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JULY 2015

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New doctor comes to the area

- Sculptor Paul Michaels
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Seniors graduate from Peninsula High School
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Local woman conquering her Olympic dreams

By Scott Turner, KP News

Megan Blunk, 25, is definitely not a quitter. Seven years ago — on July 20, 2008 — she was critically injured in a motorcycle accident that left her paralyzed from the waist down.

She had just graduated from Peninsula High School's Running Start program through Tacoma Community College and was trying to decide what she wanted to do next.

She grew up near Lakebay and had always excelled in sports. She started playing soccer as a 5-year-old and continued to play all the way through high school.

At PHS, she also did track, basketball, volleyball and fastpitch — but she had been losing her passion for sports.

"I kept telling myself I was never good enough. I had all the potential but I couldn't believe in myself. It made me too sad all the time, so I kind of quit pushing myself and just focused on school and trying to figure myself out," Blunk said.

After the accident she had three major surgeries and spent 23 days in the hospital followed by several weeks in a nursing home, starting rehab.

"After the accident, I had some major re-

(See **Blunk**, Page 2)



Photo by Scott Turner, KP News

Former Key Peninsula resident Megan Blunk has made the U.S. Paralympic basketball team, and has a good shot at making the the squad to play in the Paralympic Games in 2016.

State of the local schools: Funding is key

Editor's note: Because four out of five households in our area don't have children in public schools, we launched a series covering the KP schools. The first article provided a brief snapshot of the three elementary, one middle and one high school that serve local students. In this second part, we explain the basics of school funding, its history and current status. The online version includes links to the resources used in writing this article. The third article will review the topic of testing, and the final article will cover the local school board.

By Sara Thompson, KP News

Public education funding is a complex and ever-changing issue. Although the state constitution mandates funding for K-12 public schools, legislative budget pressures create constant challenges. On top of that, new legislation and initiatives add to the mix.

Larry Sequist, former state representative with a lifetime interest in education, said that education faces a dual challenge: Students need to know more than ever if they are to succeed, but

there is also an increasing number of students who lack critical resources at home.

"School funding needs to increase both to add the necessary curriculum our children need to succeed and to compensate for those at-risk, economically disadvantaged students," he said.

The Peninsula School District isn't alone in all this, said Chuck Cuzzetto, PSD superintendent.

(See **Schools**, Page 4)

(From **Blunk**, Page 1)

grets for not believing in myself before or realizing what I had when I had it," she said.

"I thought everything — all the opportunities I had — was completely gone because as long as I'm in a wheelchair I don't have any more opportunities," she said [flatly].

She spent months fighting depression. "It was the worst feeling. It sort of eats you alive. I really didn't want to live anymore. I never thought of killing myself, but I was hoping there would be a car accident or something would happen to just end it because it was just too painful to live with that emotional pain. The physical pain was bad enough, but the emotional pain was even harder," Blunk recalled.

Five months after the accident, she started using a walker. Slowly, she learned to walk with canes.

"The depression I had really pushed me," she said. "I knew I had to do something to make it better because I couldn't live like that for the rest of my life — like wanting to die

every day."

Her mother, Wendy Ricketts, convinced her to go back to TCC and to start working out at the YMCA.

Her dad, David Blunk, was also a major positive force in her life.

About a year after the accident, during one of her daily workouts at the Y, Megan met a young man in a wheelchair who told her about a group of guys in Tacoma who got together to play wheelchair basketball.

She and her new friend went to Tacoma and checked them out.

"I just knew that that was my opportunity to play a sport again and to really push myself," she said. "I remembered the regret from not having pushed myself all through high school when I had the opportunity. I knew I could overcome that regret if I took this chance and didn't waste it."

It was hard at first and very frustrating for her. But in 2010, just as she was finishing work on her associates degree from TCC, she learned that the University of Illinois had a wheelchair basketball team.

"I started working even harder and I made it my goal to get a scholarship and play," she said, beaming.

The hard work and determination paid off and Blunk got a four-year scholarship to the University of Illinois.

Not only did she make the Illinois team, she also was determined to make the U.S. Paralympic wheelchair basketball team.

"I just decided that I was going to make that team and was going to make it to the Paralympics," she said. "Some people were just like, 'Do you know how hard that is?' And I just said 'I'm gonna get there.'"

In 2014 she achieved her goal and was chosen for the U.S. Paralympic team. Her team took forth place in the world championships in Toronto, Canada, that year, and she'll compete again this summer.

In addition to her basketball triumphs, Blunk is also a world-class kayak racer. She discovered the Gig Harbor Canoe & Kayak Club several years ago and kayaking gave her something to focus on during the summers when she came back home to the Key Pen-

insula.

"It was really awesome to get out of my wheelchair and into a boat that you can just glide across the water. And I loved the opportunity to race again because I used to do track and I was really fast," she said.

She quickly became so good at kayaking that she ended up going to the 2013 World Canoe and Kayak Championships in Germany, where she won silver medals in the 200-meter race and the 200-meter para-canoe race.

Last year Blunk graduated from University of Illinois and is now studying there for a master's degree in social work. She's still eligible to play wheelchair basketball and in August, she'll compete in the Pan American Games in Toronto and hopes to go to the U.S. Paralympics in 2016.

"The Pan American Games is the qualifiers for the Paralympics so our U.S. team has to make the top three to be qualified for the Paralympics in 2016," she said.

(See **Blunk**, Page 5)

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

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Key Pen Parks

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July 2015

FOURTH OF JULY community hot dog social

11 am - 2 pm
Saturday, July 4
Volunteer Park

Stop by for food, fun and meet more of your KP neighbors!

There will be lawn games and group games. TWO bounce houses and plenty of hot dogs and cake.
Bring a picnic blanket and have some old-fashioned fun!

The Fourth of July Community Hot Dog Social is a great way to kick-start your Fourth of July celebration!

FREE EVENT

Sponsored by
Food Market
at Key Center | Lake Kathryn

Key Peninsula
Parks & Recreation Foundation

Group games

11:30 am
Three-legged race

12:00 pm
Tug-of-war

12:30 pm
Water balloon toss

1:00 pm
Limbo

1:30 pm
Potato sack races

2:00 pm
Relay race

GAMES! Fun!

FUN SUMMER CAMPS!

Key Pen Parks is offering three unique and fun camps this summer! Registration is open and spots are starting to fill. Register now on our website, click "Stuff to Do" and "Camps."

Woodland Fairy Morning

9 am to noon, July 8-10
For girls ages 6-11. Cost is \$70.
Arts, crafts and other fun to satisfy your very fairy side! Hosted by Jacqueline Brulotte of Colorful Events.

Carnival Camp

9 am to noon, July 29-31
For boys and girls ages 7-12. Cost is \$70.
Learn some carnival moves: juggling, magic, balloon twisting and more with Jacqueline Brulotte!

'SICK' SKATEBOARDING SKILLS

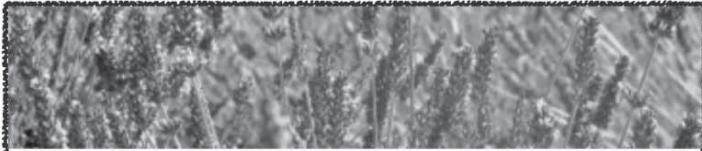
10 am to 1 pm, Aug. 19-21
For boys and girls ages 7-13. Cost is \$70.
Develop skills, safety knowledge and confidence to be successful with skateboarding at a skate park!

Also coming soon ...

- Day at the Tacoma Rainiers** - for students entering 6-12th grades
10 am-3 pm, Monday, July 27. \$11. Leaving from Red Barn.
- Bee Boppin' Bugs** - free family concert. Bring a picnic!
11 am on Saturday, August 8, Volunteer Park.
- Cinema Under the Stars** - Friday nights in August
Crafts at 7:30 pm, movies at 8:30 pm, Volunteer Park
- Mud Run/Obstacle Course** - Key Pen Parks is planning a fun run on September 19. More info to come soon ...

Seeking Playground Design Committee Members

You're invited to participate in a new playground committee to help design the new Gateway Park playground. Anyone can participate - parents, grandparents, kids. The first meeting will be in August. Interested? Call or email Key Pen Parks Executive Director Scott Gallacher at 253-884-9240 or ScottG@keypenparks.com.



Fourth Annual Lavender Festival at Blue Willow Lavender Farm

Friday, July 10 and Saturday, July 11, 2015
10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Free Admission!

Come and Enjoy 15 Lavender Fields with 4,000 Plants!
We'll have Live Music, Good Food and Local Vendors!
Visit our Lavender Store – Take home a Lavender Plant
Make a Lavender Craft – Attend a Lavender Workshop
Take a Tour of the Farm – Make a Wonderful Memory!

A Complete Program Is On Our Website!
(Subject To Change)

Farm Activities – Daily from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

- U-pick Lavender – Lavender Crafting – Harvesting – Drying – Debudding – Kid's Activities, tours, pics in the field, purple nails
- Sound Stage Artists

Friday, July 10

- 11 a.m. **Propagation/Care of Lavender** – Victor Gonzales, Victor's Lavender
- 12 p.m. **Wood Demos** - Terry Jellison, Jellison Wood Art
- 1 p.m. **Let's Eat: Cooking with Lavender** – Tracy Ketts, Blue Willow
A Bit of Beekeeping - Chris Smolko, Smolko Farm & Bees
- 2 p.m. **Wood Demos** - Terry Jellison Jellison Wood Art
- (Fee) **Lavender Vinegar & Infusions Workshop**, Tracy Ketts
- 3 p.m. **Propagation/Care of Lavender** – Victor Gonzales, Victor's Lavender

Saturday, July 11

- 11 a.m. **Propagation/Care of Lavender** – Victor Gonzales, Victor's Lavender
- Wood Demos** - Terry Jellison, Jellison Wood Art
- 12 p.m. **Let's Eat: Cooking with Lavender** – Tracy Ketts, Blue Willow
A Bit of Beekeeping - Chris Smolko, Smolko Farm & Bees
- 1 p.m. **Lavender Vinegar & Infusions Workshop, (Fee)** Tracy Ketts
- 2 p.m. **Propagation/Care of Lavender** – Victor Gonzales, Victor's Lavender
- Wood Demos** - Terry Jellison, Jellison Wood Art
- 3 p.m. **Let's Eat: Cooking with Lavender** – Tracy Ketts, Blue Willow
A Bit of Beekeeping - Chris Smolko, Smolko Farm & Bees

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(From Schools, Page 1)

“Until the state meets their paramount duty and fully funds education, the Peninsula School District, like other districts, will need to continue to rely on local taxpayers to meet the basic education needs of all of our students,” he said.

