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KP foster parents help others help themselves at Y

By Scott Turner, KP News

Thanks to Carney Lake resident Marie Woods-Weaver, foster kids in the Key Peninsula (and surrounding area) can now join the YMCA in Gig Harbor for free.

Woods-Weaver, 68, has been a foster parent since January 2013.

When she retired from the Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS) in 2012, she realized that she just couldn't live without kids.

"They're just part of my makeup," she said.

So she applied to become a foster parent, and in January 2013 she was licensed to care for kids between 6-18 years of age.

Since then she and her husband Dennis Weaver have given temporary shelter to more than 30 youngsters.

"We're a receiving home," Woods-Weaver said. "We usually only have the kids with us for about 30 days, but we have one kid who has been with us since last September.



Photo by Scott Turner, KP News

While walking the track at the Tom Taylor YMCA, Key Peninsula resident Marie Woods-Weaver met Karmen Furer, a former social worker, who was happy to hear that Woods-Waever was instrumental in getting foster children a free membership to the popular Gig Harbor facility.

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Update of the Key Peninsula Community Plan nearly complete

By Sara Thompson, KP News

In 2008, following a four-year process, a group of 15 Key Peninsula citizens completed a community plan, a document describing the Key Peninsula and providing a guide for future development. It is available online at co.pierce.wa.us/Document-Center/View/4040.

Pierce County is now reviewing its comprehensive plan and the shoreline management plan. What will that mean for the Key Peninsula?

Background

The Washington State Legislature passed the Growth Management Act in the 1990s. The act outlined planning goals to guide the development of comprehensive plans for each county. The goals included urban growth, reduction of sprawl, transportation, affordable housing, economic development, natural

resource industries, open space and recreation, environment, public services, historic preservation and shoreline.

In 1995, Pierce County passed its comprehensive plan and has reviewed it every eight years since then, as required by the state. The plan guides county decisions related to growth and development in unincorporated Pierce County. The plan is due for review, and now, at 20 years and with newer census data available since the last update, the county is taking action.

Impact of Comprehensive Plan Revision on the Community Plans

Because the various community plans (there are 10 in addition to Key Peninsula) had many commonalities, county staff wanted to simplify procedures. In addition, some community issues such as zoning regulations, agricultural resource lands and

(See Plan, Page 2)

(From Plan, Page 1)

design standards are now addressed in county programs or regulations.

Between April and September 2014, county staff met with the individual land use advisory commissions to work on the community plan consolidation.

The staff worked with the Key Peninsula Land Use Advisory Commission (KPAC) to highlight sections of the community plan that might be shifted to the comprehensive plan — sections that were common to the community plans and those that were regulatory in nature. The groups also identified sections that KPAC wanted to keep intact — reflecting unique aspects of the community plan — while moving the more general policies to the Pierce County Comprehensive Plan.

Impact on the Key Peninsula

Jeff Mann, senior planner with Pierce County Planning and Land Services, and other staff met with KPAC and con-

cerned citizens. He described the reaction to the county process early on as “mixed” but also felt that ultimately the reception was supportive.

Members of KPAC and those who worked on the current plan have some concerns. Don Swensen noted, for example, that although ground water is common to all community plans, the concerns in Graham are very different from the concerns on the Key Peninsula, where the shoreline plays a dominant role.

He and others fear that simply presenting all regulatory issues in the county document, separate from the community plan, will remove the context for those very regulations. His hope is that the community plan, where people struggled over every word to assure that the plan reflected the unique characteristics of the Key Peninsula, will remain intact and that it can simply have cross-references to the pertinent sections in the county plan.

A few changes may be of particular interest to those on the Key Peninsula.

Want to know more?

For more information, visit the Pierce County website for the Realize 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update at co.pierce.wa.us/index.aspx?NID=3250.

Some properties will be redesignated as agricultural resource lands. These are plots greater than five acres and with good soil, and would be preserved for agricultural use including agritourism. Affected landowners have been informed.

Detached accessory housing units (self-contained residential buildings) are now included in housing density. Most of the Key Peninsula is designated as rural residential 10. A maximum of two residences is permitted as long as 50 percent of the lot is designated as open space. Current detached units will be grandfathered in, and attached units do not add to housing density.

The new comprehensive plan encourages schools serving rural locations to be located in neighboring towns but recognizes the need for schools to care for students where they live. If additional capacity were needed in the community, expanding current sites would be preferred over building new facilities.

On March 11, staff from the county presented the new plan to KPAC and community members. A follow-up meeting for questions and comments took place the following week.

Staff will incorporate comments and take the document to the Pierce County Planning Commission for review and recommendations.

The public meeting of the planning commission for rural area modifications will be April 28 at 6 p.m. in the public meeting room at the Pierce County Public Services Building, located at 2401 S 35th Street in Tacoma. Final recommendations will be complete on April 30 and the county council will vote on the plan in June.

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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.

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April 2015

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Key Pen Parks participates in Parks Appreciation Day each year. This year's sites are Home Park, Key Peninsula Civic Center, Rocky Creek Conservation Area and 360 Trails.

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Candidate Filing Week for Open Seats

Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District has two board of commissioner seats up for election this fall.

Anyone interested in running should be aware that the filing week to run for these positions is May 11-15, 2015.

For more details, the direct website link to Pierce County's candidate information is <http://www.co.pierce.wa.us/index.aspx?NID=329>

New Caretaker Needed this Summer

Key Pen Parks will soon be taking applications for a new caretaker at the Gateway Park residence.

Visit the Key Pen Parks website for details.



(From **Foster parents**, Page 1)

She said the majority of these kids come from homes that are in total, complete chaos — completely broken.

“Law enforcement comes and pulls them out of a home so they can be in protective custody through DCFS. Then DCFS puts them in a receiving home until they can figure out what they’re going to do with them.

“We usually have three kids with us at a time and I want them to have a good, stable environment after they come out of chaos,” she said.

Woods-Weaver is also a long-time Y member and regularly participates in Silver Sneakers activities at Gig Harbor’s Tom Taylor Family YMCA.

It frustrated her that she couldn’t afford to take her foster kids with her to the Y.

“It would cost me \$20 per person to bring these kids with me on weekends or during school breaks. I’m on fixed income and I just can’t afford that.

“But we want these kids to be able to go swimming or walk with me or play basketball, or go to some of the really good classes they have for youngsters at

the Y,” she said.

During a visit to urgent care with a sick kid, Woods-Weaver spoke with Dr. Jessica Schlicher, whom she had met at a health care symposium.

“We got to talking about the health care symposium and me being a foster parent and how frustrated I was not being able to take the kids to the Y with me. Let’s face it — three kids at \$20 each is \$60 every time we want to go.

“The kids enjoy going there and shooting hoops and things, and I was just frustrated that I couldn’t take them with me,” she said.

Schlicher, who is the medical director for the Key Peninsula Free Clinic and also works at the urgent care in Port Orchard, had recently been appointed to the advisory council for the Gig Harbor-based YMCA.

“It is very common that we care for foster children and their families at the Key Free Clinic and the urgent care,” Schlicher said.

“I learned about the unique challenges that many foster children face — isolation from peer groups, loss of relationships and often fewer opportunities for social and physical development. It

makes it very difficult for them to find their way as young people,” she said.

Schlicher also learned that foster parents make heroic efforts to give their children everything they can and that they really wanted them to have access to the Y.

“They know how good it would be for their kids,” Schlicher said, adding that activities like the Y’s teen late-night program, dance and ballet programs, swimming lessons, rock climbing, youth and government programs and 12-week personal training programs can be especially valuable to foster kids.

During her conversation with Woods-Weaver, Schlicher had an idea. “The impetus for the idea definitely came from Maria,” she said.

“I asked her if her family uses the YMCA. She said she’d love to take them, but the cost was prohibitive.

“I told her I’d make a proposal to the Y’s advisory council and push for free foster child memberships because that is definitely in keeping with the Y’s mission to being accessible for everyone and to serve under-resourced communities and families,” she said.

Schlicher’s suggestion to give free

memberships to foster kids “got complete support from all levels of the organization,” she added.

The new policy went into effect in March of this year and now more than 2,000 foster children in Pierce and Kitsap counties are eligible to go to the Y for free.

“They have access to everything in our YMCA — art classes, dance classes, swimming classes, everything,” said Kaeley Triller-Hayer, the Tom Taylor Family Y communications director.

“The Y is really committed to embracing these children. It’s the right place for kids to be, and we have a tremendous potential for changing their lives.

“They will learn that people really care about them and that the Y is more than just a gym. This is the kind of thing we’re passionate about,” Triller-Hayer said.

So now, thanks to Marie Woods-Weaver, all those foster kids on the Key Peninsula and throughout Pierce and Kitsap Counties can go to the Y anytime they want. And it won’t cost them or their foster parents a dime.

For more information, visit ymcapkc.org/tom-taylor-family-ymca.

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Activist campaigns to fix Purdy traffic issues

By Rick Sorrels, KP News

Key Peninsula resident and community activist George Windsor has focused on the traffic problem at the intersection in Purdy. A motivational meeting was held at Peninsula High School on March 17, with 35 community members attending.

