eelgrass reduces ocean acidification and removes carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, making it critical to combating the effects of climate change in Puget Sound.

Jeff Gaeckle, the project manager from DNR, said, “The eelgrass monitoring program has been ongoing since 2000.” He and colleague Ronald Thom, marine ecologist at the Pacific Northwest National Labs in Sequim, wrote a grant for the eelgrass restoration program that was successfully funded by the EPA in December 2012. Thom, who has been internationally recognized for his work restoring damaged coastal ecosystems, pioneered techniques for salvaging and restoring eelgrass beds that have become a model for restoration.

“We planted the first test sites at Joemma Beach in the spring of 2013. Initial monitoring

found it successful in 2014 and the eelgrass persisted into 2015, which was indicative that Joemma was a suitable location for restoration,” said Gaeckle.

Eelgrass is in decline globally, subjected to stressors such as pollution, dredging, reduced sunlight from the shadows of structures, damage from boat anchors and mooring buoys, and the growing consequences of climate change. Its health is a key indicator of changing conditions in local watersheds draining into Puget Sound.

“It’s amazing flying over areas with good water clarity, such as bays in Florida, for example,” said Gaeckle. “From the air, you’ll see these small pock marks where the mooring

chains have scoured the grass away.”

To prepare the eelgrass harvested from healthy donor beds for transplant, the team at Hart Crowser came up with using burlap strips. Staff and volunteers use a fid apparatus to poke measured holes in the burlap. The eelgrass is then carefully woven into the burlap strips.

“Divers dig a trough, lay the loaded burlap strips woven with eelgrass into the shallow trench and secure it with sod staples to hold it down. We cover it back up, repeating the process in a grid pattern with the hope they will grow outward,” explained scientific diver and microbiologist Ryan McLaughlin.

There is little eelgrass in the South Sound relative to the rest of Puget Sound. The northern end of Case Inlet has a very healthy meadow of eelgrass at Rocky Bay. Thanks to the efforts of volunteers and scientists committed to restoring the health of Puget Sound, the waters off Joemma Beach are poised to become a healthy part of the ecosystem, according to McLaughlin.

Bailey Martin, a senior in the environmental science class, said, “After we learned about the eelgrass and the impact it has on the health of Puget Sound, it made me feel kind of protective of the eelgrass and I was making sure I was putting it in correctly so it would have a good chance of surviving.”

Sophomore Zach Yerbich-Louman said, “It was a very fulfilling project. It was really slow, tedious work to pull the eelgrass apart, but every little bit makes a difference.”



Courtesy Puget Sound Nearshore Partnership



Rain gardens help control runoff. Photo: Adobe

Locals Build Rain Garden to Improve Vaughn Bay

MATTHEW DEAN, KP NEWS

As local ecological issues continue to grow in scope and scale, some KP residents are turning to an installation called a rain garden to help improve local water quality.

One such resident is Gretchen Snider-Bassett. Snider-Bassett and her husband Scott Bassett won a free rain garden design and installation after participating in a Pierce Conservation District workshop in late March.

"When Scott won it I still wasn't sure. But there's a big book from WSU that's put out by the cooperative extension," said Snider-Bassett. She also drew on communications from Pierce County Surface Water Management and EarthCorps in Seattle to learn more.

A rain garden is a simple concept. "It's a landscape feature that people can put into their yard, and essentially it will look like a garden," said Melissa Buckingham of the Pierce Conservation District. "But the functionality is that we divert a bunch of runoff water that normally would cause a problem on your property into this garden area that then holds that water while it rains. That water then soaks into the ground when it stops raining." The system prevents runoff from picking up pollutants from roadways

or elsewhere and draining into open water.

The completed garden serves a dual purpose for its owner: "You get this really pretty landscaped garden in your yard, and the benefit for water quality is that you're not letting that water get polluted and go into the local body of water," Buckingham said.

Despite the uncomplicated premise of a rain garden, installation comes at a fairly significant cost and time expenditure. First, tests must be performed on the installation site to ensure that runoff can be directed to the location and the surrounding soil can absorb water well. After the site is approved, responsibility for the project is divided; organizations like Pierce Conservation District handle the design process, while the homeowner is responsible for hiring contractors and paying for plant materials.

"A homeowner would be looking at about \$2,000 to \$2,500 out of pocket for a project that costs about \$5,000 overall," Buckingham said. In this case, the other half of the project funding came from an unexpected source.

"EarthCorps just volunteered, out of nowhere, and they're going to pay for the other half, labor and material donation," Snider-Bassett said. EarthCorps, a Seattle-based conservation and habitat restoration nonprofit, is one of many organizations partnered with PCD to prevent water-borne pollution.

Snider-Bassett's rain garden installation comes at a particularly important time for quality in local bodies of water. Several nearby shellfish harvesting beds were recently reclassified to a less favorable category by the Washington State Department of Health, and pollutant-laden runoff is suspected to be a key component in the degrading water quality. Area conservation organizations are attempting to combat these issues both through larger efforts and appeals to state health organizations, as well as smaller projects like filtration systems and rain gardens.

"A couple of rain gardens really can start to make the difference," Buckingham said.

"The analogy of death by a thousand cuts... that's really where we're at right now with Puget Sound. It's been a lot of little things, and Vaughn Bay and Puget Sound are sick.

It's going to be a lot of small projects that convert into a really large positive impact."

For more information, go to piercecoun-tycd.org and earthcorps.org.

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A Welcoming Congregation

<http://PeninsulaUUF.org>

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SUBMIT CALENDAR ITEMS TO CONNIERENZ@HOTMAIL.COM BEFORE THE 15TH OF THE MONTH

SEPT. 1, 15 & 17**TECH HELP**

Book a librarian for tech help 3 to 5 p.m. on Sept. 1 & 15 and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sept. 17. Get one-on-one help with computer problems, research assistance, downloading devices, etc. Call Key Center Library to sign up at 548-3309.

