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Transition program helps young adults

By Scott Turner, KP News

For seven special education students who live on the Key Peninsula, the Peninsula School District's Community Transition Program (CTP) plays an important role in their future.

Josh Burkey, Jesse Smith, Cole Martin, Jacob Sumpter, Andrea Moulton, Morgan Hensley and Rebecka Miller are among the students benefiting from the program.

According to Doris Walden, a CTP teacher, the program is available for all students in the district's special education program who have completed their high school training, but still need more services.

"CTP was founded more than 25 years ago by Edie Purvis," Walden said. "She had a vision that these 18- to 21-year-olds with developmental disabilities can do more than just sit around. She thought they should be out in the community working and becoming more independent."

Basically, Walden said, CTP is a continuation of high school. "It helps the students learn how to get a job and teaches



Photo by Scott Turner, KP News

Community Transition Program students, from left, Riley Sullivan, Carlie Shield, Brian McCaughey and Blake Jones, huddle around Morgan Hensley, their crew supervisor (and Key Peninsula resident), moments after finishing work at the Tacoma Ram Family Restaurant.

(See CTP, Page 5)

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Running for the fun of it
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Revamped KeyFest comes to Gateway Park

By Colleen Slater, KP News

The key word for KeyFest 2013 is "new." This year's community fair will be hosted at the new Gateway Park at Wauna, a new location. There will be new events, new ticket prices and new entry and exit routes.

A carnival will offer rides for those 36 inches or taller, and plenty of fun for those under the 3-foot limit. The KP Lions will offer rubberband guns, Girl Scouts will do facepainting and games of chance will draw in participants. A "keep or release" trout pond will be open for \$1 a pole.

Kris Sherman will bring her petting zoo animals and a roving magician will add to the delights of the fair.

A vehicle show will feature motorcycles, boats, small planes

and cars of all sorts (up to 30 feet in length). A Best of Show award will be given. Registration is \$10 and vehicles are expected to be in place all weekend. Call (253) 278-2064 for available space.

For those 21 and older, a beer and wine garden will be open.

Two stages will provide a variety of entertainment each day. The Friday, July 12 evening event is country music by Second Ride, followed by Folsom Prism, a Johnny Cash tribute band.

On Saturday, July 13, Louis Foxx, a one-man side show, will take the stage at 11:30 a.m. and 2:15 p.m. Other acts include K C Brakes' Hawaiian Island music, and balloon twister Jami will perform her magic for the kids. The Rick Beatty Band presents

(See KeyFest, Page 4)

Health advisory comes and goes at Purdy sandspit

By Rick Sorrels, KP News

The Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department issued an advisory for the Purdy sandspit on May 31. The advisory was lifted on June 5.

The health department issued the warning, but the health department and the Department of Ecology also were involved due to its requirement to monitor the licensed shellfish farms in the area.

According to Ray Hanowell with the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, an elevated level of enterococci bacteria was measured in routine water samples. Subsequent sampling showed the levels dropping to normal, so the advisory was lifted within six days.

“Recent studies by the EPA show that illness from enterococci bacteria is more



Photo by Scott Turner, KP News

On May 31, the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department closed the Purdy sandspit due to high levels of enterococci bacteria.

severe than from the more commonly found fecal coliform and E. coli,” said Hanowell. “Individuals exposed to en-

terococci would experience vomiting and diarrhea, but not too violent.”

At press time, the source of the con-

tamination has not been identified. Possible sources include: bacteria released from overturned sand caused by high winds; septic system leakage; dead animals (possible but doubtful); and defecation from dogs, horses and other critters (including humans).

Hanowell, along with Erin Ewald from Pierce County Conservation District, acknowledged that there has been recent septic work in the area, but doubt that was the source.

They both said that the source may never be identified.

Ewald works with farm property owners and their animals to control bacteria spread from those areas.

Even though no reports have identified any illness to humans from this event, beach users should be alert for posted advisories and act accordingly.

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KEY PENINSULA NEWS

www.keypennews.com

Unsolicited submissions deadline 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 non-profit parent organization. Copyright 2013 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 presort 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.

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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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JULY 2013

Key Pen Parks PROGRAM GUIDE

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

REGISTER ONLINE: www.keypenparks.com

5K RACE RESULTS:

#	Name	Time	#	Name	Time
1	Matt Thomson	21:28:00	44	Lynnda Burton	40:44:00
2	Kelly Egge	21:29:00	45	Beth Porter	41:11:00
3	George Unruh	21:38:00	46	Jackson Vowell	41:53:00
4	Joni Kaminski	22:53:00	47	Susanne Noble	42:02:00
5	Thomas Kaminski	22:54:00	48	Heather Rogers	42:16:00
6	Edward Robison	22:59:00	49	Logan Schuller	44:08:00
7	Dylan Roberts	23:14:00	50	Wyatt Cranford	44:09:00
8	Ami Shipp	24:40:00	51	Alyssa Hawkins	44:50:00
9	Constance Kirby	25:17:00	52	Caden Gallacher	45:16:00
10	Bill Burton	25:39:00	53	Haylie Gallacher	45:17:00
11	Stephanie Vanderbank	25:40:00	54	Neil Cranford	45:37:00
12	Athena Petterson	25:55:00	55	Myka Cranford	45:38:00
13	Gavin Olson	26:16:00	56	Shelby Bridges	45:41:00
14	Zachary Becken	26:48:00	57	Dalyn Davis	45:48:00
15	Natalie Pierson	27:16:00	58	Kirsten Gallacher	46:03:00
16	Troy Miller	27:51:00	59	Caiden Lindstrom	46:05:00
17	Zackery Martin	27:59:00	60	Terrie Vowell	46:08:00
18	Sharon Ebel	28:16:00	61	Leigh Adams	47:05:00
19	Tom Flookes	28:44:00	62	Belle Goodman	47:12:00
20	Steven Wolf	30:37:00	63	Leigh Adams	47:19:00
21	Mackenzie Miller	30:42:00	64	Stephanie Lindstrom	47:51:00
22	Colton Carr	30:46:00	65	Mackenzie Schuller	48:05:00
23	Tony Carr	30:47:00	66	Rick Seeger	48:45:00
24	Gerald Vowell	30:57:00	67	Sharla Schuller	48:46:00
25	Amy Becken	31:04:00	68	Riley Schuller	49:19:00
26	Alena McCrea	32:00:00	69	Crystal Wedel	49:52:00
27	Bill McCrea	32:07:00	70	Zachary Wedel	49:53:00
28	Amy Broadrick	32:45:00	71	Colleen Case	51:35:00
29	Mike Wedel	33:22:00	72	Frances Curry	54:31:00
30	Valerie Burns	34:10:00	73	Kelly Galizio	54:32:00
31	Charlie Burns	34:12:00	74	Patty Whelan	54:34:00
32	Robin Koch	34:38:00	75	Kyler Hodson	55:36:00
33	Tom Boardman	34:47:00	76	Carl Hodson	55:37:00
34	James Noble	34:55:00	77	Missie Hodson	55:59:00
35	Blake Muggli	35:00:00	78	Mary Tyler	56:35:00
36	Anna Rosendahl	35:03:00	79	Jodi McDougall	56:36:00
37	Bruce Muggli	35:22:00	80	Jennifer Hoover	58:01:00
38	Dawn Flookes	36:13:00	81	Dianna Graham	58:02:00
39	Courtney Dutton	36:57:00	82	Tracy Coonan	1:04:31
40	William Cundiff	36:58:00	83	Elizabeth McCord	1:04:35
41	Nathan Vanoverbeke	38:01:00	84	Tiffany Chambers	1:07:18
42	Makenna Wedel	39:09:00	85	Lynn Miller	1:27:00
43	Nicole Didway	40:35:00			

NAMES IN BOLD WON THEIR AGE DIVISION

Cinema Under THE STARS

Free Summer Movies at Volunteer Park

• Pre-Entertainment starts at 7:00pm

• Movies begin at 8:30pm

Bring your chairs, blankets, snacks, & smiles!