Windsor is not affiliated with any political or activist group. He is a computer programmer employed by school districts in the Southeastern states and works by telecommunication.

The long traffic delays at the intersection in Purdy upset Windsor.

"We need to fix this problem," said Windsor. "The wasted time could be better spent on our job, recreation, or time with our children."

"We need to spread the word to contact our elected representatives. If we build a large enough support base, the politicians will act. That will take time. We cannot expect any significant change for years, even if we motivate now. By then the problem will be far worse," he said.

Windsor has focused on a roundabout as a potential solution at the Purdy Drive/SR-302 intersection, and presents his arguments on a website at purdyturncircle.com.

"Other solutions may be possible. I'm just getting started with this," he said.

Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) has just completed a safety upgrade project for SR-

302.

Two years ago the SR-302 project focused on installing a roundabout in Purdy. Last year, after a thorough feasibility study, WSDOT determined the Purdy Bridge was a "choke point," where restrictions prohibit extensive changes, and that the "conflict points" created by a roundabout at this particular location would actually make the problem worse than it is now. The recent SR-302 work was completed without any significant work on the Purdy side of the Purdy Bridge.

Windsor intends to investigate that feasibility study and determine the best way to proceed.

Katrina and Scott Neff attended the meeting. They live in Tacoma but own a business in Gig Harbor, and are looking to move to either the Key or Gig Harbor Peninsulas. They said that "something needs to be done."

Kent Kingman also attended. Kingman owns Minterbrook Oyster Company and has purchased the Tide Realty building near the Purdy intersection where he will soon start construction on a replacement 9,000 square foot building featuring office space below and an oyster bar on the second floor.

"The permitting process already drew me deeply into transportation and access problems," said Kingman. "The critical point is the bridge, where little can be done. The traffic problem needs to be fixed, if a way can be found."

Fire department passes recent audit

The Key Peninsula Fire Department recently completed an audit conducted by the Washington State Auditor's office.

According to Chief Guy Allen, fire districts are audited every two years to verify appropriate processing of vouchers, financial reports, and to assure that procedures are followed appropriately.

"I am proud to report, for the eighth straight audit over the past 16 years,

the Key Peninsula Fire Department received a clean audit report with no findings or administrative letters," Allen said in a recent press release.

He said the department's staff, and in particular Christina Bosch, administrative manager, should be recognized for their outstanding attention to detail.

"Our citizens can be assured that every effort is taken to spend their tax dollars appropriately," Allen said.

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Peninsula Views

Where's your hope?

I recently took the girls out for donuts. Grandma had given them each a coupon for a free donut, and they were eager to redeem that piece of paper for all sorts of sweet goodness.

The problem was, the coupons had expired the day before, so there was some trepidation as we made our way down the highway. "I hope they still take the coupon," the younger one said about 18 times.

"Don't worry," I replied. "I think they'll honor your coupon. They want our business."

Being savvy business people, the donut shop did, indeed, honor the coupons, and I proved their wisdom by purchasing another half-dozen to go along with the free donuts. As we went on our merry way, the youngest, her hope realized, sat in the back licking all that sugary goodness off her fingers, feeling content.

I've been thinking about hope lately.

Last week I had a rich conversation with a friend about hope. Our church leadership team is reading a book about grounding our identity in hope. Another friend lives near Hope, British Columbia. He has an acquaintance who works on the other side of town. "He likes to say," quipped my friend, "that his office is beyond Hope."

Sometimes our hopes are mundane, like hoping for donuts or a sports victory. Sometimes our hopes are achingly deep, like hoping for a healthy diagnosis after a medical test, or hoping our children make it home safely through a long, dark night.

There are some, however, who have lost hope. Sometimes they sit in my office and share heartbreaking stories of betrayal,

Dan Whitmarsh
Writing by Faith



loss and tragedy, events that leave them feeling hopeless. Surviving day to day, they don't have the energy left to think about tomorrow, much less hope for better days to come. It's a tragic place to find oneself.

This first Sunday in April, millions of Christians will rise up early in the morning to declare once again the ground of their hope: that the grave isn't final, that death doesn't win, that life and love have the final say. "Christ is risen" is the shout heard round the world. Hope is firmly grounded in the return of light after darkness.

This is our hope, the future we long for and the reality in which we live: life goes on even after our final breath here. Despots and tyrants are overthrown. The hungry are fed and the poor are lifted up. Healing comes to those who hurt, and judgment comes upon those who bring sorrow and pain, preying upon the weak and the downtrodden.

What do you hope for? As we celebrate this Easter weekend, I hope that you all are walking in hope — hope for our present reality, and hope for the ages to come. Look ahead and see better days coming. Offer a word of hope to those around you. Even in the darkest hour, believe me: our hope is not in vain. We live in the light of an ever-dawning sun.

On behalf of the Key Peninsula Minis-

(See **Whitmarsh**, Page 7)

Good to go one better

Originally Good To Go! passes were designed to expedite the paying of tolls on bridges.

Originally, car-pool lanes were designed to expedite traffic flow and to encourage carpooling to help the environment.

Unfortunately when there are fewer cars on the road burning gas, there is a corresponding drop in the amount of gas tax being collected. Hence we are now seeing carpool lanes and other lanes being converted into Good To Go! lanes, where those who can afford to pay an extra tax can cruise by everyone who can't afford to.

Now there are indications from Olympia that they will raise our gas taxes even higher. Apparently the state is not getting much gas tax revenues from the folks who drive hybrids or Teslas. Well hang on taxpayers, cause I've got an idea that's so dumb it's brilliant. I call it the "Better Than You Pass."

It wouldn't completely erase the Good To Go! plan and it would make it two tiered...kind of.

Here's how it would work. The Better Than You Pass would cost a lot more than Good To Go! If you have to know how much more, you can't afford it anyway.

The Better Than You Pass (BTU), like Good To Go! would cover your toll on toll bridges, but would also allow members to drive in the former car pool lanes which have now become the BTU lanes.

This program could be implemented on all roads with at least four lanes. The window sticker would function just like the Good To Go! sticker, but of course they would boldly proclaim the credo, "Better

Than You," so when one's on the freeway in this special lane, zooming by everyone else who is doing 20 mph, and receive one finger salutes of admiration, they can just smile back and point to the slogan on their sticker.

The BTU program could be expanded to make it even better. How about all public parking at government buildings reserved for the better than you? It could even be expanded to the private sector as well.

How about say the first five rows in front of a store are for sticker members only. Perhaps a special line for a cashier who just caters only to the BTU crowd. They could wear special BTU badges so they could easily stand out in the crowd.

Businesses with more than two bathrooms could reserve one for card holders, where they really would be good to go. The possibilities for revenue generation are almost limitless. Sure it tends to create a two-tiered class system all but eliminating the middle class, but they're already disappearing anyway.

We're just having fun here with a dumb idea, but the problem is occasionally politicians hear about a perfectly dumb idea, and then for unknown reasons decide to run with it. But don't take my word for it. Drive around every round-about between here and Seattle, then go ask Bertha.

Steve Whitford
Words of Whit



Letters Policy

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Nature's way to beat the allergy season

Spring is here, which means allergy season isn't far behind.

There are plenty of over-the-counter allergy pills to choose from, however they come with side effects. Common side effects include drowsiness, dizziness, constipation, stomach upset, blurred vision and dry mouth/nose/throat. If you want to avoid these uncomfortable side effects, there are plenty of other methods that will ease your symptoms.

Local raw honey

Since the bees were landing on your local flowers, raw honey from your community will contain the pollens that you breathe in every day. Start eating local raw honey 4-6 weeks before allergy season hits. This will help your body build up an immunity towards your local pollen.

Apple cider vinegar

Apple cider vinegar is the ideal home remedy for many conditions, including hay fever. It breaks down mucus and phlegm in the body, which is helpful during allergy season. Holistic practitioners recommend adding two teaspoons of ACV and two teaspoons of honey to water. Drink this three times a day throughout the season.

Nettles

Nature tends to grow the plants we need when and where we need them. Nettles are no exception. Although farmers and hikers may hate their sting, nettles are vitamin powerhouses. Nettles are rich in iron, calcium, potassium, silicon, magnesium, manganese, zinc and chromium, just to name a few.

The best way to fight allergies with nettles is to take the dried leaf in capsule form. You can buy them online for under \$10. If you're more of the DIY type, you can take advantage of our peninsula's abundance of nettles. Pick and dry the leaves yourself, then grind them up and put them into your own capsules. Just make sure to wear gloves!

Quercetin

Quercetin is a bioflavonoid that stabilizes mast cells to keep them from releasing histamine. Start taking this powerful supplement 4-6 weeks before allergy season begins to prevent allergy symptoms. Although you

Monica Rakowski Living Close to Nature



can find Quercetin in broccoli and citrus fruits, it is difficult to consume the amount needed to prevent allergies. Try supplementing with capsules. Take up to 500 mg twice a day for up to 12 weeks. Avoid Quercetin if you are pregnant or breastfeeding.

