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KPMS students learn about future job opportunities with hands-on projects

By Scott Turner, KP News

Step into Chris Bronstad's classroom at Key Peninsula Middle School and you'll find a whole fleet of aircraft flying from the ceiling.

In one corner of the room, there's a model of a 1900 glider under construction.

All the planes have been created by students in Bronstad's aerospace class, part of the school's STEM program.

According to KPMS Principal Jeri Goebel, STEM — which stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math — has been part of the KPMS curriculum for 11 years.

The goal of STEM is to get kids interested in studying science and math and how to apply those disciplines to engineering and career activities.

On Mar. 18 the school will host a science night to show the entire community some of the STEM activities KPMS students are do-

(See STEM, Page 2)



Photo by Scott Turner, KP News

KPMS student Robert Garlick, 13, works on one of his STEM class projects last month.

Feeding the hungry on the Key Peninsula

By Sara Thompson, KP News

Food insecurity is a real problem in this country — one in five families in Washington receive support from food pantries supported by state food assistance programs. The Key Peninsula is no exception.

Two food banks with permanent locations — Key Peninsula Community Services (KPCS) and Bischoff Food Bank — as well as one mobile unit, FISH Food Bank — are serving local residents. All have proud histories and help to ensure that people do not go hungry.

The story of a recent new arrival illustrates some of the struggles. (She faces a domestic violence threat and asked to remain anonymous.) Last July, her ex-husband took her two young sons. Homeless, she and her boyfriend lived in a tent in Tacoma and moved to the Key Peninsula in December

at the suggestion of a relative. They were able to get a tent from KPCS and lived in an abandoned house while getting food support from both food banks.

Now she has legal help through the YWCA and a place to live near the Bischoff Food Bank, where she volunteers. She has been reunited with her children. The oldest, who has moderate autism, is enrolled in kindergarten and she hopes her youngest will enter the Head Start program at Evergreen. She is looking for part-time work.

"People here have been amazing and helpful. Now I have a safety net. If they don't have what I need, they help to find it," she said.

Penny Gazabat, executive director at Key Peninsula Community Services, said the need for food has increased dra-

(See Hungry, Page 4)

(From STEM, Page 1)

ing. "And we'll also have food," Goebel said with a smile.

KPMS is a NASA Explorer School, "so we started our STEM program with aerospace," Goebel said. "We've had NASA experiences like opportunities for students to do labs for NASA scientists via technology, going on trips to NASA locations and things like that," she said.

Bronstad's students are also studying the history of aeronautics "starting back with the Wright Brothers," he said.

"I want them to have the basics of what flight is and the history, and there's so much history in our country and other countries and how things have changed along the way. I also want them to see all the different applications of aeronautics," he said.

Dailey Johnson and Robert Garlick are both in Bronstad's aerospace class.

"We learn about aircraft and spacecraft. It's kind of more advanced than a regular science class and you get to do a lot of hands-on

things. it's really cool," Dailey said.

His classmate agreed. "We're building models of a 1900 glider," Garlick said. "We're learning about wing structures and how the airflow over the top of the wing creates a low pressure zone underneath. It's a fun class as long as you pay attention. I want to become an aerospace engineer," he said.

In addition to aerospace, KPMS also offers STEM classes in forensics, robotics and AutoCAD computer programming.

KPMS student Calvin Losh has taken two robotics courses. "It was super fun," he said.

"The class was called Lego Mindstorm. You use Legos to make any kind of a robot and you can program them on a computer or control them with a phone.

"We program them on the computer and they have to do certain tasks. And with the phone, we do something called Robot Wars where we all build our robots and they fight against each other and the last one standing wins. I learned how to program Lego Mindstorms. It was so cool," Losh said.

Want to go?

KPMS will host a Science Night at the school on Mar. 18 at 5 p.m. The event will showcase STEM-based projects and activities students have done this year in their aerospace, robotics and forensics classes. For information visit kpms.psd401.net or call the school at (253) 530-4201.

That kind of enthusiasm is typical of students' responses to STEM classes, Bronstad said. "The kids love the hands-on experiences."

Richard Miller is in his third year of teaching at KPMS. He has taught 8th grade science and also teaches the robotics, forensics and the new AutoCAD class.

He's a strong advocate of the STEM program.

"STEM classes drive the kids to STEM careers, which is where the money and opportunities lie," Miller said.

"If they're not STEM-competent,

they're going to be severely handicapped regardless of the career they choose — whether it's a mechanical career or an industrial-type career. Without those STEM skills they won't be able to handle the technology that's going to be required of them in the work force," he said.

Students in Miller's forensic class love what they're learning.

"It's one of my favorite classes," said 13-year-old Landon Forsell. "I like this class a lot because we learn a lot of different things and there are a lot of options of what you can do with it, like becoming a police officer. There are some things that are sort of scary but it's all so interesting," he said.

Middle school is the age when kids are at the crossroads of their life, Miller said. "This is the age when they decide who they are and what they're all about and the decisions they make in middle school will guide and direct them the rest of their lives."

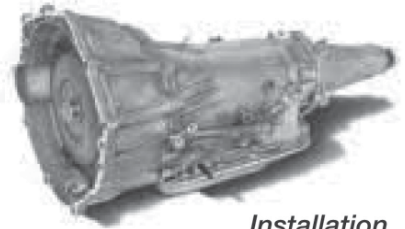
He said STEM classes teach the students problem-solving skills, how to adapt and how to answer their own questions.

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KEY PENINSULA NEWS

www.keypennews.com

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

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

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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.

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Gateway Park Final Concept Presentation

Public comments on the future of Gateway Park have been collected and applied into a final design concept!

This concept will be presented to the public at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, March 4, at Minter Creek Elementary School.

During the presentation, landscape architect Robert Droll will discuss the design's technical background the future possibilities, and what the public can expect in terms of construction phases and timelines.

We hope to see you there for this exciting unveiling! Refreshments will be provided and there will be a coloring area for children.

The next park board meeting will be at 7:30 pm on Monday, March 9, at Volunteer Park.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Clip & put on your fridge!

Wednesday, March 4
Gateway Park Final Concept Presentation
6:30 pm at Minter Creek Elementary School

Saturday, March 28 - Pet Easter Treat Hunt
10 am to noon at Volunteer Park
Bring your four-legged canine pals for frolicking and treat-finding! There will be demonstrations by the Pierce County Sheriff's Canine Unit and the Prison Pet Partnership Program, too!
Thank you to our sponsors Bayside Animal Lodge, Brookside Veterinary Hospital, CenturyLink, Gig Harbor Real Estate, Petco.

Saturday, April 25 - Parks Appreciation Day
You and your family and friends can volunteer at one of our parks and help make the community a better place to live!

Saturday, April 4 - Poker Run (trail biking fun)
Check-in 8:30 am, prizes awarded at 12:30 pm

community garden plots

Are you interested in renting a community garden plot? Contact Key Pen Parks at 253-884-9240 or answers@keypenparks.com



cinema UNDER THE STARS SURVEY

Cinema Under the Stars is Friday evenings in August. We'd love your input on what this summer's movies should be! Visit our website and click the survey link before the end of March to view suggestions and select your favorites!

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Get the Buzz on Bees
 March 7, 11 a.m.

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
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(From **Hungry**, Page 1)

matically since 2008, when she first started. "We had 97 families in our food basket program in 2008, and we have 300 now."

Ed Townson, executive director at the Bischoff Food Bank, said, "Before I got involved, you could not have convinced me that there was this much need. It breaks my heart. The current government help is just not enough. We have about 10 new families register with us each month."

Key Peninsula Community Services

KPCS was founded in 1982 and was located in Vaughn until 1989, when it moved to its current location just south of Home. It depends on volunteers but also has two paid staff. The food bank manager salary is paid through a community block grant and fundraising provides a salary for the driver of the refrigerated truck.

The bank partners with Food Lifeline in Seattle, which gives access to QFC, Fred Meyer, Albertsons and Target; independent relationships were

developed with Costco and Safeway. The food bank also works with the Tacoma-based Emergency Food Network (EFN), which is a distributor to many food banks and hot meal providers in Pierce County.

KPCS is a member of the Food Bank Coalition, a group of more than 60 food banks in Pierce County. This organization advocates for food insecurity issues and, as a member, KPCS is eligible for a higher volume of food and for the federal commodities program.

The nonprofit serves residents of the Key Peninsula. Clients register once a year and are asked to show a photo ID and a piece of postal mail to confirm residency. If they are homeless, this is waived. There is an income cap — 185 percent of federal poverty level — but proof of income is not required.

A total of about 36,000 pounds of food is distributed each month through two programs: Bread Closet and food baskets.

