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Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News

Peninsula School District teachers participated in a half-day walkout on May 19. Here, a group of elementary teachers march on Borgen Boulevard in North Gig Harbor.

PSD teachers walkout to send message to legislators

By Alice Kinerk, KP News

Question: What happens when thousands of Washington state teachers believe that education is not being adequately funded? Answer: They schedule rolling one-day walkouts to bring attention to the issue.

In 2012, the state Supreme Court is-

sued the McCleary decision, ruling that Washington is not fully funding public education. While the state provides a portion of necessary funds, they are not sufficient to fund salaries, transportation and the myriad other expenses associated with K-12 education. As a result, local school districts have come to rely more and more heavily on the passage of local levies.

Throughout the spring, school districts in Washington have participated in a series of one-day walkouts protesting the legislature's budget decision not to fully fund public education. According to many, their grievances include the lack of a COLA (cost of living adjustment) for employees

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Lavender farm hosts spring garden party
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KP fire has lid lift levy coming, but chief has a plan for the future

By Scott Turner, KP News

The Fire District 16 Board of Commissioners has voted to put a multi-year lid-lift levy on the August ballot to increase the so-called "fire tax" from the current \$1.34 to \$1.50 per \$1,000 of property value.

The \$1.50 amount has been approved several times in the past — back in the 1990s and again in 2006; it's the maximum allowed by law.

The economic downturn of the past several years has reduced property values, and hence, the department's revenue.

So the fire department has had to go to the voters with an emergency medical service levy in 2010 and an maintenance and operation levy in 2012.

Both of those passed, but, according to Chief Guy Allen, the department miscalculated on the 2012 levy and underestimated the downturn's effect on property values.

"We failed on that one," Allen said. "We missed getting enough information to do our due diligence to get to a point where we could say, 'We can't do what we said we were going to do.'"

But if those most recent special levies had not passed, there would be fewer firefighters and less protection today, he added.

Allen doesn't want to have to go to the voters every other year for things like new equipment, he said.

He said he'd rather build up the department's financial sta-

(See **Levy**, Page 2)

(From Levy, Page 1)

bility so there's plenty of money in the bank during the first three months of every year as well as adequate funds to "keep modern, viable and reliable vehicles on the street, without having to go to the voters with a special M&O levy."

Allen figures that the department will need to spend \$6.5 million on new vehicles and equipment over the next 25 years.

Instead of going to the voters every couple of years with a special M&O levy to purchase equipment, Allen plans to create a replacement budget fund to sustain an ongoing fleet for the next 25 years and beyond.

"As long as next next fire chief does that same thing and sustains that mentality, we should never have to go to the voters again and ask for money to buy equipment," he said.

Allen also plans to "build up our budget

so in the future we can get through the first three months of every year," he said.

"The reality is that the fire district gets paid twice a year — in April and October — when property taxes are paid. So we have to have 'carry forward' money in our budget so we can pay our bills for January, February, March and into April," he said.

For the past several years, the department has had to tap into its reserve accounts in order to pay its first-quarter bills.

That has depleted the reserve account to dangerous levels, Allen said.

The industry standard for reserves is 15-20 percent of operating expenses. For KP Fire, that amounts to about \$750,000, Allen said.

"Right now we have less than \$230,000 in reserve. So we have a ways to go to build that back up, on top of paying all the bills and keeping everybody employed in the future."

The projections for this multi-year lid-lift levy are based on the assumption of a 2 percent increase in property values across the district," he said.

Even though the economy is starting to improve, "our tax rate is growing much slower than other places like Gig Harbor, and much slower than in other parts of the county. There are still properties here on the peninsula that had a minus value this year," he said.

The August lid lift levy doesn't include money for staffing, he said. Staffing will be covered in next year's M&O levy. "That one totally has people tied to it. It has six people tied to it, and if it doesn't pass that means we can't pay six people wages and benefits, which means a decrease in our level of service," he said.

Allen acknowledged that there is a perception among KP citizens that the fire department goes to the voters every single year for money.

"I want to be able to say. 'Here's what

you can expect from us for the next five years — lid-lift levy in 2015, M&O renewal in 2016.

"There is nothing planned for 2017 or 2018, then EMS levy in 2019," he said.

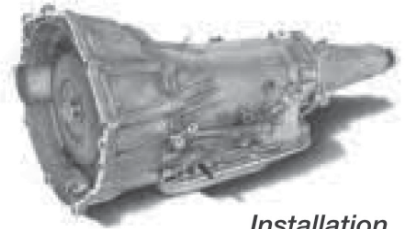
If the August lid-lift levy is successful, Allen's long-term goal is to "get the M&O levy off the books entirely so we can sustain all our career staff and our operating expenses within the EMS and regular fire tax. If property values outpace what we've projected, then maybe we'll be able to go without having to renew the M&O levy after 2016," he said.

Allen emphasized that he wants "to be as open and upfront and direct as I possibly can. I know exactly what I intend to do and I want the public to know that plan. This paves the way for the future. It really is the first stone in the wall to build this plan forward so we can do what our mission says: to be responsible stewards of the resources entrusted to us by the community," he said.

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KEY PENINSULA NEWS

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

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2. The objective of Key Peninsula News is to support and create community by reporting news and features and providing a forum for local information. News and editorial coverage focuses on the Key Peninsula and immediately adjacent areas within Fire District 16.

OUR GRATEFUL THANKS TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTE TO THE KEY PENINSULA NEWS!

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June 2015

Fourth of July Community Hot Dog Social!



Stop by Volunteer Park from 11 am to 2 pm for food, fun and an opportunity to meet more of your Key Peninsula neighbors at a **FREE** community hot dog social on Saturday, July 4.

There will be other goodies to enjoy. Check our website for the latest news on Fourth Fun!

Good neighbors like you ... meeting good neighbors like you.

Thank you Food Market of Key Center/Lake Katherine for donating the hot dogs, buns, chips and water. Thank you Key Pen Parks & Rec. Foundation and Costco for the condiments.

CAMPS CAMPS CAMPS

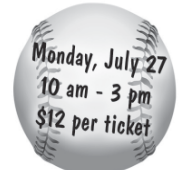
Key Pen Parks will be offering some fun & unique camps this summer! Check our website soon for more details and how to register!

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 entertaining 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. Participants develop skills, safety knowledge and confidence to be successful in skateboarding.

Day at the Rainiers



Students entering 6th-12th grades can catch the game bus from the Red Barn Youth Center for a day of baseball and fun in the sun! Tickets are \$12 and include a ballpark meal and the ride to/from the Red Barn! Now that's a home run! Purchase your ticket(s) at the Red Barn, or download the reservation form at www.redbarnkp.org and mail it in. You do NOT have to be a regular Red Barn attendee to go! This day is made possible by a partnership between the Red Barn and Key Pen Parks and by a grant from the Angel Guild Thrift Shop.

Thank you to all who helped on Parks Appreciation Day! You make our community a great place to live and play! Mark your calendars ... Next year's day is on April 23!



Bee Boppin' Bugs

The Friends of Key Center Library and Key Pen Parks present this fun, **FREE** summer concert with children's entertainer Nancy Stewart

**11 am on Saturday, August 8
at Volunteer Park**



Cinema Under the Stars

Pre-movie activities and/or crafts begin at 7:30 pm.
Movies begin at 8:30 pm.

FREE FAMILY FUN - FRIDAY NIGHTS IN AUGUST



August 7



August 14



August 21



August 28



Thank you Goin' Postal of Lakebay for sponsoring the Aug. 21 movie craft.

KeyFest is cancelled for financial reasons

KP News staff report

Brandy Ellzey recently announced that KeyFest has been cancelled for 2015 due to a lack of sponsorship funding.

Ellzey, the board president, said the fair association will be meeting to start revising its plans and looking toward 2016.

According to a post by Ellzey on the KeyFest Facebook page, organizers had to make a quick decision for all affected.

Ellzey wrote, "With deep regret,

the board of directors of KeyFest have determined there were not enough funds raised to support the 2015 KeyFest scheduled for June 19, 20 and 21. The board would like to apologize for the cancellation and are already working on plans to make next year's KeyFest more spectacular."

In a conversation with the KP News, Ellzey said the bottom line is they "just weren't ready for this year's fair."

"There wasn't enough money to comfortably go into it, and we didn't want to look at raising gate admission to try and compensate the difference. We decided it would be better to take a pause, re-vamp and make some changes for next year and go into it fresh, and maybe overcommitted financially — and then pull off a better fair," Ellzey said.

(From Walkout, Page 1)

during the past seven years (which stands in stark contrast to the 11 percent pay increase Legislators are likely to receive themselves), as well as a lack of increase in healthcare funding.

Kari Gulbranson, a PSD teacher, wants the community to know the message is aimed at the Legislature. "I love what I do and care for the students, but it is our right to get COLA raises," Gulbranson said.

Further, with the passage of Initiative 1351 last year, voters throughout the state agreed that class sizes in the state should be reduced. But budgets proposed in Olympia failed to do this.

Peninsula School District teachers met on Wednesday, April 29, to discuss and vote on whether or not to walk out. The vote determined that 71 percent of the teachers present were in favor of joining the walkouts. The decision was made to do a half-day walkout on Thursday, May 19.

Because the walkout was made a half-day, not a full day, the last day of school for students in the district will remain Friday, June 19. Further, the last day of school will remain a half-day. Teachers will need to return to school on Monday, June 22, for an additional half-day in order to make up for the walkout.

The Boys and Girls Club, YMCA and the Red

Barn stepped up to offer free child care for the afternoon of May 19.

Elementary, middle and high school teachers wore red and carried signs at various locations throughout Gig Harbor, spending the afternoon walking and waving to bring attention to the issue.

Peninsula Education association president Jim Falcocchio said, "We need to do better for our students.

"The critical focus is that our community and our students deserve better. Lower class sizes benefits all students, lowers caseloads and allows professionals to do professional jobs," Falcocchio said.

Parents and community members had mixed feeling about the walkout, with many taking to social media to voice their thoughts.

Although some argued that what teachers were doing was illegal, the majority who posted comments were in support of the walkout. Washington law has no specific penalties for a teacher strike.

Jenn Senius, a PSD parent, was glad to see teachers fighting for adequate pay.

"Our teachers dedicate their lives to our children and they should be compensated fairly," Senius said.

In Olympia, legislators are continuing to meet in a special session until the issue is settled.