The history of school funding

The Washington State Constitution states: “It is the paramount duty of the state to make ample provision for the education of all children residing within its borders, without distinction or preference on account of race, color, caste or sex.”

From the state general fund, just over 45 percent is dedicated to pay for K-12 education. This places Washington among the highest in the nation for the percent of school district revenue provided from state sources, according to the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). Most of the rest of school funding comes from local levies and federal sources.

According to the Washington state Education Association, Washington ranks 40th in per-pupil funding for K-12 students. The state’s average class sizes are among the largest in the nation and the student/teacher ratio is 45th out of 50 states, WEA says.

The history of school funding for the last 50 years is one of slowly decreasing spending and one of increasing dependence on local funding.

Prior to the 1970s, funding was stable, with monies coming primarily through sales, business and occupation taxes and state property taxes. These remain the primary sources today.

In the 1970s, with a recession and decreasing state revenue, local levies were used to close the funding gap. Class sizes increased, there were teacher strikes, and a voter revolt led to levy failures.

Court decisions aimed at more stable state funding, and a levy lid of 10 percent to pay for basic education was instituted to equalize funding across the state (though districts that exceeded the lids were grandfathered in). By 1980, Washington ranked 11th in funding education in the nation.

Another recession hit in 1981, and in 1987, the levy lid was raised to 20 percent. Over the most recent two decades, the levy lid has been raised several times and a number of initiatives have been passed to decrease classroom size and improve teacher salaries.

In 2007, the Washington Adequacy Funding Study found that state public school spending as a percent of total state spending had declined significantly from 1987 to 2005, from a rate of 27.1 percent to 23.1 percent. In 2014, that had dropped to 22.2 percent. In real dollars adjusted for inflation, both the amount spent per student and the average teacher salary have declined.

In the so-called McCleary Decision in 2012, the Washington State Supreme Court found that the state was not meeting its constitutional duty and that current levels of funding to the schools were not adequate to meet the basic educational services students need. The Joint Task Force on Education Funding, established by the Legislature, estimated that it will take \$1.4 billion in the next two-year budget cycle and \$4.5 billion by 2017-19 to meet those obligations.

Basic education is defined as providing the following programs/services: general classroom education, special education for children with disabilities, the “Learning Assistance Program,” transitional bilingual, highly capable programs, institutional education programs, full-day kindergarten for high-poverty schools and transportation.

Sources of current funding

Funding from school district to school district varies. Peninsula School District sources are similar to those of the state overall, with somewhat less coming from the federal government.

Source of funding	State	Peninsula
State taxes	66.4%	67.53%
Local property taxes (Levy)	19.5%	23.85%
Federal funding	8.1%	4.35%
Local nontax (grants, fees)	3.35%	
Other	4.2%	0.92%

State funding for education comes from the general fund, the largest fund in the state budget and principal state fund supporting the operation of state government. All major state tax revenues are deposited into this fund. For the 2013-15 biennium, it was \$33 billion. The total state budget for the same timeframe was nearly \$82 billion.

Local funding is overwhelmingly from levies — increases in property taxes — and varies across the state now from 20 percent to 37 percent of local budgets. Local districts can make levy requests up to twice a year.

(See Schools, Page 5)

(From **Schools**, Page 4)

There are four types of levies:

- General fund, also known as maintenance and operations levies; they are one- to four-year levies, used for day-to-day operations;
- Debt service: multi-year levies used to pay principal and interest on general obligation bonds sold to finance school construction and remodeling;
- Transportation vehicle: one- or two-year levies that pay for buses or other transportation equipment;
- Capital project: one- to six-year levies that pay for construction or remodeling.

Federal funding is primarily used to fund programs that help children with disabilities (Individuals with Disabilities Act) and those living in poverty (Title I). Individual districts determine how the money is used to meet those needs. Federal funding requires compliance with federal program requirements.

Money allocation

About 80 percent of the budget goes to salaries and benefits of school employees (administrators, teachers and support staff). Area of expenditure State Peninsula Teaching (classroom and

extracurricular	58.7%	57.24%
teaching support; e.g., library, counseling, health)	10.9%	12.59%
Other support (e.g., utilities, IT, maintenance, food)	14.5%	14.7%
School administration	6%	6.11%
Central administration	5.9%	4.95%
Transportation	4%	4.41%

Looking to the future

The Washington State Supreme Court weighed in on school funding in 2012 with *McCleary v. State*. The court ruled that, because state funding did not fully pay for the full cost of basic education and relied on unreliable levy monies for up to a third of those costs, the current funding formula is unconstitutional.

The education reform bill passed in 2009 purported to offer a process to adequately fund education by 2018. In 2014, the court reviewed progress to date in addressing the problem and declared it inadequate. The Legislature was found in contempt and was ordered to achieve adequate funding in the 2015-'17 biennial budget.

At the time of publication, after a second special session, that budget had not yet been finalized.

(From **Blunk**, Page 2)

Blunk credits her friends and family for helping her overcome her depression and all the challenges she has faced.

"If it wasn't for my family and friends, I never would have made it through. Whenever I was having one of the hardest times ever, there would be someone that just walked up to me and told me something that would make me feel better and encourage me right when I needed it the very most.

"My dad was the most important person in helping me through it all," she said. "I know I could not have done it without my dad, David Blunk."

Recently another cheerleader entered Megan's life, her boyfriend Marshall Pinto. "He's one of the most amazing people I've ever met and he makes me feel very good about myself," she said.

Her advice to anyone who's willing to listen is to "face your fears and push yourself no matter what. If you're uncomfortable or insecure about something, always just put yourself in a situation that makes you more uncomfortable and that you're scared of doing, and face it over and over again because you know you want to be stronger.

"Because if you don't, the opportunity is going to pass and you're going to regret it," she said.



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Morning Route

- 8:50 PALMER LKE - LAKE DR@ 21ST KPS (SUNNY SIDE OF LKE)
- 8:52 PALMER LKE - 21ST ST@ 193RD AV (PARK SHELTER /SHADY SIDE OF LKE)
- 8:56 KPCS SENIOR CENTER & FOOD BANK
- 8:58 HOME GAS STATION - KP HWY NORTH
- 9:03 VOLUNTEER PARK
- 9:07 FOOD MARKET IN KEY CENTER
- 9:10 WRIGHT BLISS & OLSON DR KN
- 9:12 4 CORNERS/DRIVE THRU FEED
- 9:14 SR302 & 150TH AVE KPN (LAKE HOLIDAY)
- 9:15 SR 302 & 140TH KPN (LAKE OF THE WOODS)
- 9:17 11612 SR 302 (CHARBONEAU'S)
- 9:20 LAKE KATHRYN /SR 302 PULL OFF
- 9:25 PURDY PARK&RIDE
- 9:35 PHS

Late-afternoon Route

- 4:35 PHS
- 4:40 PURDY PARK & RIDE
- 4:45 LAKE KATHRYN CENTER @ COSTLESS STOPS BEYOND THIS POINT BASED UPON PASSENGER REQUEST (STOP TIMES WILL VARY)
- 4:53 11615 SR 302 @ WINDERMERE REALTY
- 4:56 SR 302 & 140TH (LAKE OF THE WOODS)
- 4:57 SR302 & 150TH AVE KPN (LAKE HOLIDAY)
- 5:00 4 CORNERS @ 76 STATION
- 5:02 WRIGHT BLISS & OLSON DR KPN
- 5:05 FOOD MARKET IN KEY CENTER
- 5:09 RED BARN /VOLUNTEER PARK
- 5:14 HOME GAS STATION
- 5:15 KPCS SENIOR CENTER & FOOD BANK
- 5:18 PALMER LKE - LAKE DR@ 21ST KPS (SUNNY SIDE OF LKE)
- 5:20 PALMER LKE - 21ST ST@ 193RD AV (PARK SHELTER /SHADY SIDE OF LKE)
- 5:30 RED BARN /VOLUNTEER PARK

Midday Route

- 12:30 PHS
- 12:35 PURDY PARK & RIDE
- 12:41 LAKE KATHRYN CENTER @ COSTLESS
- 12:44 11615 SR 302 @ WINDERMERE REALTY
- 12:46 SR 302 & 140TH (LAKE OF THE WOODS)
- 12:47 SR302 & 150TH AVE KPN (LAKE HOLIDAY)
- 12:49 4 CORNERS @ 76 STATION
- 12:52 WRIGHT BLISS & OLSON DR KPN
- 12:54 FOOD MARKET IN KEY CENTER
- 12:56 RED BARN /VOLUNTEER PARK
- 1:01 HOME GAS STATION
- 1:02 KPCS SENIOR CENTER & FOOD BANK
- 1:06 PALMER LKE - LAKE DR@ 21ST KPS (SUNNY SIDE OF LKE)
- 1:08 PALMER LKE - 21ST ST@ 193RD AV (PARK SHELTER /SHADY SIDE OF LKE)
- 1:13 KPCS SENIOR CENTER & FOOD BANK
- 1:14 HOME GAS STATION - KP HWY NORTH
- 1:19 VOLUNTEER PARK/RED BARN
- 1:22 FOOD MARKET IN KEY CENTER
- 1:23 KP HWY N @ MINTERWOOD DR KPN
- 1:27 11612 SR 302 (CHARBONEAU'S)
- 1:30 LAKE KATHRYN /SR 302 PULL OFF
- 1:35 PURDY PARK&RIDE
- 1:37 PHS

Peninsula Views

Lyme disease spelled out

What would you do if you were told by your doctor you'd been "cured" of your disease, while any lingering symptoms are chalked up to the aches and pains of daily living, except new and worsening symptoms kept increasing?

Of course you would go back to the doctor or try a different doctor, especially if your symptoms were severe, like seizures, paralysis or dementia.

Trying to maintain daily life becomes difficult, if not impossible.

Sitting across the desk from your doctor, you pray for answers and help. If that doctor treated you as a malingerer, outrageously suggesting you had a need for attention and made up, somehow, the interrupted brain waves that show on EEGs, blood that looks like half-set jello, seizures, neuropathy, tremors, et cetera when you couldn't possibly, what would you do?