7/26-Wreck It Ralph • 8/2-Rise of the Guardians • 8/9-ET • 8/16 Despicable Me • 8/23-Hotel Transylvania

SUMMER CAMPS at-a-glance

CAMP	Dates	Location	Time	Ages	Fee	Highlights
MAD SCIENCE	July 8-12 August 19-23	Volunteer Park	9:30am-12:30pm	5-12	\$125	July is Machine Mania and August is Science Sleuths!
THEATER	July 15-19	Civic Center	10:00am-4:00pm	7-16	\$149	Prepare & perform a play with Kathleen McGilliard!
LEGO: Pre-Engineering OR Bash Em Bots	July 15-19	Volunteer Park	9am-12pm or 1pm-4pm	5-7 or 7-12	\$135	Build boats, bridges, mazes & cars (Pre-Engineers) or battling mechanized machines (Bash Em Bots).
PICASSO ART	July 22-26	Volunteer Park	9:30am-12:00pm	4-7	\$79	Learn from famous artists and create masterpieces!
ECO ADVENTURE	July 29-Aug 2 Aug 12-16	3 Parks, 1 Farm & Camp Seymour	9:30am-4:00pm	8-12	\$109*	Big canoe trip, recycled art, hiking, beachcombing...
YOGA & MEDITATION	August 5-9	Volunteer Park	9:00am-10:00am	7-12	\$49	Experience the calming effect of yoga practice...
PEEWEE DRUM	August 5-9	Volunteer Park	10:00am-2:00pm	4-7	\$49*	Explore all types of drums & prepare a performance!
PEEWEE THEATER	August 19-23	Volunteer Park	2:00pm-4:00pm	4-7	\$59	A fun and creative camp to learn theater skills!

*reduced price reflects subsidy from Community Partners—KGI Watershed (Eco) and Longbranch Improvement Club members (Drum)

PENLIGHT SUMMER FUN RUN June 15 at the 360 Park Trails



Stephanie Vanderbank (Park PALI) leads the 3rd-5th Kids Dash

KIDS DASH RACE RESULTS:

K-2nd BOYS-Connor Burton GIRLS-Mackenzie Miller
3rd-5th BOYS-Jack Olinger GIRLS-Jane Oliveria
6th-8th BOYS-Gavin Olson GIRLS-Constance Kirby

THANK YOU: Peninsula Light Co. and Costco!
VOLUNTEERS: Kaitlin Hall, Dylan Vanderbank, Leyla Vanderbank, Stephanie Vanderbank, Andrea Daly, Sierra Jackson, Kiera Kaufman, Caleigh Gainey, Kobe Frederick, Eddy Frederick, Sherrie Pierson, Diane Jackson, Cheryl Rogers, Joanna Kirby, Alisa Padilla, Robyn Readwin

Family Fun Nights & Workshops

In partnership with the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, we are offering 3 great programs in August to increase your environmental awareness & stewardship through fun activities and lessons!



August 1st 6:30pm-8:30pm


Family Fun Night: Worms & Dirt-Composting Fun!
Location: Gateway Park (10215 SR 302)

August 8th 2:30pm-4:30pm

Natural Yard Care Workshop-Landscaping
Location: Gateway Park (10215 SR 302)

August 8th 6:30pm-8:30pm

Family Fun Night: H2OH!-Exploring Water
Location: KP Civic Center



Third Annual Lavender Festival at Blue Willow Lavender Farm

Friday, July 12 and Saturday, July 13, 2013
10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Free Admission!

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

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

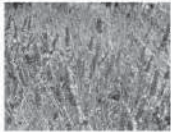
- U-pick Lavender – Lavender Crafting – Harvesting – Drying – Debudding – Kid's Activities
- Sound Stage Artists

Friday, July 12

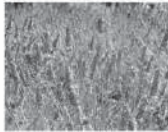
- 11 a.m. Propagation and Care of Lavender – Bill Ketts, Blue Willow
12 p.m. Cooking with Lavender – Tracy Ketts, Blue Willow
2 p.m. The Many Uses of Lavender – Tracy Ketts, Blue Willow

Saturday, July 13

- 11 a.m. Propagation and Care of Lavender – Victor Gonzales, Victor's Lavender
12 p.m. Cooking with Lavender – Tracy Ketts, Blue Willow
2 p.m. The Many Uses of Lavender – Tracy Ketts, Blue Willow
3 p.m. Propagation and Care of Lavender – Victor Gonzales, Victor's Lavender



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(From KeyFest, Page 1)

a wide variety of guitar music from rock, blues, Latin and other styles to techno, followed by singer Kim Archer doing soul, funk, ballads and a variety in between.

The last show Saturday evening will be SweetKiss Momma, a southern-style rock 'n' roll band.

On Sunday, July 14, the Key's Got Talent show is from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., and the final show will be Richard Allen and The Louisiana Experience, a high-energy folk/blues/Zydeco band.

This year's fair has booked about 75 vendors, including plenty of food: two barbecues — Murph's and Bretski's — deli sandwiches and a couple of choices for hot dogs. The popular Carter's Chocolates and ice cream returns and beverage stands include two coffee/latte options.

There will be a wide variety of crafts, both handmade and commercial, including jewelry and pottery. Other vendors will offer cosmetics, massage and several nonprofit organizations will be represented.

Pre-sale entry tickets that include all-day rides are \$20, for sale at Goin' Postal, Blend Wine Shop, Ellis Accounting, KP

Community Services, Serenity Salon, Sound Credit Union, American Family Insurance, Tax Shack and Sunnycrest Nursery.

All-day ride tickets are \$19 (plus entry fees) if purchased inside the fair grounds.

The entry price varies each day: Friday (4 to 11 p.m.) is \$5, Saturday (10 a.m. to 11 p.m.) is \$6, Sunday (10 a.m. to 6 p.m.) is \$4. There will be free admission for those under 36 inches tall.

Peninsula Light is the presenting fair sponsor. Friends of the Fair sponsors include Food Market, LZ Property Management, LLC, Fife RV Center, Larson PowerSports Northwest, Angel Guild, Outdoor Channel HD, Northwest Camping Center, Wave Broadband and Bruce Titus Port Orchard Ford.

Volunteer Park's main buildings and gate will be closed for the duration of the fair.

There will be no parade because of traffic considerations, and no left turns will be allowed — in or out of the fairgrounds — to help eliminate traffic backups. Directional signs will be posted, using 118th Street for both routes.

For information, visit KeyFest.org or call (253) 444-3547.

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(From CTP, Page 1)

them good work habits and personal skills — any skills that they need for transition into the community.”

One of the biggest benefits of the program is its connection with area businesses that hire CTP students as workers.

“We’re very fortunate to have jobs available at places like the Ram, Tanglewood Bar & Grill and Burki’s Chiropractic,” Walden said.

Other businesses that employ CTP students include Sound Vista Village, Round Table Pizza, Peninsula Pediatric Therapy and Dex or Yellow Book.

The students also do volunteer work at FISH, MDA and other locations, Walden said.

They do tasks such as rolling silverware at restaurants, office cleaning, sorting and shelving items and landscape services.

“The whole goal is that students become sustainable members of the community, working full- or part-time for minimum wage, or they can do volunteer work,” she said.

One of the biggest challenges for Key Peninsula students is transportation.

“There are no buses out here on the Key



Scott Turner, KP News

Earlier this month, Community Transition Program student Morgan Hensley rolled some silverware while working at the Tacoma Ram Family Restaurant.

and most of these young people don’t drive or have access to other transportation,” she said. “It would be very helpful if there were more job opportunities out here for the students, because once they leave our program they might not have access to jobs elsewhere,” Walden said.

