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The view from here is spectacular

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KPMS students get Chromebooks

By Scott Turner, KP News

The sixth grade students at Key Peninsula Middle have a new learning tool this year. As of Dec. 1, every sixth grader has their very own Chromebook computer.

Every morning, each student starts their day by picking up their Chromebook, and ends the day by turning it back in, according to KPMS social studies teacher Vicky Schauer.

Schauer is a national board certified sixth-grade teacher who's been teaching at KPMS since 2003.

"The kids carry their Chromebooks with them to most of their academic classes," Schauer said. "I'm hearing a lot of excitement from the science teachers and I'm having a lot of excitement with it in my social studies class. It's really expanded our learning. For example, we're learning about ancient history and we're able to travel all over the world using these Chromebooks."

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Mukum Shohradov, 11, and his teacher Vicky Sachauer work on a school project on Shohradov's Chromebook.

Photo by Scott Turner, KP News

Seaquist to run for top state education post

By Ted Olinger, KP News

Former Washington state Representative Larry Seaquist says he will run for the nonpartisan Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) in 2016.

Seaquist made his unofficial announcement during a public reception for local community leaders and Key Peninsula residents at Blend Wine Shop in Key Center Dec. 29.

OSPI oversees all K-12 public education in Washington state, serving 1.04 million students. Incumbent Superintendent Randy Dorn announced in October that he would not seek a third four-year term.

"We've had now 15 years or so of the public being told that teachers are the problem and that if we just found the bad teachers and graded the bad schools and got rid of them that everything would be OK. And that's simply looking at it backwards," said Seaquist.

He said the school system has been "underfunded, overstressed to the point where the top third, upper middle class kids zoom through just fine, but increasingly poverty is draining the life out of other families." Seaquist added that these pressures have contributed to a teacher shortage in Washington, with fewer young people entering or staying in the profession and veteran teachers retiring early.

"We have to fully fund all those schools in those low income districts, and that's way beyond the McCleary requirements," said Seaquist, citing the need for full-time counselors, nurses and para-educators.

In January 2012, the state Supreme Court ruled in *McCleary v. Washington state* that the Legislature had failed to fully fund public education according to its own definition and as the state constitution explicitly requires.

(See Seaquist, Page 3)

(From Chromebooks, Page 1)

To make the Chromebooks technology accessible to the students and their teachers, the school district has created a platform called "schoolology," Schauer said.

"Any teacher in our district who has access to computers can set up an electronic classroom. I'm very excited about this for several reasons: it organizes materials for kids all in one place on their computer.

"Also, it creates an online platform where, if kids are lucky enough to have computer access and internet access at home, they can show their parents their work and show them what they're doing," she said. "I can even load their due dates for their assignments on a calendar on the site and that's been helpful for parents and kids."

Another good thing about the platform is its wide accessibility. "It's available anywhere," Schauer said. "I've even tried to access it from other cities and it works. It's very stable so I'm really happy with it."

Schauer doesn't intend to create a "flipped classroom" with Chromebooks.

That's a concept where a teacher could assign work, such as mini videos, and have students watch the videos at home at night. "But because the kids can't take the Chromebooks home, that's not a possibility," she said.

Instead, Schauer is trying to do a "blended classroom" where some of the activities are on-line, but there's still a lot of live teaching.

"I still write things on the board and we're still interacting in a lot of the same ways, but this just adds another layer, another place for them to be learning," she

said.

"Some days in my social studies class we have Chromebooks on during the whole class. And other days we just start an opening activity on it and don't use them the rest of the time."

Much of the research that has been done "is still saying that when kids are writing things by hand there's better memory because it's a kinesthetic activity. But just tapping on keys isn't going to help them remember things," she said.

And typing — that tapping on the keys — is not a well-developed skill among most 11- and 12-year-olds, she added. "When we first got these Chromebooks I gave the class some typing tests and their average typing speed is about seven words per minute."

And, although many of the students felt that the computers were helping them go faster, their actual output was much slower, she added.

"I think the assumption is that kids think digitally and I'm not sure that's true. Sometimes they're begging me to let them do their assignments on paper. I think it needs to be blended."

In addition, most teachers don't want to grade papers on the computer. "We can't take all that screen time and we can't really mark the papers like that," she said.

The science teachers at KPMS are especially keen on Chromebooks, she added. And in her own social studies class, she's made some exciting discoveries using the new technology.

"It lets me build a curriculum that has extra layers in it. I can only get so far with the print textbook. Just a few weeks ago

there were new discoveries about King Tui's tomb — which is exactly what we're studying right now. So the students can read a week-old article rather than a 2002 textbook, about something that just happened that they might hear about on the news. To me that's like super learning," she said.

The students themselves seem to agree.

Mukan Shohradov, 11, is one of Schauer's social studies students. "I think the Chromebooks are good for learning. Since we don't really have computers in the class we can work on stuff on Chromebooks I'm already finished with my paper so I'm doing social studies research. If we didn't have Chromebooks I'd have to go to the library to do something like that," Mukan said.

Jaiden Reinhart, also 11, agreed. "You can use it for a lot of different things," Jaiden said.

"Like you can take notes while you're watching a video and we can even sign into it at home so we can see all the assignments we have and when they're due," Jaiden said.

"And also the Google Docs is really good because you can write your thing and then print it and it sort of corrects your spelling. But you still have to learn how to spell.

"And you can practice typing and also do research. The teacher gives you links to websites you can use for research," she said.

Both students said that some kids just want to play games or chat with each other on the Chromebooks.

"Some kids, they just aren't responsible with it," Mukan said.

"And some things are distracting about it," Jaiden added. "Some kids chat with each other, and sometimes they don't say things that are relevant to what you're trying to do. But it's a good tool because you can use it to find sites that might be useful to your lessons."

Ron Stark, assistant director for technology services for the school district, noted that the whole issue of Chromebooks in Washington State came about "mostly due to the fact that technology is needed for the state testing.

"So there's been an acquisition of Chromebooks for all the students who have to take the tests on-line. And as a result teachers have been realizing the potential for computers in the classroom. We've been increasing the number of Chromebooks in the school district every year."

So far Evergreen Elementary and KPMS are sort of pilot programs for the new technology, Stark said.

Evergreen was able to purchase Chromebooks through a grant the school received. And when some extra money became available through the district, Stark proposed that the sixth graders on the Key Peninsula — that is, the 140 sixth graders at KPMS — be given individual Chromebooks because all the elementary schools on the Peninsula feed into KPMS.

"So with this new program, each sixth grader gets their own personal Chromebook and they carry it with them all day," Stark said. "They have a sort of buy-in ownership of their Chromebook, he said.

The difference between a Chromebook

(See Chromebooks, Page 3)

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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 nonprofit parent organization. Copyright 2015 with all rights reserved. Reproduction of editorial or graphic contents in any manner without permission is prohibited. Annual subscriptions (12 issues) are available for \$30.00 and are mailed first class. Copies are mailed 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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(From Seaquist, Page 1)

The court ordered the Legislature to increase spending to an adequate level by 2018. Some spending was increased but the court found this inadequate and in September 2014 held the Legislature in contempt. After a year of no progress, in August 2015 the court began fining the state \$100,000 a day. The fine will accumulate until the Legislature fully funds K-12 education and will then be refunded to the state.

When asked how he would increase funding for public schools, Seaquist said "That is the purpose of the Legislature: to decide who gets what and who gives what... Nobody, including me, is anxious to go around and simply raise taxes. For most people, they're feeling like life is pretty thin.

"But we do have to solve these problems without the levies... Levies should be only for the extras that a local district decides it wants for its kids," he said.

The state Supreme Court also ruled in McCleary that local property tax levy revenues are intended for locally elected "enhancements" and are legally prohibited from funding public education, but school districts across the state have come to rely on them in the absence of adequate funding from the Legislature.

The Peninsula School District is asking local voters to approve a renewal of their existing maintenance and operation levy by special election Feb. 9. The current levy funds approximately 24 percent of the district's operating budget. If approved, the Educational Programs and Operations Levy (EP&O) will have an estimated tax rate of \$2.19 per \$1,000 of property value for 2017, down from the current rate of \$2.30 and decreasing fur-



Larry Seaquist

ther through 2020, according to the district.

When asked what he would bring to the state superintendent job, Seaquist said "What you need is somebody who is a systems strategy person: early learning all the way through higher ed. SPI both by the [state] constitution and by all the statutes sits on virtually every board that has anything to do with education. So it's not just a K-12 manager role, it's an education system role.

"I bring a lot of executive experience about how you manage things and I bring eight years of legislative experience about how you work with the Legislature on a bipartisan basis," he said.

Seaquist is a former naval officer who served four terms in the Legislature and led the House higher education committee before losing re-election to Michelle Calkier in 2014.

perfect, so there's no filter that can protect kids from everything," he said.

"So we have a whole curriculum about digital citizenship. We also always have to keep in mind that the web is where our students live," Stark added. "It's where they get their entertainment, it's where they're productive and where they communicate and are connected to their friends. They're doing all that through the web. So using the web as part of their education is a very natural event for them. It's our generation that has to catch up with them."



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More details and registration are on the Key Pen Parks website.

You'll need to bring a DSLR camera. The 2-hour classes will be held at 8 am on Sundays, March 6, 13 and 20. Two sessions will be entirely outside, rain or shine. Cost is \$59 per person for the 3 sessions.



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Key Pen Parks 2016 events

- March 19
Pet Easter Treat Hunt
- March 26
Poker Pedal
- April 23
Parks Appreciation Day
- May 1
Mom & Me Tea
- June 12
Dad & Me BBQ
- July 4
Community
Hot Dog Social
- Fridays in August
Cinema Under
the Stars
- October 22
All Hallows Eve
Celebration
- December 3
Breakfast with Santa

Pet Easter Treat Hunt

9 am on Saturday, March 19
at Volunteer Park



CINEMA UNDER THE STARS

What movies would you like to see this summer at this popular outdoor event held on Fridays in August?

Take the online survey! Click the survey link on our website homepage.

SEASONAL PARK LABOR JOB OPENINGS

The deadline to apply for these positions is Feb. 4. These positions perform the routine maintenance of park buildings, facilities and grounds during a 40-hour work week for six months. Position description and application can be found on our website or pick up an application at the park office during open hours.

