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Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News

Volunteers working at the new Bischoff FISH Food Bank are unloading food and supplies at the Key Center facility the day before opening to the public.

New FISH food bank opens in Key Center

By Rick Sorrels, KP News

The Key Peninsula Lutheran Church food bank operation has moved to Key Center.

The new Bischoff FISH Food Bank has opened up at the former Key Fitness Center, at 8908 Key Peninsula Highway.

The lease was signed on March 19 by Deborah Irwin, the treasurer for FISH (Food In Service to Him); David Shaw, the treasurer for Peninsula Community Foundation; and Pat Bottiger, the property owner.

The reason for the move is that the food bank grew too big for its facilities, according to the coordinators. The move was not, however, without difficulty or dispute.

The church-located food bank was founded in 2003 by the late Ross Bischoff.

Bischoff, with the assistance of a handful of dedicated volunteers, had a frechhand in managing the food bank until his death in 2008. Bischoff picked up "past due" food from Walt's Grocery

(See FISH, Page 2)

KP resident has leadership role in building new GH arts center

By Scott Turner and
Charlee Glock-Jackson, KP News

Key Peninsula resident Jonathan Bill has been involved in the arts in one way or another for decades. He's been teaching for 20 years, the last seven of those as drama and history instructor at Peninsula High School.

He's also president of the newly formed board of directors for a new regional arts center that's being planned near the Gig Harbor YMCA.

"When the project got started about 15 months ago, I thought it was exciting, but I also thought it seemed like a pie-in-the-sky effort," Bill said.

"But it's envisioned as a center for all arts groups from the Key Peninsula and Gig Harbor, the school district and the entire community. I was particularly pleased that all the Key Peninsula groups are involved, because, even though the facility won't be on the peninsula, it's close enough geographically that people on the Key will be able to use it," he said.

When the effort was just in the initial planning stages, Bill was skeptical about its success. There were some major players involved, and some artists whom he really respects and architects who are well known in this community.

"But everyone had their own list of what they wanted in this center, and everyone wanted something different," he said. "The wish list was so long that I came home from those first meetings and told my wife, 'This is ridiculous. They'll never be able to put all this together under one roof.' I was really disdainful of the prospects for success."

Then in early 2012, Mark Hoppen, one of the leaders of the project, announced that a site had been secured for the new center. "He said, 'We do

(See Center, Page 4)

(From FISH, Page 1)

(the predecessor of Peninsula Market) and distributed it at the church to those in need.

His daughter, Carol Larson, said, "At the time of my father's death, there were about 25 customers receiving food from the food bank on a regular basis."

With Bischoff's declining health, Wally Haugaard took over the reins of the food bank and "expanded the program exponentially," according to Rev. Heinz Malon, the church pastor.

In 2013, records show that 1,000 families (more than 5,000 family members) use the food bank on a regular basis. In 2012, more than \$800,000 in food was distributed.

The food bank now has 54 volunteers and receives food donations from Peninsula Market, two Albertsons stores in Tacoma, FISH of Pierce County, Food Lifeline, NorthWest Harvest, Emergency Food and some state programs.

In order to expand the food donations to meet rising demands, Haugaard signed agreements in 2011 affiliating the food bank with FISH of Pierce County.

In March 2011, a lease agreement was signed whereby FISH would pay the food bank's utility expenses.

During 2012, concerned with accountability, the governing board for the church adopted a more active role in monitoring its various programs.

In December, Haugaard presented a proposal to the church's executive committee for the food bank to move to a larger and different location.

Subsequent discussions revealed two diverse points of view: One was that the church



Photo by Michelle M. Mondeck, KP News

Bischoff FISH Food Bank members pose for a pre-opening photo in front of the new Key Center food bank shortly after signing a building lease agreement. Pictured, from left, are Deb Irwin, FISH vice president; Beth Elliott, FISH executive director; Karen Jorgenson, Backpack 4 Kids; Amber Peterson, food bank volunteer; Carol Larson, food bank coordinator; and Wally Haugaard, food bank director.

"owned" the food bank and that unauthorized agreements had been signed, and the other that the food bank only operated from the church and had never been "owned" by the church.

A January 2013 letter from FISH further revealed that FISH believed that it now "owned" the food bank due to the signed agreements.

The true arrangements between Bischoff and the church may never be known, as Bischoff and all of the other individuals involved in 2003 are no longer available. It is also possible that no arrangements regarding ownership had even been discussed, with attention instead focused solely upon providing food for the needy.

According to Malon, a number of parishioners have left the congregation over this

dispute. At press time, he was drafting a letter to his congregation reminding them that Haugaard has done "exceptionally well at expanding the depth and breadth of the food bank and its services."

He said the purpose of their outreach programs is to serve those in need.

"What is most important, is the number of people being served. Our food bank program has spun off and birthed something new," Malon said.

Haugaard said the food bank is recognized as the largest and fastest growing in Western Washington. The new location started operation March 21.

The food bank received donations of food, with very little money for its overhead costs.

FISH now covers all overhead. Both Haugaard and Beth Elliott, the president of FISH, said they are looking to build a new facility for the food bank on the Key Peninsula.

"FISH is a nonprofit, with all the directors being volunteer with no salary," Elliott said. "Only 3 percent of our operating budget goes to overhead. The other 97 percent all goes to programs (the food banks)."

She said FISH has been in Pierce County for 35 years. Last year, they distributed 5,500,000 pounds of food to 550,000 people. Not counting food donations, they also spent more than \$500,000 purchasing food.

The Backpack for Kids program at the Lutheran Church has also moved to the new Key Peninsula Highway location with the food bank. Between 25 and 30 percent of the food for the program comes from the food bank.

The Backpack for Kids program provides a backpack of food for every weekend during the school year for children eligible for free or reduced lunch.

Nineteen churches participate in the backpack program, including five on the KP: Key Peninsula Lutheran Church, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Waypoint Church, Lakebay Community Church and Lakebay Christian Assembly.

The food bank is not affiliated with the one operated by the Key Peninsula Community Services and Senior Center near Home.

The Key Center food bank will distribute food on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday starting at 2 p.m., and on Monday, Wednesday and Friday starting at 11:45 a.m. Organizers recommend arriving early to register. They say parking is limited, but offer a shuttle service from the O'Callahan's parking lot during operation.

For information, call (253) 312-4489.

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KEY PENINSULA NEWS

www.keypennews.com

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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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APRIL 2013

Key Pen Parks PROGRAM GUIDE

Recreation Coordinator: Jessica Smeall, jessica@keypenparks.com 253-884-9240 x22

REGISTER ONLINE: www.keypenparks.com



THANK YOU
to the Park PALS & other volunteers who made our 5th annual PET EASTER TREAT HUNT a great success!

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Park Systems Planning Survey

This survey is still ONLINE through the month of April— just head to www.keypenparks.com and look for the survey button, click, and expect to spend about 10-15 minutes completing. If you need a non-digital version of the survey, call our office: 884-9240.

Upcoming Public Meetings

Park Board Meetings are at the Volunteer Park office, at 7:30pm on the following dates:
April 8 (2nd Monday of the month)

Spring Break CAMPS for grades K-5

Eco Camp: REPTILES & ARCHERY @ CAMP SEYMOUR Day: Mon. 4/15 Time: 10am-2:00pm Fee: \$30 (includes lunch)	LEGO: EXTREME EXPEDITONS (TORNADO RESCUE) Day: Tues. 4/16 Time: 1:30-4:30pm Fee: \$25	Eco Camp: WILD WATER & SHARKS Day: Wed. 4/17 Time: 9:30am-12:30pm Fee: \$15	LEGO: EXTREME EXPEDITONS (EARTHQUAKE!) Day: Thurs. 4/18 Time: 1:30-4:30pm Fee: \$25	Eco Camp: WINGS, WIND & WEATHER Day: Fri. 4/19 Time: 9:30am-12:30pm Fee: \$15
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2nd Saturday ART For Adults
Paste Paper

Our April class is with Kathleen Gray, from Gray Fine Arts. In this class, you will learn the ancient art of creating book end papers out of a homemade paste. The paper can then be used for our May class—portable jewelry boxes, or many other projects!



Volunteer Park Office
Date: Sat. April 13
9:30am-12:30pm
Fee: \$25

FITNESS CAMP

Instructor: Shannon Reichl

INDOOR (WEEKNIGHTS)

Location: Volunteer Park (first 3 weeks of the session) & 360 Trails (last 3 weeks)
Day: Mon & Wed Time: 6-7pm
Dates: Apr. 22 – May 29
Fee: \$30 for 1 class/week, \$60 for 2

- AGILITY TRAINING • CARDIO TRAINING
 - CORE TRAINING • STRENGTH TRAINING
- ALL in a FUN workout!