Morgan Hensley, a 20-year-old CTP student from Lakebay, agreed that transportation is a big problem.

After completing his regular studies at

Peninsula High School, Hensley joined the CTP program.

“It has really helped me a lot. They helped me get a job and showed me how to use the buses,” Hensley said. “I really like the program and it’s definitely working. Everyone is very nice and very helpful.

“But the biggest problem is the bus system. I wish there were more buses here on the Peninsula,” he said. “I don’t drive, so I depend on my family or on the buses.

When I get out of the program next year, I’ll probably move to Gig Harbor and hopefully get a job there, where I can get around better.”

Michael Francis, manager of the Tacoma Ram Family Restaurant, is a longtime supporter of the CTP program.

“It’s a very important program. It teaches discipline and motor skills and how to do a job in a real-life environment,” he said.

As a restaurant manager, he recognized the program’s economic benefits, as well.

“It really helps me keep my labor costs down because I can shift tasks like rolling silverware from my servers to this (CTP) team,” he said. “At the Ram, we pay for it out of our training budget, but it’s not costly and it’s very worthwhile.”

Having a steady job with a regular paycheck also teaches the students about money, Walden added. “They get a paycheck every month, so they learn about banking and how to budget and manage money.”

For the students and the businesses that employ them, the CTP program is a win-win situation.

“We really need more businesses out on the Key. That’s what would really help,” Walden said.

For information, call (253) 530-3943.

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Peninsula Views

Summertime, oh summertime

Again this year, summertime finally arrove (neat new word, eh?).

The sun's focal point on the Earth moved north and the temperature differences between the sea, land and air lessened. The ice pack retreated to the north and a high pressure system, called the North Pacific High, formed. It usually doesn't get into full swing however, until late June or early July after the sun has had a chance to warm the land masses.

The reason the biennial Victoria, B.C. to Maui sailboat race starts in late June or early July is that by then the North Pacific High has usually established itself. The result is that winds from the north rush

William I. Trandum
Winds, Tides & Weathers



south to fill in lower pressure near Hawaii. That means a 24-hour-a-day spinnaker run downwind through whatever sea conditions exist, and there ain't no place to stop and take a rest.

I didn't get to race Vic-Maui, but my crew did and they reported, "You want a thrill, try steering a 40-foot boat through heavy crosswise seas in the pitch black

(See **Trandum**, Page 7)

On parenting a middle schooler

I woke up the other morning to discover that, during the night, somebody had replaced my sweet, innocent daughter with a middle schooler.

I mean middle schooler in the literal sense of one who attends Key Peninsula Middle School, but I mean it in the metaphorical sense as well. The eye-rolling, cell-phone-demanding, computer-hogging, "Seriously Dad?" sense of the word.

I'm not sure which is worse: the changes wrought in my child, or the changes wrought in my own peaceful life. She who once trusted everything I said now questions every word I utter. She who once sat in the back seat humming to herself now sits in the front and takes control of the car audio system.

I tried to prepare for this day. For many years, my wife and I have been teaching our children to appreciate good music — we've surrounded them with jazz and classical music. Even with that, the middle schooler is now walking into the house singing Katy Perry songs. That wasn't the plan.

Yet the changes in me seem even more drastic. Overnight I've become incompetent. I've been using computers for decades, but in the middle schooler's eyes I don't know how to turn the thing on. Pushing me out of the way, she blurts, "Let me show you, Dad." Don't even get me started on the television remote. I haven't been allowed to touch it for months.

You know what else I've noticed? Put a few middle schoolers together and the noise level reaches the threshold of a 747 jet at full throttle. My once peaceful home has become a hotbed of chaos, filled with shrieking and ringing cell phones.

Dan Whitmarsh
Writing by Faith



Every man's home may be his castle, but mine's been overrun and I'm hiding out in the wine cellar.

Still, it's really not that bad. Last month I had the privilege of watching the KPMS marching band win the Mayor's Choice award in the Gig Harbor Maritime Parade. Many of us were wowed by the KPMS record-breaking weather balloon spaceflight and egg drop. Somehow, all those little kids who shared the playground with my daughter have grown into intelligent, capable, bright young men and women, and they are starting to make their mark on the world. And that's pretty cool.

A few weeks ago I popped up some popcorn as the family all sat down to watch a movie together. As we relaxed on the couch, my daughter curled up next to me, leaning into my shoulder. She's growing up too fast. And yet, she can still be daddy's little girl. And I intend to hold on to every one of these fleeting moments.

To all you students now on summer break, know that we're proud of you. We may be a little bothered by your music and fashion choices, but we're excited to see what you become in the years ahead.

Just don't grow up too quickly. And be patient with us old folks. We're still trying to figure out where our own youth went.

Dan Whitmarsh is pastor of Lakebay Community Church.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Community support of fire district appreciated

The Key Peninsula Fire Department would like to thank Lt. Kaci Sun for her recent presentation to students at Key Peninsula Middle School on Career Day. Lt. Sun is one of the firefighters whose position was saved when the community passed the fire department levy last November.

Sun talked with students about what it was like to be a firefighter, the skills she has acquired, and the professional opportunities it has provided for her. She also discussed the importance of having the

support of her colleagues when there are difficult, even painful, emergency calls, and why it is important for the children to show the same kind of compassion and kindness to each other. This message is timely with the increased awareness of bullying in schools, and the antisocial behavior it can cause in young people.

Your support makes it possible for the Key Peninsula Fire Department to work with young people on fire prevention, as well as teach them to recognize their emergency responders. We appreciate your support and this opportunity to make a positive contribution to our community.

Chief Tom Lique
Key Peninsula Fire Department

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 Ken Peninsula News reserves the right to edit all submissions for length and content. Mail letters to: P.O. Box 3, Vaughn, WA 98394, or email to news@keypennews.com.

(From **Trandum**, Page 6)

night flying a spinnaker with 25 knot winds at your back.”

One little error and the boat is on its side, its mast laying in the water, the sail acting as a huge sea anchor and the crew, who had better have been tethered to the boat, soaking-wet mad. You're good for about 30 minutes of steering unless you're Superman or Wonder Woman. Been there, done that, just not on Vic-Maui.

That's also why, for us Key Penners (another neat new word, eh?) and other North-westerners as well, a summertime north wind almost always means high pressure and sunny skies.

Winds are always named for the direction they are coming from. So, a southeasterly blows from the southeast, a northerly from the north.

You may recall that during our nearly nine months' long non-summer, the southerly wind generally follows a counterclockwise path toward the Aleutian Low in the northern Gulf of Alaska. In the summer the opposite takes place, our northerlies blow clockwise and away from the North Pacific High.

Note also that the warming of the earth

and the ocean takes time. Even though the longest day of the year, the summer solstice, happened on June 21, that is not the hottest day of the year. There is a seasonal lag of a few weeks before the Earth has heated up enough for it to feel like summer.

It's a bit like turning on your oven. The element gets hot quite quickly, but it takes some time for the air molecules and the metal inside of the oven to get up to cooking temperature. The opposite is true as fall approaches, it takes time for the Earth to cool as the sun moves south.

It has always seemed to me a little nuts that we get the kids out of school in June when it's still often chilly, then send them back while it's still pretty warm in September.

Really wise people probably set it up that way either to punish them or to help them build character. I don't buy either motive. As far as I'm concerned, every sunny day in the Northwest should be a holiday, every rainy day a workday, and if it's just cloudy and damp, the worker gets to choose. The kids don't get to choose until they have kids themselves.

William I. Trandum is a retired U.S. Navy Captain, an avid boater and retired sailboat racer.

