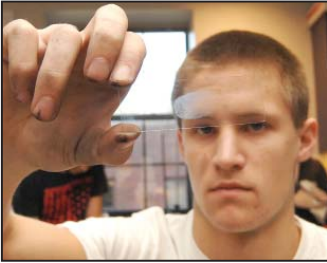


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KP youth learns wrestling, inspires the many — on and off the mats

By Scott Turner, KP News

Joey Kimball is a very special kid. Like many other 11-year-olds, Joey loves sports. He also loves to help people in every way he can.

This year he's been manager of Key Peninsula Middle School's wrestling team — which means he was responsible for cleaning the wrestling mats, folding and handing out uniforms and other housekeeping tasks.

What makes Joey unique, though, is that he is developmentally delayed. And he's essentially nonverbal.

"I've always been concerned that people might treat Joey different, but here on the Key Peninsula the people and the kids have really accepted him," said Joseph Kimball, Joey's dad. "They don't treat him any different than others and they're always happy when they see him."

Ever since Joey's older brother, Kody, (See **Wrestling**, Page 2)

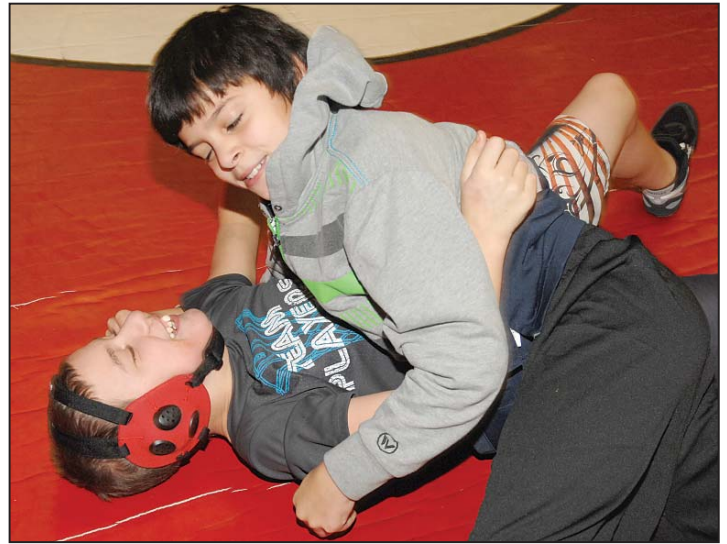



Photo by Scott Turner, KP News

Joey Kimball, 11, goes head to head with fellow PYW teammate Jayce Richerson during a recent practice. Kimball was the team manager with his KPMS, and is now a member of the Cougars PYW team.

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Local folks help, attract able musicians through music

By Scott Turner, KP News

A good number of Key Peninsula residents know Dan and May Wilson through their Allstar Guitar store on the Gig Harbor waterfront where Dan teaches music and sells and repairs instruments and music gear. May runs the Allstar Academy, the instruction part of the business.

Others know Dan because of his huge heart and his work with kids.

Allstar Guitar got its start in 1990 in Wilson's barn near Penrose Park when Dan began fixing guitars for companies like Fender, Gibson and Ovation.

"Before that I was working for a log-home company north of Key Center," Wilson recalled.

"I'd also been in the music business for a good part of my life, so in the slow time during the winter I'd buy and sell guitars and buy broken ones and fix them, and then I got into building new ones," he said.

He also got involved with local musician Geoff Baillie, a harmonica player who was on the PSD school board.

"Geoff started doing an after-school program at Evergreen Elementary called Blues Kids, where the kids would get a harmonica, a T-shirt and some sunglasses and we'd teach them how to play the blues and then they'd play at gigs like at the KP Fair and other places," Wilson said.

That led to Wilson's getting involved with Crime Stop-

(See **Music**, Page 4)

(From Wrestling, Page 1)

played football with Peninsula Youth Football, Joey has wanted to play sports too.

He became part of the KPMS wrestling team when he was appointed manager last fall.

“He’s a huge fan of the team. He loves all sports. The minute the whistle blows, he’s on his feet cheering and yelling for the team,” Kimball said.

Now Joey is even getting a chance to participate in some wrestling matches, thanks to PYW coach Bill Miller.

Joey’s dad has mixed feelings about that.

“I don’t know if he’ll ever actually wrestle in a match, but what matters is that he’s being accepted and the other kids really like him,” he said.

Tony Cornejo, 13, is one of Joey’s school teammates. “I thought it was pretty cool when they brought Joey in as manager because he’s always there helping with the mats and he’s a pretty cool dude to hang out with,” Cornejo said.

“We look past his disability and we don’t let it get to us. We’re not going to judge him based on his physical aspects. He’s a great kid with a great attitude. He’s always happy and happy to help you. I think he would be pretty good at wrestling too,” he said.

Jayne Richerson, an 11-year-old teammate who has been wrestling for eight years, agrees.

“I’ve known Joey since first grade. It’s great to have him on our team because



Photo by Scott Turner, KP News

Joey Kimball, KPMS manager (bottom left), joins his teammates in celebration of being undefeated in the middle school program during their end of season party in the school’s commons.

he always helps clean up and he’s a lot of fun. I think it would be great for him to get out there and work out in a

match. I don’t know what the other kids think, but I think of him like a brother to me,” Richerson said.

Kody Kimball, Joey’s biological

(See Wrestling, Page 3)

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KEY PENINSULA NEWS

www.keypennews.com
Unsolicited submissions deadline including press releases: 15th of each month prior to publication

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

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(From **Wrestling**, Page 2)

brother, often helps Joey with his manager duties and also helps him practice his wrestling moves.

"I love to help him," Kimball said. "He's my brother. I mainly help him mop the mats, fold the uniforms and give them out to the wrestlers."

"When I'm wrestling with him, I can tell that he's really having fun. He has a disability but he can still wrestle and he loves it. I hope he'll get a chance to wrestle in some matches while in the Peninsula Youth Wrestling league," he said.

Jennifer Moberg coached Joey's sister, Alli, in softball, and has known Joey since last spring when he started showing up at Alli's practices.

"I think some coaches get nervous when a sibling shows up at a practice because it's a distraction. But I have six kids of my own so I'm not that way," Moberg said.

"When Joey came on the field during Alli's practices, he had his glove and wanted to shag balls and always just wanted to help. He was even more prepared than some of the players," she added with a laugh.

"He's so spirited, and just won my heart right off the bat," Moberg said.

Bill Miller, Joey's PYW coach, first met Joey as a fourth-grader at Vaughn Elementary.

"I was a para-educator there. At the end of the day, Joey and I would go around and pick up recyclables and trash from each classroom. Staff and students drew to him like a magnet."

"I think the reason they did that with Joey is because he's so social and so happy all the time. I think it's hard for anybody to not initially like him," Miller said.

This past fall, Miller and Joseph Kim-

ball had a long conversation about Joey joining the PYW team.

"We decided it would help him socially," Miller said.

Coach Miller has two goals for Joey: "He has the same rules as everybody else. He doesn't want to hurt anyone so we want to get him as many real good matches as we can — maybe kids that are a bit younger and smaller," he said.

Miller's second goal is to set up solid matches where Joey learns something.

"I want the other teams to find good, experienced kids to wrestle with him who won't hurt him, but will help him learn new things," he said.

"And I think other teams' kids will learn something too. The older kids who have been with Joey for several years, they already get it — the honor element and respect. Other kids can learn that too," Miller added, beaming a smile, before a practice at KPMS.

Moberg (the softball coach) has two kids on the wrestling team, and feels Miller's plan is a good one.

"I think this is going to be a huge positive experience for the other wrestlers. Joey's just a normal kid who wants to be part of things. He loves sports. So why not make him a part of it? He's always positive, and that can't help but rub off on others," she said.

But there's more to it than just wrestling. "It's also about this community," Joseph Kimball said.

"We moved to Key Center from Port Orchard around 2010 or so. People talked about how wonderful the school district is and how wonderful staff are with children like Joey, with disabilities."

"Since we've been here, people are just so friendly. We go to the grocery store or to football games and there's always somebody who knows him, and they're happy to see him. It's really amazing and very special," he said, beaming.

Thank You For Your Generous Support

The Key Peninsula News sincerely thanks everyone who contributed to our fund drive. To those of you who did not wish to be named, we hope you know how much your contribution means to the Key Peninsula News. To those who could not contribute this year, we thank you for reading our newspaper and supporting our advertisers.

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DSHS mobile unit rolls to KP for community support

The state Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) mobile community service office is coming to Lakebay on Jan. 8.

Workers with the department's division of child support will be on a truck at the Key Peninsula Services facility from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

They will be there to help commu-

nity members with application interviews for food and cash, as well as yearly reviews and to answer questions on active cases or any services offered.

KPCS is located at 17015 9th Street Court KP N, Lakebay.

For information, email edmoncl@dshs.wa.gov.

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Photo by Scott Turner, KP News

United By Music North America is looking for musically talented people with intellectual or developmental disabilities to join the performing company. Auditions will take place Jan. 10, 2-5 p.m. at TACID, 6315 S. 19th Street in Tacoma. For information visit UBMNA.org or contact Barbara Hammerman at (253)225-7655 or info@ubmna.org.

(From Music, Page 1)

pers, a music program for youth that teaches kids that "it's better to be in a band than a gang.

"We work a lot with the counselors at Remann Hall (Juvenile Detention Center in Tacoma), for example," he said.

"They'll tell us they have a kid who's getting out and they'd like for him to have a musical instrument to play so he doesn't get right back in with the same gang. So we'll give him a guitar or a trumpet or something and teach him how to play it," Wilson added.

A few years ago, Wilson and the

Crime Stoppers organization donated a complete set of marching drums to the KPMS band.

And this year, the Crime Stoppers group took over management of WoodStick, an event that "tries to set a new world record every year to have the most drums playing at the same place at the same time," he said.

He's also a strong supporter of the Red Barn on the Key Peninsula.

Recently, the Wilsons have become very involved with an organization called United By Music North America, founded by Gig Harbor residents

(See Music, Page 5)

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(From **Music**, Page 4)

Barbara Hammerman and her daughter Amanda Gresham.

UBMNA is the North American arm of an organization that started in The Netherlands in 2005 to help musically talented people with intellectual disabilities become performing musicians.

"There are some people who you can barely carry on a conversation with, but if you sit them down at a piano, they're amazing musicians," Wilson said. "We're trying to find people like that here in America and match them with mentors who work with them to become performers."

"It's just getting started in this country," May added, "but it's really picking up steam."

The UBMNA pilot project was launched in Portland, in 2011, and last year Hammerman and Gresham began a Puget Sound chapter.

"A big part of UBMNA is forming partnerships with other local organizations," Hammerman said. "We chose Portland as our pilot city because Amanda is a producer of the Portland Riverfront Blues Festival, so they were a natural partner."

David Hoefler, 24, is one of the local UBMNA musicians. "It's really fun," he said. "I play guitar. We go to festivals like the Emerald City Blues Festival this past summer in Carnation.

"We rehearse a lot before every big event. We have a great time and after the gig we all talk together. We're trying to get it well known and trying to get our movement to spread across the country," Hoefler said.