Saturday
April 20
9:00am-12:00pm

Parks Appreciation Day is a great chance for your group or family to spend a day of service in your community. This is a county-wide event; our Key Pen sites are: Purdy Sandspit, Gateway Park & 360 Trails, Volunteer Park, and the Civic Center. If you have a group that would like to commit to a certain site, call Jess 884-9240. After our projects are complete, we'll have a free hot dog lunch at the LDS Church to celebrate our good



Civic Center Gym
Saturdays: March 30 – May 4
10:30am-11:25am (ages 6-7) 11:30am-12:25pm (ages 4-5)
Fee: \$45

In Sport Samplers, experience a sampling of indoor sports: soccer, t-ball and kickball, and basketball. Every class will also feature cooperative games that focus on teamwork, communication, and problem solving.

(From Center, Page 1)

have a place for this. It's a piece of property across from the Y," Bill recalled.

"Harbor Christian Center owns the property and they are perfectly willing to allow the property to be used for this purpose so long as they get to use the facility for their services and other activities," Bill said.

A few months after the announcement of the property acquisition, BLRB, the architectural firm that had donated time to design the new center, made a presentation with complete architectural concepts.

"They came back with a real, serious-looking design," Bill said. "The building is beautiful and it fits on the site. The campus is quite attractive and it includes all the facilities that we, as a group, had discussed. They (BLRB) put them together in a very workable, efficient way and it will be beautiful when it's built. The working name is the Gig Harbor Regional Arts Center, and all the groups that participated in this process will have a place in the proposed design," he said.

Bill feels strongly that the center will be a good thing for the entire community. By



Illustration courtesy of BRB Architects

An illustration shows the street view of a proposed Gig Harbor Regional Arts Center. Community volunteers and area business leaders are in the process of raising awareness and funds for an economic feasibility study for the North Gig Harbor-area location.

connecting all of these arts groups and putting them in one place, he feels it creates a center that has dynamism and focus, and will have something going on all the time, he said.

"People will be attracted to that, whether they are students who stay here or other members of the community who haven't realized how much creativity there is in this area, they'll find something to do

there," he said.

That vision comes with a big price tag. Bill and his fellow art center directors estimate that the facility will cost \$31 million.

But before that artistic vision can even move forward, there's lots of work yet to do.

"Right now, we're at the point where we're asking for donations for an economic feasibility study, which will cost

about \$51,000," he said.

Once the feasibility study is complete, the real fundraising work will begin.

"Then you'll see a public fundraising effort like we saw for the Harbor History Museum and the Boys and Girls Club," he said.

For information, contact Jonathan Bill at billj@psd401.net or Mark Hoppen at dfordollar@aol.com.

Key Peninsula Community Services

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Senior Center & Food Bank

Helping our most cherished citizens to eat and live healthy


PO Box 392 Lakebay WA. 98349 253-884-4440 Fax: 253-884-6196
Email: KPCCSdirector@centurytel.net

FOOD BANK

Our Food Bank is in need of canned goods and boxed food items. Vegetables, Tuna, Fruit, Soup, Macaroni & Cheese are just a few examples of items we are short of. If you can pick up an extra item when you are out shopping and drop them by!

The Senior Center Dental Hygienist Program is now serving the Key Peninsula! For KP Residents 60 years +


To learn more and to complete an eligibility screening. Please call the Pierce County Aging & Disability Resource Center at (253) - 798-4600



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School District Seeks Public Input in Strategic Planning

Peninsula School District has begun the process of updating its strategic plan, which includes establishing goals and objectives for the next five years. Once the Board of Directors approves the plan, the administration will develop action steps to help implement the goals.

“Part of the process is to gather information on critical issues, challenges and opportunities facing the district,” said Superintendent Chuck Cuzzetto.

To gather information from all the PSD customers and stakeholders, the district conducted an environmental

scan. Input was solicited from parent groups and unions, as well as business, community and legislative leaders. Stakeholders include organizations such as Communities in Schools Peninsula, city and county councils, park districts, community colleges and major employers.

“We tried to get as many of our customers involved as possible,” Cuzzetto said.

All the information will be combined with other data collected by the district and used by the board to create draft goals. The public will then get the opportunity to comment on the draft document.

The Board of Directors is expected to adopt the goals and objectives in May and adopt the entire plan, including the action steps, next fall.

PSD Superintendent Chuck Cuzzetto discusses the strategic plan process at a recent meeting of the Key Peninsula Community Council.



Audit Results

The Washington State Auditor's Office recently completed its annual audit of the district's finances. We were pleased to receive a “clean” audit again.

Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration is ongoing at your neighborhood school.

If you are registering your child for kindergarten, please remember to bring:

- ✓ Birth certificate
- ✓ Immunization records
- ✓ Proof of address (We only accept a utility bill. No lease agreements.)
- ✓ Most registration forms on-line at www.psd401.net

For more information, please visit the PSD website at www.psd401.net or call your neighborhood school:

- Artondale 530-1100
- Discovery 530-1200
- Evergreen 530-1300
- Harbor Heights 530-1800
- Minter Creek 530-4300
- Purdy 530-4600
- Vaughn 530-4700
- Voyager 530-4800
- or
- District Office at (253) 530-1009

We look forward to serving your students!

APRIL EVENTS

- 9 Coffee with the Superintendent 9:30-10:30 a.m. District Office—PUBLIC IS WELCOME!
- 11 School Board Regular Meeting 6 p.m. District Office
- 15-19 Spring Break—No School
- 24-26 MSP Testing 3rd-8th grade student progress test
- 29-30 MSP Testing 3rd-8th grade student progress test
- Note: Testing continues thru May 3rd

Safety Update - Recent events in the news have caused many to reconsider their safety in public places. This is especially true of our schools. In the Peninsula School District, we have taken initial, short-term actions to provide a safe educational environment for all students and staff. As we look forward, we are also creating intermediate and longer term plans to address safety in our schools. We work collaboratively with the Pierce County Department of Emergency Management along with local law enforcement and fire departments to address Prevention, Response, and Recovery.

- **Short-term** plans include addressing communication systems in our schools to make sure they are functioning and responsive, to assess and reduce the number of unlocked access points to our school buildings and to review procedural systems with students, staff and parents. In regard to procedural systems, we want to foster an environment where parents and other community members are welcome in our schools. We must do this in a manner where protocols about how to become a volunteer in your school(s) or visit a classroom are clear. Please find attached a document we think will be helpful in guiding both volunteers and visitors through the process.
- **Intermediate** plans to address safety in our schools include further training of administrators and other staff members on dealing with a variety of hazards. We rely primarily on Pierce County Emergency Management for this as they have provided training in the past and are the experts in the field. Additionally, our School Resource Officer, who is a Deputy for the Pierce County Sheriff's Department, has visited all of our elementary schools, has assessed access points and made recommendations as to how we can increase our ability to provide better security at entrance points to our buildings. We have begun the process of analyzing costs and will continue to look at how we address the recommendations.
- **Long-term** plans include continued training for all staff and a complete review of all our facilities to see what can be done in every building to increase the safety of our students and staff. This component will be part of a larger scale, longer term facilities plan.

Nondiscrimination Statement Peninsula School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, honorably discharged veteran or military status, sexual orientation including gender expression or identity, the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: Title IX and Compliance Coordinator is the Academic Officer K-12, (253) 530-1000, gregoryd@psd401.net; Section 504/ADA Coordinator is the Director of Student Services, (253) 530-1000, thompsonc@psd401.net

Peninsula Views

Reading to a child during the digital age

Learning to read is a complex process that begins in infancy, and the ability to read well is critical for all of a student's school-based learning.

For a student to do well in all subjects, even math, reading skills must be developed to the point that they are automatic or fluent.

The human brain is hard-wired for spoken language, but not for reading. Learning to read (and write) is a process that occurs during the course of several years.

Decoding print, reading fluently and comprehending what is being read is a complicated process. Perhaps the most important thing we can do to help build the skills essential for reading proficiency is reading aloud to our children.

Students who begin school already knowing their letters, and who have been read aloud to, are ready to learn to read. By contrast, kids who haven't experienced nursery rhymes and word games, who have not been exposed to books and who have not engaged in conversations with adults are at a great disadvantage.

According to Jim Trelease, who wrote "The Read-Aloud Handbook," we should read to children for all the same reasons we talk with children: to reassure, to entertain, to bond; to inform or explain, to arouse curiosity, to inspire. He said that by reading aloud, we also condition the child's brain to associate reading with pleasure, create background knowledge, build vocabulary and provide a reading role model.

From the moment a child is born, there are many things you can do to help your child become a good reader.

When you hold a baby close and look at a book together, your baby will not only enjoy the snuggling, but listening to your voice as well. The feeling of safety, security and love while looking at a book to-

Deborah Allen
Read to Me



gether builds positive emotions, love for books and reading.