This is the terrifying reality for thousands of chronic Lyme patients in America today, and not just in New England.

As advocates and activists, we are meeting more chronic Lyme patients all the time, right here on the Key. They have been abused and forgotten by doctors taught to deny chronic Lyme, taught that these debilitated patients should be scorned as "Lyme Loonies" and brushed aside.

One of the many diseases that Lyme imitates is multiple sclerosis, and Washington state has the highest numbers of MS cases in the country. Having lesions on the brain is actually a condition, rather than a disease in itself. A chronic Lyme patient for more than 16 years now, Anna (my daughter) was told by a neurologist at University of Washington Medical Center: "You could say you have MS."

There is simply too much evidence supporting the persistence of Lyme after short-course antibiotic treatment. Biofilms (think of them as a sort

Lorraine Hart
Guest columnist

of safe, gated community made from mucus, where bacteria can hide undetected by the body's immune system) have been documented. The presence of biofilms, filmed with thousands of spirochetes, indicates an active infection.

Meanwhile, giving testimony in Olympia against recognizing this evidence, a state health department spokesperson tried to declare that we didn't even have deer ticks in this state. Thankfully, she was corrected by a committee member. Yet the Bill has been watered down now to be about studying the studies of the effects of long-term antibiotic use in Lyme patients.

It's time to educate ourselves about Lyme, its prevention and the controversy surrounding diagnosis and treatment.

Learn to protect yourself against tick bites, tucking pants into socks, putting clothes in the dryer for 20 minutes after your hike and, most importantly, check one another for ticks after outdoor activity.

A "tick tool" can be purchased to hang on your key chain, or just use tweezers to gently remove them. Never listen to the fads about using Vaseline, alcohol or anything else. A great site for education is whatislyme.com.

Ask your doctor, what they know about Lyme disease, then ask them to learn more. If not, with case numbers on the rise in Washington, and doctors' ignorance, the question "What would you do" could become all too frighteningly real.

Lorraine Hart is a Key Peninsula resident. Email her with any questions at lorrainehart@gmail.com.

Use the KP's wild plants to make your own fertilizer

Just like our bodies, plants need a variety of vitamins and minerals to help them grow. The healthiest plants are fed just the right amounts of nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium, calcium and magnesium along with many other trace minerals.

There are countless fertilizers on the market promising to grow the best plants, but let's face it, fertilizers can get expensive.

Biodynamic gardening methods offer us a natural way to feed our plants in the form of plant teas. In fact, there are three plants that grow in abundance on the KP that you can use to feed your garden. We often think of these as weeds but, in reality, they are three highly beneficial plants for the garden and human body alike.

Comfrey

This time of year, you will see tall shoots of white-and-purple, bell-shaped flowers all over the KP. This is comfrey, one of the best natural medicines on the planet. It is high in potassium and all of the trace minerals. It contains the highest nutrient levels in the beginning of its flowering stage, which is the best time to harvest the leaves.

You can add comfrey to the compost pile for a nutrient boost. You can also add it straight to the garden as mulch.

Make a potent liquid manure by soaking 2 ¼ pounds of comfrey leaves in 2 ¼ gallons

Monica Rakowski
Living Close to Nature



of rainwater. Let this ferment for four to 10 days, stirring occasionally, and strain before using. Make a foliar feed by diluting one part of the comfrey mixture to 19 parts water.

Stinging nettles

Although they are the bane of every hiker's existence, stinging nettles are one of the most beneficial plants on the planet. They are rich in iron, magnesium, calcium and potassium. Collect the leaves and stems right before they flower, when nutrient levels are at their peak.

To stimulate root growth, create a liquid manure. Soak 4 ounces of nettle leaves in 1 ¾ pints of water for four to 10 days in the sun. Strain and dilute one part of the mixture in 10 parts water. Spray the crops and the soil.

To repel aphids, create a cold extract by soaking 4 ounces of nettle leaves in 1 ¾ pints of cold water for 24 to 36 hours, and spray your plants.

Dandelion

Dandelion flowers are packed with calcium, copper, iron, magnesium, potassium and silica. A tea made of dandelion flowers is beneficial to use in the beginning of a plant's

(See **Rakowski**, Page 7)

Letters Policy

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

The opinions expressed on this page are not necessarily those of the KP News. We neither endorse nor oppose issues or proposals discussed on this page and present these views for public information only.

Spit in the ocean — much more than a card game

Here on the Key we've got a couple of darned good spits. One that extends from what we call Wauna toward Purdy and ends at the Purdy bridge.

The Purdy Spit, which technically could be called

a mole (because much is man-made) is owned by Pierce County Parks, but largely ignored. It begs for an elevated boardwalk along its southern edge facing Henderson Bay. But erecting one would be fraught with regulatory difficulties, partly because a state highway sits on top of it and partly because it's a riparian area, meaning it is a shoreline.

Another fine spit stretches between Vaughn Bay and Case Inlet, extending north from Olman Point, creating Vaughn Bay. I think it's public tideflats; so, as long as it is accessed from the water, visitors are not trespassing.

A third nice spit, but much smaller, is also on Case Inlet. It forms what locals call the Haley Lagoon and sits on property sold by the Haley family to Washington State Parks many years ago.

State park officials have never found money to develop or even put restrooms on the property. Part of the problem is that the hillside running down to the 12-acre lagoon is so unstable, it would be prohibitively expensive to put in an ADA trail to the beach from the nearest public access point on Jackson Lake Road. Hardy souls do trek down the hillside from time to time and folks visit by boat, especially by canoe and kayak in the summer. It's nothing to mess with from seaward in winter; strong south-westerly winds whip up the seas across tidal shoals and make boat landing risky business.

There are a couple of nice long, sand spits in Carr Inlet at the entrance to Mayo Cove,

(From **Rakowski**, Page 6)

grow cycle. Spraying the plants with this tea creates stronger leaves, promotes disease-resistance and improves flavor.

To make the tea, infuse a handful of flowers picked early in the morning, before they are fully open, in 1 3/4 pints of hot water for five to 10 minutes. Filter off the concentrate and dilute one part of the dandelion tea to

where the Lakebay Marina is located. One extends into the cove from Penrose Point State Park. The other is less accessible and guards the north entrance of the bay. Then there's one a bit further south: it's outermost (south eastern) tip is called South Head on NOAA's nautical chart of the area.

Finally, at low tide there's a heck of a sand spit at Cutt's Island, also known as Deadman's Island in Henderson Bay, the northern part of Carr Inlet, and another at tiny McMicken Island south and west of Herron Island in Case Inlet. Both are state parks so the public has free access by sea.

In my experience, spits generally allow folks to get very close to the water while beach-combing, and spits often trap interesting chunks of driftwood and other flotsam.

Near the tip of a spit, the water is often quite deep so a boater can nose up to it without worrying too much about his or her propeller hitting the bottom. Not so along the edge of the spit; often that is quite shallow.

I'm sure there are spits I'm not aware of, so I apologize if I've missed your favorite. I will punish myself by promising to not actually spit in the ocean, which according to the State Department of Ecology would be littering.

Bill Trandum is a retired U.S. Navy captain, a guest columnist and a self-described student of all things winds, waves, weathers, tides and waters.

four parts of rainwater.

Take a look around your backyard. You very well may have all of these plants at your disposal. Instead of spraying them with poisonous weed killers, use them as the beneficial plant medicines that they are.

Monica Rakowski owns KP Indoor Garden Store in Key Center. You can read more of her work at thenaturelifeproject.com.



William I. Trandum
Winds, Tides & Weathers



CIVIC CENTER

Hail & Farewell

CORNER

Change happens and that's certainly the case for the Civic Center this past spring. Holly Hendrick, our Facility Coordinator and Marketing Specialist is moving on to pursue a new business start-up in Tacoma. Her years of creativity, vision and hard work have served the Civic Center under several Board Presidents and we suspect this entrepreneurial spirit will continue to serve Holly in her new business venture. Watch for Hollyhock Mercantile in Tacoma.

But, change can lead to opportunity. We are happy to announce that Patty Ghiossi joined the staff at Key Peninsula Civic Center this June as the new Facility Coordinator and Marketing Specialist. Patty has worked in the non-profit arena for over 35 years. She has significant experience in non-profit corporations including operations management, grant writing, marketing and program development to name a few. Patty is very happy to be back at home in the Peninsula after being gone for over 25 years. Please visit the Center office and welcome her!

Yet another change at KPCC

We've cleared the visual obstructions around our front driveway, making it easier to see oncoming traffic. We are most grateful for the cooperation of Vaughn Bay Garden Club and Lakebay Fuchsia Society as we all do our part to make the Civic Center as safe as possible.

Also, our Board of Directors recently passed a resolution to not allow the use of chemical herbicides on our grounds. Amid increasing global concern about adverse health side effects with exposure to such products, and being aware that we serve a cross-section of the community ranging from infants to seniors, we are erring on the side of safety. This had been our unofficial policy for several years, and now is the law of our little plot of land.



Wonder how to keep your kids busy and active all summer long in a safe, friendly and fun environment? Think about Sports Camp for a week at the Key Peninsula Civic Center. August 3 - 7th from 8:45 am to 12:15 pm.

This is the fourth year Key Peninsula Baptist Church will sponsor SPORTS CAMP. New or aspiring athletes can hone their skills at soccer; basketball or cheer while learning and experiencing Christian messages and values in a safe and friendly environment from highly trained and experienced male and female coaches. Everyone gets to play and perform. Activities are woven together with large group sessions of singing, movement, signing and positive Christian messages. Smiles abound, laughter resounds and everyone looks forward to each day's activities.

For more information or to sign up your child, contact Key Peninsula Baptist Church (253-853-6761) or visit their website at www.kpfellowship.org
Cost per child is \$35.00.

A limited number of scholarships are available, please call for details.

Key Center gets its own monthly art walk

By Alice Kinerk, KP News

Like viewing local art and meeting local artists? Mark your calendar for the last Wednesday in July, when the Key Peninsula will showcase art from beloved local artists.

Organizers from Two Waters Arts Alliance are planning the first-ever Key Center Arts Walk on Wednesday, July 29, from 5 to 8 p.m.

A wide variety of art will be displayed at five Key Center locations, including the library, the Key Center Health and Professional Center, the conference room at the fire station, Sunnycrest Nursery, Blend Wine Shop and Close to Home Espresso.

