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- Science made fun at Vaughn Elementary School
- Couple starts athletic endeavor in honor of daughter

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Inside

End of the rainbow is on the Key  
-- Page 24



News

News ..... 1-5, 9, 11

**Sections**

Op-Ed Views ..... 6-7

Citizen of the Year ..... 8-9

Community Pages ..... 12-13

Schools ..... 14

Community ..... 14, 17-21

Sports ..... 16

Poet's Corner ..... 21

Obituary Notices ..... 22

Out & About ..... 24

Neighbors step up to give back to a big KP giver

By Scott Turner, KP News

Ask her friends and family to describe Mindy Wilkins and they use words like "caring," "friendly," "giving."

"Mindy has one of the biggest hearts in the community," her friend Susan Mendenhall said. "Whenever she hears of someone in need, she immediately starts to galvanize the community and bring people together to help them. She's been doing this for years."

For instance, when Wilkins heard about the landslide in Oso, Washington, several years ago, she organized a bake sale and raised \$4,000 for the victims.

"She said it's a small community like ours and we should do something for them," Pamela Cumbie recalled.

Usually, though, Wilkins' focus is on the Key Peninsula.

In addition to an untold number of bake sales, Wilkins has also organized carwashes, rummage sales, giving trees and other activities to help people in need on the Key. She's also given free haircuts to many KP kids who couldn't afford to pay her.

"She'll go to the school counselor and find families on the free lunch program and cut the kids' hair for free, all the way up through high school," Mindy's husband Bob Wilkins, 68, said.

Now Mindy Wilkins herself needs help.

In April, she'll have major surgery to fix some internal problems and, at the same time, carpal tunnel surgery to repair her wrist that's painfully stiff from 30-plus years of — as she puts it — "doing hair" at her Cutter Bug shop.

And, in true Mindy spirit, she's not asking for help.

So her friends and family are doing what Wilkins, 51, so often does for others: they're organizing bake sales and raffles and other events to help pay the thousands of dollars of hospital bills she's facing.

For starters, her children have set up a GoFundMe account for her.

"Our mom is known for the countless charitable events she's supported and promoted over the years," her kids wrote on the GoFundMe page. "Now she needs

(See Mindy, Page 2)



Photo by Scott Turner, KP News  
Mindy Wilkins, Cutter Bug owner, stands in her Key Center shop door. The community is coming together to help support this woman, known for helping others.

Key Peninsula fire rating to affect homeowners

By Ted Olinger, KP News

The Key Peninsula Fire Department (KPPFD) will receive new fire protection class ratings effective May 1, resulting in insurance cost savings for most homeowners and increases or no change for others.

The Washington Survey and Rating Bureau (WSRB) examines the efficiency of fire districts all over the state every four years for insurance and other purposes. For the first time in 25 years, the WSRB has approved a fire protection class (FPC) rating increase for KPPFD from Class 6 to Class 5, according to Fire Chief Guy Allen.

"If your home is within five driving miles of a staffed fire station and you have a hydrant within 1,000 feet of your home, your insurance would reflect the best FPC rating of the fire district," he said.

The same home loses one grade if it is not within 1,000 feet of a hydrant. If the home is beyond five miles, the rating drops to 9, then 9A if it's beyond seven miles, Allen said.

"The way it works is your insurance on your home has an anniversary date. Say it's April; you miss a year," said Allen. "To get the benefit of the improved rating, call your agent or insurance company and push that change. Don't wait for the anniversary."

According to the WSRB, the district earned a higher rating due to their regular vehicle maintenance program with the Gig Harbor Fire and Medic One, improved documentation of equipment maintenance, improved local water systems, a new fire communication dispatch system, and the fire marshal's office business inspection program.

(See Rating, Page 3)

(From **Mindy**, Page 1)

your help."

With a \$6,500 deductible on her medical insurance and anticipated medical expenses of at least \$14,000, Wilkins and her husband Bob will be taking a big financial hit.

They've been tucking away a little bit of money every month to pay for the surgeries, but there's still a big deficit to make up for, plus the prospect of Wilkins being away from her shop for several months while she recovers.

"And even if I'm not in the shop cutting hair, I still have to pay rent," she said.

"This is hard for me. Your whole life can turn upside down in a single split second. I didn't ask for help, but people are kind of stepping up," she said.

Mendenhall is inviting others to join in with fundraisers of their own. "We hope more people in the community will want to spearhead their own events at a church or restaurant or local business," she said.

Even as friends and family are doing things to help her, in typical fashion Wilkins is putting togeth-

er a bake sale for somebody else in the community who needs help, Cumbie said. "She really doesn't want to take credit for stuff and she doesn't want to have her name out there. She likes to be in the background."

"This is all so embarrassing for me," Wilkins said. "I'm just not used to being on this side of it. I'm used to being the one who is giving. Not taking."

She's even thinking of her regular customers who'll miss her services for a couple of months. "While I'm gone from Cutter Bug, I would like for my clients to go to Nita at The Yankee Clipper or any of the ladies at Shear Magic," she said.

"It's really such an honor to be able to help Mindy," Cumbie said. "She has the biggest, most giving heart of anybody out here. She's one of the kindest people you'll ever meet."

"I really think she should be the Key Peninsula Citizen of the Year."

To donate to Mindy Wilkins' GoFundMe account, go to [gofundme.com/14nj9ngc](http://gofundme.com/14nj9ngc).

If you're interested in starting a fundraising event for Mindy, contact Sue Mendenhall on Facebook at Sue Freiker Mendenhall.

## Key Peninsula Historical Society adds March events

By KP News staff

The Key Peninsula Historical Society (KPHS) museum, located at the Key Peninsula Civic Center in Vaughn, plans an El Sombro-ro dinner for members and friends and all others interested March 7, 5-9 p.m.

El Sombroreto owners Cathy and Pablo contribute to the community by offering these evenings to local organizations as fundraisers. Ten percent of the dinner receipts during those hours will be given to KPHS for the museum.

The KPHS annual membership meeting, open to prospective members and interested friends, will be in the Whitmore Room at the civic center March 19, beginning at noon.

A brief meeting will include election of officers, with the main program being memories of Vaughn Library Hall, shared by many who enjoyed various activities there. A discussion and vote regarding acceptance of the library hall building and property as a gift to KPHS by the current owners will follow.

For information on these events, membership or the museum, call 888-3246.

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## KEY PENINSULA NEWS

[www.keypennews.com](http://www.keypennews.com)

Unsolicited submissions/leadline including press releases: 15th of each month prior to publication

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

Key Peninsula News is published monthly by the Key Peninsula News publishing board in Vaughn, Washington. The Key Peninsula Civic Center Association is the nonprofit parent organization. Copyright 2015 with all rights reserved. Reproduction of editorial or graphic contents in any manner without permission is prohibited. Annual subscriptions (12 issues) are available for \$30.00 and are mailed first class. Copies are mailed postpaid standard to residents and post office box holders of the Key Peninsula. Single copies are available at the newspaper office in the basement of the Civic Center annex and at various distribution points located on the Key Peninsula. Approximately 19,000 people live in the distribution area.

### STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP AND OPERATION OF THE KEY PENINSULA NEWS

1. THE KEY PENINSULA NEWS is a community newspaper, owned and published by the KEY PENINSULA CIVIC CENTER ASSOCIATION, a nonprofit, 501-c3 corporation with main offices in Vaughn, Washington. The name, goodwill and any copyright assets that may exist pertaining to the NEWS are among the financial assets of

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Production: Christina Hallock, Paige Nader  
Webmaster: Brett Higgins  
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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 First District 16.

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

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 e-mail to [news@keypennews.com](mailto:news@keypennews.com).



Photo courtesy Anne Nesbit

**Key Peninsula Fire Battalion Chief Sawaya and Lieutenant VanScoyk at work during a recent car fire drill in Key Center.**

(From Rating, Page 1)

But Herron Island and Longbranch will both receive Class 9 ratings due to lack of staff.

"Herron Island installed 43 brand-new hydrants a couple years ago," Allen said. "There isn't a home on Herron Island that's not within 1,000 feet of a hydrant, but their problem is they don't have a response out of their fire station so they don't gain any credit for that."

The fire department maintains a tender truck (a water hauler) on Herron Island but has no one to operate it.

"The solution is as simple as getting at least six people to step up and say I will volunteer. We have been out there twice in the last 18 months talking specifically about this issue ... and in both of those recruitment efforts we ended up with one applicant," said Allen. "They're not going to gain the positive result they could get come May just by having people step up and say I'll volunteer."

Allen said all they need are tender truck operators, not full-fledged firefighters who must undergo extensive training.

Longbranch faces a similar dilemma. "Longbranch is part of the Class 6 today," said Allen. "May 1 they will become a 9. At least at Longbranch we have four people on the books that live within five miles of that station."

Allen said a station is considered staffed if six firefighters live within five miles. Two district employees who will respond after hours live within five miles of the Longbranch station and there are two new volunteers, but they still need two more.

"The real shame is they (Herron Island and Longbranch) could go from a 9 to a 5 in the blink of an eye, which would save hundreds of dollars per homeowner every year. If you look at our last levy, we were asking to raise the tax burden on a property, I think it was going to affect a \$250,000 home by \$38 a year. And we're talking about if you pay \$500 a year in insurance today, and you go from a 5 to a 9, you're going to double your insurance bill. We need to go out there one more time at least and encourage them to join," Allen said.

For information, call (253) 884-2222.



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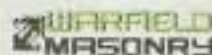
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## School levy passes by large margin

By Rick Sorrels, KP News

Voters approved the Peninsula School District Educational Programs and Operations Levy (EP&O) by 70 percent Feb. 9, replacing an existing maintenance and operations levy that expires later this year.

The current levy funds approximately 24 percent of the district's operating budget at a property tax rate of \$2.30 per \$1,000 for homeowners. The replacement levy has an estimated tax rate of \$2.19 per \$1,000 of property value for 2017 and is projected to decrease through 2020, according to the district.

This is the first win for Peninsula in three years. The district lost two elections for two levies and one bond since 2013 intended to fund operations, build a new school, and refurbish some existing campuses.

The EP&O replacement levy pay for half of the facilities and maintenance costs, one-third of all certi-

fied staff (teachers and administrators), one-half of all classified staff (janitors, nurses, librarians, para-educators), and some operational expenses.

Superintendent Chuck Cuzzetto profusely thanked the voters at the Feb. 11 school board meeting, saying, "We pledge to be smart, and spend the money wisely."

Peninsula has one of the lowest tax rates compared to other school districts, while achieving some of the highest student test scores and graduation rates in the state.

Funding for schools continues to be an issue in the Washington Legislature. The state Supreme Court ruled in 2012 the Legislature has failed in its "paramount duty" to fully fund schools as mandated by the state constitution. They also ruled that local levies have been improperly filling the gap.