Toddlers love to move and may have a shorter attention span than babies, so they enjoy books with action. Choose a short, simple story that invites movement or making sounds. Also books with flaps to open and different textures to touch, help keep hands busy and minds attentive. Even if your toddler isn't a snuggler, he or she will be listening.

Reading aloud to children is also fun for you.

Children's literature today is rich with the quality of writing, the variety of stories and beautiful illustrations.

Visit your local library for story time, not just for your child's benefit but to also enjoy for yourself the reading of a great story by an experienced children's librarian.

Librarians are wonderful resources for recommending stories that children will love, as well as what is new, exciting and age-appropriate.

It is also important to read aloud to children who have already begun to read on their own. Not only can children enjoy a book that is higher and more sophisticated than their current reading level, but they can pick up plenty about written language as well.

How we write is not always how we speak, and while listening to a story, a child will notice the use of different words, different sentence structures and the use of punctuation to express meaning.

(See **Allen**, Page 7)

The venerable model 1911 handgun's history

The year 1911 is a uniquely notable one.

Ronald Reagan was born in Tampico, Ill. The Mexican Revolution was in its second year. King George V was crowned in England. A theft of

the Mona Lisa was discovered at the Louvre. The first successful landing of a plane (on a vessel) took place in San Francisco harbor on the USS Pennsylvania. International Women's Day was celebrated for the first time and John Moses Browning had his perfected sidearm design adopted by the U.S. Army.

The model 1911 .45 caliber (semi-automatic) pistol was first conceptualized in the fertile mind of firearms inventor John Browning around 1899.

The 1890s saw firearms inventors and manufacturers starting to move toward firearms that could hold more ammunition, fire more rapidly and be more robust than earlier designs of the "cowboy era."

Anyone who has seen a Hollywood Western has seen a Browning design. Most of the Winchester rifles of the 1880s and '90s were designed by John Browning.

The model 1911 handgun uses a magazine that holds the bullets and is separate from the gun itself.

Cecil Beal
Gun Sight



The magazine is slid into the handle of the gun (just like most modern day semi-automatic handguns). Once the magazine is securely in place, the gun can be made operational by pulling the top part (the slide) rearward and letting go. The main spring propels the slide forward, which strips a cartridge from the magazine and chambers it, readying the gun to be fired.

After the gun is fired, the recoil from the fired cartridge moves the slide to the rear, ejecting the fired bullet casing and starting the process all over again. The gun can be fired each time with just a pull of the trigger, until the magazine is empty.

Today, this is the norm for semi-automatic handguns. One hundred and two years ago it was cutting edge, and to still have this design in use with military, police and civilians is remarkable.

This new design could not work in the factory test facility, where it could

(See **Beal**, Page 7)

Letters Policy

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

KP vet gives tender loving care, final comfort

To the Editor,

As so many of us have had to face, my precious Riley (a Doxie), after more than 12 years of wonderful companionship and unconditional love, endured late-life diabetes and blindness.

He accepted this with grace and continued to do all the right things as before. He then contracted cancer, and for nearly three years continued to be by my side — to care for me — even while having to take two injections of insulin daily without complaint. I knew it hurt.

Finally after many downhill medical issues, it became time to make that ultimate decision on his behalf. With a broken heart I scheduled the appointment for Monday Jan. 21.

With the support of many friends, my Pastor Bill Ketts and Dr. Jeff Irwin at Minter Veterinary Clinic in Lake Kathryn Village, and with many prayers, we took him in at the appoint-

ed time. I had no idea what to expect, an injection perhaps and he would be gone?

With tears flowing, I held him and gave him words of comfort.

He didn't just get a shot. Dr. Irwin injected a heavy tranquilizer first, and Riley soon was very comfortable and relaxed. Following that was the IV that Dr. Irwin compassionately and slowly injected, while comforting both Riley and me.

I knew it was God's will, and although I slowly mourn the absence of Riley from my life, I am so blessed to have had him for many years.

How do you thank this wonderful clinic staff for the years of care when Riley needed it, and the expertise and gentleness he provided?

Today he received a lovely sympathy card from office, hand-signed by the staff and Dr. Jeff Irwin. May God Bless!

With thankfulness and extreme appreciation.

Lynda Hamer
Wauna

(From Beal, Page 6)

be repaired if anything went wrong. But his new gun needed to be a performer and be better than any design that would come up against it.

Browning knew that the only way for his design to catch on would be to win military opinion, overwhelmingly. The U.S. Army first started moving toward a new sidearm in 1902 and the Army brass wanted a .38 caliber weapon, but due to the dismal failure of this caliber during the Philippine-American War, it was decided a much larger caliber was needed.

Browning went to work on his first prototypes and after much testing and redesigning, the final prototype was ready for military trials.

Browning's gun won the military trials, tested for accuracy, ease of operation, knockdown power and most importantly, reliability.

The Browning designed Colt Firearms pistol was adopted on March 29, 1911 (now you see where it got its name from).

This design was modified slightly in 1924, but basically unchanged, it served our military until it was officially replaced in 1985. Although some units, mostly Special Forces branches, continued to use it and still do to this day.

Cecil Beal has been involved with firearms through business and collecting most of his life. He can be reached at crnabeal@hotmail.com.

(From Allen, Page 6)

Reading aloud to your children can also establish a valued family tradition.

Children learn about what we value by watching what we do more than by listening to what we say. And what our children learn will someday become lasting, cherished memories.

Deborah Allen is a teacher and librarian, and she enjoys reading to children all the time. She can be reached at windmeadow-farm@gmail.com.

WONDERS OF SPRING

Blooming Beauties

ORNAMENTAL TREES - Plums, cherries, magnolias

SHRUBS - Rhododendrons, lilac, kerria, viburniums

PERENNIALS - ANNUALS



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Class fee \$40

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Key Peninsula post offices get new postmasters

By Rick Sorrels, KP News

There are new postmasters at all three of the post offices located on the Key Peninsula.

Due to a large number of recent closures and consolidations throughout the postal system, the U.S. Postal Service offered retirement incentives to its employees. Two of the KP postmasters retired, the third transferred.

Wauna Post Office

After two years as postmaster, Dawn Lui transferred from Wauna to the Yelm post office, which is much closer to her home in Olympia.

Shima Garrison became the Wauna postmaster in October 2012. She has worked for the Postal Service for 22 years, starting in Federal Way in 1991, followed by Belfair, Olalla, Fox Island and Wauna, before serving as postmaster in Kapowsin, Suquamish and now Wauna.

Garrison was a hairdresser in Lake-

wood for 15 years before joining the U.S. Postal Service. She has lived in Wauna for the past eight years.

Garrison is married with two kids. Her daughter graduated from Gig Harbor High School and her son attends Peninsula, where he plays football.

Garrison loves working close to home on the KP and hopes to stay five to 10 years until she retires.

Vaughn Post office

Joanne Clark retired after 26 years of service. She was a permanent fixture on the KP, with 23 years at the Vaughn post office. She will continue to reside in the Olalla area.

Lee Humphries started his new job as



Shima Garrison



Lee Humphries



Brian Ireland

located in Tacoma) as well as being a supervisor at the Gig Harbor post office. This is his first appointment as a postmaster.

Humphries and his wife live in Silverdale.

Lakebay Post Office

Steve Jorgenson retired from his position as the Lakebay postmaster after more than 30 years with the U.S. Postal Service.

Brian Ireland replaced him in July 2012.

Ireland was born in Shelton and has spent his entire life in Western Washington. He worked in the grocery business for 11 years before landing a job with the U.S. Postal Service.

Ireland has 15 years on the job, having served at Raymond, Shelton and Bremerton.

He lives on an active farm on Harstine Island with his four children and his wife who manages the farm.

the Vaughn postmaster in January 2013.

Humphries enlisted in the U.S. Navy at the age of 18 and served as a communications specialist "all over the Western Pacific" until he retired in 1995. He then worked with the 911 system in Kitsap County until he joined the Postal Service in 1997.

Since then, Humphries has worked in the Regional Distribution Center, the Central Carrier Facility, the Area Safety Office and the Evergreen station (all

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For details, visit www.kpciviccenter.org or call 253-884-3456

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KP SCHOOLBUS CONNECTIONS

Driving the Key Peninsula Forward

Camp Seymour dining hall set to open April 29

By Michelle M. Mondeck, KP News

Last month, during a tour of Camp Seymour, Executive Director Liz Ortenberger explained the need for the new dining hall under construction, and passed along good insight to all present about what the popular YMCA camp is all about.

According to Ortenberger, the 160-acre property was founded in 1905 by W. W. Seymour.