Neti pots

Neti pots originally come from the Ayurvedic tradition, and are now becoming mainstream here in America. Neti pots look like tiny tea pots and can be purchased at most drug stores for about \$10. The idea is to fill the pot with a saltwater solution and run it through the nostrils. This flushes out the mucus and pollens from the nasal cavities.

To make the saltwater solution, mix one teaspoon of salt with a pint of lukewarm distilled or previously boiled water. Over the sink, tilt your head to the side and pour the liquid through your top nostril. The fluid will run through your nasal cavity and out your bottom nostril. Do this daily. When symptoms subside, cut back to three times per week.

The dreaded allergy season is on its way. With some planning and preparation, you can ease your allergy symptoms nature's way and avoid the consequences of OTC medicines.

Monica Rakowski owns KP Indoor Garden Store in Key Center. She can be reached at naturegirl1ife@gmail.com.

(From Whitmarsh, Page 6)

terial Association, I wish you a blessed and happy Easter Season.

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

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You are what you eat. We are what we cultivate. The Fresh Food Revolution (FFR) is the next best thing to growing it yourself. Here's how it works: farmers input their offerings into our



web-based storefront on a weekly basis. Then you, the customer, order what you want from their offerings. Everything you ordered will be ready for you to pick up on Wednesday evening at the Key Peninsula Civic Center. **Simple for you and great for the farmers and producers.** The FFR Co-op is completely run by our member-volunteers. Volunteering gives our members the rewarding opportunity to cultivate even closer relationships with producers and the food they help bring to the table. There are even opportunities to volunteer



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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!

26th District Democrats organize on the Key Peninsula

KP News staff report

The 26th Legislative District Democrats organized a meeting in February to encourage grassroots organization on the Key Peninsula.

"Our goal is to provide a place for Democrats on the Key Peninsula to gather together and discuss politics and issues that are important to them," said George Robison, chair of the group. "We hope to provide a voice for those who aren't working in the party or for candidates."

Some 30 people, including County Councilman Derek Kilmer and former State Representative Larry Seaquist, gathered to discuss issues important to them and how to move forward.

The group decided that they will meet monthly and that schools would be the first topic to address.

The first formal meeting, held on March 16, included the Peninsula School District Superintendent Chuck Cuzzetto, other school district staff, Communities in Schools Executive Director Colleen Speer and Laura Condon, program director of the Red Barn. Speakers and attend-



Photo by Hugh McMillan, KP News

During a recent meeting of the 26th Legislative District Democrats, George Robison, right, speaks to a group during at the Key Peninsula Fire Department's Key Center station.

ees explored "Common Core" standards, student testing, school finance, student activities and programs, and other issues of importance to taxpayers and parents.

While Robison organized the March meeting, ultimately the group will select a Key Peninsula lead.

The next meeting will be held April 20

at 7 p.m. at the Home fire station. Organizers say they will address schools on the Key Peninsula. Superintendent Cuzzetto will attend, school board members and parents and students will also be invited to participate.

Updates and more information are available at 26d.org.

Drop points for food bank donations


Key Peninsula Bischoff Food Bank, located in Home, has partnered with several local organizations to set up drop-off locations for either food or monetary donations.

Serenity Salon will accept food donations during hours they are open at 11818 State Route 302. Contact them at serenitysalonkp.com.

Key Peninsula Middle School will accept food donations for the Backpacks4Kids program on Wednesdays only between 9 and 10:30 a.m. at the school located at 5510 Key Peninsula Highway KPN. Check in with the office for instructions. Contact them at peninsulacommunityfoundation.com.

Sound Credit Union will accept financial donations at any branch office during normal business hours. The Key Center branch is located at 8920 Key Peninsula Hwy. Contact them at soundcu.com.

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Senior Center & Food Bank
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The DSHS Mobile Office will be here April 2nd from 10AM to 2PM.

 The Mobile CSO unit is staffed by experienced program specialists who are able to complete Cash and Basic Food interviews, eligibility reviews, process changes to active cases, issue EBT cards, and receive documents for Cash, Food, and Childcare programs. The Mobile CSO specialists also determine eligibility for Medicare Savings Programs and Aged, Blind, or Disabled Medicaid.

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'Parks Appreciation Day' is April 25

By Karen Lovett, KP News

Key Pen Parks officials are hoping for a big turnout of volunteers to participate in Parks Appreciation Day — the annual event to spruce up our local parks.

Young and old are welcome to lend a hand from 9 a.m. until noon on April 25.

Prior notification is not required. Show up at the location of your choice. Wear appropriate clothing and shoes for the season, weather and work.

Most of all, organizers are hoping the community brings their enthusiasm, smiles and appreciation for our parks.

This year the park district will be focusing on four sites.

At 360 Trails and Rocky Creek Conservation Area, trail maintenance will include pruning, raking and Scotch broom removal. Kids will have an opportunity to plant young trees.

Girl Scouts will be working at the Home Park to help rake woodchips in the playground. Volunteers are needed there as well as at the children's playground at the Key Peninsula Civic Center in Vaughn.

"We need as many volunteers as we can get," said Christina Hallock, Key Pen Parks marketing coordinator/recreation specialist. "Bring gloves, rakes, loppers, shovels and shears.

"Rain or shine, there will be a hot dog lunch for all volunteers at noon at 360 Trails, and they can drive up to the picnic area," Hallock said.

Lunch is from noon to 1:30 p.m. Follow the signs if you are unfamiliar with the park location.

Marilyn and Jerry Hartley have been volunteering for park clean-up duty since 2007 and officially adopted the Rocky Creek Conservation Area in 2009.

Park locations

- 360 Trails: 10905 144th Street NW
- Rocky Creek Conservation Area: SR-302 at 15th Ave. on Crews Road
- Key Peninsula Civic Center: 17010 South Vaughn Rd, Vaughn
- Home Park: 17220 8th Ave. Ct. KP N

"We do both sides of the road and four to five miles of trails, trimming once a month and checking daily for litter," Marilyn Hartley said.

She said she loves Washington and believes it's a truly beautiful area.

"It hurts when people throw litter out. The worst is the needles. Normally I'm by myself. I'm comfortable there. Some of my neighbors have seen my truck and when they can't find me and can't reach my cell, they have been known to call the sheriff," she said.

Hartley supervises volunteers during Parks Appreciation Day.

"I find spots I need extra help on," she said. "I'm never dissatisfied with people who come to help. They are very devoted."

She said that garbage has gotten worse in the area.

"I load it into bags and the county picks it up plus the bigger stuff. There's furniture, chopped up car parts, boats and trailers.

"I would like to thank those who are careful with their trash and the others who see it and pick it up," Hartley added.

For information on Park Appreciation Day contact Christina Hallock at (253) 884-3931, christina@keypenparks.com, or visit keypenparks.com.



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Show Times, and Event Registration

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MEET YOUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

Derek Young, Pierce County Council member

By Sara Thompson, KP News

Derek Young, recently elected to the Pierce County Council by a razor-thin margin, did not come to politics with a long-range plan to do so.

He moved to Gig Harbor at age 9. His grade school and middle school have both closed, he said as he smiled ruefully.

"At least Gig Harbor High School is still standing," he noted.

His parents, sister and nieces all continue to live in Gig Harbor.

Young attended the University of Washington. When he returned to Gig Harbor with the mindset of a young environmentalist, he was frustrated by his community's reaction to the then new growth management plan.

He said he ran for a position on the Gig Harbor City Council to make a point and never expected to win. But he took the race and at age 21 found himself on the council, where he served for 16 years.

As a result of his involvement in trans-

portation and land-use issues, Young participated in a number of regional committees and came to the conclusion that decisions made at a county level have an enormous impact on local communities. At that point he decided to run for the Pierce County Council. After a hand recount, he was declared the victor in January, replacing Stan Flemming.

"District 7, covering north Tacoma, Gig Harbor and the Key Peninsula, represents a true snapshot of Pierce County — covering the most urban, the most rural and everything in between," Young said.

To get to know the Key Peninsula, he has attended many meetings. Over a recent two-week period, he came to a Community Council meeting, attended the first organizational



Derek Young

meeting of the Key Peninsula Democrats and met with the Key Peninsula Business Association. He plans to spend one to two days a week doing outreach to his constituents and noted that sometimes "just hanging around" can help to keep in touch with people.

Young's interest in land use continues unabated. "If we are to protect rural areas, we need to grow in more populated areas. The trick is to do it gracefully and to maintain the character of each community. It is hard, but it is important to try," he said.

When asked what he sees as the main issues facing the Key Peninsula, he prioritized the Shoreline Management Plan, the Key Peninsula Community Plan as it fits into the Pierce County Comprehensive Plan, and transportation. His involvement in other pressing issues — mental health services, the county business plan and the jail — has added to his busy schedule.

Working with the County Council has had its challenges, Young said. Although the broad strokes look similar, the work is on a

larger scale compared to that of Gig Harbor, and the area is much more diverse.