The next Key Pen Parks board of commissioners meeting will be at 7:30 pm on Monday, Feb. 8, in the park office at Volunteer Park. Meeting agendas are posted on our website on the Friday preceding a meeting. The public is always welcome to attend these meetings.

(From Chromebooks, Page 2)

and a laptop is that with a Chromebook, everything the student is doing is stored on the web, not on the Chromebook itself, he explained.

"So when they're creating documents or turning in assignments, it's all done through the web.

"I think it's having a good impact," he said.

Stark added that the district has a filter system that's used on every school computer. "But the reality is that no filter is

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KP Community Council highlights

KP News staff report

The Key Peninsula Community Council (KPC) held its first meeting of 2016 on Jan. 14.

Reports from standing committees were as follows:

KP School Bus Connects: Marcia Harris reviewed the program, which school buses during off hours for public transportation.

Originally running on Tuesdays, the program has been expanded to three days a week (M, T, Th). Number of riders is up 40 percent during this time from last year. Special service was provided to the KP Veterans for their Aisle of Honor Memorial Day program. Harris said the program was presented to Washington Association of Pupil Transportation conference and received enthusiastically. KP School Bus Connects has signage at stops and a phone number to remember: 884-BUSS.

KP Farm Council (KPFC): KPFC will recognize that 2016 marks the 10th anniversary of the farm tour. This year they

plan to publish a video history of the Key Peninsula. The KPFC and KPC are working on a memorandum of understanding to establish management of income and expenses for KPFC.

Meetings are held on the fourth Monday of each month, at 6:30 in the Home fire station.

KP Youth Council (KPYC): Rion Tisino, advisor chair, presented. Initially a high school program, KPYC now is centered at KP Middle School.

One of the main activities is student participation in Youth Advocacy Day in Olympia on Feb. 16, and they will be working to advertise and recruit participants. KPYC meetings are planned for the first Tuesday of each month. Five meetings are planned for the KPYC this year. Goals include building partnership with Red Barn, CHI Franciscan Youth Non-Violence program, and Pen Met Parks youth programs.

Don Swensen offered to dedicate the tip jar donations to Youth Council for the month of January to help fund the Olym-

pia trip. The Angel Guild may also be a source of support.

Other reports came from Key Peninsula Land Use Advisory Commission (KPAC) and the KP Healthy Communities Partnership (KPHCP).

Don Swenson, chair of KPAC, reviewed the updated role of the commission as a communications conduit with Pierce County. They will work on a speakers program with county-related issues including talks from the Sheriff and transportation department. The Feb. 17 meeting will include a presentation by owners of the medical marijuana shops to explain their concerns about implementation of Initiative 502.

Susan Paganelli, co-executive director of the Key Peninsula Partnership for a Healthy Community, reported that she and co-director Ben Paganelli have now met with chairs of transportation, hunger and health/wellness teams.

In addition they have met with the steering committee to clarify partnership names, and processes for moving forward with asset mapping a priority. They also visited Rainier Foothills Wellness Foundation in Enumclaw, an organization that will serve as a model for this project.

In other business, the Social Media and Web Committee was defined and members were selected. The arc: Irene Torres, chair, Colleen Mullen, Neil Sampson and Danna Webster.

The board discussed future presentations because KPAC will concentrate on county-related issues, KPC will focus on other areas. CenturyLink will be invited to the March meeting. Other suggestions included WSDOT, KP School Bus Connects, Key Peninsula farming, panel with DSHS and Grandparents Rights, state DUI strategies and the Rainier Foothills Wellness Foundation.

Correction

The January article featuring the Key Peninsula Partnership for a Healthy Community published an incorrect email. If you have questions or input for Susan or Ben Paganelli, the directors of the project, they can be reached at director@kphealthycommunity.org.



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

Councilmember Young selected for transportation leadership academy

Transportation For America has selected Pierce County council member Derek Young to participate in the 2016 Transportation Leadership Academy.

The yearlong training academy focuses on teaching local leaders about performance measurements to better assess the impacts and benefits of transportation spending. The system is designed to help officials deploy assets to maximize tax dollars and generate the greatest return for citizens.

"I'm pleased to have another opportunity to serve Pierce County and our region," said Young, in a recent press release.

"With the recent passage of transportation bills at both the state and federal level, it's critical that we enhance accountability to the public," added Young, who represents the 7th Council District. "Developing and implementing performance standards will ensure we invest wisely and make those transportation dollars go further."

Young is a Pierce County member of the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC). His experience with the council made him a prime candidate for the training. He currently represents Pierce County on the Growth Management Policy Board and participates in the decision-making for county planning and transportation. Previously, he served on the executive board and operations committee, the release said.

Young will join other participants from six different regions across the country at in-person workshops and online training sessions.



Derek Young

The program, created by Transportation for America in partnership with the Federal Highway Administration, will educate the seven teams made up of local business, civic, elected leaders and transportation professionals at the early stages of performance measure development. It will prepare participants to act on opportunities within their communities and plug them into a national network of like-minded leaders throughout the country.

For information, visit Transportation for America at transportationfoeamerica.org.

Contact Young at dyoung2@co.pierce.wa.us.

Mardi Gras fundraiser returns to KP

The third-annual Key Peninsula Mardi Gras Masquerade is ready to celebrate Fat Tuesday, Feb. 6, in a unique Louisiana style at the Key Peninsula Civic Center.

This popular Mardi Gras celebration will feature Richard Allen & the Louisiana Experience's Creole & Zydeco music and offer an authentic southern dinner provided by Murph's BBQ.

There will also be a "best guest costume" contest to crown a king and queen of the parade, along with signature Mardi Gras cocktails to keep everyone hopping

into the evening.

Doors open at 6 p.m. and dinner will be served from 6 to 9 p.m.

Tickets are \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door. The ticket includes in and out entry, and meal.

Tickets may be purchased at Blend Wine Shop, Key Peninsula Civic Center and Sunnycrest Nursery and Floral, or online at MardiGrasOnTheKey.bpt.me/.

This is an age 21 and older event. Net proceeds benefit the Key Peninsula Civic Center Association (KPCCA).

Thank You For Your Generous Support

The Key Peninsula News sincerely thanks everyone who contributed to our fund drive. To those of you who did not wish to be named, we hope you know how much your contribution means to the Key Peninsula News. To those who could not contribute this year, we thank you for reading our newspaper and supporting our advertisers.

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Peninsula Views

Real food in season: Parsnips rooted deep

With its abundance of produce, eating seasonally in the Pacific Northwest is the chance to align our diets with the seasons and explore food in the process.

This time of year, it's root vegetable season, and while cooking can easily feel a bit dreary as we wish for the greens and berries that come with the warmer months, root vegetables are at the center of wintry comfort food.

When it comes to root vegetables, the parsnip is often overlooked. Maybe because of its bland looking color, or its knobby shape, parsnips are regularly pushed to the lower rungs of the culinary hierarchy, shoppers passing them over for more exciting root vegetables, like carrots and beets.

But as the winter assortment of seasonal produce dwindles, the sweet and earthy taste of a parsnip is one to embrace, and one to put to use in the kitchen.

Similar in shape and texture to a carrot, parsnips have been cultivated since ancient times. They were present on the Roman table, and until the potato made its way from the New World to Europe with the Spanish explorers, parsnips were the starch of choice in the European kitchen.

In North America, we have been cultivating parsnips since colonial times. They require a longer growing season, and their taste and sweetness get better after exposure to frost.

A member of the umbelliferae family, parsnips are related to dill, fennel and celery, and most people will know them for their nutty, earthy taste if eaten raw. Thanks to

Anna Brones In Season



the root vegetable's starchy attributes, when baked and cooked, the parsnip sweetens. In fact, before the arrival of cane sugar in Europe, parsnips were often used as a sweetener in cakes and other baked goods.

Because the parsnip has lost its role as the center stage vegetable, often it's hard to know what to do with them. Given their starchiness, parsnips can easily replace potatoes in any dish.

Chop up carrots and parsnips, toss them in olive oil, salt, pepper and a little rosemary, place them in the oven and you have a colorful batch of roasted vegetables, perfect on their own or as a side dish.

Parsnips are commonly used in soups but they can even be baked as fries, just like what you would do with potatoes. Just like in the medieval European kitchen, parsnips can take on a sweeter role. Try a parsnip pie, or replace the carrots in a carrot cake for a unique twist.

When shopping, opt for parsnips that are smaller in size, as they are sweeter and more tender, and when you are cooking with them, you want that extra taste. You want them to be firm, but not woody.

However you prepare them, let this be the season of the parsnip.

Anna Brones is a writer and cookbook author, born and raised on the Key Peninsula. More of her food writing can be found at foodisunderground.com.

None of us walk alone

During a recent renovation project at the Lakebay Church, I pulled a painting off the wall. I was surprised to discover an inscription on the back.

Dan Whitmarsh Writing by Faith



"Presented to Lakebay Church Dec. 24, 1944 By 'Victory Class.'" Underneath were listed 18 names. The importance of the date couldn't be missed. Christmas 1944, in the heart of World War II. The name "Victory Class" carried multiple meanings in that context.

A few days later my neighbor Dale stopped in. He's a KP native, born and raised here, so I showed him what I'd found. A smile crept across his face. "Yes," he said, "I knew all these people. They were a bit older, but I knew them." He pointed out names on the list: "This one went to the Air Force. This one still lives here. I played with her when we were kids." Dale knew all of them, and, through him, I heard their stories.

I was reminded of a line from the Book of Hebrews. The author lists men and women who remained committed to their call in spite of turmoil and pain. He calls them "a great cloud of witnesses" who surround us, challenging present readers to run the race faithfully to the end.

It is to our detriment that we have lost a recognition that we stand on the shoulders of those who have come before, and that we are leaving a world to those who come after us. In our pursuit of the Next New Thing, we scorn the past as hopelessly backward. In our pursuit of profit and pleasure, we are creating a frighten-

ing legacy for earth's inhabitants 100 years from now.