The Bread Closet is open four days a week and individuals can come when-

(See **Hungry**, Page 5)

Hot meals provided on the KP

Breakfast

The Peninsula Lutheran Church offers breakfast at 9 a.m. on first and third Saturdays, and dinner on the fourth Saturday at 3 p.m. It is located at 4213 Lackey Road KP North, Lakebay.

Sunday Community Meal

KP Community Services offers a Sunday community meal at 3 p.m. As many as 50 people come each Sunday, including some seniors and families. Oliver Coldeen coordinates the program. Four churches rotate to sponsor the meal — Longbranch Community Church, plus Gig Harbor's Wellspring Fellowship, Harbor Christian Center and St. Nicholas Catholic Church.

Harbor Christian Center manages the entire meal. For the others, Coldeen shops for what is on sale at Safeway and plans the menu. The churches provide the manpower and pay for the groceries. KP Community Center donates the facility.

"It can be a bit like the Iron Chef, getting a meal on the table for 50 people in two hours," Coldeen said.

Leftovers are boxed and sent home with those who want them.

Thursday Afternoon Meal

Lakebay Community Church offers a Thursday afternoon meal each week at 2 p.m. About 25 people attend, and after the meal there is a supply of donated food for them to take home. It is coordinated by Howard and Diane Johnson as a part of the Mingle and Minister Church Ministry.

A team of nine volunteers from several churches takes turns preparing the meal, with most ingredients donated by Panera, Budd's Food Service, Grocery Outlet and, from time to time, Lulu's Home Port.

"We have a good time and welcome newcomers," Johnson said

Need Help?

Bischoff Food Bank

1916 Key Peninsula Highway, Lakebay
(425) 444-2374
kpbischofffoodbank.org/home.html
Hours: Tuesday-Friday: 2- 6 p.m., Saturday: 2- 5 p.m.

Key Peninsula Community Services

17015 9th ST KP N, Lakebay
(253) 884-4440

keypeninsulacommunityservices.org
Hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 10 a.m. - noon and 12:45 - 4 p.m., Wednesday 10 a.m. - noon and 12:45 - 6 p.m.

FISH Food Bank

12521 134th Ave KPN, Gig Harbor
(253) 383-3164
fishfoodbanks.org
Hours: Friday 2 - 7 p.m.

(From *Hungry*, Page 4)

ever the bank is open. Participants are asked to register once a year and they sign in with each visit so that the number of individuals served is known.

Bread, desserts, fresh produce, dairy and deli items are available, depending on what has been donated. About 2,000-2,700 individuals a month benefit from this program. Products past their prime are donated to farmers to feed livestock.

Households in the food basket program receive a three-day emergency supply of food once a month. The basket provides three meals including meat, cereal, boxed food, coffee, oil and seasonings for everyone in the family. Some household cleaning and personal hygiene products are also available. Gazabat noted that most families report the basket lasts for nearly a week.

Bischoff Food Bank

The Bischoff Food Bank was founded in 2006 by Ross Bischoff. At first, he simply set up a table and handed out food at the Key Peninsula Lutheran Church. Although he died shortly after, his work was continued by Wally Haugaard.

The operation outgrew the church and in March 2013, it moved to Key Center for a year. In March 2014, the KP Bischoff Food bank decided to end its partnership with FISH Food Banks of Pierce County and was temporarily without a home. In June 2014, the food bank moved to its current location in Home, off Key Peninsula Highway.

It is a volunteer operation, with about 16 volunteers working at the food bank and driving to pick up donations. They partner with NW Harvest,

Budd's Food Distribution in Tacoma and the Emergency Food Network. In addition, Food Market in Lake Kathryn Village donates three times a week.

They support families throughout the entire Key Peninsula. Customers register by filling out an intake form that provides statistical information. There are income guidelines but proof of income is not required.

The bank is open five days a week but it has been known to make emergency deliveries to families who lack transportation. Clothing, household items and appliances are also available.

Kimberly Miller, board vice president and warehouse operations manager, said that on a typical month they serve 2,000 individuals and 450 families, supplying 35,000 pounds of food.

Individual donations (food, service and financial) are welcome. Miller noted that they are in particular need of canned goods and protein. Produce is welcome. As with KPCS, food past its prime is donated to farmers for livestock.

Bischoff welcomes those seeking community service hours (high school students meeting requirements or for court-mandated issues such as paying off traffic violations).

FISH Food Banks of Pierce County

FISH Food Banks was started in the 1970s by a group of churches. It provides food on the Key Peninsula once a week through a mobile food bank on Fridays from 2 to 7 p.m. First-time clients are asked to bring photo ID and the full names and birthdates of household members. The food bank operates next to the Key Peninsula Latter Day Saints Church.

Key Peninsula Historical Society Re-opens **CIVIC CENTER**

Colleen Slater, Key Peninsula Historical Society member since 2004.

Key Peninsula Historical Society (KPHS), organized in 1972, is dedicated to preserving and presenting our local history. The museum, started in 1995 at the Key Peninsula Civic Center, hosts a current display of "The Story of the Key Peninsula, its past, its people and its places," with special focus on schools, community halls and early businesses. We can't put out everything, but have many photo albums, CDs and stories for browsing as well as new exhibits.



Photo courtesy of Frank Slater.

An upcoming fundraiser dinner is planned at El Sombrero Restaurant in Key Center on March 9, 5-9 p.m. Cathy and Pablo, restaurant owners, support the museum with 10% of the receipts from dinner that evening. Come join us!

Our annual Membership meeting, open to members, guests and prospective members, will be held March 28 in the Whitmore Room at the Civic Center, beginning at noon. Bring your own plate service and something to share. Beverages will be provided. A brief business meeting will follow lunch.

Our special guest for this meeting will be Katie Malik of Cromwell, great-great-granddaughter of Andrew and Ellen Olson, who homesteaded what is now Sunnycrest Farm and more. Katie won a competition for a trip to Sweden last year to see where some of her ancestors lived, meet some family and learn more about her Swedish history. The program, sponsored by a Swedish TV station, hosted ten people, who competed for a top prize, which was a huge family reunion; Katie came in second.

KPHS has the opportunity to move and reconstruct an historic 1882 building

with local history, modeled after a family home on the Isle of Man.

We are in the process of developing the concept of an historic village, including a central building that could house office, meeting, exhibit, archival storage, general storage and educational classroom space. We are looking for a core group of visionaries to assist us in the development of a strategic plan for architectural planning, land acquisition, grant writing, permit acquisition, financial planning, construction and more. If you are interested in this exciting project please contact the museum board through our email at kphsmuseum@gmail.com.

Donations of historical items related to the Key Peninsula can be considered for the museum, either as a gift, temporary or permanent loan. We are especially interested in family histories of our early pioneers, and photographs of people and places here. If you were a student in a Key Peninsula school and have pictures of buildings or students, we'd love copies. Or come in, see what we have, and perhaps add to our identifications.

Historical books, photos, postcards, T-shirts, old-fashioned toys and more gift items are for sale at the museum.

You can also support the museum when shopping at AmazonSmile, Fred Meyer Community Rewards, or Bartell's B Caring by designating their rewards percentage go the the Key Peninsula Historical Society. Also, please save and give your Food Market receipts to the museum for the Peninsula High School Scholarship that we sponsor.

Check out our website:
www.keypeninsulamuseum.org/
or visit us at
[facebook.com/KPHistoricalSociety](https://www.facebook.com/KPHistoricalSociety)

For more information about KPHS, the museum, membership or programs, please call 253-888-3246, send a note to kphsmuseum@gmail.com, or drop by when we're open: Tuesday and Saturday, 1p.m. - 4p.m. or by appointment.



www.kpccivcenter.org
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253-884-3456

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

Peninsula Views

Key Pen Parks District moving ahead on park

This year began on a great note for Key Pen Parks with the passing of our audit at the end of December. For those of you unfamiliar with audits, this is a multi-day process of reviewing all financial statements, policies and other business practices and documents by the Washington State Auditor's Office.

Our auditor said there were "no findings, exceptions or notes," which is very good. This means Key Pen Parks is conducting business in a lawful and ethical manner consistent with high standards.

With the audit complete, we were able to focus our attention on a more exciting project: The new Gateway Park.

Key Pen Parks strategically purchased the 39-acre Gateway Park property in 2012 because of its relatively flat terrain and its ability to provide better public access to 360 Trails. It also meets a strong need to have a developed park in the Key Peninsula's most densely-populated north area.

Since the land acquisition was finalized, ample feedback on the future of Gateway Park was collected from local citizens through public workshops, emails and phone calls. We also queried attendees of KeyFest and the KP Farm Tour. Key Pen Parks and our board of directors felt it

Scott Gallacher Beyond the Backyard



was critical that the public have opportunities to let their desires be heard.