The Voice of the Key Peninsula

KEY PENINSULA NEWS

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Building an Elder-Friendly Key Peninsula

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Local candidates file for fall ballot

By Rick Sorrels, KP News

The filing period ended on May 15 for candidates running for public office on the August primary and November general election ballots. Candidates that will appear on the ballot for KP voters are: (i) indicates incumbent.)

Superior court judge: G. Helen Whitener (i), unopposed.

Superior court judge: Gretchen Leanderson (i), unopposed.

Port of Tacoma commissioner: Don Johnson (i), Bruce Cook.

Port of Tacoma commissioner: Clare Petrich (i), Dick Walters, Patrick Gallagher.

Peninsula School District director No. 1: Matthew Wilkinson (i), Marcia Harris, Audra Garcia.

Peninsula School District director No. 2: Deborah Krishnadasan, unopposed.

Peninsula School District director No. 3: Rand Wilhelmsen (i), GERALYN (Lyn) McClendon.

Peninsula School District director No. 4: Leslie Harbaugh, Garth Jackson, Zachary Smith.

KP Fire District 16 commissioner: Stanley Moffett, unopposed.

KP Fire District 16 commissioner: Sheila Hunt Nivens (i), unopposed.

KP Parks commissioner: Shawn Jensen, unopposed.
KP Parks commissioner: Edward Robison (i), unopposed.

County Charter Review Commission: Randy Harrison, Steve Victor, Randy Boss, Brian O'Neill, Richard Samuelson, Richard Wooster, Martha Lantz and Will Baker.

County Charter Review Commission: David Olson, Andy Leneweaver, Justin Camarata, Brenda Wiest, Michael Jankanish, Ron Lopp, Hans Kueck and Marty McClendon.

County Charter Review Commission: Todd Iverson, Rodger Deskins, Katie Baird, Stan Flemming, Beckie Krantz and Bruce Cook.

The election of school board directors is unique. The candidates must live within their district, but the voters in all five districts vote for the directors for all five districts. Districts No. 1 and No. 2 are on the Key Peninsula, the other three are on the Gig Harbor Peninsula.

The Charter Review Commission is convened for six months every 10 years to propose amendments to the Pierce County Charter.

Each of the seven council districts has three commissioners elected by district voters. Council district No. 7 includes the Key Peninsula, Gig Harbor Peninsula and an area on the other side of the Tacoma Narrows Bridge.

Horseshoe Lake Park open daily thanks to partnership

The Kitsap County Parks Department and Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District (Key Pen Parks) jointly announced the continuation of their partnership to provide public access to Horseshoe Lake County Park for the upcoming 2015 summer season.

The popular park, located off Sidney Road in Port Orchard, is situated near the Pierce County line and was a victim of 2010 budget reductions when it was closed to the public for a period of time. In 2011, the successful partnership between Key Pen Parks and Kitsap County Parks was formed, with each agency agreeing to share daily maintenance responsibilities.


The park will be open daily (daylight hours only) through Sept. 30.

The 39-acre park offers access to the lake, a swimming area, walking trails, picnic areas, playground, an open play field and restrooms. For information, visit kitsapgov.com/parks or contact Key Pen Parks, at (253) 884-9240.

KP NEWS IS LOOKING FOR WRITERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS


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

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Peninsula Views

Key Pen Parks moving forward with plans

As spring reaches into the summer season and the warmer weather tempts people out of their homes, I'm reminded of our emerging and blossoming community.

Although we are connected to each other by a preference for a quiet lifestyle, Key Peninsula is growing in resident numbers. Many local organizations have been planning for the future growth of our peninsula. Key Pen Parks is also looking toward the future and how we play a role in the enrichment of our community.

Over the past months, we have been busy on several new things. In brief, we launched a new website, which hopefully makes it easier for you to find information you are seeking related to our parks and park business. We also created a brochure that you can find throughout the greater Gig Harbor area.

We started a new event this year, the 360 Trails Poker Pedal. This unique event raised money for the further development of 360 Trails.

If you haven't been lately, there are new trails to enjoy and we have dotted the landscape with information kiosks that show your location, but also have a quick response (QR) code that puts the trail map right on your smart phone.

Looking ahead to this summer, we are excited about a few new youth camps and events coming up. The closest event is the Fourth of July Community Hot Dog Social. With the support of Food Market of the Key Center and Lake Katheryn, residents are invited to come and meet their friends and neighbors for a free hot dog lunch from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Volunteer Park. We will have games and music, and hope you will join the fun.

Scott Gallacher Beyond the Backyard



Of course, the big project that we're working on will be one of Key Pen Park's largest future community enrichment contributions: Gateway Park. In my last column, I talked about the public input process on developing a conceptual plan for the 39-acre park.

A master plan (concept E-1) was approved by the park district's board of commissioners at the March 9 board meeting, as was the motion to move forward with phase 1 of construction. At completion, phase 1 includes redesigning existing entrances with street lighting, paving the west parking lot and adding a toilet structure. We encourage everyone to follow the Gateway Park progress on our website.

We have increased our grant application efforts to enhance and possibly help expedite the Gateway project, one of which is the Pierce County Conservation Futures Program grant. The Key Peninsula Parks and Recreation Foundation also is working on fund-raising plans.

I hope by my next column, we'll have good news regarding the Conservation Futures grant and will be well underway with the permitting process for phase 1 construction.

The change of season brings increased energy levels and optimism, and for us at Key Pen Parks, we are very optimistic about the future of recreational opportunities for the Key Peninsula.

Scott Gallacher is the executive director of Key Pen Parks and can be reached at scottg@keypenparks.com.

Be responsible with your freedom

A friend of mine once bought some beach-front property and set out to build the largest house he could. He didn't need the space, but was determined to eke out every single square inch allowed, because he said, because it's my right to do so."

He alienated neighbors, destroyed ancient animal trails, lost many friends, and built an unnecessarily extravagant home just to prove he could. As a veteran, he said, "This is the freedom I fought for."

We give a lot of attention to our freedom and the price paid by many to maintain it, but I grow concerned that we increasingly ignore the responsibility freedom brings. Freedom from tyranny, oppression and government interference has too often turned into freedom to misbehave, to be careless with neighbors and to pursue pleasure at any cost.

"But I have my rights" is the cry of obnoxious neighbors. "Freedom of speech" is the defense of the bellicose bully. "Get over it" is the response to requests for more socially acceptable behavior.

In his book "Religious No More," author Mark D. Baker writes, "Freedom is not an autonomous independence that means a person can do as he or she wants...Freedom does not diminish our responsibility to each other."

In other words, freedom is not an excuse for everyone to do whatever is right in their own eyes. Freedom has a twin sister

Dan Whitmarsh Writing by Faith



known as responsibility. Or, in more familiar terms, neighborliness.

Freedom gives us choices, and neighborliness asks that we choose responsibly, considering what is best for the community beyond ourselves.

Freedom without a sense of neighborliness isn't healthy. Freedom shouldn't mean we can destroy the Earth just because "I have private property rights." Freedom shouldn't mean corporations can treat employees as medieval serfs, just because they have the right to maximize investor profits.

I was given a lecture when I was handed my first driver's license: "Driving a car gives you a lot of freedom. But it's also a huge responsibility. One false move can hurt a lot of people. So enjoy the freedom, but drive responsibly."

Freedom is not a license to drive like a maniac, to spout off insulting comments toward online neighbors, or to pollute the neighborhood with your choice in bad music. Others share this space around us. With freedom comes responsibility toward them.

Paul wrote this to a cluster of small churches in Asia Minor: "You were called

(See Whitmarsh, Page 8)

Letters Policy

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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.

An abundance of fresh food on the Key Peninsula

In a world where our food has become a toxic, inadequate version of what it once was, it's no wonder there has been a push for organic, locally grown food in recent years.

We are fortunate on the KP. We have local, fresh, organic food all around us. Between our neighbors and locally owned businesses, we have all the resources we need to feed ourselves a high-quality diet.

Here on the KP, we can buy fresh eggs and raw honey from our neighbors. We are surrounded by fresh, organic produce, whether it is from our neighbor's garden, a local co-op or a fruit stand. Our local grocery stores on the KP and in Gig Harbor offer plenty of organic options.

When you buy local and organic, you support your neighbors and local economy. You eliminate pollution from transportation and factory farms. You avoid harmful pesticides, antibiotics, hormones and GMOs. You consume healthier food, which results in a healthier body.

The following is a list of local businesses and farms where you can buy everything from raw milk and fresh-baked bread to organic produce and soap. It is by no means a complete list, but is a great starting point.

Local raw honey

The Bee Lady, Chanetta Ludwig, (253) 298-2226, located south of Key Center: honey, bee pollen, beeswax, soap, lotion, lip balm and candles.

Maychen's Honey, (360) 801-5696, Port Orchard: honey, beeswax, candles, soap, moisturizer and lip balm.

Fresh eggs

Swainston Homestead, \$3/dozen, (253) 884-9973, swainstonhomestead.com.

Sunny Key Farm, \$3/dozen, one mile south of Key Center.

Bill Fold Farm, (253) 857-4127, 302 and 94th.

Bea's Flowers, (253) 857-7566, 118th and Creston.

There is a long list of your neighbors who sell their eggs on the Key Peninsula,

Monica Rakowski
Living Close to Nature



WA Facebook page.

Dairy

Fessler Farms, 15610 92nd St KP N, Key Center, (253) 509-9995, fesslerfarms.com. Milkman service that delivers raw, organic milk and other groceries right to your door.

Bakery

3 Clouds Bakery, located inside of Ravensara, 302 and 118th, (253) 853-3349, bread and pastries baked fresh daily.

Produce

Fresh Food Revolution Co-Op, 17010 South Vaughn Road KPN, freshrevolution.org. Become a member of this KP-based co-op and pick up local produce every Wednesday from 4-5:30 p.m.

Local Boys Fruit stand, 6702 Tyee Dr NW, Gig Harbor (at the Purdy Spit) (253) 858-5355: local produce and homemade preserves. Although not certified organic, their produce is grown using organic methods.

Swainston Homestead, (253) 884-9973, swainstonhomestead.com, organic produce.

Bill Fold Farm, (253) 857-4127, 302 and 94th, organically grown produce.

Meat

Ray's Meat Market, 6702 Tyee Drive NW, Gig Harbor (at the Purdy Spit next to Local Boys), (253) 432-4241: beef.