In his book "The Moral Imagination," John Paul Lederach notes that "... meaning, identity, and story are linked through narrative, which connects the remote past of who we are with the remote future of how we will survive in the context of an expansive present where we share space and relationship."

A healthy identity is grounded in a strong sense of our past, connecting us together as we share this life together, pointing us toward creating something for those who will follow us. Embrace the past to know who you are today. Know that, someday, we will all be the ancestors of future generations. What are we leaving them?

One of my great privileges is sharing breakfast with the old guys at The Homeport. They always have good stories to tell. They talk of the Key Peninsula in the old days, of serving in Vietnam or Korea; they talk about surviving divorces and the death of loved ones. They remind me that people have walked this way before, and survived. They also remind me that I'll be the old codger someday.

That painting is still in my office. I read

(See Whitmarsh, Page 9)

Letters Policy

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

Life as a metaphor for golf

The first rule of golf is a simple one. When aiming at a ball that is 3 inches in diameter that sits on a ball 24,000 miles in diameter, try to hit the small one.

I find this to be a great explanation of the locus of control we are given in this world. As we go through the stress of winter, it is important to remember that we only have the ability to control our own actions and emotions.

During the holidays we interact with people; sometimes when people interact conflict ensues. As we deal with the stress and emotional turmoil of dealing with other human beings, our self-control is tested. We often fantasize about fantastic acts of drama in which we openly declare our "rightness" or throw the our opposition from a window. As in golf, we fantasize that every strike will be straight and 250 yards down the center of the fairway. We often play the perfect game before actual tee off.

Yet self-control filters these thoughts as they travel from our imagination to our mouths. This visualization is a very important aspect of learning about self-control, the idea of a filter that "catches" as much of the negativity that it can. The problem being, much like a filter on a fish tank, the muddier we make the water the less this filter is able to strain from passing through and we often express ourselves in ways we regret when the water settles again. Practicing patience is much like hitting a ball in the pond, we don't know how deep in we are until the water settles.

Often time the practice of being right instead of being kind is like practicing only from the bunkers. While it is an important skill to have, if it is the only tool we have we will end up in the bunkers on every shot. While focusing on bunker to bunker golf does give you easy targets to aim for on the course, you often miss the best places on the fairway and end up with sand in your crack. We often focus more on be-

Chad Beaver
Guest columnist



ing right than we do on being happy, these two ideas are often mutually exclusive. This means at times you cannot be right and be happy. When we focus on the ideas of being right, we often neglect the idea we are then putting the other person as wrong. We develop a dynamic of imbalance that prevents us from being happy.

Educate yourself to deal with the hard shots when they come but focus on the enjoyment of the game, participate in every shot, and hope you don't end up in the bunkers at all.

Evolution is an important part of the game that we must bring to our daily lives. While in golf we continually try to improve and lower our score to par, most the time in life we aren't even sure what par is.

On a course the designers set the score to aim for, in life we often lose sight of the bigger picture because it's not as easily defined. In golf we never question par but in life we often feel dissatisfied with what we can attain and see others as the par setters for our life.

There is a bigger picture and we feel lost at times because we are not the painter. We lose faith in our role and feel we are an insignificant mark on a canvas much larger. Finding balance and meaning can help us learn to identify our goals, make our mark, and set par. When comparing ourselves to others it is important to remember that while some are able to break par no one has shot an 18. Sometimes the greatest players are the ones that realize the value of "par anyway day".

Beaver is a mental health professional who works at Key Peninsula Counseling Center, Lakeway.

I pray that future generations will be thankful for the legacy we leave.

Dan Whitmarsh is the pastor of Lakeway Community Church. You can reach him at dan@lakewaycovenant.net.



CIVIC CENTER

CORNER

This year, due to scheduling conflicts and availability issues, the Civic Center Board of Directors will not have the traditional one president. We will, in fact, have four—each serving for a successive quarter. Bruce Macdonald, himself in the ranks of having previously served for 3 years in the position, is our first president of 2016. He leads off our column this month.

From Bruce Macdonald

Here it is, January 2016 and I'm stuck in this position, again. Yes, for the next 3 months I'm serving as Board President before another innocent takes over for the following 3 months. Sound weird? Well, yes. But, such is the world of volunteer, non-profit governance.

Back 3 or 4 years ago, I spoke often about the Civic Center's need to upgrade the aging HVAC system and asked for help in making it happen. Many offered their help and many did help...but, it was volunteer Marisa Craig and new/old Board president Phil Bauer that really got the ball rolling. Their sage advice, powers of persuasion and statecraft first brought County Councilman Stan Fleming to the table and then current councilman Derek Young. The result was a \$30,000 Grant for Phase 1 of our upgrade. Then, our State legislators... Jesse Young, Jan Angel and Michelle Cauldier generously included another \$50,000 for Phase 2 work in the current State Budget. The short of it is...we now have a totally new HVAC system...hurray! But, I should let James Allyn the operation and facility guy tell you what all this means...he did all the planning and facilitation of the work just completed.

From James Allyn

Climate control is something no one ever seems to notice until it doesn't work. As most people familiar with the Civic Center are well aware, our HVAC systems (there are 7 independent components) had all been pressed into service for many years beyond their expected lifespan—and they had begun to fail. Happily, we've replaced most of the systems, and are currently concluding the design plans for the final module.

While it seems this endeavor just popped out in record time, we've actually been working on this project for the last six years. There have been many meetings with various individuals involved in the design aspect, then there has been fundraising and grant exploration and, as President Macdonald mentioned, reaching out for help from our elected officials.

We've just been informed that the Pierce County Council included another \$30,000 grant in the budget for this year! This will allow us to get even closer to our goal of being an emergency shelter.

Why does all of this matter? Ultimately, this makes the Civic Center more useful, efficient and economical on the operation side and the climate control more consistent for you whenever you visit.

"Play to Learn" coming to the Key Peninsula Civic Center

Through a partnership with Peninsula School District and the Tacoma Children's Museum, "Play to Learn" will join the other children's opportunities, Indoor Park and Best Buddies (Children's Home Society) at the KP Civic Center in February.

Play to Learn is for parents, grandparents, neighbors, family, and friends who nurture children ages six and under. Thematic curriculum invites individual play, fun group activities, songs, and a whole group circle time for children and adults to enjoy together. This as well as Indoor Park is a drop-in program—no registration is required. Little Buddies requires pre-registration - call 884-5433

Play to Learn	Mondays	10:00 to 11:30
Indoor Park	Tuesdays & Thursdays	9:30 to 11:30
Little Buddies	Tuesdays	3:30 to 5:00

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

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

(From Whitmarsh, Page 6)

the inscription almost every day to remind myself that I am not alone. I share this journey with all humanity — those long gone, and those yet to come.



What will you do with the money you save?

Proper septic use and maintenance will help preserve your investment and avoid the cost and hassle of a septic failure. Get your septic system inspected and help protect our water quality.

Good news! If you own a pressure distribution or gravity septic system in the Key Peninsula you could get:

- \$125 off your inspection.
- \$200 off your tank pumping.
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Routine inspections are required for septic systems, so this is a great opportunity!

To take advantage of these savings:

- Log on to www.tpchd.org/incentive
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- Call (253) 798-4788

Savings are available for a limited time. Log on today!

Tacoma-Pierce County
Health Department
 Healthy People in Healthy Communities



Nature's way to defeat stress

Stress is an inescapable part of life. It may take the form of taxes, difficulties at work, or a traffic jam. The sources are endless. A little can be good, but overwhelm-

ing stress takes a toll on our health and leads to disease. Eastern medicine has many strategies to deal with the toxic stress that knocks us out of balance.

Analyze your stress. Separate your stressors into things you can change and things you can't. Do something about the things you can change, and accept the rest. There is peace in surrendering.

Take time to relax. When stress overcomes you, relaxation should become a high priority on your to do list. You are no good to anyone if your cup is empty. Only a full cup can overflow and give to others. Find a quiet place and take long, deep breaths for ten minutes. Get a massage. Read a good book. Take time to be alone and recharge.

Let it out. The worst thing you can do for your health is hold your negative emotions inside. This is the true source of disease. Release your emotions. Have a good cry. Journal. Talk to a friend. Scream. Punch a pillow.

Use herbs. Herbal medicine approaches stress by strengthening the nervous system. Herbs such as chamomile, valerian, lavender, lemon balm, and hops are just a few of the beneficial herbs that will soothe your rattled nerves. Make a cup of chamomile tea. Take a lavender bath. Take valerian before bed for restful sleep.

Monica Rakowski
 Living Close to Nature



Exercise. Although it may be the last thing you feel like doing, breaking a sweat is an effective way to combat stress. The endorphins give you the kick you need to get through your next challenge.

Practice yoga. Yoga soothes the nervous system, strengthens the body, and calms the mind. Many new yogis get the "yoga high" that they continue to chase in every future practice.

Meditate. Daily meditation clears your mind of the chatter and worry that overtakes us in stressful times. Take a seated position and watch your breath as you inhale and exhale. As thoughts arise, observe them without judgment and let them drift away until your mind is clear and focused. You will soon feel a deep sense of calm.

Acupuncture. If needles don't bother you, acupuncture is a sure way to relax. It works directly with the nervous system. There is a point on your ears that one acupuncturist of mine called the "valium points." Once the needles touch those points, it is instant relaxation. Get out in nature. There is something about the fresh air, the water and the trees that soothes your spirit. Just getting outside for an hour can work wonders on your mental health. Gardening is an excellent way to get your nature time in. The beneficial microbes in the soil will release serotonin in your body, which boosts your mood.

I encourage you to try all of these methods. Doing only one might help, but together, they will bring you back to balance.

Monica Rakowski owns KP Indoor Garden Store in Key Center, and blogs at thenaturelifeproject.com.

The Voice of the Key Peninsula

**KEY PENINSULA
 NEWS**

Area sorority helps Red Barn with freezer donation

By Scott Turner, KP News

The Red Barn Youth Center has a brand new freezer, thanks to the women of the local chapter of Beta Sigma Phi sorority.

One of the three objectives of the international women's sorority is to be of service, according to Vaughn-area resident Cheryl Prante. Prante is one of several Beta Sigma Phi members who call the Key Peninsula home.