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**2nd Annual "Doing the Key"
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NEWS BRIEFS

Community News

State Route 302 road project may be delayed

The upcoming SR-302 road construction project may have run into a snag.

During the June Key Peninsula Community Council meeting, Steve Fuchs, the outgoing project engineer for the Washington State Department of Transportation, said that during the process of surveying in the area of the Wauna curves for right-of-way property appraisals, a well and septic system were found.

He said this finding may delay the date for bidding on the project as coordination with utility owners, Pierce County and property owners takes place.

"Alicen is a very hard worker and well respected by her co-workers and management alike. She always has a smile and will work any hours needed," said Sam Baker, Roadhouse manager.

Baker is hopeful the community will help Robinson "get on her feet again, and to help with her mounting bills."

For information, call 884-1300.

Parks levy on November ballot

At its June 10 meeting, the KP parks commissioners voted unanimously to place an operations and maintenance levy on the general election ballot in November for voters of the Key Peninsula.

The one-year property tax levy would collect \$700,000 during calendar year 2014, with a tax rate of about 39 cents per \$1,000 valuation. It would automatically expire at the end of one year, but can be renewed by the voters each additional year that the commissioners place it on the ballot.

Next year, the senior taxing authorities are forecast to "max out" the Constitutional limit for property tax collections, leaving Key Pen Parks with no revenue from property taxes to continue operations.

Six citizens were in the audience, but there were no comments on the levy, either for or against.

Commissioner Bill Trandum, who presided over the meeting in the absence of President Greg Anglemeyer, said, "The voters will decide in November whether this parks district will keep its doors open."

Articles over the next couple of months will focus on what Key Pen Parks has accomplished since its creation and recent survey results with expectations for the future.

Pony Club makes food bank donation

Several members of the Narrows Pony Club collected food and money donations for the Key Peninsula Food Bank at the recent Aspen Farm Horse Trials, near Yelm.

Sixteen-year-old Libby Everett of Vaughn, who's been in the club about three years, liked going around with her pony talking to people.

"They were so willing to give donations," she said. Emile, Libby's 14-year-old sister, said, "I liked helping out with the team and helping people in need."

Lexie Priest, 16, of Gig Harbor, said, "It felt very good getting donations and being able to help the Key Peninsula community."

The club gathered more than 150 pounds of nonperishable food and \$30 in donations during three days of the horse show.

Local restaurant hosts spaghetti benefit

The Roadhouse on the Hill hosted a benefit for Alicen Robinson, 24. Robinson, a restaurant employee, is recovering from some heart-related issues.

On June 29, the restaurant offered a \$6.99 spaghetti feed and silent auction, with the proceeds going to support Robinson and her two young children.

Key Pen News is looking for volunteers

If you have an interest in writing news or feature stories, taking photos or helping our staff once a month with newspaper distribution, we can certainly use your help.

For information, contact editor Scott Turner at editor@keypennews.com.



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www.KeyFest.org

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Kim Archer Band



Sunday July 14th

KEY'S GOT TALENT
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RICHARD ALLEN IN
the Louisiana Experience





Low tide entrapment

A young gray whale is temporarily marooned in the Burley Lagoon on June 19 until the tide came in, allowing it to glide under the bridge and into more open water.

Courtesy photo, Merri Sutton



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The power to be...

KPMS weather balloon has record-breaking flight

By Rick Sorrels, KP News

The eighth grade science class at Key Peninsula Middle School launched a commercial weather balloon at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, May 31.

It traveled 217 miles, cross-country, landing 20 miles north of Pasco, Wash., about 5:30 p.m. that same day. The total flight time was five hours and 42 minutes.

The Seattle FAA Center tracked the balloon and confirmed an altitude of 40,000 feet before it lost telemetry. Leon Fullner from the FAA said it "was the best telemetry on this type of weather balloon that we have ever seen."

Pilots were advised by the FAA to keep an eye out for the balloon. Pilots from two different airliners flying at 40,000 feet reported seeing the balloon traveling "well above 40,000 feet altitude."

The last telemetry received from the balloon reported 109,000 for altitude, which has not been verified.

An on-board radio broadcast provided a record of altitude, speed, GPS location and a continuous video before the battery power died.

The balloon started out at a sedate 15

to 20 mph at about 12,000 feet. When it passed into the jet stream at 40,000 feet, it rapidly accelerated to 110 mph.

The ground-bound recovery team made up of the "mission controller" (team leader) Sky Bressette and his father Ed Bressette, left KPMS by car a half-hour after launch. They were pulled over only once for speeding.

Telemetry was lost when the recovery team was near Mount Rainier, so they continued on the "projected" flight path, later regained the radio signal when the balloon burst at altitude, and arrived at the recovery sight 20 minutes after touchdown in a farmer's field next to the highway.

The flight path and recovery site were "right on" the projections calculated from wind measurements and computer models provided by NOAA.

According to the science teacher, Richard Miller, the computer projections showed that with a full load of helium gas, the balloon would not have made it past Mount Rainier. At a full load, the gas would have expanded the balloon diameter.

(See **Balloon**, Page 11)

KPMS balloon No. 2 takes flight

By Rick Sorrels, KP News

At 1:30 p.m. on June 15, the KPMS aerospace science class launched its second weather balloon from the town of Ashford, near Mount Rainier. An altitude of 91,000 feet was verified before it was recovered the following day, June 16, near Duvall, Wash.

"Our plan was to launch the balloon from within Mount Rainier National Park, where it would travel directly over Mount Rainier," said science teacher Richard Miller. "We had obtained FAA approval, but a park ranger would not let us launch because we did not obtain prior approval from the park."

After launching near Ashford, the three-person recovery team tracked and followed the balloon using telem-

etry broadcast from the balloon and GPS data received from satellites on their laptop computers.

"The flight path followed exactly what had been projected. The balloon travelled due north and burst at 91,000 feet, coming to rest in a large tract of timberland, 20 miles from the nearest public road, north of Snoqualmie, east of Duvall and south of Monroe," Miller said.

"The following morning, the recovery team was lucky to find somebody who could open the chained-off primitive logging tracks, allowing the team to drive (very slowly) to the recovery site."

Phil the egg survived intact, along with all of the instruments and cameras.

(From **Balloon**, Page 10)

ter from 6-7 feet to 30-40 feet, bursting the balloon in the thin air at 89,000 feet.

“We undercharged the balloon, instead, using less helium, which allowed for the greater altitude and range obtained,” Miller said. “Later this month we will launch again with a full load and see what we get.”

“A raw egg that the class named ‘Phil’ was the only passenger in the balloon,” said Miller. “At 700 feet, Phil the egg was separated from the balloon for a free-fall drop to the ground, which Phil survived intact, setting what we believe to be a Guinness World Record for highest egg drop.”

Ten minutes of edited flight video can be seen on YouTube, where it will remain accessible for as long as Google stays in business.

A program manager from CNN World News saw the YouTube video and immediately phoned Miller for a contract allowing CNN to broadcast clips from the YouTube program over CNN affiliates worldwide.

“The modest sum coming from CNN will help a lot to purchase a second vid-



Photo courtesy Richard Miller

Key Peninsula Middle School teacher Richard Miller, left, and parent volunteer Ed Bressette ready the project balloon (and egg) with some 160 cubic feet of helium moments before its May 31 maiden flight.

eo camera for our next launch,” Miller said.

For the next flight, the balloon team wants to include a second video cam-

era, along with more batteries for longer camera life, and overinflate the balloon for a shorter flight time.

Miller’s 2012-13 aerospace class in-

cluded 28 students who all contributed to the balloon project.

View the video at youtube.com/watch?v=spX9A7WTHz4.