Young also has seen a much more partisan approach. While colleagues on the Gig Harbor City Council might not agree, the climate was one of mutual respect and collegiality. He has felt that there has been more on-shipmanship at the county level and hopes that this can change.

"It's up to us to minimize conflict, not to put politics above the community," he said.

"I am enjoying the heck out of getting to know folks I didn't know prior to the campaign," he added. "The institutions on the Key Peninsula are extraordinary, as is the level of community spirit and civic responsibility. There is a bit of a 'we're on our own' feeling that comes from the rural location. It is tremendously humbling to be given the honor to serve. My door is open. I am a phone call away and answer all my emails."

Councilman Derek Young can be reached via phone at (253) 798-6654 or email to derek.young@co.pierce.wa.us.

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Connie said, "Because of my background, I take the toughest kids. I had my last student for 5 years. He couldn't speak English or read at all. We made remarkable progress and it was very rewarding for me also! His parents would stop by and thank me almost every week. The appreciation we get back from the kids makes it all worthwhile, that's my husband's favorite part. It's like helping our own grandchildren."

Connie explained, "We always talk to our neighbors and friends about mentoring, it's only an hour a week, and you get so much more out of it than you can possibly imagine. It's well worth your time."

We thank Vic and Connie for their years of service. Keep up the great work!

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Key Free Clinic serves community, in need of community's support

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

Late last month, Key Free Clinic's open house began with a welcoming address by clinic board chair, Chuck West, a Key Peninsula Fire Department battalion chief. He was followed by an explanation of the clinic's goals by Dr. Jessica Kennedy Schlicher, the clinic medical director, and one of several doctors who volunteer their services at the Key Center location.

Among medical personnel attending were Dr. William "Bill" Roes, volunteer doctors Jaime Payne, Nathan Schlicher, Carla Cameron, clinic director, volunteer Carol Schlicher, RN, and Kurt Schley, president at St. Anthony Hospital, who is also on the board of directors with the Communities In Schools of Peninsula.

"The clinic is a wonderful place to work and to be a patient, and we are thankful for the leadership of Carla Cameron, without whom it would not be possible. Everyone is welcome; it is a friendly place," said Jessica in her opening remarks.

She said the clinic is in the process of raising funds for 2015. Its total clinic budget is \$17,000, of which she said, they have about \$5,000. "We are thankful for our supporters who make it possible to keep our doors open. Major supporters include St. Anthony Hospital, Cost Less Drugs, Chapel Hill Presbyterian Church, Key Peninsula Lions Club and many individuals who give generously," she said.

Harrison Medical Center provided food and soft drinks for the event.

The Key Free Clinic began Jan. 28, 2012 with a small group of doctors and nurses and founders West, Regina Puratich, Roes, Dave Allen, Jim Patterson, Cameron, Jud Morris and Dee Dee Kerkus, clinic coordinator.

"With the support of St. Anthony Hospital, Project Access, Chapel Hill Presbyterian Church, and many other community organizations and individuals, in 2013 we treated 132 patients," Schlicher said. "We have 18 volunteer doctors, and many nurses and nursing students from Pacific Lutheran Univer-

sity. About half our patients are homeless.

"In 2014 we treated 125 patients for many common problems such as diabetes, high blood pressure, asthma, breast cancer, sports physicals, et cetera. Cost Less Pharmacy has been our partner in medication management," she said.

Schlicher said that continuing need prompted an expansion to our now "twice-monthly clinic."

All physicians and nurses volunteer their time.

"It's truly heartwarming to see how many step up to care for our neighbors. My husband Nathan, an ER doctor, and I, a family doctor, have been volunteering at the clinic since 2013," she said.

West said that although the clinic is free to anyone needing non-urgent medical care, they still have to pay rent, utilities and other general costs.

"Our doctors and many others donate their time to provide a quality service but it still costs about \$17,000 per year to run the clinic. We are currently in the process of raising funds to cover these expenses and ask the community for any help it can offer. A donation of \$435 covers one month of rent, \$150 covers insurance, and \$50 helps with medications," West said.

Looking to the future, the needs of the clinic include establishing a reserve fund for medications, improving patient educational materials, improving access to ongoing care and referrals, and building a reserve for operations.

"We are grateful to Costless Pharmacy and the Key Peninsula Lions Club for supporting our medication fund," said Nathan Schlicher. "This is a dedicated fund that is only used for that purpose. We manage our resources very carefully and use generics as much as possible.

"Free clinics don't survive without the generous support of the communities they serve. Doctors and nurses provide care for free, but we still have building, medicines and supplies costs that would not be possible without your support," he said.

Donations can be mailed to KFC at PO Box 1095, Vaughn, Wash. For information, visit keyfreeclinic.org.

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COMMUNITY PAGES

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

APRIL 2

Fuchsia meeting

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

Boat building film

View and discuss the documentary, "The Golden Age of Wooden Boats" with filmmaker John Sabella at 7 p.m., as part of the free PC READS program, funded by the Friends of the Key Center Library. 548-3309.

APRIL 2, 9, 23, 26 and 30

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.

APRIL 3, 10, 17 and 24

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.

APRIL 2 and 16

Cat-lover meeting

Cat Tales 4-H Club, for children ages 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.

APRIL 4

Bike event

Key Pen Parks hosts its first-ever 360 Trails Poker Pedal with check-in at 8:30 a.m. This is a unique family-friendly bike riding event where riders must visit five to seven checkpoints, drawing a playing card at each point.

The object is to have the best poker hand at the end of the run for the best prizes. This event raises funds for further trail development at 360 Trails. Prizes are awarded at 12:30 p.m. keypenparks.com.

APRIL 6 and 20

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.

APRIL 6, 13, 20 and 27

Bloodmobile

The bloodmobile is at Albertsons 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. It is at Peninsula High School on April 6 from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

APRIL 7, 14, 21 and 28

Story time

Music and Motion Story Time for ages 0 to 3 years (with an adult) takes place 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 takes place 11 a.m., and includes hands-on science exploration. Both activities are sponsored by Friends of the Key Center Library. 548-3309.

APRIL 8

Garden club meets

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

APRIL 9

Ashes meet

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

APRIL 11

Henna painting

Mehndi Madness teaches about the art of Henna painting, 2 p.m., at the Key Center Library. Decorate yourself with a beautiful, natural, temporary tattoo. This free program is funded by the Friends of the KC Library. 548-3309.

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.

APRIL 14 and 22

Crochet or knit

The Loving Hearts group knits and crochets for charities and meets April 12 from 1 to 3 p.m., and April 22 from 7 to 9 p.m., at Way Point Church, 12719 134th Ave. KPN. Yarn donations are always needed. Virginia, 884-9619, or lovingheartsonkp@gmail.com.

APRIL 16

Community forum

The Mustard Seed's Third Thursday Community Forum features an update on its Key Peninsula Senior Housing Plans, 10 a.m., at the Key Center Library. Transportation is available by prior arrangement. 884-9814.

Opera preview

Norm Hollingshead previews "Ariadne auf Naxos" by Richard Strauss, 7 p.m., at the Key Center Library. The friends are not organizing a trip to the opera, but the program will be entertaining and informative. This free program is funded by the Friends of the KC Library. 548-3309.

APRIL 17

Art show

Tweed Meyer presents a slideshow "Along My Path of Art," 6 p.m., at Lakebay Marina, 15 Lorenz Road in Lakebay. (206) 619-3777.

APRIL 18

Victory gardens

Learn what vegetables were grown during World War II and what types to try in the Pacific Northwest with Master Gardener John Valentine, 2 p.m., at the Key Center Library. This free PC READS program is funded by the Friends of the Key Center Library. 548-3309.

APRIL 19

Barter fair

KP Barter hosts a free barter fair at the Lake Holiday Clubhouse 2 to 4 p.m. Alice, 884-2723 or check out the Key Peninsula Barter Facebook group.

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.

APRIL 20

Democrats meet

The KP Democrats meet 7 p.m., at the Home fire station with Peninsula School's Superintendent Chuck Cuzzetto speaking about schools on the KP.

APRIL 24

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.

APRIL 25

Help the parks

The annual Parks Appreciation Day is from 9 a.m. to noon at Home Park, Rocky Creek Conservation Area, KP Civic Center, and 360 Trails. Bring your gloves, loppers, rakes, smiles, family and friends to help clean up our parks for spring and summer. A hot dog lunch is hosted for all volunteers, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., at Gateway Park. Rain or shine, we hope you help. No need to pre-register. 884-9290 extension 22.

Beatniks play

The Beatniks perform, 7 p.m., at Lakebay Marina, 15 Lorenz Road in Lakebay. 206-619-3777.

OFF THE KEY

APRIL 2

Democrats meet

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

APRIL 2, 7, 9 and 11

Bloodmobile

The bloodmobile is at Kiwanis Club of Peninsula-Gig Harbor, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and also noon to 7 p.m., April 9; at Gig Harbor High School, 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., April 7; and at Haggen Northwest Fresh Foods 8:30 to 12:30 p.m., April 11.