Ideas from the feedback were developed into three conceptual drawings which were presented at the last public workshop Dec. 6. More than 50 people attended to view the three concepts, which included features like a playground, splash pad, athletic fields, multi-use buildings and an equine arena. Attendees were then given the opportunity to discuss these concepts in smaller groups.

Park design landscape architect, Robert Droll, and I then analyzed and have applied the additional feedback from the final public workshop into a "Concept D." This final concept will be presented to the public at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, March 4, at Minter Creek Elementary School.

During the presentation, Droll will discuss the technical background of the design, the future possibilities, and what the public can expect in terms of construction phases and timelines. For example, phase

(See Gallacher, Page 7)

Letters Policy

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

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



Chris Copeland shows off some of her Marvin the Martian collection.

Photo by Steve Whitford, KP News

The marvelous martian museum

Enter Marvin the Martian. This character was created by the mind of one Chuck Jones on the 24th day of July in 1948.

He's small in stature, black, with no visible mouth and wears a Roman helmet and skirt — perhaps a depiction of Mars, the god of war. He made his movie debut in a "Haredevil Hare" for Looney Tunes, co-starring with Bugs Bunny.

Marvin's sidekick was his dog, pet commander K-9, and together they flew their spaceship known as the Martian Maggot. In this and other cartoon epics, he has portrayed adversarial relationships with such stars as gun advocate Yosemite Sam, Porky Pig, Daffy Duck and other Warner Brothers entities.

Meet Chris Copeland, Earthling. At age 5 she collected her first Marvin the Martian memorabilia. She liked Marvin best over other cartoon characters because of his plan to blow up the Earth, but not because he was evil — planet Earth was blocking his view of Venus. He planned to accomplish Earth's destruction by using his Illudium Q-36 explosive space modulator.

Copeland's been collecting Marvin memorabilia ever since. Her extensive collection includes such Martian tokens as T-shirts, hats, lamps, salt and pepper shakers, a telephone, cookie jar, tea pots, key chains and jackets. Copeland also has candles, magnets, bumper stickers, bobble head figures, clocks, wrist watches and pillows.

In addition, Copeland has Martian headbands, a popcorn bowl, journals, a Marvin basketball game, hand creme, stuffed dolls and even Christmas ornaments. Everything to date is thoroughly Marvin. Copeland drinks from her Martian mug, writes with

her Martian pen, saves money in her Marvin spaceship bank, blows bubbles from a spaceship filled with Martian soap and gets a Band-Aid from her Marvin Band-Aid box.

Perhaps her rarest specimen is a Marvin the Martian Pez dispenser. In her spare time, Copeland watches vintage Marvin videos and checks her internet Looney Tunes calendar, which keeps her informed of important dates. For example, Marvin's birthday is July 24 and in 2004 he turned 56, measured in Earth years.

Fortunately, just like Marvin, Copeland has a dog commander. Unfortunately, her commander chewed up and completely destroyed her Martian slippers. But Copeland's collection is quite extensive and will continue to grow.

Copeland has been a Key Peninsula resident since 2009. She's a retired telephone technician and a Vietnam veteran. These days, she can be found volunteering at the Bishoff Food Bank, where she's in charge of maintenance operations.

She also drives a large truck for picking up donations. She even furnished the food bank with the truck.

Future plans include a cross-country trip in her '39 Desoto, an odyssey she plans to record in her journal and hopefully publish in print on a later date.

Copeland can be reached at iamsong@aol.com. More photos of her collection can be viewed at keypennews.com.

Steve Whitford Words of Whit



The spider web of depression

By Chad Beaver

At a recent conference on suicide prevention I heard one of the best analogies for depression. Understanding depression and isolation is like looking at a spider's web; each strand of the web represents our social support system.

For the spider to survive it must build a web with many support strands. This allows for a wider catchment area and increases the chances of catching a fly and being able to eat, live and grow. Our lives are much like this; as we expand our support system we develop a catchment area for ideas, experience and growth. Each relationship we develop and reinforce — such as work, community involvement, volunteering, clubs and activities — strengthens our web.

Spiders that build webs with only a few strands are more aggressive. They understand that they have to protect the few strands they have and if a strand is broken its chances of falling increase exponentially. It must become angry and mean to keep from being mashed.

People have the same tendencies. If we build our support system with minimal strands we must be hyper-vigilant and stressed in protecting our smaller systems. When our entire system consists of only work and family and we have conflict at work the displeasure often carries over to family, and vice versa.

By expanding the webbing and adding more supports the spider is able to simply move to a more secure area of netting if one of his strands is broken. By expanding our support system we are able to refocus our mindset, focus our efforts on something other than the frustrations we are experiencing, and increase our resources to ultimately increase our chances of evolving

beyond our stress.

Simple changes in our daily routines can improve our support system. Find your local resources and find those in need in your community. Socializing at local senior centers or volunteering to pick up litter can be useful ways to improve your weekly routines and improve your community.

In children, an especially important aspect of focus is the distinction between our social media outlets and our social support system.

Often in today's society, children develop very limited social support systems.

A series of questions I often ask in practice goes like this: "How many friends do you have on Facebook?" Often I get answers in the hundreds to thousands. "What is your neighbor's name?" Often I'm asked why they would want to know this? "If you have a fire in the night, will you blog about it or run to the nearest house for help? Wouldn't it be good to know their name?" Often times this is followed by a look of comprehension.

Parents, by showing our children how to build a strong community we not only show them how to build their social web but we build a community that is strong and supportive.

Adding one community activity per week to your family's routines can have significant impact on the mental health and social mindedness for generations to come. Local community resources include: Key Center Library, the Mustard Seed Project, Key Peninsula Free Clinic, Peninsula Youth Wrestling and many others in our area.

Chad Beaver is a licensed marriage and family therapist and the owner of Key Peninsula Counseling Center. He can be reached at cbeaver93@yahoo.com.

(From Gallacher, Page 6)

one will likely include improving access from State Route 302, parking and restroom facilities. We will also touch on how the environment and site constraints play a role in the current design and potential future adjustments.

The name "Gateway Park" reflects the future this park will have as a gateway to the Key Peninsula and a showcase of our wonderful community. It will be a destination to be enjoyed by multiple interests and

multiple generations.

This is an exciting time for Key Peninsula and the greater Gig Harbor area. We hope to see you on March 4.

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

Next month: Are you looking for an Earth Day project? Parks Appreciation Day is April 25. I'll tell you about it — and how you and your family can make this event an annual tradition.



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Future goals a priority for Watershed Council at annual retreat

By Karen Lovett, KP News

The Key Peninsula-Gig Harbor-Islands Watershed Council (KGI) held their annual retreat in late January at the Key Center Library to identify the local priorities for addressing nonpoint source impacts to water quality in their five year action plan. This plan covers all areas draining into the salt waters of Pierce County west of the Tacoma Narrows.

The Watershed Council has been around since 2002.

According to Erin Ewald, former council chair, the council was originally formed to coordinate and direct education and outreach associated with the county's basin plan. The council provides an opportunity for citizens to participate and learn more about why capital projects such as removing fish passage barriers, culvert replacement projects and stormwater controls are important and what actions can be taken to help keep the watershed healthy and thriving.

Ewald said the basin plans are getting "out of date."

"The goals for the retreat were to iden-

tify current and future watershed needs. These priorities will go into the new five-year plan and provide feedback to the county for their consideration. These priorities might include recommendations for new stormwater projects to address recent development and water quality and water quantity improvements," Ewald said.

She said the Watershed Council is a great resource for citizen groups that want to know what's going on with water quality. Groups and individuals interested in watershed processes and planning can participate and know their voice will be heard.

"We reinforce open dialog and respect for each other's perspectives and opinions. The purpose of the retreat is to gather thoughts about what we've learned over time as a group and as members of the community, and then apply that information to benefit local water quality," Ewald said.

"There is a stewardship component and an education component," said Barbara Ann Smolko, senior planner with Surface Water Management Pierce County.

"We have a good partnership with the Key Peninsula. It's very important to identify problems locally and respond to them. However, we need to pull in more long term data collection through citizen science and develop a dialog with the community, teaching land stewardship and maintaining timber, for instance," she said

"I would like to see this group push for updated community plans for both Gig

Harbor and the Key Peninsula," Lucinda Wingard, with Crescent Valley Alliance, added. "Parks and open space are new since the original documents were written."

The committee will be finalizing their one-year agenda by next month and will finalize the five year action plan within the next few months. To participate or learn more, contact Barbara Ann Smolko at bsmolko@co.pierce.wa.us or (253) 798-3096.

Popular Pet Easter Treat Hunt returns

Key Pen Parks will host its 7th annual Pet Easter Treat Hunt at Volunteer Park from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, March 28.