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FREE ADMISSION

Featuring the **Coyote Hill Bluegrass Band** from Oklahoma, along with the **Day Brothers**, and the Key Peninsula's own **Rusty Roots** and the **Rhythm-n-Shoes Cloggers**

Food is available for purchase. **Chief Oliver Coldeen** will be preparing his world-class barbecue sandwiches again this year. BBQ sandwich, cole slaw, and chips: \$6. Strawberry shortcake: \$3. Pop and popcorn \$1. In addition, there will be a Silent Auction with numerous items to bid on and **Quality lawn and patio furniture** for sale.

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

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

Y'ALL COME ON DOWN!
 Pastor John : 425-492-4777

COMMUNITY PAGES

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

NOW to JULY 4

Fireworks sale

The KP Civic Center's fireworks stand is open 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. in Key Center. Proceeds from the sales go back into the KP community. 884-3456.

JULY 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Summer stories

Story time for babies (0-2 with an adult) takes place 10:15 a.m. at the Key Center Library. Story time, songs, rhymes and crafts for children (ages 3-6 with an adult) is at 11 a.m.

JULY 3

Puppet Theater

Pierce County Library puppeteers present "Too Much Noise" and "The Three Little Pigs" for ages 6 and older and their families at 2:30 p.m. This free event is sponsored by the KC Friends of the Library. Donations for the food bank are accepted. (253) 548-3309.

JULY 6

Volksmarch

The 24th annual free Volksmarch (10K) takes place 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 360 Trails. This event is sponsored by the KP Lions. Participants may register at the park beginning at 8 a.m. 857-3655 or 884-3319.

Brass band

In celebration of our nation's birthday and Washington State Parks Centennial, the Washington National Guard Army Band Brass Patriots will be performing at Penrose Point State Park on Saturday, July 6 at 6 p.m. in the main day-use picnic area of the park.

JULY 8, 15, 22, 29

Bloodmobile dates

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

JULY 8-12 and 15-19

Summer fun program

Children's Home Society's Summer

To submit an event

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

Fun Program takes place July 8-12 from 9 a.m. to noon at the KP Civic Center, and July 15-19 at Evergreen Elementary. Call 884-5433 to register.

JULY 9 and 24

Knit or crochet

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

JULY 10

Garden club meets

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

JULY 11

DSHS help available

The DSHS Mobile Office will be at the Key Peninsula Community Services, 17015 9th St. Court KP N, Lakebay, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Each mobile CSO unit is staffed by experienced financial workers who are able to complete cash, food, medical interviews, issue EBT cards and receive documents. 884-4440.

Ashes meet

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

Fuchsia group meets

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

JULY 11 and 25

Key free clinic

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

JULY 12-14

KeyFest

KeyFest 2013, sponsored by PenLight takes place from 4 to 11 p.m. on Friday (\$5), 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Saturday (\$6), and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday (\$4) at Gateway Park, 10215 State Route 302.

JULY 16

Stories at museum

A free story time for young learners is hosted 10:30 to 11 a.m. at the Key Peninsula Historical Museum. djmills@centurytel.net.

JULY 18

Senior shopping

The senior van meets at the KP Community Services at 9 a.m. and returns between 3-5 p.m., and gives seniors an opportunity to get grocery shopping and any scheduled Gig Harbor doctor's appointments. A "Dutch" lunch is also included. 884-4440.

Musical workshop

The Friends of the KC Library host Ian Dobson's Musical Workshop at 11 a.m. at the Key Center Library. Dig up musical treasures from recycled materials and explore cultures with "recycalypso." This free event is for families. Donations for the food bank are accepted. (253) 548-3309.

JULY 20-24

WildWatch programs

Harbor WildWatch's "Get Your Feet Wet" programs take place on the beach at Penrose State Park. Look for the blue canopy where the naturalists and volunteers in blue shirts will help during a beach walk, discovering new life forms and learning how human behavior impacts fragile critters. Visit harborwildwatch.org for program times.

JULY 20

KP Historical Society

The Key Peninsula Historical Society will present a history program about the Penrose family at 7 p.m. in the Penrose Park campground amphitheater.

JULY 25

Lego fun

Families will use imagination to create with the library's Legos, blocks and other building materials at 11 a.m. at the Key Center Library. This event is free. (253) 548-3309.

JULY 26

Skate night

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

Friday outdoor movie

Key Pen Parks' free Cinema under the Stars features "Wreck-it Ralph" with activities at 7 and movie at 8:30 p.m. at Volunteer Park. Bring chairs, blankets, snacks and food for the collection bin for the food bank. 884-9240.

Teen fun

Club Cosmic, for teens grades 8-12, is hosted 9 p.m. to midnight at the Civic Center. Group games and activities, DJ battles, arcade games in the Whitmore Room and concessions are offered; all for \$5. Kpciviccenter.org or 884-3456.

JULY 28

Sunday bluegrass jam

Bluegrass Gospel Jam session takes place at Longbranch Church (16518 46th St. KP S) 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.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Key Peninsula Veterans

July 1, 7 p.m. at KP Civic Center; www.kpveterans.net

KP Lions' dinner and program

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

Key Pen Parks

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

KP Community Fair Association

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

Fire District 16

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

Key Peninsula Council

July 10, 7 p.m. at KC fire station; kp-council.org

KP Civic Center Association Board

July 11, 7 p.m. in Whitmore Room; kpciviccenter.org

LIC

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

KP Citizens Against Crime

July 18, 7 p.m. at Home fire station; kpcitizensagainstcrime.org

KP Farm Council

July 22, 6:30 p.m. at Key Center fire station; dwebsterkp@gmail.com

Peninsula School District Board

July 25, 6 p.m. at the district office.

WEEKLY EVENTS

MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS, FRIDAYS

Open walk

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

Senior exercise class

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

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS

Preschool play time

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

Senior tai chi club

Senior tai chi takes place 10 to 11 a.m. at the KP Community Services in Lakebay. 884-4440.

WEDNESDAYS

Writers meet

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

Writers' workshop

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

WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS

Senior meals

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

THURSDAYS

Toastmasters

The Toastmasters meet 8 to 9 a.m. at the KC Library. Join the fun and improve your speaking ability. Toastmasters International is the most efficient, enjoyable way of developing great communication skills. Online at 3409.toastmastersclubs.org or (253) 740-7891.

Seniors' lunch

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

OFF THE KEY

JULY 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Summer concerts

Summer Sounds host "Blue Rocket Music" (blues, country, rockabilly) at 6:30 p.m. at Skansie Brothers Park in Gig Harbor. The "New Blues Brothers" will play on July 9 and the "133rd Army National Guard Band" will present on July 16. "The Beatniks" (rock and dance) will play and streets will be closed on July 23, and on July 30 "Steve Stefanowicz and Too Many Cooks" (human jukebox) will present. All concerts are free and take place in all weather.

JULY 3, 7, 10, 14, 17, 21, 24, 28, 31

Farmers Market

The Farmers Market at Skansie Brothers Park is open on Wednesdays and Sundays.

JULY 5-7

Paradise Theatre

Paradise Theatre presents "Spamalot" Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and on Sundays at 3 p.m. (253) 851-7529.

JULY 5-6, 19-20

CinemaGig movies

The CinemaGig outdoor movies are shown at Skansie Brothers Park due to construction at Donkey Creek Park. Listed times are approximate and bringing chairs and/or blankets is recommended. "America's Pastime" weekend, July 5-6, features "Field of Dreams" at 9:15 p.m. on Friday

Bingo

Free bingo takes place at the KP Community Services beginning at 7 p.m. 884-4440.

THURSDAYS & SATURDAYS

KP Historical Society

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

SATURDAYS

Writers meet

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

and "The Sandlot" at 9:15 p.m. on Saturday. "America's Favs" weekend, July 19-20, features "American Graffiti" at 9 p.m. on Friday and "The Princess Bride" at 9 p.m. on Saturday. The movies are presented by the City of Gig Harbor, Gig Harbor MultiCare Medical Park and Taylor Thomason Insurance. Gigharborguide.com.