Seymour donated his property to the Y as a summer camp after a small group of kids came as guests. Ortenberger said Camp Seymour has evolved in a very positive way ever since. In 1995, there were about 5,500 registered campers, and in 2012, the numbers jumped up to 13,000.

The camp is open yearlong and is staffed with naturalist and marine biologists who teach O. E. E. curriculum (outdoor environmental education) nine months out of the year, providing educational resources for local school children and campers, she said.

"The old dining hall was built back in

1922 and was not big enough to accommodate the growing number of campers, so we are expanding," Ortenberger said.

Seymour is a "Life Machine," a system that teaches how the process of recycling works. "Recycling is something we were sure to incorporate in the new dining hall," she said.

According to Ortenberger, the building is super-efficient, making Camp Seymour as green as possible. The new kitchen has low energy (using) appliances, heated floors a propane fireplace and is as green as they could afford to build it.

Camp Seymour also sports a highly-efficient on-site sewer filtration system that produces no wastewater. The camp uses recycled water to hydrate upper fields in the summertime, saving on costs, conserving water and helping to protect the environment, Ortenberger added.

She said the new dining hall will also include a trading post, lobby and informal gathering spot.

The new dining hall construction is almost finished. The facility includes a



Photo by Michelle M. Mondeck, KP News

Camp Seymour Executive Director Liz Ortenberger tours the Key Peninsula property last month. Construction of the new Y dining hall and covered amphitheater should be completed this month.

covered amphitheater to shelter campers from rainy nights.

"It will be nice to see families being able to sit and engage with one another. So few families have the chance to do that anymore," Ortenberger said.

The dining hall will be dedicated and named "The Dally Family Dining Hall."

"The amphitheater is to be dedicated to Charlie and Theresa Walters for their thoughtful and generous contributions

to the \$4.5 million project," Ortenberger said.

The building's front walk will be paved with bricks, engraved with the names of donors who contributed to the new development.

"We appreciate our donors and this is a nice commemorative way to show it," she said.

For information call (253)884-3392 or visit campseymour.org.



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The Mustard Seed Project

Building an Elder-Friendly Key Peninsula

April Third Thursday Community Forum

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- Add YOUR voice to this very important conversation!
- Facilitated planning session with Pierce County Staff



Thursday, April 18, 10 a.m. - noon

We'll Meet at Key Peninsula Community Services
17015 9th St KP N, Lakebay

Free Transportation available Call 884-9814 for details
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More Mustard Seed Project Programs:

<p>KP Senior Ride Program Door-to-door Transportation for Seniors and Disabled Adults</p>	<p>Key Senior Information Center Free, confidential Information & Referral for Seniors & their Families</p>
--	--

Call 253-884-9814 Visit our website: www.themustardseedproject.org

Coalition formed to address teen suicide prevention

By Scott Turner, KP News

Sue Eastgard is leading a grass-roots coalition of community volunteers, educators and anyone else who's interested in preventing teen suicide.

Eastgard, the founder and former Washington State Youth Suicide Prevention Program director, was invited by the Peninsula School District to put together the coalition last August and has been collecting data from residents of the Key Peninsula and Gig Harbor to find out what problems exist, what's being done and what should be done.

The coalition "isn't just school people," Eastgard said. "It covers quite a variety of people, some from the Key Peninsula and some from Gig Harbor. The focus is Gig Harbor and the Peninsula."

The group meets at the Boys and Girls Club in Gig Harbor.

Eastgard began by obtaining data from a "Healthy Youth" survey done by the Pierce County Health Department and other state agencies.

The survey contains information relating to teens and young adults who have died by

suicide. Eastgard extrapolated the numbers that relate to Gig Harbor and KP.

"The data that is relevant is the number of kids who identify that they felt depressed or sad," Eastgard said. "The numbers of kids who have made a suicide attempt, the number of kids that felt they didn't have an adult that they could go to when they were concerned about themselves or someone else."

She found that the Peninsula and Gig Harbor have very similar data to other parts of the state.

"Whether you live in Key Peninsula, Gig Harbor, Seattle or Spokane, there are a lot of depressed kids who are thinking about and who have attempted suicide, and don't feel like they have an adult they can go to. So this area isn't any worse than anywhere else, but it's tripling like it is in every other place," she said.

According to Eastgard, a large number of youngsters are depressed and not diagnosed.

"And if they are diagnosed, they are not adequately treated," she said. "Some of that has to do with some of the barriers to get-

ting mental healthcare," she said.

One of the issues Eastgard and her coalition are investigating is what to do about this problem of suicide that's appropriate and relevant to our community.

"We're not coming in to solve the problem, we're trying to find out what the barriers are to solving the problem.

"We want to identify the community in-

terest in addressing the problem and some specific action about what to do about the problem of depressed and suicidal kids in our community," Eastgard said.

The coalition is now moving toward gathering data through focus groups. The next meeting is at 9 a.m., May 2, at the Hope Center in Gig Harbor. For information, contact Eastgard at sueeastgard@comcast.net.

KP Toastmasters to host open house

The Key Peninsula Toastmasters will hold an open house at 7 p.m., April 9, in the Key Center Library's Brones room — also known as "the center of the universe," according to William Michael Paul, Toastmaster's District 32 governor.

Since he joined, membership of the KP Toastmaster group has increased to 20 members.

It has also received first-time recognition as a "Distinguished Club," meaning that five of 10 criteria are met and maintained (toastmasters.wikia.com/wiki/Distinguished_Club_Program) during

the course of a year.

Paul was named Toastmaster of the Year at the 2012 fall conference in Division B, District 32, which is comprised of more than 80 clubs from Port Angeles to Centralia.

Paul said he joined the club to hone his acting craft and to inspire and motivate others to become better public speakers.

The local group was founded by Frank Shirley and Ann Campy about six years ago. They meet Thursday mornings at 8 a.m., Key Center Library.

For information, call (253) 740-7891.

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The Mustard Seed Project moves

KP News staff report

The Mustard Seed Project of Key Peninsula recently relocated to a new, permanent location at the Key Center Corral on the Key Peninsula Highway.

The office is located in the plaza corner between the barber shop and Goin' Postal.

"It just feels more open and connected to the community we serve," Executive Director Morgan said.

She said 2013 has been like a fresh start for the Mustard Seed, with renewed energy, new staff and a new location that houses a Key Senior Information Center desk, transportation services and more.

Recently, the organization hired Robyn Readwin, project assistant, and Chris Morris, volunteer coordinator.

Readwin works half-time scheduling rides and drivers for the Key Peninsula senior rides program. Morris works 15 hours a week and brings 26 years of experience advocating for people with disabilities and seniors, allowing them to stay in their homes.

Amanda Walston has transitioned to program administration, working on data collection and reports for grant writing.

"We're already better able to serve the community because of them," Morgan said.

According to Morgan, the work of The Mustard Seed Project is to build an elder-friendly Key Peninsula by assuring that a full continuum of services and programs is available and affordable, and allows community members to "age in place" with dignity, respect, self-determination and safety.

A rollout of a community volunteer network is underway and the Mustard Seed Project is looking for people interested in providing in-home friendly visits, light housekeeping, chores and light garden/yard work, as well as for those who need such services.

Friday socials are being planned to invite the community to learn more about the programs and an open house will be held later this spring.

For information, call (253) 884-9814.

New KP endowment fund established

The creation of an endowment fund has been discussed for many years at the Key Peninsula Civic Center.

Those with an interest in sustaining the operations of the center and those who plan their giving now have an official vehicle to do so.

In November 2012, the center's association past presidents voted to transfer their entire treasury (about \$13,000) as seed money and the KPCCA Board of Directors voted to set up an endowment fund with the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation (GTCF).

In operation for decades and managing millions of dollars in similar funds, the GTCF protects and secures the investment, with only the interest earned being available to the center.

Contributions to the KPCCA Endowment Fund can be made through the civic center or directly to the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation.

"A few (members) of our KP community expressed an interest in placing the civic center in their personal giving programs if the center would create an official and professionally managed endowment fund," said Bruce Macdonald, a KPCCA past president. "I think it is important to promote it as much as possible."

For information, call 884-3456 or 884-2955.



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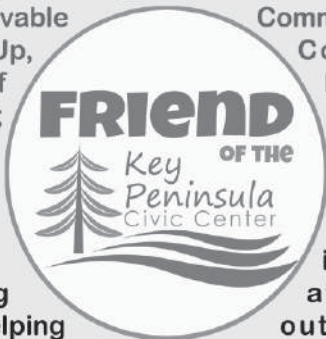
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The Key Peninsula Civic Center is a private, non-profit organization. We do -not- receive any funding from local taxes or government. The funds we need to keep the doors open come from facility rentals, fundraising events, donations, and grants. Annual events like the Crab Feed, Livable Community Fair, and Winter Warm Up, and Flavor of Fundraisers; from these towards the operational



Community Fair, and Comedy Night, Fall, are all the proceeds events goes Key Pen CC's budget.