Locally, UBMNA is partnering with Tacoma Area Coalition of Individuals with Disabilities (TACID).

On Jan. 10, UBMNA will hold auditions for local musicians to join the performing company, Hammerman said.

"It's going to be a party — kind of like American Idol or The Voice — but in a very supportive, friendly atmosphere. The call is for musically talented people who have intellectual disabilities."

She said her goal is to identify candidates in this area who will learn, rehearse and practice with their lo-

Want to participate?

United By Music North America is looking for musically talented people with intellectual or developmental disabilities to join the performing company. Auditions will take place Jan. 10, 2-5 p.m. at TACID, 6315 S. 19th Street in Tacoma. For information visit UBMNA.org or contact Barbara Hammerman at (253)225-7655 or info@ubmna.org.

cal mentors and then be part of the UBMNA performing company.

"If you have an ability to play, we'd love to have you, and if you're a mentor, we'd love to have you too because we're looking for more people to help us learn to play in our band or just have fun," Hoefler added, moments before a lesson.

In addition to several of the instructors who teach at the Allstar Academy, local UBMNA mentors also include Tacoma resident Stephanie Anne Johnson, a finalist in TV's "The Voice."

"Stephanie and her band will be playing at the audition party," Hammerman said.

She said that everyone who hears UBMNA musicians perform is touched by their abilities and that "it's uplifting for every person involved."

"We envision a world in which no prejudice exists based on race, creed, color or intellectual capacity. We turn to the power of music to bring people together. We're addressing it through music, don't make assumptions and give everyone a chance and let them soar," she said.

"Music is the biggest common denominator in the world," Wilson added. "You can take 50 people from 50 different countries and they don't know each other and they probably don't even talk each others' language. But if you start playing music and they start dancing together — and maybe they know the words in their own language so they sing and play together and now there's joy," he said.

And with United By Music, there's also hope and self-esteem, Hammerman added.

It is, as she says, "the Special Olympics of Music."



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Peninsula Views

King tides coming bigger than last time around

You may recall that the oceans that surround us would really like to leave the Earth. Only Earth's gravitational pull keeps them here.

They are always seeking another gravitational pull with which to dance. Our sun and moon are both willing partners. And dance they do.

Our Earth rotates around the sun, making the focal point of the sun's gravitational pull move as we spin. The much closer moon rotates around us so the focus of the moon's gravitational pull also changes.

When the two pulls are in different directions, there's not much of dance going on and tidal differences day-to-day are minimized. But when the two pull in the same direction, the tidal dance can be huge; huge enough to cause king tides. King tide is the popular name of the combined force that causes it is syzygy, (pronounced sizz uh jee). Great word, eh?

Now, add a powerful wind blowing over miles of open water causing huge waves to build up and we get a sort of super syzygy. And for us here on the South Sound, southerly winds blowing up Carr and Case inlets along with the seiche effect of water moving in a shallow vessel create conditions ripe for tidal flooding.

Puget Sound is a seiche (pronounced saysh). A seiche is a flat, shallow vessel filled with water that sways back and forth. If you fill a cookie sheet with water and carry it across a room, you create a seiche. The water tends to slop over whichever end you tilt, and it's really difficult to get it to settle down.

Puget Sound is no different. The gravitational pulls of the sun and the moon combined with the rotation of the Earth provide motion for our

William I. Trandum
Winds, Tides & Weathers



seiche. At high tide, water piles up like crazy at the far end of our two waters at Wauna on Carr Inlet and Allyn on Case Inlet.

Tidal extremes in locations not at the ends of our seiche, for example at Seattle, where the tide just passes by, are about 12 feet from lowest low to highest high. Meantime, Allyn and Wauna see predicted tidal differences of more than 19 feet minus 2.4 to plus 16.7 feet predicted for Jan. 2 and 3, and a couple of feet more under winter storm conditions.

But wait, there's more. One more force that keeps our oceans from leaving the Earth is the atmospheric pressure. Air presses down on the oceans, helping keep them from springing into the sky. At normal atmospheric pressure, a one-inch square column of air reaching into the ionosphere weighs more than 14.7 pounds per square inch. Yes, that weighs on you all the time too. It's about as much as having a small car sit on you. But since it's both inside and outside of you, it doesn't crush you.

When atmospheric pressure goes down, as it typically does over Puget Sound during a storm, its ability to hold the sea down can be seriously affected. A barometric drop from 30 inches of mercury to 29 inches reduces that weight and results in a general tide level increase of 12.6 inches.

Add that extra foot to the syzygy predicted for Jan. 2 and 3, along with

(See **Trandum**, Page 7)

Looking forward, back and occasionally sideways

January is typically a month of reflection. While planning for the future, it is also a time to remember the people we touched and were touched by. It's always interesting to revisit some of them to hear what's new.

Last spring we featured Dayna Hanson, local choreographer and multi-disciplinary artist. She was busy filming scenes for an upcoming movie of hers at scenic Lakebay Marina.

The film was finished in August and has since been shown at Seattle's Local Sightings Film Festival and the Seattle Art Museum. In October it was shown at the Tacoma Film Festival and in November at the Northwest Film Makers Festival in Portland. She is presently at work on a new dance screenplay.

This summer we spent some time with the Harbor WildWatch at Penrose State Park. Members were engaged in educating the public about our unique aquatic ecosystem. Since then, they have been busy through the fall and winter months with their Peer Into the Night program, which takes place on the first Saturday of each month at Jerisich Dock in Gig Harbor, from 6 to 8 p.m. The program features live viewing from a scuba diver's video camera. Visitors get to see everything the diver

sees. Naturalists are present to interpret and narrate what's being seen. The program continues through March.

In August we visited local author Jilly Eddy and learned about Lipsology. Since then she has done a book signing for Barnes and Noble, where her book "Lipsology" is now available. It can also be purchased through Amazon.com. She's also been busy entertaining audiences and has received inquiries about her work from all over the world. She stated happily, "The word is spreading."

This fall we interviewed Jeremy and Mira Thompson, in their recently completed house bus. Since then the Thompsons got busy remodeling a stick-built house and their house bus was filmed for an upcoming segment of the TV series, "Tiny House Nation," to be aired sometime next year.

Sometimes we just have to look at things a bit sideways. Recently I re-

(See **Whitford**, Page 7)

Steve Whitford
Words of Whit



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Derek Young wins council seat from Stan Flemming

By Rick Sorrels, KP News

The vote recount results were released on Dec. 4. It is final. Derek Young is the new Pierce county councilmember for District 7, which includes the Key Peninsula, Gig Harbor Peninsula and the area just across the Tacoma Narrows Bridge.

There were 29,020 votes cast for the position in the August primary election, where Young led by only 50 votes. For the November general election, there were 45,396 votes cast for the position, with Young leading by only 93 votes. This narrow gap triggered a mandatory recount. Recount results have Young winning by 94 votes over incumbent Stan Flemming.

The tentative date for swearing in is

set for the rules committee meeting on Jan. 5, which is the first council meeting occurring after Jan. 1.

Young said that, "There are a lot of deadlines for major issues coming up quickly. I'll be jumping right in with both feet running."

The issues which Young cites as his highest priority are the Shoreline Management Plan amendments, the proposed county administrative building, mental health, the Tacoma Narrows Airport Management Plan and the county jail deficit.

Flemming had held the Pierce County council seat since 2010.

Young had been an elected councilmember for the city of Gig Harbor from January 1998 to December 2013.

(From **Trandum**, Page 6)

We live in a truly dynamic environment where gravity, wind, barometric pressure, the sun and the moon can change our mill pond into a roiling cauldron in a few hours. As every mariner knows, we must be ever respectful of the forces of nature. I, for one, am in awe of it.

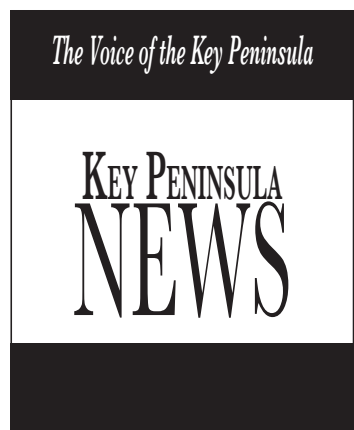
Bill Trandum is a retired U.S. Navy captain, an avid boater, and a now retired sailboat racer. He has sailed in ocean weather conditions ranging from dead calms to typhoons where he became a student of winds, tides and weathers.

We can always hope for a recurrence of the king tide from the morning of Jan. 14, 2013. Winds were light and variable and barometric pressure was high, so the tides were nearly a foot lower than predicted, so the South Sound was docile as a mill pond.

(From **Whitford**, Page 6)

I received a letter from my life insurance company, which after more than one year has finally acknowledged they now have my new mailing address. The memo was addressed and sent to my old address. Hope none of those folks run for public office. I also know a place where after-Christmas bargain hunters can get a heck of a deal on cut trees.

Looking forward, we're reminded that people are like tall buildings in that both are full of stories. My job is that of a storyteller. I'm waiting to tell yours.



JANUARY 2015

www.keypenparks.com

Gateway Park Update

The second public workshop on the future development of the 39-acre Gateway Park was held December 3. Over 50 citizens from the Key Peninsula, South Kitsap and Gig Harbor areas attended. Robert Droll, a landscape architect specializing in park design, brought three conceptual sketches for attendees to look over and discuss.

The three drawings are available to view at our website, www.keypenparks.com. Anyone who was unable to attend the public input meetings is welcome to look over these drawings and provide input **by January 16** to Scott Gallacher, Key Pen Parks executive director, by email at scottg@keypenparks.com.

The public, especially those who are closely following the future development of Gateway Park, are encouraged to read Key Pen Parks 2014-2019 Comprehensive Plan (www.keypenparks.com/docs.htm). It is always available and may answer questions you have about key Pen parks operations.

KEY PEN PARKS GRANT PROGRAM

Did you know that Key Pen Parks has a grant program? This program helps community groups improve park and recreation opportunities by supplying funds through requested grants. Applications for 2015 are our website at www.keypenparks.com, click on "Administration" and click "Key Pen Parks Grant Program." Applications will be accepted through **February 4, 2015**.

Past grant recipients include Key Peninsula Civic Center (tennis courts), Key Peninsula Community Services (S.A.I.L. Program), Key Peninsula Farm Tour, Beyond the Borders, Children's Home Society, Two Waters Arts Alliance, and the KP Community Garden.

Breakfast with Santa

The 2014 Breakfast with Santa with Key Pen Parks and the Key Center Fire Station on December 6 was a jolly time for kids young and young-at-heart.

We thank the day's many volunteers and donors, without whom this day of family fun would not have been possible:

Kit Frymier, Leslie Beecher, Deedee Kerkes, Bill Jones, Anne Nesbit, Matt Nesbit, Grace Nesbit, Darius Vaitkus, Chief Guy Allen, Tara Trammel, Brandon Reder, Ravensara, Viral Booth, Chad Russell, Anjali Russell, Marilyn and Jerry Hartley; fire commissioners Keith Davies, Ray Lamoureaux, Claudia Jones, and Frank Grubsugh; and Girl Scout troop 40956 leader Audra Garcia and members Alyssa and Kelsey Garcia, Raquel and Angelina Casaus, Traisey Strange, Madison Herdt, Mckayla Nichols, Jenea Staples, and Abigail Sorenson.