JULY 6, 13, 20, 27

Farmers Market

The Gig Harbor Farmers Market at Uptown is open 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays.

JULY 13

Season auditions

Paradise Theatre hosts season auditions for the new season at 11 a.m. for ages 5-12 ("Wizard of Oz") and at noon for teens and adults (whole season auditions). Prepare a one-minute Broadway-style song and, if auditioning for a principal part, a one-minute monologue. Call or email for an audition slot; (253) 851-7529 or vrichards@paradisetheatre.org. The theater is at 9911 Burnham Drive NW, Gig Harbor.

JULY 20

Bake sale

St. Hugh of Lincoln Church hosts their annual patio-bake sale 8 a.m.-3 p.m. at 280 East Wheelwright Street in Allyn. For information, call (360) 275-8450.

Minter Creek Elementary's garden grows healthy eating habits

By Scott Turner, KP News

Students at Minter Creek Elementary School learned more than just the proverbial three Rs this year. They also planted a garden.

The idea grew out of the school's 5210 program sponsored by the Tom Taylor Family YMCA.

According to school counselor Becky Maffei, the 5210 program teaches kids about healthy living, encouraging them to eat five servings of fresh fruit and veggies every day, do some physical activity and limit their "screen time" to two hours daily.

"About 20 kids participated in the 5210 program and about 10 of them continued in the gardening project," Maffei said.

She credited substitute teacher Tom Mishko with coming up with the garden idea. "He has his own garden and he wanted to get one started at the school, so he volunteered to build it for us," he said.

Mishko constructed a couple of 4-foot by 8-foot beds that were filled with com-



Nique Reichl, 10, tends to water detail as she, fellow students and organizer Becky Maffei pull weeds before a recent lunch period at Minter Creek Elementary School.

Photo by Scott Turner, KP News

post donated by Sandra Green of Green Hills Farm in Gig Harbor.

PenLight contributed wood chips to mulch the paths between the beds and

the school PTA gave money to buy seeds, Maffei said.

"The kids decided what they wanted to plant and worked on the garden during recess time," Maffei said.

Nine-year-old Rachael Kennedy was one of the garden helpers.

"In the 5210 program we learned about healthy food," she said. "We learned about where food comes from and that kind of shifted into making our own garden.

"I was excited to learn about that part because it sounded like fun. We have a garden at home, too. You can learn a lot more about the environment and what you eat," she said.

For 10-year-old Rylee Brown, it was all about being healthier and eating locally grown food.

"I learned that a normal hamburger travels like 5,000 miles just to get to your mouth," Brown said. "The meat goes from the butcher to the processing plant and then it goes in a truck for a long time.

(See **Garden**, Page 15)



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(From **Garden**, Page 14)

The milk gets turned into cheese and finally gets to the store, and the lettuce had to grow a long ways away and even the bun has to be processed and driven in a truck a long way to get here. Everything comes from lots of different areas to get to my mouth.

"We wanted to do something healthier for ourselves so we started a garden and we're going to eat stuff right from it. We have lettuce and tomatoes, carrots, pumpkins and watermelon and good stuff like that. We're making ourselves healthier by doing this and we have a

chance to explain it to the other kids, too."

According to Kristin Kucklick, the health educator in charge of the 5210 program at the Y, "the goal is to teach the kids healthy habits now, so they'll be able to use that when they get into middle school and high school and beyond."

"It's one of the really cool things we're doing at Minter Creek," added Maffei with a smile. "We're teaching our kids how to be happier and healthier people — not just spelling and math."

For information or to contribute to the school's garden project, contact Maffei at maffei@psd401.net.

Local high school students receive scholarships

The Friends of the Key Center Library awarded \$500 scholarships to two Peninsula High School 2013 graduates.

Angelique Daly, a daughter of Clay and Tamaren Daly, attended Vaughn Elementary and Key Peninsula Middle School and is a lifelong patron of the KC Library.

She plans to attend Tacoma Commu-

nity College on her path for a career as a music teacher.

James Silberman, a son of Dan and Jacquie Silberman, attended Minter Creek Elementary and KPMS and was very involved with radio station KGHP-FM while at Peninsula High School.

He plans to attend Syracuse University seeking a career in communications.



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19 Grandfather of Saul	49 Father: Arabic	REAR
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21 Hog's guts	51 Interpret	REAR
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24 Begin	DOWN	REAR
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26 Double (abbr.)	2 Stinging insect	REAR
29 Ibsen character	3 Horned viper	REAR
30 Science class	4 Firm	REAR
31 3 (Rom. numeral)	5 Fr. artist	REAR
32 Sp. article	6 Absent without leave (abbr.)	REAR
33 Fishing line cork	7 Son of Hermes	REAR
34 Desolate	8 Edible shellfish	REAR
	9 Without (Ger.)	REAR
	10 Old-style verb	REAR
	11 Tall tale	REAR
	17 Sea eagle	REAR
	19 Comparative ending	REAR
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	22 Handle	REAR
	23 Habakkuk (abbr.)	REAR
	25 Drop	REAR
	26 Shame	REAR
	27 Chew	REAR
	28 Song (Ger.)	REAR
	30 Afr. eye-worm	REAR
	33 Church officer	REAR
	34 Cooking vessel	REAR
	35 Trojan hero	REAR
	36 Cyclades island	REAR
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Dance Avenue draws a focused civic center crowd

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

A collection of moms and dads were at the Key Peninsula Civic Center cheering on their daughters as they twirled and pranced on the dance floor.

Something exciting has been happening on Tuesdays. Dance Avenue has been drawing inspiring dancers to the area hot spot for more than a year.

Dance Avenue owner Julie Miller, who has lived on the Key for more than eight years, has three children of her own and decided to take a leap of faith in her own backyard.

"Knowing how adorable it is to have your little girl twirl around and dance," Miller said, she first started looking into area dance studios a couple years ago.

She found a spot and her daughter had a great time, but with the long commute to the studio, she couldn't commit to going, she said.

"Having a professional dance background, I knew we needed something here on the Key," Miller said.

In January 2011, a friend's parents of-



Photo by Hugh McMillan, KP News

Dance Avenue owner Julie Miller leads a beginning ballet class during a Tuesday session at the Key Peninsula Civic Center.

ferred their studio apartment to start a small class.

"We did ballet and jazz and had a blast," Miller said.

Wanting more space for more kids, she started Dance Avenue at the Civic Center in January 2012. By March, 48 kids were enrolled and she even had a waiting list.

"Some students performed at KP Livable Community Fair, the Krazy Key Parade, and at the KeyFest talent show earned a first place," she said.

By the smiles filling the room during a recent Tuesday session, it appears Dance Avenue is a hit for the parents as well as the dancers.

"My daughter Maris Johnson is in Julie Miller's ballet/tap class, and she absolutely loves it," said Amanda Walston. "She likes the class better than any dance class ever. I'm thrilled to have a teacher who genuinely cares about the kids she teaches as well as the art of dance."

Zoe Stitt, 5, said she likes dancing and likes to roar like a lion and to make a train. Her sister Mia Stitt, 7, said she loves "learning new dance routines and moves. It's fun to warm up and do our jazz walks," she said.

The center was abuzz with motion and great comments about the class.

"We've really enjoyed having such a great class so close to home," said Melissa Hansen. "Julie is amazing with the kids."

Classes are hosted on Tuesdays in the center's Whitmore Room and vary from introductory dance for preschoolers to ballet, tap and jazz/hip hop for older students.

Miller hosted a dance recital June 22 at the Key Peninsula Civic Center with real costumes this year.