Swainston Homestead, (253) 884-9973, swainstonhomestead.com: chickens, goats, turkey.

Bill Fold Farm, (253) 857-4127, 302 and 94th: pork.

Monica Rakowski owns KP Indoor Garden Store in Key Center. You can contact her at natureregirlife@gmail.com.

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CORNER

Are you looking for a place to host a birthday party, meeting, reunion, wedding, reception, sports or dance class?

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kpciviccenter@centurytel.net
253-884-3456

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

Without rotation, the planet's tides would cease to exist

What would happen to the Key Peninsula if all of a sudden the Earth stopped spinning or even just slowed down?

The centrifugal force of the spinning of the Earth causes the seas to be much deeper at the equator than at the poles. The result is that the Earth is not a perfect sphere; it's flattened at the poles and fatter at the equator.

If it stopped spinning, the seas would migrate north and south, covering the poles with water, along with much of

William I. Trandum
Winds, Tides & Weathers



northern Canada and Siberia. Meanwhile islands would pop up near the equator, where the ocean level would drop by about 6 miles. Puget Sound would very likely empty completely and not fill up again. The Key Peninsula would be a sort of mountain, about 20 miles long perched between the bot-

tom of Carr and Case inlets.

How about weathers in that scenario?

At the equator, the Earth spins at about 1,037 miles per hour. It would be somewhat less here, maybe only 900 miles per hour. The air mass would not stop moving, so we would experience a 900-1,100 mph windstorm. That would absolutely knock everything flat, including our homes and our Key Pen skyscrapers, including the Longbranch Improvement Club and the KP Civic Center. The population on the Key Peninsula might very well end up in the Cascade Mountains. Me, I'm hoping for Crystal Mountain, where my family enjoyed years of skiing fun even though all the snow would have been blown away.

So what else? Well, like the moon, one side of the Earth would have daylight all the time and the other freezing cold nighttime all of the time. Vegetation would be dramatically affected and our clocks and calendars would be meaningless.

So, why does Earth spin in the first place? A few billion years ago, the Big Bang explosion started most heavenly

matter spinning in the same counter-clockwise direction (it was mostly hydrogen molecules, they say), some of it condensed to form our solar system, the sun and all our fellow planets, and in frictionless space it all simply keeps on spinning forever. Not all heavenly bodies spin. Our moon, for one, does not rotate. It has one side always facing the sun and the other in perpetual darkness.

So what's the likelihood of Earth slowing down or stopping spinning? Because space truly is frictionless, the only thing that could cause that would be some kind of massive collision with another equally big heavenly body. If that were to happen, we'd surely have some warning, but there's really not much we could do to prevent that big of a collision. Asteroids, meteors, maybe, but another planet, fugetaboutit.

Bottom line, it ain't gonna happen, but if our Earth stopped spinning, the tide would go out and not come back.

Bill Trandum is a guest columnist for the Key Pen News and a self-described student of all things winds, waters, tides and weathers.

(From **Whitmarsh**, Page 6)

to be free...so become servants to one another in love." This is the idea of neighborliness. We are free; free to be good neighbors, free to look out for each other, free to give a helping hand to one another.

Freedom is not about doing whatever I want whenever I want, while ignoring

the consequences. Freedom asks that we be respectful and responsible toward our neighbors, our descendants and our planet. Without that responsibility, too many will get hurt and freedom will be lost.

Dan Whitmarsh is pastor at Lakebay Community Church. He can be reached at dan@lakebaycovenant.net.

KP School Bus Connects receives expansion grant

By Sara Thompson, KP News

Since November 2011, KP School Bus Connects has been at the forefront of rural transportation innovation. Using school buses after they complete their regular routes on Tuesdays and Thursdays, residents have been catching rides from designated locations to get to Key Center and Purdy Park and Ride and home again.

The program has been a great success and the numbers of riders has grown, according to organizers. Now, thanks to a grant approved by the Washington Department of Transportation, the program will not only be maintained, it will also expand to Mondays.

"I am delighted with the way the program has expanded and the way we have been able to bring in new partners to provide transportation on the Key Peninsula," said Marcia Harris, who coordinates the program for the KP Community Council.

The grant is for two years, with funding starting this July. For the first time, the school bus program was awarded federal dollars in addition to receiving

For more information

A previous article in the KP News described the KP School Bus Connects program and its history. Read it at keypennews.com/index.php/component/k2/item/67-kp-school-bus-connects-brings-an-innovative-transportation-solution.

money from state sources.

"The Washington State Department of Transportation loves this program," said Jacque Mann from the Puget Sound Educational District. "It is rural, hugely beneficial and inexpensive. I think they'd like to see it expand to other communities."

The grant, a collaboration with the Puget Sound Educational District, the KP Community Council and the Peninsula School District, was not a slam-dunk. With many programs competing for limited funds, it was a very competitive process. A total of about \$2 million was available for grants, some from federal sources and some from the state.

The Puget Sound Regional Council (Snohomish, King, Pierce and Kitsap counties) oversees the development of the budget for transportation and made its recommendations in April. King County had a top-rated proposal that would have taken the entire \$2 million budget, and there were several smaller proposals, including the Key Peninsula grant. After deliberation, the Puget Sound Regional Council recommended full funding for four smaller projects and partial funding for the King County program.

Annie Bell, director of transportation for the Peninsula School District, said she is excited about the grant renewal and expansion.

"We look forward to this project taking off so we can keep serving the people on the Key Peninsula," she said.

During the school year, the buses operate according to schedule as long as school is open. There are no buses during the winter or spring breaks or on school holidays. The summer schedule is now available. The community council is working to expand the program with other partners.

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'ExtraOARdinary' things are happening thanks to KP influence

By Scott Turner, KP News

Hayley King loves art and she would love to have a local place where people and families can go to enjoy and learn about art.

The Gig Harbor Regional Center for the Arts might be just such a place.

The center is the dream of a group of citizens from Gig Harbor, Olalla and the Key Peninsula including Peninsula High School teacher Jonathan Bill.

The Gig Harbor Arts Center Alliance, as the group is called, is working on building a multi million-dollar, all-inclusive arts facility in Gig Harbor North, next to the YMCA.

It's a dream that is several years from becoming reality, but the alliance is slowly and steadily moving toward that goal.

"We got our 501(c) (3) nonprofit status earlier this year," said Bill, who is president of the Alliance. "It took nearly two years to get that because of the IRS backlog."

The next step is to raise funds for a feasibility study that will prove that the center is economically sustainable and that shows "exactly what kind of economic impact this will have on our community," Bill said.

On June 6, the alliance will host a dinner and auction to raise the estimated \$50,000 needed to pay for the study.

"We call it An Evening of ExtraOARdinary Delights because oars are the theme of the auction," he said.

Local artists, arts organizations, businesses and students have created several dozen artfully embellished oars for the event.

Many of the oars will be paired with auction items that match the oar's design, such as tickets to Mariners games paired with a baseball-themed oar and wine baskets with wine-themed oars.

The alliance has made sure that students are involved with the creation and



Photo by Scott Turner, KP News

Peninsula High School senior Hayley King designed the event poster and Gig Harbor Arts Center Alliance official logo.

promotion of the auction.

"One of the main focuses of the center will be to develop talent and to have kids involved," Bill said. "So the PHS catering club is providing the dinner for the auction and several PHS students have created oars for the event."

A Gig Harbor High School junior shot a promotional video of the oars that can be seen on the alliance's website.

And PHS senior Hayley King designed the event poster and also the alliance's official logo.

King was selected for the design

project on the recommendation of her photography teacher, who also teaches graphic design at PHS.

"They told me they wanted a really vibrant, fun, creative logo for their arts center, and a fun poster for the auction," the 17-year-old Wauna resident said.

"They'll use the logo on their literature and business cards and official stuff. And the poster design will be used again when they have other auctions like this in the future," she said.

King said she's excited about the idea of a new arts center.

Want to go?

The Gig Harbor Arts Center Alliance will hold an auction of artfully decorated oars and other items on June 6 at the Gig Harbor Yacht Club. For information and tickets to An Evening of ExtraOARdinary Delights, visit gigharborartscenter.org.

"As a student, I think this is really important because, for me, I've always loved art and I think that's where I feel like I really fit in," she said.

"And I think it will be a really good thing to have in our community, especially because they're thinking of putting it next to the YMCA.

"The kids and the older generation of people who go to the Y will also be really interested in the arts center.

"I think it will be really good for kids to be involved and I feel like it would be a really good family thing, too. I baby-sit little kids and I'd like to go to the arts center with them so they can be creative and express themselves and learn new things. Because there are a lot of things that are considered art — like quilting. I never thought of that as an art, but it is. And so there's just so many things you can learn."

She's happy she was asked to help with the graphic design for the alliance and the auction.

"I think it's cool how they're pulling in students because we're going to be a lot older when the arts center will be done, and when it's open we'll be eager to be a part of it and know that we had a part in making it happen," she said. "I think art is important because art is life and it's beautiful and we should all be a part of beauty. I'm really excited to be part of this."

"I think it's cool how they're pulling in students because we're going to be a lot older when the arts center will be done, and when it's open we'll be eager to be a part of it and know that we had a part in making it happen."



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TAKE A LOOK INSIDE

by Tim Stobbe

Have you ever seen one sitting there and wanted to open it? You know, just to take a little peek, no staring or anything - that would be a little obvious but still everybody gets curious. I mean, what is actually inside this thing anyway? Maybe you've heard someone passionately using it to support a certain political or moral viewpoint and then heard someone else use it just as passionately to support the opposite view. Perhaps one or both of those passionate folks weren't as careful as they should be when they looked inside. Would you like to investigate the matter for yourself and draw your own conclusions? Go on, give in to curiosity and open up a Bible.

Now depending on where you happen to look you could end up reading about a whole host of things: battles, instructions on life, murder, poetry, romance, affairs, dysfunctional families and all kinds of craziness. People back then were a lot like us now. You may even find a few characters you recognize from the movies although their stories are a little different in the book version.

If you managed to open a Bible somewhere around 2/3 of the way through you'd come across the four gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. This is where we are introduced to Jesus, yes that Jesus. For Christians, Jesus is the centerpiece of faith not because of what he taught about life but because of what he taught about himself. He was an incredibly polarizing figure; infuriating some while delighting others. Everything he did stood out to the people around him. He was different in every way. He is so much more than the infant we remember at Christmas or the man on the cross.