Park Board Meetings

Due to the lack of quorum, a special park board meeting will be held at **7:30 pm on Monday, February 2** (in lieu of the regularly-scheduled meeting on 2/9). As always, the public is encouraged to attend.

Regularly-scheduled board meetings are held on the second Monday of every month. January's park board meeting will be at 7:30 pm on Monday, January 12, at the park office in Volunteer Park.



STREET TALK

What did you like about 2014 and what do you look forward to in 2015?



Tracy Turnbull

Tracy is looking forward to Feb. 15 when her daughter will be visiting from Alaska, bringing Tracy's firstborn grandson with her.



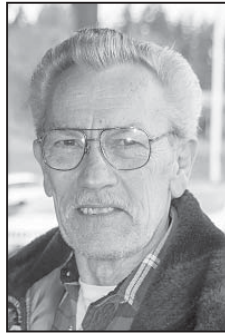
Ruth Bramhall

Ruth is thankful for surviving a trip to the hospital in 2014, emerging in better shape than when she went in. She also turned 90 in 2014 and is still driving her own car.



Eric Cole

Eric had great new neighbors move in this year, and in 2015 he's looking to get to know his community better.



Bill Smith

Bill's doctor found spots on his lungs during his recent physical but was told there was no cancer, so he's looking forward to a healthy 2015.



Sarah McClanahan

The best thing that happened to Sarah was attending an international convention of Jehovah's Witnesses this year, and she is looking forward to a happy new year.



Rena Lukenbill

Rena is going back to school in 2015, starting college after a post-high school hiatus.



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PSD admin, law enforcement focus on campus safety

By Scott Turner, KP News

Recent events in the news have caused concern among Key Peninsula parents about school safety.

According to Peninsula School District Superintendent Chuck Cuzzetto, the district has procedures in place to respond to any problems.

The district also conducts routine drills and training sessions that keep procedures up to date.

“We work closely with Pierce County Department of Emergency Management (DEM) and also with our local sheriff’s and police departments doing trainings like earthquake drills, fire drills and also lockdown drills,” Cuzzetto said.

And anytime there is a situation like there was at Marysville-Pilchuck, “we review what could we do, what could we do different, what different drills do we need. We update that on a regular basis,” he said.

The district also has conducted several formal, “active shooter” trainings with school principals and the Pierce County

Sheriff’s Department. “We did one last year at Peninsula High School,” Cuzzetto said.

In addition, last summer the district hired a consultant to do a safety and security assessment of all the buildings in the district.

The assessment dealt not only with things such as active shooters but also made recommendations about controlled access, visibility, fencing and other areas.

“For instance, one thing we need to do is make sure the bushes are cleared around our buildings so we can have good visibility of kids wherever they are,” Cuzzetto said.

“We also need to take a look at our fence lines and make sure they’re secured all the way around.

“And especially at the elementary level, we’re trying to limit access points so that we have either cameras or buzzers or other alarm systems,” he said.

The district is currently doing cost estimates for making all the recommended changes. “We want to start moving in

those directions this school year or next school year, if we can carve some money out of our budget to do what’s needed,” Cuzzetto said.

Schools initiate a “modified lockdown” if a bear or other wildlife is sighted near a campus.

And recently at Minter Creek Elementary a loud explosion-like sound was heard in the area so, as a precaution, the school went into modified lockdown, he added.

“That means they wouldn’t let students in or out of the building, but students could still move around inside the building.”

It was a precautionary measure and the district’s school resource officer responded quickly and assessed the situation and determined that there was no danger.

In other instances, he said, “the authorities might contact us and tell us there’s some kind of activity near your school, and we would go into a modified lockdown, just not let students go outside.”

Dan Gregory, assistant superintendent, noted that currently there are no funds in the district’s budget earmarked for the rec-

ommended safety and security changes.

“There were funds built into the recent capital levy and capital bond for safety and security. But because those did not pass, we have to reprioritize and decide how we take some of our current funding and redirect it into safety and security. We’re looking to see what we can do right now,” he said.


He added that any time there is a possible safety situation, the district’s policy is “to make sure we have good communication with our parents, letting them know what occurred. It’s essential that any communication is accurate and timely. We’d rather they hear directly from us what’s happening than hear something from the rumor mill or from their child.”

Parents can be assured that “we’re going to do everything we can to take care of the students and staff to make sure they’re safe. And we’re always going to err on the side of caution,” Gregory said.

For information on PSD policies, contact Dan Gregory or Kathy Weymiller at (253) 530-1000.

KP Bus Connects

2014-15 Schedule



Driving the Key Peninsula Forward

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Phone: 253-884-BUSS (2877)

Key Peninsula Community Council

Background:
In 2002, a group of citizens had a vision to create a community sponsored agency that would address the various needs of the Key Peninsula.

Mission Statement :
The Key Peninsula Community Council (KPC) is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to address, respond to and meet the needs of the community residents by developing partnerships, sponsorships and programs in order to maintain and improve the quality of life on the Key Peninsula.

Roles:

- Facilitate interactions between agencies, residents, businesses and non-profit groups in an effort to develop solutions to resident concerns.
- Act as a resource for Key Peninsula residents, businesses and non-profit organizations.
- Serve as a liaison to county, state, and federal government.
- On behalf of other community agencies and groups, may assist in fund raising and volunteer recruitment efforts.

Meetings:
2nd Wednesday of the Month, 7:00pm at the Key Center Fire Station

Key Peninsula Community Council is a partner with the Peninsula School District and Puget Sound Educational Service District on this WSDOT grant project

School buses aren't just for kids anymore!

KP Bus connects riders to Key Center, Lake Kathryn, Volunteer Park, KPCS Food Bank, Local stops and Purdy Park and Ride

KP School Bus Connects Tuesday & Thursday Routes

Vaughn Morning		Vaughn 11AM Route		Afternoon Route	
Time:	Location/Stop	Time:	Location/Stop	Time:	Location/Stop
8:50	Vaughn Elementary School	11:00	PHS and Purdy Park & Ride	4:40	Peninsula High School
8:56	Hall & South Vaughn Road KP North	11:06	Lake Kathryn Center @ Costless	4:45	Purdy Park & Ride
8:57	Wright Bliss @ 104th St Court	11:09	Windemere Realty (11615 SR 302)	4:50	Lake Kathryn Center @ Costless
8:59	4 Corners - Drive Thru Feed	11:11	Lake of the Woods @ SR302		
9:02	Lake Holiday Bus Shed	11:13	Lake Holiday Bus Shed		
9:03	Lake of the Woods @ SR302	11:16	4 Corners - Union 76 Gas Station		
9:06	Ravensara - Off Road 11815 SR302 KP North	11:18	Wright Bliss @ 104th St. Court		
9:09	Lake Kathryn Center @ Costless	11:19	Wright Bliss @ Hall Road KP North		
9:15	Purdy Park & Ride and PHS	11:20	Vaughn Elementary School		

Evergreen Morning		Evergreen 11AM Route	
Time:	Location/Stop	Time:	Location/Stop
8:55	Evergreen Elementary School	11:00	PHS and Purdy Park & Ride
9:01	Palmer Lake - Lake Dr. @ 21st KPS (Sunny side of the lake)	11:11	Lake Kathryn Center @ Costless
9:05	Palmer Lake - 21st Street @ 193rd Ave. (Park shelter - shady side of the lake)	11:16	KP Hwy North @ Minterwood Drive
9:09	KPCS Senior Center & Food Bank	11:18	Food Market in Key Center
9:11	Home Gas Station - KP Hwy North	11:23	Volunteer Park
9:17	KP Hwy North @ 167th Ave Court	11:24	KP Hwy North @ 167th Ave Court
9:18	Volunteer Park	11:27	Home Gas Station
9:21	Food Market in Key Center	11:28	KPCS Senior Center & Food Bank
9:23	KP Hwy North @ Minterwood Drive	11:32	Palmer Lake - Lake Dr. @ 21st KPS (Sunny side of the lake)
9:31	Lake Kathryn Center @ Costless	11:33	Palmer Lake - 21st Street @ 193rd Ave. (Park shelter - shady side of lake)
9:36	Purdy Park & Ride and PHS	11:35	Evergreen Elementary School

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KPBA: Of community, business

Key Pen News staff

At the annual dinner on Feb. 9, the Key Peninsula Business Association will install a slate of officers for 2015, according to departing President Judd Morris.

The new officers include Tracey Oliveira, owner of Serenity Salon — president; Rosina Vertz, head librarian at KC library — vice president; Todd Rosenbach and Jessica Wisberger — co-secretaries and Brandy Ellzey of the KP Fair Association; treasurer.

KPBA's mission is two-fold, Morris said.

"We support the businesses on the Key and promote their commercial enterprises, whatever they may be, and we bring benefit to the community itself," he said.

In fact, he added, "in our bylaws the word 'community' is actually mentioned more often than 'business.'"

Supporting the community takes many forms.

"We support so many community organizations, from Backpacks4Kids to Children's Home Society, the food bank, Red Barn, KP Fair, the Little League and the school district's educational foundation," Morris said.

Want to go?

Key Peninsula Business Association is open to all local businesses. The group meets twice a month: the first Friday breakfast, 7:30 a.m. at LuLu's restaurant and third Fridays, at noon, for lunch at El Sombrero. The lunch meeting also features presentations by legislators and other dignitaries.

For information visit KPBA.org.

When you think about it, we're all linked together, he said. "All the businesses are part of the community, and the community are our customers."

When Oliveira takes the gavel in February, she intends to keep up the good work that KPBA has done under Morris' leadership.

"I know this position (president) holds a lot of responsibility. I decided that this would be a fantastic way to better serve my community — a community which I love and admire," Oliveira said.

"I am looking forward to being a bigger part of what makes the Key Peninsula a great place to live and run a business," she added.

County seeks applicants for Advisory Board

Pierce County is seeking applicants to fill vacancies on the nine-member Surface Water Management Advisory Board.

Advisory board members will be involved in such issues as storm drainage and surface water management, water quality storm drainage plans, rate structures, capital improvement projects, financing and annual program goals for the Surface Water Management division of Pierce County Public Works and Utilities.

The mission of Surface Water Management is to be a responsive service organization that efficiently addresses flood control, water quality and the preservation of natural drainage systems.

Meetings are held monthly. Advisory board members will be selected to

represent each of the watersheds and preference will be given to candidates living in unincorporated Pierce County. These positions are uncompensated.

The application can be obtained by calling (253) 798-2725 or downloaded at piercecounitywa.org/swab.

Completed applications should be submitted to Harold Smelt at Pierce County Public Works and Utilities, 2702 S. 42nd St., Suite 201, Tacoma, WA 98409-7322.

To ensure broad diversity of experience and opinion on the board when filling vacancies, consideration is given to those candidates that can best supplement the knowledge and perspectives of the current board members. All applications received will be placed on a roster for consideration when vacancies occur.