Showing art at the Blend was an obvious choice, as it was there the idea for the new event was first hatched. Tyler Reed and Margo Macdonald, both local artists, meet monthly at the Blend to chat with others interested in art. Macdonald is a founding member of TWAA, as is Reed's mother Kathy Bauer.

The group, called the First Tuesday's Artists' Blend, is a social outlet for the artistically inclined. According to Reed, the group is an

open monthly gathering of artists (or anyone who wants to talk art) on the first Tuesdays of every month at Blend in Key Center. "We sit and discuss art, the projects we are working on or would like to do, trouble shoot and share experiences. And now we have decided to plan an art walk together," she said.

The group was inspired by art walks in other communities. "Art walks are in most of the major cities and arts communities across the U.S. Usually they are a monthly event. Tacoma does Third Thursday Art Walks, Olympia First Friday, and so on," Reed said.

Reed understands that as a new group in a rural location, holding multiple art walks each year is not currently feasible, but she is optimistic about the future. "We can't really pull off a monthly art walk at this point, but hopefully annually, or maybe quarterly eventually. We will see how this first one goes," Reed said.

Macdonald is also looking forward to the event. "I think it's going to be a lovely afternoon," Macdonald said, adding that artists are sometimes nervous about entering juried art shows, and so keeping it low-key allows

artists without much exposure a place to try it out.

If the evening of July 29 doesn't work for your schedule, you have not lost your chance to see the art. Much of the artwork will remain up for several weeks during the summer. "The fire station and Sunnycrest will be just for the night, Blend for the month of July and the library and Professional Center hopefully for July and August," Reed said.

Although the list of participating artists was still being finalized as of press time, those who have already signed on include Taylor Reed, oils and photography; Margo Macdonald, tapestry and oils; Gail Kelly, pottery; Brynn Rydell, lamp glasswork and jewelry; Adria Hanson, oils; Robin Peterson, acrylics; Kathy Bauer, photography; Barb Boursheid, pottery; and Britta Brones, mixed media.

Those interested in purchasing the art on display will not be disappointed. "There will be works of all kinds at all prices, functional and display art," Reed said.

For information about the Key Center Art Walk, visit twowaters.info.

Free Fourth of July 'Hot Dog Social' set at Volunteer Park

The first-ever Fourth of July Community Hot Dog Social is being put on by Key Pen Parks with help from a sponsorship by Food Market of Key Center and Lake Katherine.

Park staff are hoping this will become an annual event.

It will be held at Volunteer Park from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., July 4.

According to Christina Hallock, marketing coordinator/recreation specialist, there will be carnival-style games, lawn games and half-hourly group competitions including tug-of-war, a three-legged race and water balloon toss.

"There will also be two bounce houses and, of course, plenty of hot dogs and cake. And all of it is free," she said. "Bring a picnic blanket and get ready to have some old-fashioned fun in the park. The Fourth of July Hot Dog Social is a great way to kick-start your Fourth of July celebrations."

For information, call (253) 884-9240.

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www.keypeninsulacommunityservices.org for more information.

The DSHS Mobile Office will be here on July 2nd from 10AM - 2PM.

Pasado's Spay & Neuter Van will be here on July 7th at 6:45AM

We here at KPCS would like to Thank all our sponsors and participants at this years Golf Tournament.



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

Volunteers get down and dirty at Red Barn garden party

By Karen Lovett, KP News

Enthusiastic students and a team of adult volunteers showed up on Saturday, June 13, before 8 a.m. ready for a busy day's work.

The land out back of Key Center's Red Barn had been cleared and leveled. The students picked up rocks and pulled weeds to prepare the site. They were given measurements: length and width of raised beds, with walkways in between. After measuring and marking the distances, the garden was mapped out.

Adults constructed the beds from 2 by 6 lumber then the kids put the beds in place and filled them with topsoil donated by Walrath Trucking.

Once the beds were ready it was time to get down to planting the vegetable starts. It was critical to get everything watered quickly on that hot day.

Jaitonn "Jai" Abbott has been coming to the Red Barn since the beginning of the school year. The ninth-grader has accrued over 200 hours since starting volunteer work in the eighth grade.

"Green thumbs help a lot," Abbott said. "I've been gardening since I can remember. My grandma taught me. We used Tonka trucks for digging. We will get the grass in and then we'll have a volleyball court by the woods."

Kyle Hoskins volunteers from 2:30 to 6:30 p.m. almost every day. After finishing work on the garden, he was working on a trail so high school students can walk to the Red Barn from the library. "The best thing about the Red Barn is it's a sanctuary with our friends," Hoskins said.

"It's fun to volunteer here," high school 10th-grader Seth Beard said.

"We are the three amigos," Abbott said. "It's a good place to hang out and do homework and have mentors. Most of our food is donated, so the garden will help out. Extras will go to the food bank. The community helps us and we want to give back."

Adult volunteer Chad Oliveira took a lunch break before getting back to work. In addition to volunteering on site a lot, he maintains the website for

For more information

School-year hours: Monday through Friday 2:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Summer hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from noon to 5 p.m.

Location: 15921 84th St. KPN, Lakebay

Website: redbarnkp.org

Phone: (253) 884-1594

Red Barn as well as handling their social media.

Monica Rakowski of the Key Peninsula Garden Store was a garden sponsor and donated \$500 for the garden. "Lots of people donated plants," Rakowski said. "It was a total community effort."

"The flood gates have been opened," said Doug Paterson, Red Barn director. "When you say it's for the kids, people have been wonderful. Lowe's donated 20 boards for the project and Home

Depot is donating a shed."

"The best thing about this job is getting to come here every day," Red Barn president Laura Condon said.

Susan Ricketts volunteers there almost every day. She comes in and feeds the kids and plays games with them.

"I'll probably be in charge of the garden," Ricketts said. "Gardening and cooking are my passion. I hope to teach them organic gardening. I've been an organic gardener for over 25 years. I'll teach them how to grow it from garden to table."

According to organizers, the positive influence and guidance the kids receive at Red Barn and the relationships they build are making a real difference in their lives. They are gaining experience and developing a sense of responsibility they hope will enrich and help them later in life.

The Red Barn offers free services and operates on grants and donations from the local community. Teens are provided snacks and drinks on a daily basis.

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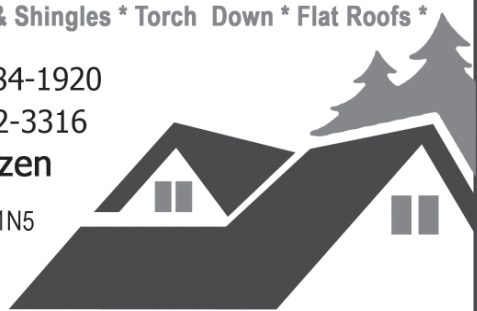
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Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News

KPMS science teacher Richard Miller, left, is holding the 10-foot diameter, helium balloon moments before launch, assisted by Ed Bresette — a founding member of the Key Peninsula Science Foundation. The cord they are holding leads to orange and white parachute at lower right, which then leads to the instrument package. The entire student body and staff turned out for the launch.

Science is fun at KPMS, but recent experimental balloon lost in flight

By Rick Sorrels, KP News

Richard Miller's eighth-grade Key Peninsula Middle School science class has done it again.

For four years, the science class has launched a weather balloon into the wild blue with onboard telemetry, tracking, cameras and various measuring instrumentation. Each year, the instrumentation and planning have become more sophisticated.

Launch occurred at 12:45 p.m. on June 16 from the KPMS field. The balloon ascended rapidly to an altitude of 25,000 feet by the time it passed over Gig Harbor. It continued easterly over Renton and SR-18, where it caught westerly winds in the jet stream at an altitude of 45,000 feet. (Commercial aircraft usually travel at 30,000 and 35,000 feet.)

According to Miller, from Renton, the balloon traveled westerly over SeaTac, Burien and Highland College, where at 91,000 feet, the balloon burst in the rarefied air.

The attached parachute should have caught enough air to open at about 80,000 feet, and

continued eastward to a landing point near Tiger Mountain, Miller said.

"The last telemetry data received was from 80,000 feet. The GPS coordinates are broadcast every two minutes, and it takes five to 10 minutes to fall to ground from altitude," said Miller. "It is a mystery what happened. It is most likely that the remains of the balloon got tangled in the parachute preventing it from opening, but we should have still received two more telemetry broadcasts on the way down.

"It could have landed anywhere between SeaTac and Tiger Mountain. The ground crew is still searching," said Miller. "This is the first time we could not immediately recover our equipment (in four flights)."

The weather balloon was an off-the-shelf item. The science class students designed and constructed everything else, including the computer, programming and instrument package, which measured oxygen, carbon dioxide, barometric pressure, humidity and altitude. Oudates and results — including video

(See **Balloon**, Page 11)

(From **Balloon**, Page 10)

— of earlier flights are available online at kpscience.org.

Most amazing to most is that the projected flight path was analyzed before the flight and plotted on the school computer, which provided an overlay of the balloon's realtime location based upon broadcast GPS coordinates. The actual flight path was almost an exact match of the calculated projected path.

Bridge strength testing

Each eighth-grade science student also designed and constructed a model bridge out of popsicle sticks and glue (no fasteners at all, only glue). The students had 100 small popsicle sticks and 25 tongue depressors to work with.

The finished bridges were 16-inches long and were tested to failure with a hydraulic press to determine and measure the exact number of pounds each bridge would support.

The best performing bridge weighed only 224 grams (a bit under half a pound) and supported 299 pounds.

Key Peninsula Science Foundation Miller, along with Sky Bressette (the

captain for the first balloon team), brother Aaron Bressette (who has a commercial business that creates computer apps), and parents Ed and Dana Bressette have formed a nonprofit foundation dedicated to science education on the Key Peninsula.

The foundation helps with the funding for the KPMS balloon launch and bridge testing, with other projects in development. Donations are welcome. Their website is kpscience.org.

Eighth-grade science students Ella Cashman and Amiah Bilderback both commented that they found the balloon and bridge project interesting and involving.

"We (the staff) are excited to have a school where students are able to participate in problem solving, where they can dream big," Miller said.

Eighth-grade science teacher Phyllis Isabel said, "The kids are so excited with having the experience and figuring everything out, the critical thinking involved and problem solving"

"It's good to cap off the year with this type of activity. These STEM activities make things special for our KPMS students. We are fortunate to have such amazing teachers," said Jerry Goebel, school principal.