According to Karen Andersen, the chief financial officer for Pen-

insula, "Our reserve fund is now only between \$7 to 8 million, which is a small fraction of a single year's \$99-million budget for the district. This levy vote was critical; we were facing serious cuts we could no longer avoid."

The court set 2018 as a deadline to fully fund all public schools in the state. They also found the Legislature in contempt for failing to meet interim deadlines and is fining the state \$100,000 a day until it does so.

"The Legislature does not have a good track record in resolving the problem," said Cuzzetto. "There is no guarantee that we will receive the full funding by the 2018 deadline."

The new levy runs until 2020 but contains a provision for reducing the existing tax rate before then, according to the ballot explanatory statement: "In the event that a program is implemented that would increase state funding to the district, the district would, therefore, review and determine the need to roll back the levies."

According to Andersen, "There are no plans for any other levy or bond ballot measures through 2018, but the population growth in the North Gig Harbor area and deteriorating condition of certain schools continue pressure to our schools for capital improvements."

Cuzzetto is retiring as superintendent June 30. The school board expects to select a successor before then.

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## Peninsula School District searches for new superintendent

By Sara Thompson, KP News

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### Selection of the Superintendent: Community Participation

Interviews of semifinalists at an all-day open public meeting

**When:** March 5

**Time:** 8:30 a.m.

**Where:** District office, 14015 62nd Ave. NW, Gig Harbor

Q & A with individual finalists

**When:** March 14, 15, 16

**Time:** 6 p.m.

**Where:** Henderson Bay High School, 8402 Skansie Ave., Gig Harbor, WA 98332

was critical; we were facing serious cuts we could no longer avoid."

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# Peninsula Views

## Key Peninsula News editor says goodbye

I have done many things as a journalist.

I have seen everything from vehicle and plane crashes, to gunshot victims, house fires, et cetera.

I have been to cancer wards, hospital beds and homes where hope and faith were all people had to hold on to.

I have written and photographed people at their best and at their worst, for some 25 years.

The one thing I have never done (until recently) is to have had the privilege of working in a community as supportive and real as the Key, with you and yours.

Being a monthly paper, we often get the opportunity to dig a little deeper and write a tad more. I have worked at a few other publications, but have never felt the support I have had working at the Key Peninsula News. Although we are a small nonprofit, we are only as mighty as our readers and advertisers. So, I thank you for that and will never forget what I have learned from you.

I am moving to Arizona next week and will miss my interactions with everyone on the Key Peninsula — as well as the folks living and working in Gig Harbor.

During my time as editor of the KP News, I have gotten to understand your concerns and have felt the strong pulse of the KP heart. This community is by far the most giving place I have ever encountered. People bend over backwards for each other, and do not mince words along the way.

Thank you for being my canvas for helping others, as well as sharing your news, views and advertising revenues. It's been awesome, and my pleasure.

Wouldn't be myself if I didn't thank my band of volunteer and paid staff for putting out a solid product people can still coddle in this electronic age.

To the KP News bookkeeper, advertising reps, distribution crew, designer and paginator, to the KP News Publishing Board and board members of the Key Peninsula Civic Center, I appreciate your trust and cohesive team effort.

The KP News Publishing Board has hired Ted Olinger to replace me as executive editor.

Olinger is a longtime freelance writer and editor who has made the Key his home since the early '00s. He has a knack for listening and understanding, and has a heart and talent (and team) for keeping you informed well into the future.

I can't wait to receive my first KP News subscription paper in the desert. It's going to be fun keeping tabs on my friends and businesses.



Scott Turner, editor

## Real food, in season: brussels sprouts

Off the top of your head, can you name what's in season right now?

When we enter a supermarket or a grocery store nowadays, we have access to anything at any time. The result is that most of us are hard pressed to say when things are pulled from the ground or off the trees.

Today, this knowledge — which was once a given, particularly to previous generations who did not have today's luxury of choice — is wavering. We are more and more disconnected from where our food comes from and when it grows.

In the United States, 87 percent of us fail to eat enough vegetables. To discuss seasonality then can seem like a moot point when our general efforts should be put into consuming more fruits and vegetables, no matter what the season and no matter where they come from. But we can charge ahead on both accounts, because having a better understanding of seasonality can also help us to eat better.

As we come out of winter and gently ease into warmer months, there is much to look forward to. Spring abundance will eventually lead to the glory of summer, full of fresh fruits, berries and vegetables, the winter root vegetable season but a distant memory.

But we're not quite yet there. March is largely a month of transition, which means that now is the chance to take advantage of the dwindling winter produce. Brussels sprouts are a perfect example. In Washington, March is the sign of the end of the season for these brassicas. The bright green bulbs look like mini cabbages, which is not so surprising given that they hail from the same family.

**Anna Brones**  
In Season



While older varieties may go back as far as Roman times, brussels sprouts as we know them have their roots in the 16th century, with the first written description of the vegetable dating to 1587.

Despite their history, for many brussels sprouts have a bad name; they have even won the title of "most hated vegetable." That can usually be traced to a fateful meal when they were overcooked, limp, slimy and devoid of flavor.

But brussels sprouts don't have to be treated that way, so don't miss out on this fiber-filled vegetable that's an excellent source of vitamin C (more than an orange, in fact). Serving them raw helps you to avoid the risk of overcooking them, and brussels sprouts can be sliced thinly, tossed with vinaigrette and served as a salad. Add some chopped apple and toasted walnuts for sweetness and texture.

Roasting them is an easy go-to recipe, but you can also fry them in hot oil for a crispy appetizer that's worthy to pair with a cold beer on a Friday night. You can also cut off the bottom of each brussels sprouts, so that the leaves separate, toss them in olive oil and bake into chips; a healthy and guilt-free snack. They can even go on a pizza.

Give brussels sprouts a chance this month. They'll help you get that recommended dose of vegetables, and maybe, come late fall, you might just find yourself craving them when they're back in season again.

### Letters Policy

The opinions expressed herein are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the publishers or staff. All letters to the editor must be signed and include a daytime phone number for verification. No anonymous letters will be published. Submissions are used on a space available basis and may be edited if used. The 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](mailto:news@keypennews.com).

# Something to bray about

Here on the Key Peninsula where we enjoy horses, cows, pigs, goats and plenty of chickens and ducks inhabiting many small farms of our rural neighborhoods, the donkey's bray is a rarity.

When one neighbor's dog comes visiting unannounced with children in pursuit, it's only a fretful event for free-range fowl. When two horses living across the road open their gate and clip-clop down my driveway and onto a pasture, worried owners hurrying behind have no need of apology.

Animals roam; we all get along. But not always... the day my donkeys wiggled their muzzles through a fence they managed to mangle and race across two narrow acreage lots to a far neighbor whose weeds looked tastier than mine, I heard "What is this? A ZOO?!" bellowed all the way back to my garden. No, just a pair of mini-donkeys out for a stroll and a snack.

We've been seeing donkeys a lot lately — on campaign buttons, in political cartoons, on clothing. How did this misunderstood and wonderful animal come to represent a major political party, and be referred to as stubborn and stupid?

In 1828, presidential candidate Andrew Jackson's opponents called him a jackass. The candidate took this comparison to the steadfast, determined, and independent donkey as a compliment, and it remained an image associated with him throughout his presidency, after which it faded. The donkey as political symbol was revived half a century later during Lincoln's Re-

publican presidency (the elephant came afterwards). This time the political short-hand Democratic Party symbol stuck, here to stay.

Are donkeys steadfast? Wonderfully so. A happy donkey is as friendly as a faithful dog, as curious as a kitten. Determined? Oh yes. This is why tasty wood fences often resembling tick-rack, are wrapped in wire fencing or have hot wire stapled to the donkey side. Independent? You bet. Donkeys think, and assess situations before reacting. That's not stubborn — it's smart. They are great teachers of patience; cannot be rushed. Timing happens when they are ready. Like any wise animal, they stop-look-listen and then act, trusting what they know.

My long-eared carrot-munchers, Lola and LeRoy, brighten my morning with their calls for company. They are giant puppies who help with chores by eating the handles off tools when I'm not looking. And they bring me peace when snuffling little circles in their evening hay. Donkeys live a long time; there are years of delightful, silly adventures ahead...and lots of new tools.

*Chris Fitzgerald is an educator and empathic therapist. Her lifework is in service to animals in need of greater human understanding. She can be reached at cfitzgerald@centurytel.net*



**Chris Fitzgerald**  
Guest columnist



## MARDI GRAS ROYALTY



**Congratulations to Ed Taylor & Lee Silva,**  
2016 King and Queen  
of Mardi Gras!

Mardi Gras was celebrated in grand style at the Civic Center February 6<sup>th</sup>. Revelers had a grand time dancing to the authentic Zydeco tunes with Richard Allen and the Louisiana Experience. Libations included the traditional New Orleans Hurricane by master bartenders, Bruce Macdonald and Phil Bauer. This year's event included a traditional second-line that had all up on their feet and dancing! According to Louisiana born, Richard Allen, it's the most authentic Mardi

Gras Event in the Greater Puget Sound area. Ed Taylor and Lee Silva were recognized and crowned King and Queen for the best costumes of the evening. For those of you who missed it - save the date for next year - February 25<sup>th</sup> - where once again the Civic Center will *Laissez les bons temps rouler*.

### Upcoming events at the Civic Center

- **Crab Feed - March 12th 4-7 pm**—Tickets on sale now at Sunnycrest Nursery, The Blend Wine Shop, the Civic Center and through Brown Paper Tickets at [www.2016crabfeed.bpt.me](http://www.2016crabfeed.bpt.me)
- **Livable Community Fair - May 7th** - combined with the Lakebay Fuchsia Society's plant sale, the 15th annual resource fair is a popular event on the Key Peninsula
- **Ohana Luau - July 2016**-The Civic Center hosted this successful grand event last year for the first time - Complete with Hawaiian music and food on the grounds of the Center - it's a fun family event not to miss.



### Skate Night Reunion

Since the 1970's - Friday Night Skate has been a popular event for kindergarten through middle school kids on the Key Peninsula. Were YOU one of those who attended? The Key Peninsula Civic Center is working to organize an adult - Skate Night reunion as fundraiser to help support Friday Night Skate. We'd like you to join us in planning this event.

Give us a call at 253-884-3456 or drop us a line at [kpciviccenter@centurytel.net](mailto:kpciviccenter@centurytel.net) if you're interested in assisting. Planning meeting date and time will be announced on the Civic Center's facebook page; [www.facebook.com/KPCCA](http://www.facebook.com/KPCCA).

*The Key Peninsula Civic Center Association through its facility and the effort of its members, fosters and promotes the civic, social, cultural and general well-being of the Key Peninsula community.*

The Key Peninsula Civic Center is a 501(c)3, not-for-profit organization.