SEPT. 4, 12, 19 & 26**BLOODMOBILE**

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

SEPT. 8**FUCHSIA GROUP**

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

SEPT. 9**SKATE NIGHT**

KP Skate Night returns to Civic Center, from 6 to 9 p.m.

SEPT. 10**KPHS YARD SALE**

The KP Historical Society yard sale is 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Shirley Olson's, 9004 Key Peninsula Highway N., a short walk across the street from business parking areas. PLEASE do not park at Sound Credit Union until after 1 p.m. Donations for this fundraiser are welcome until Sept. 9. 225-3036

FAMILY FUN FEST

KP Lutheran Church sponsors a family fun fest 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in McColley Hall. Admission is free for carnival games, dunk tank, vintage car exhibit and entertainment. Snack bar, live and silent auctions to support community outreach programs. 884-3312

SEPT. 12**PRAYER MEETING**

A prayer meeting is held at Grace Church in Home at 6 p.m. 884-4854

SEPT. 12 & 19**QUILTERS MEET**

Key Peninsula Quilters meet 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the meeting room in the Key Center Library. This is an open group and we work on our own projects, by hand or machine, which include quilting, embroidery, general sewing, knitting and crochet. Come for the whole time or drop in to work for as long as you want.

SEPT. 12 & 26**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

SEPT. 13**FREE MOVIE**

"Roadmap to Apartheid" is a provocative, award-winning film that shows Palestinian daily life and how it compares with the lives of black South Africans during the apartheid era. It will be shown at 7 p.m. at Blend Wine Shop in Key Center. The film is sponsored by Jewish Voice for Peace and a discussion will follow the film. Popcorn, snacks and no-host bar are available.

SEPT. 13 & 28**CROCHET OR KNIT**

The Loving Hearts group meets 1 to 3 p.m. at WayPoint Church on Sept. 13 and 7 to 9 p.m. on Sept. 28. Yarn donations are always needed. lovingheartsonkp@gmail.com or call Virginia, 884-9619

SEPT. 14**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 FD16 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. Wendy, 332-4883

KP COUNCIL

The KP Council meeting is held at 7 p.m. at the fire station in Key Center.

SEPT. 15**LOCAL AUTHOR'S BOOK**

Key Center Library presents Gig Harbor author E.C. Murray introducing her book "A Long Way from Paris," 7 to 8 p.m. The book is about carving out a life without heat, running water or a grasp of French as she faces the challenges of farm work in Southern France, reflects on her spirituality, and muses on the man she left behind. www.ecmurray.com or 548-3309

SEPT. 17**ALZHEIMER SUPPORT**

The Alzheimer's Association family caregiver support group meets 10:30 a.m. to noon on the third Saturday of each month at The Mustard Seed Project in the Key Center Corral (9013 Key Peninsula Hwy. N, Suite D). This group provides a consistent, caring place for people to learn, share and gain emotional support from others on the unique journey of providing support to a person with memory loss. Contact Ray Steiner at 253-820-2213.

SEPT. 18**SUNDAY BLUEGRASS JAM**

Bluegrass Gospel Jam session 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 a music stand and finger food to share; music and beverages are provided.

SEPT. 20**KEY SINGERS PRACTICE**

Key Singers, a local community chorus, begins rehearsals for the Dec. 11 Christmas program. All voice ranges are welcome 7 to 8:30 p.m. at KP Lutheran Church sanctuary. 884-5615

SEPT. 21**COMMUNITY FORUM**

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

SEPT. 22**FARMS ON THE KP**

Meet and greet the farmers who will be hosts on the 2016 Key Peninsula Farm Tour and watch their documentary film at 7 p.m. at the KC Library. 548-3309

OFF THE KEY

SEPT. 6, 13, 20 & 27**SUPPORT GROUP**

The Freedom from Tobacco Support Group meets on Tuesdays 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at St. Anthony Hospital. Meetings free. 223-7538

SEPT. 7**DEMOCRATS MEET**

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

SEPT. 16, 17 & 18**OPEN STUDIO TOUR**

The annual Gig Harbor Open Studio Tour visits local artists in their own studios from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Gigharboropentourstudio.org or 573-2858

SEPT. 17**CHUM FESTIVAL**

The annual Donkey Creek Chum Festival is 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the park, 8714 N. Harborview Dr., Gig Harbor. gigharborguide.com

SEPT. 24**GLASS PUMPKIN PATCH**

The Glass Pumpkin Patch is at Uptown 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Entry is free to see glass pumpkins of all shapes and sizes. Uptowngigharbor.com

SEPT. 25**RACE FOR A SOLDIER**

Run a half-marathon, a 5K or a kids' fun run to raise funds to help soldiers working through the stress of a war. Registration must be completed by midnight on Sept. 20. raceforasoldier.org/register

SEPT. 30**PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST**

The deadline for the "AC Haunted Images Photographic Arts Competition" is Sept. 30. The contest is sponsored by Almost Candid Gallery and Frame Shop in Kingston celebrating the themes of fall, Halloween and seriously spooky fun. All photographers and graphic artists are invited to submit digital media by the deadline. There is no entry fee. Go to almostcandid.net/photo-contest, or call 360-297-1347.