APRIL 2, 23, 25 and 30

Spring Poetry Series

Gig Harbor Library's Spring Poetry Series presents Elizabeth Austen, 7 p.m., April 2. She is a Washington State Poet Laureate for 2014-16 and produces poetry programming for KUOW radio. Tim Sherry is the guest, 7 p.m., April 23. Sherry is a long-time public school teacher and high school principal from Tacoma. His poems have appeared in a wide variety of literary journals and he was an Artsmith Artist Resident on Orcas Island. Kevin Miller presents a writing/sharing time, which requires pre-registration, 9 a.m. to noon, April 25, and will read his own poetry 7 p.m., April 30. His morning presentation, "Poetry is Not a Gated Community," includes discussion about editing, revision and correspondence. This event is sponsored by Friends of the Gig Harbor Library.

APRIL 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30

Chess activity

Children in grades K to 8 participate in Chess Club every Thursday, 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.

APRIL 9

Discover art!

Children (ages 6 to 12) enjoy a story with Grandma Moses, become inspired and create their own artwork 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 spon-

sored by the Friends of the Gig Harbor Library. 548-3305.

APRIL 11

JobFest

A JobFest Workshop for teens and young adults (ages 16-24) is 1 to 3 p.m., at the Gig Harbor Library. Prepare for the largest Adult Job Fair in Washington and gain early access to employers. Register at www.jobfest2015jobseeker.eventbrite.com. 548-3305.

Mental illness discussed

The League of Women Voters' Gig Harbor/Key Peninsula Unit meets 2 to 4 p.m., at Harbor History Museum to discuss "The Experience of Having Mental Illness." Next year, the League will explore what can be done to improve mental health care in Pierce County. League meetings are open to the public. The League meets on second Saturdays. Sharon Peace-Doane, 265-0841.

APRIL 17 to MAY 2

Play presented

Paradise Theatre presents "The Glass Menagerie" at 7:30 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays and 3 p.m., Sundays. 851-PLAY or info@paradisetheatre.org

APRIL 28

Public meeting

A public meeting of the Planning Commission for rural area modifications meets 6 p.m., in the public meeting room at the Pierce County Public Services Building, 2410 D 35th St., Tacoma.

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

MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS

Community walk

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

Senior exercise class

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

TUESDAYS

Rehearsals begin

Key Singers, a local community choral group, rehearses for its annual May Concert at the Key Peninsula Lutheran Church at 7 p.m. No auditions required – if you like to sing and can carry a tune, come join. Member dues of \$10 pay for rent, music, concert refreshments and PHS scholarships. 884-5615.

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS

Senior tai chi club

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

Preschool play time

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

TUESDAYS & SATURDAYS

KP Museum re-opens

The Key Peninsula Historical Society board members opened a new display in the museum located at the KP Civic Center. This year's theme is "The Story of the Key Peninsula: Its Past – Its People – Its Places." The focus will be on the early communities of the area. Open hours are 1 to 4 p.m., Tuesdays and Saturdays. No charge, although monetary donations are much appreciated. facebook.com/KPHistoricalSociety or keypen-

CALENDAR SUBMISSIONS

Send your calendar items to connicrenz@hotmail.com by the 15th of the month

insulamuseum.org or kphsmuseum@gmail.com. 888-3246.

WEDNESDAYS

Writers meet

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

Writer's 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 KP Community Services; a \$2 donation is requested. Guests (ages 50-59) of senior attendees are requested to donate \$2.50. 884-4440.

THURSDAYS

Toastmasters

The Toastmasters meet 8 to 9 a.m., at the Key Center Library. Join the fun and improve your speaking ability. 858-5761 or (253) 548-3511.

Seniors' lunch

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

Bingo

Free Bingo at the KP Community Services in Home 7 to 9 p.m. 884-4440.

SATURDAYS

Writers' Guild

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

Lakebay Jam with 302

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

PUBLIC MEETINGS LISTINGS ONLINE

See what's happening at keypennews.com

Nurse practitioner adds fresh healthcare options for folks on the KP

By Scott Turner, KP News

On June 2, 2014, Bret Price opened a new medical practice in the Key Peninsula Health and Professional Center in Key Center.

Price, 44, is an advanced registered nurse practitioner (ARNP) and specializes in family and elder care.

He and his wife, Chris, live near Rocky Creek in Vaughn and have raised their four children on the Key Peninsula. Their oldest daughter and son go to Peninsula High. The two younger kids attend KPMS and Vaughn Elementary.

Price's medical training and experience is broad.

Early on he worked as an RN at Cotestmore Nursing Home in Gig Harbor on the Medicare-certified wing.

"We saw a lot of post-surgical people who had had joint replacements and other kinds of surgeries and just needed some recuperation, some therapy and someone to do wound care. It was a good experience," he said.

While he was working on his Master's

(ARNP) degree at Seattle Pacific University, he and his wife owned an adult family home in University Place where they cared for six elderly clients.

"We managed their care every day," Price said.

As soon as he passed his ARNP board certification exam in 2001, he went to work for Franciscan Health Services.

That was also the year he and his wife and kids moved into the home they built in Vaughn.

With Franciscan, he said, "I had sort of dual duties, because I saw patients in long-term care facilities along with an internal medicine provider — and I was also in a clinic environment."

In his Key Center practice, Price focuses on family practice — seeing patients of all ages. His wife assists him in the business aspects of his clinic and greets the patients.

"She's my right hand," he said. "She's very good with patients. She helps people feel comfortable and decreases their anxiety in meeting a new provider."

As a nurse practitioner in an outpatient

clinic setting, there's not much Price can't do.

"We manage medications, we do chronic disease management. We do EKGs and injections. And I have provider specialists I refer patients to if it's beyond my skill set," Price explained.

The clinic is contracted with most major insurance companies including Medicare and some Medicaid plans. In the 10 months since he opened his practice, Price's patient base has grown steadily.

"We're getting a pretty good number of community referrals, which has been great to see," he said.

"But there's always room for us to grow. The only limiting factor is that I want to try to keep my operating expenses as low as I can so I don't have to see 25-30 pa-



Bret Price

tients a day to pay the bills.

"I think people like to feel like they're not just in a revolving door in and out. I want to be able to listen and take time to hear and understand their problems and at the same time be able to give them some education about their condition. That pays big dividends in their ability to help themselves get better," he said with a smile.

Being "preventative" is one of the best things any medical provider can do for their patients, he said.

"Oftentimes that means helping them understand that at this point in their health, if they don't make some changes soon they could have diabetes, or they could have heart disease or other serious problems.

"You don't necessarily see that in the world — your 'competitor' (other clinicians) wanting to help you succeed. But they have gone above and beyond in trying to help us succeed. The local support has been great."

Price's practice is located in the Key Peninsula Health and Professional Center, 8903 Key Peninsula Hwy N. in Key Center. For information call (253) 884-3400.

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Local art on display at Key Center library

By Irene Torres, KP News

The Pierce County Library, Key Center branch, offers exhibit space for local artists to display their work.

Community branch supervisor Rosina Vertz said they encourage local artists to come and use "our bare walls" to introduce themselves and their art.

"We are happy to be a part of the art theme in the community and the library draws a big audience," Vertz said.

During March and April, watercolor artist Karen Lovett has her work hung at the library.

Lovett has been taking art classes through Tacoma Community College and Pen Met Parks. She paints from photographs and from site visits to places like the Olalla Valley Winery and Vineyard.

Lovett said she is able to produce one to two paintings a week while doing in-home care.

"The world is full of subjects to paint. Every season, things change," she said.

Lovett had wanted to do watercolor for years and years.

"I wanted to learn to paint so I could design my own book covers. Some things you can't do with photographs," she said.

When she started, she wanted to paint just like (local artist) Beverly Pedersen, but her art instructor, Sherri Bails, convinced Lovett that she needed to develop her own style.

"Mine is lifelike, so people seem to relate to it," she said.

From the classes, she has learned to adopt techniques, perspective, design and color.

She had taken a class about seven years ago, but became frustrated with the focus and the procedure of that particular instructor.

"Watercolor is unforgiving. You can't paint over mistakes like you can with oils," she said. "I gave up, thinking watercolor wasn't my thing."

After several years, watching painting shows on television, reading a book on watercolor, and getting more practice, she got better.

Lovett has written songs and three novels and has other books in the works.

But she has been writing less lately, while working several part-time jobs. She views writing like work "a lot of the time, fun work, but still work."

"Painting should be fun. I don't think anybody paints because they hate doing it," she said.

She is active in the local fuchsia club and in the rabbit club, holding offices in both. She volunteers at Key Peninsula Community Services one day a week. She also sews and embroiders and wants to incorporate that into her art.

To keep costs down, she buys art supplies from Daniel Smith in Seattle and Aaron Brothers when frames are on sale.

"It is hard to consider myself an artist when the Key Peninsula is overflowing with artists who have years of formal

training and grew up with art. I was a science major. I avoided art all through high school. I told my art teacher I couldn't paint a straight line," she said.

She said that she appreciates artists, but never expected to be one.

Now, Lovett spends about 10 to 20 hours a month on painting.