Don't just take my word for it though, check it out for yourself. At the very least you'll know what someone means when they say they follow the teachings of Jesus. It may also be a choice that completely changes your life in the very best way possible.

Tim Stobbe is the pastor at WayPoint Church, husband to Tina, father of Isaac and Megan and a member of the Bluegrass Minstrels. You can contact Tim @ tstobbe@waypoint-church.org.

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 we are adding a third service at
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Tim and Tina Stobbe



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Local artist inspired by music, ballet and color

By Irene Torres, KP News

Lake Holiday artist Raphael Murrell describes himself as “the Black Dale Chihuly.”

Like the glass sculptor of local fame, Murrell wears an eye patch because he has no vision in his right eye.

He holds two fine arts degrees from the University of Washington. He says he got a formal education to remove barriers. “It energized me enough to make moves in painting,” Murrell said.

He wanted to travel to see what art means to people around the world.

His connection as a flight attendant through Alaska Airlines made that possible, he said.

After the terrorist attack on 9-11, he decided to retire from the airline business. “The rigors of work drain you of your creativity,” he said.

A U.S. Army veteran and now the owner of The Creative Principal Art Studio, Murrell specializes in fine arts paintings, prints and drawings. There are a few sculptures from his hands as well.

A conversation with Murrell feels like a visit to the mountain. He talks about the need for positive images, how art is spiritual. He advises those who listen “to center yourself” and “follow your conscience.”

“People need to understand the painting process. Success comes with people liking your work,” he said. One of his art students, Michaelina Tenney, said, “Raphael is an old soul.”

He said he is inspired by his love of music and ballet, color, and how they are deeply ingrained in the process of artistry. He likes creating social connections and “socially mixing natural energies.”

Some of his work is wall-sized, on a grand scale, though he says he is starting to paint more home-sized art.

Living on the Key Peninsula has helped him develop his own consciousness of nature in the country.

A New York Times article on Jan. 1, 2010 featured Murrell as “an African American artist of this generation.”

Now 68 years old, he still credits his UW professor Dr. Jacob Lawrence, for in-



Raphael Murrell

stilling an interest in funding for nonprofits like the Murals Project and the Directory of Black Artists, which he continues to support.

“It elevates people when they work together,” he said. He spent time in Bali and two weeks in Paris and said he was amazed at the art culture. He decided that “it is not necessary that you suffer (for your art), but it is not a bad thing.”

He often travels for extended visits to Nicaragua and is excited to see how those visits will affect his color — referring to the vibrant hues so abundant in Nicaraguan life and art.

He gives advice to aspiring artists, too. “If you want to paint, do it. Express yourself, your inner feelings. Your mood will be affected by the light in a certain way,” he said.

He compares working with oils and acrylics this way: “Oils are more archival, they last longer. And you can control your strokes enough to emulate feelings. With acrylics, you have to know what you are going to paint before you start.”

Murrell’s art ranges from \$3,500 for a 6-by-6 foot, 4-inch oil on canvas piece, “Lady In Red,” to a \$25 butterfly print, ink on 8 1/2 by 11 inch paper.

He recycles wood to make his own frames and canvas stretchers. He said he wants to become more involved in the local art community, as its artists strive to elevate and promote each other.

For information, call (253) 858-5095 or visit raphaelmurrell.com.

Milton Marcoux gets his hair cut from Nita Garnier, owner of Yankee Clipper in Key Center. Garnier will be having hip surgery and her popular business will be closed as she recovers.



Photo by Steve Whitford, KP News

Swing enthusiast barber gets hip, appreciates customers

By Stene Whitford, KP News

People like Nita Garnier help make the Key Peninsula extra special.

Garnier is the creator, owner and barber at the Yankee Clipper shop in Key Center.

Like its owner, the shop is unique.

Upon entering, customers are transported back to the '40s and '50s by music and memorabilia. The music comes from Garnier's childhood, the memorabilia from objects she's collected during her life. She bought some stuff at thrift shops, but about 90 percent have been given to her by her customers.

Pictures of Joe DiMaggio and Rita Hayworth smile down at her collection of antique barber paraphernalia displayed among her Yankee Clipper ship knicknacks. Besides the vintage brushes, cups and razors, even the barber chairs are special — a 1913 Theo Koch and a mid-'40s Belmont. The towels are pre warmed and the scent is bay rum.

Garnier was born in Columbus, Ohio, and graduated from Ohio State Barber College. In 1978, Garnier had an uncle who lived in Port Orchard who came to visit her. He told her what a wonderful area he lived in and convinced Garnier to consider moving.

In 2004, Garnier sent out 11 resumes to area barber shops and was hired three days later at a shop in Gig Harbor. Later in her career, she worked for a while in Port Orchard, while always thinking about opening

her own shop.

One day while sightseeing on the KP, Garnier got lost, giving her time to appreciate the beauty and wonder of the peninsula.

"I fell in love with the area and can't imagine living anywhere else," she said.

In 2005, Garnier went to work with Mindy Wilkins of Cutter Bug fame, who had a small shop in the Corral near the fire station in Key Center.

In May of 2007, Garnier leased the site and the good shop Yankee Clipper was launched.

"I love being the boss, even though I'm the toughest boss I've ever worked for," she said.

Garnier loves her work, though she has had some unusual encounters.

"The worst thing ever happened in barber school. There was a customer we called Stretch. His skin hung so loose, you had to stretch it to cut his hair," she said.

Garnier's shop will be closing on June 13. Hip surgery will debilitate her for about eight weeks.

"I want to thank my customers for their patience when I cut back working hours because of my pain," she said.

So what's Garnier going to do while convalescing? She likes to cook, and besides her ongoing collection from the swing era, barber stuff and clipper ship souvenirs, she also has an extensive HO model train collection — complete with clay miniatures she makes herself.



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COMMUNITY PAGES

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

JUNE 1, 15

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.

JUNE 4

Fuchsia Society

Lakebay Fuchsia Society meets at the KP Civic Center, Vaughn. 7 p.m.

JUNE 4, 11, 18, 25

GED help

Adults get help preparing for the GED, high school completion, college and placement tests. 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., in the Key Center Library. Local educators will tutor in English reading and writing, mathematics, science and social studies. Call 548-3309 to make an appointment.

JUNE 4, 18

Cat lover meeting

Cat Tales 4-H Club for children 5 to 18 meets 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the VFW Room at the KP Civic Center in Vaughn. Learn all about cats with cat-loving friends. Call Dianna, 884-4182 or email cat.tales@gmail.com.

JUNE 5, 12, 19

Story time

Family story time includes stories, art activities, rhymes, singing and finger plays followed by a learning-time for children and caregivers. Key Center Library. 11 a.m.

Skate night

Skate Night is 6 to 9 p.m. at KP Civic Center in Vaughn.

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.

JUNE 7

KP Lutheran Church auction

At McColley Hall, Key Pen Highway and Lackey Road. "Bloomin' Good Time." Proceeds benefit community outreach programs. Light lunch, live and silent auctions and a 50/50 split. Call 884-3312.

JUNE 9 and 24

Crochet or knit

The Loving Hearts group knits and crochets for charities. Join on June 9, 1 to 3 p.m. and June 24, 7 to 9 p.m. at WayPoint Church, 12719 134th Ave. KPN. Yarn donations are always needed. Virginia, 884-9619 or lovingheartsonkp@gmail.com

JUNE 10

Garden club

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

Key Peninsula Community Council

Legislators Panel featuring Sens. Jan Angel and Jesse Young with Rep. Michelle Cauldier. Transportation safety and public transportation will be discussed. 7 p.m. Key Center fire station. 884-6455. Public comment welcome.

JUNE 11

ASHES meeting

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

Book signing

Local author Lori Tsugawa Whaley presents her book, "The Courage of a Samurai: Seven Sword-Sharp Principles for Success." Books will be available for purchase and signing. 6:30 p.m. at the Key Center Library. 884-3309.

JUNE 12

Graduation

Henderson Bay High School, 7 p.m. at Boys & Girls Club, 8502 Skansie Ave., Gig Harbor.

JUNE 14

Graduation

Peninsula High School, 1 to 3 p.m. at Tacoma Dome. Gig Harbor High School, 3 to 6 p.m. at Tacoma Dome.

JUNE 15

Democrats meet

KP Democrats meets at 7 p.m. at the Home fire station. George Robison, chair. georgerobison@centurytel.net.

JUNE 17

Key Peninsula Advisory Commission

Key Peninsula Advisory Commission meets in the VFW Room at KP Civic Center in Vaughn. 6:30 p.m. (253) 798-7156 or visit co.pierce.wa.us/Archive.aspx?AMID=97 for current agenda.

JUNE 18

Community Forum

The Mustard Seed Project of Key Peninsula. 10 a.m. at the Key Center Library. Transportation can be arranged by calling ahead to 884-9814. Program to be announced.

Preschool story time

Stories and activities associated with the KP Historical museum's display on early KP history will entertain 3- to 5-year-olds. 11 to 11:30 a.m. at the museum. No preregistration required with adult. 888-3246.

JUNE 20

Barter fair

A barter fair will take place at Lake Holiday Association Club House, 10 a.m. to noon. Free to all.

Penrose Park history

Camping at Penrose Park presentation by KP Historical Society. The Puget Salish People to the family of Dr. Penrose. 8 p.m. at Penrose Park. Parking fee required. 888-3246.

JUNE 24

Library activities

Family story time. 2:30 p.m. "How to fool

a dragon (and save the world)." Award-winning songwriter and children's author Eric Ode returns with a fun-filled show to celebrate Pierce County Library's summer reading program. Key Center Library.

JUNE 26

LEGOs at library

LEGO Mindstorm. Ages 8-18. Online registration required. Limit 25. Key Center Library. 11 a.m.

Nature's superheroes

Learn about the superheroes of nature with Penrose State Park Ranger Janet Shonk. Key Center Library. 2:30 p.m.

JUNE 27

Golf tournament

11th annual 4-person golf tournament, a fundraiser hosted by the Key Peninsula Community Services Food Bank and Senior Center. Horseshoe Lake Golf Course, Tee time is 8:30 a.m. Call 884-4440 to register. Sponsorships are available.

MWF, JUNE 22 to AUG. 22

Food Backpacks 4 Kids

Food Backpacks 4 Kids program at KP Civic Center. Call Diba Wickline (253) 720-4453 or email info@FoodBackpacks4Kids.com or visit peninsulacommunityfoundation.com/ Lunch Service 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Whitmore Room. Free for kids.