OCT. 1

SCARECROW FESTIVAL

The Gig Harbor Scarecrow Festival is a free autumn celebration with animals, fun, food and vendors from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Sehmel Homestead Park. A \$2/child donation is required for some activities. penmetparks.org

WEDNESDAYS

WRITERS MEET

Lakebay Writers is a workshop for people who love stories. Share yours. Hear others. 1 to 4 p.m. at the KC Library. Loren Aikins, 884-2785

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 - SEPT. 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30

STORY TIME

Families with young children enjoy summer stories 1:30 to 2 p.m. at KC Library. 548-3309

SATURDAYS

WRITERS GUILD

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

Add to the News

Your Key Peninsula News depends on advertisers, supporters and volunteers. Help build a stronger community with your donation of time or money. Or both. Call 884-4699

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Sept. 6, **Artists' Blend**, 4 to 6 p.m., Blend Wine Shop, for all artists; kathybauer100@gmail.com

Sept. 7 & 21, **KP Lions**, 7 p.m., KC fire station; 853-2721

Sept. 7 & 21, **KP Veterans**, 7 p.m., KP Lutheran Church; membership for veterans and military service members and families over 16 yrs. 509-8656 or keypenveterans@outlook.com

Sept. 8, **Peninsula School District Board**, 6 p.m., district office

Sept. 8, **KP Civic Center Assn. Board**, 7 p.m., Whitmore Room, KP Civic Center; 884-3456

Sept. 8, **TWAA Board**, 7 p.m., VFW Room, KP Civic Center; kathybauer100@gmail.com

Sept. 12, **KP Parks**, 7:30 p.m. at Volunteer Park office; public is encouraged to attend. 884-9240

Sept. 13 & 27, **KP Fire Dept.**, 5 p.m., KC fire station; keypeninsulafire.org

Sept. 14, **KP Community Council**, 7 p.m., KC fire station

Sept. 15, **KP Citizens against Crime**, 7 p.m., KC fire station

Sept. 19, **KP Democrats**, 7 p.m., Home fire station; johnpatkelly@aol.com

Sept. 21, **Longbranch Improvement Club**, 6:30 p.m. social, 7 p.m. meeting, LIC; 884-6022

Sept. 21/third Wednesday, **KP Advisory Commission**, 6:30 p.m., VFW Room, KP Civic Center; Toni Fairbanks, 253-798-7156

Sept. 26, **KP Farm Council**, 6:30 p.m., Home fire station; c.wiley@mac.com

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WEEKLY EVENTS

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.

MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS

YOGA CLASSES

Yoga classes are held each Monday & Wednesday at the Civic Center 8:30 to 9:30 am

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 PLAY TIME

Beginning Sept. 13, the Children's Home Society and KP Family Resource Center offers a preschool/toddler indoor park program 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the KP Civic Center gym. Care-givers 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 displays of Historic Hotels and Resorts of the Key Peninsula. Free admission; monetary donations welcome. 888-3246



Eagle Scout hopeful Robert Quill has become a vocal advocate for bike helmets. *Photo: Lisa Bryan, KP News*

Local Scout Back on Track After Bike Accident

CAROLYN WILEY, KP NEWS

Robert Quill, 16, is a Junior Assistant Scoutmaster with KP Boy Scout Troop 220. He joined the troop in 2011 and is working to become an Eagle Scout with a project to replace the announcement sign at the Key Peninsula Civic Center, continuing the long tradition of Eagle Scout projects there. The original timeline was to complete installation and have the dedication before the start of school this month. Unfortunately, those plans are on hold.

On June 27, Robert and his mother, Sarah Quill, were riding their bikes along Lake Helena Road to Wicks Lake in Port Orchard. As they neared their destination, they saw a smashed recycling bin and its contents scattered across the eastbound lane. To avoid the broken bottles and shards of glass, and to make room for a van approaching from the rear, Sarah turned to the right and Robert turned left into the westbound lane.

Sarah believes she may have hit a

bottle, because her bike skidded on gravel and flipped into the ditch.

The van hit Robert from behind, knocking him into the ditch on the opposite side of the road and came to a stop with the front left tire pinning him face down.

“I was frantic and began beating on the front of the van to get the driver to back up,” Sarah

said. She has experience as a surgical nurse and began assessing his injuries.

“No parent should have to see their child in an accident like that and feel that pain,” she said.

Once freed, Robert moved and moaned. His mouth and nose were filled with dirt and his bike helmet was smashed. Sarah feared that unless she could keep Robert still his head and neck injuries would worsen.

“When he made his first sound—a deep, guttural, heart-wrenching sound—I was sure I would watch my

son die,” she said.

Robert spent three days in the hospital, including two in ICU, with a concussion and subarachnoid hemorrhage. He also sustained a broken wrist requiring surgery and a screw, a broken forearm, two broken ribs and multiple abrasions to legs, arms and body—including tire tread marks on his back and shoulder.

“The soft ground in the ditch and the bike helmet were all that saved my life,” Robert said.

He feels that he is well on the road to recovery and said that most of the planning for his Eagle Scout Project has been completed. If all goes well, Robert will be out of his cast by the end of August and, after some physical therapy, will start work on the new sign.

“Robert is a great young man,” said Scout Master Steve Goins. He looks forward to the completion of Robert’s

Eagle Scout project and expressed pride in the troop’s commitment to serve the community. “Many of the Eagle Scout projects are done at the civic center because they provide storage for our equipment and meeting space. It’s how we pay them back.”

Goins listed some Eagle Scout projects already completed on the civic center grounds: Scott O’Dell built the fire pit; the tables were built by Evan Pernu; his brother, Colin Pernu, repainted the

whale carving and rebuilt its protective cover outside the KP Historical Museum; and Kevin Pszczola installed a ham

radio connection and antennae to better equip the civic center as an emergency shelter site.

Robert will graduate from South Kitsap High School but begins his junior year in September as a full-time student in the Running Start program at Olympic College. He plans to be a mechanical engineer.

Robert wants to get back on a bike, but will need to get a new helmet and a new bike. Meanwhile, Robert said, “Don’t ride without a helmet. My helmet saved my life.”