OBITUARY NOTICES

Grant Oscar Larsen

Grant Larsen, 81, died April 22. He was born Aug 16, 1933, son of Oscar and Betty Larsen.

He was married to Corrine Opdycke on Nov. 7, 1953; and they were together for more than 61 years.

Larsen was born and grew up in Longbranch on what is now Taylor Bay Estates. He lived in Longbranch his entire life. He worked as a logger and a commercial fisherman in both Washington and Alaska.

Larsen was baptized a Jehovah Witness, and remained active sharing his Bible



knowledge for more than 73 years.

He is deeply missed by all who knew and loved him: his wife Corrine; his son, Jordan and wife Laura; their children Isaac

Larsen (and his wife Valaree) and Anna Larsen; along with an extended family of nieces and nephews and a large group of friends. He was preceded in death by his only sibling, Mave Mikelsen.

Larry Raymond Kupka

Larry Kupka died peacefully at his Lakebay home on March 8.

He was born in Bremerton on Feb. 13, 1948, to Elmer and Muriel Kupka.

Kupka graduated from Peninsula High School in 1967, and later served in the U.S. Navy. He traveled to many countries and after his service moved back to Lakebay.

Kupka was preceded in death by his father.

Elmer; mother Muriel, and nephew, Timothy. He is survived by his brother Don, sister Diane, nephews Scott and Shawn, and niece Misty and many friends.

He loved the forest and harvested huckleberry and salal evergreens and had vegetable and flower gardens outside his home.

A graveside service and interment will be held at the Longbranch Cemetery.

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Mentors of the Month
Selected by **Communities In Schools of Peninsula**

Volunteer Mentors:
Dick and Jean Vanberg
Dick and Jean Vanberg have been reading and math mentors at Vaughn Elementary School with Communities In Schools of Peninsula (CISP) for 10 years. Shortly after the Vanbergs moved to Gig Harbor in 1986, Dick joined the morning Gig Harbor Rotary Club of which he is currently President. It was through Rotary that Dick learned about CISP and how he could help students succeed in school by being a reading mentor. He became a mentor in 2005, and not long thereafter his wife Jean joined him. Jean really loves the concept, and enjoys working with students. She says, "The kids are inspiring and I love watching them grow. It's very important that students get the attention they need to succeed." Dick says, "I believe it takes a village and we all have to participate. I felt the need and over time find it really helps the kids." Dick is a retired hospital administrator and Jean is also retired from an administrative job with Franciscan Health Care. They met in Minnesota at the hospital where they both worked and have been happily married for 53 years. Thank you so very much Dick and Jean for your dedication to the students in our community who benefit from your volunteerism!
—Communities In Schools

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COMMUNITY PAGES

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

JUNE 28 THROUGH JULY 4

Fireworks sale

The KP Civic Center sells safe n' sane fireworks from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the parking lot of the Food Market in Key Center. June 28 hours are noon to 8 p.m. and July 4 hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Proceeds from the fireworks sale benefit the local community. 884-3456.

JULY 1

Pet neuter program

The Northwest Spay and Neuter Center animal shuttle will be at the Key Peninsula Civic Center at 7 a.m. Call 253-627-7729 ext. 217 or email shuttle@nwspayneuter.org for questions or to schedule an appointment. The Northwest Spay and Neuter Center offers affordable spay and neuter services for cats and dogs including special programs for feral cats and pit bull dogs. nwspayneuter.org.

JULY 3

Training camp

Children up to age 12 will hone their skills and become a certified Superhero at the Superhero Training Camp at 2:30 p.m. at the Key Center Library. Design a costume, complete activities and more at this event sponsored by the Friends of the Library. 548-3309.

JULY 6 and 20

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.

JULY 6, 13, 20 and 27

Bloodmobile

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

JULY 6 thru 31, M, W and F

Food backpacks 4 Kids

Food Backpacks 4 Kids is a summer lunch program at Key Peninsula Civic Center 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Free lunch for

kids, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., served in the Whitmore Room. For information call (253) 720-4453.

JULY 7

Artists meet

Artists meet to talk about art 4 to 6 p.m. at the Blend in Key Center.

JULY 8

Garden Club meets

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

JULY 9

Ashes meet

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

Fuchsia meeting

The Lakebay Fuchsia Club meets at 7 p.m. at the fire station in Key Center. Ginnie, 884-9744.

JULY 10

Puppet theater

Pierce County Library's puppeteers present the classic stories "The Mouse Bride" and "The Elves and the Shoemaker" at 2:30 p.m. at the Key Center Library. 548-3309.

JULY 14-17

VBS

Vacation Bible School for children entering K-6 offers unique, engaging activities 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Key Peninsula Lutheran Church. Capacity is limited; register early. 884-3312.

JULY 14 and 22

Crochet or knit

The Loving Hearts group knits and crochets for charities and meets July 14 at 1 to 3 p.m. and July 22 at 7 to 9 p.m. at WayPoint Church, 12719 134th Ave. KPN. Yarn donations are always needed. Virginia, 884-9619 or lovingheartsonkp@gmail.com.

To submit an event

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

JULY 16

Community forum

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

JULY 16 and 30

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.

JULY 17

Volts & Jolts

The Pacific Science Center illuminates kids in grades K to eighth about electricity in a series of shocking experiments using the Van de Graaff Generator and Tesla Coil at 2:30 p.m. at the Key Center Library. Registration is required. 548-3309

JULY 18

Penrose Park history

"Camping at Penrose Park" presentation by KP Historical Society at 8 p.m. at Penrose Park includes the history in stories of the Puget Salish People to the family of Dr. Penrose. The park charges a parking fee. Call 888-3246 for more information.

JULY 19

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.

JULY 20

Barter fair

Barter fair is 10 a.m. to noon (actual bartering begins at 10:30 a.m.) at the Lake Holiday Clubhouse. Non-barterers are welcome to stop by and see the fair in action.

JULY 24

Nepal

Local resident Neal Van Der Voorn shares "Nepal: Before the Earth Shook" at 7 p.m. at the Key Center Library. 548-3309.

JULY 24

Learn about legends

Mr. D, a local storyteller, enlightens children ages 6-12 about legendary heroes of ancient Greece and Rome at 2:30 p.m. at the Key Center Library. Participants will also create a mosaic craft. This event is sponsored by Pierce County Library Foundation. 548-3309.

JULY 26

Radonich memorial

Friends and family of Marjorie Anne Radonich are invited to a celebration of Marjorie's incredible life at 3 p.m. at the KP Civic Center.

JULY 31

LEGO mindstroms

Ages 8 to 18 begin the basics of building robots at 11 a.m. at the Key Center Library. Registration is required.

This event is sponsored by Pierce County Library Foundation.

Building madness

All kids (younger than age 6 with an adult) use the library's LEGOs, blocks and more to construct fabulous contraptions, 2:30 p.m. at the Key Center Library. This event is sponsored by Friends of the Library. 548-3305.

WEEKLY EVENTS

MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS

Senior exercise class

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

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS

Senior tai chi

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

Preschool play time

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

KP Museum

The Key Peninsula Historical Society: "The Story of the Key Peninsula: Its Past - Its People - Its Places" Hours are 1 to 4 p.m. Tuesdays and Saturdays. No charge, although monetary donations appreciated. facebook.com/KPHistoricalSociety or keypeninsulamuseum.org or kphsmuseum@gmail.com, 888-3246.

WEDNESDAYS

Writers meet

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

Writer's workshop

The Watermark Writer's present a free writer's workshop 5 to 8 p.m. in Vaughn. (253) 778-6559.

WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS

Senior meals

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

THURSDAYS

Toastmasters

The Toastmasters meet 8 to 9 a.m. at the Key Center Library. Join the fun and improve your speaking ability. 858-5761 or (253) 548-3511.

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

Writer's Guild

No meetings in July. The Writer's 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

JUNE 24 to JULY 11

Play presented

Paradise Theatre presents "Suessical" Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. with a special dinner theater on July 11 at 6 p.m. (253) 954-PLAY.

JUNE 24 thru JULY 11

Play presented

Paradise Theatre presents "Suessical" Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. with a special dinner theater on July 11 at 6 p.m. (253) 954-PLAY.

JULY 2

Democrats meet

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

JULY 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30

Waterfront market

The Waterfront Farmers Market at Skansie Brothers Park is on Thursdays 3 to 7 p.m. Join Harbor WildWatch for live animal touch tanks by the market.

JULY 5

Wings and wheels

Gig Harbor Wings and Wheels is hosted at the Tacoma Narrows Airport and includes, aircraft on display, fly-bys, helicopters,

hot rods, motorcycles, custom bikes, race cars and a bicycle rally. Freedomfair.com.

JULY 6

Recess Monkey

All ages sing, dance and laugh with songs from all 12 albums by the trio of elementary school teachers called Recess Monkey at 10 a.m. at the Gig Harbor Library. This event is sponsored by Pierce County Library Foundation. 548-3305.

JULY 7, 14, 21 and 28

Park concerts

Free concerts at Skansie Brothers Park are hosted every Tuesday evening. July 7 is a jazz band, Hook Me Up; July 14 is Michael Anthony Pratt, a country/classic/contemporary artist; July 21 features Gig Harbor's own Beatniks (Harborview Drive closed during the concert); and July 28, Sarah Geritsen with Bradford Loomis will play folk/Americana music. Bring chairs or blankets, no smoking, and riding the Gig Harbor Trolley is suggested. Concerts are sponsored by CHI Franciscan Health, Harbor Hill, Metagenics and the City of Gig Harbor.

JULY 9, 16, 23 and 30

Uptown concerts

Uptown summer concerts feature The Malo Combo (Caribbean) on July 9; Blues Redemption (blues) on July 16; Sounds Like Delores (rock) on July 23; and the Mark

Lewis Jazz Trio on July 30. All concerts begin at 6 p.m. uptowngigharbor.com.

JULY 10-11 and 24-25

Cinema Gig movies

Free Friday night date night movies at Donkey Creek Park are "Spaceballs" on July 10 and "Back to the Future" on July 24. Free Saturday night family movies at Skansie Brothers Park are "E.T." on July 11 and "Frozen" on July 25. All movies begin about 9 or 9:15 p.m. Bring chairs or blankets; no smoking. Gigharborguide.com.