TUESDAYS

Toddler activities

Baby story time, 0 to 1-year-olds, 10 a.m. Preschool story time, 2 to 5-year-olds, 11 a.m. Both at Key Center Library. Discover books, learn nursery rhymes, sing songs, play with blocks, arts and crafts.

JULY 25

Bluegrass and BBQ festival

Longbranch Improvement Club, 4312 Key Peninsula Hwy. S. 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Free, sponsored by Longbranch Community Church.

WEEKLY EVENTS

MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS

Community walk

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

Senior exercise class

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

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS

Senior tai chi club

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

Preschool play time

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

TUESDAYS & SATURDAYS

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.

Writers' workshop

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

WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS

Senior meals

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

THURSDAYS

Toastmasters

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

Writers' Guild

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

Lakebay Jam with 302

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

SUNDAYS

Third Sunday Bluegrass

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 listen. Bring music stand and finger food to share; music and beverages are provided.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

KP Lions' dinner

June 3 and 17. 7 p.m. at the Key Center fire station; 853-2721.

KP Veterans

June 1 and 15. 7 p.m. at the KP Lutheran Church. Membership is open for veterans and active duty military service members, their spouses and children over 16. 253-509-8656 or keypenveterans@outlook.com.

Key Peninsula Council

June 10, 7 p.m. at Key Center fire station. Elected officials from the state Legislature will bring a report from Olympia if the special session does not preclude their attendance. Nominations for council director positions (7) will be accepted through Aug. 15. Public is welcome.

Peninsula School District Board

14015 62nd Ave. NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98332. Call (253) 530-1000.

KP Civic Center Association Board

June 11, 7 p.m. meeting in Whitmore Room, KP Civic Center. 884-3456. The board is planning an August Hawaiian Luau for the community, so bring your ideas.

Key Pen Parks

June 8, 7:30 p.m. at Volunteer Park administrative office; the public is encouraged to attend.

KP Fire Department

June 9 and 23, 5 p.m. in meeting room, Key Center Fire Station; keypeninsulafire.org.

KP Land Use Advisory Commission

June 17, 6:30 p.m. at the KC Library; bigdswensen@gmail.com.

KP Democrats

June 15, 7 p.m. at Home fire station; all are welcome. georgerobison@centurytel.net.

Longbranch Improvement Club

June 17, potluck, 7 p.m. at Longbranch Improvement Club; 884-6022, longbranchimprovementclub.org.

KP Citizens Against Crime

June 18, 7 p.m. at fire station in Key Center.

KP Farm Council

June 22, 6:30 p.m. at fire station in Home, c.wiley@mac.com.

OFF THE KEY

JUNE 2

Cool stuff with your card

At the Gig Harbor Library, adults can explore the free, money-saving and fun things you can do with your library card. Learn a new language, find bargains, download music, access Consumer Reports and more. 2 to 4 p.m.

JUNE 2, 11, 18, 25

Chess activity

Children in grades K to 8 participate in Chess Club Thursdays from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Gig Harbor Library, 4424 Point Fosdick Drive NW. Twenty minutes of instruction is followed by 40 minutes of play. Classes are free. Sponsored by Friends of the Gig Harbor Library. 548-3305.

JUNE 4

Democrats meet

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

JUNE 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Bloodmobile

Albertson's, 11330 51st Ave. NW, Gig Harbor. 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

JUNE 6

Maritime Festival blood drive

Bloodmobile at Tides Tavern, 3025 Harborview Drive, Gig Harbor. 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

JUNE 9

Drop-in help

Stuck using Microsoft Office, e-books and e-readers, email and any Pierce County Library e-source? Bring your questions to the Gig Harbor Library. Adults. 2 to 3 p.m.

MORE OFF THE KEY LISTINGS ONLINE

See what's happening off the Key at keypennews.com

Key Peninsula community halls Community halls served important function

Part one of a two-part series

By Colleen Slater, KP News

As the local communities developed, people wanted a place for meetings and social gatherings. Community halls were built to serve many functions.

Vaughn

The Vaughn Library Hall, at the juncture of Van Slyke and Hall roads, began when Henry S. Coblenz gave the young men of the neighborhood permission to build a dance floor for the July 4 celebration in 1889. They called it "The Bowery" after decorating it with branches and ribbon bows.

In 1893, walls and a roof were added to make a community center. A corner room, with its own entrance from the porch, was designated the library and housed books the ladies of The Library Association had gathered over the years.

This group met only on nights of the

full moon so the women could walk safely home after dark, although some of their menfolk gathered in the tower to play cards.

The building was home to a church and Sunday school, with the boys' class in the bell tower. The Episcopalian Vaughn Church was built in 1898, but Presbyterians continued to meet in the hall until the Rev. Applegate invited them to use his beautiful building, too, in 1908.

High school plays and graduations took place in the hall until the gymnasium was built in 1937.

The Ladies Aid Guild met to tie quilts made to raise funds for a church bell. Other organizations using the hall included Good Roads Club, Vaughn Garden Club and Amaranth.

In the depression years, Elsie Olson was in charge of a government program where neighbors came to make mattresses for their families from surplus cotton batting and materials.

Films were shown at the hall as early as

Want to know more?

For information on these halls or to provide additional information, visit the KP Historical Society museum in Vaughn, call 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.

1930 and into the 1940s. Harm and Helen Van Slyke paid 15 cents each to see "the latest production from Hollywood."

During World War II, women gathered to make and roll bandages and other items needed. After the war, they continued to meet to make quilts for low-income families.

Health clinics were held, too.

The building was sold for \$500 in 1958 and is now a private residence. The money was used for a library in the newly designated Key Peninsula Civic Center.

Home

Home lays claim to three halls. Nightly meetings dealing with intellectual and cultural ideas were hosted at Liberty Hall, constructed in 1903. A debating society; a band; and classes in drawing, Esperanto, yoga, German, flower culture and spiritualism took place there.

The two-story building was 60 by 30 feet. At 25 feet high, it had an upper floor used for plays, dances, school pageants, social events, lectures and discussions.

Two school rooms and The Demonstrator print shop occupied the lower floor. Classes met there until a school was built at 6th and D.

Women speakers were popular there. It was, with just cause, called the most indis-

(See Halls, Page 17)

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Liberty Hall in Home was built in 1903.

Courtesy photo by KP Historical Society

(From **Halls**, Page 16)

pensable institution of the Home colony.

Condemned in 1916, the building was replaced with Home Hall, also called Peninsula Social Hall, set on stilts on the waterfront. A pecan dance floor graced this building, which was taken down in 1970.

Phil Halperin built Harmony Hall for dances in 1923. No alcohol was allowed.

A flyer claimed dancing every Saturday night as well as Sundays and holidays.

Sylvia Retherford wrote that dinners were served for the visiting team after every home baseball game, then on to the dance.

Glencove

In April 1906, Louise Petersen and Fred Nelson were in charge of collecting money and overseeing construction of a community hall on land donated by the Petersen family in Glencove. Ulysses Oles pledged the first money, \$20.

Built at the head of the bay, the

one-story building consisted of a large room with a stage, a smaller meeting room and a kitchen heated with a wood stove.

Floyd Oles, in his book on Glencove, recalled signs posted that said, "Come one, come all, come great and small, down to the dance at Glencove Hall."

Before the event, volunteers decorated with Japanese lanterns and bunting and filled the coal oil lamps.

Dances, dinners, school programs, Sunday school classes and Upper Sound Grange meetings were held there. A library was included, too.

Joyce Niemann recalls being at a Halloween dance when her uncle, Jim O'Hara, came in to announce the arrival of his new daughter.

In 1957, the Glencove Hall Association met and discussed demolishing the building and selling the property.

A small marina was then built near the water on that property. A building, purported to be the original hall much remodeled and moved back, still exists on the site.

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Kids activities will be available as well, so bring the whole family for good, wholesome fun!

All proceeds from the festival go to support the ministries of the Longbranch Community Church

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15th annual 'Livable Fair' draws a crowd and needed funds

By Steve Whitford, KP News

If you ever plan to attend one of the Key Peninsula's Livable Fairs, there are a few things you need to do: Wear a comfortable pair of shoes and allow plenty of time, because there's much to see and learn.

Upon arrival at this year's event, many noticed volunteers Clarence Allmendinger and Mitchell Nelson helping to secure parking for all. Allmendinger works for Key Pen Parks and Nelson is a Boy Scout from Troop 220.

The ground just outside the civic center was festooned with floral arrangements, care of the Lakebay Fuchsia Club, celebrating its 20th annual plant sale.

Robin Reason, master gardener and fuchsia club member since 2005, was present to answer anyone's botany questions.

Adjacent to the floral display, the museum was open and celebrating its 20th anniversary.

Tim Kezele, who is on the Key Pen Community Council, and has been a founding member of the Key Peninsula Historical society since 1972. That spot has historical significance too, having once been a Pierce County Library and schoolroom.

Bruce Macdonald of the Key Pen Civic Center board said there were some 50 different vendors participating "and there's a good turnout."

Karen Jorgenson represented the Food Backpack 4 Kids program, which she started in 2009. She said the program's goal is to provide sustenance as well as stability to families in need.

The Key Peninsula Community Council was represented by Carol Opalinski, who said, "We are the liaison between the citizen and government agencies."

The Pierce County Library Association was represented by Rosina Vertz, librarian, who was promoting the Get Smart Online program — which offers 23 free programs including computing for the beginner and how to get a job, just to name a few.

The Olalla Recovery Center was repre-

sented by Christine Lynch, executive director. The center serves the Key with violence prevention programs and drug awareness, abuse and treatment programs.

Erin Ewald from Harbor WildWatch was there to educate patrons on the importance of local ecology. Citizens Against Crime was also represented by Mike Fay and Dolores Strair.

Entertainment was by The Bluegrass Minstrels, who provide music at many different gatherings on the Key.

Food services were provided by Sherri Lagood, civic center kitchen staff, who was assisted by Ryan Messenger, and Cassidy and Colleen Young — all volunteers.

TWAA's 'Spring Fling' swings

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

Last month's Two Waters Arts Alliance's, Spring Fling — held at the Key Peninsula Civic Center — was a wonderland of artists, their art, complete with live demonstrations by many, making hands-on craft-creations for children.