"I watched the Red Barn being built and then started reading about it in the paper and I got very curious," Prante said. "When I found out they needed donations, I'd periodically take things there."

Then it occurred to Prante that the sorority sisters might like to know about the good things happening at the Red Barn, so she invited Red Barn Executive Director Laura Condon to speak at a Beta Sigma Phi meeting.

It was just before Christmas and Condon told the group that the Red Barn "always needs donations of food to feed the kids. And I also mentioned that we needed a place to store food," Condon said. "The next thing I knew they had worked a deal with Home Depot and purchased a freezer for us."

"When Laura talked to us at that December meeting it just touched our heartstrings," Prante said.

"We've all been mothers and we all wished there had been something like the Red Barn for our kids when they were young. So we decided to take this on as a project. We're trying to help the new generation," she said.

Carolyn Mitchell, a 50-year Beta Sigma Phi member from Raft Island, credits Prante with procuring the freezer donation.

"She went to several places including Home Depot and she was able to get Home Depot to give us a great deal," Mitchell said. "They just bent over backwards for us. This was an \$800 freezer that they gave to us for about \$300. And they even delivered it for us. It was a little bit damaged on one side, but they checked everything out and it's working just fine."

“I really encourage them to donate it to the Red Barn to help. There's always something somebody can do.”

**— Cheryl Prante
Beta Sigma Phi volunteer**

The Red Barn isn't Beta Sigma Phi's first Key Peninsula project. The sorority also underwrites a scholarship for Evergreen Elementary to help fifth graders attend the yearly two-day outdoor and environmental education camp at Camp Seymour. They also donate school supplies and personal items for Evergreen kids who need those things, Mitchell said.

"We know the need on the Key Peninsula is so great, and if we as human beings, if we see a need God always gives us ways to help fill the needs," Prante added.

To help fill that need a little more, in late January Beta Sigma Phi made a cash donation of \$500 to the Red Barn.

"They're doing such good things," Prante said. "I really encourage people to drop in and see what they're doing at the Red Barn — talk to some of the kids. It's not just for fun, they're also making time for the kids to do their homework and they can even learn to cook. It's a good place where kids can go and be with other kids their age. And the high school kids are mentoring them."

"If anybody has any free time, I really encourage them to donate it to the Red Barn to help. There's always something somebody can do," she said.

As for Executive Director Laura Condon, "When we delivered that freezer to her, she literally cried," Prante said.

For information visit redbarnkp.org or call (253) 884-1594. To learn more about Beta Sigma Phi, email Special-Kay@centurytel.net or lynlester@centurytel.net.



Valentine's Day

Sunday, February 14th

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Communities In Schools earns another top rating

Key Pen News staff report

Communities In Schools earned another 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, America's premier nonprofit evaluator. This is the sixth consecutive time that Communities In Schools has earned this top distinction based on its sound fiscal management practices and commitment to accountability and transparency.

According to Charity Navigator, re-

ceiving four out of a possible four stars indicates that CIS adheres to good governance and other best practices that minimize the chance of unethical activities and consistently executes its mission in a fiscally responsible way.

Only 3 percent of the charities rated by Charity Navigator have received at least 6 consecutive 4-star evaluations, indicating that Communities In Schools National Office outperforms most other charities in America.

"It's important our donors trust that we're using our funding wisely to reduce the dropout rate and improve outcomes for low-income students," said CIS President Dan Cardinali. "Our 4-star Charity Navigator rating demonstrates to our supporters that we take our fiduciary and governance responsibilities very seriously."

Since 2002, using objective, data-driven analysis, Charity Navigator has awarded only the most fiscally responsible organizations a 4-star rating. In 2011, Charity Navigator added 17 metrics, focused on governance and ethical

practices as well as measures of openness, to its ratings methodology. These "Accountability & Transparency" metrics, which account for 50 percent of a charity's overall rating, reveal which charities have "best practices" that minimize the chance of unethical activities and whether they freely share basic information about their organization with their donors and other stakeholders.

"Communities In Schools' coveted 4-star rating puts it in a very select group of high-performing charities," according to Michael Thatcher, President & CEO of Charity Navigator. "Out of the thousands of nonprofits Charity Navigator evaluates, only one out of four earns 4 stars — a rating that demands rigor, responsibility and commitment to openness. Communities In Schools' supporters should feel much more confident that their hard-earned dollars are being used efficiently and responsibly when it acquires such a high rating."

CIS has been ranked among the top 100 national nonprofits by the Nonprofit Times and Philanthropedia, a

nonprofit aimed at helping donors give more strategically, and recommends Communities In Schools as a high-impact nonprofit working with at-risk youth in the U.S.

The local affiliate, Communities In Schools of Peninsula (CISP), recently received the "2015 Nonprofit of the Year Award," given by the Gig Harbor Chamber of Commerce. The mission of Communities In Schools of Peninsula (CISP) is to "surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life." Believing that every single child has the potential to succeed and contribute positively to society, CISP's programs are designed to equip students with the academic and social skills needed to graduate from high school and succeed in their future endeavors.

Incorporated in 2000, CISP met the needs of 361 young people with ongoing services in 2014-2015, and over 5,000 kids received one-time services. For more information or to volunteer, call (253) 884-5733.

The Voice of the Key Peninsula

KEY PENINSULA
NEWS

KP SCHOOL BUS CONNECTS Monday, Tuesday and Thursday Trips to Town

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www.kpcouncil.org or call
253-884-BUSS (2877)

KP COMMUNITY COUNCIL is a partner with the
PENINSULA SCHOOL DISTRICT. User's guides are
available at: The Mustard Seed Project office,
the Key Center Library, and the KPCS/Food Bank.

Evergreen Morning Route

8:50 EVERGREEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
8:59 PUBLIC ACCESS GRAVEL AREA AT END OF LAKE
9:00 21ST ST KPS @ 193RD AVE
9:05 KPCS SENIOR CENTER & FOOD BANK
9:06 KP HWY N @ HOME GAS STATION
9:10 KP HWY N @ 167TH AVE CT KPN
9:11 VOLUNTEER PARK
9:14 FOOD MARKET @ KEY CENTER
9:15 KP HWY N @ MINTERWOOD DR KPN
9:21 SR 302 NW @ 92ND AVE NW - LAKE KATHRYN
9:26 PURDY PARK & RIDE

Vaughn Morning Route

8:50 VAUGHN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
8:56 HALL RD KPN @ SOUTH VAUGHN RD KPN
8:57 WRIGHT BLISS RD KPN @ 104TH ST CT KPN
8:59 UNION 76 STATION @ FOUR CORNERS
9:02 LAKE HOLIDAY BUS SHED
9:03 SR 302 KPN @ 140TH AVE KPN
9:05 CHARBONEAU CONSTRUCTION - OFF ROAD
9:08 LAKE KATHRYN SHOPPING CENTER
9:26 PURDY PARK & RIDE

Midday Route

10:47 PENINSULA HIGH SCHOOL
10:49 PURDY PARK & RIDE
10:54 LAKE KATHRYN CENTER
11:03 11615 SR 302 @ WINDERMERE REALTY
11:05 SR 302 & 140TH (LAKE OF THE WOODS)
11:06 LAKE HOLIDAY BUS SHED
11:09 UNION 76 STATION @ FOUR CORNERS
11:11 WRIGHT BLISS RD KPN @ 104TH AVE KPN
11:12 OLSON DR KPN & WRIGHT BLOSS RD KPN
11:14 FOOD MARKET @ KEY CENTER
11:17 VOLUNTEER PARK
11:21 KP HWY N @ 167TH AVE CT KPN
11:24 KP HWY N @ HOME GAS STATION
11:27 KPCS SENIOR CENTER/FOOD BANK
11:33 PUBLIC ACCESS GRAVEL AREA AT END OF LAKE
11:34 21ST ST KPS @ 193RD AVE KPS
11:40 EVERGREEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Afternoon Route

4:43 PENINSULA HIGH SCHOOL
4:45 PURDY PARK & RIDE
4:51 LAKE KATHRYN SHOPPING CENTER

STOPS BEYOND LAKE KATHRYN ARE BASED
ON RIDER REQUEST



TCC is offering more than just GED classes on the Key

By Scott Turner, KP News

Janine Mott wants to spread the word about adult education on the Key Peninsula.

Mott is the executive director of TCC's Gig Harbor campus and its Continuing Education department.

She also oversees the Adult Basic Education (ABE) classes that have been offered at several Key Peninsula locations. Currently the classes are held at the Red Barn.

"Many people think that the classes are just GED-prep classes," Mott said. "But they're really much more than that."

"We have classes in reading, writing and math and they're for any person age 16 or older who wants to improve their general employability skills. If they're unemployed or underemployed, our classes can help them," she said.

It's true that students can take TCC's classes at the Red Barn to prepare for their GED test. "That's definitely part of it — high school completion," Mott said.

But there's more they can learn beyond GED classes that can be helpful in developing job skills and landing a better job.

"There's not a huge number of people on the Key Peninsula who need these classes, so we know that enrollment will never be huge, but there really are benefits for all ages in these classes," she said. "We know these classes can change lives."

And the classes are very affordable — just \$25 per quarter. "That's per quarter — not per class," Mott emphasized. "There's also a \$5 course fee per class. But there's a tuition waiver that many people on the Key Peninsula are eligible for."

And the tuition includes the temporary loan of a laptop computer that every student can take home with them, she added.

Mott hopes community members will help her spread the word about the classes at the Red Barn.

"I have lots of promotional materials and I can add anyone to our email list," she said. "And I'm happy to talk with anyone who wants to know more about what we have to offer, and how and when they can enroll to attend classes at the Red Barn this spring," she said.

For information call Mott at (253) 460-2424 or (253) 460-2357.

KP Museum launches re-opening with new displays

KP News staff report

"Be Our Guest, featuring Historic Hotels and Resorts of the Key Peninsula," announces Judy Mills, Key Peninsula Historical Society president. "We will have tea and scones for our first visitors of the new year," she adds, when the museum holds the grand re-opening on Feb. 2, from 1 to 4 p.m.

Early Key Peninsula Hotels and Resorts will be the new exhibit for 2016.