Organizers want you to bring your furry canine friends and family for some fun-finding doggie treats. This event is free and open to the public.


There will be photos with the Easter Bunny, egg hunt prizes, demonstrations and informational booths.

The Pierce County Sheriff's Depart-

ment canine unit will do a demonstration. The event ends with the doggie costume contest winners for the funniest, best Easter, most unique and best overall costumes.

Attendees are encouraged to bring non-perishable, unopened pet food for local animal shelters.


Contact Christina Hallock at Christina@keypenparks.com if you or your company would like to help during this event.



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‘Early Learning Jamboree’ set to educate the many

By Scott Turner, KP News

If you’re the parent or guardian of a preschool age child, Peninsula School District invites you to a free Early Learning Jamboree and Kindergarten Kickoff on Mar. 21 at the Gig Harbor YMCA.

According to PSD Board Member Harlan Gallinger, the Jamboree will bring together parents, teachers, school administrators and community groups so families can learn about the early opportunities available for youngsters on the Key Peninsula and throughout the Gig Harbor area.

“We want to make early learning the normal, routine thing everywhere in our school district,” Gallinger said.

He wants the community to know that early learning is important and it’s fun and it’s something that everyone can do.

“It doesn’t just mean sitting down and reading a book with your child — although that’s a very important part of it. It encompasses so much more. It’s the whole child development including social, emotional, gross motor, cognitive and so forth,” Gallinger said.

Early learning applies to “anything be-

ROUTE #1		
PICK UP TIME	STOP	DROP OFF TIME
10:00	EVERGREEN ELEMENTARY	1:57
10:12	LAKE DR KS @ 21ST ST KS	1:48
10:13	24TH ST KS @ 194TH AV KS	1:47
10:14	194TH AV KS @ 21ST ST KS	1:46
10:23	TIEDMAN RD KN & WEBB RD KN	1:37
10:27	KEY PEN HWY N @ 3RD HOME AV KN	1:33
10:35	KEY CENTER FIRE STATION/LIBRARY	1:25
10:37	105TH STCT KN @ MINTERWOOD DR KN	1:23
10:41	CRAMER RD KN @ KOOLEY DR KN	1:19
10:43	134TH AV KN @ 120TH STCT KN	1:17
10:46	MINTER CREEK ELEMENTARY	1:14
10:49	CREVISTON DR NW @ 108TH AVCT NW	1:11
10:50	CREVISTON DR NW @ 103RD AV NW	1:10
ARRIVE 11:00	GIG HARBOR YMCA	DEPART 1:00
ROUTE #2		
PICK UP TIME	STOP	DROP OFF TIME
10:28	4213 LACKEY RD KN LUTHERN CHURCH	1:33
10:31	LACKEY RD KN @ 75TH ST KN GIGGLES DC	1:30
10:35	VAUGHN ELEMENTARY	1:26
10:39	UNION 76 STATION/4 CORNERS	1:22
10:42	LAKE HOLIDAY BUS SHED	1:19
10:45	134TH ST KN @ 142ND AV KN	1:16
10:46	134TH ST KN @ 138TH AV KN	1:15
10:51	SR 302NW @ 95TH AV NW CHEVRON STATION	1:10
ARRIVE 11:00	GIG HARBOR YMCA	DEPART 1:00

Source: Peninsula School District

Free transport will be provided by the Peninsula School District

tween birth and age 6,” he added.

He said learning doesn’t only happen in the classroom. Early learning also includes summer camps, sports programs

and other kid-centric activities.

The Jamboree is a collaboration between the Y, PSD, the Gig Harbor Chamber of Commerce and the Gig Harbor/

Key Peninsula Early Learning Coalition, which Gallinger chairs.

Other participants include Key Peninsula Parks, Pierce County libraries, Communities In Schools Peninsula, Children’s Home Society and even the Pierce County mobile immunization clinic, he said.

Pediatrics Northwest will also be there handing out free books to each child as part of their Reach Out and Read program.

Local preschool programs will showcase the opportunities they provide for young children. And the Jamboree will also be an opportunity for families to register their children for kindergarten for the 2015-16 school year.

There will also be many activities for kids, free food and free transportation to and from the YMCA, courtesy of the school district.

“We’re doing everything we can to get Key Peninsula families to come to this event, whether they go to public schools or private schools,” Gallinger said.

The event is free.

For information, contact Gallinger at gallingerh@psd401.net.

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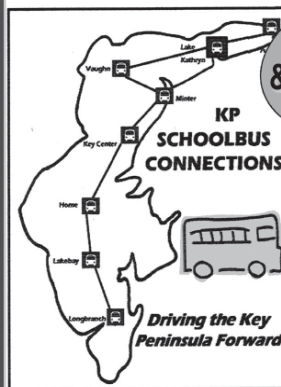
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User’s Guides available at: The Mustard Seed Project office, the Library, and the KPCS/Food Bank

Get ready, the archaeologists are coming

By Rick Sorrels, KP News

Archaeologists from Seattle's world-famous Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture will be on the Key Peninsula on March 21 from 1 to 3:30 p.m. to examine and identify old artifacts the public brings to Key Center Library for them to study.

Experts will solve the mystery or purpose of that ancient stone tool or arrowhead or item you found buried in your garden.

Every year in January or February, the Burke Museum holds an artifact identification day at the museum. They rarely travel elsewhere, organizers said.

The people making arrangements with the Burke work for Statistical Research Inc., who just wrapped up an archaeological study and dig along the shoreline of Filucy Bay.

Grant money from Washington state and from the Pierce County Landmarks and Historic Preservation Commission funded both the 2012 and 2014 surveys at Filucy Bay.

The team leader from Statistical Research Inc. is Edgar Huber. He and his colleagues Sarah Van Galder and Stephanie Jolivet will also be at the March 21 event to answer questions regarding their survey results.

The primary purpose of the Filucy Bay survey was to identify areas of high potential for future research. Filucy Bay was especially attractive because of a rare earlier survey conducted by John and Marcia Winterhouse in 1948, upon which they could build.

Access rights to dig were granted by the owners of 51 properties in 2012 and 22 properties in 2014. Seventeen sites were confirmed. Ten sites had been recognized in 1948, and seven new sites were found.

At a public meeting at the Longbranch Improvement Club on Feb. 17, Jolivet explained how the acid in the soil prevents the survival of animal remains including most bones. Artifacts found were mostly middens (a Danish word for kitchen trash), shells and modifications caused by humans. As an example, she

said, history shows that bark removed from a large tree was used in making clothing or footwear.

Huber said the most interesting object found was a stone tool used to scrape objects.

Jolivet said funding limits prevented lab determination and carbon dating. Dates for artifacts found could be 200 or 2000 years old.

If hired again for a third survey, and if funding is available, dates could be determined for artifacts, she said. All artifacts found remain the property of the land owner where they were found.

A lady in attendance who recently moved to the Lakebay area, who declined to identify herself, said she "had become more of a Luddite as she got older, wanting to leave everything in its place, undisturbed."

Jamie DePew, who owns property on Filucy Bay, said "the presentation was interesting, but would have been more interesting if they could have provided dates."

For information, call (360) 918-8621.

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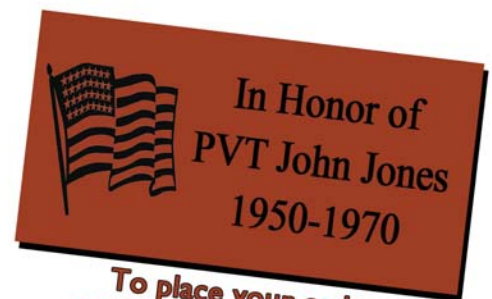
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COMMUNITY PAGES

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

NOW

Adult basic education

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

MARCH 2 and 16

Senior shopping

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

MARCH 2, 9, 16 and 23

Bloodmobile

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

MARCH 3, 10 and 17

Story time

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

MARCH 4

Park presentation

Key Pen Parks presents Gateway Park information at 6:30 p.m., at Minter Creek Elementary School. Feedback has been collected and analyzed and incorporated into a final "Concept D" for the development future of Gateway Park. During the presentation, landscape architect Robert Droll will unveil the design and talk about the technical background, the future possibilities and

what the public can expect in terms of construction phases and timelines. Refreshments will be provided.

MARCH 5

Fuchsia meeting

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

MARCH 5 and 19

Cat-lover meeting

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

MARCH 5, 12, 19 and 26

GED help

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

MARCH 6, 13, 20 and 27

Family story time

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

Skate night

Skate Night is hosted at the KP Civic Center 6 to 9 p.m. (note new times). 884-3456.