More than 150 art lovers attended the event. Hors d'oeuvres were provided by Richard Houle and offered to attendees by some 20 Key Peninsula school volunteers.

Thirty-five juried artists' works were on display together with works by internationally recognized artists Tip Toland, Phoebe Toland, Richard Notkin and Barbara Lee

Smith, the latter of whom "was also our juror," said Taylor Reed, event chair.

Prizes awarded went to: Robin Peterson for first place; Kathy Bauer, second; and Myrna Binion, third place. The people's choice award went to Peninsula High School senior Molly Duttry.

A constantly changing slide show of KP historical photos created by Rodika Tollefson played silently over the gathering to the

delight of many interested patrons.

There were both silent and live auctions of items offered for bid for the popular fundraiser.

According to Reed, the festive event brought in about \$20,000. All funds are dedicated to TWAA's "Artists in Schools Program," which brings to schools local

(See TWAA, Page 19)

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Mentors of the Month

Selected by **Communities In Schools of Peninsula**

Reading Mentor:
Carolyn Forseth



Carolyn Forseth is 18 years old and a senior at Peninsula High school. Carolyn has been mentoring with Communities In Schools of Peninsula (CISP) at Artondale Elementary since she was 15 years old. Carolyn was a student at Artondale not that long ago. She explained that she had a tough time in reading when she was in 1st and 2nd grade, and she remembers being helped by Kim Balloosies, who is currently the CISP reading coordinator for the mentoring program at Artondale. Carolyn is very excited to give back the mentoring that she received from CISP, she loves connecting with the kids, helping them grow and watching them improve every week. We wish Carolyn the best of luck as she heads off to Washington State University to major in Health Care services. Thank you, Carolyn, for your dedicated service to the students at Artondale, you are a true inspiration to your generation.

—Communities In Schools

Math Mentor:
Leslie Englund



Leslie Englund has been a math mentor at Evergreen Elementary for three years. Leslie is a Bainbridge Island native, and lived in Seattle for 20 years before moving to Lakebay 15 years ago with her husband. While working as the "Lunch Lady" at Evergreen Elementary, she was very impressed by the Communities In Schools of Peninsula (CISP) volunteers she saw working in the hallways of Evergreen while mentoring the students in reading. This was before CISP had special mentoring rooms specifically for students and mentors. She was so taken by the program, she promised herself to join the organization when she retired. Leslie said, "I am so amazed at how fast the students get comfortable with us, and how fast we become friends. If they don't pay attention in the classroom, this is the only chance they have with learning to read. So many are not helped at home, it's sad." She continued, "Mentoring for me has been a great way to meet new friends too. It's only an hour a week, not too much of a sacrifice for something so rewarding." Thank you so much Leslie! Keep up the great work!

—Communities In Schools

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Photo by Hugh McMillan

Early the first Saturday in May, guests gathered for the TWAA-sponsored Spring Fling celebration at the Key Peninsula Civic Center.

(From TWAA, Page 18)

teaching artists and live performances by Tears of Joy theater groups.

Reed said between 4 and 6 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month, the public is invited to join artists gathering at the Blend Wine Shop in Key Center to talk art, and share work and learn from each other. "We call it Artists' Blend," she said.

For information or to contribute TWAA's community and educational programs in KP schools, visit info@twowaters.org.

Evergreen students present 'The Story of the Down Key'

By Sara Thompson, KP News

"Can you think of anything better than to have our children tell our history?" asks Connie Hildahl, of the Longbranch Improvement Club (LIC).

On June 5, 24 third-, fourth- and fifth-graders from Evergreen Elementary School will do just that in the form of a musical. Everyone is invited.

The evolution of the musical "The Story of the Down Key" stretches back more than a year.

Last spring, the LIC held a three-day fundraising event called The Down Key Festival.

One of the most popular performances was that of the music programs of the three elementary schools — Evergreen, Vaughn and Minter Creek.

The schools' students performed individually and then also sang together — and those in the audience described it as "magical." Donations for the performance were distributed to the mu-

Want to come?

When: Friday, June 5

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Where: Evergreen Elementary School Gym, 1820 Key Peninsula Highway South

sic programs at each of the schools.

Hildahl is active in the Key Peninsula Historical Society and a former teacher on the Key Peninsula, wanted to do more. She loves both bringing local history to students and supporting education, and began to think about how to bring those passions together. When she approached Teri Hammon, the music teacher at Evergreen, the seed was planted.

Hildahl and Voski Sprague would write a script and Hammon would compose the music.

Over several months, the authors met several times a week to craft the script. They used the book "Early

Days on the Key Peninsula" by R.T. Arledge as a source, and concentrated on events taking place on the south Key Peninsula.

"If we had included the entire Key Peninsula, the play would have been far too long," said Hildahl. As the script evolved, Hammon composed the music and the three met to collaborate as the play took its final shape.

Hammon, who has taught music at Evergreen for nearly two decades, includes song and dance in her curriculum. Students learn to read music and play xylophones, recorders and various small percussion instruments.

The musical production has been a work of collaboration.

The Bluegrass Minstrels, a local Key Peninsula band, will provide music. The Angel Guild, members of the Evergreen staff and Key Peninsula resident Vickie Shurr have provided costumes. Sylvia Wilson, artist and Vaughn Elementary teacher, has been invaluable in assisting with set design and materials, lighting and costuming.

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 User's Guides available at: The Mustard Seed Project office, the Library, and the KPCS/Food Bank

Local sculptor starts shaping young lives

By Scott Turner, KP News

The Key Peninsula is full of surprises, including a surprising number of world-renowned artists who live on dirt roads that meander through the woods and along the shorelines.

Mardie Rees, a 31-year-old Wauna resident, is one of those artists.

Rees grew up on the Peninsula, attending Purdy and Minter Creek Elementary schools and finishing her high school years at Gig Harbor High School.

Along the way, her family spent a few years in Ecuador, where her parents did missionary work and where Rees, then 14, was exposed to Latin art and its many different cultures and traditions.

She also had an art teacher who inspired her future career as an artist. "He was an incredible teacher and he was just really talented and had me do things I would never have done. Like a self-portrait sculpture, relief sculpture and we even had to do a mouth drawing where we had to draw an entire drawing

with a pencil in our mouth," Rees said with a laugh.

That experience led her to major in art at Laguna College of Art and Design in southern California where she got a degree in fine art with a minor in sculpture.

"It was a really small school, just 300 students. I worked so hard. A lot of our classes were like four hours long so you'd have studio work and then you'd have homework. I didn't have any free time to party or do stuff like that because I was always working on art," she said.

But the hard work and long hours paid off and she sold several of her pieces while she was still in school.

"I thought I was going to be a painter. But I took a portrait sculpture class and I just got hooked. I liked how hands-on it was. I'd grown up helping my dad build houses and paint and texture walls and finish cabinets to make money for school, so I was used to working with my hands," she explained.

Rees has had several significant commissions over the past few years, starting



Photo by Scott Turner, KP News

Award-winning artist Mardie Rees works on a sculpture in her new Wauna studio. Rees is about to start beginning art classing for area children.

with a sculpture of Saint Anthony for the new Gig Harbor hospital.

In 2013, a man from Canada saw her Saint Anthony sculpture. He was an alumni of Shawnigan Lake School, a private school in Vancouver, B.C. He told her that the school was looking for someone to create a sculpture of the school's founder for their centennial.

Thus, a larger-than-life bronze sculpture of the founder with his beloved dog was created.

The following year, Rees was commissioned to do a sculpture for the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Virginia.

She has just completed the clay version of another Saint Anthony sculpture — this one for Saint Anthony North Health Campus in Westminster, Colo., and she's in the running to do a Vietnamese immigrant monument.

In the few short years of her sculpting career, Rees has already won several prestigious awards including several awards from the International Portrait Society, and she is now a member of the Portrait Society of America, which means [that] she's one of the top sculptors in the country, she said.

In the midst of all this, Rees and her husband found time to build a home and a new sculpture studio in the Wauna area.

The studio is just what Rees needs for her work.

"It's two stories with vaulted ceilings so I can do large sculptures," she said. "The

Saint Anthony sculpture I just completed, I had to actually lay on the ground to finish the feet because my old studio wasn't tall enough. So I'm really looking forward to being in my new studio with lots of room and light."

This summer, Rees will launch the Apprentice Academy to teach kids about art.

"I'd like for kids to get some traditional art training early on — things like composition, materials and so forth. I really want kids to have the opportunity to learn about art and about the supplies and the tools," she said.

The classes start June 29 and run through August. They'll include lessons in color theory, composition, pattern-making and ink drawings.

There will even be a few sculpture classes in which the kids will work with clay to make a terracotta owl and "some Giacometti-inspired sculptures where they'll make pieces with really long legs," Rees said.

"I feel like kids today are dealing with so many things going on in their life and if they can learn to use art to express themselves, they'll be a lot better off in dealing with whatever comes their way.

"That's sort of how I've been through living in South America and going through all the transitions I've had in my life. Art has always been such a great way for me to relax and to be whole. Kids need art."

For information about the Apprentice Academy, visit mardierees.com.

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Growing Red Barn is looking for community help

By Scott Turner, KP News

Every week, as many as 40 youngsters from the Key Peninsula go to the Red Barn Youth Center after school.

According to Jeremy Schintz, Red Barn director of operations, that's more than double the number that the center started with when it opened last August.

"We're really growing," Schintz said. "And we're growing kind of organically. We get a few more kids every week.

"And we've rented out space to a church that comes here on Sunday and a youth group that comes on Friday nights," he added.

Tacoma Community College uses the facilities four days a week, as well, doing GED and adult education classes.

Use of the building has increased to the point that Schintz and co-director Laura Condon are applying for permits to expand into a big room in the back of the building. "That will increase our capacity considerably and it will give us some additional program opportunities that we

don't have right now," Schintz said.

That might include things like theater productions, dances and music, indoor basketball and even movies.

Right now, he said, the Red Barn is open weekdays from 2:30 to 6:30 p.m. "We follow the school district's schedule," he said.

Most of the kids who come after school are middle-schoolers by about a four-to-one ratio, he said.

"A lot of the high school kids who are regulars with us are working on their volunteer projects. We have three high school kids who are really consistent volunteers. They help with homework and with snack preparations and they're becoming role models and mentors for the younger kids," Schintz said.

There are also several TCC students who act as mentors. "We have a guy who helps the kids with math and a guy who goes out and plays baseball and just runs around with the kids," Schintz said.