If you are volunteering events, or helping at one of our out around the center from time to time, please join our "Friends of the Key Peninsula Civic Center" network, to register yourself for upcoming opportunities. THANK YOU!

Register online:
<http://bit.ly/FriendsOfKPCivicCenter>

WWW.KPCIVICCENTER.ORG • 253-884-3456

COMMUNITY PAGES

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

NOW

GED classes

Key Peninsula residents are able to complete a basic skills education for college entrance, employment skills, or a GED. Class meets Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the Home fire station. Evening classes (6 to 8 p.m.) are available at the TCC Gig Harbor Campus. Enroll any time. For detailed class information, registration and orientation call Tracy Clark, (253) 460-2356.

APRIL 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Bloodmobile dates

The bloodmobile is at Albertson's from 11:30 a.m.-6 p.m.

APRIL 2, 9, 16, 23

Play time

Baby play/learn time, for 0-24 months, is at 10:15 a.m. followed by preschool block play, for children 3-7 years, at 11 a.m. Both are at the KC Library, (253) 543-3309.

APRIL 3, 10, 17, 24

Family story time

Family story time, for families with preschoolers, is from 11-11:30 a.m. at the KC Library, (253) 543-3309.

APRIL 4

DSHS Mobile Office

The mobile CSO unit staffed by financial workers to help complete cash, food, medical interviews, issue EBT cards and receive documents is at the KP Community Services from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. 884-4440.

Fuchsia club meets

The Lakebay Fuchsia Club meets at 7 p.m. at the KC Library. Ginnie, 884-9744.

APRIL 4 and 18

Senior shopping

The senior van meets at the KP Community Services at 9 a.m. and returns

between 3-5 p.m. and gives seniors an opportunity to get grocery shopping and any scheduled Gig Harbor doctor's appointments. Also included is a "Dutch" lunch. 884-4440.

APRIL 5, 12, 19, 26

Skate night

Geared for kids 5-13, skate night is held from 5:30-8-30 p.m. at the KP Civic Center. This is a safe place with roller skating, arcade games and concessions. Parents are welcome to attend and visit with others on the observation balcony. Kpciviccenter.org or 884-3456.

APRIL 9 and 24

Knit or crochet

Loving Hearts voluntarily knit and crochet hats for chemo patients and the backpack program for kids, baby items and blankets, wheelchair/walker bags, and fingerless gloves for veterans in the community. They meet from 1- 3 p.m. on 4/9 and 7-9 p.m. on 4/24. Donations of yarn and needles are always welcome. Virginia, 884-9619 or lovingheartsonkp@aol.com.

APRIL 10

Bayshore Garden Club

The Bayshore Garden Club meets at 1 p.m. at the Longbranch fire station. Francine, (253) 569-1381.

APRIL 11

Ashes meet

The Ashes support group for FD 16 meets at 10:30 a.m. at the KC fire station. 884-3771.

APRIL 11 and 25

Key free clinic

Non-emergency medical care for residents without any medical insurance is provided from 5:30-8 p.m. 884-4440.

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.

APRIL 17

KP land use advisory commission

There will be a 6:30 p.m. commission meeting at the KC Library. Permitting issues with Pete's Towing will be on the agenda. The public is encouraged to attend.

APRIL 18

Third Thursday forum

The Mustard Seed presents their community forum at 10 a.m. at the KC fire station. 884-1205.

Hemingway movie shown

The Friends of the Key Center Library present a free movie and discussion at 7 p.m. at the library. The movie is "The Sun also Rises." Three more movies will be shown in May. Contributions to the food bank are welcome. (253) 543-3309.

Words & Wine

Words & Wine is free and held at 7 p.m. at Blend Wine Shop by the Watermark Writers. Jerry, (253) 778-6559.

APRIL 20

Parks appreciation day

Families and individuals may volunteer at Rocky Creek Conservation Area, Home Park, Maple Hollow, 360 Property or KP Civic Center from 9 a.m.-noon. Wear appropriate clothes/shoes for the weather and work and bring gloves and shears, loppers, pruners, rakes, shovels, mattocks/polaskis with your name on the tools. Smiles, enthusiasm, and appreciation for the parks are required. A hot dog lunch is provided at noon at the KP LDS Church. Large groups

or organizations should contact KP Parks for instructions. 884-9240 or keypenparks.com.

KP Council meeting

Pierce County Executive Pat McCarthy will be available for questions after an update on county activities. The council meets the second Wednesday each month at 7 p.m. in the Key Center fire station meeting room.

APRIL 21

Third Sunday jam

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

APRIL 26

Club Cosmic

Club Cosmic, for teens grades 8-12, is held from 9 p.m.-12 a.m. Group games & activities, DJ battles, arcade games in the Whitmore Room and concessions are offered; all for \$5. Kpciviccenter.org or 884-3456.

APRIL 17 and 28

Fishermen's events

The KP Sportsmen's Club hosts its annual all-you-can-eat breakfast (pancakes, ham, eggs, juice & coffee) from 7:30 a.m. - noon on Sunday at its clubhouse on Jackson Lake Road; cost is \$6 (under 6 free.) The annual yard sale is on Saturday from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sunday from 7:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Proceeds benefit the youth of the KP and the KP Community Services Food Bank and Senior Center. Bill, 884-2655.

APRIL 30

Block play

Children ages 3-7 develop math and science skills while playing with blocks at 11 a.m. at the KC Library. All that's needed is imagination. No registration required. (253) 543-3309.

WEEKLY EVENTS

MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS, FRIDAYS

Open walk

Get some exercise from 9-11 a.m. this spring in the gym in the KP Civic Center and meet new friends. Open to all ages; families welcome. \$2 suggested donation. 884-3456.

Senior exercise class

The S.A.I.L. program, taught by Marilyn Perks, includes aerobics, light weight lifting, stretching and balance techniques and is held from 10-11 a.m. at the KP Community Services in Lakebay. Participants MUST register with Marilyn, 884-4440.

TUESDAYS

TOPS #1325

Take-Off Pounds Sensibly meets at 9 a.m. at the Key Peninsula Lutheran Church. Free child care, fun and support are provided. 884-2554.

Key Singers

Key Singers meet at Key Peninsula Lutheran Church, from 7 - 8:30 p.m. New members welcome. Key Singers are singing show tunes for May concert. 884-5615.

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS

Preschool play time

The Children's Home Society KP Family Resource Center offers a preschool/toddler indoor park program from 9:30-11:30 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. 884-5433.

Senior tai chi club

Senior tai chi is held from 10-11 a.m. at the KP Community Services in Lakebay. 884-4440.

WEDNESDAYS

Lakebay Writers

The Lakebay Writers meet from 1-4 p.m. at the Blend in Key Center. 884-3931.

Watermark Writers

The Watermark Writers present a

free writer's workshop from 5-8 p.m. in Vaughn. 253-778-6559.

WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS

Senior meals

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

THURSDAYS

Senior Society

The Key Peninsula Senior Society meets at 11:30 a.m. for a potluck, fellowship and games in the Whitmore Room at the KP Civic Center. All are welcome. 884-4981.

Toastmasters

The Toastmasters meet from 8-9 a.m. at the KC Library. Join the fun and

improve your speaking ability. Toastmasters International is the most efficient, enjoyable way of developing great communication skills. Infor at <http://3409.toastmastersclubs.org> or (253) 740-7891.

Bingo

Free Bingo is held at the KP Community Services beginning at 7 p.m. 884-4440.

THURSDAYS & SATURDAYS

Logging display

A new logging display, "Tall Trees, Tall Men, Tall Tales" is open at the Key Peninsula Historical Society Museum from 1-4 p.m. or by appointment. Free admission; money donations appreciated. 884-2511 or 884-5403.

SATURDAYS

Writers' Guild

The Writers' Guild meets from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the KC Library. 884-6455.

381-3311.

APRIL 6, 13, 20, 27

Farmers market

The Gig Harbor farmers market at Uptown is open from 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturdays.

APRIL 13

Museum exhibition opens

The Harbor History Museum will show "Savage Ancient Seas" until July 14. When dinosaurs ruled the land, sea monsters ruled the "savage ancient seas." This is a custom traveling exhibit from embedded EXHIBITIONS never before on exhibit in the Pacific Northwest. Fossils casts, 45-foot long hanging from the ceiling, a gigantic shark jaw, touch stations, video kiosks and more are included. The museum is open Tuesday-Saturday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. harborhistorymuseum.org or 858-6722.

APRIL 19 to MAY 5

Play presented

"Steel Magnolias" is presented on weekends at Paradise Theatre. Paradise-theatre.org or (253) 851-7529.