Local 'Kids at Hope,' learning life-lessons on campus

By Scott Turner, KP News

The students at Minter Creek Elementary school are all "Kids at Hope," according to second-grade teacher Shawna Olson.

Olson is responsible for bringing the Kids at Hope philosophy to the school.

"It's not a program, it's a philosophy that all children can succeed — no exceptions," Olson said. "And when you believe in them and they know you believe in them they'll be successful. And it covers all areas of life."

Kids at Hope is an international program founded by Rick Miller. "A lot of kids are traditionally called "kids at risk," but Rick Miller said, "We're just setting them up for failure when we call them kids at risk. We need to instill hope in them," Olson explained.

Kids at Hope takes a four-fold approach using four "destinations" — career and education, hobbies and recreation, communities and service and home and family.

"Career and education is about their fu-

ture job," Olson said. "Hobbies and recreation is what do you want to do for fun when you're older.

"Communities and service is how they can help their community and home and family is pretty self-explanatory," she said.

The teachers and staff are called Treasure Hunters, and every day after the students have said their Kids at Hope Pledge, the teachers say the Treasure Hunter Pledge.

There's also a Parent's Pledge.

The students make maps of the destination they want to focus on each day, then they do a writing assignment or an art project.

Eight-year-old Tyge Arnold's "career and education" map was about sports. "I want to be a sports player. I already play sports," he said. "I know my pledge really good. I've known it since last year. It means that you have hopes for the future and you'll only get it if you make good choices. It's serious," he said.

Morgan Baty, 7, wants to be a mom and

The Kids at Hope Pledge

I am a Kid at Hope.
I am talented, smart and capable of success.

I have dreams for the future, and I will climb to reach those goals and dreams every day.

All kids are capable of success,
NO EXCEPTIONS!

a vet when she grows up. "For fun, I'd play with my children and my pets. I want to help animals and people," she said with a smile.

"And I want a comfy home and four children."

Ask Morgan what "capable and successful" means, and she's ready with an answer. "Capable and successful means that you can trust us with stuff — like the teacher doesn't have to ask us to put stuff away,"

she said.

Like many other Minter students, every day Morgan tells her mom the Kids at Hope Pledge, "and she says the parent one to me. It makes me feel like I can believe in myself and I can do stuff," Morgan said.

For Emily Hansen, the Kids at Hope process "means that they're preparing you for the future and saying that we believe in you and we can help you make your dreams for the future. Like what you want to be when you grow up and what kind of education you want and things like that," she said.

And when the teachers say their Treasure Hunters Pledge every morning "it motivates me for the day and it helps me think that they'll help us when we need it," Emily said.

"I'd like people to know that Kids at Hope is a great thing. I know a lot of kids who are doing it and a lot of the teachers are doing it and most of kids are sticking to it."

NEWS BRIEFS

Community

Tips to treecycle your Christmas tree

As you recycle your wrapping paper, don't forget to "treecycle" your Christmas tree.

Pierce County residents who subscribe to yard waste collection service can place their unflocked tree in their container. Flocked trees cannot be recycled and must be disposed of as garbage.

Residents may also recycle their tree free of charge at Pierce County's transfer stations. For locations, visit piercecounity-wa.org/treecycle.

Program organizers want the public to remove the tree stand, tinsel, decorations and any nails or staples and to place the tree in their yard waste container for pick up on their regularly scheduled collection day.

The tree must fit into the closed container, so cut the tree into pieces if nec-

essary. If your tree isn't in the cart, you may be charged for the additional pickup, organizers said in a press release.

"All trees collected are composted into Cascade Compost, a beneficial soil amendment that is popular with home and commercial gardeners," said Sheryl Rhinehart, Pierce County Public Works and Utilities outreach coordinator. "The compost created enhances soil quality, saves water and reduces reliance on chemical fertilizers. Treecycling also helps save valuable landfill space."

KPMS gets new computers

The students and teachers at Key Peninsula Middle School have taken a big technological step with the acquisition of 30 new computers in the school library and two sets of Google Chrome computers on a cart that can be wheeled from classroom to classroom.

And, according to Principal Jeri Goebel, the school will soon get "a huge new TV screen for the library, so if a teacher needs to have the whole class look at a YouTube video or some other teaching aid, they can put it on in the library and everyone can see it."

The new library computers are also available for students to use during their lunch hour or other break times.

"They can search the internet for things that are interesting to them or use them for research or for their homework," Goebel said.

Many KPMS teachers have set up Google documents for their classes, so students can log on to their personal school accounts and work on their lessons, she added.

"Even though the bonds didn't pass, the school district is still moving forward and updating our technology," Goebel said. "And here at KPMS, we really appreciate that."

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KP School Bus Connects brings a transportation solution

By Sara Thompson, KP News

In our almost-island setting, 23 miles long and with countless winding back roads, how do Key Peninsula residents get around without a car? If this is like any other rural community, the car is just about the only option, and around 30 percent of residents depend on friends and family for transportation.

KP School Bus Connects, an innovative program using school buses three times a day, is a creative program that helps people get around.

In 2007, The Mustard Seed Project asked seniors to identify their most pressing barriers to aging in place. Transportation was the major concern. That year, The Mustard Seed Project joined the Pierce County Coordinated Transportation Coalition — by far the smallest organization in a group that included Sound Transit. Connections formed through the coalition led to a number of initiatives to meet transportation needs.

In 2010, Pierce Transit faced funding deficits and determined that the ridership of the bus on the Key Peninsula was too low. The route was cancelled.

The Mustard Seed Project, working with the Puget Sound Educational Service District, applied for a KP School Bus Connects pilot. Using school buses when students were not being transported, service began in November 2011. Community transportation was offered free of charge and targeted underserved populations including seniors, youth, veterans and those with special needs or low income.

The Key Peninsula Community Council took over administering the program in 2013. Marcia Harris, new to the council and with a long work history as a school administrator, including transportation, took over coordination.

“What an opportunity — this was a chance to make transportation available with no need for a significant capital investment,” Harris said. “We take advantage of the school buses already in use, and after drivers deliver students at Vaughn and Evergreen at 8:50 a.m., to return to the bus barn in Purdy, they simply make scheduled stops along the way, ending at Lake Kathryn Center and then at Purdy Park and Ride,” Harris said.

The route is repeated two hours later at



From left, bus driver Crystal Petesch; Marcia Harris, program coordinator; Craig Sherman, PSD transportation; Annie Bell, PSD transportation director and Danna Webster, KP Council co-president, gathered at the district bus barn last year to make route adjustments for the Key Peninsula School Bus Connection. Recently Harris and the Puget Sound Educational Service District wrote a grant request to continue the program and add a third day of bus service this coming year.

By Scott Turner, KP file photo

11 a.m. In the afternoon, there is a single bus leaving Peninsula High for Purdy Park and Ride and then driving as far south on the Key Peninsula as Evergreen Elementary School.

There is no need to call in advance — riders simply wait at the scheduled stops. For the minimal cost of fuel and the short additional time the driver takes to make the stops en route to the bus barn, residents have access to transportation.

Dorothy Rawls has been driving a bus for the school district for 11 years and has taken the evening route for three.

“It’s a very colorful bunch and pretty entertaining,” she said. “I keep signing up for the route each year. I know what the program is about — providing rides to people who really need them.”

Emily Poundstone, a Peninsula High freshman, is a regular on the afternoon route that usually carries about a dozen students.

“This bus has helped me succeed,” she said. “Without it, I would not be able to stay after school to get help or to do extra work when I need to. My parents would not be able to pick me up.”

Schedule online

Service on the KP School Bus Connects is available to everyone. The schedule is available online at the Key Peninsula Community Council website kpcouncil.org or call 884-2877.

The use of the program has grown from just one to two riders a day in 2013 to often more than 10 a day since last spring.

Riders use the service for many reasons. Some can no longer drive, some cannot afford a car or have a car that needs repairs. Others are one-car families with the car needed to get to work while other family members have medical appointments, shopping or other transportation needs.

The council has submitted a renewal grant proposal to cover the costs of coordination oversight and marketing. In addition, Harris has requested funds to expand to three days. She is also working

with the Red Barn and Communities in Schools to increase outreach to students.

Some Peninsula High students have not been able to participate in after-school activities because they can’t get home — allowing them to use the late-afternoon return bus can make that possible. Harris hopes that students from the elementary schools who would like to participate in tutoring could take advantage of a later bus.

During the summer, there was a single bus route three times a day on Tuesdays. One driver managed all three trips, which increased route predictability and consistency.

“There was a real benefit to have a driver become familiar with the regular riders,” Harris said.

Harris is enthusiastic, feeling that this could be a model for other rural communities. She and Annie Bell, who is the director of transportation for Peninsula Schools, hope to share this model and “lessons learned” with other school district transportation directors across the state at their annual conference in late June.

Transportation for seniors on the Key Peninsula

By Sara Thompson, KP News

For many seniors, The Mustard Seed Project and Key Peninsula Community Services have some great options for transportation.

First, there is a wheelchair-accessible mini-shuttle. In 2007, The Mustard Seed Project joined the Pierce County Coordinated Transportation Coalition. The organization was encouraged to apply for stimulus funds to lease a van, which added to transportation options but was not set up for physically challenged riders.

There is now a wheelchair-accessible mini-shuttle through a pilot program (Community Solutions) with Pierce Transit. The pilot program requires 25 percent of all the users to be ADA-eligible.

There are regularly scheduled runs taking riders from home to the senior lunches at Key Peninsula Community Services, the Senior Center in Gig Harbor and the Silver Sneakers exercise program at the

YMCA. In addition, riders can schedule the shuttle for medical appointments as needed. The shuttle provides a total of about 100 rides per month.

In addition, The Mustard Seed Project provides a volunteer driver program. Catholic Community Services had a volunteer driver program in Tacoma but with no local volunteers, the time and cost for drivers were prohibitive.

Edie Morgan, executive director of The Mustard Seed Project, began local recruitment and by 2008 had a core of seven or eight to begin driving. It has since grown to a pool of 12.

The volunteer program was initially coordinated by Catholic Community Services in Tacoma but The Mustard Seed Project took over after the first year.

Catholic Community Services covers much of the cost of the coordinator through a contract and then provides background checks on the drivers, insurance and training as well as mileage costs. Those who get rides are not charged,

Need a ride?

Are you a senior or an adult with disabilities? To arrange transportation using the mini-shuttle or the volunteer driver program, or to find out about other transportation options, call The Mustard Seed Project at 884-9814.

Are you 55 or older? Need to go shopping? To arrange transportation for first and third Tuesday senior shopping to Port Orchard call Key Peninsula Community Services at 884-4440.

cost of transportation in our community is very high and we need to find a way to provide rides at an affordable rate for those who can afford it."

Currently about 125 rides per month are scheduled.

Key Peninsula Community Services has had shuttle van for nearly 10 years, thanks to an initial grant from Boeing. Maintenance and insurance is covered by funds raised through donations and grants.

It is used for first and third Tuesday shopping and for field trips. Riders call the Senior Center to arrange to be picked up at home in the morning, and are taken to the Port Orchard Fred Meyer, pharmacy as needed, and then lunch together at a location of their choice.