"With painting, it's fun to see what I can create. It's such a feeling of satisfaction when you're finished. It's amazing that it's me who created them. They are like my children," she said.

Artists who can commit to a two-month display are invited to bring a sample of their work and talk with Vertz about getting wall time.

The library is booked well into 2015 so it will be toward the end of the year before they can get in.

"For very new artists, this is an amazing experience as they open themselves to public response and gain some confidence, then they can go forth.

"Lovett said she's had 'great feedback' from those who've viewed her work," Vertz said.



Karen Lovett

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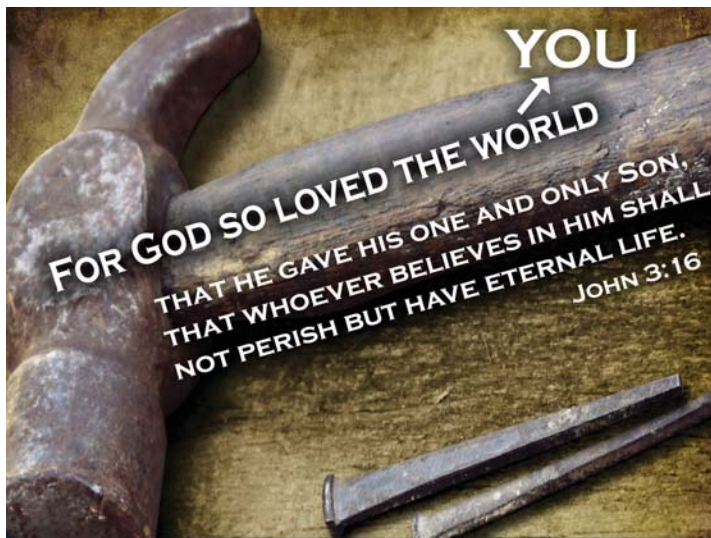
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LONGBRANCH COMMUNITY CHURCH

5:30PM - SUPPER & COMMUNION SERVICE

**GOOD FRIDAY SERVICES
APRIL 3RD****KEY PENINSULA LUTHERAN CHURCH**

7:00PM - GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

LAKEBAY COMMUNITY CHURCH

7:30PM - GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE

LONGBRANCH COMMUNITY CHURCH

12:00 - 6:00PM - VIGIL SANCTUARY OPEN FOR PRAYER

WAYPOINT CHURCH

7:00PM - GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

EASTER SERVICES**APRIL 5TH****HISTORIC VAUGHN BAY CHURCH**

KEY PENINSULA CIVIC CENTER, 884-9303 (VFW ROOM)

7:30AM - SUNRISE SERVICE AT VAUGHN BAY CEMETERY

10AM - WORSHIP SERVICE

KEY PENINSULA LUTHERAN CHURCH

4213 LACKEY RD KPN, LAKEBAY, 884-3312

BREAKFAST 8-10AM

10:30AM - EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE

LAKEBAY COMMUNITY CHURCH

11 CORNWALL RD KPS, LAKEBAY, 884-3899

7:00AM - SUNRISE SERVICE AT CAMP WOODWORTH

9:30AM - RESURRECTION CELEBRATION

LONGBRANCH COMMUNITY CHURCH

16518 46TH STREET KPS, LONGBRANCH, 884-9339

8:15AM - SUNRISE SERVICE ON

HERRON ISLAND (FERRY LEAVES AT 8)

10:30AM - EASTER WORSHIP SERVICE

WAYPOINT CHURCH

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9:30AM & 11:00AM - RESURRECTION CELEBRATION



Diane Everson shows off a professional bee box.

Photo by Steve Whitford

Local beekeeper fights extinction

By Steve Whitford, KP News

It's a known fact that bees are disappearing. Some strains have even become extinct, and when the bee population is threatened, so is our food supply. Virtually all living things depend on the existence of bees.

What's causing the problem? As usual, it's humans. Climate and crop changes affect pollen-specific strains, and bees need the wild plant pollens that are disappearing due to overdevelopment.

The biggest killer of bees is the use and overuse of pesticides. Two of the deadliest are Sevin and PennCap-M. Pesticides are transported back to the hives by the bees and mixed in with the pollen. The poisoned pollen contaminates the larva and throughout the hives, causing a mass kill-off. Worse yet, the effectiveness of pesticides can last for years.

Locally, Dianne Everson, a Key Pen resident of 35 years, is a beekeeper involved in repopulating our community with bees — and not just any bee. She works with one of the best pollinating, people-friendly bee there is.

Everson was born in Tacoma and graduated from the University of Puget Sound with a bachelor's degree in music. Since then, she has performed professionally at many special events and taught piano for years.

In 1994, Everson was visited by her father, Coit Everson, who brought her a crude bee hive. It was a thick piece of wood that had been drilled full of bee-sized holes. The hive was hung up outside in February and by mid-June, it was full of bee larva.

The bees that would emerge the next spring were *Osmia Lignaria*, or more com-

monly known as orchard mason bees. Apparently there's something growing on her property that mason bees like a lot.

In 2005, Everson met local beekeeper Darren Gordon at a bazaar at the Olalla Grange. He sold her on bees and also sold her a commercially built bee box. It was her first. With the help of Gordon's mentoring, she also became a keeper of bees.

Mason bees get their name from making a paste from mud and plant fiber that is used in nest building. When professional wood blocks are used, the queens partition off the larva in their holes with the paste. In the spring, hatching males chew through the mud plugs, which can take three days to two weeks. When the smaller females hatch, mating begins immediately.

"I'm fascinated by this process," Everson said. "The queen chooses the sex of the larva; males go in the front of the tube. It's hard to predict when they'll come out, but the temperature needs to be above 60 degrees and not raining."

She said mason bees are better at pollinating than honeybees.

"One female may make as many as 35 trips to secure pollen and as many as 50 trips for their masonry mud," Everson said. "As few as two females can pollinate the equivalent of a mature apple tree. Each queen will produce six to seven eggs."

This year, she hopes to fill 300 boxes, which equals approximately 3,000 bees.

"Beekeeping can be interesting to all family members, especially children. They can watch the bees work. Best of all, only the females sting and then only if handled," she said.

For information about mason bees, Diane Everson can be reached at (253) 884-2046.

Flint knapping comes to the Key Peninsula

By Irene Torres, KP News

In January, master flint knapper, Harry Oda, presented a free, hands-on flint knapping workshop to a group of 16 in the Brones Room at the Key Peninsula Library. The students ranged in age from 11 to 80, and used materials from a lapidary shop — some imported from Oregon and others from “four tons of rock in my backyard,” Oda said.

With a tarp on the floor to catch tailings, Oda taught students to abrade, flake, notch, to use percussion and pressure flaking and to see the positive and negative in their work as they made saws, blades, arrowheads or projectile points.

“The object is to get rid of the mass. Imagine a line, a plane through the middle. Put your point on the thick end, and notch on the thin end — less work,” Oda said. He helped with advice too, like the “right hand is the same angle and the left hand is the changed angle.”

Oda peppered the experience with historical references to tribes and the Lewis and Clark expedition of 1803 to 1806.

He said that natives traded from the Dalles, Oregon, up and down the Columbia River and along the northwest coast for 8,000 to 9,000 years.

“Ninety-five percent of the knapping was done by women,” Oda said. “They made functional things.” He said that Neanderthals in Eastern Europe had been flint knapping quartzite from 60,000 to 90,000 years ago to make stone and surgical implements.

There was obsidian, agate, jasper and flint — all molded with hammer stone, leather, copper tubing, and a file or rasp. Safety equipment included gloves, safety glasses and lots of bandages. “Obsidian can be sharpened down to one glass molecule, 500 times sharper than steel,” Oda said.



Photo by Karen Lovett, KP News

Instructor Harry Oda examines an arrowhead (in progress) made by student Rod Pierson during a recent flint knapping class at the Key Center Library.

Chris Bronstad, a teacher at Key Peninsula Middle School, had brought Oda into his classroom for a demonstration. With Oda being “very popular,” Bronstad suggested to librarian Rosina Vertz that the community would attend a hands-on experience. Bronstad said he enjoyed the “expressions of delight in their accomplishment and their creativity.”

Oda, a graduate of Washington State University, studied under Don Crab-

tree, “the flint knapper of all time.” Oda holds a doctorate degree in archaeology and teaches at Clover Park College. He has also taught at Pierce and Bellevue Community College.

As a flint knapper for 24 years, Oda, who lives in Lakewood, said if he is invited, he will return for another workshop on traditional toolmaking — which he jokingly referred to as “Rock Abuse 101.”

Bronstad brought samples of his own flint knapping points and blades to show the students.

“You can make these,” he said.

First-time student John Thompson (from Longbranch) said he “was hoping my neolithic, paleolithic self would come back. But it doesn’t work that way. You have to work at it.”

Eleven-year-old Elizabeth Pierson, of Home, had one word to describe the experience of making her first arrowhead: “Proud.”

By the looks on all the faces, it was a great Friends of the Library function.