According to Mills, the main focus is on the history of the Delano Hotel and Resort. Other hotels on the Key Peninsula were the Wauna Hotel and Lodge in Wauna, the Wyatt Hotel in Longbranch, Cooper's Hotel in Lakeside and the Glencove Hotel, still in operation today.

The Delano Hotel and Resort drew customers from all over the country.

"How Captain George Delano and his wife Edith arrived on the Key Peninsula and built this prominent hotel is a wonderful story that all began with a shipwreck off the Washington coast," said Cathy Williams,

exhibit chair.

Museum members want the community to learn about this resort that opened in 1891 and operated for some 30 years, and "The Austria" that Captain Delano piloted when it hit the rocks on Cape Alava and sank on a stormy January night in 1887.

There will be photos of the hotel with an 830-foot pier that greeted guests as they arrived on various boats of the Mosquito Fleet. A guest register with the names of prominent people from our state and beyond is also available.

New display cases in the VFW room are being filled to show off some of the many items the museum has collected over the years. The cases were purchased with a grant from the Ben Cheney Foundation.

Key Peninsula Traveling History Totes were developed with funding from the Angel Guild.

The museum is open Tuesday and Saturdays, 1 to 4 p.m. with free admission.

For information, call 888-3246 or visit keypeninsulamuseum.org.



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COMMUNITY PAGES

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

NOW

Communities In Schools of Peninsula (CISP) is looking for volunteer mentors for schools on the Key Peninsula: Evergreen, Minter Creek, Vaughn, KP Middle and Peninsula High. Volunteer opportunities vary by grade level and every volunteer receives training prior to working with youth. If you are interested in learning more about CISP programs, contact Laurel Shultz at 884-5733 or laurel@cisoofpeninsula.org.

ABE classes

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

FEB. 1 and 15

Senior shopping

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

FEB. 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29

Bloodmobile

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

FEB. 2

Museum reopens

The KP Historical Museum opens with a new display of Historic Hotels and Resorts of the Key Peninsula. The grand re-opening on Feb. 2 from 1 to 4 p.m. features tea and scones for visitors. The main focus is on the history of the Delano Hotel and Resort,

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.

but photos and stories of other places will be included. New display cases in the VFW Room expand the area to show off various artifacts and photos of the area. Free admission, monetary donations welcome. 888-3246.

FEB. 3

Pet neuter program

The Northwest Spay and Neuter Center animal shuttle will be at the Key Peninsula Civic Center 7 to 7:30 a.m. Appointments are required. Call 253-627-7729 ext. 217 or email shuttle@nwspayneuter.org for questions or to schedule an appointment. The Northwest Spay and Neuter Center offers affordable spay and neuter services for cats and dogs, including special programs for feral cats and pit bull dogs. nwspayneuter.org.

FEB. 3 and 17

Tech classes

Free tech classes, featuring Microsoft Word, take place 3:30 to 5 p.m. at the KC Library. Feb. 3 covers Microsoft-Formatting. Feb. 17 features Microsoft Excel-Formulas. 548-3309.

FEB. 4

Fuchsia group

The Fuchsia Club meets at 7 p.m. in the KP Civic Center's Whimmore Room.

FEB. 4, 11, 18 and 25

Cat tales

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

FEB. 5, 12, 19 and 26

Skate night

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

FEB. 9 and 24

Crochet or knit

The Loving Hearts group knits and crochets for charities and meets 1 to 3 p.m. at WayPoint Church on Feb. 9 and 7 to 9 p.m. on Feb. 24. Yarn donations are always needed. Virginia, 884-9619 or lovingheartsonkp@gmail.com.

FEB. 10

Ashes meet

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

Garden club meets

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

Ash Wednesday service

Ash Wednesday service is hosted at 5 p.m. at Grace Church on McEwan Road and KP Highway.

FEB. 13

Barter fair

Key Peninsula Barter hosts a barter fair 10 a.m. to noon at the Key Peninsula Civic Center, featuring a card-making activity with Anna Bradshaw. Bring homemade items to trade. Free and fun. Check out Facebook or call Alice Kinerk 884-2723.

Second Saturday

Make a Valentine card at 2 p.m. at the Key Center Library. All materials are provided. 548-3309.

FEB. 18

Community forum

The Mustard Seed's Third Thursday Community Forum meets at 10 a.m. at the Key Center Library. Transportation is available by prior arrangement. 884-9814.

FEB. 21

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.

FEB. 22

Homeschool activity

Homeschoolers aged 5-8 learn about electricity through stories and hands-on activities 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Key Center Library. Registration required; register four at a time. Maximum of 25 children allowed. 548-3309.

FEB. 26 and 27

Book sale

The Friends of the Key Center Library hosts a used book sale 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Donations of gently used books will be accepted until Feb. 24. 548-3309.

FEB. 29

Robots!

Kids ages 8 to 18 build and program a robot using LEGO Mindstorms 4 to 5:30 p.m. at the KC Library. Register at pierces-countylibrary.org/calendar or 548-3309. Maximum capacity for event is 25.

KP Civic Center's Annual

Crab Feed

March 12, 2016 - 4 to 7 pm

Tickets will be on sale mid-February at Sunnycrest Nursery
The Blend Wine Shop & the Key Peninsula Civic Center

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

WEEKLY EVENTS

MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS

Senior exercise class

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

TUESDAYS

Story times

Every Tuesday, discover books, learn

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

Key Singers

The community chorus of the Key Peninsula begins rehearsals 7 p.m. on Feb. 2 in the Key Peninsula Lutheran Church

OFF THE KEY

FEB. 2, 9, 16 and 23

Support Group

A Freedom from Tobacco Support Group meets on Tuesdays 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at St. Anthony Hospital. The meetings are free. 223-7538.

FEB. 4

Democrats meet

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

FEB. 5 to 27

Play presented

"Nonsense" Book is presented at Paradise Theatre on Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and on Sundays at 3 p.m. 954-PLAY.

FEB. 6

Live Dive

Harbor WildWatch sponsors a "Pier

into the Night Live Dive" at 5 and 6 p.m. at Skansie Brothers Park. Flashlights and lifejackets are recommended. Suggested donation is \$2 per person. Harborwild-watch.org.

Free concert

The Narrows Music Society's first 2016 concert for Harbor Winds will take place at 6:30 p.m. at Chapel Hill Presbyterian Church, Main Sanctuary, entrance D and E, 7700 Skansie Ave. Admission is free; donations are welcomed and appreciated. Need sponsors. narrowsmusicsociety.org

FEB. 8

Bloodmobile

The bloodmobile is at Kiwanis Club of Peninsula — Gig Harbor, 4926 Point Fosdick Drive from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

FEB. 17

Gypsy moth eradication

The Washington Department of Agriculture will host a public educational open house about its proposed treatment plan

sanctuary, junction of Lackey Road and KP Highway. Next concert is in May. Membership is \$10 per year, no auditions required. If you love to sing and can carry a tune, come join us. 884-5615.

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS

Senior tai chi

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

Preschool play time

The Children's Home Society KP Fam-

to eradicate the gypsy moth 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Gig Harbor Civic Center community rooms.

FEB. 18 and 19

Driver class

An AARP Smart Driver Class takes place 8:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. for two days. This program is designed for the senior driver (age 50 and older), but any person can enroll, and will be presented with a certificate upon completing the (required) eight hours. For registration and information, call Debra at 265-8508.

FEB. 20

Empty Bowls

Empty Bowls, presented by Altrusa International, is an international project to fight hunger. They will be serving soup at Gig Harbor Boys & Girls Club, 8502 Skansie Ave., from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Altrusa and the Empty Bowls event raise funds to provide food scholarships through the Boys & Girls Club. altrusa-gigharbor.org.

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

TUESDAYS & SATURDAYS

Writers meet

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

Writers' workshop

The Watermark Writers present a free writers' workshop 5 to 8 p.m. in Vaughn. 778-6559.

WEDNESDAYS

Senior meals

Nutritious 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.

WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS

Toastmasters

The Toastmasters meet 8 to 9 a.m. at the KC Library. Join the fun and improve your speaking ability. 858-5761 or 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 7 to 9 p.m. at the KP Community Services in Home. 884-4440.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Artists' Blend

Feb. 1, 4 to 6 p.m. at Blend Wine shop for any artist; kathybauer100@gmail.com

KP Veterans

Feb. 1 and 15, 7 p.m. at KP Lutheran Church; membership is open to veterans and military service members and families over 16, 253-509-8656 or keypenveterans@outlook.com.

KP Lions

Feb. 3 and 17, 7 p.m. at Key Center fire station; 853-2721.

Peninsula School District Board

Feb. 11 and 25, 6 p.m. at district office; 253-530-1002.

Key Pen Parks

Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m. at Volunteer Park administrative office; public is encouraged to attend. 884-9240.

KP Fire Department

Feb. 9 and 23, 5 p.m. in meeting room, Key Center Fire Station; keypeninsulafire.org

Key Peninsula Council

Feb. 10, 7 p.m. at Key Center fire station.

KP Civic Center Association Board

Feb. 11, 7 p.m. meeting in Whitmore Room, KPCC; 884-3456.

TWAA Board

Feb. 11, 7 p.m. in VFW Room of KPCC; kathybauer100@gmail.com.

KP Democrats

Feb. 15, 7 p.m. at Home fire station; georgerobison@centurytel.net.

Longbranch Improvement Club

Feb. 16, 7 p.m. at Longbranch Improvement Club; 884-6022 or longbranchimprovementclub.org.

KP Advisory Commission

Feb. 17, 6:30 p.m. in VFW Room of KPCC; Tomi Fairbanks, 253-798-7156 or tfairba@co.pierce.wa.us.

KP Citizens Against Crime

Feb. 18, 7 p.m. at Key Center fire station.

KP Farm Council

Feb. 22, 6:30 p.m. at Home fire station; c.wiley@mac.com.

The potential of a healthy diet full of insects

By Anna Brones, KP News

Most people would cringe at the thought of eating bugs for dinner, but David George Gordon does it for a living. Commonly referred to as “the godfather of insect cuisine” and the “bug chef,” Gordon is an advocate for incorporating bugs and insects into our diets, a topic he spoke about on Jan. 9, during a presentation at the Key Center Library.