Field trips have included day trips to Mount St. Helens, Portland and a theater in Tacoma. The van is for the use of those 55 and older. Penny Gazabat, director of Key Peninsula Community Services, noted that those using the service must be relatively able-bodied.

though they are welcome to give a donation.

The significant limitation of the program is that it can only cover those clients with limited incomes. "This is a problem we still contend with," Morgan said. "The



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COMMUNITY PAGES

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

NOW

Tacoma Community College offers adult basic education classes at the Red Barn Youth Center in Key Center. These classes are for individuals (not currently enrolled in high school) who want to prepare for the GED test, earn a high school diploma, improve job skills, or pursue a vocational/technical or college education. Call the TCC Gig Harbor campus at (253) 460-2424.

JAN. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Skate night

Skate Night is hosted at the KP Civic Center 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. 884-3456.

JAN. 5 and 19

Senior shopping

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

JAN. 5, 12, 19, 26

Bloodmobile

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

JAN. 6, 13, 20, 27

Story time

Music and Motion Story Time for ages 0 to 3 years (with an adult) is hosted at 10 a.m. at the Key Center Library. Children will enjoy songs, rhymes, dancing, play and instruments. Preschool Science Story Time for ages 3 to 5 is hosted at 11 a.m., and includes hands-on science exploration. Both activities are sponsored by Friends of the Key Center Library. 548-3309.

JAN. 8

Ashes meet

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

To submit an event

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

JAN. 8 and 22

Free clinic

Non-emergency medical care for KP residents without any medical insurance is provided 5:30 to 8 p.m., at Key Peninsula Health and Professional Center in Key Center. 509-8881.

JAN. 9 and 23

Teen fun

Club Cosmic for high school kids is 9 p.m. to midnight at KP Civic Center. 884-3456.

JAN. 9, 16, 23, 30

Family story time

Family story time including stories, art activities, rhymes, singing and finger plays followed by a learning-filled play time for caregivers and children is at 11 a.m., at the Key Center Library. 548-3309.

JAN. 10

Film shown

The Lyme disease support group presents "Emergence" at 1 p.m., at the Key Center Library. The follow-up film to the award-winning documentary "Under Our Skin" will be followed by a discussion. 307-4264.

JAN. 12

Park meeting

January's park board meeting will be at 7:30 p.m., at the park office in Volunteer Park. keypenpark.com or scottg@keypenparks.com.

JAN. 13 and 22

Crochet or knit

The Loving Hearts group knits and crochets for charities and meets Jan. 13 at 1 to 3 p.m., and Jan. 22 from 7 to 9 p.m., at WayPoint Church. Yarn donations are always needed. Virginia, 884-9619.

JAN. 14

Garden club meets

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

JAN. 15

Cat-lover meeting

Cat Tales 4-H Club, for children 5 to 18, meets 6:30 to 8 p.m., in the VFW of the KP Civic Center. Learn all about cats with some cat-loving friends. There is an informational open house for interested kids at this meeting. Dianna, 884-4182 or cat.tales4h@gmail.com.

JAN. 18

Sunday bluegrass jam

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

JAN. 24

Drop-in help

Adults may make an appointment for individual assistance 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Key Center Library. Registration is required. 548-3309.

Crab feed

KP Civic Center hosts its annual crab feed from 4 to 7 p.m. The dinner features Pacific Coast dungeness crab and spaghetti, garlic bread and salad are also available. Soda, beer and wine are for sale. Tickets are \$30

for adults and \$10 for kids 6-12 years old. Tickets are available at Blend Wine Shop, Sunnycrest Nursery, the KP Civic Center and online at kpciviccenter.org. 884-3456.

JAN. 27

4-H meeting

The 4-H Guinea Pig group meets 6:30 to 8 p.m., in the Civic Center Library (upstairs). Nanette, (360) 981-5292

JAN. 30

LEGOs

Children 8 to 18 build and program a robotic vehicle using the LEGO Mindstorms kit 4 to 5:30 p.m., at the Key Center Library. This event requires pre-registration and is sponsored by the Friends of the KC Library. 548-3309.

Spaghetti feed

Parents of fifth-grade students at Minter Creek are raising funds to send all of the kids to Camp Seymour in the spring by hosting a spaghetti feed 5:30-7:30 p.m., at the school auditorium. Tickets are \$5 per person before the event or \$8 per person at the door. The dinner includes spaghetti (with or without meatballs), salad, a roll and dessert. 530-4300.

KEY PENINSULA NEWS IS LOOKING TO TELL YOUR STORY

Send your story suggestions and photo opportunities to Scott Turner, editor, at editor@keypennews.com

PUBLIC MEETINGS

KP Veterans

Jan. 5, 7 p.m., at the KP Lutheran Church. Membership is open for veterans and active duty military service members, their spouses and children over 16. 253-509-8656 or keypenveterans@outlook.com.

KP Lions' dinner, program

Jan. 7 and 21, 6 p.m., in VFW Room, KP Civic Center; 853-2721.

Peninsula School District Board

Jan. 8, 6 p.m., at District Office and Jan. 22, 6 p.m., at Harbor Ridge Middle School Library.

Key Pen Parks

Jan. 12, 7:30 p.m., at Volunteer Park; keypenparks.com.

KP Fire Department

Jan. 13 and 27, 5 p.m., in meeting room, fire station in Key Center; keypeninsulafire.org.

Key Peninsula Council

Jan. 14, 7 p.m., meeting, at Key Center Fire Station; kpcouncil.org.

KP Civic Center Association Board

Jan. 8, 6-7 p.m., potluck followed by meeting in Whitmore Room, KP Civic Center. 884-3456.

KP Land Use Advisory Commission

Jan. 21, 6:30 p.m., at the KC Library; chuck-west@hotmail.com.

LIC

Jan. 21, dessert potluck, 7 p.m., at Longbranch Improvement Club; 884-6022, longbranchimprovementclub.org.

KP Citizens Against Crime

Jan. 22, 7 p.m., at fire station in Key Center; kpcitizensagainstcrime.org.

KP Farm Council

Jan. 26, 6:30 p.m., at fire station in Home; c.wiley@mac.com.

WEEKLY EVENTS

MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS

Community walk

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

Senior exercise class

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

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS

Senior tai chi club

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

Preschool play time

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

TUESDAYS & SATURDAYS

KPHS Museum closed

KP Museum is closed in December and January. Visits can be arranged by appointment - call well in advance. A new exhibit will be set up for opening in February. For appointments, museum information or membership inquiries, call 888-3246.

WEDNESDAYS

Writers meet

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

Writers' workshop

The Watermark Writers present a free writers' workshop 5 to 8 p.m., in Vaughn. 253-778-6559.

WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS

Senior meals

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

THURSDAYS

Toastmasters

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

Seniors' lunch

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

Bingo

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

SATURDAYS

The Writers' Guild

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

Lakebay Jam with 302

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

OFF THE KEY

JAN. 6, 10-11

Bloodmobile

The bloodmobile will be at AllianceOne, 6565 Kimball Drive, Suite 200, from 1 to 4 p.m., Jan. 6; at Adventure of Faith Church 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Jan. 10; and at St. Nicholas Catholic Church from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Jan. 11.

JAN. 6 and 20

Drop-in help

Adults may find help with Microsoft Office, e-books and e-readers, email and any other Pierce County Library e-source from 2 to 3 p.m., at the Gig Harbor Library. 548-3305.

JAN. 8

Discover art!

Children (6 to 12) enjoy a story about Alexander Calder, become inspired and create their own art work in that style from 4 to 5 p.m., at the Gig Harbor Library. Creating art can be messy. This event requires registration and is sponsored by the Friends of the Gig Harbor Library. 548-3305.

JAN. 10

iPad basics

Adults 50 and older learn about using the iPad and learn tips to get the most

of it from 10 a.m. to noon at the Gig Harbor Library. 548-3305.

JAN. 13

3D printing

Adults learn about 3D printing and see a demonstration of the library's new Afinia 3D Printers from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Gig Harbor Library. 858-3305.

JAN. 16-18, 23-25, 30-31

Play presented

Paradise Theatre presents "The Odd Couple" at 7:30 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays and 3 p.m., Sundays. 851-PLAY or info@paradisetheatre.org.

LOOKING FOR WRITERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS

Contact Scott Turner, editor, at editor@keypennews.com

CALENDAR SUBMISSIONS

Send your calendar items to connierenz@hotmail.com by the 15th of the month

PSD 'stop paddle' infractions soar along area streets

By Scott Turner, KP News

Apparently many drivers, including many on the Key Peninsula, either don't know — or don't care — what blinking red lights and the "stop paddle" on a school bus mean.

In a word, it means "stop."

But, according to Peninsula School District Transportation Director Annie Bell, stop paddle violations are very common.

If you don't stop, and the bus driver gets your license plate number, you can be fined more than \$300. And, Bell said, the fine cannot be waived, reduced or suspended.

The rules are clear.

"You must stop for the bus when the stop paddle is out and the red lights are flashing when you're traveling in either direction on a two-lane road," Bell said.

"You're also required to stop when you're traveling in the same direction as the bus and you're on a road with more than two lanes of traffic or when

you're traveling in the same direction as the bus on a road with a two-way turn lane," she said.

Bus drivers are required to fill out a form and send it to PSD whenever an infraction occurs, she added.

The district works closely with the Pierce County Sheriff's Department and the Gig Harbor Police Department to catch offenders.

"Sometimes a police officer rides his motorcycle behind the bus, and if he sees it happening, he goes after them," Bell said.

The stop paddle law was passed to protect children exiting or boarding the school bus. "All our bus drivers and the kids are trained to double check for any cars coming," she said.

"But every day there are cars that run the stop paddles."

Bethel School District in east Pierce County recently did a two-month pilot project using cameras on their stop paddles.

The camera takes a photo of the li-



Photo by Scott Turner, KP News

"Stop paddle" violations are higher than in most schools districts along the routes Peninsula School District buses travel.

cense plate of any car that fails to stop when the stop paddle is out.

"It's just like a red traffic light," said Craig Sherman, PSD transportation coordinator. "If you don't stop, there's consequences."

Bell and Sherman said they would like to have cameras installed on all the buses in the Peninsula School District.

Locally, many students have to walk across the Key Peninsula highway to board or exit the school buses, Bell said.

That means there will be stop-and-go traffic all along the highway when the buses are on the road before and after school. But the bus drivers always give a warning when they're approaching a stop, she said.

"When we're going to stop, we put

on our flashing yellow lights. That means we are going to stop. So when a driver sees those yellow lights flashing, you need to be slowing down and be ready to stop," Bell said.

This month, bus drivers are reviewing the winter driving rules, practicing chain installation and preparing for ice and snow conditions.

They're also reminding the kids how to be ready for winter conditions. "We're teaching them to remember that if it snows, the bus can't stop on a hill so they might have to go to a flat spot to catch their bus," Bell said.

To see the rules governing winter driving and stopping for school buses, visit psd401.net and look for "Transportation" under the Central Services menu.

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THURSDAY, January 19TH, 10 A.M.