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Connie Cheney of Fairview Acres, Longbranch, spins yarn at the show last year. *Photo: Danna Webster, KP News*

Fiber Arts Show Returns to LIC

ALICE KINERK, KP NEWS

The Longbranch Improvement Club will host the ninth annual Fiber Arts Show on Saturday, Oct. 1, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., featuring the work of more than two-dozen artists, from traditional to modern, from artistic to utilitarian.

This year's theme is Threads Through Time. And while for many, the word "fiber" is synonymous with cloth or fabric, the LIC is out to prove that for artists, fiber means a great deal more.

This year's featured artist is just one of many expanding the visitors' understanding of what fiber is and how it can be used artistically. Squire Brooms, a tiny mom-and-pop business, will travel from Bay Center in Pacific County for the event.

Working on equipment that dates to the 1800s, broom squire John Simurdak will be making Shaker-style brooms from broom-corn at the show. John and his wife Margaret spent several years traveling and learning the craft from master broom makers in Arkansas and Alabama. Visitors can take a turn sewing a stitch or two on a broom or maybe turn wire on the winder. John and Margaret will also bring their mountain dulcimers to play a few old-time tunes.

In addition to Squire Brooms, a variety of local fiber artists will grace the Improvement Club for the popular one-day event.

Terry Logan and her business, The Logger's Daughter, will be there with fiber bowls, jackets and other items. Also attending will be Allyn Knit Shop and Spinning Supply. Elizabeth Purvis will take part with her hand-painted muslin dolls. Diana Iversen, a quilter

from Elma, will be there with Diana's Quilts, bringing a variety of finished pieces, some of which have never been displayed before. Nancy Carr will also show her embroidery, featuring Seahawks and patriotic themes.

"Outside, there will be vintage tractors, willow furniture and a demo of weaving a willow wiki compost bin, among others."

"Inside, the lunch will be homemade tomato basil soup and corn chowder and Peg's famous apple crisp," Carr said.

Carr also said that putting on this annual event takes the dedication of many caring volunteers. "There is a very active LIC Fiber Arts Committee that is spending many hours to make sure it is a successful event. We are supported by the Longbranch Improvement Club, Angel Guild, Bruce Titus Automotive Group and the KP Farm Council in conjunction with the KP Farm Tour," she said.

Organizers encourage visitors of all ages with activities to keep little ones happy. Pierce County Library will return with their popular make-your-own-duct-tape-wallet activity. "Fiber Arts is a family-friendly event. There are kid activities, outdoor activities and food. There is something for everyone, and there is no charge," Carr said.

Food sales and raffle tickets help raise funds for the LIC, with the winners drawn around 3:45 p.m. Two quilts will be raffled off, one of which is a child's Hawaiian alphabet quilt. There will also be raffle baskets with donations from artists at the event. Fund-raising events enable the LIC to fund camp and college scholarship programs.

For more information, visit the Longbranch Fiber Arts Show on Facebook or contact Nancy Carr at ncarr44@centurytel.net.

Camp Stand By Me Builds Hope and Health

COLLEEN SLATER, KP NEWS

Camp Stand By Me is a place where campers with a variety of disabilities are told, "You can!" and then given the support to succeed. Campers ride horses, go for boat rides, practice archery and much more.

The camp on Vaughn Bay, formerly Camp Easter Seals West, was a gift of Mildred McDermott of Seattle, sister of Dorothy Kellogg, who with her husband purchased 17 acres as a weekend and retirement home where she could raise horses and various pets.

Kellogg, who suffered infantile paralysis in her childhood, did not have the word "impossible" in her vocabulary. She spent some of her teen summers at a friend's farm, riding and working with horses and other animals. Crutches and heavy steel braces challenged her abilities, but she accomplished what she set out to do, becoming a successful businesswoman in Tacoma. She loved riding horses, as it gave her a freedom not available by walking.

The Easter Seals Society acquired the property in 1972 and opened the first camp in 1975. Campers and staff stayed in tents. Horses and a swimming pool were added in 1978, after the society purchased additional acreage.

"About half of the campers are returnees," Director Joshua Mayer said, "and perhaps a dozen have been coming for 41 years."

The original camp was for ages 9 to 17, but the age ranges now are 7 to 21, 15 to 35, and 21 and up. Nine groups rotate through the summer season, with a week off for staff before the final session. Campers arrive Sunday and depart Friday.

Their daily schedule varies with the day's main activity: archery, horses, visiting the nature-learning center, swimming, boating, and doing arts and crafts. Archery is set

up so any camper can participate, pontoon canoes and the wheelchair accessible float boat, Neva DII, are available for tours around the bay. Wednesday night dances are a popular event.

Mayer is serving his fifth year and would love to carry on for many more. He volunteered at Camp Easter Seals East in Idaho as a camp counselor for 15 years, then spent four years working in special education in the Seattle-Tacoma area.

At 67 acres, including nine undeveloped, Mayer hopes to expand and restore the facilities in the next couple of years. Some buildings need replacing or remodeling for different uses.

Thirty counselors work with up to 45 campers at a time. The counselors this summer came from many places, including 13 from England, eight from Ireland, and one each from Scotland, Australia, New Zealand, Mexico, Columbia and Hungary. Most are students with a career goal of working with the disabled in some manner and spend their summers learning in camps like Stand By Me. The full-time staff includes administrator Barbara Lewis, facility manager Dave Hennesey, chef Dorn Webster and assistant director Kayla Estes.

The camp season staff includes Maria Ishikawa from Tacoma, who is in her first year as activities coordinator. Holly Gelder from Barnsley, Yorkshire, England, is in her second year as camper support specialist. She hopes to find a position teaching in special education schools near her home.

When asked what they liked best about their positions in this camp, Gelder said, "Being able to help people. It's my calling in life." "Seeing the joy," Ishikawa said.

For more information, go to easterseals.com/Washington, or call 884-2722.