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# KP Lions to select 2015-16 Citizen of the Year

The Key Peninsula Lions Club invites all KP citizens and friends to attend the 32nd annual Key Peninsula Citizen of the Year Award banquet Saturday, March 26, 6 p.m., at the KP Civic Center. Reservations are available from members of the KP Lions Club, Sunnycrest Nursery or the Blend Wine Shop in Key Center, or at Cost Less Pharmacy in Wauna. The Lions will be grateful to accept a \$25 contribution per guest to defray the cost of the event.

Profiles of the citizens nominated for the honor of KP Citizen of the Year 2015-16 appear below. Community members submitted their nominations to the KP Lions Club, whose members will vote by secret ballot to determine who will be KP Citizen of the Year. The winner will be announced at the banquet.

The guest speaker for the event is U.S. Rep. Derek Kilmer. Jacque Henry Events is the planner, the caterer is Steven King. Elected and wanna-be-elected public officials will serve dinner to their constituents.

## Kathy Bauer

Kathy Bauer is a founding member of Two Waters Arts Alliance, and now mentors the next generation of dedicated people ensuring arts thrive on the Key Peninsula, especially with children. Bauer continually raises



support for Two Waters, including writing grants for Artists in Schools, to ensure all children in Key Peninsula schools have arts experiences and appreciation.

## Carla Cameron

Carla Cameron is a longtime resident of the Key Peninsula and was instrumental in developing the Key Free Clinic in Key Center. Cameron has also volunteered for local schools, the Farm Tour and other community support groups, all while working as the office manager at the Key Medical Center for over 25 years.



## Darla Graham

Darla Graham has been a food bank volunteer at Key Peninsula Community Services since 2011. Graham goes beyond handing out food baskets to people

in need. She is extremely dependable and always exhibits a kind and happy disposition to KPCS clients, and works hard behind the scenes to make sure this program meets the highest standards in food safety and program quality.



## Marcia Harris

Marcia Harris serves on the Peninsula School District board, is vice president of the KP Community Council, past president of Peninsula Schools Education Foundation, and administers the School Bus Connects Program. As a member of the Rotary Club of Gig Harbor, she brings funds to the KP through Communities in School and Children's Home Society.



## Phyllis Henry

Phyllis Henry is a director on the KP Community Council and serves on the board of KP Community Services and on the advisory council of Children's



Home Society, and is an active member of the KP Business Association. Henry has served on the boards of the Mustard Seed Project and the Angel Guild, and works on the guild's grant review committee.

## Connie Hildahl

Connie Hildahl has spearheaded several major social fundraising events for Longbranch, including bringing a former ferryboat, now an entertainment vessel, to Filucey Bay. She and a friend wrote music and libretto for a musical recounting the history of south Key Pen for Evergreen Elementary, and served as musical director and coach for students who staged the production for an enchanted audience. Hildahl is at work on a sequel.



## Karen Jorgenson

Karen Jorgenson spearheaded Food Backpacks 4 Kids, setting up the organization, getting donated food supplies, filling the backpacks and managing their distribution. After learning that many recipients of the food packs have limited cooking facilities, Jorgenson devised and orchestrated a plan to provide over 50 crockpots donated by KP Lions Club members.



## DeeDee Kerkes

DeeDee Kerkes has served the KP community in a variety of demanding roles over many years, such as a dedicated volunteer firefighter/emergency medi-



cal technician, volunteer for the KP Community Services Food Bank, volunteer assistant at the Key Free Clinic, and in several other capacities for which she neither seeks nor expects praise or compensation.

## Tyler Main

Tyler Main is the program coordinator of the Red Barn Youth Center in Key Center. His impact on the Red Barn in its first year and a half has been immeasurable. His ability to mentor teens in attributes like courage, integrity, honor and reliability make him exactly the role model teens need today. Main's leadership skills and passion for our teens on the KP set him apart.



## Susan Mendenhall

Susan Mendenhall is the primary administrator of the KP Facebook page, which currently has 4,170 members, creating a family atmosphere to ensure its value to the community. Mendenhall is also one of the founding members of KP Cares, a group created to help those in need on the KP after successful fundraising efforts to provide relief for victims of the Oso mudslide in 2014.



## Matthew Mills

Matthew Mills' family has been on the KP for generations and he continues the family tradition of public service. As a Peninsula School District teacher, Mills has taught Purdy and Vaughn Elementary students innovative science programs, arranging training from surgeons in dissection techniques for exploration



# March to the Democratic Precinct Caucus under way

By Chris Fitzgerald  
Special to KP News

With the exception of the Republican Party Precinct Caucus Feb. 20, March starts the lengthy process for each major party to choose one presidential party candidate to vie for the 45th U.S. presidential office this November.

The Democratic presidential Precinct Caucus will be held March 26 at 10 a.m. Key Peninsula registered voters are in the 26th Legislative District, precincts 315 through 323. All KP precincts meet individually at Key Peninsula Middle School. The three digit number following "LD 26" on a voter's registration card is the precinct number they will vote in.

George Robison, 26th Legislative district democratic chairman, said, "The purpose of a caucus is to determine voter preference for a Democratic Party candidate for president and to elect delegates to the Legislative District Caucus and county

## Voting at caucus can be done in absentia

Anyone unable to attend the caucus and wanting to vote can submit an affidavit to the Washington Democratic State Party before March 18. For more information visit: wa-democrats.org. A registration form voters can print, complete and bring to the caucus is available at: democaucus.com/register. For information on the 26th Legislative District, including Precinct Committee Officer info, visit: 26d.org.

convention ... resolutions to the county or state party may also be submitted."

Precinct caucuses begin at 10:30 a.m. when voters sign-in and select their preferred candidate. Doors will be open to latecomers, but those arriving after the first vote will not be able to vote later. Childcare is not provided, but children may attend with their parents.

Each side "will have an opportunity to try to convince the other side to change their minds," said Robison. "Then each person casts a final vote to determine the

apportionment of the delegates (for each candidate)." Voters who leave before this second vote have no say in who the delegates are for their candidate.

"Voters at the caucus have two opportunities: one is to state which candidate they prefer, and the other is to vote for someone (from their precinct) who prefers the same candidate to be a delegate to the next caucus or convention," said Robison. "And the only way they can vote for that person who agrees with them is if they (stay) to cast their vote."

Individual precinct caucuses vary in length. Each must take at least 30 minutes and can continue for hours, but must end by 2 p.m., when the event officially concludes.

"Every step of the process is basically democratic, governed by a desire to have a democratic vote," said Robison, who has logged decades of service to the Democratic Party.

A representative of the Democratic Party will be on-site during the caucus. On the KP that person is Judy Austin, precinct 26-317.

Voter turnout is expected to be higher than 2012. "Probably the same as 2008, and that was very large," said Robison. "The whole system strives to give a voice to the people who show up to vote. And that's the reason it is important for people to participate in the caucus."

Anyone not registered in his or her precinct but wanting to vote can register at the caucus. Anyone reaching the age of 18 by Nov. 8, 2016, can vote at the caucus.

(From COY, Page 8)

and discovery. He also pours hours of leadership work into Boy Scouts of America Troop 220, leading scouts on mind-expanding projects.



## Nathan and Jessica Schlicher

Medical doctors Nathan and Jessica Schlicher conceived the idea of the Key Free Clinic in 2013 together with KP physician William Roes and other

citizens concerned for the welfare of those needing health care but without the resources to pay for it. The Key Free Clinic is open to all in need every Thursday evening at the KP Health Center.

## Randy Viers

Randy Viers has been a KP resident since 1974. He is a 10-year member of the Peninsula Work Release



Advisory Board, has served on the KP Community Accountability Board, and is a founding member of the KP Crime Prevention Task Force. Viers is an adviser to All Access Counseling and Evaluation Service and will be integral to the implementation of a new treatment center on the KP.

## Cindy Worden

Cindy Worden is in her second term as president of KP Citizens Against Crime, drawing on her success building the Lakewood CAC. She urges a simple strategy: "Report it, report it, report it. If you don't, it didn't happen." Worden is also treasurer for the KP Community Council board, and she and her husband, Adam, respond to SR 302 accidents near their home directing traffic until authorities arrive.



## Longbranch Foundation launches to aid residents

Residents of the Key Peninsula recently formed The Longbranch Foundation, a tax-exempt organization whose purpose is to raise funds for the preservation of historic structures, maintenance of the grounds of The Longbranch Improvement Club for public recreational use, and preservation of the environment of Flucy Bay.

The foundation will also support scholarship programs and public school activities, and support other community service organizations and activities.

The foundation is affiliated with The Longbranch Improvement Club (LIC), which was formed in 1921 for the betterment of the community. The first planned activity for the foundation will be a garage and yard sale to be held at the LIC clubhouse from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on April 23.

Items may be donated to the foundation for sale to the public, and donors will be provided a receipt to support a charitable contribution tax deduction.

The LIC is located at 4312 Key Peninsula Highway South.

For information, contact Clark Van Bogart at (253) 549-9129 or cvb@vanbogart.com.

## Grace Nesbit

Grace Nesbit is a 10-year-old at Evergreen Elementary. She is on the school recycling team, a marathon runner, and an annual volunteer for the KP Fire Santa Run. Grace raised nearly \$1,000 for her class trip to Camp Seymour through public speaking, using skills honed in her Children's Home Society's Little Toasters group. Grace is also one of the public faces of Pierce County's



## Civic center crab feed set for March

By Ted Olinger, KP News

The ever-popular long-standing traditional family-friendly annual fundraiser that is the Key Peninsula Civic Center crab feed is set to go Saturday, March 12, barring a sudden spike in the price of crab, according to KPCC president Bruce Macdonald.

"I don't think the price is going to take a quantum leap in the next few weeks, but the potential is there," he said.

The entire west coast commercial Dungeness crab season was delayed two months until Jan. 1 because health officials detected unsafe levels of domoic acid in crabmeat in California last fall.

The potent neurotoxin is a byproduct of an algae bloom in the Pacific warmed by El Niño and can accumulate in shellfish and other invertebrates and fish that feed on creatures that eat the algae. It can be deadly if consumed in sufficient quantities, and cooking or freezing does not destroy the toxin in shellfish.

The crabs in Washington tested safe, but the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife closed the commercial fish-

ery until January to prevent overfishing in Washington.

"The particular thing this year is we're a little worried about where the price is going," said Macdonald. "We expected all of Oregon and California to be open by now, and they're not."

"Crab is still about \$6 a pound retail, but if it gets any higher we might be in deep water," he said. "We go through about 600 pounds of crab, and generally every year we have a surplus which we sell at cost."

"But," said Macdonald, "We don't mind just breaking even on this event because it's an important social occasion and we've been doing it for so long. Most years it's very close to selling out, and we've had to turn large groups away."

The dinner also features spaghetti prepared by board member Pat Medveckus, along with Caesar salad and garlic bread.

"I almost look forward to Pat's pasta more than the crab," said Macdonald. "Old family recipe, one marinara sauce, one Alfredo. It's fabulous stuff."