For information, call (253) 606-3763 or email danceavenue5678@gmail.com.

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Key Center's 'Close to Home Espresso' nears 20-year milestone

By Steve Whitford, KP News

In 1989, fed up with the city life of Seattle, Laura McClintock moved to Key Peninsula.

She hated jobs that required a commute, so she worked the fishing seasons in Alaska on a factory fishing troller as a cook. The job paid well, but the work schedule was long and arduous.

Eventually, McClintock got a job as a barista in Gig Harbor where she learned the tricks of the trade.

In 1993 she made a deal with Walt Schmidt, former owner of the Key Center Food Market to rent a space under the eaves of the roof near the entrance. She purchased an espresso push cart and Close to Home Espresso was born. Since then, she's been brewing coffee that keeps her customers coming back for more.

When the new food center was built last year, she spoke with its new owner, Dan Stoltz, who happily agreed to honor her lease when a new store was built where her store stands today.



Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News

Last month, Close to Home barista Margaret Heidal serves Gaye Williams.

This is not a drive-though, however, her customers eagerly stand in line for their beverages and have ample time to visit.

Outside seating is available as well. Over the years, McClintock has developed a following of regulars. Some have been with her since the beginning.

One such patron is Earl Christine, who on a fine day last month ordered a white chocolate frappe. "It's too hot for espresso — gotta have something cool," he said.

McClintock has watched a generation of Key Peninsula children grow to adulthood, and thinks KP folks are special.

Her coffee is also special. She gets it from a secret local coffee roaster in Olympia who only uses the finest ingredients. She also credits her seven part-time baristas for her success.

"They're trained to make espresso the same way each time — perfect," she said.

McClintock plans to celebrate her 20 years of business this June. She is planning a vintage photo montage of the customers from the past, and will be having an animal photo contest.

"Bring in a shot of your pet for display and maybe win a prize," she said with a grin.

There's more to her life than just coffee beans. She is a caregiver to her 92-year-old mother and she likes to paint abstracts, which are for sale at her store.

McClintock said she's looking forward to retirement someday.

"Life's too short. I want more time for my painting and riding in my Beamer," she said.

For information, contact lattelaura@centurytel.net.

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Seahawks end season on high note, senior leadership

By Scott Turner, KP News

Melissa Miller has been the girls fastpitch coach at Peninsula High School since 2005 and head coach since the 2009-10 season.

This year, to the surprise of many, the team made it all the way to the state finals — thanks to several seniors who have been on the team since their freshman year.

“Four of my girls — Aspen Ison, Kristin Jensen, Brittany Surratt and Tyler Stolz — have been with us since I started and now they’re graduating,” Miller said.

It’s been a wild ride for the team the past three years, Miller recalled. “It’s been a crazy time. It’s been a constant battle between us and Enumclaw and Bonney Lake for first, second and third place. Last year we were first in league and second in district. The year before we were second in league and

first in district. This year we’re third in our league, but our ultimate goal is always to get to state.”

Miller said the team, especially the seniors, really wanted to get to state. “District isn’t good enough anymore.”

One of the memorable things about this year’s team has been the way the seniors have taken the younger girls under their wings, Miller said.

“It’s been an amazing bonding experience between them. We have four freshmen on the team this year and the seniors have really been showing the younger girls the ropes and cheering them on when they get a chance to play. And the younger ones have gone out of their way to make their senior time special,” she said.

Even though the Hawks ended the season in third place in the league, they went to the state championships,



Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News

Outgoing Peninsula Seahawk fastpitch seniors, from left, Aspen Ison, Brittany Surratt, Tyler Stolz and Kristin Jensen, spend a moment with their coach, Melissa Miller.

(See Fastpitch, Page 19)

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(From **Fastpitch**, Page 18)

where they won their first game with a decisive 13-0 score.

"Then we lost to University Place and then to Shorecrest," Miller said. "But I was really proud of the team because we weren't expected to go that far. Everybody played as a team. We were the underdog and we had a lot of good things that our team did, considering this is just our third year together."

"We worked really well together," said senior Kristin Jensen, 18. "We really tried to make everything work in our favor. Some of the younger girls were our biggest assets. And our coach really likes baseball — which is important. She wants what we want and we want what she wants," Jensen said.

Senior Brittany Surratt agreed. "This year the team has been the closest we've ever been, even though we lost one of our key players at the beginning of the year.

"We knew we were going to be a good team and that we'd go far, and we really came together. And our coach gave it her all at all times. We never

gave up and next year we're gonna be even better," she said.

"We definitely had a good, bonded team," added senior Aspen Ison, 18. "I think our heart took us as far as we got. We tied our record at state, but we actually placed higher this year, which is pretty amazing. We have one of the best talented teams and we really like each other."

To Ison, the game "is 90 percent physical. You have to be mentally tough and you have to really know your team and be willing to better yourself. It's awesome how good this year's team was," she said.

From Miller's point of view, the future looks bright for the Peninsula girls. "We're losing some key players, but we have some good new players developing. This is my 23rd year coaching softball but even without me, these girls would do their bonding.

"They're like a family and I probably treat all these girls like they're my own kids — especially the seniors. I've watched them change and grow from timid little freshmen to strong young women who know how to speak their minds," Miller said.

KP run draws a crowd and cash for PTA

Last month, some 150 runners participated in the second-annual "PenLight Summer Fun Run" at the 360 Trails.

The popular event raised more than \$500 for Key Peninsula schools' Parent Teacher Associations (PTA).

It was an amazing day full of sunshine and smiles," said Jessica Smeall, Key Pen Parks recreation coordinator.

She said that every Kids Dash runner received a "winner" medal and that Vaughn Elementary won the school

vs. school competition by bringing 7.7 percent of their student body to the event.

"It could not have been done without the help of our volunteers and the PTA members from the schools," Smeall said.

Smeall said the 360 Trails made the "perfect course, and the meadow is a great place to gather for the start and finish."

Next year's race will be on June 14. For information, visit keypenparks.com.



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Camp Seymour summer camp continues through August

By Scott Turner, KP News

For 118 years, YMCA Camp Seymour has provided life-changing, nature-based camping experiences to children from nine counties in the Puget Sound area.

According to Executive Director Liz Ortenburger, the land was donated to the YMCA in 1905 by W. W. Seymour.

"A group of boys from the Tacoma YMCA came out and camped that first summer, and that's when the magic began," Ortenburger said. "That's how it all started."

Today, the camp's Outdoor Education Program serves all four Key Peninsula schools during the school year with a curriculum "based on science programs that we've worked out with the state Department of Education and local teachers," Ortenburger said. "The kids are immersed in a beautiful setting with all kinds of hands-on experiences."

She said the camp hosts touch tanks so they can learn about creatures living in the Sound.

"They also learn about recycling through our Living Machine that recycles all of our water and uses it to irrigate our landscape. They're learning to be the next generation of environmental stewards for Washington and beyond," Ortenburger said.

According to Ortenburger, there are 15 naturalists on staff, all of whom live and work on site. They teach all of the classes and are very well-trained and educated in their own special areas, she said.

The summer camp program offers week-long camping experiences to more than 300 kids from the Key Peninsula every year, Ortenburger said.

"Our resident summer camp programs are open to everyone, starting in the second grade. The kids stay in cabins with 10 other campers of similar age and two amazing counselors who are engaged and ready to make the summer fantastic for the kids," he said.

The youngsters have "lots of opportunities to make their own decisions," she added. "That's critical to kids. They get to

choose what they want to do individually every day, and they also decide as a cabin group what they'll do together.

"We can see when the light bulbs in their heads go off and camp becomes a magical place. It all happens through the relationships they make with the other kids and with their counselors. All of a sudden a 10-year-old camper connects with one of our 18- to 25-year-old counselors who really cares about them. That's where we see the child's self-worth bloom and develop," Ortenburger said.