OFF THE KEY

APRIL 3

Community conversation

The Gig Harbor Welcome Club and Humanities Washington host a free engaging conversation with Frank Cramer, who will discuss "One Trail, Many Voices: Songs of the Oregon Trail," at 11:30 a.m. at St. Anthony's Restaurant. Joann Hale, (360) 329-7419 or humanities.org/calendar-events.

APRIL 3, 7, 10, 14, 17, 21, 24, 28

Farmers market

The farmers market at Skansie Brothers Park is open on Wednesdays and Sundays.

APRIL 5-7

BirdFest

The Olympic Peninsula holds its annual BirdFest in Sequim. Information at olympicbirdfest.org or (360) 681-4076.

APRIL 6

Fox Island market

The Fox Island Market is open 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Nichols Community Center and features dozens of local artists. (253)

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Key Peninsula Veterans

April 1 and 15, 7 p.m. at KP Civic Center; www.kpveterans.net

KP Lions' dinner and program

April 3 and 17, 5:30 p.m. in VFW Room, KP Civic Center; 853-2721

Peninsula School District Board

April 4 at 6 p.m. at district office

Key Pen Parks

April 8, at 7 p.m. at Volunteer Park; keypenparks.com

KP Community Fair Association

April 9, 6 p.m. in Roadhouse Restaurant VIP room; www.keyfair.org

KeyFest

April 9, at 6 p.m. at Roadhouse; president@keyfest.org

Fire District 16

April 9 and 23, 6 p.m. in meeting room, Key Center fire station; www.keypeninsulafire.org.

Key Peninsula Community Council

April 10, 7 p.m. at KC Fire Station; features Pat McCarthy, Pierce County Executive; www.kpcouncil.org.

KP Civic Center Assn. Board

April 11, at 7 p.m. in Whitmore Room; www.kpciviccenter.org

LIC

April 17, dessert potluck at 6:30 p.m. at Longbranch Improvement Club; 884-6022 www.longbranchimprovementclub.org

KP Citizens Against Crime

April 18, 7 p.m. at Home Fire Station; www.kpcitizensagainstrime.org

KP Farm Council

April 22, 6:30 p.m. at Key Center Fire Station; dwebsterkp@gmail.com

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Vaughn Elementary recognized as 'High Progress School'

By Colleen Slater, KP News

Vaughn Elementary has been identified as a Reward (High Progress) school for 2013-2014 by the Washington State Superintendent of Public Instruction office.

The determination of the selection was based on the Title I school's performance over a three-year period for reading and math scores.

Vaughn ranks in the top 10 percent of Title I schools for their scores in those subjects.

"I am incredibly proud of our hard-working students and staff who have helped Vaughn earn this recognition," said Principal Susan O'Leary. She attributes the recognition to the hard and focused work of students, staff and volunteers.

Vaughn has a comprehensive program with Communities in Schools of Peninsula and many volunteer mentors for students.

"I am very proud of Vaughn's students and staff. Together we have made great progress and it is nice to be recognized," said Lisa Selfors, Title I teacher.

Vaughn is a school wide Title I school, meaning the staff provides intervention help for any student identified as needing

assistance in reading and math.

The Vaughn Intervention Team (VIT) includes O'Leary, Lisa Selfors, Laurel Young, classroom teachers and classified staff. They meet three or four times a year to discuss how students are doing, checking test scores, identifying deficiencies and providing a course of action where needed.

Forty-five states, including Washington, the District of Columbia, four territories and the Department of Defense Education Activity all teach to the Common Core State Standards for K-12 in math and language arts. These standards require a practical, real-life application of knowledge that prepares students for success in college, work and life.

A focus on understanding over memorization, consistent learning expectations for all students, and emphasis on critical topics students need for success beyond high school are part of the common core.

O'Leary said that when "stakeholders" have an interest in what's going on, they are willing to work together to achieve goals. She identifies the Vaughn Elementary stakeholders as staff, students and volunteers in the school.

The Voice of the Key Peninsula

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Two Waters Arts Alliance brings the arts to KP schools

By Scott Turner, KP News

For the past 12 years, Two Waters Arts Alliance (TWAA) has been bringing hands-on art experiences to Key Peninsula school kids.

TWAA's Artists in Schools program (AIS) has art activities set up in four local schools — KP Middle School and Minter, Vaughn and Evergreen elementary schools.

According to Program Director Lauren Littleton, AIS has a three-fold emphasis.

"Number one is enriching the curriculum through art. We bring professional artists into the classrooms and partner them with the teachers. We might teach a history lesson through music, or we might do a science lesson that has an arts project about bugs," Littleton said.

AIS offerings also include drama, painting, sculpture and "any different medium that we can get in to enrich that curriculum through art," she said.

Littleton cited a drama experience that Kathleen McGilliard recently brought to Evergreen.

"She was there for eight weeks. She'd take a play about a historical time — the Boston Tea Party or Paul Revere, for example — and she'd have the kids act out the scene, so they were learning about the history and they're also becoming the characters," she said.

"What we're doing at Evergreen is a 'readers theater,'" McGilliard said. "It's a little different than traditional theater on stage. It doesn't require staging or props or costumes."

"Working with the kids once a week lets them bring a script alive with their voices, with inflection and how they color their words. It really builds confidence and it builds team play, working together. It teaches them how to make words come to life, rather than just speaking with a dull, monotone voice."

McGilliard said that Gig Harbor schools have "all kinds of programs and all sort of opportunities. Out here, those opportunities don't arise as much. If it weren't for Two Waters, I wouldn't be able to do this with these kids."

Evergreen fifth-grade teacher Jim Inglebritson agreed. He loves teaching his students history and has worked with McGilliard and TWAA for years.

Spring Fling Information

Two Waters Arts Alliance presents the annual Spring Fling fundraising event Saturday, Apr. 6, 7 p.m. at Key Peninsula Civic Center. Tickets are available at the door and in advance at Sunnycrest Nursery and Blend Wine Shop. For information visit twowaters.org.

"Two Waters is a wonderful organization," Inglebritson said. "It gives classrooms the opportunities to have artists like Kathy come in and give children something I couldn't give them."

"She takes the patriots in Boston and she brings it alive so the students can understand the pressures and the causes of the war. It's very powerful," he said.

The second AIS program is a weekly after-school art class at KPMS. "It's every Tuesday from 3-4:30 p.m.," Littleton said. "We bring a local artist for a four week session and we expose the kids to painting, pottery, weaving, printing and mask-making. It's totally free to the kids."

The third part of AIS is what Littleton calls special projects. "We might get a larger amount of grant money than we normally have. Then I look for larger assembly type programs to bring into the schools. And I might go outside of the Peninsula to find artists for those," she said.

Last fall, for example, Littleton brought the Book-It Repertory Theater from Seattle to do a play about bullying in the three local elementary schools.

Currently, she said, she's working on bringing the Bottom Line Duo to present a program about the history of modern music. "It will teach the kids about how chamber music relates to the music we hear today. It's a comedic, entertaining kind of thing. Hopefully I'll have that one by the end of May," she said.

Littleton emphasized that an important aspect of the AIS programs is that they're totally free and the artists are paid for their time in the classrooms.

"We get our money through grants and through our one big fundraiser — the Spring Fling, which is happening Apr. 6,"



Photo by Scott Turner, KP news

Kathleen McGilliard enjoys a moment with students Cathan Corrigan and Kaitlyn Wortman during a recent drama class, as part of the Two Waters Arts Alliance program at Evergreen Elementary School.

she said.

"What we do is a big deal, especially in this economy, because one of the first programs that's cut in our schools is art,"

Littleton said. "We're supporting our local artists and our local economy. And we're supporting our teachers and the kids. It's totally a win-win for everybody."



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Annual trike-a-thon pedals in need of funds for area preschool

By Scott Turner, KP News

The Key Peninsula Civic Center is always abuzz with activities, but last month the landmark facility was overtaken by a pack of bikers who caused quite a ruckus.

On March 9, the Key Peninsula Cooperative Preschool held its second-annual trike-a-thon fundraiser.

More than 50 students and their siblings circled the gymnasium floor in a counter-clockwise, tricycle free-for-all — dizzy with delight.

Parents and family surrounded the parquet track, snapping pictures and rolling video as youngsters enjoyed the non competitive action, unaware they were pedaling-in more than \$4,000 for their popular preschool.

Teacher/coordinator Kim George said she was thankful for all the sponsors and area businesses who donated funds and auction items to their second annual event.

The preschool has been serving the needs of area 3- to 5-year-olds for about 25 years. It operates under the umbrella



Key Peninsula Cooperative's Kaitlyn DeWitt, left, Lee Gjertson and Mason Hamilton lead a pack of fellow students around the Key Peninsula Civic Center last month, during their annual fundraiser event.