At the time of press, the crab feed is on. For information, call (253) 884-3456.

## Key Peninsula Council highlights

The Key Peninsula Community Council (KPCP) primarily covered routine business at its February meeting, but the 2016 directors were officially sworn in.

Don Swensen, who chairs the Key Peninsula Land Use Advisory Commission (KPAC), reported that the Pierce County Council has drafted an ordinance to continue expansion of its role. Two years ago in a pilot project, KPAC moved from its limited function of reviewing land use issues to focus on communication with all county departments.

Those issues, according to the ordinance, "include, but are not limited to, land use, environmental 36 regulations, infrastructure, schools, transportation improvements, and public safety."

The ordinance continues the pilot for another two years. KPAC will review, and likely recommend approval by the county council. The KPAC passed a motion recommending approval of the ordinance.

Citizens can review the ordinance and give feedback to the county council at [councilonline.co.pierce.wa.us/councilonline/proposal/proposal.htm?proposal\\_num=2016-4](http://councilonline.co.pierce.wa.us/councilonline/proposal/proposal.htm?proposal_num=2016-4).

Ben and Susan Paganelli, who are leading the KP Healthy Community Partnership, reported that they have been establishing infrastructure, have met with community leaders, and are excited about the three community meetings scheduled for late February.

The Milgard Foundation, which funded the partnership, is supporting the organizational and engagement work the Paganellis are doing, also allocated money for immediate needs in the areas of hunger, transportation and health/wellness. The Paganellis reported that \$8,000 has now been distributed.

Marcia Harris said that School Bus Connects continues to serve the area three days a week, and that the grant renewal process will begin in August. A Pierce County coalition including Sumner and Emunclaw and the Key Peninsula is working to bridge the gap in transportation in rural areas.

Cindy Worden and Rion Tisino, MSW, discussed the continued evolution and re-energizing of the Key Peninsula Youth Council. Their first major activity, a trip to Olympia, has happened this month. The committee, chaired by Tisino, will meet regularly as they plan and implement further programs.

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The KPPHC is a place to find resources and answers?

[www.kphealthycommunity.org](http://www.kphealthycommunity.org)

KPPHC

Key Peninsula Partnership for a Healthy Community

This project is generously supported by the Gary E. Milgard Family Foundation

# Gig Harbor grocery stores launch with open arms and wallets

When Gig Harbor's two newest grocery stores opened their doors in early February, Key Peninsula organizations scored big donations.

By Scott Turner, KP News

As of early February, Gig Harbor-area shoppers got two new places to buy groceries as the Safeway store on Point Fosdick Drive re-opened and a new Main & Vine supermarket was launched right across the street.

Main & Vine is a first-of-its kind experiment for Kroger, a food giant headquartered in Cincinnati, Ohio, on — coincidentally — Vine Street.

According to M&V store manager Dann Kohl, one of the goals of the M&V concept is to focus on local providers such as Artondale Farms, 7 Seas Brewery and other area companies and to support the local community.

Wauna resident Myrna Binion attended the invitation-only pre-opening celebration at Main & Vine.

"I was much more impressed than I expected to be by the new store," Binion said.

"Their party was great with jazz musicians on the mezzanine and the employees seemed really excited to be opening the new store.

"They have the best produce section I've ever seen, including an Asian produce section with many curious items I can't wait to try. And the prices on the familiar produce products were excellent, which surprised me," she said.

She also liked M&V's cheese selection and the fact that many cheese products are from the Northwest. "They seem to be really supporting local farmers and growers, which I like," she said.

Binion also liked the store lighting. "One of my pet peeves in grocery stores is dim lighting overhead

with overly bright spots on the produce. 'Electric' oranges make me crazy. They're real migraine triggers. The M&V store lighting was easy on the eyes and it's tricky how they used lighting to break up the large space into separate sections," she said.

Most M&V department managers, including store manager Kohl, are transplants from Kroger stores in other states, although approximately one-third of the employees are returnees.

As part of its goal of connecting the new store with the Gig Harbor community, Kohl presented checks of \$2,500 each to FISH food bank and to Key Peninsula Community Services.

Penny Gazabat, executive director of KP Community Services was excited about the donation.

"We're very fortunate to partner with Kroger again with their new Main & Vine store concept," Gazabat said. "It means that our clients will receive the best organic produce that rarely is offered at our food bank.

"We had missed several months

picking up produce and other goods at the old QFC store during the remodel but Kroger certainly made up for that by increasing their overall donations and presenting us with a check for \$2,500," she said.

Safeway was also generous to KP organizations at its grand re-opening event.

More than half of the former Safeway employees have been rehired and for them, and for long-time Safeway shoppers, it was like a homecoming.

Returning Safeway store manager Bob Silcott was ecstatic at the re-opening celebration as he presented a check for \$7,200 to Food Backpacks 4 Kids, an organization that provides backpacks filled with food to more than 400 KP youngsters every Friday.

"We have 72 returning employees and that's \$100 for every former employee," Silcott said. "We really, really appreciate this community and from the bottom of my heart I thank you for your loyalty. It's an honor to be back to serve you," he said.

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# COMMUNITY PAGES

Submit calendar items to [news@keypennews.com](mailto:news@keypennews.com) • Deadline is the 15th of the month

## NOW

### ABE classes

Tacoma Community College offers adult basic education classes for individuals ages 16 years and older. Increase job skills, complete a high school diploma, prepare for the GED or for college or vocational programs. Classes are \$25 (tuition waiver available for those who qualify) and are held at the Red Barn Youth Center in Key Center on week-day mornings. 460-2424.

## MARCH 3

### Fuchsia group

The Fuchsia Club meets at 7 p.m. in the civic center Whitmore Room.

## MARCH 3 and 17

### Cat tales

Children, ages 5 to 18 in 4-H, learn all about cats from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the VPW Room at the KP Civic Center. Dianna, 884-4182 or [cat.tales4h@gmail.com](mailto:cat.tales4h@gmail.com).

## MARCH 4, 11, 18 and 25

### Skate night

Skate Night is hosted at the KP Civic Center 6 to 9 p.m. Admission is \$5. 884-3456.

## MARCH 5

### Community input

Interviews of semifinalists for PSD Superintendent at an all-day open public meeting start at 8:30 a.m. at the district office boardroom. Comment cards are provided.

### Cat show

Cat Tales will be putting on its second 4-H Cat Show at the Key Peninsula Civic Center at 10 a.m. The 4-H welcomes those who can sit and watch quietly without disturbing the cats. The show has several classes including Fitting and Showmanship, Type/Breed, Knowledge, Judging, Breed ID and Cage Decorating.

### Crafting class

Two Waters Art Alliance presents "Fall in Love with Spring" a greeting card-making class 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the KP Civic Center. Cost is \$15. To reserve your kit email [craftwithanna@yahoo.com](mailto:craftwithanna@yahoo.com).

## To submit an event

To submit an event for the Community Works calendar, please email Connie Renz at [connierenz@hotmail.com](mailto:connierenz@hotmail.com), or mail to P.O. Box 3, Vashon, WA 98094. Briefs must be submitted by the 15th of the month.

## MARCH 6, 13 and 29

### Silver Cinema

The Mustard Seed Project presents the free Silver Cinema Series at 2 p.m. in the Brones Room of the Key Center Library. "Alive Inside" is shown March 6, "Cyber-Seniors" is shown March 13, and "Keep On Keepin' On" is shown on March 20. Transportation is available by prior arrangement. 884-9814.

## MARCH 7 and 21

### Senior shopping

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

## MARCH 7, 14, 21 and 28

### Bloodmobile

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

## MARCH 8 and 23

### Crochet or knit

The Loving Hearts group knits and crochets for charities and meets 1 to 3 p.m. at WayPoint Church on March 8 and 7 to 9 p.m. on March 23. Yarn donations are always needed. [lovingheartsonkp@gmail.com](mailto:lovingheartsonkp@gmail.com) or Virginia, 884-9619.

## MARCH 9

### Ashes meet

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

### Garden club meets

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

## MARCH 12

### Second Saturday

People of all ages make a free felt four-leaf clover pin or hair clip at 2 p.m. at the Key Center Library. Online registration is required. 548-3309.

### Crab feed

The annual Crab Feed at the KP Civic Center is 4 to 7 p.m. Tickets are available at Sunnycrest Nursery, Blend Wine Shop and KP Civic Center. Menu is fresh crab, spaghetti, salad and garlic bread. All proceeds benefit the civic center.

## MARCH 14-16

### Community input

Questions and answers with individual finalists for Superintendent of PSD will take place at 6 p.m. at Henderson Bay High School, 8402 Skansie Ave., Gig Harbor. Comment cards are provided.

## MARCH 17

### Community forum

This month's forum features an update on The Mustard Seed Project's Senior Housing Plans at 10 a.m. at the Key Center Library. Transportation is available by prior arrangement. 884-9814.

## MARCH 19

### Pet treat hunt

Key Pen Parks will host the eighth annual Pet Easter Treat Hunt 9 to 11 a.m. at Volunteer Park. This free family event brings a community of dog lovers for a time of fun and frolicking with their furry friends. There will be information booths, photos with the Easter Bunny, a costume contest and a hunt for poodles for treats and prizes. Remember to bring a treat bag and a leash. 884-9240.

## MARCH 20

### Sunday bluegrass jam

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

## MARCH 21

### Robots

Kids ages 8 to 18 build and program a robot using LEGO Mindstorms 4 to 5:30 p.m. at the Key Center Library. Register at [pierce-countylibrary.org/calendar](http://pierce-countylibrary.org/calendar) or 548-3309. Maximum capacity for event is 25. This event is sponsored by Friends of the KC Library.

### Open house

The Key Center Library hosts an open house, for adults, 5 to 7 p.m. Share what you want from the library to make it the best for yourself and the community. Drop in for a few minutes and share your ideas. 548-3309.

## MARCH 23

### Pet neuter program

The Northwest Spay and Neuter Center animal shuttle will be at the civic center 7 to 7:30 a.m. to pick up dogs and cats. Animals will be returned to the civic center at 9 a.m. the next day. Appointments are required. Call (253) 627-7729 ext. 217 or email [shuttle@nwspayneuter.org](mailto:shuttle@nwspayneuter.org) for questions or to schedule an appointment. [nwspayneuter.org](http://nwspayneuter.org).

## MARCH 26

### Presentation

"Soldiers in Petticoats: The Struggles of the Suffragettes" is presented by local actress and historian James Alan, at 2 p.m. at the Key Center Library. This program is suitable for families. 548-3309.

## MARCH 28

### Homeschoolers learn

Homeschoolers, ages 5-8, learn about human and animal skeletons through stories and hands-on activities from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Key Center Library. Online registration required. This event is sponsored by Friends of the Key Center Library. 548-3309.