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Evergreen teacher Souers earns school district award

By Scott Turner, KP News

In early March, Evergreen Elementary School teacher Therese Souers got a big surprise.

School principal Hugh Maxwell suddenly called an emergency staff meeting in the school library.

"He said district superintendent Chuck Cuzzetto was here and wanted to get together with us," Souers recalled.

"We all thought it was going to be bad news, but then Chuck said he had good news — that someone on our staff had won the 'Ellen Fay award.' And he called my name," she said with a grin.

Souers said she was more than a little embarrassed, but quickly decided it felt like an honor.

Unknown to her, Maxwell and several other Evergreen staffers, including office manager Betty McCord, fourth grade teacher Susan Henderson and counselor Denise Doering-Burmark had nominated her to receive the award — which is given about six times every school year, Maxwell said.

The award was named after the district's

longtime human resources administrator Ellen Fay who was well-known for her kindness and her ability to remember people's birthdays and other special days.

When Fay retired, the district created an award in her honor to be given to any district employee whose commitment goes "above and beyond" what is expected, Maxwell said.

Souers is definitely one of those people. "Therese is always willing to do the extra thing that needs to be done," he said. "She pushes herself and she's always trying to learn new things and get better."

"In this educational climate which has so many expectations, she goes above and beyond to help our students be successful whatever level they're at. She gives a lot of additional time and she inspires us all, including me, to work harder and do more," Maxwell said.



Therese Souers

Souers has also been the primary reason Evergreen has a complete set of Chromebooks and other computer equipment, Maxwell added, because of her grant-writing skills.

"She's a huge proponent of integrating technology to motivate and engage our students so they can grow and move forward. She's our tech support person in the building, but she just takes off and writes grants and has a way of finding different funding sources that aren't really obvious," he said.

In her previous job, Souers, who teaches third-grade, was director of development at Green River Community College. "That's the fundraising arm of the college," she said.

"I've done grant writing and I've overseen grant writers so I know the process and I know what it takes to write a grant and how to identify sources that may hit what we want. Those things all need to come together. It's not an easy thing for people who don't have experience in it," she said.

Souers also developed an after-school program that teaches kids to use the new Chromebooks. This year, they're studying 3-D programming and 3-D printing. She

even managed to get a loan of a 3-D printer from a private company.

She said she plans to have the kids create a school newspaper on the Chromebooks.


But the best thing about the after-school program is the fact that when the students go back into their classrooms, they're able to teach their classmates how to use the technology, she said.

"They're the experts and they're teaching their peers. How the other kids look at them has totally changed, their self-esteem has grown," Souers said, beaming. "And they're also teaching the teachers about the possibilities of it. Their self-respect and everything has just totally changed."

It's that type of change that motivates Souers to go the extra mile and keep looking for grants to bring more technology to Evergreen, Maxwell said.

"Evergreen is such a great school and this is such a great community. We have a great staff who are all about caring for the kids. And that's what motivates me," Souers added.

And the results of that motivation earned her the Ellen Fay award.

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PSD expands services for ‘highly capable students’

By Alice Kinerk, KP News

In January, local community members gathered to hear a group of Peninsula School District administrators, teachers, parents and school board members explain the reasons for the planned expansion of highly capable services.

First, according to documents available on the PSD website, educational research has shown that students who participate in accelerated courses when they are academically ready for them reap the benefit of increased learning while suffering minimal social or emotional impacts.

Secondly, the passage of HB 5922 a couple years back mandates expanded highly capable courses and offerings in every Washington state school district.

PSD has already been serving highly capable students through challenge programs in elementary classrooms, self-contained Hi-cap classrooms at the fourth and fifth grade levels, as well as clustering highly capable students at the middle school level, and pre-AP, as well

as AP courses in high school. But there is more to do, officials say, and PSD has been educating the community about how these changes will look in our schools.

The changes are vast, and a complete list is available at the PSD website.

To highlight a few of the most significant changes at the elementary level, beginning in September 2015, highly-capable second and third-graders will have their own self-contained classroom. The district will add one second/third combined highly capable classroom at Minter Creek Elementary. Students selected for the class will have scored in the top 3 to 4 percent on the CogAT test given in March. Self-contained classrooms for both second and third highly capable students in Gig Harbor will be added at Voyager Elementary. The District will provide transportation for students who test into the program.

At the secondary level, the district will add highly capable classes in social studies/language arts as well as science.

Math courses, which are already ability-grouped, will be altered to allow students who are capable of progressing more quickly to do so. Pre-AP and AP offerings will also expand.

John Hellwich, PSD’s assistant superintendent for teaching and learning, explained that the HiCap expansion benefits all students.

“Gifted students often get a false sense of isolation or superiority when they are in a general classroom,” he said.

“One of the benefits of this kind of self-contained model is that students find their peer group often for the first time in school. They learn that they are not the smartest person in the room on all subject areas and how to be part of a team,” Hellwich said.

He said that a common myth associated with highly capable programs is that the rest of the students need the highest ability peers in the classroom for comparison.

“In fact, students compare to their peers who are similar instead of people who are very different in ability,” Hell-

wich said.

Kathryn Weymiller, PSD’s director of community outreach, said there is an important difference between students who work hard to achieve at high levels and those who are cognitively gifted.

“Highly capable students are students with unique special needs, and expanding efforts to identify and serve them is very exciting,” Weymiller said.

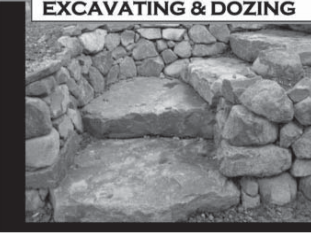
Hellwich said that achievers are the students who would do well with most classroom settings, have the answer to teachers’ questions and can usually learn something new with a half a dozen repetitions.

“Highly capable students have a unique and often divergent way of thinking, often come up with a new question instead of an answer, and learn new concepts in one or two repetitions,” he said.

For testing and identification questions, contact Linda McQuade at (253) 530-1070. For program element questions, contact Joy Giovanini at giovanini@psd401.net.

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Early Key Peninsula schools: 'Huckleberry School'

By Colleen Slater, KP News

The earliest settlers on the Key Peninsula were single men. By the 1870s, families arrived and children needed schooling. Classes were first often held in a home or an already constructed building, but soon, one-room schoolhouses had been built in each community.

These simple structures, with a wood-burning stove, a slate or chalkboard, outdoor privy and hand-washing facility were the beginning of public education.

Lakebay School No. 17, near Palmer Lake, was built of logs before 1890 by the determination of Sarah Creviston. It became the first school registered on the peninsula. Creviston taught her own and a few neighbor children until a teacher was hired a few years later. By 1900, the children became too numerous for that school and moved to a new one, Whiteman Cove No. 118, near the intersection of Whiteman and Bay Roads.

Herron No. 100, begun as Blanchard in the 1890s, consolidated with Lakebay in 1908 to become Lakebay No. 311. A

new school was built when Home joined Lakebay, and the old school became a residence. The newer building, Lakebay No. 315, is now the Key Peninsula Community Services, senior center and food bank.

Elgin No. 31, now a private residence in Minter, began as a school in Lucinda Minter's home in 1884. A postmaster changed the name of the Minter post office to Elgin but later the original community name was returned.

No. 32 was assigned to the first Longbranch school in 1885. Longbranch No. 87, at the north end of Filucy Bay, was built in 1898. These two combined to become No. 328, across from the Curl family farm. The gymnasium constructed by Works Progress Administration in 1931 is all that remains, now the Longbranch Improvement Club. No. 87, purchased by the Wyatts, was turned 90 degrees and moved across the road to become a residence.

Vaughn No. 35, also built in 1885, another log structure, is still in existence as a private residence. Some students came

by boat from Eckert Island. By 1898, 40 students crowded the single room, so a two-room school, called "Huckleberry School," was built in North Vaughn, where more families had settled.

Rock Creek No. 48, the second Vaughn school built about 1886, above and west of Rocky Creek, was for children from Carney and Wye Lakes, Rocky Bay and Victor. South Vaughn No. 94 on Lackey Road, built by 1900, was attended by children from "Little Sweden" on Roberts Road.

All Vaughn schools consolidated when elementary school No. 321 was built near the high school in 1921. Students from Glencove and Elgin, attended Vaughn in 1941.

Purdy No. 36 and Wauna No. 69 combined teachers and students, meeting at each school for three to four months in order to keep them both open. The Springfield (later Wauna) school, in place by 1885, burned. Another, built a little higher on the same field, is now a private home.

The first Glencove No. 61 school,

used from 1891 until 1912, was replaced by another higher on the hill. Students moved to Vaughn in 1941 and the school, remodeled into a home, still stands.

Home School No. 86 began in a tent, the home of George and Sylvia Allen, the day after their arrival, for children of the first three families settling the community. The first building of 1899 burned within two years. Classes were then held in Home Hall until a new school could be built on D Street. That building is now a residence.