Photo by Scott Turner, KP News

of Bates Technical College and has campuses at Evergreen and Vaughn elementary schools, George said.

"A cooperative preschool is where the parents learn with their children. Parents volunteer in the classroom two-to-three

times a month.

"It's great. It's early learning, early education to get children ready for kindergarten," George said.

The whine of the stout, brightly-colored trikes filled the old gym. There were rolling high-fives, some soft crashes, kids riding trikes for two and smiles everywhere among the semi-controlled mayhem.

"We are having fun riding with our friends and raising money for our school," Cheyenne Pecotte said.

Cedar Halvorsen stopped zooming around on a two-person trike long enough to spot a buddy.

"I'm just racing around, and I really love riding these double-decker bikes," Halvorsen said, smiling.

George said the kids rode for about an hour and had a blast.

"It's not a race at all. This is just a way for us to have a fundraiser involving the children doing something fun, instead of selling wrapping paper and chocolate," she said.

For information, call at 884-5535 or visit keypeninsulapreschool.org.

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Local nursery offers some tips and planting advice

By Rick Sorrels, KP News

Victory Gardens were popular during WWII when everything was scarce and rationing was enforced.

“With ever-rising food prices and today’s shrinking pocketbooks, growing your own food has made a comeback, big time,” said Dale Loy, who owns Sunnycrest Nursery and Floral along with his wife Claudia. “Growing your own food also provides a means to control our exposure to the vast number of chemicals in our food system.”

Many new gardeners, however, have never lived on a farm or developed the proverbial “green thumb,” and can find only limited guidance among the mass-produced seeds and starts at the big box stores.

Answers and quality plants can be found at the family-run store, located in downtown Key Center.

“My first jobs back in junior high were weeding yards,” said Dale Loy. “I’ve always worked with plants. When Claudia and I bought the small existing nursery in 1981, it was learn or die.”

He said he studied a complete 12-volume encyclopedia set dedicated to gardening and nurseries.

In 1983, they built their new building, which still exists and continues to be a profitable business.

Sunnycrest sells everything garden-related, from seeds to bulbs, shrubs, bushes and trees; from pots and planters to organic fertilizers, soils and garden tools; and from bird seed to pink flamingoes, gift items and whimsical stuff. They also arrange floral items for weddings, funerals, loved ones and the ever-important apology.

Loy loves plants and loves giving advice and tips on their best care, maintenance and use. He even has eight bonsai trees that are more than 20 years old.

According to Loy, popular plants this year include any food plant, the cross-bred dwarf hellebore from Holland, and the purple-leaved dwarf hydrangea. Sunnycrest has eight different grapes for wine or table, and can special-order anything available.

Loy said there are no firm rules in gardening, as Mother Nature has given us frost as late as June 12 in Key Center.

According to Loy, more sensitive plants either need to be started indoors, preferably with artificial lighting, or else wait until after the last frost. If you wait too long, then you risk not having a food crop or flowers that year, he said. Light and shade are also very important, with requirements varying for each type of plant.

For information, visit sunnycrestnursery.com.



Photo by Michelle M. Mondeck, KP News

Sunnycrest Nursery and Floral owner Dale Loy tends to some colored primroses at his Key Center garden shop.



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Photo by Scott Turner, KP News

Women's expert cyclist Marne Barrow, of Kirkland, rounds a bend during mountain bike racing action last month at the Key Pen Parks 360 Park.

Mountain bike racing comes to the KP

By Rick Sorrels, KP News

Wheels give people mobility and freedom; car wheels for teens, bicycle wheels for pre-teens and tweens.

Local roads and drivers can get scary, especially when vehicles and bikes mix. Where can children (young and old) ride safely? Try the 360 Park on SR-302 at 144th Street.

Wheels were spinning and muscles were pumping last month, as hundreds of bicyclists flocked to Key Peninsula's 360 Park for a day of safe family fun, competition

and camaraderie.

A series of mountain bike races were held at 360 Park on March 10. The three major divisions were beginners, sport (intermediate) and expert. Each division had sub-classes for age (under 18, 19-29, 30-39, 40-49 and more than 50), male or female, single or multi-speed and physically fit or "Clydesdale."

Bicycle racing brings to mind BMX (20-inch) bikes flying through the air at parks or stadiums. Mountain bikes are different. They are bigger (26-to 29-inch rims), heavier (up to 25 pounds), more gears (10

to 30) and are ridden more sedately, without tricks over paths on rough terrain with lots of natural obstacles and slopes and switch-backs.

Rory and Deanna Muller, through their business, BuDu Racing, have been developing bicycle racing events in Western Washington from Port Gamble and Seattle to Portland for the past 10 years. They ran 44 events last year between February and September. An associate, Courtland Capwell, volunteers to develop the race tracks.

(See **Bike**, Page 19)

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(From **Bike**, Page 18)

Capwell has invested more than 200 hours of his own sweat and tears to develop the Key Pen Parks' 360 Park to its current condition. He expects to invest another 200 to 400 hours before phase one is completed in 2014, and expects to complete an additional four-mile trail by February 2015, as phase two.

Trails are well marked, with numerous marked options for skill level. There are six to seven optional jumps where the riders can get about six feet of air, if they so choose. Those less bold have no difficulty staying firmly planted on the ground, organizers said.

The race course at the 360 Park is five and a half miles long. The beginners raced for one lap, the sports for two laps and the experts for three. "It's a real cardiovascular workout," Rory said.

Course times for the beginners varied from 27 to 54 minutes for the single lap. For sports, it was from 45 to 90 minutes for their two laps. The experts did the circuit from 59 to 90 minutes for their full three laps.

Of the 218 individuals who raced last month, 117 were between 30 and 49 years old. One participant traveled from Alaska.

The youngest beginner was age 6, and the oldest expert was a 70-year-old man from Auburn.

One of the expert riders was Donny Buchanan, 45, from Olalla, who has been racing for some 10 years.

Buchanan claims to have weighed 300 pounds when he started riding in 1999, dropping to 230 pounds in 2012 and to a trim 196 pounds today. He is racing on the Old Town Bicycle road race team in mountain bike and cyclocross events. Old Town has a bike shop in Gig Harbor.

Buchanan admits to being obsessive-compulsive about both his online business

Equestrian meeting coming

Key Pen Parks is organizing horse aficionados to help determine how best to develop the 360 Park for horse trails. The first meeting is set for 7:30 p.m. April 15, at the Key Pen Parks office at Volunteer Park. For information phone 884-9240, or email answers@keypenparks.com.

and his cycling, but his resting pulse rate is only 55 beats per minute and his body-fat ratio is very low.

"I am much healthier with cycling. I see very few physical ailments across my entire body," he said.

No injuries were reported at the recent race. Most racers are so fit that few were even breathing heavy at the finish line.

"Where else can you spend time with your child, outdoors, doing something good for you and it makes you feel like a kid again?" said Buchanan.

Key Pen Parks has been working closely with BuDu Racing as the Parks' first major improvement to the 360 Park. Park Commissioner Mark Michel got so involved that he raced as a beginner in the race held on March 3, at Fort Steilacoom. Michel moved up to sport class for the March 10 race on his home turf.

In addition to the race track, the 360 Park also has multi-use trails for walkers, cyclers and equestrians. The park district encourages users to read and comply with posted rules, especially who must yield to whom to keep riding as safe as possible.

To voice your opinion on how else to develop the 360 Park, visit keypenparks.com for a survey. For more about BuDu Racing and upcoming events visit buduracing.com.



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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1 Lamb's pen name
- 5 Knot lace
- 8 Maori seagoing canoe
- 12 Concentrated (abbr.)
- 13 Cheer
- 14 King killed by Samuel
- 15 Ger. exclamation
- 16 Malt liquor
- 17 Tibetan priest
- 18 Serpent worship
- 20 Helm
- 22 Old Irish counterfeit coin
- 23 Bustle
- 24 Marvel
- 28 Of the eye
- 32 One-spot
- 33 Tree
- 35 Amer. Cancer Society (abbr.)
- 36 Greek letter

DOWN

- 39 Arp
- 42 Camel hair cloth
- 44 Science class
- 45 Evaluate
- 48 Plant filament
- 52 Legume
- 53 Warp yarn
- 55 S.A. toucan
- 56 Geological epoch
- 57 No (Scot.)
- 58 Included (abbr.)
- 59 Jack-in-the-pulpit
- 60 Pub fare
- 61 Blind in falconry

Answers

1	L	E	E	S	E	A	L	E	A	D	V	A	R	A	D
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5	B	A	V	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B
6	S	I	S	I	V	D	A	V	D	A	M	V	G	A	M
7	A	C	O	S	E	L	E	M	E	L	E	A	C	E	V
8	C	I	O	P	T	I	C	O	E	L	E	M	I	R	A
9	O	P	O	A	D	O	A	D	O	H	A	P	H	A	P
10	R	E	R	L	L	E	R	I	S	M	I	S	O	H	I
11	A	M	A	L	E	L	E	L	E	L	E	H	O	H	O
12	A	G	A	G	A	G	A	G	A	G	A	G	A	G	A
13	W	A	K	A	T	A	T	A	T	A	T	A	T	A	T

- 1 Spoken alphabet letter
- 2 Circular turn
- 3 Move little by little
- 4 Canna plant
- 5 Tread
- 6 Mulberry of India

- 7 Greek letter
- 8 Smash
- 9 Bedouin headband cord
- 10 Ridge created by a glacier
- 11 Seaweed
- 19 Skin vesicle

- 21 Artificial language
- 24 Brit. halfpenny
- 25 Amazon tributary
- 26 Rapid eye movement (abbr.)
- 27 Ancient times
- 29 Jap. porgy
- 30 Science of (suf.)