## MARCH 31

### Community gathers

Two Waters Arts Alliance hosts a gathering 6 to 8 p.m. at Blend in Key Center and invites adults to enjoy a glass of wine, appetizers and a conversation about engaging the arts in our community and what Two Waters Arts Alliance can do with your help.

# WEEKLY EVENTS

## MONDAYS

### Play to learn

In a partnership with Peninsula School District and the Tacoma Children's Museum, "Play to Learn" has been added to children's opportunities on Mondays from 10 to 11:30 a.m. in the KP Civic Center Gym. Play to Learn is for parents, grandparents and others who nurture children ages six and under. Themed curriculum

invites individual play, group activities, songs and a circle time for kids and adults. This is a drop-in program and no registration is required. 884-5433.

## MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS

### Senior exercise class

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

## MARCH 5

### Health Expo

The annual Gig Harbor Health & Safety Expo, hosted by Gig Harbor Fire and Medic One, provides a variety of free health screenings and safety information for residents of the Gig Harbor peninsula at 10222 Bajacich Road NW.

### Live Dive

Harbor WildWatch sponsors a "Pier into the Night Live Dive" at 7 and 8 p.m. at Skansie Park. See the night-time animals without getting wet, touch critters in the touch tanks, and watch a live video stream of SCUBA divers under Jerisich Dock. Flashlights and lifejackets are recommended. Suggested donation is \$2 per person. Harborwildwatch.org.

## MARCH 11 through 27

### Play presented

"The Fantastics" is presented at Paradise Theatre, now located on Judson

## TUESDAYS

### Story times

Every Tuesday, discover books, learn nursery rhymes, sing songs, play with blocks, and do arts and crafts at the Key Center Library. Music/Motion Story time (0-2 years old with an adult) is at 10 a.m. and Preschool Science Story time (2-5 years old) is at 11 a.m. 548-3309.

### Key Singers

The community chorus of the Key Peninsula rehearses in the Key Peninsula

Street in downtown Gig Harbor at former home of Rexall Drugs. Shows on Fridays and Saturdays are at 7:30 p.m. and on Sundays at 3 p.m. 954-PLAY.

## MARCH 13

### Bloodmobile

The bloodmobile is at St. Nicholas Catholic Church, 3510 Rosedale St. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

## MARCH 26

### Spring egg hunt

PenMet Parks hosts the annual Spring Easter Egg Hunt at Sehmel Homestead Park, 10123 78th Ave. NW, from noon to 2 p.m. The Spring Easter Egg Hunt runs throughout the event so every child is guaranteed a chance to find eggs and win a great prize. Egg hunts are divided into small age groups for children up to fifth grade. Families will have the chance to visit with the Easter Bunny and enjoy other spring activities. Suggested donation is \$2/child.

Lutheran Church sanctuary. Their next concert is in May. Membership is \$10 per year; no auditions required. If you love to sing and can carry a tune, come join us. 884-5615.

## TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS

### Senior tai chi

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

### Preschool play time

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

## TUESDAYS & SATURDAYS

### Visit the museum

The KP Historical Museum has a new display of Historic Hotels and Resorts of the Key Peninsula. The main focus is on the history of the Delano Hotel and Resort, but photos and stories of other places are included. New display cases in the VFW Room expand the area to show off the various artifacts and photos of the area. Free admission; monetary donations welcome. 888-3246.

## MORE WEEKLY EVENT LISTINGS ONLINE

See what's happening at [keypennews.com](http://keypennews.com)

# OFF THE KEY

## MARCH 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29

### Support Group

A Freedom from Tobacco Support Group meets on Tuesdays 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at St. Anthony Hospital. The meetings are free. 225-7538.

## MARCH 3

### Democrats meet

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

## MARCH 4-6

### Play presented

"Nonsense" is presented at Paradise Theatre, now located on Judson Street in downtown Gig Harbor at former home of Rexall Drugs. Shows on Friday and Saturday are at 7:30 p.m. and on Sunday at 3 p.m. 954-PLAY.

# PUBLIC MEETINGS

### KP Lions

March 2 and 16, 7 p.m. at Key Center fire station; 853-2721.

### Peninsula School District Board

March 10 and 24, 6 p.m. at Voyager Elementary gym on March 10 and at district office on March 24; 253-530-1002.

### Key Pen Parks

March 14, 7:30 p.m. at Volunteer Park administrative office; public is encouraged to attend. 884-9240.

### Artists' Blend

March 7, 4 to 6 p.m. at Blend Wine Shop for any artist; kathybauer100@gmail.com.

### KP Veterans

March 7 and 21, 7 p.m. at KP Lutheran Church; membership is open to veterans and military service members and families over 16. (253) 509-8656 or keypenveterans@outlook.com.

### KP Fire Department

March 8 and 22, 5 p.m. in meeting room, Key Center fire station; keypeninsulafire.org

### Key Peninsula Council

March 9, 7 p.m. at Key Center Fire Station to discuss "Grandparents' Rights." Kpcouncil.org, 884-6455.

### KP Civic Center Association Board

March 10, 7 p.m. meeting in Whitmore Room, KPCC; 884-3456.

### TWAA Board

March 10, 7 p.m. in VFW Room of KPCC; kathybauer100@gmail.com.

### Longbranch Improvement Club

March 15, 7 p.m. at Longbranch Improvement Club; 884-6022 or long-

[branchimprovementclub.org](http://branchimprovementclub.org).

### KP Advisory Commission

March 16/3rd Wed., 6:30 p.m. in VFW Room of KPCC; Toni Fairbanks, 253-798-7156 or tfairba@copierce.wa.us.

### KP Citizens Against Crime

March 17, 7 p.m. at Key Center fire station.

### KP Democrats

March 21, 7 p.m. at Home fire station; georgerobison@centurytel.net.

### KP Farm Council

March 28, 6:30 p.m. at Home fire station; cwiley@mac.com.

## It's Spring at Sunnycrest and it's time to plant!

**Lots of new plants and products  
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### March Class

**Get the Buzz on Bees  
March 5, 10 a.m.**

Learn about the Mason Bee and other pollinators,  
their habitats, their needs and all of the culture  
of keeping bees in the orchard and garden.  
Diane Everson, local expert and bee keeper,  
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Thursday, March 17th**  
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## First 'Play to Learn' event draws a crowd to civic center hardwood

By Scott Turner, KP News

The Peninsula School District recently teamed up with the Children's Museum of Tacoma in a new no-cost program for Key Peninsula preschoolers and their parents or adult caregivers.

Called Play to Learn, it takes place every Monday, 10-11:30 a.m., at the Key Peninsula Civic Center.

It's an opportunity for parents to get down on the floor and play with their kids, said Lisa Reaugh, assistant director of student services for PSD.

The program receives federal funding through Title 1 and LAP, Reaugh said, which makes it free to families.

"We want families and kids to play together and talk and share and learn things," she said. "It's for kids birth to age 6. We just started it in February and we had about 20 families the first day."

Research shows that there is "a huge gap in the experiences that Key Peninsula kids have before they start kindergarten compared to kids in Gig Harbor," Reaugh said.

"So our goal is to provide as many high quality learning experiences for preschool aged kids as possible here on the KP. We have room for lots of families," she said.

Each session lasts an hour-and-a-half and includes a variety of activities like Legos, dolls, building things, and knocking them down and other fun things, she said.

"Then about half-way through the session everybody comes together and they do some singing and maybe a have a story or similar things that kids can enjoy. There's always a monthly theme. In February the theme was dinosaurs," Reaugh said.

The Play to Learn program is facilitated by Alyssa Tongue, learning experiences director for the Children's Museum of Tacoma.

"It's a playful early learning class for kids and their adult care givers," Tongue said. "We're honoring that play is the natural way that kids grow and learn and thrive. And we know that a child's first teacher is their parent or their main care-provider during their day. So we're help-



Photo by Scott Turner, KP News

**Archer Russell, 2, and mom, Hannah Russell put away some dinosaurs after the first Play to Learn event at the Key Peninsula Civic Center in early February.**

ing to build that bond by giving them songs to sing that develop pre-literacy skills and counting up and down and things that encourage kids to be curious and explore things."

It's a great opportunity for little ones to get ready for school and also an opportunity for caregivers to step out of their home environment, Tongue said.

"We're sort of telling them to leave all the laundry and dishes behind and engage with your child and play with your child and spend time together," she said. "Play builds friendships, not just for the kids but also with the parents and other caregivers."

KP resident Hannah Russell and her son Archer, 2, were among the participants in the very first session.

"I think this is a great program," Russell said. "It helps kids like mine that are home all day to get out and play with other kids. It's very well rounded. He had a great time with the blocks and singing and dancing and he absolutely loved the dinosaurs. It's a great place for parents to come with their children and get to know other people in the community,"

(See **Hardwood**, Page 15)

# Lake Minterwood artist to display work at Blend Wine Shop

By Irene Torres, KP News

As a young girl, Michaelina Tenney observed and learned as her mother, Mary Ellen Pinches taught art classes. But her real motivation to become a painter came after a serious motor vehicle accident.

She listened to African music during her recovery. "The colors are so uplifting, the bright yellows, greens and reds. I painted myself to happiness," she said.

Tenney uses a palette knife in acrylic to create her African-themed art, the south-west Native American Kokopelli figure, wine art and abstract nudes. Her studio is in the basement of her Lake Minterwood home, a picturesque location. "I experiment a lot and I think I get better as I go," she said. "There is a community of fellow artists and I am learning more about technique and style."

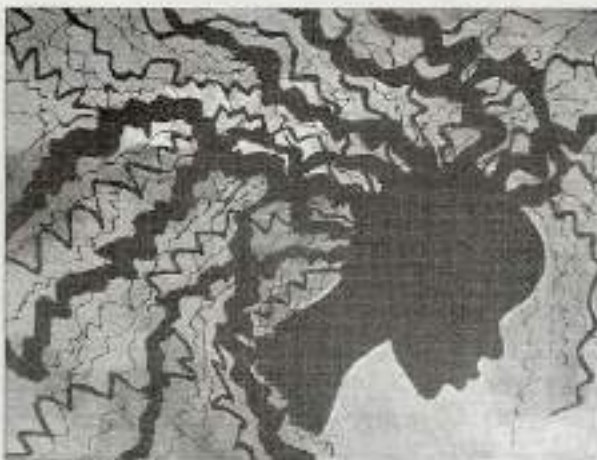
Tenney called on Raphael Murrell, a Key Peninsula artist, to help her learn how to paint African facial features. "It is nice to get together with other artists and promote art to the community as a whole," she said. "Art is to promote an emotion. It saddens me that art is being

taken out of schools. It is a positive way for the kids to express themselves, which promotes learning in other areas."

One of Tenney's paintings took third place at a juried art show in the Proctor District of Tacoma and was sold that day. "I realized that the canvasses started to overwhelm my house and I started to look for venues to display and sell my work," she said. "If you don't peddle, you don't paint."