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Dancers on Purdy beach preparing for the Hapa Haole Hula Competition in Vancouver, Washington, where they won first place in July. *Photo: Bill Nahalea*

Halau Hula O

COLLEEN SLATER, KP NEWS

Meet Gloria Napualani Kalamalamakailialoha Fujii Nahalea.

Her name means “full of life or vivaciousness,” and she has lived up to it as a teacher of hula, ukulele and Tahitian dance classes around the globe for over 40 years. She opened a new studio on Purdy Drive this summer.

Born in Waialua, Oahu, Gloria first came to this state to study at the University of Washington. While there, she mentored with Kumu Hula Master George Naope, founder of the Merrie Monarch Hula Festival, and traveled with the Aloha Airlines-Pleasant Hawai’ian Holidays Tour Company throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Gloria and her husband Bill, a television and video producer, have lived in the Seattle area with their daughter Megan for the last 16 years.

Vicki Nokleby, a dancing student who traveled to Gloria’s classes in Seattle for four years, asked if she’d ever consider teaching in the Gig Harbor area. The reply was yes, if certain requirements were met.

Nokleby, a yoga teacher, went to work finding a place to teach and a new home for the Nahalea family. They have lived in the Glencove area for almost two years now. “It’s beautiful,” Gloria said about her view across the water to Raft Island and Mount Rainier. She loves the new location in Purdy because of the beach and water. “It reminds us of Hawai’i,” she said.

Gloria and her family and students have spent the summer participating in competitions, luaus and other gatherings, including the recent tribal canoe journey at

Nisqually. She has participated in cultural heritage activities in Seattle schools and hopes to continue here. She loves working with children and encouraging them to be involved in helping others. Many of her programs charge the cost of a donation for the food bank or charities of choice.

“For several decades, I’ve been blessed to teach some of the finest dancers from ages 4 to 94,” she said. One program she has taught in various senior living centers encouraged the older generation to experience hula as alternative therapy for high blood pressure issues.

“It’s holistic, including mental, social, cultural and spiritual experiences,” she said, “and the music soothes the soul.”

There are currently 10 adult students at the Purdy location without any real promotion except by word-of-mouth. There are a dozen in the ages 5 to 14 class.

Classes include basic Hula-Kahiko (ancient Hawai’ian dance), basic Tahitian-Ote’a (traditional), ‘Aparima (central hand mimics) and basic Maori dancing, plus private coaching and competitive coaching. Ukulele and yoga classes are also available.

For more information, call or text 206-484-2511 or visit hakauhukaibaoyakabu.com.

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Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday Routes

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EVERGREEN MORNING ROUTE

8:50 Evergreen Elementary School
8:59 Public access gravel area end of lake
9:00 21st St KPS @ 193rd Ave
9:05 KPCS Senior Center /Food Bank
9:06 KP Hwy N @ Home Gas Station
9:10 KP Hwy N @ 167th Ave Ct KPN
9:11 Volunteer Park
9:14 Food Market @ Key Center
9:15 KP Hwy N @Minterwood Dr KPN
9:21 Lake Kathryn Center
9:26 Purdy Park & Ride

VAUGHN MORNING ROUTE

8:50 Vaughn Elementary School
8:56 Hall Rd KPN @ S. Vaughn Rd KPN
8:57 Wright Bliss Rd @104th St Ct KPN
8:59 Union 76 @ Four Corners
9:02 Lake Holiday bus shed
9:03 SR302 @ 140th Ave KPN
9:05 Charbonneau Construction
9:08 Lake Kathryn Center
9:26 Purdy Park & Ride



MIDDAY ROUTE

10:47 Peninsula High School
10:49 Purdy Park & Ride
10:54 Lake Kathryn Center
11:03 11615 SR302 @ Windermere Realty
11:05 SR302 @ 140th Lake of the Woods
11:06 Lake Holiday bus shed
11:09 Union 76 @ Four Corners
11:11 Wright Bliss Rd @104th Ave KPN
11:12 Olson Dr & Wright Bliss Rd KPN
11:14 Food Market @ Key Center
11:17 Volunteer Park
11:21 KP Hwy @ 167th Ave Ct KPN
11:24 KP Hwy @ Home Gas Station
11:27 KPCS Senior Center /Food Bank
11:33 Public Access Gravel Area
11:34 21st St KPS & 193rd Ave KPS
11:40 Evergreen Elementary School

AFTERNOON ROUTE

4:43 Peninsula High School
4:45 Purdy Park & Ride
4:51 Lake Kathryn Center
4:54 11615 SR302 @ Windermere Realty
4:56 SR302 @ 140th Lake of the Woods
4:58 Lake Holiday bus shed
5:00 Union 76 @ Four Corners
5:02 Wright Bliss Rd @104th Ave KPN
5:03 Wright B s Rd @Hall Rd KPN
5:06 Food Market @ Key Center
5:08 KP Hwy @84th The Red Barn
5:09 Volunteer Park
5:10 KP Hwy @ 167th Ave Ct KPN
5:11 KP Hwy @ Home Gas Station
5:14 KPCS Senior Center /Food Bank
5:19 Public Access area at end of Lake
5:20 21st KPS @ 193rd Ave KPS
5:24 KP Hwy @ 17th St Ct KPS
5:36 KP Hwy @84th The Red Barn

A partnership with the KP Community Council, Puget Sound Educational School District, Peninsula School District and the Gary E. Milgard Foundation.



Well-maintained septic systems contribute to good water quality, healthy beaches, and active recreational and commercial shellfish harvesting. *Courtesy: Tacoma-Pierce County Health Dept.*

Protect Your Home and the Environment with Septic System Maintenance

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Do you really know what happens when you flush? If your septic system is in good working condition, the waste in your toilet bowl flows to your underground septic tank where it breaks down and remains until your next septic system pumping. The effluent from your tank drains into your drainfield where your soil filters and disposes of it safely.