JULY 15

Bucket drumming

Ian Dobson presents "Bucket Drumming Remix: Unmask Your Talent!" for ages 11 to 18 at 2 p.m. at the Gig Harbor Library. Feel the beat on a bucket drum made from recycled materials. This event requires registration and is sponsored by Pierce County Library Foundation. 548-3305.

JULY 18

St. Hugh sale

St. Hugh Patio Sale hosted at 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Allyn. Something for everyone, homemade ice cream, bake sale. Park in our lot and take shuttle to Allyn Days celebration. Linda, 884-2437.

JULY 20

WildWatch

Children grades K to 3 will discover how marine mammals survive in the frigid waters of Puget Sound from blubber Harbor Wild-

Watch at 10:30 a.m. at Gig Harbor Library. This event is sponsored by Friends of the Library. 548-3305.

JULY 21

Beekeeping

Adults interested in keeping one or two beehives as a hobby will hear from beekeeper Greg Farley about the plight of bees and the world of honey 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Gig Harbor Library. Learn what is needed to prepare for acquiring bees and the skills to successfully manage your own bee colony sustainably at home. This event is sponsored by Friends of the Gig Harbor Library. 548-3305.

JULY 27

Sing and dance

All ages enjoy Charlie Hope, an interactive performance with the award-winning children's musician and songwriter, at 10:30 a.m. This event is sponsored by Friends of the Library. 548-3305.

JULY 28

Travel photography

Photographer Greg Farley teaches tricks and techniques for better travel photographs while showing examples of his stunning work to adults 6 to 8:30 p.m. at the Gig Harbor Library. This event is sponsored by Friends of the Gig Harbor Library. 548-3305.

NEWS BRIEFS

Key Pen Parks looking for community assistance at Gateway Park

Key Pen Parks plans to build a new playground at Gateway Park, and they're looking for Key Peninsula residents to decide what the park should include and how it should look.

Executive Director Scott Gallacher said he wants a committee of 10-12 people who'll review the master plan for the park and come up with ideas for the playground.

"People from all over the Peninsula area come to the park," he said. "We have families from Longbranch, South Kitsap, Gig Harbor and all over.

"We want a well-rounded group of people to share ideas and find out what the community wants," he said.

That includes mothers and fathers, grandparents — anyone who's interested

in helping.

Gallacher hopes the playground will include play structures and also what he calls "free play" areas.

"So many playgrounds have big play structures, and structures are great," he said. "But kids also need free play areas like maybe hills to roll down and open spaces to play tag and other running games, not just structures."

The new committee will start meeting in August.

If you're interested in participating, contact Gallagher at (253) 884-9240 or email scottg@keypenparks.com.

Key Peninsula Democrats host open meetings

Key Peninsula Democrats initiated a series of public meetings in February.

At the first meeting, Pierce County Councilman Derek Young gave a presentation on the new county administration building.

March and April meetings had open-floor discussions with Peninsula School District administrators regarding school issues. Representatives of the Red Barn Youth Center and Communities in Schools-Peninsula discussed youth activities on the Key Peninsula.

At the May meeting, Young discussed transportation and traffic issues facing Key Peninsula residents. June's meeting featured Key Peninsula Fire Chief Guy Allen, who presented material concerning the district levy to be voted on during the August primary election.

According to organizers, the intent of the meetings is to provide opportunities for residents of all political persuasions to hear experts discussing issues of public importance. The group meets the third Monday monthly at the Home fire station. Every meeting is open to the public and attendance is without cost or obligation.

For the 7 p.m. July 20 meeting, each candidate for Peninsula School District board of directors has been invited to participate. Six of eight candidates indicated their intention to participate. KP voters will meet these candidates to discuss issues of importance to them.

The public is invited to attend and par-

ticipate in every meeting of the KP Democrats. For information, call George Robison at (253) 853-2721.

Joemma Beach Park boat launch almost completed

The boat launch replacement project is nearing completion at Joemma Beach.

According to Janet Shonk, area manager, the replacement will take place from July 28 through Aug. 2 to be in compliance with permitting regulations and take advantage of the lowest tides.

Most of the park will be closed during these dates and there will be no public access to the beach.

The day-use area, boat launch, parking lots, sites 13-19 and marine trail campsites will all be closed. Sites 1-12 will remain open for any drop-in campers who are unaware of the closure, Shonk said.

The dock will remain open to boaters, with access to the park restricted. If the work is completed before the end of the temporary closure, Shonk said the park will reopen for full access.

For questions about the temporary closure, call (253) 884-1944.

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Local resident teaches how to save with coupons

By Alice Kinerk, KP News

For years Wendy Chenow made her living selling cars. But after being injured on the job in 2013, Chenow's income switched to disability pay. Following multiple back surgeries, money got tight. A single parent with three boys at home, Chenow knew she had to figure out a way to make her limited dollars stretch.

So Chenow started clipping coupons. She clipped hundreds, even thousands of coupons. She organized them in three-ring binders, with tabs separating the various types of products. She did her research on store sales and utilized the stores' price-matching policies to save even more.

All that work paid off when Chenow started saving big on food. Once this past November, she spent \$85 acquiring \$2,300 worth of groceries.

Now Chenow is teaching local residents how to do the same.

First, she started a Facebook group listing store coupon policies, highlight-

ing the best deals available locally, and showing people step-by-step how to acquire coupons and combine them with store sales to maximize savings.

The group, called KP Couponers, is growing quickly. Chenow is continuing to expand the information available online, and followers are continuing to climb.

Along the way, someone asked Chenow to host a class on couponing. She is able to "get a lot of things free or cheap," Chenow said, and wanted to do so too.

Chenow put the word out about a couponing class. Interest built in her Facebook group. In March, a dozen or so people gathered at the Red Barn in Key Center to learn her tips and tricks. Even though it was only the first official couponing class, it was a success and "everyone learned something," Chenow said.

Chenow heard from several other folks who would have attended except for scheduling conflicts, so she is ea-



Courtesy photo

Rows of grocery items are shelved at Wendy Chenow's Key Peninsula home. Chenow has started a Facebook page and is starting couponing classes to help others.

gerly planning additional classes. She would like to host a regular coupon class but is still looking for a suitable location. Recently, she was also a guest

speaker in her daughter's budgeting class at Olympic College.

Among Chenow's top tricks is the power of buying in bulk. When an item is on sale, Chenow buys lots of it. To Chenow, that's just logical. "If I find something on sale, it doesn't make sense to buy one of it," she said.

Chenow also scours store sales to pick the best time to use a coupon. Recently a store had a popular brand of body spray on sale for \$1.31. Chenow had coupons for \$1 off that brand of body spray, taking the pre-tax price down to 31 cents. So Chenow stocked up on body spray.

Then she went home and wrote about the great deal on Facebook, linking to the \$1 off coupon and stating how long the store sale lasted. Her Facebook friends followed the link, got the same deal, and posted their thanks online.

For information about upcoming couponing classes, contact Wendy Chenow at (253) 292-7440 or join the KP Couponers group on Facebook.



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Key Peninsula community halls

Historic halls still serving the many on the Key and beyond

By Colleen Slater, KP News

Editor's note: As the local communities developed on the Key Peninsula, people wanted a place for meetings and social gatherings. Community halls were built to serve many functions. This is story two of a two-part series.

Longbranch

Edward Yeazell built a dance hall decorated with Japanese lanterns on his proposed "City of Long Branch" property before 1895. Children shaved candles and skated around to make a good dancing surface, and locals rowed to the dances.

Red Hall, painted red, was built in 1906 near Weiser's Cove in Longbranch. It soon became Library Hall with a collection of books to avoid paying taxes.

On dedication day, young girls raced across the new bridge at the facility.

Club meetings, dances, fairs, silent films, masquerade and holiday parties took place there. Visiting baseball teams and their families were entertained.

When Longbranch and Lakebay schools combined, the gym became "The Hall."

Penrose Hall in the first Longbranch church, built in 1908, was also used as a community social place until the building began to slide.

Wauna

The Wauna dance hall built near the hotel and store in the late 1890s became a place for fun and entertainment. Dances were hosted, of course, but during World War I, bandages were rolled there by neighborhood women. Plays, sing-alongs and box socials also took place there, perhaps some arranged by the Wauna Social Club that outlasted the hall by many years.

Lakebay

Bert Berntson was a member of Modern Woodmen who helped build the Lakebay Hall in 1922, on property donated by the Ernest Cooper family. It was to revert to the Cooper family if the use as a hall was discontinued.

Want to know more?

For information on these halls or to provide additional information, visit the KP Historical Society museum in Vaughn, call (253) 888-3246 or write kphsmuseum@gmail.com.

Sources for this article include "Along the Waterfront," "Early Days of the Key Peninsula," "Glen-cove" and various stories from the Key Peninsula Historical Society museum archives.

The hall was the center of celebrations and various meetings.

Berntson's daughter, Virginia Seavy, said she learned to dance there. The musicians, a pianist and a fiddler, all came from Longbranch.

A woman was once kicked out for smoking at a time when even the men didn't smoke inside public buildings.

When VFW Post No. 4990 of Lakebay was organized in 1946, the members took over management of the hall for a time. They later met in Home Hall, then moved to the KP Civic Center.

The Ladies Auxiliary and Lakebay Ladies Club held meetings in the hall.

After it was unused for many years, Harry and Juanita White converted it into a roller skating rink in the late 1940s.

Weyerhaeuser provided plywood flooring, with regular inspections to test the durability. The company also repaired any damage.

The building was torn down by the then current owners in 1970.

Doorknobs from this hall now grace the office door of the KP museum.

Lewis Lake

In the area settled by Montanans in the mid 1820s, a chicken house was converted into the Lewis Lake Community

Hall, where various gatherings were held. Charles Flotten played violin and his wife, Ada, played piano for dances and other occasions.

Victor

The ladies' sewing circle, local grange and community club of Victor managed to raise enough funds and donations in the depression days of 1932 to build a community hall in a matter of months.

They picked a date for the first dance to celebrate the opening and advertised, even in the Tacoma newspaper.

Completed a few days before the dance, only the floor needed finishing. The day before the special event, five coats of shellac were laid on the hardwood floor, topped with a layer of wax.

"It really shined," said Emma Dahl. "It looked great. Unfortunately it never dried."

People arrived for the dance and a big band played. The dancers' feet stuck to the floor.

They threw down sacks of cornmeal so people could move, and a grand time was had by all.

The next day, they scraped up all the ground in cornmeal to re-sand the floor.

A kitchen and bandstand were added several years later.