Tenney started an art group for other artists who didn't want to promote their own artwork and found a location in Kitsap County, but she was called back to a job in contract negotiations. She now works as an adjunct professor in communications, which allows her time to paint and to travel. She has sold four paintings in the past year, part of more than 100 that she's "peddled." "I keep prices really low so anyone can enjoy the art. I don't want this painting in my house. I want it in yours," she said.

Tenney will exhibit some of her work at Blend Wine Shop in Key Center on March 5, with a wine tasting and artist reception on the evening of Friday, March 11.



Reggae Teen, Michelin Tenney's acrylic on canvas art was inspired by reggae music and youth.

Courtesy photo

(From **Hardwood**, Page 14)

she said.

Each adult gets a book full of ideas and activities they can do at home between sessions, Reaugh said.

"We know that young children learn through play, which is the whole premise of Play to Learn. It's a great experience for kids in the Key Peninsula where they can do activities that will help them be ready for school," Reaugh said.

"We want parents and kids both to be ready, knowing letters and sounds and learning how to get along with others. It's all about ready kids, ready parents, ready schools."

"We had 20 families at our very first session in February — which is just fabulous," Tongue said. "And one family said that this is the best thing they've ever had at the civic center."

For information on Play to Learn, visit [playtacoma.org](http://playtacoma.org).

## Key Peninsula Civic Center's

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# Boys — and girls — of summer return to KP ball fields

By Matthew Dean, KP News

As winter fades, temperatures rise, and the grass begins to grow, children from around the Key Peninsula will head to the baseball fields for another year of Key Peninsula Little League.

Little League is an organization that allows children from the ages of 4 to 16 to experience baseball, T-ball and softball in a fun, competitive environment that builds athletic and teamwork skills. It was founded in 1939 in Pennsylvania, but quickly spread across the

United States and even into other countries, and today has over 2 million players in 80 nations around the world.

Although the organization has now grown large enough to host its own nationally televised World Series, the main purpose of bringing baseball and community to children remains the same. KPLL board member Holly Newman Dzyban describes it as, "Getting kids out, being active and getting exercise outside, which happens a little too rarely these days."

Home games are played on the three fields of Volunteer Park, located on Key Peninsula

Highway south of Key Center. As a member of Washington District 2 Little League, other games are played in Gig Harbor and Kitsap County. The many areas involved with the program are another advantage.

"We met kids from different schools, kids who were younger, kids who were older," says Dzyban of her own children's time playing in the league. "It's just a great way to get involved and build a community."

Teenager Max Goins probably puts the appeal of the league most simply. "It was a great experience to have with many friends... and a lot of fun."

The local Key Peninsula teams have enjoyed considerable success in past years. The Junior level team, composed of 12, 13 and 14 year olds, took home the District 2 championship in the 2013 and 2014 seasons, advancing to the state tournament.

The Senior team, made up of the most experienced 13-16 year olds, also won the District 2 championship for the 2015 season and placed fourth in the end-of-season tournament, competing against teams from Seattle and Vancouver along the way.

The 2016 season will begin March 19, the last day of winter, and run through mid-June, the end of spring.

Tryouts for the current season have ended, but online registrants at [kpll.teampages.com](http://kpll.teampages.com) will still be accepted and assigned to a team. Baseball is available for ages 6 to 16, softball for 8 to 16 year olds, and t-ball for 4 to 6 year olds. Fees range from \$80-95.

To get involved in KPLL as a sponsor, coach or other volunteer, more information can be found at [kpll.teampages.com](http://kpll.teampages.com). General information about Little League policies and history can be found at [littleleague.org](http://littleleague.org).

## LOST DOG - REWARD

Last seen on home property off 302 past Ravensara. He is 15 years old. Has medical condition. Needs meds! Wandered off in rainstorm on 1/21/16. His name is Connor and we love him VERY much. He is a Pit Mix. Shy with adults, loves kids, not aggressive at all.



Please contact Chris at 347-423-4120 or 253-851-0857 if seen or found.

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# Key Peninsula Youth Council takes students to Olympia

Sara Thompson, KP News

The KP Youth Council is back and on fire. With a trip to Olympia on Feb. 16, more than a dozen students got a taste of experiential learning that will continue into the future.

Rion Tisino, MSW, and Cindy Worden, both directors on the KP Community Council, led the visit to the state capitol. "This is about making learning fun," said Tisino.

The day started with breakfast at Lulu's Home Post and included a tour of the Capitol with visits to the offices of Representatives Jesse Young and Michelle Caldier. Senator Jan Angel was not available. Students returned from the day with a better understanding of how Washington State's legislature functions.

The student themselves praised the experience. "I thought it was cool that we got to learn about the Democrats and Republicans and the gallery was cool and seeing them in action was fun," said Cierra Clapp.

Trasey Strange added, "I thought it was



Photo courtesy of Rion Tisino

## Jesse Young talks with Key Peninsula middle and high school students.

cool to learn about how hard their job is and meeting the representatives was really fun."

And Nathaniel Griffin commented, "I thought it was educational and I've been there three times before and this was the most fun time. I would like to go back and meet the governor."

"Representative Jesse Young was cool to meet and it was cool to see the capitol," said Adrian Cusick.

Frank Worden's thoughts echoed those of the other students. "I thought it was cool, fun, and we should go every year."

The Youth Council was founded in 2004 by a former KPC director focused on civic education. Over the last six years the group was inconsistent, but there is real energy to renew the opportunity for middle and high school students and to expand its vision.

"I struggled in life early on," stated Tisino. "And education was my key to the future. I want to inspire other students to take advantage of every opportunity." Tisino, who moved to the KP in 2008, works in the social services. With both a 22 and a 4-year-old daughter, he is keyed into the needs of students at all levels.

Worden, a KP resident since 2006, has had a lifetime commitment to community service. She is president of the KP Citizens Against Crime, and with both a grown daughter and two teenagers, appreciates the value of keeping kids engaged.

Both Tisino and Worden note that civic education is important, but they also want to explore other issues and give students a voice in the many other areas that affect them — including safety, bullying, diversity and cultural competency.

They plan to meet on Thursdays in the Brones Room at the Key Center Library. Initial outreach has been via word of mouth, but anyone interested in learning more should contact Worden via email at [cindyworden@earthlink.net](mailto:cindyworden@earthlink.net) or at [kpcinzensagainstcrime@gmail.com](mailto:kpcinzensagainstcrime@gmail.com).

### THURSDAY MARCH 24TH

KEY PENINSULA LUTHERAN CHURCH  
7:00PM - LAST SUPPER DRAMA

LONGBRANCH COMMUNITY CHURCH  
5:30PM - SUPPER & COMMUNION SERVICE

### GOOD FRIDAY SERVICES MARCH 25TH

GRACE EPC

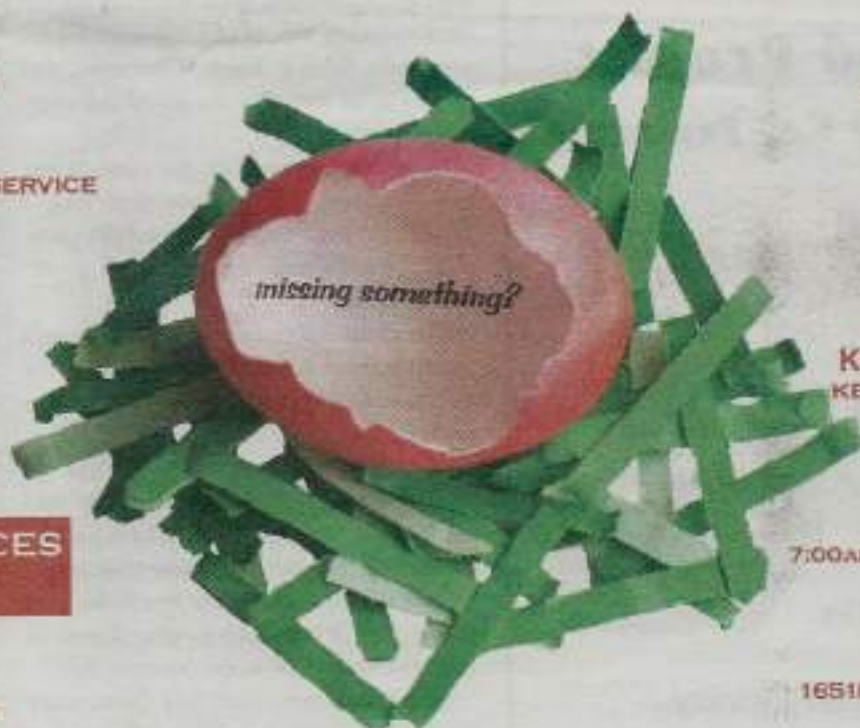
5:00PM - GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

KEY PENINSULA LUTHERAN CHURCH  
7:00PM - GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

LAKEBAY COMMUNITY CHURCH  
7:00PM - GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE

WAYPOINT CHURCH

7:00PM - GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE



### EASTER SERVICES MARCH 27TH

GRACE EPC

2406 MCEWAN RD KPN, LAKEBAY, 857-7284  
10:30AM - EASTER SERVICE  
[WWW.GRACEEPC.ORG](http://WWW.GRACEEPC.ORG)

KEY PENINSULA LUTHERAN CHURCH

4213 LACKEY RD KPN, LAKEBAY, 884-3312  
EASTER BREAKFAST 8-10AM  
10:30AM - EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE  
[WWW.KPLCLUTHERAN.ORG](http://WWW.KPLCLUTHERAN.ORG)

KEY TO LIFE CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

KEY PENINSULA MIDDLE SCHOOL, 549-9963  
10:30AM - EASTER SERVICE  
[WWW.KEYTOLIFECHURCH.ORG](http://WWW.KEYTOLIFECHURCH.ORG)

LAKEBAY COMMUNITY CHURCH

11 CORNWALL RD KPS, LAKEBAY, 884-3899  
7:00AM - SUNRISE SERVICE AT CAMP WOODWORTH  
9:30AM - RESURRECTION CELEBRATION  
[WWW.LAKEBAYCOVENANT.NET](http://WWW.LAKEBAYCOVENANT.NET)

LONGBRANCH COMMUNITY CHURCH

1651B 46TH STREET KPS, LONGBRANCH, 884-9339  
10:30AM - EASTER CELEBRATION  
[WWW.LONGBRANCHCHURCH.NET](http://WWW.LONGBRANCHCHURCH.NET)

WAYPOINT CHURCH

12719 134TH AVE KPN, 853-7878  
9:30AM, 11:00AM & 6PM - RESURRECTION CELEBRATION  
[WWW.WAYPOINTCHURCH.ORG](http://WWW.WAYPOINTCHURCH.ORG)

# Key Peninsula's Angels — making a difference in community

By Sara Thompson KP News

Nearly four decades ago angels arrived on the Key Peninsula. They weren't called angels at first; they were simply seven women responding to a call. In 1972 a nurse, Jean Broadbuck, had started a small health clinic located in the Longbranch Church. She asked them to provide help to people in need. Working out of the church basement, they collected and distributed used clothing.