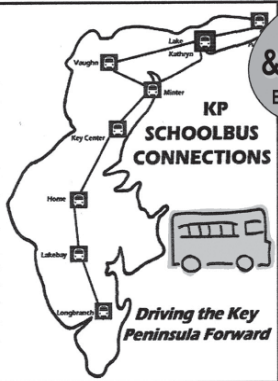
Students wishing to continue their education beyond 8th grade rode a boat to Tacoma until 1903 when Vaughn Union High School No. 201 organized and held classes in the local Presbyterian Church. In 1906, the school was built, serving until 1947 when Vaughn and Gig Harbor joined to form Peninsula High School.

Anyone with additional information on these schools is encouraged to visit the Key Peninsula Historical Society museum or contact kphmuseum@gmail.com or 888-3426.

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ECAP is working wonders on the Key

By Scott Turner, KP News

Young children from 36 Key Peninsula families are getting a boost toward kindergarten through the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECAP).

According to Caren Halvorsen, an ECAP family support specialist, both Evergreen and Vaughn elementary schools have ECAP programs.

"It's all about kindergarten readiness," Halvorsen said. "But it's more than just learning the ABCs and 1-2-3s. It also helps kids learn how to sit in a classroom with their peers and negotiate with their peers, and well as being a good friend."

And because it engages parents as well as their children, Halvorsen said, ECAP is actually preschool for the whole family.

She said the program encourages families to have their children get dental and well-child exams, and it also helps parents who might want to go back to school themselves.

"The wants and needs of our families here on the Peninsula are very individual and I try to help parents attain goals they might have for their family, even if it's as simple as having a reliable vehicle to get them to and from school or a job," Halvorsen said.

In fact, at Vaughn Elementary, in a room adjacent to ECAP's portable classroom, there's a family resource center complete with a mini library, treats and a wall hung with children's clothes and shoes for those in need.

And it's all free.

Kim George is the lead ECAP teacher at Vaughn. She and assistant teacher Barbara Thomas focus on the teaching aspect while Halvorsen focuses on the family dynamic.

The ECAP program has been at Vaughn for about 25 years and George has been

part of it for nine years.

"This program is so important because it provides free preschool to families who might not have the resources. It provides transportation, there's health and food resources and resources for the whole family — not just the child," George said.

Children come to the ECAP program for three hours a day, Monday through Thursday.

As soon as the kids arrive at school, they all go into the cafeteria and have lunch, Halvorsen said.

"Then we have some outside time to get the wiggles out and get some fresh air and interact with one another on the playground," she said, beaming.

After playground time, everyone goes into the classroom for circle time — where all sit on a rug, sing a song and settle down, she said.

Every day a different student is designated "Helper of the Day, too," George added.

"On their special day they get to have their name written on the board. They're the line leader and they help with the calendar. That gives each child an opportunity to feel special and it gives the teacher the opportunity to really focus on that child," she said.

The calendar is another important learning experience.

The children talk about what month it is and what day of the week it is.

"And we talk about things like what sound does our month have for its beginning sound," Halvorsen said. "For instance, March starts with 'mmm,' the taste-good sound. Wednesday it's the 'Wow!' sound. That calendar piece is hugely important."

Halvorsen is emphatic about the value of the ECAP program.

"This is an amazing resource for kids and families on the peninsula. It helps so much in getting ready for school, but it even gives parents a little bug to get involved with the classroom. Really amazing things can happen. There are also opportunities for parents to get involved in the whole ECAP planning process for the whole district," she said.

Jennifer Carter is one of those parents who got the little bug to help in the classroom. She started volunteering in George's classroom because her kids were in the program.

"I got involved because I didn't like sitting at home," Carter said. "That got me into subbing in ECAP and then Kim suggested I just become part of the program, so now I'm full-time."

As an ECAP parent, Carter is very aware of the benefits.

"It helped my kids so much when they went into kindergarten. It helped them be prepared for what they needed to know, like learning to write their name and recognize their letters and numbers," she said.

Carter urges other parents to learn more about the program.

"Don't be shy about signing up for this program, because there are great benefits. There are so many ways to help families who are in need in any kind of way like counseling or other programs.

"And it's really good for kids — they get interaction with other kids and a good lunch and snack, and transportation. That really helps a lot, especially for those without cars," she said. "And it's all free."

Registration for the 2015-2016 school year are now taking place through the end of June, Halvorsen said.

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The Mustard Seed Project receives major funding gift

KP News staff report

The Mustard Seed Project of Key Peninsula announced its receipt of the first of two expected distributions from the estate of Lois C. Crandall.

Founded in 2006, The Mustard Seed Project of Key Peninsula is a grassroots nonprofit organization dedicated to aging in place on the Key Peninsula, by providing a variety of services and programs to meet the needs of community elders.

Crandall's initial legacy gift of \$250,000 was presented to The Mustard Seed Project by her daughters, Roberta Skiles and Judith Lawson at a reception on March 20, at the home of Sara Thompson, board president of The Mustard Seed Project.

"This very generous gift will benefit the elders of the Key Peninsula, through the programs and services we provide to support healthy aging, and will also help in the development of affordable senior housing in this community," said Thompson in a press release.

According to Edie Morgan, founder and executive director of The Mustard Seed Project, an earlier gift from Crandall funded the Key Peninsula Affordable Senior Housing Feasibility Study, completed in November 2014.

Morgan said Crandall believed, as does The Mustard Seed Project, that seniors should be able to stay in their own homes as long as they are able to safely do so. She, herself, "'aged in place' at her home in Longbranch, with winters in Arizona, into her 94th year. She passed away in August 2014."

"Crandall's financial generosity to The Mustard Seed Project was exceeded only by her strong personal support for our vision and work over the years," Morgan said.

Morgan said that "significant additional gifts and grants will be needed to meet the approximate \$3 million capital campaign goal for the much-needed and long-awaited Key Peninsula senior housing campus."

Source: The Mustard Seed Project

OBITUARY NOTICES

Marjorie 'Marge' Anne Radonich

Marjorie "Marge" Anne Radonich died at her second-home in Yuma, Ariz. on Feb. 8, 2015. She was 86 years old.

She was born in Longbranch on Aug. 16, 1928 to George and Minnie Rickert on the beautiful property she still called home.

Radonich was the unofficial "matriarch of Longbranch" and of her family. She was always on the move, loving her life, her family, friends and land, and always loved a good card game or jam session.

Throughout her life, while raising her three daughters alongside the late Dick Radonich, she worked as a lunch lady, co-founded the Angel Guild Thrift Shop with her sister Shirl Olson, and was active in the Longbranch Community Church, the Peninsula Historical Society, Ruth Circle and the Key Singers.

Radonich is survived by many, but most immediately, her daughter Becky Olsen

of Longbranch, sister Shirl Olson of Key Center, honorary daughter, Pam Baebler of Gig Harbor, granddaughters Heidi Jackson of New Jersey, Molly McAllister of Seattle, Gretchen Olsen of Longbranch, her great great grandchildren Harper, Vianne, August, Addison and Beckett, as well as countless cousins, nieces and other relatives.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you make donations to the Muscular Dystrophy Association, the Angel Guild Thrift Shop, or the Peninsula Historical Society.



Helen Davis Skahan

Helen Davis Skahan, 96, a mother, grandmother, aunt and friend, died peacefully at home on the Key Peninsula on Feb. 6. She was born on Aug. 14, 1918, in Tacoma, to Verne and Margaret Lunore.

Skahan attended Elgin School for eight years.

She is survived by her daughters Eileen Day and Catherine Skahan-Carlson; her son Brett Skahan, 11 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, and 22 great, great grandchildren; cousin Irene Wentworth; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Skahan is preceded in death by her parents; her step-father, Alton Gross; her brother Laverne Lunore, her first husband, Burton Day; her second husband, Elmer Skahan; her son, Verne Day, and her daughter Rosalie Trettin.

She loved the forest and harvested huckleberry and salal evergreens until she was 80 years old. Skahan had beautiful flower gardens around her home. She sold many hand-crocheted and knit items at the Port Orchard Farmer's Market for more than 25 years.

A graveside service was held at the Vaughn Bay Cemetery followed by a celebration of life gathering at the Burley Community Hall.



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Photo courtesy Dorene Paterson

Above: Doug Paterson was sworn in as chaplain for the Key Peninsula Fire Department on March 10 by Christina Bosch, administrative manager. Commissioners Sheila Hunt and Raymond Lamouraux observe. Others present included commissioners Frank Grubaugh, Claudia Jones and Chief Guy Allen.



Photo courtesy of Kathy Lyons

Right: Kathy Lyons, of Lakebay, took this picture of a juvenile hawk perched on the cushion of her deck furniture.

Below: Alea Marshall reads to the assembled students and grownups at Vaughn Elementary School's recent Grandparents Day.



Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News

Where in the World...

Keith and Georgianna McCart of Lakebay brought their KP News issue with them on their recent honeymoon trip to Loreto, Mexico.

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The Key Peninsula Civic Center celebrated Mardi Gras with a costume ball fundraiser. Among many volunteers helping with the project were, from left, Bernie Wiles, Greg Murphy and Merri Peterson Sutton.

Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News