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Many, many thanks for your generous year-end gifts to
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Photo by Steve Whitford, KP News

Ashes member Warren Ensor sells goodies to help raise funds to support the Key Peninsula Fire Department.

From the 'Ashes' comes assistance to Key Peninsula fire department

By Steve Whitford, KP News

Twenty-some years ago, Marguerite Bussard and a group of local ladies recognized the need for a community-based organization whose goal would be to financially and emotionally support the Key Peninsula firefighters.

They decided to call their group "Ashes" and elected Bussard as their first president.

Since that time members have come and gone, but Bussard remains president, though not by choice.

"I've tried to give up the position a few times, but nobody else wants to do it," she said wryly.

Ashes works in harmony with the local fire department. Whenever there's been a need, Ashes helps find a way to satisfy it.

Chief Guy Allen said they are a valued group.

"They are an integral part of our organization and help us in obtaining non-funded objects," he said.

Over the years, these items have included the "Jaws of Life," an extrication tool used for cutting open vehicles with trapped occupants. Citizens in need have been provided with hearing aids and even portable oxygen concentrators. Ashes also funded the construction of the fire-drill practice shed located behind the fire

station in Key Center.

Ashes accepts cash donations, but members also sell homemade treats for fundraising.

During the last few years, Ashes member Warren Ensor has been busy doing just that.

He can usually be found seated behind his table at the Food Market in Lake Kathryn or Key Center on any given Wednesday or Saturday.

For sale by donation are their cookies, fudge, banana, zucchini and pumpkin bread. There are eight different homemade jellies, including rose hip, and the extremely popular mint jalapeno.

Ensor makes the tomato salsa himself. Ensor's a background man who besides selling for Ashes helps the "jelly lady" raise Christmas money for our local troops. She and Ensor helped raised money for local financially-challenged soldiers to have a merrier Christmas.

At present, there are 12 members involved with Ashes. They meet on the second Thursday of each month at the Key Center fire station. The meeting starts at 10:30 a.m. and ends with a potluck at noon.

New members and visitors are always welcome. For information, contact 884-2222.

Let's Get Crackin'

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

OMG! (Just trying to prove I can be somewhat current and not an old fudd). We're into the New Year and I should have wished you all the happiest of Holiday Seasons and a wonderful New Year in the last issue... which just proves, I guess, that I'm not all that current and most likely am an old fudd. But, it is indeed, the New Year and all of us folks at the Civic Center are stomping our feet and blowing steam planning our late winter and spring events.

First up is the Annual Crab and Pasta Feed. It's coming a little earlier in the season this year... so... mark your calendars for Saturday, January 24th from 4:00pm to 7:00pm.

This event has been growing steadily over the years and we do have a seating limit... so get your tickets right away from Sunnycrest Nursery when they reopen in mid-January, or Blend, or from our office, or on-line at <http://crabfeed-2015.brownpapertickets.com/>.



It should be stressed that this event is not just a bacchanal of crab consumption... we also serve a wicked set of pasta sauces from the hands of our own VP Patricia Medveckus. Whether it is over fettuccine, spaghetti or ziti... red sauce or the white... these make a great meal in their own right. Come in empty and go home full.

CIVIC CENTER CORNER

Following close on the heels of the Crab Feed is our version of "Fat Tuesday on Saturday" or our Mardi Gras Music Festival on the 21st of February. Kim Archer and the Kim Archer Band will be headlining our celebration of all things funk and smoke... I'm talkin' R&B and BBQ.

The smokers will be fired-up outback in our bayou, the Gym will be dripping with Spanish moss and atmosphere, and the Center's barmen (barpeople) are already working on, or sampling, this year's signature drink. So, gather up your "Indians" and dress appropriately... we'll be looking for this year's "Big Chief." Tickets will be available at the usual and above mentioned outlets.

If everything goes according to plan... that plan is supposedly in Phil Bauer's head... we move on from "le bon temps roule" to "let the good times roll" as we shift from funkadelic to psychedelic and hope to welcome back Gig Harbor's own Beatniks for our Second Annual Thing and Dance. We're thinking the Beatniks and their brand of Rock N' Roll is just what is needed to shake off, rattle and roll the cobwebs of winter. Keep checking our calendar as we try and find a mutually agreeable date to "kick out the jams!"

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

Geoduck farming: environmental issues

Editor's note: This article is the third of a four-part of a series on geoduck aquaculture. A final article on the economics of geoduck farming will be published next month.

By Sara Thompson, KP News

What exactly is the environmental impact of geoduck farming? Oyster, manila clam and mussel aquaculture had been a part of Puget Sound for decades, but the ability to grow geoducks is a relatively new development.

As new farms were established in the mid 2000s, some illegally, communities worried that their shorelines were at risk. Concerns ranged from aesthetics and loss of recreational beaches to loss of habitat and the risks of PVC tubes used to protect the clams.

In addition to worries about the immediate impact of a geoduck farm on a local community, what might be the long-term consequences? What are the cumulative effects of larger numbers of farms over decades?

The state Legislature passed a bill in 2007 establishing a fund to study the impact of geoduck aquaculture over the next six years. Sea Grant, a program that is a collaboration between the University of Washington and the federal government, was chosen to commission the research. A literature review and research report were published in late 2013 and an update on new research directions was published last month.

Geoduck farms cause changes in the local beach. But is change equivalent to harm? Are species at risk? As is true with most scientific research, answers are rare-

ly black and white, and most studies lead to further questions.

Aesthetics are an ongoing concern. Most pictures shown by opponents to demonstrate the sight of PVC tubes that have become dislodged and litter beaches are from 2006 and 2007. Practices have improved to minimize the loss of tubes, and permits require crews to clean the beach after storms. The industry has developed mesh tubes that are less visible and don't require nets over the tops.

Aquaculture advocates state that the tubes (used for the first year or two to protect young clams from predators) are visible only 5 percent of the time, but that probably underestimates the actual visual experience.

Low tides, when the tubes are visible, are at night during the winter but in daytime during the summer. This means that they are visible roughly 20 percent of the time during spring and summer months.

Opponents decry the trapping of birds in nets, though this is a relatively rare occurrence.

According to experts testifying on behalf of Longbranch Shellfish at a Shoreline Hearing Board appeal, PVC tubes appear to be relatively safe. The material is inert and sediment near the tubes has not shown any evidence of microplastics or leaching of toxins.

There is currently little or no evidence that the tubes or debris from the tubes (which sinks to the bottom of the Sound) would harm fish or birds. The actual volume of debris on the floor of the Sound is unknown, however.

The Sea Grant research studies looked at the impact of geoduck farming on the

water, sediment, eelgrass and animals living in the sediment and at the surface. The studies were limited in overall scope, and although substantial negative impacts were not seen, there were clearly some differences between geoduck farms and adjacent beaches. Further research was recommended.

Laura Hendricks, of the Coalition to Protect Puget Sound, continues to be concerned about the impact of PVC debris and microplastics as the volume of farming expands. Wayne Daley, a former Boeing engineer who has a fisheries degree and has worked as a consultant since 1996, is critical of the Sea Grant-sponsored studies. He said that until the impact on forage fish (herring and sea lance) and phytoplankton on the near shore is understood, there should be a hold on additional farms.

How much aquaculture is too much? Are there any limits on the amount of shoreline that could be farmed?

Ty Booth and Dave Risvold of the Pierce County Land Planning and Services Department noted that although any landowner who owns tidelands could apply for an aquaculture permit, there are practical limitations.

First, there are physical characteristics of a given beach that may make geoduck farming in particular impossible. Second, the steps involved in applying for a permit are onerous, particularly for individuals.

The Washington State Department of Ecology (WDOE) recently informed counties that the process must include a conditional use permit — which requires review and approval by WDOE. But 60 percent of Washington tidelands are privately owned and there is no legislation that absolutely limits the number of farms in Puget Sound.

Booth notes, though, that between 1997 and 2005, six permits for geoduck farms were approved. Since that time, three have been approved by Pierce County and two are under appeal. Nine permits are pending, although some of those applications are old and may not be pursued.

Cumulative impact — looking at the effects of aquaculture over multiple harvests and taking into account the increased number of acres farmed — is now the key issue. It is included in shore-

line master plans to assure that there is no net loss of ecological functions. “No net loss” is not defined in black and white terms, however.

Explained Perry Lund, Southwest Region unit supervisor for the Department of Ecology, “When we look at any permit, we have to look at the whole picture, and look not just at the specific project. We must take into account mitigation, restoration and the broader planning concepts within the Shoreline Master Program.

“Any project, whether it is putting in a septic system, a dock or bulkhead, or starting a geoduck farm, will cause a change but we want to assure as much as possible that it does not lead to a substantial negative impact,” Lund said.

What comes next? Work through Sea Grant continues, though it depends on funding from the state Legislature. Larry Seaquist was instrumental in getting recent funding for aquaculture research, and it is not clear who will continue to advocate for money since he lost his legislative seat in the last election.

Washington Sea Grant researchers are now concentrating on developing models to understand the effects of aquaculture on the food web; addressing the physical, biological and chemical factors interacting with aquaculture (including development of an early warning system for ocean acidification); fully assessing the economic impacts of aquaculture and spatial planning (extent of current farms, data on ecological sensitivity and other considerations such as water quality, physical constraints, designated areas for other uses).

P. Sean McDonald, PhD, a UW researcher working with the Sea Grant program, said, “The Puget Sound shore is a hard place for the animals that live there. Storms, surf and flooding may be as disruptive to their environment as geoduck farming. But we need to understand if there is a tipping point, where the effects over time or due to increased extent are causing harm to our beaches.

“We are using the data from the Sea Grant-sponsored geoduck projects to model how much aquaculture might be too much or whether there is a tipping point beyond which aquaculture expansion could affect the environment more broadly,” McDonald said.

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New Key Pen Parks employee seeks to connect people, parks

By Alice Kinerk, KP News

Christina Hallock may only recently have started work as Key Pen Parks' marketing coordinator/recreation specialist, but she's been contributing to a better quality of life for Key Peninsula youth and families for years.

With her children in PSD schools and her husband, Ric, coaching multiple sports through Peninsula Athletic Association, Hallock has long been a familiar face around local ball fields. Additionally, in 2005, Hallock worked with a group to bring a community-accessible playground to Purdy Elementary. She's also been on the planning committee for the Maritime Gig Fest, Gig Harbor's signature event, for multiple years.

She also is a contractor for Key Peninsula News.

Now, after nearly a decade making a living in corporate marketing, she loves that her new job keeps her closer to nature. Since starting the job on Nov. 10, Hallock has enjoyed looking out the window to see fields and forest. Applying her professional skills to help the community is

pretty great, too, she said.

Hallock takes a logical, businesslike approach to improving the recreational offerings of Key Pen Parks. "We will see what the populations are that do not have activities geared to them, see where the needs are, and develop camps, classes and things to meet those needs," she said.

After taking part in the annual Breakfast with Santa event at the Key Center fire station, Hallock is interested in partnering with other local organizations such as the Red Barn, and possibly restarting the Park PALS program as well.