In 1978, as the health clinic grew, Broadbuck asked those women to form an auxiliary to support the clinic. Sisters Marge Radonich and Shirley Olson, recalling that their father called their mother his angel, suggested a name for the auxiliary. The Angel Guild was born. One year later, in 1979, they presented their first check to the clinic for \$1,000. Between then and 1986, when they became an entity separate from the clinic, they raised more than \$12,000.

The Angel Guild, now an organization of about 60 dedicated women, has raised well over half a million dollars to support worthy causes on the Key Peninsula.

There have been a number of location

## Want to go?

Angel Guild Basics

Location: KC Corral in Key Center

Phone: (253) 884-9533

Email: angelguild9013@hotmail.com

Store hours: T-Sat 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Donations: M-Sat 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

changes — from the Longbranch Church they moved to a small building in Home for a year. When they lost that site, they stored clothes in a basement until they found a new location in Key Center where Sunnycrest Nursery is today. In 1983 they moved across the street to the KC Corral. In 2005 they made their final move, this time just next door.

The operation of a thrift shop is no small feat. With a core of volunteers and one paid coordinator the Angel Guild is truly a machine. "Carla Parkhurst, our coordinator, is the heart of the Angel Guild," said Dianna Home, vice president. "She makes our



Photo by Sara Thompson, KP News

## The Angel Guild in Key Center.

wheels run."

In addition to having at least two clerks and a floater to help customers in the store at all times, there is enormous behind-the-scenes work to be done. Donations must be sorted, cleaned and priced. Shelves must be stocked. It can be a physically demanding job. Department heads focus on specific areas including toys, books, children's books, arts/crafts/fabrics, linens, Christmas, and jewelry to be sure they are priced and organized appropriately.

Members are proud of the store. "Ours is the cleanest, most pleasant thrift shop I know," said Joyce Salarino, second vice president and volunteer. "And we smell good," added Home.

Donations are received Monday through Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the donation shed behind the shop in Key Center.

"We strive to have quality items and appreciate it if donations are shelf-ready," said Pat Kunz, treasurer. "We don't have laundry facilities. And please, if you love your angels, do take the donations to the area in the back of the shop. It is difficult to carry donations from our front door to the donation shed."

Board members said they have many regulars who arrive first thing on Tuesday to see what new items have been added to the shelves. They strive to keep essential items — clothing, household items and linens — very affordable. Vouchers for essentials are available at the food bank and at Children's

Home Society.

Other items are priced at what might be considered more of a "market rate" to raise the money they then distribute through their grants. If the guild receives a donation with a value that exceeds what they can sell it for at the store, they sell it on eBay.

Grants are awarded each month based on earnings. Awards are made only to organizations (not individuals) and are limited to those serving the Key Peninsula community. Anyone interested in applying can come to the shop to get a description of criteria and directions. Requests received by the end of each month are considered for the following month. A committee meets to review and make recommendations, and the entire guild then votes at the general meeting. They welcome all requests, large and small.

The money raised each year has steadily grown. From that first \$1,000 in 1979, the Angel Guild raised \$31,000 in 1998, then \$46,000 in 2003, and \$63,000 in 2010. Last year brought the largest total yet, with \$104,000.

The funds have supported many worthy organizations, including our local schools, the library, the nonprofits serving our community, and Peninsula Light's assistance program.

Phyllis Henry, longtime volunteer and board member, commented, "We have an environment of mutual respect. What we have accomplished is pretty remarkable, and I think it works because we are women."

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# KP couple takes to the road to make new friends, share love for Christ

By Scott Turner, KP News

Marc and Sharon Christensen moved to the Key Peninsula a mere 18 months ago but they're already getting connecting with the community.

They've started a Christian Motorcycle Association (CMA) group to bring together fellow motorcycle enthusiasts.

Originally, Sharon Christensen said, they had planned to be involved with CMA "on the fringe" as a way to get together with Sharon's brother and sister-in-law.

"They were involved with CMA back in Virginia and they had an RV and we thought we'd just hang out with them.

"But God had other plans," she said.

The Christensens bought their first motorcycle in August of 2008 and two months later Sharon's brother and sister-in-law had a terrible accident. Her brother was killed on his bike; his wife was injured.

They were about five hours from their home in Virginia, she said. "When we heard about the accident I got in touch with their CMA chaplain and he contacted the CMA chapter where the accident happened.

"The local CMA members stayed at the hospital with my sister-in-law until their son could get there from Spokane. Then the CMA members put up my nephew in their home for three weeks. They had never met him or my sister-in-law before that," she said.

When the Christensens "saw how loving and kind those people were, God just told us '...any organization like that, you need to be a part of,'" Sharon said with a smile.

At that time the Christensens were living in Oregon, so they joined a CMA chapter and soon were asked to be involved on the



Photo by Scott Turner, KP News

**Marc and Sharon Christensen have started a local motorcycle association bent on helping others.**

state CMA level, Marc Christensen said.

When they moved to Washington, they connected with the Bremerton CMA chapter and recently volunteered to be involved in state leadership in Washington, he said.

Their first task is to form a Gig Harbor CMA group.

"We don't even have any members yet," Marc said. "But I think some of the Bremerton members and Tacoma members might want to join a Gig Harbor chapter. And of course we want to connect with the motorcycle folks here on the Key."

CMA is a kind of ministry for the Christensens. "The focus is on ministering to motorcyclists," he said.

"I'm not a pastor and never want to be one. But there are motorcycle events all

over the place and we go to an event and serve there in some capacity," he said.

It might be something like leading a morning devotion, or helping check in other riders at an event, Sharon said.

"We call it 'earning the right to speak.' Other people call it building a relationship. If you want to talk to people about coming to Christ, you have to build that relationship," Marc said. "It's a servant ministry. We go to serve."

CMA works with many different kinds of groups, from kids who ride dirt bikes to the black leather guys who ride Harleys. Currently there are about 1200 CMA chapters in the U.S. and chapters in 30 other countries.

"I was amazed to learn how widespread their reach is," Marc said. "Our CMA patch is recognized everywhere."

"Sometimes this is the only church that some of these hardcore bikers are ever going to see," Sharon added. "And if we can win someone to Christ, it's a great thing."

The Christensens are "doing something we love. We're out riding motorcycles and talking about motorcycles. It's kind of a

natural thing — you're more out in nature. I find it really relaxing," Marc said.

"And the smells are so wonderful. You just cannot get that in the car," Sharon added.

The couple emphasized that they're not a church. "But if we're able to reach somebody, we try to connect them with a local church so they can be fed by that," Marc said.

They hope to draw bikers from the Narrows Bridge to Port Orchard and Bremerton. They're working with local churches to spread the word about their new CMA chapter. And they're planning to do events on the fourth Saturday of each month.

The next gathering will take place March 26 at the Gig Harbor Subway on Point Fosdick Drive.

"If you ride motorcycles and are a Christian or if you just have a heart for motorcyclists — it can be Hells Angels or just families doing dirt bikes in the woods somewhere — everyone is welcome."

For information, visit [cmausa.org](http://cmausa.org) or email [marcsharon@gmail.com](mailto:marcsharon@gmail.com), or phone (541) 890-1232.

## Annual Livable Community Fair May 7th

*Key Peninsula Civic Center seeks non-profits, sponsors*

Key Peninsula Civic Center will host its 15th Annual Livable Community Fair on Saturday, May 7, 2016, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., at 17010 S. Vaughn Road KPN in Vaughn. This annual event began as an open house for non-profits on the Key Peninsula, and has expanded to include the Lakebay Fuchsia Society plant sale, kid's craft activities, and more.

Sponsorship opportunities are available to local organizations and businesses who are interested in promoting their companies through event website links, posters, counter cards, advertisements and event day recognition. For a sponsorship packet, contact the Key Peninsula Civic Center at 253-884-3456, or email: [kpciviccenter@centurytel.net](mailto:kpciviccenter@centurytel.net).

Non-profit organizations and other community resources on the Key Peninsula who would like exhibit space should contact Patricia Ghioffi @ 253-844-3456 or email [kpciviccenter@centurytel.net](mailto:kpciviccenter@centurytel.net).

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# TWAA Arts, helping the community in many ways

By Sara Thompson, KP News

Who would have guessed that observing at-risk kids respond to working on art projects would lead to a thriving Key Peninsula nonprofit organization? But that is exactly what happened. Today, Two Waters Arts Alliance (TWAA) celebrates a rich community of artists and supports arts education for young people and adults.

In 2001 Dennis Taylor noticed that hands-on art projects really engaged the at-risk youth he saw in his work. He reached out to two local artists, tapestry artist Margot Macdonald and photographer Kathy Bauer. One year later, TWAA was incorporated, joining artists and supporters of the arts.

"We have had many leaders and volunteers, all with a drive to keep the arts alive on the KP. Together we have provided art exhibits, performing arts, art walks, instruction in the arts for all ages and one of our goals is to always pay artists for their work," Bauer said.

In our rural community, with limited

resources, the schools have not had the capacity to offer arts experience for all students. TWAA has taken advantage of a talented pool of local and interested artists to bring arts experiences to the schools and, more recently, to homeschooled students.

Artists in Schools (AIS) brings art to the classroom with an impressive coordination of performance and visual art to enhance classroom curriculum. Tears of Joy, an Olympia-based literature and puppetry group provides the performance, selecting a new theme each year. This year it is medieval dragon folklore. Teachers then opt in to have local professional artists come to the classroom to provide hands-on projects that creatively blend the theme of the performance with their curriculum.

After School Arts (ASA) pays artists to teach after school classes and workshops. These offerings are less formal than the AIS classes and do not require the involvement of a classroom teacher. Classes are offered every Tuesday

## Want to go?

Engaging the Arts in Your Community:

**What:** Two Waters Arts Alliance invitation

**When:** March 31

**Time:** 6-8 p.m.

**Location:** Blend Wine Shop in Key Center

Wine and appetizers

and Thursday at Key Peninsula Middle School.

The homeschool arts program, new this year, offers art classes to about 15 students between the ages of 4 and 13.

When the Red Barn received a grant to offer arts activities during their after-school program, they reached out to TWAA to teach. The result — a series of weekly 90-minute classes that were a great success.

TWAA does more than offer education for school-aged students. Adult classes have been hugely popular. Patty

Finnigan, who coordinates the classes, said there will be a card making class in March, with ones in clay, water soluble oils and alcohol inks being scheduled.

Juried art shows, exhibits at the library and Blend Wine Shop showcase the work of our local artists. An open meeting on the first Tuesday of each month from 4-6 p.m. at Blend allows artists to meet and share ideas.