MARCH 7

NW Pro Wrestling

NorthWest Pro Wrestling hosts a free wrestling presentation at the KP Civic Center. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., with the free show at 7 p.m. Jeremy at jdilly23@hotmail.com or OfficialNWP@gmail.com.

To submit an event

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

MARCH 8, 15 and 22

Silver cinema

The 2015 Silver Cinema Series featuring "The Elders" on March 8, "Mending the Line" on March 15 and "Her Aim is True" on March 22 is presented by the Mustard Seed Project and the Friends of the KC Library at 2 p.m., at the library. Transportation is available by prior arrangement at 884-9814.

MARCH 9

KPHS fundraiser

Key Peninsula Historical society hosts a fundraiser at El Sombrero Restaurant in Key Center, 5 to 9 p.m. The restaurant helps support the museum with 10 percent of the receipts from dinner that evening.

MARCH 10 and 25

Crochet or knit

The Loving Hearts group knits and crochets for charities and meets March 10 at 1 to 3 p.m., and March 25 at 7 to 9 p.m., at WayPoint Church, 12719 134th Ave. KP N. Yarn donations are always needed. Virginia, 884-9619 or loving-heartsonkp@gmail.com.

MARCH 11

Garden club meets

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

MARCH 12

Ashes meet

The Ashes support group for Fire District16 meets 10:30 a.m., at the fire station in Key Center. 884-3771.

Technology help

Adults may bring an e-reader, laptop

or other computer questions for one-on-one help at the Key Center Library. Make an individual appointment with the library for a time between 1:30 and 5:30 p.m., at 548-3309.

Genealogy help

Adults will learn more about the library's genealogy websites with focus on Northwest and military records 6:30 to 8 p.m. This event is sponsored by PC READS funded by the Friends of the KC Library. 548-3309.

MARCH 12 and 26

Free clinic

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

MARCH 13 and 27

Teen fun

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

MARCH 14

Meet a princess

Daffodil princesses will visit the Key Center Library sharing stories and crafts. Call for details. 548-3309.

MARCH 15

Sunday bluegrass jam

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

MARCH 24

4-H meeting

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

(See Community, Page 13)

(From **Community**, Page 12)

MARCH 27

LEGOs

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

MARCH 28

Pet treat hunt

Key Pen Parks hosts its 7th annual Pet Easter Treat Hunt 10 a.m. to noon at Volunteer Park. Bring your furry leashed canine friends and family for some fun finding doggie treats. Demonstrations, costume prizes (for dogs), informational booths and the Easter Bunny. This event is free thanks to sponsors: Bayside Animal Lodge, Brookside

Veterinary Hospital, CenturyLink, Gig Harbor Real Estate and Petco.

KPHS meeting

Key Peninsula Historical Society holds the annual membership meeting, open to members, guests and prospective members, in the Whitmore Room at the civic center, noon to 3 p.m. Bring your own plate service and something to share. Beverages provided. Katie Malik, great-great-granddaughter of homesteaders Andrew and Ellen Olson, will be the guest speaker. Her program will be on a recent trip to Sweden. 888-3246.

COY awarded

The KP Lions' 31st annual Citizen of the Year will be announced at the COY dinner hosted at 6 p.m., at the KP Civic Center. Tickets are available at Sunnycrest nursery for a contribution of \$25 each.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

KP Veterans

March 2, 7 p.m., at the KP Lutheran Church. Membership is open for veterans and active duty military service members, their spouses and children over 16. 253-509-8656 or keypenveterans@outlook.com.

Key Peninsula Council

March 4, (note change of date) 7 p.m. meeting, hosted at Key Center Fire Station. Derek Young and Brian Stacy are scheduled to give presentations about the status of the sidewalks, et cetera in Key Center.

KP Lions' dinner and program

March 4 and 18, 6 p.m., in VFW Room, KP Civic Center; 853-2721.

Key Pen Parks

March 9, 7:30 p.m., at Volunteer Park administrative office; the public is encouraged to attend.

KP Fire Department

March 10 and 24, 5 p.m., in meeting room, fire station in Key Center; keypeninsulafire.org.

Peninsula School District Board

March 12, 6 p.m., at Artondale Elementary Gym and March 26, 6 p.m., regular meetings at District Office.

KP Civic Center Association Board

March 12, 7 p.m., meeting in Whitmore Room, KP Civic Center. 884-3456.

KP Land Use Advisory Commission

March 18, 6:30 p.m., at the KC Library; chuck-west@hotmail.com.

LIC

March 18, dessert potluck, 7 p.m., at Longbranch Improvement Club; 884-6022, longbranchimprovementclub.org.

KP Citizens Against Crime

March 19, 7 p.m., at fire station in Key Center.

KP Farm Council

March 23, 6:30 p.m., at fire station in Home; c.wiley@mac.com.

OFF THE KEY

MARCH 5

Meeting

PS OLOC West will be holding a meeting at China Sun Buffet on Bethel Road in Port Orchard at 12:30 p.m., to connect older lesbians in Pierce and Kitsap counties for discussions of our community needs as we age. Come meet the group, enjoy lunch and lively discussions. squirrelsmlom@centurytel.net.

Democrats meet

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

MARCH 5, 12, 19 and 26

Chess activity

Children in grades K to 8 participate in Chess Club every Thursday from 6 to 7 p.m., at the Gig Harbor Library. Twenty minutes of instruction is followed by 40 minutes of play. This event is sponsored by Friends of the Gig Harbor Library. 548-3305.

MARCH 6-28

Play presented

Paradise Theatre presents "Catch Me If You Can" at 7:30 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays and 3 p.m., Sundays. A special dinner theater is presented March 21 at 6 p.m. 851-PLAY or info@paradisetheatre.org.

MARCH 7-8

Bloodmobile

The bloodmobile is at the Gig Harbor

Health & Safety Expo, by Gig Harbor Fire and Medic One, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., March 7 and at St. Nicholas Catholic Church 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., March 8.

MARCH 7

Medieval demos

Children, ages 6 and older, and parents will travel back in time to the Middle Ages with demonstrations of medieval sword fighting presented by the Knight of Veritas at 11 a.m. Handle authentically weighted and detailed swords, try on armor, see real antiquities and more at the Gig Harbor Library. This event is sponsored by the Friends of the GH Library. 548-3305.

MARCH 12

Discover art!

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

MARCH 21

LEGO building

Children younger than 6 accompanied by an adult enjoy the library's LEGOs, straws and connectors, blocks and more to construct buildings, et cetera 10 to 11:30 a.m., at the GH Library. Duplos are available for toddlers. This event is sponsored by Friends of the Library. 548-3305.

KEY PENINSULA NEWS IS LOOKING TO TELL YOUR STORY

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

WEEKLY EVENTS LISTINGS ONLINE

See what's happening weekly at keypennews.com

CALENDAR SUBMISSIONS

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

Key Peninsula author publishes second novel

By Irene Torres, KP News

Leslie Bratspis saw a change in her ex-husband, a U.S. Marine, after he returned from two tours of duty in Vietnam. She drew from those memories when she started developing the plot for her new novel, "Vanilla Grass," which is drawn from interviews with other veterans, on-line research, war movies and video documentaries about post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Bratspis worked on the U.S. Marine Corps base in 29 Palms, Calif. during the Vietnam era where she spent a lot of time around members of all ranks, both officers and enlisted.

She said it took about nine or 10 months to write this book, which is set in a fictitious location called Ship's Cove, reminiscent of the Key Peninsula where she lives with her husband Ned and two golden retrievers, both rescue dogs.

"Being retired and having time to write has been wonderful," she said. "Belonging to Lakebay Writers was very helpful, not only in writing but in forming friendships."

When asked about local talent, she said, "There is such a creative group of writers, painters, weavers, seamstresses, photographers, quilters and potters. The environment here is conducive to creativity, rather than living in the city where there are so many distractions."

"Vanilla Grass" is a labor of love, written to raise awareness of the challenges to our military members returning from tours in Afghanistan and Iraq.

"There are 22 military suicides a day (reported). Because we live so near a military base, I took it personally. It had meaning for me, I became immersed in it and in the characters," she said.

"Some of the problems associated with PTSD are flashbacks, hyper-vigilance, inability to sleep, depression, anxiety, substance abuse, anger and nightmares. The book's main character, Vietnam veteran John Carrows, and another fictitious veteran, Mike Hogan, just returned from Iraq, show many of these symptoms in the novel."

Bratspis' research found that the symptoms of PTSD were documented in 1990

B.C. and 27 centuries ago in Homer's Iliad. The term "shell shock" emerged during World War I, and was later called war neurosis or traumatic neurosis. It was only adopted formally as a clinical diagnosis in 1980. Through her work, Bratspis' respect and appreciation for the military and what they do "has definitely increased," she said. "There is a real need for post-deployment reintegration. The veterans need services and support and understanding," she added.