While eating insects might seem out of the ordinary for us, we are part of the few cultures in the world who don't. In fact, 80 percent of the world's countries eat insects. Gordon has been working hard to change that.

An award-winning author, naturalist and speaker, Gordon is a proponent of entomophagy — “the fancy word for bug eating” as he puts it — since the release of his “Eat-a-Bug Cookbook” in 1998, and he has seen the cultural shift that has started to take place in regards to consuming insects.

A good source of protein, in the face

of an ever threatened food system, many have advocated for insects as part of a more sustainable diet.

“Raising cattle is not a very sustainable thing,” said Gordon.

He said to produce one hamburger, for example, it takes around 460 gallons of water, not to mention the amount of land required to raise cattle. Today livestock production accounts for 70 percent of all agricultural land use. Given that global demand for livestock is estimated to more than double by 2050.

If we are going to meet that demand, he said that society is not only going to have to think creatively, but “going to have to think of culinary alternatives.” Insects are one of them.

“We're not talking about acres and acres,” said Gordon in regards to what's needed for insect production.

He says insect production can easily be done on a small and local scale.

He feels that one day, it's not unreasonable to imagine “insect hubs,” regional productions of insects for local consump-

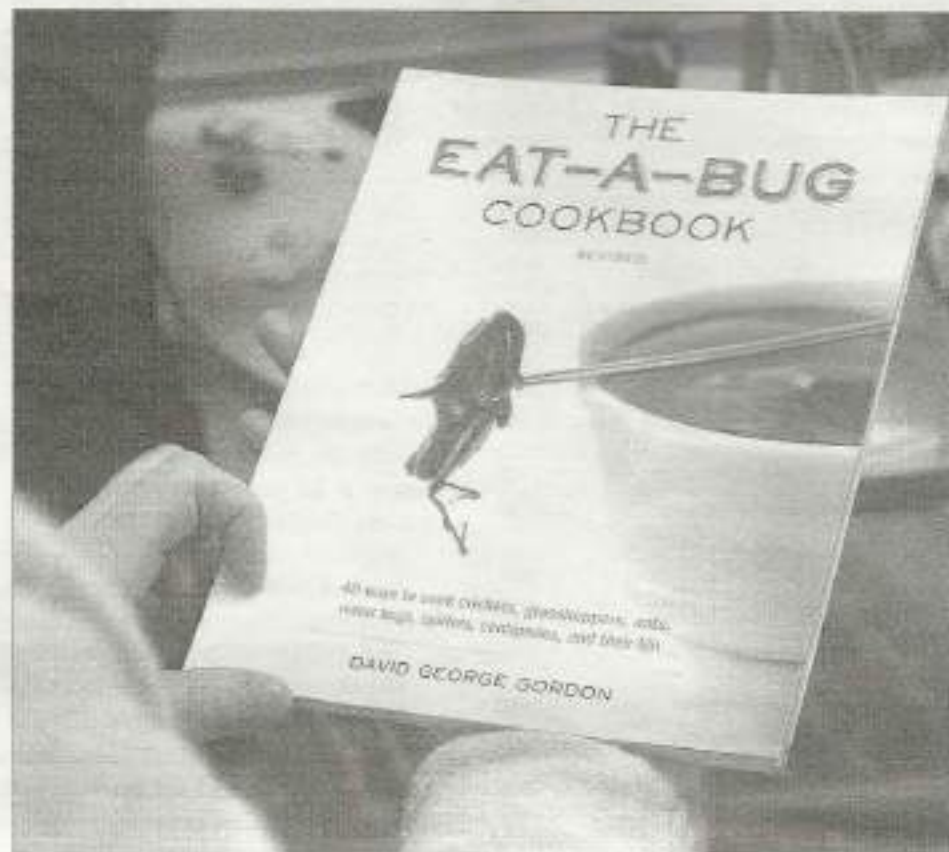


Photo by Anna Brones, KP News

Key Center Librarian Rosina Vertz reads through author and presenter David George Gordon's Eat-a-Bug Cookbook, a book filled with bug recipes.

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Dear Community Members,

Board Elections will be held February 3rd 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM. All Community Members 18 and older are encouraged to vote! You can fill out the ballot on the bottom and mail it to:

KPCS PO Box 392 Lakebay, WA 98349. Or you can drop your ballot off at our building. What a great time to take a tour of our facility and see all the programs we have to offer the community.

Phyllis Henry <input type="checkbox"/>	Anne Shoemaker <input type="checkbox"/>
Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/>	Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/>
Marcia Harris <input type="checkbox"/>	Merge Adams <input type="checkbox"/>
Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/>	Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/>

www.keypeninsulacommunityservices.org and www.facebook.com/KeyPenCS

tion. Not only do they require less land to raise, he said, but insects produce very little greenhouse gases in relation to livestock. Globally, livestock are responsible for 14.5 percent of all greenhouse gas emissions, and of that chunk, cattle are responsible for 65 percent of it, he said.

While there are many other bug lovers like Gordon in the world, consuming insects isn't just happening on an individual level. The increasing need for creative solutions for our food system has encouraged many entrepreneurs to launch insect-focused start-ups, from World Entomophagy, who makes flour out of insects to Chapal, a company that produces “cricket bars,” healthy energy bars boosted with cricket protein powder, to Six Food who is responsible for “chirps,” tortilla chips made with cricket flour.

“The more you see them [bugs] the more you might grab them as an experiment or a treat,” said Gig Harbor resident Marilyn Thompson, who attended the talk.

“Bugs in our food is still kind of a nov-

elty,” said Gordon, pointing to a photo of a lollipop with a bug inside. Unfortunately that is because “we do have this really, really strong feeling that bugs are gummy, gross and disgusting,” said Gordon.

He said that a cardboard container with fried worms generates a different filling than a container of French fries. “But look at an energy bar or a bag of chips made with cricket flour, however, and they don't look any different from other snacks. That just might be the bridge that gets us to making insects a part of our regular diet,” he said.

After his presentation, Gordon served samples of a Chapal Cricket Bar. Adam Broderick, age 4, who was attending with his mother and younger sister walked straight up to the table and put a piece in his mouth. “It tastes like gingerbread” Adam said.

As Gordon put it, whether you are a child excited about a new and different snack, or an adult who is rethinking how you eat, “there is a bug in your future whether you know it or not.”

'STEM ROCKS' night entices students to look forward to advancing education

By Karen Lovett, KP News

STEM may stand for Science Technology Engineering Math, but Minter Creek Elementary School students got to touch and experience future educational possibilities during the mind stimulating "STEM ROCKS" evening, sponsored by the school's PTA.

The school opened its doors the evening of Thursday, Jan. 14, inviting students to explore with a barrage of hands-on participation.

"We have been doing this for five or six years," Minter Creek School principal Ty Robuck said. "PTA president Maria Kusche brought in the shipyard last year."

One event, the Bridge Buster, used a weight stress test to break wood stick bridges. A crowd of people gathered to watch the mechanical weight press pound student-created bridges to the breaking point.

Brianna Murphy and Sidney Van Scoyk, from Mrs. Severson's fifth-grade class, built a bridge that broke at 51 pounds of pressure. "It's fun hanging out with friends learning math and science," Murphy said.

"This event's great," Mike Lapro said. His grandchildren, fifth-grader Nevach Bradley and second-grader Miliyah Waisanen were participating this year. "I thought Miliyah's bridge would do better. We'd have built it different if we'd known how the stress test would work," Lapro said.

Chief of pediatrics at the Naval Hospital Bremerton, Beverly Glauber, was chairman of the STEM committee.

The hospital was invited to come to educate students about first aid. They have done it with other schools. A nurse asked participants how they would bandage particular injuries and allowed them to do it. Then she followed up to demonstrate cor-

rectly. Students were also shown how to make first aid kits.

Students from Key Peninsula Middle School built simple rockets on site. Rocket launchers blasted them toward the gym ceiling.

"I've been making rockets almost since the start of the year," Alyssa Garcia said. "Mr. Miller is our teacher. We've been working on Arduinos, tiny mini computers. We are trying to program launching rockets. The rockets are made out of card stock and duct tape."

Small robots tracked across the floor, more of Mr. Miller's KPMS students were in control. "It's pretty fun to do," Frankie Kelley said.

Harbor WildWatch program coordinator Rachel Easton brought animal skulls to challenge identification skill. She described how a particular animal lived and asked the students to identify which skull belonged to the creature she was describing. Mink, raccoon, both river and sea otters, skunk, deer, sea lion, harbor seal, coyote, black bear, cougar, beaver, bobcat, muskrat, bald eagle and house cat were species displayed.

Skills of telling time and drawing a clock face were useful in this digital age. A simple but difficult problem was to guess how many candies filled two-quart jars. The Price is Right booth gave the younger generation the chance to test their shopping prowess by matching shopping prices to items.

Are cards glued together stronger than unglued cards? The Glue is the Clue station gave students the opportunity to find out.

How much sugar is in different kinds of foods or drinks? The answers were surprising.

Puget Sound Navy Museum in Bremerton and the Naval Undersea Museum in Bangor were represented by Carolyn Lane

and Valerie Johnson comparing robots to machines.

Seven small plastic three-dimensional shapes and large cardboard box replicas posed a challenge to create a Soma block cube puzzle. That was a creative concept to use spatial relationships, they said.

Puget Sound Naval Shipyard was very involved with a number of the demonstrations and hands-on activities. There was something for everybody, from high and low frequency soundwaves with spouting bowls, elastic reactions to frequency, alumi-

nium foil boats carrying metal washers, water tension, robots and puzzles.

Stamps at each station were used to fill the 26 space passport. Each Minter Creek student turning in a passport at the end received a prize funded through the Federal Title One Program as part of Minter Creek's Parent Involvement Plan.

"STEM night had a great turnout this year," teacher Alice Kinerk said. "There were a great variety of new games and interesting things to see. Most importantly, students had fun and learned something, too."