This summer, TWAA sponsored its first Art Walk and it was so successful that they plan to repeat and perhaps even expand later this year.

All of this good work takes energy and money. Although the school program coordinators and artists are paid stipends for their time and materials, much of the work is accomplished by a dedicated group of volunteers.

Fundraising has depended on public and private foundation grants, individual donations and membership. The Spring Fling, the every-other-year extravaganza held at the Key Peninsula Civic Center, is their major money-raising event.

Bauer, who recently announced her decision to step down from the board, said, "TWAA aims to maintain vibrant art programs on the Key Peninsula and ensure arts education thrives in its schools. We have a critical and immediate need for organizers and volunteers."

Adria Hansen, who coordinates the home school program, agreed. "Some of the skills we could use are managerial, financial and teaching," she added.

To learn more about TWAA visit [twowaters.info](http://twowaters.info) or [facebook.com/twowatersartsalliance](https://www.facebook.com/twowatersartsalliance).

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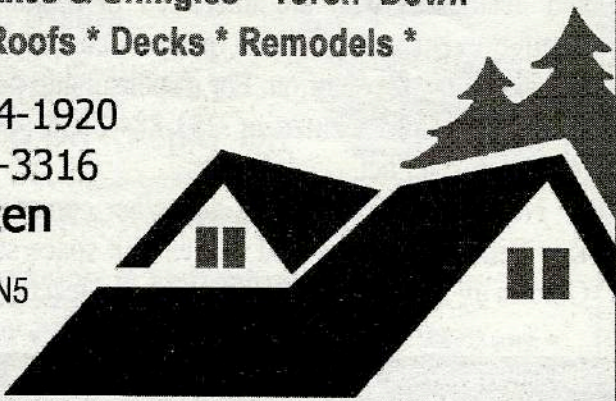
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\$700,000	\$28,000	\$42,000	\$14,000
\$800,000	\$32,000	\$48,000	\$16,000

# Key Peninsula Civic Center hosts annual Mardi Gras celebration

By Alice Kinerk, KP News

The piano-accordion was pumping, the barbecue smoker was smoking, and the people were having fun. For a little while on Feb. 6, the Key Peninsula Civic Center might as well have been located in New Orleans.

The Key Peninsula Mardi Gras Masquerade drew a crowd. The third-annual event, a fundraiser benefitting the KPCC, brings in much-needed funds for the non-profit organization. KPCC uses these funds to foster, protect and promote charitable, literary, youth, educational, civic, social and other activities for the people of Key Peninsula.

Richard Allen and the Louisiana Experience, a popular Zydeco band from Seattle, was on hand to rock locals with fast-paced beats accompanied by accordion and scrubboard.

Allen is a native of Lafayette, Louisiana and grew up surrounded by a family of musicians. According to Allen's website, "Any gathering was a reason to play music and eventually everyone who could

play an instrument gathered in a circle and joined in. Men and women with guitars, fiddles, accordions and scrub boards, sometimes more than a dozen at once, worked together in perfect rhythm while voices sang out in French above it all."

All that early exposure paid off for Allen as he is now a third-generation Zydeco musician. "Richard Allen and the Louisiana Experience provided the appropriate music for the night of revelry," said Ed Johnson.

When dancing brought on hunger pangs, local favorite Murph's BBQ returned this year, serving up dirty rice, pork sliders, red beans and rice, coleslaw and Louisiana hots. Murph spends about four hours slow-cooking pork and chicken over a smoker before adding spices, pepper and onions.

Murph has been serving cajun pulled pork at the event for the past three years, although he admits the spices are altered to please the Pacific Northwest palate. "It's Louisiana-style without being too hot," Murph said.



By Ed Johnson, KP News

The Key Peninsula community celebrated Fat Tuesday (Mardi Gras) with a dinner dance for the third consecutive year, and a good time was had by all.

## POET SPEAK

### KP poetry corner

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

### Lunch With the General

By Linda Whaley

She sipped the fragrant tea slowly while waiting for the General and looked across the table at the chair as empty as her arms, longing for the one who used to sit there, longing for the conversations, longing for the company that was so long ago.

In the midst of her reverie, the General appeared before her in his crisp, starched coat

with that saucy air about him. She reached out eagerly and pulled him close, filling her lungs with his scent, tasting his sweetness on her lips, all the while knowing - she had lunch with the General just Tso she could remember, just Tso she could remember, just Tso she could remember the days she could not forget.

### Raven Song

By PC Kennedy

Ancients called you Apollo's messenger feared you were the harbinger of death and here you are Raven flying high over Arizona over desert towns filled with the silver-haired, the

newly-gray, the henna-dyed heads of retirees who do not need you to tell them oblivion sweet oblivion is right around the corner past that next cactus the great saguato leaning away from the sun.



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## James H. Blundell Jr.

James H. (Jim) Blundell Jr. passed away on Feb. 7 at the age of 89 after living a full life dedicated to service.

Blundell served in the U.S. Navy in active duty (World War II and the Korean War) and in the Naval Reserve. He was a volunteer firefighter for more than 30 years with the Key Peninsula Fire Department. He tutored reading at Vaughn Elementary School, helped out with events for the Key Peninsula Senior Society, and was a board member for the Key Peninsula Sportsmen's Club.

In 1998 Blundell was recognized by The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program for exemplary service to the people of Pierce County. In 2015, he was recognized by the John Paul Jones Masonic Lodge for

65 years of continuous service.

Blundell is survived by his daughters Leeann Curtis and Gail Blundell; two granddaughters — Jessica Baker and Tracy Jones, two great-grandchildren Curtis Baker and Niki Baker.

There will be no memorial services. Anyone wishing to honor Jim's memory can make a donation to the Key Peninsula Volunteer Firefighters Association.



## John Earl Rikansrud Sr.

John (Jack) Earl Rikansrud Sr. born Aug. 16, 1941 to Richard Marville and Johnaida Elinor (Rapp) Rikansrud in Ellensburg, died Jan. 26 at St. Anthony Hospital.

Rikansrud attended school in Orting before moving to Sumner where he graduated from Sumner High School in 1959. He then attended Washington State University for a short time (majoring in Forestry) before joining the United States Army as a Lineman between 1962 and 1965. He retired in 2003 as a sheet metal foreman from Scott & Prom, Tacoma.

In his free time, Rikansrud enjoyed hunting with his friends, fishing, hiking, his dogs, and after his retirement, he ventured in prospecting and metal detecting.

He was a member of Puget Sound Anglers (PSA), Gold Prospectors Association

of America (GPAA), The Lost Dutchman's Mining Association (LDMA), Bedrock Prospectors Club, and Sheet Metal Workers International Association Local Union 66.

He is survived by his wife Sharon, daughter Michelle (Robert) Morton, and grandchildren John Morton, Jakob Morton, and Jazmyne Morton.

Per his request, there will not be a public service.



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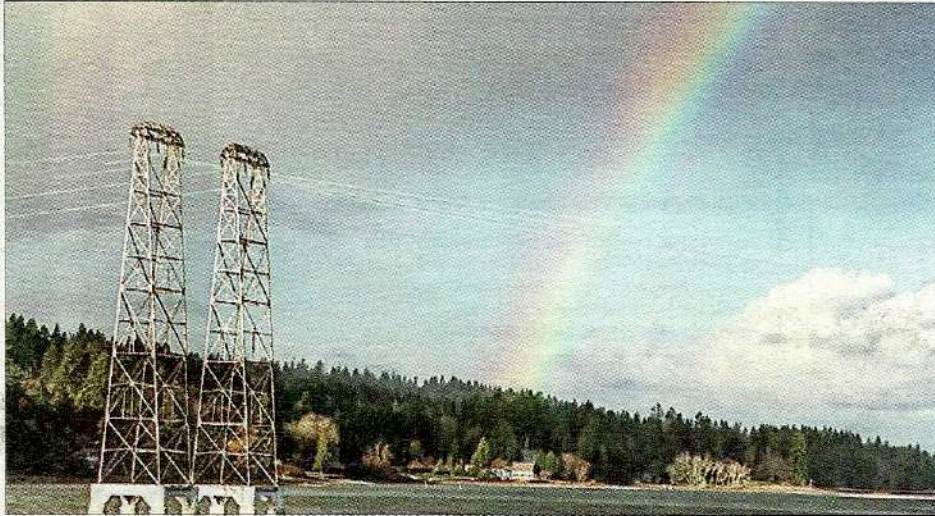
  
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# Out & About

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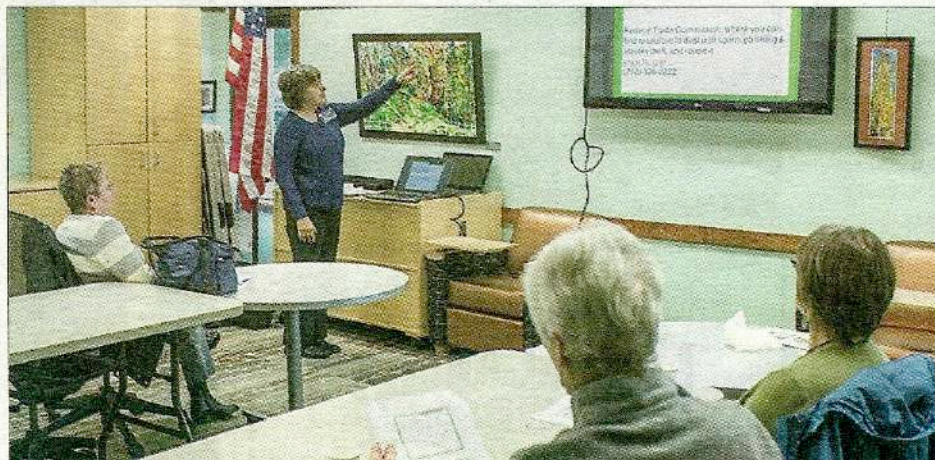
*Photo By Ed Johnson, KP News*

Regardless of how you feel about the rain, it brings rainbows that everyone appreciates.



*Photo courtesy Luis Montes-Gonzalez*

Seated, from left, Key Peninsula Lions treasurer George Robison and charter member Marvin Keizur. In back, from left. KP Lions membership chair Hugh McMillan and club president Hal Wolverton observe as Lions International District 19-C Governor Al Hedstrom pins newly minted anniversary titanium Lions' pins after administering the oath of office on new KP Lions Bill and Claudia Jones (sponsored by Wolverton), and Jeremiah and Lila Saucier, Jill Van Antwerp, and Curt Scott (sponsored by McMillan).



*Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News*

At The Mustard Seed Project's January "Third Thursday" event, Terri May, from the Gig Harbor Library, gave a presentation on avoiding identity theft.

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*Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News*

Local band, Budapest West, comprised of KP'ers Ike Sutton, Robert Brightman Rigoni Jr., Billy Odom and Cynthia Shaffer, played recently at the Slippery Pig tavern in Poulsbo.