Currently Schintz and Condon are planning the Red Barn's summer sched-

ule by taking a survey to learn what the community wants during the months when schools aren't in session.

"We can't run 8-to-5 Monday through Friday because then it becomes a day care center," he said. "And behavior things with middle school kids can be really challenging after about four hours. So we're looking for the best window to best meet the needs of the community and have something for the kids to do. The kids love coming here and they have a lot of fun."

The Red Barn staff is always in need of more volunteers and donations of money and food.

The community has been especially helpful in bringing food donations so the kids can have healthy after-school snacks when they arrive at the center.


"We can go through a ton of fresh fruit and vegetables in a very short time," Schintz said. "The food bank gives us excess stuff but these kids can eat a lot."

Several parents have started volunteering at the center. "It's a lot of fun to watch when parents come in and hang

out with their kids," he said. "We have some dads who come in and play pool with their kids. Watching parents teaching the kids and spending time with them is a cool thing.

"I'd love it if more people would come down and see us and volunteer. We can have them up and running almost immediately," Schintz said.


For information or to make donations visit redbarnkp.org or call (253) 884-1594.



KPLL

Thanks to all the Players & Volunteers for a great Season!

Good Luck KPLL All-Star Teams



Get involved! The next board meeting is Thursday, June 18th at 6:30pm in the Concession Stand!

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Sport of lacrosse is growing; local coach seeks more KP talent

By Scott Turner, KP News

When former Key Peninsula resident Tracy Lyon isn't working as division chief of training at Gig Harbor Fire and Medic One, he can usually be found coaching a local lacrosse team.

He's been playing that role for about six years even though he had never played lacrosse and didn't really know much about the sport. He had, however, coached wrestling and football, which gave him a good sense of how to interact with young athletes.

Because he wasn't familiar with lacrosse, Lyon studied and took some training and became one of three certified "Level 3" lacrosse coaches in Washington state.

"I felt kind of obligated, because not having played the sport, I had to learn the sport myself and I felt obligated to the players to be the best coach possible," Lyon said.

Today Lyon is the varsity lacrosse coach at Peninsula High School, coaching about 34 players on two teams, both

varsity and JV.

Lacrosse is a combination of several other sports — basketball, soccer and hockey, he explained. "It's very fast moving and there's rarely a slow moment," he said.

There are 10 players on each side and the goal is to carry the ball from one end of the field to the other and score a goal in a 6-by-6-foot space at each end of the field.

Of the 34 kids Lyon coaches at PHS, only three live on the Key Peninsula.

"I want people on the Key to know that this is an up and coming sport," he said.

One of the three KP lacrosse players is 18-year-old William Lester, who lives near Key Center.

Lester also plays football and does wrestling, and has known coach Lyon since middle school.

He has been playing lacrosse since the seventh or eight grade, he said. "It was the first year lacrosse opened up and I was kind of bored with baseball. I love lacrosse — it's definitely a lot faster than baseball and you get to hit people a little," he said with a smile.



Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News

Peninsula High School lacrosse player William Lester attacks the ball during a game played last month against the North County Cavaliers at Roy Anderson Field.

The position Lester plays — long stick middle (LSM) — lets him play either offense or defense, but mostly the latter.

"There's a lot of physical contact and keeping yourself in front of the other guy, which I guess also helps you in football," he said.

Any student who's in the Peninsula High School area can play on the PHS team, Lyon said. "They can be PHS,

home school or private school — any kids who would normally go to Peninsula."

There are a lot of first-timers on this year's team and Lyon hopes to add more kids next year. "We're getting just enough boys to make a full team, but I really need to get more kids from the KP," he said.

Lyon looks for several key characteristics in his players.

"The number one thing we look for is how well you make the person next to you play, not your own personal talent," he said.

"The kids develop friendships and keep in good physical condition and really build camaraderie. It's a team sport, a contact sport, a combat sport. It's an ongoing, continuous ball movement and running," Lyon said.

Lyon's team made it to the playoffs and lost 7 to 9.

"I look forward to the younger guys moving up next year. We should have a very good team," he said.

For information, visit peninsulalacrosse.com.

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Summer youth camp set for teen fun and worship

By Irene Torres, KP News

WayPoint Church is offering "LIFT 2015," a weeklong summer camp between June 22 and 27 for youth ages 12 to 18.

"Every June for the last 23 years, teens have been coming to an amazing week at Sound View Camp. This year, we have named this event 'LIFT.' This name was inspired by an old hymn, 'Love Lifted Me.' It epitomizes what this week of camp has been all about," said youth pastor Rory Adams.

Sound View Camp is at the far south end of the Key Peninsula and is owned and operated by the Olympia Presbyterian of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Sound View Camp hosts its own weekly programs beginning in July, but the last full week of June it rents out

Summer Youth Camp

June 22-27
 \$175 includes a camp sweatshirt
 Drop-off at camp — Monday, June 22, 5 p.m.
 Pickup from camp — Saturday, June 27, 1 p.m.
 Sound View Camp is located at 8515 Key Peninsula Highway South.
 For directions visit soundview-camp.com/about-us/directions.

the camp to WayPoint Church.

Pastor Tim Cedarland of Community Bible Fellowship (a church that used to meet at Minter Elementary School and then Key Peninsula Middle School before moving in to a facility in Gig

Harbor) ran the weeklong camp for 21 years, but in 2013, passed the leadership over to Adams and WayPoint Church.

Adams said teens come from the Key Peninsula, Burley, Port Orchard, Gig Harbor, Olalla and even as far as Everett and Vancouver.

"We are able to keep the cost much lower than most weeklong summer camps because all the staff are volunteers. We charge \$175 per camper while many camps run \$275 to \$350. We have a lot of fun (obstacle course, team sports and group challenges) and we spend a lot of time studying the Bible and worshipping God," Adams said.

Campers need to register before June 10. Details can be found at five17.com.

For information, call Adams at (253) 579-5533.

OBITUARY NOTICE

Donald Joseph Mastro

Donald Joseph Mastro, 82, died April 14, 2015.

Mastro was born on March 16, 1933, the son of Dominic Anthony Mastro and Dorothy Williscroft Mastro.

He was married to Cherie Joyce Flatt on Feb. 14, 1953 and they shared more than 62 years together prior to his passing.

He grew up in Burien and lived there until 1975 when he moved to Key Center and built businesses over the years: Bee Proud Apiary, DJ's Tire and Automotive Center, and DJ's Minimart along SR-302. He retired in 1998 and he and

his wife toured the country, towing a fifth-wheel trailer as their mobile residence.

Mastro was respected and admired for his many accomplishments due to his commitment to hard work and keeping his word.

He will be deeply missed by those who loved him, including his wife, Cherie; two siblings and their spouses, Jerry (Stephanie) Mastro of Burien and Diane (James) Cloutier of Des Moines. He will also be missed by his four children and their spouses: Cherilee (Bud) Bergdahl

of Othello, Debby (Richard) Liebel of Normandy Park, Stephen (Laurel) Mastro of Long Beach, Cailf., and Cindy (Norris) Johnson of Sumner. He is also survived by 10 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Mastro was at various times a member of several civic organizations including Lions Club, Elks Club and chambers of commerce, and gladly gave back to the residents of the communities in which he lived.

Email condolences may be sent to stevemastro@sbcglobal.net.

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Schools on the Key Peninsula, education explained

By Sara Thompson, KP News

Editor's note: Most school districts have a ratio of households with students to those without students of 1:3. The Peninsula School District has many more households without students, with a ratio of 1:5. This is the first article of a planned series of four to introduce readers to the schools on the Key Peninsula. This installment is a basic description of the schools on the Key Peninsula. Future articles will cover funding, testing and the school board, all as they pertain to the KP schools.

If ever there were a place with pride in its schools, it is the Key Peninsula. With three elementary schools, one middle school and one high school serving local children, there is much going on, and much more happening that most may not know.

Any rural area has its challenges. Compared to the more suburban schools in the rest of the Peninsula School District, transportation can be challenging, and poverty levels are double or nearly triple those in Gig Harbor (40-70 percent of students live in poverty, qualifying for the free and reduced lunch program).

But every principal on the Key Peninsula is excited about his or her school, the quality of the staff and the accomplishments of the students. And with a combined century of teaching and administrative experience among them, they know what they are talking about.

Three elementary schools serve the youngest students, more than 1,000 total. From north to south, they are Minter Creek, Vaughn and Evergreen.

Minter Creek

Principal Ty Robuck has been at Minter

Creek for three years. He taught at Voyager and Discovery prior to serving as assistant principal at Key Peninsula Middle School (KPMS).

"We have a great mix of veteran and new teachers," he said. "I love my teachers with their level of dedication, openness to feedback and a wish to grow."

With 400 students, Minter Creek is the size of most of the elementary schools in the district. About 40 percent of its students live in poverty.

Each elementary school has specialist teachers. These teachers come to the classroom to teach when the regular teacher has a preparation period scheduled. At Minter Creek, there are three specialists who teach music, physical education and art.

There are some unique programs at Minter. The highly capable program is housed at the school — a single classroom of 25 fourth- and fifth-graders currently. A second classroom of second- and third-graders is scheduled to open next fall.

Watch DOGS — Dads Of Great Students — is a new initiative with fathers, grandfathers and big brothers all coming in to volunteer for a total of a hundred days during the school year. After school, the choir and the Crazy 8s math club meet. And Little Toasters, a group that encourages girls to advocate for themselves, also meets at the school.

Vaughn

Vaughn Principal Susan O'Leary has been and educator for 25 years and at Vaughn for five years.

"We are truly a community school. People feel welcome and our kids learn and thrive," she said of the school climate.

The teaching staff is very stable and many live in the community. She is proud of academic growth — twice the school has won the Washington State Achievement Award for growth in reading and math.

Like Minter Creek, Vaughn serves 400 students, with more than 50 percent living in poverty. They have three specialist teachers, covering the subjects of music, physical education and STEM (science, technology, engineering and math).

O'Leary said that the staff has concentrated on the core curriculum, especially on writing, and also on school climate most recently. Their PBIS (Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports) program is closely aligned with that of KPMS.

A recent collaboration with Cora Voce in Tacoma raised money to upgrade the risers and sound system for performances.

Evergreen

Evergreen, with 240 students, is the smallest of the PSD elementary schools. With nearly 70 percent of those students qualifying for free and reduced lunch, it has the highest number of kids living in poverty.