Park PALS (short for people who all love to serve) is a program that gives older kids and teens a chance to volunteer in parks. She said the youth volunteers are instrumental in making many parks programs possible, but during the interim between recreation specialists, Key Pen Parks had been too understaffed for anyone to organize and supervise them.

Among her immediate goals, Hallock plans to make changes to the Key Pen Parks website, especially working to improve the site's online registration system. According to her, for some time now, resi-



Christina Hallock

include waterfront, miles of walking, hiking, biking and equestrian trails, ball fields, exercise courses, picnic shelters, conservation areas and more. "These are destination parks. I don't think people are aware of all the wonderful outdoor spaces that are available to them," Hallock said.

Key Pen Parks Executive Director Scott Gallacher also spoke about the new staff member.

The job title had been changed from recreation specialist to marketing coordinator/recreation specialist. "We reevaluated the position based on the current needs of our organization and felt that we needed to add a marketing component. Christina's skill set met those needs," Gallacher said.

While admitting she still has some work to do figuring out what all the responsibilities of her new job are, Hallock has been settling in quickly with her co-workers. "The people I work with are great," Hallock said, adding that another item on her to-do list is a fresh coat of interior paint for the office. Although they haven't yet decided on a shade, her goal is to paint the walls a "happy color."

dents who attempt to enroll for park programs online have had trouble doing so.

"That's something that has damaged Key Pen Parks' credibility," Hallock said. "We're actively working to fix that," she added.


Another priority is to let people know about all the beautiful, varied, multi-use properties the Key Pen Parks has. These



Key Peninsula Little League
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CISP comes a long way since Vaughn beginnings

By Scott Turner, KP News

Gig Harbor's Communities In Schools Peninsula (CISP) program began in 2000 at Vaughn Elementary.

Since then, it's grown to its current presence in 10 of the 15 schools in the Peninsula School District, including all the schools on the Key Peninsula, according to Executive Director Colleen Speer.

Nationally, CISP was founded about 35 years ago and it's currently headquartered in Washington D.C.

CISP's goal is to help kids who are below grade level in reading or math by pairing them with volunteer mentors who work one-on-one with students.

Currently, there are 140 CISP volunteers mentoring students in afterschool and in-school sessions.

There are also eight program coordinators — mostly teachers in the school — who are paid by CISP to oversee the programs.

The mentor list includes business people, retirees and even high school students doing community service, Speer said.



Jane Dueda, Evergreen Elementary coordinator for Community In Schools of Peninsula, works with a group of fifth-graders last month.

Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News

Laurel Schultz is CISP program director at Vaughn Elementary. "We do both reading and math here at Vaughn," Schultz said. "Our students get together with their mentors once a week, an hour and a half for math or an hour for reading."

All mentors are screened (including a

background check through Washington State Patrol) and attend regular training sessions.

And the CISP program meets the kids' needs in more than just academic ways, Speer said.

"The relationship between mentor and

student is very important," Schultz added.

"It shows kids that they really matter and that they can be successful. And for students who come from all types of backgrounds, even those who have the most supportive families, talking to another adult or a high school student about how to stay motivated, how to do their best work in school, is huge," she said.

There are even CISP programs at Peninsula and Henderson Bay high schools.

"At the high school level we now have students who recognize our programs and they self-refer. They just drop in to work with a volunteer," Schultz said. "That's huge."

CISP always needs more volunteers, she added.

The time commitment includes about two hours of training and then weekly meetings with the student throughout the school year.

It's a long-term commitment because, "once you start with a student, we expect you to continue with the program all the way through 'til the end of the school year, the last week in May," Schultz said. "That long-term consistency with a student is what really leads to the best growth."

Volunteers follow the standard school schedule including school holidays and other breaks.

"We actually have a very high retention rate with our volunteers and they return year after year because they find it very rewarding and they love working with kids. That's the beautiful thing about working with young people — you often see great growth," Schultz said. "The kids have a great sense of humor and wonderful skills, but they might just have a deficit in reading or math."

Although CISP is part of a national organization, it is its own 501c3, with its own board of directors and fundraising obligations.

"I write lots of grants and we have fundraisers," Speer said. "We ask individual donors for money. We have some corporate gifts. And the community can donate through our website. We have online giving."

"We're grateful for every monetary gift. And the gift of your time is priceless," Schultz said. "It absolutely pays off in grades and confidence."

To donate or to learn more about being a CISP volunteer, visit CISWA.peninsula.org.



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Red Barn Youth Center is getting packed with kids, volunteers

By Scott Turner and Colleen Slater,
KP News

Since it opened on Sept. 3, attendance at the Red Barn Youth Center in Key Center has nearly doubled, according to Program Director Jeremy Schintz.

Schintz and Laura Condon share the program director duties at the center, and both were hired in August.

The purpose of the Red Barn is to provide a safe place for kids to hang out after school, Schintz said.

"We started out with 10-12 kids every day; now we're up to as many as 35 kids. In September we had 374; in October it was 504.

"We have a roster with more than 100 kids on it. We have kids that show up every day Monday through Friday. And we get new kids every week," he said.

The kids follow a set routine when they arrive at the center.

"Basically when a kid comes through the door, we have them sign in and we have about 30-45 minutes of homework time. We have volunteer mentors and tutors who help them with homework," Schintz said.

Every kid also gets a snack, he added. "We have a cooking class that makes the snacks for the kids. All these kids eat lunch at 10:30, so by the time they get here at 2:30 or 3 o'clock they're pretty hungry. So we're giving them the independent skills of cooking and serving one another. It's been working out pretty well," Schintz said.

The cooking program is supported by KP residents, he said. "We have people who just show up with food. We have our needs list on our Facebook page. Be sure to look for Red Barn Youth Center on KP, because there's also one in Indiana."

There's no cost to the kids who come to the Red Barn — everything is free because the organization is privately funded and also funded through special "friend-raising" events.

"And we hope to keep it that way," Schintz said.

The Red Barn is open every day during

the school year from 2:30-6:30 p.m. When school conferences are taking place, the doors open at 12:30.

Schintz and Condon plan to be open a couple days during holiday breaks, as well. "We'll see how that works," he said.

The organization works closely with Peninsula School District.

"PSD has been very supportive. They've wanted this program to happen for a long time, especially at the middle school and high school levels," he said.

The district has been instrumental in spreading the word that the Red Barn is open, and the school buses stop right at the corner, Schintz said. Parents pick up their kids for the ride home.

Except for Schintz and Condon, the center is run almost entirely by volunteers — and they always need more.

Many of the volunteers are retirees, including several retired teachers.

"And we even have high school students and college kids. They're really good at mentoring because sometimes they understand the math better than the retired math teacher does," Schintz said.

The center runs background checks on everyone over age 16 who volunteers, he added.

There's plenty of room for the center to grow. There's a large multipurpose room that that will house a basketball court and other activities and is "just sitting empty while we're waiting for the county to give us our permits to make it happen," Schintz said.

"For our private funders to keep supporting us, we still need support every day from the community and we still need more volunteers," he said.

According to Condon, KP Community Service, along with the community, have been very responsive in supplying food donations, especially when prompted through Facebook and Red Barn website queries.

"We have been blessed with a giving community and it has been so encouraging with the amount of donations we have received thus far," she added.



Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News

An adult volunteer watch a group of students during homework time at the Red Barn.

Incoming donations have decreased to where they have had to locate additional sources to fill that void.

Marci Cummings-Cohoe, a local teacher at Vaughn Elementary, suggested placing food bin drops at both Key Center and Lake Kathryn Village to help encourage additional food assistance.

Red Barn representatives met with Kip Bonds, operations manager for Stolz N.W.

Inc. (Food Market) and were overwhelmed with his willingness to support so many causes in the community.

"We support our community as a way of saying thank you and giving back to the community that chooses to shop locally and support Key Peninsula businesses," Bonds said.

For information visit redbarnkp.org or call (253) 884-1514. The Red Barn is located at 15821 84th Street KPN in Lakebay.

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Local farmer pens another story of bucolic life

By Colleen Slater, KP News

Nicole Niemann-Carr of SunnyCrest Farm has her third story in a national publication.

Previous stories about her life and the history of her home and farm were published in Farm & Ranch Living in 2006 and 2013. One was about calling cows and the next focused on Old Blue, the farm truck her grandfather ("Popa," as she called him) Chuck Niemann used to drive.

She has also sent photos of son Colton to Hobby Farms magazine, one with his pony and another with a chicken.

The story appearing in the January issue of Backyard Poultry Magazine, "Life At The SunnyCrest Farm," includes a full-page photo of Colton petting a chicken. He's the sixth generation to live and farm there. The story is under a series about families and poultry farming's tie to homesteading, a perfect fit for Niemann-Carr.

Andrew Olson came from Sweden in 1886 and invested in a homestead on land that was then considered Vaughn. Now

considered Key Center with a Lakebay address, it's been in the family for nearly 130 years.

Elmer Olson, youngest of Andrew's sons, built a home near his widowed mother and married Elsie Bill. In 1929, they started a chicken business and registered the name SunnyCrest Farm.

They built seven chicken houses plus a large incubator house, still standing.

"It's where we keep the brooder boxes for our chicks today," Niemann-Carr says.

When she and her husband, Tony Carr, built their home in 2004, it was on the site of chicken house No. 5. Grandma Joyce Niemann had a plaque made that hangs in the Carr kitchen, stating that fact.

Olson was among the first in the area to get electricity, as it was needed for the incubators.

By 1939, the Olsons had dairy cows and continued to sell eggs. Grandma Joyce got her license at 14 so she could deliver eggs to the local co-op at the Lakebay Marina.

Niemann-Carr recalls helping to feed the chickens at age 6, carrying a broom to ward off the aggressive rooster. He pecked her



Colton Carr and mom Nicole, display the magazine story she wrote with a photo of him included.

Photo by Colleen Slater, KP News

once, and she thinks Popa put him in the stew pot soon after.

The Niemanns were busy with cows instead of chickens. Nicole, who was enamored with horses, completed college degrees and was married.

She and Tony graduated with bachelor degrees in fitness and exercise science. He worked in construction while she completed her master's of science in human movement and performance. She teaches Silver Sneakers classes at the YMCA, and Tony is a Gig Harbor firefighter.

"I thought we'd have a cute little house in Gig Harbor," she said, adding that she wanted to stay near her family.

They soon decided to move back and live on the farm near her grandparents, with her parents just across the road.

When Colton was about a year old, they

bought their first six chicks.

"Then it became 12, then 20, and now we have a flock of about 65 different breeds of chickens and sell eggs to a loyal following of customers," she wrote in her story.

Tony built a main movable hen house that is moved every few weeks to new pasture.

In 2000, they added a horse, two cows and three bottle-fed calves. After four sets of bottle-feeding, they opted to breed their own. This year, the first calf since Popa Niemann raised them was born on the farm.

Niemann-Carr and her family also raise two pigs per year and cultivate a vegetable garden. She enjoys raising much of her family's food on her historic family farm.

And yes, she plans to write more stories about her experiences.



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Disabled vets and the Red Barn reap benefits from photographer's lens

By Karen Lovett, KP News

When Richard Jones looks through his camera lens, he likes what he sees on the Key Peninsula.