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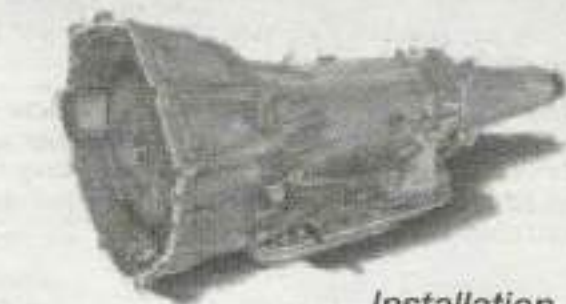
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KP woman, crafting young minds and future artists

By Scott Turner, KP News

Last spring, internationally known sculptor Mardie Rees opened a new sculpture studio that she and her husband built in Wauna.

Soon after the studio opened, Rees began teaching art classes to children and adults.

"She's teaching fundamental, basic skills," said Mardie's mother, Beth Rees. "She teaches all different ages — classes in charcoal and sculpture and drawing."

Children especially enjoy the classes, Beth Rees said.

She said kids gravitate to her because there aren't many opportunities for children to learn about art from a professional artist.

"And they like her because she doesn't underestimate their abilities. I think that's a very big thing because children are capable of doing similar types of skills as adults but it's not really being taught in our schools and it hasn't been taught in the U.S. for a long time..." said Beth Rees.

"Often kids are taking art classes from



Artist Anne Loudem, 7, gets some help from her teacher Mardie Rees during one of Rees' home studio classes last month.

Photo by Scott Turner, KP News

people who are just interested in art but aren't actually professionals in the art world," she said.

The children and their parents seem to

agree.

Young Anne Loudem, 7, recently took a sculpture class from Rees. "Miss Mardie is a good teacher and we're having fun," Anne said as she worked on a clay angel.

"First you get a stand with a big piece of clay on it and you wrap the clay around and scratch the end of it.

"Then you put the clay on it to attach it and then you put wings on it. Then there are bigger wings. And then you make a neck and a head. When you're done with that you do the feathers. And then you work on the eyes, the mouth and the nose and eyebrows — the whole face.

"It's kind of hard, but we get lots of help from Miss Mardie," Anne said.

Artondale resident Erica Conklin is new to the area but her 8-year-old daughter Reilly has already taken two of Rees' classes.

"Reilly did a charcoal class with Mardie last summer and she loved it," Erickad use them to create her own piece. It turned out really nice — beyond my expectations. Her charcoal piece is now

framed and hanging up in our house," Conklin said with obvious pride.

Mimi Will, another Gig Harbor resident, has brought both of her children to Rees' classes.

"My 7-year-old son George and 6-year-old daughter Anna came to Mardie's charcoal class last summer. And Anna came back for the sculpture class in December," Will said.

"I think my kids think it's kind of amazing they're working with a real artist and they get to bring home what they make," she said.

Wills calls Rees' new studio "a little gem." It's a wonderful little place in the middle of all we have here. And it's quality. It's real, authentic art.

"Mardie obviously has a lot of other things she's doing so to tuck these classes into all the other things she's doing is pretty wonderful," she said.

Rees is best known in this area for her statue of Saint Anthony at the Gig Harbor hospital, but her work can also be seen in Canada, Washington D.C. and Colorado.

She built the new studio because she "needed more space. I needed a place with high ceilings for doing larger sculptures," she said.

"I've always wanted to teach and to mentor and to hopefully raise up some future professional artists. We need more artists," Rees said. "There's nothing for kids like what I'm doing."

As a child Rees went to Minter Creek Elementary and liked that art and other classes were sometimes taught together.

"In third grade we learned about the Eskimos in Alaska and we sculpted things out of soap and we'd make little scenes of snow," she recalled.

"We were taught about history through art. But when I got into fourth, fifth and sixth grade and 10th grade there was no kind of art taught in schools and there weren't even any professional artists

(See Rees, Page 17)

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(From Rees, Page 16)

in the area teaching art in a way that wasn't crafty," Rees said.

Learning real art is important because we need art for the soul, she said.

"A well-rounded kid has an understanding of art as well as history and science and math. Art is just as important as science and math."

Rees introduces the children to famous artists as she teaches how to draw and sculpt.

In a class on color theory and painting, she references the collage work of Eric Carle (author of popular children's books including "The Very Hungry Caterpillar," "The Mixed-up Chameleon" and "Walter the Baker").

Sculpture classes often refer to the work of Giacometti.

"I'm teaching the kids about professional artist and we talk about composition, colors, form, pattern and shape, emotion — how to evoke an emotion through sculpture or drawing," she said.

In last summer's clay sculpting class her students made 3D owls. In the fall, Rees taught a class on charcoal draw-

ing focusing on the basics of taking a two-dimensional drawing and making it look 3D.

"I taught the kids about core shadows, cast shadows, how to manipulate charcoal, basic things about drawing," she said.

Many of her students are repeats, but there are also new kids in every class. "I think a lot of it is word of mouth. I'm local. I'm nearby and it's safe, affordable fun.

"I'm teaching adult art skills to kids — the fundamentals of drawing, painting and sculpture," she said.

The parents love it. They can't believe what their kids are making, she said.

"The kids surprise them with what they've learned and their understanding of art. And the skills they develop in class are life-long — things like motor skills and how to look at art and understand it. How to hold their tools and use their materials — how to hold their pencil and use their erasers. How to look at something and draw it," Rees said.

For information visit mardietees.com/apprentice.

Key Pen volunteer honored for long commitment to community

By KP News staff

Phil Bauer, long-time Key Peninsula activist, volunteer, mover and shaker was honored the second Saturday of the new year with a tumultuous gathering of well-wishers at the "Blend" in Key Center on the occasion of his 80th birthday.

Bauer has volunteered at the Key Peninsula Civic Center for 17 years and served as its association president for four years. He has repeatedly held most KPCCA board offices, has worked on various KP community fundraisers for 15 years, voluntarily assures that the KP News gets properly distributed, and was recognized as the 2007 KP Citizen of the Year.

Born in Iowa, Bauer attended the University of Nebraska. In 1962 he attended the U.S. Army Ranger school. In 1963, he received his wings from the U.S. Army flight school where he trained first on helicopters. Then he spent seven years active duty — two years in the Republic of Vietnam where he flew "mostly fixed wing" aircraft, he said.

In 1968 Bauer went to work as a pilot for Western Airlines and in 1987, after Delta Airlines bought WAI, flew for Delta until retiring in 2000.

He met his wife, Kathy, on a Western Airlines flight in the '70s and after moving to the Key Peninsula, married her in 1988. She, too, is active on the Key and is one of the founders of the Two Waters Arts Alliance, a nonprofit of artists of all persuasions, who sponsor after-hours art projects in our schools.

Of the Bauers' children, Dan Bauer, Dana (Bauer) Richardson and Taylor (Bauer) Reed were able to join the celebration. Greg and Andrew Bauer, living out of state, were unable to attend.

New editor named

The publishing board of the KP News has chosen Vaughn resident Ted Olinger as the new executive editor beginning March 1.

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Words and Music hosts online fundraiser

By Irene Torres, KP News

Hosting house concert programs to nearly 5,000 guests since 2006, Jerry and Pam Libstaff have spent close to \$100,000 to bring national and international talent to the Key Peninsula. As they move into the 2016 concert season, they have decided to host an online fundraiser to continue their support of the literary arts.

Watermark Writers is a nonprofit with a mission to provide a platform for writers, songwriters and artists.

"We offer a weekly writers' workshop, monthly author readings at two local venues where local writers can meet well known authors and share their own work with the public," Libstaff said.

A major focus of the organization is to host as many as a dozen concerts a year presenting writers, singers and artists. Among the performers were Cheryl Wheeler, John Gorke, Anje Duvekot, David Wilcox, Tom Kimmel and Ari Hest. The concerts include food and beverages, and the performers receive a fee.

"Unlike many organizations who request percentages of sales and part of the take, Watermark receives no income from our programs. We support the arts. Our cost for these events approaches \$10,000 per year," Libstaff said. "This coming year, we will again present the best experiences we can offer for our community and help provide income for our artists. We would like your help this time around."

Singer/songwriter Larry Munante said, "Jerry and Pam Libstaff run one of the best house concert series in the country. The performer faces an audience who have not only an unobstructed, upclose and personal view of the talent in front of them, but an astounding view of the Salish Sea and the Olympic Mountains over the artist's shoulder."

Blend shop keeper Don Swensen said the Watermark Writers' "Words and Wine" series offers a unique platform for local writers to share their work.

"The venue provides a sociable atmosphere where these writers and, occasionally, members of the audience, feel comfortable sharing their work, enjoying the company

of others and sometimes even creating new works of 'on the spot' improvisation," he said. "Jerry's excellent work as emcee helps to bring all these factors together, making each 'Words and Wine' event an unforgettable evening, celebrating and highlighting the great pool of local talent here on the Key Peninsula."

Newly published author Linda Whaley said the writers group that meets Wednesdays has "emboldened" her to write her first novel, "Those Before Never Leave."

"[The group] introduced me to some of the most creative writers and poets I have ever met," she said.

The Muse at Morso, a program Libstaff created in collaboration with Morso Wine Bar owner Steve Lynn, has become a favorite Gig Harbor venue for authors. For more than two years, Morso opens up its gallery every second Thursday of the month to host well-known authors and poets from the Pacific Northwest and beyond.

"These acclaimed, published writers come to read and share their work then stay to listen as locals read at an open mic,"

Lynn said. "Jerry has been great to partner with, as his depth of knowledge and commitment are unsurpassed. He has been that driving literary influence for the Muse."

Storyteller Carolyn Wiley said The Muse at Morso is one of the highlights of her month.

"It is a time to enjoy the writing of some of the most talented poets/authors in the state, and share my own work, with a live audience," she said.

The online fundraiser has levels of giving and includes incentives that range from signed books by local authors to vinyl albums from the '50s to the '70s.

"Of course, if you'd like, you can simply donate to our cause. Any amount will be appreciated and your donations may be tax deductible," Libstaff said. "We so look forward to continuing our programs and we thank you in advance for helping us do so."

To donate, go to generosity.com/community-fundraising/watermark-writers-words-and-music. For more about the upcoming concerts, go to watermarkwriters.com/.

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Key Pen man following his heart and dreams in Gig Harbor shop

By Scott Turner, KP News

David Anderson has two passions: coins and fossils.