Denise Ohlson teaches fourth and fifth grades at Evergreen Elementary and has been involved with Camp Seymour's programs for about 10 years.

"We go for three days and two nights every school year," she said. "They're a Key Pen camp and we're a Key Pen school and what they have there is so valuable to our kids. They get hands-on science experiences in camp that stick with them for their entire lives," Ohlson said.

Once the youngsters have had a Camp Seymour experience, Ohlson said, "they

really become stewards of the Key Peninsula. They see it as their place. They're really concerned about things like water quality and keeping our salt water and estuaries clean," he said.

It's a partnership that involves the entire community, she said. "It's not just kids learning skills, but it's also making our area thrive."

Ohlson credits organizations like the KGI partnership, Harbor WildWatch, Peninsula Light, Angel Guild, Longbranch Improvement Club and the local school PTAs with helping make Camp Seymour's programs such a success.

"All those organizations add to the effort and we're incredibly grateful to them for their support," Ohlson said.

"Camp Seymour changes lives," Ortenburger added. "And it's right here in our backyard, close to home."

This year's summer camp continues through the end of August. Registrations are taken all summer long. To learn more or to schedule a tour, call (253) 884-3392 or visit campseymour.org.

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Community



Kelson Mills

Kelson Mills' Eagle Scout project moves forward

Kelson Mills, Peninsula High School junior, is the first of the Troop 220 scouts working toward their Eagle Scout status in the next year and a half.

The Eagle Scout projects are designed to do something that benefits the community. It is reviewed by the troop and elders before acceptance. The Scout fills out a packet and meets with a representative of the regional council headquarters prior to approval.

Mills selected working with the Key Peninsula Historical Society for his project. He organized and supervised a setup of identifying and photographing much of the inventory of the museum. A few Scout friends and historical society members gave him assistance.

Most projects are accomplished in a day, but Mills contributed several sessions to his.

"This project is valuable because it helps preserve history on the Key Peninsula, and I'm interested in that," Mills said.

It also benefits the museum, mainly the volunteers who maintain it. Members can continue the inventory work, using his program.

Mills, 17, is a son of Matthew and Lisa Mills of Vaughn.

Longbranch Improvement Club croquet tournament is back on the green

The Longbranch Improvement Club

(LIC) is sponsoring its annual charity croquet tournament on July 21, from noon to 7 p.m.

The event will benefit the Key Peninsula Firefighters Association, a non-profit organization supporting volunteer firefighters with training and equipment.

According to LIC event organizer Tim Heitzman, four-person teams will compete for prizes ranging from best costumes and overall score, to the worst single stroke. Celebrity judges will officiate at each wicket.

"To keep the game even more interesting, we've added prize purses to each tournament round," Heitzman, said. "This is our fourth year, and it's more fun every time. Last year's teams are returning and new contenders are already practicing."

The LIC is encouraging early team registration. Cost is \$60. Orders for \$10 commemorative T-shirts and team registrations must be received on or before July 11.

Sponsorship opportunities for individuals and companies are available. For information, call 884-2222 or sign up online, at licweb.org.

The LIC is located in Longbranch at 4312 Key Peninsula Highway South.

History cruises on western shore of KP

Two history cruises aboard the yacht "My Girl" are scheduled for July 13-14, departing the Longbranch Marina and heading up the western shore of the Key

Peninsula.

Passengers will hear stories about local history, including commentary on members of the 1838 Wilkes Expedition camping on Herron Island.

Organizers say My Girl is a larger boat than the one used last year, complete with more outside deck area.

Snack food, a no-host bar and a raffle are part of the cruise. Saturday's tour is 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. Sunday's is 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. For reservations, information and donation suggestions, contact jan@pacinfo.com or call 888-3246.

The Summer Story time for Young Learners on July 16 will be on bears. This is a free program for preschool-aged children and their parents.

The stories focus on Forest Habitat, complementing the museum's display "Tall Trees, Tall Men, Tall Tales." Sessions include songs, fingerplays, a story and a make-and-take craft project.

The Aug. 13 session will be on sea life. Time is 10:30 to 11 a.m., on the museum porch.

Parents must accompany their children. No reservations required unless for large groups of six or more, but to assure sufficient materials, the storytellers would appreciate a note or call. info@keypeninulamuseum.org or 888-3246.

The Key Peninsula Historical Society is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization dedicated to preserving and presenting our community's history through exhibits and educational opportunities.

Museum hours are Thursday and Saturday, 1 to 4 p.m. or by appointment.

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Auditions for movie to be shot on the KP

By Rick Sorrel, KP News

Clapboards, umbrella lights, dressers, gaffers, best boys, focus pullers, dollies, jib cranes, hairlights, flats and breakaways are terms used in the movie industry, and will soon be heard yelled locally, again.

Filming will begin in July for Lakebay resident and independent movie producer Paul Clark's next film, "Home Sweet Home — Same Town Different Murder."

His last production, in 2009, was "Return to Home," with a lot of the filming done inside LuLu's Homeport Restaurant and Lounge.

The genre will be similar: parody, spoof, comedy, mystery and thriller.

Clark will need a cast of 40, plus extras, three crew and five volunteers. No experience is needed.

Clark said some of the things he will be looking for are natural characters: "Peter Faulk type of guy, two Mayberry-esque policemen, a 5-year-old girl with big eyes and some unique and different individuals."

He said he especially needs a helper who knows Facebook setup.

All selected will be volunteers (no pay) and must sign a release. The film will be released in November or December, with entry in local film festivals.

For information about auditions, visit facebook.com/FilmmakersNorthwest.

Junk sale draws a crowd to Volunteer Park

By Karen Lovett, KP News

The sun was shining for the fourth annual Junk in the Trunk sale June 8.

Key Peninsula Parks Recreational Coordinator Jessica Smeall was on hand to oversee the event. She said that after it rained during the popular sale in March of 2011, the date was changed to June in the hopes of having better weather.

Ten sellers filled the parking lot at Volunteer Park with a variety of antiques, toys, plants, clothing, musical instruments, outdoor equipment and just about anything else you could think of.

This was 14-year-old Angelina Sambataro's first year as an entrepreneur at

the event. She came to make a little money and get rid of stuff she didn't need. Her booth displayed theme dresses, teen magazines, purses and artwork.

Melissa Dower hasn't missed a sale. Over the years, her booths have averaged sales between 25 to 50 percent of all her items. Lots of kids' items including shoes and clothing made up the majority of her offerings.

Megen Moran was selling camping gear, dive equipment, her husband's flute and electric guitar and many household items.

Born and raised in Key Center, the former Miss Force was parting with most of their possessions in preparation for a move to Maui. Whatever they don't sell will be donated to Angel Guild, Moran said.

Bud and Delores Ulsh were searching for a specific item. "Dolores is looking for a big rope, a nautical rope to trim our deck," Bud Ulsh said.

They didn't find a suitable rope, but Bud found an exercise machine at Doug Stegmiller's booth and decided to try it out.

Many bargain hunters came away smiling, lugging newly acquired possessions across the parking lot.



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Courtesy photo, Joanna Babbitt

A pack of runners circle the Vaughn Elementary School field. In May, the Vaughn PTA hosted its fourth-annual Walk-A-Vaughn fundraiser. The students raised about \$10,000 for their school and ran/walked an equivalent of 669 miles.

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Cort and Karen Montague of Vaughn took their copy of the Key Peninsula News with them on a tandem paragliding flight last March in Yelapa, Mexico.



Photo by Ed Jobson, KP News

The KPLL minor team from Christiansen Construction show off their second-place medals earned at the annual Inter-league Tournament that wrapped up on June 11 at the South Kitsap Little League field in Olalla.