Bratspis said a therapist at Joint Base Lewis McChord is giving copies of "Vanilla Grass" to coworkers and those clients who are focused enough to read, calling it "insightful." "It means so much to an author to know their work is read and well-received," she said.

Comfort dogs and service dogs, like "Dogs of War" and "Battleground Buddies," play a big part in this novel. Sage is a rescue dog and is the catalyst that brings Carrows out of his shell, so that he can be around people again. "Both are wounded, and survivors. Both are heroes," Bratspis said.

This book covers many current issues. Strong language is used. Bratspis said it is a necessary vehicle to demonstrate growth and change in the youth. The sex she depicts in the book is a reflection of current teenage promiscuity.

"It shocked me. It is more prevalent than I knew. I wrote about it to raise awareness," she said.

She is grateful for the assistance of the Gig Harbor Police Department for their technical expertise regarding processing of delinquent youth. It is a story of redemption for veterans and for some of the teens, "because of John and how he enlisted the community," she said.

"I hope people appreciate the message and spread awareness of challenges faced by returning soldiers, and that they understand the importance of community in getting things done," Bratspis said.


"Vanilla Grass" is available on Amazon, Kindle, Barnes and Noble and Costless Pharmacy or may be ordered directly from the author by email: lesliebratspis@yahoo.com. The novel was published by Plicata Press, November 2014.

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Key Peninsula maples tapped for their syrup

By Alice Kinerk, KP News

A while back, Key Peninsula resident Marilyn Brennan decided to stick a syrup tap in one of the maple trees on her property, curious to see what would come out.

Sugar maples, the variety of tree from which most commercially available maple syrup is made, grow in climates colder than the northwest, primarily Canada and the northeastern U.S. But according to Brennan, the trees that grow here, bigleaf maples, produce a sap that can be boiled down to syrup, too.

“The sugar content is a bit higher than that of the big leaf, which is why, I suspect, the bigleaf has been ignored as a viable source of syrup,” she said.

Brennan was working for the WSU Mason County Extension, coordinating their 4-H Forestry Education program when she first decided to experiment with tapping her own trees.

So what happened with Brennan’s experiment?

“The first sap that came into our collection container looked so clear we thought

that perhaps rain water had somehow gotten into the container and were about to toss it. But we decided to see what would happen if we boiled it down. We watched this quart of sap boil down to about a couple of tablespoons of the most delicious syrup, and we were hooked,” she said.

From humble beginnings, Brennan has built a prospering and unique hobby.

“This year we’ve been collecting sap from six trees. Three trees on our property and three from the farm of our friends, Mark and Cindy Knisely. I started tapping about mid-January and just finished my fourth batch,” Brennan said.

Brennan said among the most common questions she receives has to do with whether tapping injures a tree. “No, it does not. The tapping holes are about 5/16” to 7/16” in diameter, depending upon the type of spile you use, and a couple of inches deep. The taps are pulled as soon as buds on the tree start to burst. Unless the tree is already compromised by some disease process, it heals up very quickly,” she said.



Courtesy photo by Marilyn Brennan

To retrieve maple sap, Key Peninsula resident Marilyn Brennan inserted a spile into a pre-drilled hole into one of the trees on her property.

Brennan also has to chuckle when folks ask her what goes into syrup other than maple sap. “Pure maple syrup is just that: ‘pure maple syrup.’ You simply boil it down to evaporate the water,” she said.

However, if boiling down sap sounds easy, don’t be fooled. Brennan says the

sap-to-syrup ratio is daunting. “I wait until I get 10 gallons of sap to make it worth the tedium of boil-down. This year I’ve averaged over a quart of syrup for every 10 gallons of sap. When the sap reaches syrup stage I seal it in sterilized canning jars,” she said.

Homemade maple syrup has found its way into many of Brennan’s favorite recipes.

“I’ve made maple sugar candy, maple fudge, maple soufflé, maple mousse, maple-glazed salmon, maple cream cookies, maple-glazed pork tenderloin, and a delicious barbecue sauce for ribs,” Brennan said.

How is the taste? Claude Garhard, known locally for Trillium Creek Winery, is a friend of Brennan’s and said, “It’s not overly sweet, and it has wonderful flavor. It’s very light, and great on pancakes.”

According to Brennan, for those eager to rush out and begin tapping their own bigleaf maples, information about how to go about doing so, as well as the supplies needed to get started, are easily available online.

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Sunday, March 22nd, 2 pm: **“Her Aim Is True”**- The remarkable story of Northwest rock band photographer, Jini Dellaccio, filmed when she was in her 90s, complete with memorable sound track.

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Pro wrestling, alive and kicking at civic center

By Scott Turner, KP News

Key Peninsula resident Matthew Brickles is in seventh heaven since he discovered pro wrestling matches at the KP Civic Center.

"I've been a wrestling fan since I was 8 years old," Brickles said. "I love the action and the way the guys are performing for us. The guys (wrestlers) are all local and ever since I first went to their show last year I've been hooked on it."

The monthly matches organized by Jeremy Dilley, 27, showcase the group he founded called Northwest Pro. He's been presenting shows at the civic center since July 2013.

Dilley, whose stage name is JD Ma-

son, currently lives in Gig Harbor, but he grew up on the Key Peninsula.

"I went to Vaughn Elementary and KPMS," Dilley said. "I went to Peninsula High School two-and-a-half years and finished up at Henderson Bay."

Dilley started wrestling while he was at KPMS then continued during his freshman and sophomore years at Peninsula. "But then I had to have reconstructive nose surgery so I had to take a break," he said.

He's been wrestling professionally since he was 17.

According to Dilley, there's a difference between the Greco-Roman style of wrestling in high school and pro wrestling.

"In the Greco-Roman freestyle, it's all

Want to go?

The next NW Pro wrestling event takes place at the KP Civic Center on Mar. 7. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., the show starts at 7 p.m. The event is free.

about competition and being the best you can be and helping your team win points," he explained.

Pro wrestling, by contrast, is all about the performance.

"It's about working with a partner to put on the best show you can put on. It's not about going out there and hurting your opponent or seeing your opponent get hurt," he said.

Dilley compares pro wrestling to a circus and a live-action movie fight.

"You've got the good guy and the bad guy. There's someone you're going to like and someone you're not going to like."

"You really have to work the crowd.

If you're out there just wrestling for yourself, the crowd is going to know," he said.

The rules require that you have to hold your opponent down for three seconds, he explained.

"You can get disqualified for low blows, or if you're outside of the ring for more than 10 seconds you're out," he added.

The KP shows usually feature 10-15 NW Pro wrestlers every month and usually run about an hour-and-a-half. "It runs about the same length as a movie," Dilley said.

Attendance has grown to more than 100 people at the monthly events.

"It's good family entertainment. You can bring your kids and not worry about what they're going to see. It's not especially violent because safety is priority No. 1, 100 percent. Every time," he said.

Dilley is especially pleased to see so many people in the civic center.

"I like to try to draw people to the civic center and try to bring more attention to that place. It's been around for a long time and they do a lot for the community.

"And everybody loves the venue — everyone from the camera guys to the wrestlers to the fans. It's old, but not too old," he said.

Dilley and his wrestlers train three days a week in the ring, "and the rest of the time I expect them to work out on their own," he said.

When he went to wrestling school, he learned a lot about the business of professional wrestling.

"They opened my eyes really quickly," he said.

"When I was first starting out I trained in all the different styles and I wanted to go to Japan and Mexico.

"But wrestling is a very cutthroat business with constant politics. I discovered that I like running the show more than the actual wrestling. It's a hard business and a very cutthroat business — way more cutthroat than politics," he said.

Still pro wrestling attracts a lot of athletes.

Francesco Holt — aka Frankie Sky —



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(See **Wrestling**, Page 17)

(From Wrestling, Page 16)

has been training with Dilley for about two years.

"I first saw JD down in Oregon. He was training in the ring and the first thing that went through my mind was 'I want this guy to train me. I want to be taught by him,'" Holt recalled.

Holt has some advice for would-be wrestlers:

"If you're planning to get into wrestling, don't think it's going to be easy. It's the hardest thing I've ever done. I knew coming into it that it was going to be hard, but I never expected the amount of effort and work you need to put into it. But if you really love and have a passion for it, it's worth it. It's really cool," he said.

And, said Dilley, one thing that pro wrestling is not, is "fake."

"A lot of people use the word fake and I hate it," he said emphatically. "It drives me crazy because I've had tons of injuries, blown out knees and I'm only 27.

"I want people to have a respect for what we do. In a way it's an art form," he said.