The hall became popular, with people from all surrounding areas attending dances and other events.

It's still there as the community center, holding an annual yard sale with hot dogs and "the best burgers around" every Saturday of Father's Day weekend.

These halls, where a whole community could gather, including children who fell asleep on the benches during a dance or late program, were an essential part of our early Key Peninsula history when travel was slow and limited. Our current facilities — the Key Peninsula Civic Center, Longbranch Improvement Club, McColley Hall and Victor Hall — continue to fill some of the roles of our beloved early halls.

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Alcoholics Anonymous offers life-altering traditions

By Karen Lovett, KP News

Individual histories behind alcohol addiction are varied but one thing all members of Alcoholics Anonymous share is the desire to put chemical dependency and the self-destruction they suffer behind them.

Members of AA acknowledge personal responsibility for their problem, accept spiritual guidance and find emotional support through the common bond they develop with fellow members. Each has the same purpose: to overcome the crippling effect of alcohol addiction.

The program's 12 steps and 12 traditions are built on a spiritual core and fundamental rule of anonymity, providing a comfort zone for those reaching out for help. Coffee, snacks, books and literature are provided, including a free book.

There are no dues or fees. Outside contributions are declined. Any extra money is sent to the main office in New York to fund the free books.

There is birthday night once a month celebrating AA birthdays and anniversaries: 30, 60 and 90 days; six months; one year, 18

months; then every year. Members receive a special coin to acknowledge the anniversaries.

There is a secretary, treasurer, general service representative and a literature coordinator who finds AA approved books. Ideally they are sponsors who have worked through the 12 steps with someone. The head of the group, a trusted servant, rotates and someone volunteers to chair the meeting.

The meeting starts on time with a moment of silence. Some people walk in late. Then they talk about why they are there. Members read through the 12 steps and follow with the 12 traditions. They refrain from crosstalk and allow all to share.

At a recent group meeting at Key Peninsula Community Services, members were quite willing to talk about their personal issues under the protection of anonymity. Quotations were recorded by number rather than name.

Below are some of their stories.

"Alcoholism is a physical problem. We process alcohol differently. There are mental, obsessing, knee-jerk responses to life. We make a decision every day and maintain a spiritual condition that we remember every day that keeps us going. We have rules. You have to

Alcoholics Anonymous

Meetings are at 7 p.m. Sunday, Wednesday and Friday at the Key Peninsula Community Services, 17015 Ninth Street Court, in Home; and at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday and 7 p.m. on Thursday at Key Peninsula Lutheran Church, 4213 Lackey Road.

The first Friday of the month is an open meeting. All are welcome, members and visitors alike.

For other meetings and information, call (360) 326-2841.

believe there is a power greater than you in this universe. The only person who can reach an alcoholic is another alcoholic."

"People come and go. Most are here by choice. Some come in at a judge's order, then they stay. If you follow the order, it makes the urge go away. We are learning how to live. We turn into a family. We are not a glum lot. Don't take yourself too seriously. Self-supporting

people and recovery change with unity and service. There is a group conscience. There are all kinds of members, from teens on up. Sometimes we have husbands and wives."

"I can be a devious, conniving person. I think I'm so perfect when I'm drinking, I believe my fantasies and delusions. We're like a family. If I didn't feel comfortable here, I might blow AA off. When I come to AA, I'm glad I can deal with things. I'm lucky I'm still alive. I'm like my own worst critic. It's about progress — not perfection. I'm glad I'm here tonight."

"My old lifestyle required alcohol. Ideas conflicted in my head. I used to argue with myself out loud. I didn't think my drinking was that bad. I'm learning how to do what other people do, taking care of myself. I'm committed to doing the right thing. You take something good that you have and you clone it. It's a 'we' thing. I'm glad you're here for me, and I'm glad I'm here for you."

"I used to make it to three steps, then I'd give up and leave. This time I came back willing to do them all. It was amazing how fast I

(See AA, Page 18)

The Key Peninsula Civic Center invites you to participate

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Grab your friends, horses, dogs, and goats and come be in our parade!

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- 3:30 pm - Parade to Key Peninsula Civic Center
- 4:00 pm - Luau BBQ with live music, kid friendly activities, raffle, classic car show, and more

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Club feet awareness spreads on Key with local fundraiser

By Scott Turner, KP News

When 17-year-old Ariana de la Cruz learned that her nephew was going to be born with club feet, she decided she wanted to do something to raise awareness to help correct the common birth defect.

"I've always wanted to do a fundraiser to kind of give back to the community because I've always known that I have a very privileged life compared to a lot of other people, living in the U.S. and everything," she said.

She did some research and found that club feet is a very common birth defect everywhere in the world — one in 750 kids are born with it, she said.

De la Cruz is fundraising for Miraclefeet, an international organization "treating club-foot, one step at a time."

"The babies are born with their feet pointed inward. It's really easy to treat, compared to a lot of other things," she said. "And it only costs \$250 to take a kid through the whole process of treating their feet."

According to de la Cruz, the most common treatment is the "Ponseti method," in

Help contribute

To contribute to Ariana de la Cruz's campaign to help treat club feet, visit crowdrise.com/august-clubfootcampaign. The account will remain open indefinitely. For information on Miraclefeet, visit miraclefeet.org.

which casts are put on the baby's feet, starting when she or he just a few days old, to slowly turn the feet outward.

Sometimes a simple surgery is needed to release the achilles tendon. After the baby's feet are in the correct position, the baby wears a brace nearly all the time for several months. Then the brace is worn only at night and naptime. The brace — leather shoes connected by an aluminum bar — is designed to keep the feet turned outward, she said.

De la Cruz set up a crowdfunding account at crowdrise.com/augustclubfootcampaign to raise money for families that



Photo by Scott Turner, KP News

A recent fundraiser at El Sombrero restaurant raised cash and awareness for club feet, a common but fixable birth defect. Pictured here, from left, are Pablo de la Cruz, Alex Johnson and August Johnson, Brennen and Corbin Johnson and Ariana de la Cruz.

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12	1 1/4 Minus Crushed Concrete 15 tons=30,000 lbs.

might not otherwise be able to afford the simple treatment.

She also held a fundraiser in June at the El Sombrero restaurant in Key Center, where she works.

Pablo de la Cruz, the manager of the restaurant, is Ariana's father and he's well-known in the community for helping others when there's a need.

"We gave 10 percent of the restaurant's profits that day (last month) to my campaign," Ariana said proudly. "We had tons of support from the community."

(From AA, Page 17)

got through them all. I didn't know I had any assets. It's therapeutic to let it go. This program has saved my life."

"I had a pretty good upbringing, but all the adults drank. That's what you did. That's how you grew up and bonded. Now, I'm the odd man out. Drinking's not enjoyable. The amount of money I wasted. I make the same amount, but now I have things."

The meeting ended on a positive note as everyone stood in a circle and held hands in prayer.

Ariana's older sister, Alexandra Johnson, is impressed by what her younger sister is doing. "She's trying to raise awareness and trying to help kids that don't have the good medical coverage we have," Johnson said. "It's a great cause. It's such a simple fix but so many people don't know about it."

Pablo de la Cruz agreed. "I'm proud of my daughter doing what she's doing to help other people. I want to help her in any way I can. She's my daughter — what can I say?" he asked with a shrug and a smile.

As with other fundraisers, de la Cruz has hosted at the restaurant over the past eight years, community response for Ariana's event was great.

"This is a good community and they come together whenever we have an event to support a cause," he said. "Whoever needs help, we'll do whatever we can do to help."

Brennen Johnson, Ariana's brother-in-law was quick to point out that it doesn't take much to do a lot of good for other people.

"If a fantastic 17-year-old kid like Ari can do something like this, other people can too," Johnson said. "We just need to open our hearts and look at the types of things we can fix and go out and do something about it."

MEET YOUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

Jesse Young, 26th District representative

By Sara Thompson, KP News

Jesse Young, appointed to replace Jan Angel when she moved from the state House to the state Senate in 2014, is new to the political scene. And his path was not one he would have predicted.

Young moved to the Tacoma hilltop neighborhood when he was 3 years old with his mother and brother. At times homeless, he nevertheless excelled academically, graduating from Wilson High School as valedictorian in 1995.

He attended Notre Dame and received a degree in management of information systems four years later. From Notre Dame, he moved to Silicon Valley to work as a software engineer, with the ultimate plan of returning to the Pacific Northwest.

In 2001, with a consulting job at Boeing, he moved to Gig Harbor.

He met his wife, Jennie, in high school. They have five children ages 4 through 12. Their middle child, now 9, was adopted from Ethiopia when he was 2.

Young said that he and his wife had always wanted a large family and had initially talked about foster children or adoption. After becoming involved with an orphanage in Ethiopia, they met their son, fell in love with him and made him a part of their family. Young's wife and his mother, who lives with them, homeschool the children.

Young first considered entering politics in 2012. He was working for Russell Investments at the time, and Russell had just made the decision to move their headquarters from Tacoma to Seattle. He felt strongly that more could have been done to keep the company, "the biggest white collar employer in Pierce



County," from making the move. He was inspired to run for U.S. Congress, but placed a distant third.

The local Republican Party took note, however, and when

Angel won the state Senate race, he was appointed to take her place. His work as a software consultant allowed him the flexibility to take on the position. "I needed to assure that I could support my family while also working as a state representative," he said. "I grew up poor, and my first responsibility is to care for my family."

In the fall of 2014, his bid for election to continue in office was successful.

Young is assigned to three committees: rules, technology and economics, and transportation.

He describes his main priority in transportation as "making sure that we don't get taxed more on Seattle's mega-projects." He has

made multiple attempts to limit rises in the Tacoma Narrows Bridge tolls, though they were not successful.

His greatest excitement is his work on the technology and economics committee. He describes it as the most "cerebral" committee in the Legislature. "We juggle every policy for the state to meet needs while being environmentally honoring. This committee provides a real opportunity to work across the aisle. There are not the typical ideological divides, and we can really grow jobs," he said.

According to Young, his own legislative priorities focus on growing jobs, overseeing healthcare costs and fiscal responsibility. He wants to protect blue-collar jobs and grow white-collar jobs, and describes Washington's business and occupation tax as a barrier for small businesses. He'd like to bring high-tech jobs to Washington — "especially jobs that allow you to work out of your own home."

He is concerned that the Affordable Care Act will drive up healthcare costs and also feels that mental healthcare is underfunded.