Your main job, other than flushing only waste and toilet paper, is to get your septic system inspected and pumped regularly so it can continue to serve you for many years.

Taking care of your septic system is an easy way to practice good environmental stewardship and protect your family and your investment in your home. It all contributes to good water quality in our area, too.

Failing septic systems are a source of high bacteria levels that contribute to poor water quality, beach closures, interrupt shellfish harvesting and restrict recreational use of our marine waters.

Take these steps to maintain your septic system—and protect the water quality of the groundwater, creeks, lakes and beaches that make the Key Peninsula such a beautiful place to live:

1. Get your septic system inspected. Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department requires property owners to get their septic systems inspected annually or every three years, depending on the type of system you have. See our list of certified septic professionals at tpchd.org/septic-service-companies. You may be able to take advantage of the Septic Care Incentive Program and reduce your bill by up to 50 percent. Visit tpchd.org/incentive to print the forms and get your savings.

2. Make septic repairs to prevent surfacing sewage. If inspection reveals a repair that's out of your financial reach, explore our financial resources at tpchd.org/septic-help. We also offer Clean Water Loans for septic repairs and replacements from Craft3, a nonprofit, nonbank community development financial institution. Find more information at tpchd.org/clean-water-loan.

3. Learn about the septic system in your yard. If you don't know the location of your septic system, visit tpchd.org/asbuilt.php to find out. Learn more about septic operation and maintenance at tpchd.org/OMBrochure.

The cheapest septic system you will ever have is the one you're using now. Get it inspected so you can prevent septic system failures.

Still not convinced that maintaining your septic system is good for you and the environment? Please let us know what would change your mind. Contact us at 253-798-4788 or EHsepticssystem@tpchd.org with your comments.

If you are interested in assisting with stream sampling or learning more about water quality, Pierce Conservation District will host a Stream Team training workshop Oct. 15. For more information, contact Belinda Paterno at belindap@piersecountycd.org or 253-845-9770 ext. 109.

The Shellfish Partners are made up of Pierce County Public Works Surface Water Management, Pierce Conservation District, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, community organizations and Key Peninsula residents. We have been at work to protect Key Peninsula's beaches and shellfish resources since 2006. For more information, call 253-798-6470 or visit tpchd.org/shellfish.

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Wicked Good Eats on the Key Peninsula

IRENE TORRES, KP NEWS

Sarah Webb said she only agreed to come to the Key Peninsula to draw the lobster graphic on the blackboard in front of the kitchen at Wicked Good Eats, located at State Route 302 at 118th Avenue. "That's all I'm doing," she had said.

Two months later, she's still here, co-managing the restaurant with her sister, Danyale Morado. Their mother, Michele Key, has been ill since opening the business July 9. She told the KP News from the hospital, "I want to thank the community for their support. We haven't had our grand opening yet because I've been sick. But I've been working behind the scenes, keeping up with ordering inventory and supplies. It's a family thing. Both of my girls gave up jobs to move here. If it weren't for them, it couldn't have happened. I'm so proud of them."

Webb said they order 30 to 60 pounds of fresh lobster each week to be delivered from Nick's in Portland, Maine, where fishermen catch, steam and devein the lobster before shipping it overnight to the restaurant. She said the lobster roll is the best-selling item on their menu, at \$15.99.

A lobster roll in Maine typically costs \$20 with no shipping charge.

Wicked Good Eats has a contract for year-round delivery of lobster with no price increase in the offseason. They could have lowered the price with claws, knuckles and legs but chose to serve claws, knuckles and tails instead. They also serve steak bombs, gyros, and garlic fries or salt-and-vinegar fries, East Coast style, mostly to take-out customers. There are just two tables to accommodate dining in.

Webb, who had worked at McDonald's since she was 16 years old, said, "I want to make sure to pay attention to detail, to be consistent. It's hard to do what we're doing. We are doing the best we can, especially with Mom being in the hospital."

When asked how the sisters get along, working together every day, Morado said, "We bicker a little bit, but we don't take anything personal."

"We try to have fun," Webb said, "We want to do this for our mom and our family. We're stubborn. We have that New England charm."

Their mother Michele's long-term goal is to open another restaurant in the University District in Seattle, so she can leave a store to each of her daughters. "It will be more upscale," Webb said. "This one is more laid back; it fits the KP."



Sarah Webb and Kristy Stover work the Wicked Good counter. Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News

Diners can enjoy their charm Tuesday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. The restaurant is closed on Mondays.

Key Peninsula Quilters Need New Members to Keep Traditions Alive

TED OLINGER, KP NEWS

A group of loosely affiliated but like-minded artisans keep their sewing skills sharp and creative wits sharper with biweekly meetings at the Key Center library. Embroidery, quilting, beading and other sewing arts are practiced by members who come to hone their skills, learn new ones, and help others with their projects.

They call themselves the Key Peninsula Quilters, but that's as far as formal structure goes. "We're not organized with officers and dues; we're totally against that," said long-time member Barbara Healy. She joined the group in its early days in 1992 after retiring. "I'm the last of the first," she said.

"I didn't start it, I was just one of the first who showed up," Healy said. "There was a posting in the library. I'd never quilted in my life, and I'd just retired so I thought I'd go down and see what it was all about. We had a master quilter with us for a while, and she showed us a lot."

Kit Ellis joined 10 years ago and has recently been working on placemats and quilt patterns. "It's really a good learning group," she said.

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supplies. We occasionally have a day where we bash husbands. It's just a good outlet."

"If somebody gets into trouble there's usually at least one of us who might know what the next step might be," Ellis said.

Award-winning quilter Carolyn Wiley specializes in elaborately designed quilts that take a long time to complete. "But it goes faster during football season because you just sew through the replays," she said.