Courtesy photo by Voogf's Photography

"I discovered that I like running the show more than the actual wrestling. It's a hard business and a very cutthroat business -- way more cutthroat than politics."

JD Mason is hoping the community will come out in force to watch him and other pro wrestlers at the Key Peninsula Civic Center. March 7.

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Mentors of the Month

Selected by **Communities In Schools of Peninsula**

Math Mentor Julie Gillett

Julie Gillett has been a math mentor at Purdy Elementary for eight years. Julie has lived in Gig Harbor for over 15 years, and her three boys have all been mentees for Communities In Schools of Peninsula! Julie always enjoyed math growing up, and loves to see the confidence grow in the kids she is mentoring. Julie says that her kids love the consistency of seeing her every week. One of her students calls out to her daily - "See you Thursday, Mrs. Gillett!" Julie remarks, "There are strategies that I learn every day in the new math programs. People volunteer to give something back to their community, and you just can't imagine how rewarding it is and how these kids enrich your life. They make me laugh!" Thank you Julie for all your years of commitment to math mentoring for the kids at Purdy Elementary.
- Communities In Schools

Reading Mentor Jennifer Tobin

Jennifer Tobin has been a reading mentor at Ardendale Elementary for nine years! She has lived in Gig Harbor for 29 years, with her husband and two children. Jennifer is very impressed with Communities In Schools of Peninsula's mentoring program and wouldn't change a thing about it. She loves getting to know the kids and the personal connection and trust she builds with each of them. Jennifer commented, "For the small amount of time each week, it's amazing to see the positive changes that happen over the school year. Being able to stay with one child and develop a lasting relationship is so rewarding." The best part of Jennifer's day is when one of her previous mentees pops in for a quick "Hi, Mrs. Tobin!" Jennifer says, "The kids are so happy to be there, in all my years I have never had a reluctant child in the program. The kids enjoy the adult attention and are so willing to learn and read, it is so valuable and worthwhile." We want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all your years of mentoring! We hope to have you for at least another nine years!
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Vaughn Elementary students learn lessons from past leaders

By Scott Turner, KP News

One day last month Mackenzie Miller, age 10, stood in front of her class at Vaughn Elementary and told her classmates about Mary McLeod Bethune.

"She was an educational leader for black women and she opened a school for black people because she believed they deserved to get more education," Mackenzie said. "She was the only one of the 17 children in her family to go to school."

For Mackenzie and her classmates in Elise Michaels' fourth-grade class, it was part of their observance of Black History Month.

"We started in January by studying Dr. Martin Luther King," Michaels explained.

"Every year we talk about him, because we always get a day off in his honor, but the kids don't always remember. So we review the fact that he was a civil rights leader and we reflect on the changes that have happened in America," she said.

Using a pile of reference books from the school's library, the kids in Michaels' class selected black Americans who have

been important in the country's history.

They created timelines about the lives and accomplishments of their selections, then gave oral reports on what they had learned.

Michaels also had the children read a play about Dr. Martin Luther King written by students she had taught in Tacoma.

The play was a real eye-opener. "When the mother of Dr. King's little friends told her kids that they couldn't play with him any more because they were too old to play with black children —this idea was totally foreign to the kids in my class," Michaels said.

The Vaughn students also learned about Jackie Robinson, Sojourner Truth, Ralph Bunche and others.

Makenzi Carter, 10, reported on Zora Neale Hurston. "She was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize," Makenzi said.

Alex Miller, also 10, talked about another Peace Prize winner — Ralph Bunche. "He was the first black man to win the prize and he was also part of the UN and eventually he headed the United Nations," Alex said.

"It's important to learn about our history so we don't make the same dumb mistakes we did in the past. So if we become something like a politician or a Prime Minister we don't make the same mistakes again," he said.

Zoey Hulse, 9, reported on Althea Gibson and told her classmates that Gibson was a champion tennis player, golfer and singer. "It was fun to do this project," Zoey said with a shy smile.

It was also an important learning experience.

"It's educational because I believe everybody should know about slavery and black women and just about black people and the changes they've made," Miller said.

"And they should know about what happened — like segregation. Let's say I had blond hair and they segregated me just because I have blond hair, there'd be no other reason.

"It doesn't make sense why they segregated black people. They really didn't know who they were — except, 'Oh they have a different color skin so we can't let them in our group.' And that is just wrong," she

added.

That's what the assignment was all about, Michaels said.

"The big thing I wanted them to get out of this is diversity. There are people out there who have paved the way for us whether it's women's rights, equal rights, civil rights, whatever.

"They paved the way and our lives are so much easier and better because someone paved the way. Someone opened the doors," she said.

In doing their assignments, Michaels said the students weren't thinking about color. "They were thinking about how this person had many obstacles to face. How many things did they have to overcome? Like Jackie Robinson. These kids are just getting an understanding that it takes hard work and perseverance to do things.

"And the children are learning what all that means: civil rights. You have your own rights to do things," she said flatly.

Michaels acknowledged that learning about black history isn't a part of the

(See Lessons, Page 19)

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Teen writing, art contest publication features local winners

By Karen Lovett, KP News

“Our Own Expressions” has just been published, showcasing contest winners from the Pierce County Library System’s 18 Annual Teen Writing and Art Contest.

Originally the contest accepted only written submissions but eventually widened the scope to include photography and artwork. Two participants from the

(From **Lessons**, Page 18)

regular school curriculum and that she has occasionally taken some flack for teaching it.

“But it’s a fun learning experience for parents, too,” she said.

“I want people to know that our kids are working hard to learn about history and about different people. They’re fascinated about different people who have worked hard to do something, to make something, to accomplish their goals. And they’re learning good lessons from that,” Michaels said.

Key Peninsula were awarded placements in the 2014 competition.

Caleigh Gaaney from Key Peninsula Middle School took third place in the photography category for grades 7 and 8 with her picture, “100 Cobblestone Way.”

Savannah Bohl from Peninsula High School took third place in photography for grades 9 and 10 with her photo, “Abandon.”

Cole Maurmann was awarded third place in the drawing category for grades 11 and 12 with his portrait, “Mocking-jay of Katniss” from the movie “Hunger Games.” This was the third time he entered the contest. He has also entered drawings in the Kitsap Fair every year. The home-schooled student from North Kitsap only took one basic art class on Fox Island offered through their home-schooled co-op.

“He was taught using a grid,” said mom, Lori Maurmann. “After that he was self-taught. We purchased books or he checked them out at the library. One year he did eyeballs. He doodled eyeballs on any piece of paper. Eyeballs were everywhere. The second year he worked on

shading. This year he is working on doing bigger pictures,” she said.

“I’ve been drawing for five years,” Cole said. “I do one type of drawing every week. Drawing expresses creativity. There’s no such thing as good or bad art. I did eyes because they were fast to do. I usually spend four to five hours on a drawing. Graphite is my main medium, but I’ve also taken up inking. I usually do people. I have done cars,” he said.

The 12th grader has just submitted an entry for this year’s 2015 contest. Judging will be finished by the end of March. An awards ceremony will showcase winners on May 27. Award-winning entries will be published in a booklet next year.

“The contest has grown every year,” said Rosina Vertz, Key Center Library supervisor. “This year we had over 1,000 entries.”

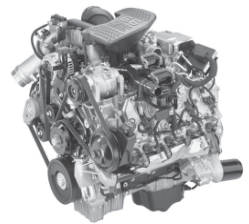
The contest is sponsored by Pierce County Library System and Foundation with support from Pacific Lutheran University and Print NW.

For information, visit piercecounitylibrary.org/kids-teens/teens/teen-writing-art.

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KP Lions to select 2014-15 Citizen of the Year

The 31th annual Key Peninsula Citizen of the Year Awards dinner will be at 6 p.m. on March 28 at the KP Civic Center.

The Key Peninsula Lions Club invites all Key Peninsula citizens and their friends to attend. Tickets are available from members of the KP Lions Club or at Sunnycrest Nursery in Key Center; the \$25 cost per ticket helps pay for the event.

Profiles of the citizens nominated for the honor of KP Citizen of the Year 2014-15 are below. Community members submitted their nominations to the KP Lions Club, whose members will vote by secret ballot for the winner. The winner will be revealed at the banquet.

Guest speaker is Mark Lindquist, Pierce County prosecuting attorney, and the food will be prepared by Dorne Webster.

Kathy Bauer is a founding member of Two Waters Arts Alliance. She nurtured it quietly and diligently for 13 years — making it a cohesive group. She works



with and writes grants for Artists in Schools so kids in local schools have art experiences. She has raised community support for Two Waters to be an essential part of the community.