Jones served in the military starting out in the Marines, but switched later to do a stint in the Army. He did a tour of duty as a mechanic in Iraq from 2004-2005 before finishing his military career at Fort Lewis where he met his girlfriend, Jennifer Hoskins.

When Hoskins' mother, Maggie Steiner, a longtime resident of the Key Peninsula, decided to relocate to Port Orchard about nine years ago, Jones and Hoskins moved into her former home near Key Center. A sign out front saying "Eggs for Sale" greets visitors to the small farm that includes chickens, ducks, a dog and three cats — including a tabby cat bottle-raised by the couple from the time he was one day old.

Hoskins, a certified nurse's assistant, works at Retsil Veterans Home in Port Orchard. When that facility needed to find a home for its African Grey parrot, Hoskins volunteered to take the bird home. The parrot fit right in and quickly became one of self-proclaimed animal lover Jones' best buddies.

Jones became a full-time student and earned an associate of arts degree and then a bachelor degree in environmental science from the University of Phoenix. He is currently working on another bachelor degree in psychology.

Jones has dabbled in photography over the years, but about a year ago he purchased a new camera to professionalize his blossoming hobby. For now, he is focusing his time around the Key Peninsula.

"A lot of people ask me if I go anywhere else," Jones said. "Eventually I will, but I love it out here. I love nature. Joemma is a favorite spot, you can turn 180 degrees and have a whole new view."

Last year his company, RJ Photography, sold 30 pictures. Part of the profits went to the Wounded Warrior program to help disabled veterans. This year he sold photographs, mugs and calendars at the Winter Warmup at the Key Peninsula Civic Center in Vaughn and Winterfest Arts



Local photographer Richard Jones poses with his avian buddy and calendar with photos he took from Penrose Point.

Photo by Karen Lovett, KP News

and Crafts Fair at Peninsula High School. To view his art, visit 15-richard-jones-artistwebsites.com. He can be contacted at jones464@yahoo.com.

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Lakebay Marina owners continue improvements, renovations

By Sara Thompson, KP News

The Lakebay Marina is once again becoming a destination location and owners Mark and Cindy Scott have plans to honor its historic past as they slowly renovate the buildings.

They purchased the property in 2012, opened for business in April 2013, and have welcomed Key Peninsula residents as well as boaters, who have begun arriving in large numbers during the summer.

The pier was initially built to accommodate the Mosquito Fleet — steamboats amassed by Carl Lorenz and his sons to ship lumber from the Key Peninsula.

In 1928, the property became home to the Western Washington Cooperative Egg and Poultry Association. The co-op had feed for animals, as well as tractor and other equipment, and stored dairy products — mostly eggs — headed to Tacoma. In the 1950s, as roads improved, the last of the Mosquito Fleet retired, and the co-op moved from Lakebay.

At that time the location was transformed to a boating destination. Docks were built, a large dance floor was added to the building, and yachts began to motor to visit.

Small cabins were built on shore and it became the Lakebay Marina and Resort. The Hostetler family purchased and ran the business starting in the late 1960s.

When Mr. Hostetler died, his eight children continued to operate the marina, but they all had busy lives and competing priorities — Mark Scott was



Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News

Lakebay Marina owners move forward with improvements to their landmark facility.

in contact with them for eight years before they all agreed to sell to him. He remembers coming to the café as a child and wanted to see the place come back to its unique presence on Puget Sound.

The new owners have been slowly restoring the property, learning the restaurant trade and scheduling wine and beer tastings featuring local wineries and breweries. They have also hosted a movie premier and musical events. And they have established an annual tradition: Every Memorial Day weekend, they host a wine tasting from the Mosquito Fleet Winery and free clams.

“I know the marina business. Running a restaurant involved a steep learning curve,” Scott said.

The owner of Jimmy D’s in Poulsbo initially helped him open the restaurant and they are now running it on their

own. Scott’s top priority: a top-quality burger — ground chuck and a toasted buttered bun.

His eyes light up as he describes the local tomatoes from My Mother’s Garden. They also serve fish and chips. As they succeed in offering consistent quality with these offerings, they plan to expand the menu.

Future plans

Scott says the marina is full and working well. He hopes to build and install a pump-out barge. This is a program coordinated with the Army Corps of Engineers and state parks, offering a service to boats to encourage them to pump out their “black water” at the barge for disposal rather than dumping it into the Sound.

The Scotts have refurbished a garage and they will soon replace the roof and

windows and repair the siding on the parsonage house. They plan to move into the house within a year or so, once their son graduates from high school on Bainbridge Island.

The house was built in about 1915 by Dolly Caspary, the Lakebay postmaster. In the early 1930s, Dr. Johnson, an osteopath who delivered several local babies, lived there. It later served as the parsonage for the Lakebay Community Church.

The three small cabins on the property have been left standing so that when they are replaced, the permitting process will be simpler. There is one rental cabin now available and the Scotts hope to improve the camping and RV sites.

The restoration and maintenance are all costly, though Scott emphasizes that the marina and resort is a very sustainable business. It is maintenance of the infrastructure such as the pilings that is especially expensive.

He hopes to get recognition as a historic site, either at the county or at a national level. This would assure that when he and his wife are no longer owners, the establishment would continue to play a central role in the community. And it might also help provide funding sources for preservation and restoration.

The Scotts invite customers to visit. Summers are very busy, but there is plenty of room at the counter for a great burger and fries this winter.

Winter hours are 5-9 p.m. on Fridays and 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. For information about events, rentals and services provided, visit lakebaymarina.com.

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Drive Thru Feed: 15 years of service on the Key

By Rick Sorrels, KP News

Jerry Davis started his business 15 years ago. He did not intend to open a feed store, but that's what it is.

Davis was born in Oklahoma City, Okla. At the age of 17, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and became airborne qualified. He saw combat with two tours in Vietnam and later in the Dominican Republic.

Between 1978, when Davis retired from the Army, and 1985 when he moved to the Key Peninsula, he operated an underwater marine salvage business, towed marine freight, was a police chief in Wittier, Alaska, attended International Bible College in Hawaii, sold vinyl siding and managed a restaurant in Arizona.

Davis also worked in food service for the state prison system in Purdy and Shelton before he purchased his current business site (at the intersection of SR-302 and Wright-Bliss Road) in 1989, where he intended to construct and operate a restaurant.

In 2000, the restaurant site was still an empty lot when he learned he would lose his commercial zoning if he did not immediately start operating a business on the site.

Davis started a swap meet.

Seeing as how it rains in Washington, he set up tents and constructed buildings for the swap meet vendors. Those many buildings have since been rearranged for his current Drive Thru Feed business.

"One day one of my swap meet customers was extremely upset about



Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News

Popular Drive Thru Feed celebrates an anniversary and unique Key Peninsula customer service.

something, so I asked what her troubles were," Davis said. "It turned out that she was upset and offended over terrible service that she had received from a local feed store.

"A light bulb lit, I thought for a bit, and I have been in the Drive Thru Feed business ever since," said Davis. "Service and courtesy are our bywords."

Davis said his customers never need to leave the comfort of their vehicles. As soon as a customer drives up, one of his workers hands the customer a candy bar or a bottle of water, takes the order and loads the vehicle with merchandise.

Davis sells all types of livestock feed (for horses, cows, pigs, chickens, dogs and llamas). He claims his business has

grown by 10 percent every year since he opened.

"I check all local competitors and underprice them," he said. "I concentrate on volume sales and customer satisfaction. I also have the cheapest price for propane."

Davis likes to surprise his customers. If you have one of his "Follow Me to Drive Thru Feed" bumper stickers, and if you happen to drive in at a randomly selected and posted time of day, then you may experience a discount on every bag of feed and gallon of propane purchased.

Davis usually has other surprises during January, his anniversary month, but if they were told, then they won't be

surprises.

"If you find that goods are overpriced in today's market and you are served with disrespect, then fall in behind one of the many vehicles bearing a bumper sticker saying Follow Me to Drive Thru Feed," he said.

Davis has found that battle wounds and vigorous military exploits have come back to haunt him in his senior years.

The business is listed for sale, but it doesn't matter if it sells, as Davis said he will still stay in the South Sound area. It would simply give him more time to devote to another passion of his, serving his Lord, he said.

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Local author releases two novels

KP News staff report

Jerry Libstaff has released his second and third fiction novels, "Farther to Fall" and "Point of No Return," with a book-signing held at Morso Wine Bar in December.

He describes his book concepts this way: "What would you do if you were nearly killed during a political assassination and awoke sequestered in a military hospital to find the nation and the world believed you to be the Second Coming?"

"In Farther to Fall, a man thrust into a position he wants no part of has to face those who praise him as well as those who would destroy him. All the

while, the government acts in the background to exploit his status and quietly direct his philosophies," Libstaff said.

He said "Point of No Return" is an epic, moving tale of a young man's life, loves and loss in the latter half of the 1800s.

"While crossing the country in a wagon train, the boy's family rescues an Indian child from a massacre, leading to their own destruction. Follow the boy, the child and three women as they move east to fall into new lives within a powerful dynasty. The story explores behaviors fashioned of wealth and politics, affected by the impact of the Civil War and the continuing devastation of an en-

tire race of people," he said.

Libstaff has written for newspapers, magazines and business journals up and down the West Coast. He is owner of Key Literary Concepts, a literary production company, and he leads Watermark Writers workshops, a nonprofit group dedicated to support literary arts.

Libstaff and his wife, Pamela, produce a house concert series called Words and Music from their home in Vaughn. Libstaff also presents an annual Young Writers Program to encourage youth to write poetry, fiction, non-fiction and music.

His fourth novel, "Any Means Will Justify The Corporate End," will be available in January.

For information, call (253) 530-3463.

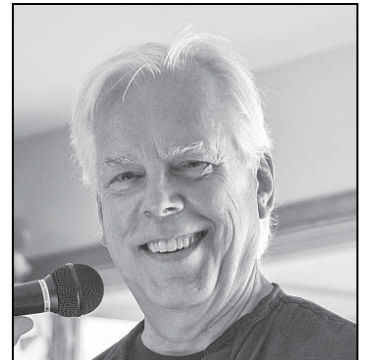


Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News

Jerry Libstaff was the master of ceremonies during an event at his home. Libstaff's fourth novel will be available in January.

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Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News

Above: The Mustard Seed Chorale spent a Friday traveling around the Key Peninsula performing "random acts of caroling" for any who might enjoy them.

Right: Earlier this month families gathered for movie night at Evergreen Elementary School to watch "Rio 2."



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Where in the World...

Rowan and Patrick from Northwest Auto Clinic and an issue of KP News hang out in New York's Times Square for the holidays.

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Mount Rainier looms over the Longbranch Marina.

Left: Prior to the December's PTA meeting, Minter Creek Elementary welcomed Peninsula School district Superintendent Charles Cuzzetto for some cake and conversation. Shown here are Paul Hoover, parent; Jennifer Price-Paul, parent; Tyler Martindale, parent; Debi Ady, grandparent; Superintendent Charles Cuzzetto; Kari Gulbranson, teacher, and Ty Robuck, school principal.