"There were probably about 10 of us to start. Some have dropped out, some have passed away," said Healy.

"We could use a couple or three more people to join us, but we do not encourage people to join us who have little children. Not with sewing machines and all the stuff we have that could hurt them."

Asked whether husband bashing was a prerequisite to joining, member Deb Worley said, "Not so much."

The Key Peninsula Quilters meet next from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Sept. 12 and 19.

Barbara Healy shows off one of the aprons she sews for gifts. "I've got everybody in my family trained to wear them," she said. *Photo: Ted Olinger, KP News*

One newcomer joined at the first August meeting. Susan Lauzon had been embroidering for years, she said, but "I just wanted a group to do it with. We're relatively new here, and I was just interested in the companionship." Lauzon and her husband bought property on the KP five years ago and retired here full-time in June.

Everyone works on her own project. "We all help each other," Healy said. "We steal each other's ideas, borrow each other's



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Conversations with Candidates for the 26th



Rep. Michelle Caldier (R) is running for re-election for the 26th Legislative District, Position 2. *Photo courtesy Michelle Caldier*

Michelle Caldier

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

Michelle Caldier (R), just completing her first term as state representative for the 26th Legislative District, was first drawn to politics after she successfully got adult dental coverage reinstated for Medicaid patients in 2012. “It is my mission to help people,” she said. “And I was inspired by the opportunity to help on a different level.”

Caldier said the most important issues for the state are school funding and mental health, followed by transportation and concerns with state agencies such as the Department of Corrections and the Children’s Administration (in the Department of Social and Health Services).

She said that accountability is the key to adequate education funding, adding that the current funding formula is too complicated, how money is distributed is inequitable, and that there are ways to identify cost savings instead of just adding more money to the school budget.

Caldier also said the Legislature needs to be told how big the funding gap is: “Give us the dollar amount and we can find it.” She also added that all possible avenues

for funding must be investigated before an income tax should be considered.

Caldier said the Legislature has worked well, especially in dealing with non-polarizing issues. She has co-sponsored several bills with bipartisan support. Her guiding principle is to represent the 26th District. “I am not there to represent the Republican Party,” she said. “I go for what I think my constituents want.”

Caldier’s roots are in the Bremerton area, and she said a challenge for her has been to get to know the Pierce County part of her district. To get to know the Key Peninsula, “You have to show up,” she said. “What I love about the Key Peninsula is that if they have a problem, they reach out.”

In 2013, she worked with the Key Free Clinic to provide dental care using her staff and equipment to fill an acute need, though the clinic is now working on a long-term model with other local dentists.

Caldier’s focus on bills over the last two years has been related to social services and child advocacy and she noted that her approach is to be hands-on and to drill deep into the issues she cares about. She described her experience addressing the problems in foster care (she is a foster parent herself) and speaking directly to foster parents and caseworkers to help uncover their issues. “You have to listen to everybody,” she said.

Caldier described the work involved trying to pass a bill last session for a database to track patients with serious mental illness. The goal was to improve continuity of care and avoid incarceration of patients whose issues were mental health, not criminal. She initially had good legislative support, but then stakeholders and interest groups began to lobby legislators, especially with cost concerns. She worked with the stakeholders to understand and address those concerns and is ready to move forward now in the next legislative season. Caldier found the process valuable, noting that there are often valid concerns and unintended consequences in lawmaking that need to be addressed.



Randy Spitzer is the Democratic candidate for the 26th Legislative District, Position 2.

Photo Courtesy Randy Spitzer

Randy Spitzer

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

“Entering politics was never on my list of things I needed to do,” said Randy Spitzer, the Democratic candidate running for state representative for the 26th Legislative District now held by incumbent Michelle Caldier (R). “But I was asked to serve and, though it may sound corny, I have been a longtime member of the Rotary Club and I believe in their core value of service above self.”

Spitzer grew up in Bremerton and now lives in Port Orchard, where he and his wife raised their children. He has ties to the Key Peninsula: His wife Laurie, who has taught for decades, spent her first years as a teacher at Evergreen and Vaughn elementary schools.

Spitzer himself taught high school for nine years and later worked as a CPA and business consultant before starting his own company. He has been a member of the Gig Harbor and Bremerton Chambers of Commerce, the Gig Harbor Rotary Club and the East Bremerton Kiwanis.

He firmly believes that going door-to-door has been the best way to get to know his community better. “I have knocked on thousands of doors, including on the peninsula, and for almost everyone I am the first candidate who has done so,” he said. “If I am not the first, then it was Derek Kilmer

who came before me. I attend events, too, but it’s hard to really discuss issues there.”

Spitzer said the main issues for the state are funding education and tax reform, though transportation, mental health and environmental protection are close behind. And he sees these as being important concerns for the Key Peninsula as well.

Schools must be adequately funded, and while transparency and accountability are good buzzwords, he said there really is little fat in school budgets and that insisting there is a lot of waste is an excuse for inadequate funding. He thinks some savings could be found by reviewing the high stakes testing. Testing has been expensive and has not brought the improvement in academic performance or decrease in dropout rates it promised.

Spitzer also acknowledged that fully funding education without bringing in more income could have a serious impact on other important needs, including mental health and transportation. That’s where tax reform comes in. Spitzer said Washington state has one of the most regressive tax systems in the country—low-income residents pay a higher percentage of their income in taxes than wealthy residents. He does not think an income tax is feasible; that would require an unlikely change in the state constitution. But he thinks it is possible to decrease the sales tax, make changes in the business and occupation tax to benefit small businesses, eliminate outdated exemptions and renegotiate exemptions with companies like Boeing. In addition, he’d like to add a capital gains tax for high earners.