Mickey Bearden's dedication, energy, support and positive attitude at Evergreen Elementary includes volunteering in the library and helping at the Reading Is FUNdamental event. She is also a reliable member of the Food Backpack Program, stuffing bags and personally transporting and distributing them to ensure students have food for the weekend.



Brandy Ellzey is an Angel Guild volunteer, member and treasurer of the Key Peninsula Business Association and president of KeyFest. She and her husband, Allen, spend time to line up the carnival,



vendors, sponsors and the facilities to have KeyFest. They ensure all the hard-working volunteers and plans come together.

Mike "Mike the Barber" Fay volunteers for the Mustard Seed Project and the Key Peninsula Fire Department's Santa Sleigh, which makes KP kids happy. He does this while he assists his ailing wife at home.



Former Pierce County Councilman Stan Fleming worked for four years to improve safety for KP citizens with installation of Key Center's traffic lights and crosswalks. He was vital to opening the Longbranch Improvement Club's marina bridge way and also helped secure funding for the covered, solar-powered picnic shelter at the KP Civic Center.



Key Peninsula Community Services and is a critical part of the grocery rescue program and its success. Greenley's interactions with the public and grocery store personnel ensure the community gets needed resources and shows his compassion and dedication as a volunteer.



Marcia Harris administers the School Bus Connects Program, and focuses the Rotary of Gig Harbor on Communities In Schools of Peninsula and the Children's Home Society. She also volunteers for The Mustard Seed Project, the Civic Center's Flavor of Fall and the KP Farm Council. She is vice president of Key Peninsula Community Council and president of Peninsula Schools Education Foundation.



Dewey "Keith" Greenley volunteers at

(See COY, Page 21)

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(From **COY**, Page 20)

Marilyn Hartley, who has physical limitations, constantly cleans and maintains the Rocky Creek Trails, eliminating trash and blackberries. Hartley fundraises, too. She helped organize, promote and run the sale that raised \$5,000 for the people of Oso, found a special needs bike for a young boy, helped a young widow, raised money for a young woman's medical needs, and more.



Kristie Hilley is a volunteer at Vaughn Elementary, works in the PTA, created a free Family Fun Night for families to enjoy dinner and activities together, and runs the annual Relay for Life Team. She also volunteers at Peninsula High School and KP Middle School and brings free bread to the KP food bank every week.



Bill Jones' family moved to Herron Island

and found no emergency response personnel. While working full-time in Kent, he became a first responder with the Key Peninsula Fire Department — often answering the call for help on Herron Island. He now lives on the mainland and remains an active firefighter/EMT and handles the Santa sleigh and all breakfast functions.



Karen Jorgenson spearheads the Food Backpacks 4 Kids program, where she spends much time organizing, managing, seeking food supplies and supervising filling and distributing backpacks to the children. After discovering families with limited cooking facilities, she equipped 54 families with crockpots readily donated by Costless Pharmacy, KP Lions and Cindy Robison's P.E.O. friends.



Barbara Julian took on the Washington Department of Transportation and others in

the 1960s and compelled them, with numerous petitions she single-handedly circulated and stood at store entries for weeks to collect, to remove the toll on the second Tacoma Narrows Bridge. After a legislative vote, the toll was removed on May 14, 1965.



Karen Lovett is an advocate and active member of three KP writers groups, has published three novels and has volunteered at the Key Peninsula Community Services Food Bank, the Lakebay Fuchsia Club and the KP News. She served as secretary on the KP Community Council and Friends of the KC Library.



Marianne McColley is the director of the Key Singers, whose concerts benefit the food bank and PHS graduates. She organized and directs the



Conchord women's choir and is an Angel Guild member. She is the choir and bell choir director at KP Lutheran, and is involved with the board and with production at Paradise Theatre.



Pat Medveckus is in the background for the essential operation and success of many KP boards and events, including the Key Peninsula Fair, KP Lions, KP Little League, KPCCS's golf tournament and KPCCA, where she plans and cooks for the crab feed, works on Flavors of Fall, the Halloween Carnival, the Chili Cook-off and other fundraisers.



Kimberly Miller has worked night and day as volunteer to keep the KP Bischoff Food Bank open. She has given huge amounts of her time and money to make sure people on the Peninsula have access to food all month long.

(See **COY**, Page 22)

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(From COY, Page 21)

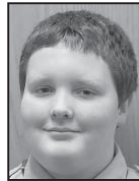
Jud Morris does much beyond his job for the KP. He is on the boards of the KP Business Association, KP Civic Center, KeyFest, PSD Education Foundation, GH/KP Suicide Prevention, PSD Harassment/Bullying, Health Department Policy Advisory and the KP Free Clinic. He is a member of the Greater Gig Harbor Foundation and KP Partnership Coalition.



Anne Nesbit is the full-time administrative assistant with the KPFD, a volunteer battalion chief, coordinator of the Santa sleigh and secretary for the KP Volunteer Firefighters Association. She helps with suicide prevention counseling and "Sentimental Journeys" which enables hospice patients a last wish. She also works part-time as an ER technician at St. Anthony Hospital and is involved with Peninsula School District.



Daniel Shurr, a seventh-grade Boy Scout, planned, organized and hosted a car wash/yard sale with fellow scouts, raising about \$1,200 for the Oso Fire Department and the Oso mudslide victims. At KPMS, he is on the honor roll, is an emergency runner, and helps new students get accustomed to school.



Irene Torres helped establish the KP Community Council in 2000, served on its board as treasurer and is now media liaison. She writes for and proofs the KP News and was president of the KP News Publishing Board. She is on the KPCCA board, is a KP writer and represents the KP on the Greater Gig Harbor Foundation Board.



Ed Townson, a retired teacher, works 50-60 hours per week running the KP Bischoff Food Bank. He also contributes financially to the



food bank. He does all of this out of the goodness of his heart to make sure the needy have food all month. He is a volunteer.

Dick Vanberg is a long-term board member of Communities In Schools of Peninsula and has been a reading mentor for eight years at Vaughn Elementary. He, together with his wife, Jean, supports and builds unique, long-lasting bonds with students.



Spencer Wiklund leads Boy Scouts Cub Pack 222 and coordinated the pack's activities for camping trips, merit badge accumulations and fundraising. His Cubs set records for sales of popcorn. He worked with the pack's sponsor, the Key Peninsula Lions Club, selling apples. He is highly respected by his Cub Scouts.



Carolyn Wiley is president of the KP Farm Council and works with the KP Farm Tour and the simultaneous KP Fiber Arts

Show, created by her in 2007. She is on the LIC's events committee and develops programs like Feast or Famine. She is vice president of Friends of the KC Library and is a gifted, humorous writer.



Kathleen "Kat" Wingers is flexible and open-minded during decision-making processes and her service with BSA Troop 220. She is the treasurer and represents Troop 220 on the KPCCA board. She also is leader of the PHS scholarship program.



Cindy Worden is president of Citizens Against Crime and urges a simple basic strategy: "Report it, report it, report it. If you don't contact the Pierce County Sheriffs, it didn't happen." She urges citizens to take photos and license numbers for the sheriff's department. Worden is also treasurer for the KP Community Council.



December 16, 2014

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The winner will be presented with an engraved plaque during the Arbor Day Celebration, which takes place this year on April 25th at the Gig Harbor Civic Center/City Hall. Send a letter or email us with the person's name, contact information and explain why they should be honored. You may even nominate yourself! Nominations must be received by April 3rd to be considered.

Mail to: "Tree Lover Nominee" c/o Gig Harbor Peninsula Arbor Day Org., P.O. Box 1493, Gig Harbor, WA 98335 or cadoret47@gmail.com c/o Carol Alex



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Photo by Marsha West, for KP News

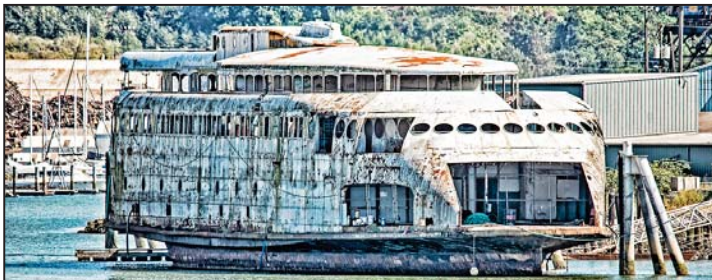


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Far left, top: A pair of hummingbirds buzz a local feeder.

Far left, middle: Crocuses in a Lakebay garden provided a familiar haven to this bee in mid-February, visual evidence that spring has arrived on the Key Peninsula.

Far left, bottom: The ferry Kalakala was spotted in Tacoma's Foss Waterway recently, before being hauled away for scrap. The popular dome-shaped vessel was a staple on Puget Sound and operated from 1935 until it was retired in 1967.

Near left: This artful tree can be found at Glen Cove.