Young said that priorities in spending

would be to assure adequate funding for transportation (especially ferries and roads), care for the most vulnerable and education. He is opposed to increasing taxes, and noted that with the current improved state revenues, an increase in taxes should not be necessary. He worries that increasing taxes would stifle economic growth.

Young lives in Gig Harbor but has ties close to the Key Peninsula — he has family members who live just south of Allyn. While a sense of peace comes to him as he crosses the Narrows Bridge, he said that crossing the Purdy bridge takes one to another level. "The Key Peninsula is just one of those gems," he said.

When asked about what he considers to be Key Peninsula priorities, he discussed transportation and the need to balance making roads safer while preserving the rural aspect. For schools, he supports the cost of living adjustment, increased local control and decreased mandates. He has supported a number of requests in the state budget, including support for the Key Peninsula Civic Center, Red Barn, Camp Seymour and Key Pen Parks.

"I want to make myself available. My goal is to be very responsive," Young added.

To contact Young, call (800) 562-6000 or email jesse.young@leg.wa.gov.



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The Key Peninsula Civic Center is a 501(1)3, private non-profit. The Center relies on rental, fundraisers and donations to keep their doors open and rentals affordable for the community.

Youth orchestra gives life lessons, joy to community

By Scott Turner, KP News

A famous writer once said that music expresses things that can't be put into words, but also can't remain silent.

For 105 young people who play in the Peninsula Youth Orchestra, music is also a way to make friends, learn teamwork and have a whole lot of fun.

Eleven-year-old Andi Perrycook has been in PYO for three years. She plays violin in the orchestra's Encore group with other intermediate level string players. "I really like being in PYO. It gives me a break from other things and it's a way to make new friends and learn about how to cooperate together in an orchestra," she said. "It makes me feel good to learn how to play a song — like I really got something done."

Trinity Bias, another Encore player, agreed.

"My school doesn't have stringed instruments. It only has horns and stuff," he said. "Being in an orchestra that has strings is pretty amazing because I love the violin and it's fun to be in a group that has your same instrument and other people around that



Photo by Scott Turner, KP News

play strings too.

"If you live in the Gig Harbor area and you want to play a stringed instrument, you definitely should join PYO," Trinity said.

That kind of positive attitude means much to Noelle Brambila, PYO's executive director. "We have kids who have never played an instrument before and kids who've been playing since they were 4 years old or younger," Brambila said.

By the end of their first season, the beginners are reading music and playing bass,

viola, violin or cello, she added.

"It's an amazing opportunity for kids to learn to play music, learn to work with other kids and be in a creative environment with other kids," said the Key Peninsula resident with a smile.

Brambila's two sons, ages 10 and 12 both play in the orchestra.

The orchestra was created in 1998 because the public school system doesn't offer any kind of training for stringed instruments, she said.

Peninsula Youth Orchestra members practice at Peninsula High School for their final spring concert performance last month. Pictured are, from right, Elijah Brambila, Rosellen Berberich, Kellen Gonsalves and Dara Hemphill.

"We've been a nonprofit from the start. We're trying to make music available to all children. That's what we're about. We don't want to turn away anybody. We want to create students who love music and an environment that feels like family," she said.

PYO kids "really love to be here. They love to play and they walk away with potential for scholarships and teaching opportunities," Brambila said. "And they are learning another language — music is actually a language."

Several former PYO students have gone on to be professional musicians or have teaching careers.

Often young people who have "graduated" from PYO come back to teach the younger kids, Brambila said.

Kristine Vander Poel is one of those PYO graduates. At 19, she now gives private violin lessons to current PYO kids.

"Playing in an orchestra is really good motivation, if you put your mind to it," Vander Poel said.

"It teaches you about motivation, about

(See PYO, Page 21)

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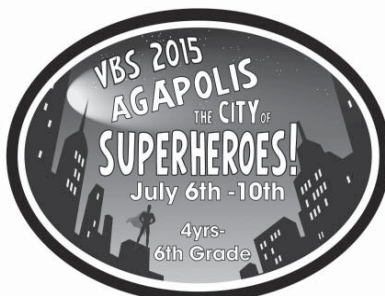
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(From PYO, Page 20)

music, it helps you in school, it teaches you responsibility in practices and how to have friends and be in a group.

"It's such a good, firm education. Orchestra is just as good a way to build teamwork as sports are," she said.

PYO takes a break during the summer and will start its fall session on Sept. 17.

Meanwhile, the orchestra's "Rockin' Strings" summer camp will take place Aug. 17-21 at Agnus Dei Lutheran Church in Gig Harbor. Kids play music from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Brambila said.

"The first time my kids went to music camp, I thought for sure they would be dead-bored playing their violin and cello all



Noelle Brambila

day. But they just love it," she said.

The summer camp students will present a concert Aug. 21 at the Uptown Gig Harbor pavilion. PYO member Hudson Link will be the featured performer.

PYO always appreciates support from the community, Brambila said.

"This needs to be an organization that's open to everyone. It doesn't matter how much money the family makes, because this program can't be just for kids whose family can afford to buy them an instrument or give them private lessons. We offer scholarships so we want families to never say 'no' just because they think that money is going to be an issue," she said.

To donate or for information, visit harborpyo.org.

A day at the Key Peninsula swap meet

By Steve Whitford, KP News

Five years ago, five local vendors got together at the Drive Thru Feed Store and the first swap meet was held. Two years later they moved to a new location in Lake Kathryn adjacent to the Purdy Costless Pharmacy.

This year, they moved to a spot adjacent to the Food Center, just behind the post office. The present site has room for up to 30 vendors.

According to organizers, the swap meet opened for weekend business on the first weekend in May. Vendors pay \$15 for a day, \$20 for a weekend or \$50 for the entire season, which runs through September, weather permitting. Stephanie Zambini manages the meet for the landowner, North Western General Development Co.

On this particular Saturday, June 6, 16 vendors were actively displaying their wares. Here's a small sample of treasures one might find.

Vendors Stephanie and Joe Zambini are one of the five original participants. The booth has antiques and other merchandise, but their specialty is their jewelry hand made from collected beads and beach rocks.

Robert and Marilyn Cooper are also five year veterans. Their booth features her handcrafted original dolls. Each doll has its own clothes and unique look. Marilyn Cooper spins her own yarn on her small wheel. The yarn is for sale, along with slippers and mittens she makes from her yarn.

Like the Zambinis and Coopers, Robert and Mindi Wilkins (of Cutter Bug fame) have been vendors for all five years. This booth was filled with various collectables and all small children visiting their booth got their choice of a free toy. Their piece de resistance was a replica of the now-famous New England Patriots football, accurately deflated for easy catching.

Bill and Cindy Luke have been active in the swap meet for the last three years. For

sale are stylish lamps that she makes from different types of wood they find. He is a master woodcarver. His handcarved characters appear to come to life in the wood.

Susan and Mike Campbell have been vending the last three years. They once own a gift shop in Gig Harbor. Since its closing, they now sell remaining merchandise at the swap meet, including such items as Elvis Presley and Marilyn Monroe commemorative lunch boxes, skull key chains and numerous porcelain animals including an upside-down horse. Their sales staff includes their 10 Dachshund puppies, not for sale, and one Chihuahua. "We feature odd collectables and knickknacks, a little of this and a little of that," Susan Campbell said.

Seasonal vendors have first choice of space, with remaining spaces offered on a first-come, first-serve basis.

For information contact Stephanie Zampini at (253) 884-9469.

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POET SPEAK

KP poetry corner

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

THE SPARROW

By Dick Dixon

A sparrow flew against my window one morning
I had just risen from my bed
Coffee in one hand I looked out at the dawn
And witnessed his fall with dread.
In horror it was that I hurried outside
Hoping my sparrow was still alive
I gathered him up, and said teary eyed
Oh please, little friend, survive.

I held him close, he lay quite still, he didn't stir
I, thinking a prayer to send
Looked up toward heaven, my eyes a blur
Please God, spare my little friend.
My small burden fluttered and oh, I cried
As the sparrow took wing
My heart was as well, my arms open wide
I thanked God for this little thing.

MY GREAT-GRANDFATHER'S HOUSE

By Sandy Rogers

My great-grandpa's house is made of gold
At least that's how it seems to me
Even though this first time I see it
It ages one hundred and three
No one occupies it any more
There are no curtains to be found
The windows and doors are gone
And the floor is the dirt on the ground.
I stand here and imagine my great-grandpa
And yes my great-gramma too
And all the kids running around
They had them quiet a brood
Charlie was the third one born
And when grown up he became
My grandpa, even though
I never knew his name

He was my mother's papa
And this part is sad to say
I didn't know her either as
She died before my second birthday
So all of my family on my mom's side is gone
At least those that I came from
I wish I could have know them all
Each and every one.
Now all I have to talk to
Is their memory in my mind
And I hope I get to visit them
At the cemetery at least one more time
To be able to stand here and look at the house
Now it doesn't look so old
I have no memories to connect to it
So the house itself is gold.

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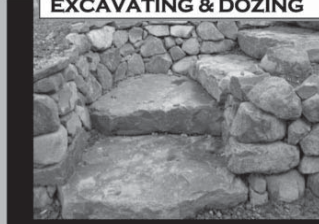
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Out & About

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Photo courtesy of Merry Kogut

A doe and her fawn were recently spotted in Merry Kogut's Herron Island front yard. Kogut said there are often some 20 deer she feeds livestock feed on a regular basis.

Right: Retired Brig. Gen. and Pierce County Councilman Stan Fleming presented the keynote address at this year's Memorial Day services at the Vaughn Cemetery.



Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News

Below: In early May, a pod of orca were spotted near Devil's Head and Taylor Bay. Sightings of these whales have been spotted regularly, especially west of the Tacoma Narrows Bridge.



Courtesy photo by Don Tjossem

Where in the World...



News with a view: In late March, April and Joseph Myers of Rocky Bay hiked 1,100 tram ties to the top of Koko Crater Trail on Oahu to snap a photo of the KP News.

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Peninsula High School graduates, Aaron Krueger and Molly Duttry, congratulate each other shortly after receiving their diplomas at the Tacoma Dome on Sunday, June 14. Both grads live on the Key Peninsula. Duttry, a Student of Distinction, and Krueger, one of the "top 10" PHS graduates, will both attend University of Washington.

Photo by Hugh McMillan, KP News