Spitzer said his background as a teacher, as a small-business owner and consultant would stand him in good stead dealing with gridlock in the legislature. He said the intransigence seen in Washington, D.C., is not the story of Washington state.

“I am not an inflexible political ideologue,” he said. “I think that politics is the art of the possible and that it does require compromise. Legislators are problem solvers, and it starts with listening. I try not to judge when I see positions I don’t agree with, but to try to understand why people have taken those positions, and to seek partners who can move the conversation forward.”



The next generation gets her bluegrass on at last year's festival. Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News

Ed Johnson and the Olalla Bluegrass Festival

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

The Olalla Bluegrass and Beyond Festival celebrated its quarter century mark Aug. 20. Founder Charlee Glock-Jackson said it came into being because of “an aligning of the planets.” A group of activists saving a forest from developers, a wish to revive a community center, and a bluegrass-loving Little League president all came together in 1991.

Glock-Jackson said that in 1990, citizens in Olalla learned that the Washington State Department of Natural Resources planned a land swap allowing over 600 acres of land, including old growth forest, to be sold to a developer who wanted to build hundreds of homes. They swung into action, disseminating information, organizing letter writing and protests. Public meetings at the Kitsap County Courthouse and the high school were standing-room-only events, and the county ultimately reclassified the site from rural residential to resource protection. The developer backed out and the forest was saved.

The group held some fundraisers during this time. They prevailed on a local judge who had the key to the Olalla Community Center, which had fallen into disrepair, and used it as a meeting place. Energized by their success in saving the forest, the group was inspired to resurrect the community center. Glock-Jackson suggested a bluegrass festival and thought the Little League field would be the ideal location. This is where Ed Johnson, who has lived on the Key Peninsula for more than 50 years and is a longtime contributor to the KP News, came in.

Johnson recalled coming home from work one afternoon. “My wife, Pam, now deceased, said to me, ‘I got a call from a lady in Olalla. She wondered if the Little League could host a bluegrass festival. I told her I don’t have to ask Ed. I can tell you right now he’ll say yes.’”

He was the president of the South Kitsap

Little League at the time (there was no Little League on the Key Peninsula in those days), and had fallen in love with bluegrass during his early days in Los Angeles. “I loved going to the Icehouse, a place where the entertainment consisted of a bad guitar player, a comedian, and a good guitar player,” he said. He and Pam thought the festival was a great idea, and at the next meeting the board agreed.

The festival, a great success, became an annual event. The community hall was renovated, and once Ed completed his second term as league president, he became liaison to the festival. He makes sure that the South Kitsap Little League continues to host the event and that they provide parking service and keep the proceeds from parking.

Perhaps most important, Johnson now serves, in Glock-Jackson’s words, as the “food and hospitality czar,” ensuring the performers are well cared for. The green room is where musicians rest and ready themselves for the performances, and Glock-Jackson says that Johnson’s reputation for providing for the musicians is what keeps many of them coming back. “Ed is the consummate volunteer and a gentleman in the classical sense of the word,” she said.

A week before the festival, Johnson gets to work in the kitchen preparing much of the food that keeps the musicians coming

back each year: bran muffins, apricot brandy cupcakes, peanut brittle, meatballs and a hominy stew called pozole.

The festival has raised money for improvement of the old hall, as well as support for local schools and food banks. The land saved by the original activists was acquired from the DNR by Kitsap County in 2000 and is now called Banner Forest Heritage Park. The county signed a conservation easement with the Great Peninsula Conservancy in 2002 to ensure that the central 139 acres of old growth forest and wetlands was protected and maintained, and all timber harvesting was discontinued. The master plan includes habitat preservation, education and trails.

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Scientific diver and marine biologist Nam Siu of Marine Surveys and Assessments suits up for his next dive off Joemma Beach in July to plant new eelgrass beds. "Much of the work we do is monitoring and mapping, but here we are actually building habitat and that feels great," he said. *Photo: Lisa Bryan, KP News*



Longtime KP Civic Center president, former Army Ranger, Vietnam chopper pilot and retired airline captain Phil Bauer celebrated his 80th birthday July 30. "We've all benefited incredibly from Phil's 17 year leadership of the civic center," said new KPCC Board President Ted Ralston. "In the 16 years my wife, Joanna, and I have lived in Vaughn, we can't remember an event at the civic center at which Phil wasn't leading us all—to the bar, to the food, to the dance floor, to tear-down and cleanup. But that's what we've come to expect from Phil." *Photo: Ted Olinger, KP News*



A van drove into a transformer and power pole at the three-way intersection of Key Peninsula Highway North, Lackey Road and Jackson Lake Road on the afternoon of July 29. The driver was transported to a hospital. The transformer was destroyed, starting a small brush fire, and some residents south of Home reportedly lost power, internet, landline and cell phone service for up to 12 hours. *Photo: Lisa Bryan, KP News*



U.S. Army Air Corps navigator Lt. Col. Ken Wheeler, left, shares a story about his WWII combat flying missions with Home resident retired Lt. Col. Curt Scott, U.S. Air Force, a professor of aviation at Green River College, on opening day of the Bomber Boys exhibit at the Harbor History Museum. The exhibit of airmen and their stories closes Sept. 4. *Photo: Hugh McMillan, KP News*



Teddy Roosevelt (Jim Greetham) addresses the audience from the historic Glencove Hotel during a fundraiser for the KP Historical Society in its effort to preserve the original Vaughn Library. *Photo: Don Tjossem*



Jane Donahue, left, and her daughter, Maria Sowers, show off some stylish hats among the other artwork on display Aug. 3 at the second annual Art Walk in Key Center organized by Two Waters Arts Alliance. *Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News*

Where in the world



Pamela Summers, left, returned to England in summer 2011 to visit family with her daughter and son-in-law Lorraine and Gary Viers, Lakebay residents for over 30 years.

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