Principal Hugh Maxwell is in his second year at Evergreen. He arrived from Idaho and has been an educator for 26 years.

"I have worked in great schools, but this is one of the best staffs I have ever worked with," he said.

He noted that some staff live in the area and others have commuted long distances for years because they simply love the school.

He cited the small size as one of the things that makes Evergreen special, not-

ing, "It feels like a family."

The school has two specialists — in music and PE — both of whom meet with each classroom twice a week.

The school district added funding this year to eliminate split classes. Last year, there were two split classes, and Maxwell noted that the combined challenges of increased academic expectations with the new Common Core curriculum and poverty were stressful.

Thanks to a grant obtained by Therese Souers (see earlier article [keypennews.com/2014/index.php/component/k2/item/482-new-computers-help-evergreen-elementary-students-learn](http://www.keypennews.com/2014/index.php/component/k2/item/482-new-computers-help-evergreen-elementary-students-learn)), Evergreen is actively integrating technology into the classroom. The school has a set of Chromebooks and students are learning to use them in writing during the school day, and there is an after-school program where they are learning about 3-D programming and printing. Maxwell hopes the school can get a set of iPads for each classroom.

Two Waters Arts Alliance artists have been working with students at Evergreen to complete a mural on an environmental theme. It will be completed by the end of the school year. (Murals were previously created at Minter and KPMS under TWAA).

KPMS

Key Peninsula Middle School principal Jeri Goebel came to the school seven years ago from Port Angeles. With 400 students and over 50 percent living in poverty, there are certainly challenges, but she describes a vibrant school with an

(See Schools, Page 25)

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(From Schools, Page 24)

amazing teaching staff.

“I’d pit my staff against any teacher in the state,” Goebel said.

The school has programs designed to meet the needs of all students, she said — from those who need extra support to those who are already high achievers. KPMS has been an NASA Explorer School for 11 years, with a program that initially focused on aerospace. That has now evolved as a STEM focus, which includes forensics, robotics and an introduction to multimedia productions. Students are also exposed to college and career classes to get them ready for college.

The Cougar Academy is a 35-minute “flex class” that meets daily. Students receive tutoring in math or reading if they need it. Those who are already working at grade level have enrichment electives in such areas as literature, jazz band, art and computer coding.

Tutoring is available after school every Thursday for those needing additional help — personally provided by Goebel and the assistant principal.

Goebel is proud of the music program. Students arrive with a solid basic background thanks to their specialist teachers in elementary school. There is a music revue each year, with a choir and an award-winning advanced band.

In the fall KPMS, will offer AVID (Achievement via Independent Determination) to about 30 students. It is a national program focusing on students typically underrepresented in college and who are “middle achievers.”

The curriculum focuses on writing and organizational skills and also exposes students to college visits and financial assistance. The AVID class

teachers will get training in classroom strategies that they will then share with other staff.

KPMS will also house a new, highly-capable program for incoming sixth-graders in a combined language arts/social studies class. Kopachuck is the other Peninsula School District middle school that will have a similar program.

Peninsula High

Lest you think that school pride is limited to the younger students, just talk to David Goodwin, principal at Peninsula High. This was his first year — he said that when the position opened (he had been principal at Henderson Bay High School for four years), he simply “jumped at the chance” to move to Peninsula.

In describing what is unique about his school, he said, “The student body is so very accepting. There just aren’t cliques. Group activities are very inclusive — and no kids are excluded due to things such as socio-economic background or disabilities.”

Peninsula High has 1,400 students, with at least 30 percent qualifying for free and reduced lunch.

Goodwin said that the teaching staff is phenomenal, with tremendous life experience and intellectual curiosity.

Athletics are strong — Peninsula is one of the most-competitive schools in the 3A league. Choir, band and drama programs are known for their wonderful performances. Academically, Goodwin notes that there are 15 AP (advanced placement) classes as well as a strong speech and debate program.

“We want to prepare our students for whatever future they anticipate,” he said. “We have something here for every single student.”

Teacher calls Northwest home, but has traveled far

By Colleen Slater, KP News

Dorothy Bouvia arrived in 1945 to teach English at Vaughn Union High School. Her son Brian entered second grade in the Vaughn Elementary School across the playground area.

They lived in Key Center, Rose-dale, Gig Harbor, Purdy and Wauna. After her marriage to Gordon Lusby, she lived in Burley and now resides in Tacoma, but “I’ve lived all over the place,” she said.

When Peninsula High School was formed, Bouvia moved there with the Vaughn students and taught there until her retirement 23 years later.

At Peninsula she organized and sponsored Panmasquers, a drama club. In 1949, Troupe 965 of the National Thespian Society was organized under her direction. Students earned points by participation in dramatic productions.

Her teaching career began in Illinois, and she headed west with the idea of staying in a place a year or two, then moving on. Life didn’t happen that way for her and Brian. They did their traveling across the country during summer vacations, and she continued traveling to farther sites many years after retirement.

She once said she’d been to “a small part of the world,” including China, Russia, Great Britain, Norway, Sweden, Italy, Spain, Morocco, Yugoslavia, Austria, Germany, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Denmark, The



Photo courtesy Dian Tallman

Dorothy Bouvia Lusby enjoys 104th birthday lunch with former students.

Netherlands, France, Greece, Egypt, Portugal, Japan, Tasmania, Bangkok and Hong Kong.

Bouvia has attended almost every Peninsula High School reunion she was invited to over the years, and came to Gig Harbor for many lunches with PHS alums. Each March her birthday has been celebrated at those lunches, and this year, it was for her 104th year.

She claims her eyesight and memory aren’t as good as they used to be, but if she doesn’t recognize a former student, she says: “Tell me your name,” and the connection is there.

She continues to play bingo and meet with her crochet group each week, enjoying her long life of memorable places and events.

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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@ed-johnson.net. We will try and run a poem in every issue.

GOLD

By Dick Dixon

Each morning I look for Gold
In my garden
I pour a cup of coffee
And walk out to my pond
I walk softly
Stepping oh so slowly
Hoping to see Gold
And lo! There she is
Floating deep in my pond
Her frond-like fins
Waving ever so slowly
She moves like a nymph
Through the crystalline waters
Like a Goddess
And I am enchanted

'Cassandra's Castle': local film in progress

By Irene Torres, KP News

Ollala resident Dianne Gardner's screenplay of "Cassandra's Castle" came in as a semifinalist out of 2,400 entries in a film festival. She describes this as a fantasy story, based on the historical events of the Portuguese revolution, with a cautionary theme.

At this point, she is working on a concept trailer featuring actors from the Key Peninsula, Port Angeles, Port Orchard, Port Townsend, Seattle, Tacoma, Federal Way, Monroe and Olympia.

An actress from New York called to ask for a tryout after a casting call was made on Facebook and "through the grapevine," Gardner said. Her project summary was presented at FilmCom in Nashville, but she had no footage, "so didn't get too far," she said. She hopes it can be a miniseries, a pilot for a television series or a full-feature film.

At press time, the trailer was being filmed on Key Peninsula property owned by Stuart Campion as an Indiegogo.com



Courtesy photo, Ruth Marburger

Katie Rose as Cassandra and Sean Peck-Collier as Valerio are photographed rehearsing for a local film.

fundraiser campaign and project. A seven-minute trailer can run about \$2,000 in costs. When complete, the film can be presented to potential producers and distributors. An independent film could cost \$800,000 to make, whereas a feature film could cost \$10 million or more.

Directing the trailer and mentoring the cast is local KP actor William Michael Paul. He also has an acting part in the film, playing Silvio, the wizard. He sees his role on the project as a way of giving back to the actors, through his own experience, to help them improve. He describes this as his act of kindness to this community and asks for community support to make the project happen.

Alaina Brooke-Simcoe is the costume designer. She lives on the Key Peninsula. The combat choreographer for staging the sword fight is Tom Martin from Port Orchard, with Kitsap Fencing Center.

Gardner, an author, has attended workshops, read books about writing and filmmaking, and has participated in internet forums. She is a member of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. She says, "Magic has to have rules. It needs grounding or it goes beyond believability. If it turns that corner, it loses credibility."

She has been involved with stage productions with her church, a coffee house and at the fairgrounds. She said she would rather work behind the scenes and describes her talent as "finding people with talent and putting them together."

She told the Key Peninsula News that she is a visionary, seeing things before they materialize, "I am not going to quit until it is reality," he said

Details of the project can be found at gardenersart.com. For information, call 851-0339.

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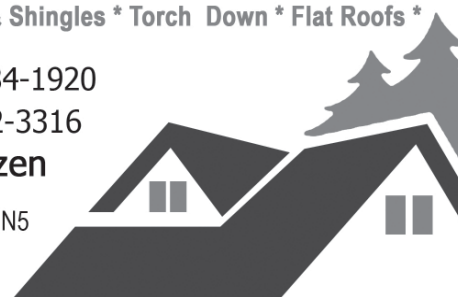
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Courtesy photo by Ric Hallock

Lakebay residents Jennifer Wherry and son, Cayden, 6, show off some fancy dance steps while attending the mother/son dance at the pavilion at Sehmel Homestead Park in Gig Harbor, hosted by the Peninsula Athletic Association on Saturday, May 9.

Right: On May 9, Blue Willow Lavender Farm hosted a spring garden party featuring tea, spritzers and sweets, all concocted with the aromatic herb. After refreshments, the scent permeated the air as everyone cut bud-filled stems and formed them into wreaths under the direction of farm owner Tracy Ketts.



Photo by Karen Lovett



Courtesy photo by Key Pen Parks

Where in the World...



Local mixed media enthusiast Daphne Frickleton and paper crafting instructor Anna Bradshaw enjoyed their copy of the KP News after zip lining above the Honduran rainforest on a recent Scrapbooking cruise to the Western Caribbean.

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Right: Key Peninsula Little League held its major fundraiser on April 25 at Volunteer Park. Each player solicited donations for every hit they got while facing a given number of pitched balls. Here, Maris Johnson makes contact and earns three points for her effort.



Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News

Bottom left: Marilyn Monson of Wauna gets a little help from her grandson, Braden Peterson, 6, as they help plant one of more than 100 Sitka spruce trees at 360 Trails during Parks Appreciation Day on April 25. A Pierce County-wide event, more than 100 volunteers showed up at various KP parks to plant trees, clear trails, pull weeds, pick up garbage and do other tasks to help make their community a better place to live and play.