- 31 Central standard time (abbr.)
- 34 Drone (2 words)
- 37 Bacchante
- 38 Absolute (abbr.)
- 40 Arabic letter
- 41 Fortification of felled trees
- 43 Hindu prayer position
- 45 Father; Hebrew
- 46 Caulerize
- 47 Room (Sp.)
- 49 Accent
- 50 Lo (Lat.)
- 51 Bun
- 54 Formal dance (Fr.)

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59					60		61			

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A5

15th Anniversary Open House



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KP Lutheran congregation celebrates 35 years

By Colleen Slater, KP News

How do you build a \$350,000 church for \$75,000?

The American Lutheran Church, responsible for "planting" the Key Peninsula Lutheran Church (KPLC), said it couldn't be done; but over the years, church members and friends gave time, money, labor and other resources, and it grew.

The church's 35th anniversary service will be held on Sunday, April 7. Activities and mission focuses have changed, and it has grown into a congregation well-known for extensive community outreach.

Pastor Edward Wagner made a door-knocking circuit around the Key Peninsula in 1977 to raise interest in organizing a Lutheran Church. "He was a big, jovial German. You just had to love him," said Kay Pinter, charter member.

Dedication and organization took place in April 1978. Wagner conducted services in the Key Peninsula Civic Center until they moved to the Lackey Road

building on Thanksgiving Day, 1983. "There was no sheetrock and it was cold," said Pinter of that year's Easter services in the unfinished building.

The original design put the pulpit on the east side of the sanctuary. The congregation realized it wouldn't work to face the morning sun. The pulpit has changed positions twice since then.

During church activities of the past, while the men worked the women often provided lunch.

Elsie Vezzani said a favorite congregation story lives on about women selecting items needed for the kitchen in the main building. At one time, a group of women wondered what size rug should go between the sink and counter. Nona Jorgenson stretched herself out on the floor and said: "I'm exactly five feet tall." The size was perfect, Vezzani said.

McColley Hall extended KPLC's ability to serve the community.

Ruth Matthews' neighbor, John Nederlee, inquired about the building progress one day.

Matthews told him, "We have a used

kitchen stove and an avocado refrigerator with 'Uff da' on it. We need a commercial kitchen, but don't have the resources."

"The next day, John met with Pastor Allen, took measurements and told the women to make up a list of everything they wanted. Within a week, a check arrived from the Geneva Foundation," Matthews said.

Nederlee remains one of the church's strong supporters, but many other non-members also volunteer and help with various programs. "This is our church home," said Pinter. "It's like inviting our neighbors in for a meal."

A memorable occasion for Pinter and Matthews was frying chicken for 100 people to celebrate the church's 10th anniversary. They did all the frying on Sunday morning, and were still occupied when services began.

"We don't have fried chicken on any menus anymore," Matthews said.

Some may call KPLC their "home

(See Church, Page 21)

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(From Church, Page 20)

church” without official membership, but that’s fine with the congregation involved in those programs, members say. Pinter and Matthews, currently the main kitchen coordinators, organized the community meal program in December 2004 after participating with other KP congregations involved with the Sunday I.M.Pact meals at the civic center.

McColley Hall became the first emergency shelter on the Key Peninsula, with provisions and training completed two weeks before it was put to use during the December 2006 windstorm. They served three meals a day for nine days to some 100 people, with a handful also sleeping over in the nursery. Volunteers, many non-members, came in to help with breakfast, lunch and cleanup.

Now, two breakfasts and a dinner are provided on specific Saturdays of each month.

Supplies and clothing for Evergreen Elementary School are collected, and members participate in the Family Resource Center’s Holiday Helper program at Christmastime.

Ross Bischoff once brought excess produce from his garden to share with the congregation. He took “leftovers” to the food bank the next day. This act of generosity eventually became the KPLC Food Pantry.

“If someone is in need, it’s taken care of. It’s not announced, it just happens,” Pinter said.

Somehow, someone with the right skills has always been available when a need arises.

Pinter, Matthews and Johnson stressed the camaraderie and joy always present with the various programs and tasks, including volunteers as well as church members.

“It’s enriching to have (extended) family,” Pinter said.

Charter KPLC members Ramona George, Julie Johnson, Del Leaf, Carol Bischoff Larson, Larry and Kay Pinter are all still active in the church.

KPLC’s mission statement expresses their attitude: “To the glory of God and empowered by His love and grace, we commit ourselves to spiritual growth and offer our resources to our neighbors.” And they have.

For information, visit kpluth.org.



Cook Ed Townsend ladles out one of his tasty Tuesday soups for visitors and staff at Key Peninsula Lutheran Church.

Photo by Colleen Slater, KP News

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Key Pen Parks' Pet Easter Treat Egg Hunt extravaganza

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

Despite an almost unending drizzle and some pretty serious rain, the fifth-annual Key Pen Parks' Pet Easter Treat Egg Hunt drew a sizable crowd.

Folks from as far away as Poulsbo and Olympia came to the KP's Volunteer Park trails in search of eggs filled with pet snacks.

Organizers said it took quite some time before the "gold" egg was located.

Participants gathered under whatever cover they could find to receive rewards for their pets' efforts for the day.

According to many, Key Pen Parks

Program Director Jessica Smeall and her staff did an excellent job making this another great event to launch in spring — however soggy it might have been.

Smeall was particularly proud of the job the Key Peninsula Middle School volunteers did in "helping to make the event the success it was."

Although only dogs and their caretakers were involved in the egg hunt, all sorts of pets were on hand strutting their stuff.

Robert Zollna of Port Orchard and Marble Gray of Gig Harbor represented Olympic Bird Fanciers, a group of individuals who share a passion for their feathered friends. They displayed

a caged Hyacinth parrot, "Kilija," a beautiful dark blue bird about 18 inches in length who performed gymnastics in the bird's "home of the moment."

Melissa Dowd, of Lakebay, was there with her son, Carter, her boyfriend, and 12-week-old pit bull, Perseus. She said she loved the event.

"It was great, not just for animals but for everyone. My puppy loved meeting all the kids and all the other pups. And my son got a big kick out of finding eggs and seeing the little girls all dressed up. This was one of the better events I've been to. My son and puppy even got to meet the Easter Bunny," Dowd said.

Adult spelling bee comes to Key

On April 18, Watermark Writers and Blend Wine Shop in Key Center will host the first-ever Adult Spelling Bee, with proceeds to benefit Watermark's annual Young Writers Program.

For a \$10 entry fee, players will test their spelling skills against a 1900 New Century Dictionary. If a word proves difficult, contestants can pay to call or ask a friend, pay for another try, or bribe a judge to have the spelling authenticated. To enter or find more information, call (253) 778-6559.

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Photo by Hugh McMillan, KP News

Mellissa Dowd, of Lakebay, introduces her son, Carter, 3, and her pit bull puppy, Perseus, to the Easter Bunny during the KP Parks Pet Easter Egg Hunt last month at Volunteer Park.

Where in the World...

Key Peninsula resident Jenny Balman took a copy of KP News with her to Portobelo, Panama, in November 2012. Here she poses by an old cannon at the ruins of a 1753 army.

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Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News

Coach Mat Michalke, right, and his Key Peninsula Little League team poses for a recent photo. This season, the Pen-Light Co.- sponsored players will get to experience live pitching action for their first time. Last year they all hit off a batting tee.



Photo by Hugh McMillan, KP News

On March 16, state Sen. Nathan Schlicher, above, and state Rep. Larry Seaquist (not pictured) held a public forum at Key Peninsula Lutheran Church. They provided a status report on the current session of the state Legislature and fielded questions from the floor. Some 20 citizens participated in the session.