It's obvious the moment you step into his GoldMine Coins & Relics shop in Gig Harbor's Olympic Square. His desk is literally covered with coins and loupes (the magnifying glasses used by jewelers and others for looking closely at details.)

And there are boxes filled with rocks, fossils, coins and gemstones piled everywhere.

"I've had an interest in coins and fossils since I was 5 years old," the 45-year-old Wauna resident said.

"My dad collected coins a little bit and my great-grandma had a huge steamer trunk full of coins that I liked to look through when I was a kid."

At the ripe young age of 12, Anderson got his first job: identifying ancient Roman coins on the internet for people.

"I'd identify which emperor was on the coin and what year it was made and any other information I could find," he said. "I charged \$3 a coin."

Anderson also has had a life-long interest in fossils and dreamed of being a paleontologist. "But I figured that wouldn't support my family when I had one and I'd always be on the road. So now I just do paleontology as a hobby," he said.

He has "a little bit of everything" in his shop.

"I have fossils, jewelry and several kinds of bullion — gold silver platinum and palladium," he said. "And coins — Morgan dollars, Mercury dimes, buffalo nickels, ancient Roman coins, ancient Greek coins — all kinds."

The same goes for fossils and ancient relics. He has fossils from just about every era including megalodon shark teeth and a Roman spearhead from around 200 AD.

"I think my oldest fossil is about 300 million years old. I go to Rochester and collect fossil crabs from the Lincoln Creek formation. I drill them out of the rocks and then trade other people for fossils that they've found in other places," he said.

He also does jewelry repair and cleaning and polishing. "We kind of have our

Check it out

GoldMine Coins & Relics is located at 5287 Olympic Drive NW, Suite B in Gig Harbor.

For information visit goldminecoinsandrelics.com or phone (253) 851-GOLD.

hands in everything."

He loves the history of fossils and coins.

"If I have a coin in my hand that's 2,000 years old, who knows where it's been or who might have held it. If it's a Roman coin, it could have been used in the Coliseum as gambling money," he said with a laugh.

Several remarkable objects have come through his shop. One day a customer came to the shop with a 1795 \$5 gold piece that ended up being worth about \$5,000.

"That was the very first gold coin minted in the U.S.," Anderson said. "The fellow's dad had cleaned the coin and if he hadn't cleaned it it would have been worth about \$60,000."

At one time, his shop was "totally filled up with one gentleman's coin collection. He'd been collecting for about 60-70 years. He had everything from proof sets to full sets of pennies, full sets of dimes. It was amazing," Anderson said.

Anderson enjoys introducing new enthusiasts to coin and fossil collecting — like the 12-year-old boy who "comes in here three or four times a week buying everything he can. It's not as common as it used to be, but the interest in old coins is definitely still there," he said.

He also gives free appraisals. "If anyone's interested in learning what their coin collection is worth, if they're looking to sell it or if they have any fossils or rocks laying around that they have no idea what they are or what they're worth, I can identify the things for them."

"I've seen amazing coins from the early 1800s in pristine condition that people have had in their families for a hundred years." "There are coins worth hundreds of thousands of dollars that are just sitting in somebody's coin collection somewhere," he said.



Photo by Scott Turner, KP News

Key Peninsula resident David Anderson stands next to a Mammoth's tusk in his Gig Harbor store.

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Small engine repair business keeps customers revved up

By Anna Brones, KP News

John Burg has almost four decades of working in the small-engine repair business — over half of it running his own Key Peninsula operation, John's Small Engine Repair.

"I grew up in a small town in Oregon and spent my teenage years working at my father's service station and developed that blue-collar attitude, where you work hard to earn a dollar," Burg said.

After Navy service, he joined a friend who had a small-engine repair service for on-the-job training, then ended up taking a small engine class at Bates Technical College in Tacoma. But then he took a professional detour, spending seven years in the insurance industry.

"Using my brain wasn't as rewarding as using my brawn," said Burg, who decided that he would return to the business of repairing small engines. "I couldn't get away from it."

At John's Small Engine Repair, Burg focuses on outdoor equipment, "anything related to lawn and garden equip-

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ment that has an engine attached to it." This means that his business is closely tied to the seasons.

"My business is really driven by the weather," says Burg, noting that with this past summer's dry spell, his business slowed. "In the winter time, I root for windstorms and power outages," Burg said. "In the summer, I root for rain at least once a week."

Unlike other small-engine repair operations, Burg's is focused solely on service; he doesn't function as a retail outlet for any equipment. Through his various experiences in the industry before launching his own outfit, he could "see the ins and outs of the retail end and the service end of the business,"



Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News

John's Small Engine Repair owner John Burg works on a pressure washer in his Minter shop.

Ask some of his customers and you'll find that they are a devoted bunch.

"I love the guy. He is the most pleasant person to work with," says customer Ken Brown, who has been going to Burg for nearly a decade. "No matter what he is doing, he will take all the time to answer your questions."

Not only does he answer questions but Burg is committed to giving his customers a fair and honest deal.

"My philosophy is that if I can't fix something for someone, I won't charge them," Burg said.

As the economy changes, however, so does Burg's business. Over time, he has seen certain shifts in his clientele.

"Younger genera-

tions are not as repair conscious as older generations were," he said.

As lawn and garden machinery has come down in price, this "has made it easier to have that philosophy of 'run it till it quits and buy a new one,'" Burg said.

Despite these changes however, Burg continues to have a devoted following.

"It's mainly word of mouth and return business that I thrive off of," he says. "I have to be fair with my customers or they won't come back."

This fairness and authenticity pays off.

"He's as honest as they come," Brown said. "You won't find anyone who will say anything bad about him."

Burg's attitude has garnered him a following, and it's those people of the Key Peninsula who keep him and his business going.

"I enjoy the contact that I have with the local community," Burg said. "I try my best to please everyone."

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- **Red Barn**
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- **Longbranch Improvement Club**
Wednesday, Feb. 24
7:00 p.m.

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Burg said.

"When I got out on my own, I really wanted to focus on providing service for people," he said.

The fact that he doesn't sell any equipment allows him to provide unbiased recommendations to his customers.

"It makes it easier for me to recommend," Burg said. "I want my customers to be happy customers."



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Gig Harbor's Paradise Theatre finds new home

By Scott Turner, KP News

Paradise Theatre started the new year in a brand new home.

As soon as the final curtain fell on their production of "Scrooge" on Dec. 12, the community-based theater group began tearing down sets and moving everything — sets, lights, costumes, props, tools and memories — to new digs on Judson Street in downtown Gig Harbor, in the space formerly occupied by the Rexall drugstore.

"It's a huge task," said Key Peninsula resident Jonathan Bill, who has acted in at least 12 Paradise plays over the past six-or-so years.

Bill helped move several big truckloads of "stuff" from the theatre's old location on Burnham Drive to the new space.

"When you've been in a space for more than 10 years you accumulate so much," he said. "It's a formidable project."

Paradise's president and managing director Jeff Richards and his wife Vicki, the group's artistic director, thought the theatre would be in the Burnham drive location forever. "We thought we had an agreement that we'd either be buying that property or gifted it by the church that owned it," Jeff Richards said.

But the church dissolved and the property was sold to a developer and the Richards, who lived for many years on the Key Peninsula, were given notice that they had to vacate the space by Dec. 31.

Fortunately, they had been looking for a new location for several months.

The Judson Street site is a temporary one, through March 2017, Jeff Richards said. But the location couldn't be better.

"It's centrally located and very visible

— right in the heart of downtown. It's next door to 7 Seas Brewery and there's plenty of parking and lots of restaurants nearby. We're already working on dinner packages with the downtown restaurants so people can do a dinner-and-theater date night," Richards said. "It's really wonderful."

Key Peninsula resident Marianne McColely agreed. McColely has acted and served as music director in several Paradise productions and now sits on the board of directors.

"It's going to be such fun to tell folks where we are because everyone knows that downtown location," McColely said. "Let's face it. We were pretty invisible in that old Burnham Drive space. Even if you knew where it was, it was still hard to find."

"So instead of being totally undone by suddenly having to move, we're all feeling very happy about it. It's like that old saying about when a door gets closed a window opens. The board is very enthusiastic about this," she said.

The visibility of the new location will be a boon to the capital campaign Paradise's board recently launched.

"We're trying to raise \$1.25 million to build a new, permanent home for Paradise," McColely said. "The visibility of the new location will really help us with our fundraising efforts."

"People will know that there's actually live theater in Gig Harbor," Bill added.

At press time, volunteers were putting the finishing touches on the new stage, Bill said. "They still have to install all the lighting and curtains and build walls for storage and backstage areas. And even bathrooms.

"There's so much to do before "Nonsense" opens on Feb. 5, and most of the work is being done by volunteers — and by Jeff and Vicki. But I know they'll pull it off and the curtain will go up and the show will go on," he said.

In addition to "Nonsense," the Richards have already set the line-up for the remainder of the 2016 season: Paradise will present "The Fantasticks" in March,

"Next to Normal" in late April and Disney's "The Little Mermaid" in mid-June.

They're also planning to re-create their immensely popular haunted house in October.

"We'd like to find an outdoor space where we can do the haunted house but if not, we'll do it inside," Richards said.

Richards, Bill and McColely all emphasized the company's need for volunteers.

Like community theaters everywhere, Paradise operates through the goodwill of its volunteers, Bill said. "They always need help building sets, doing marketing and promotional work, painting, carpentry and also they're always looking for actors. And monetary donations."

And, McColely added, "We're looking forward to putting on the same classy productions as always, and Paradise is the only theater game in town. So we hope that the community will help us build a permanent home."

For information visit paradisetheatre.org or email vrichards@paradisetheatre.org.

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Local artist creates colorful art from paper

By Alice Kinerk, KP News

Key Peninsula resident Anna Bradshaw calls the kind of art she does papercrafting. She uses cardstock, adhesives, and a variety of pre-printed decorative embellishments to create one-of-a-kind cards and scrapbooks.

"I document stories and photos through scrapbooking, create tangible, sendable bits of love through card making, and tell visual stories through mixed media pieces," Bradshaw said.

Although Bradshaw did not begin scrapbooking until she was in her 20s, she grew up in a family for whom preserving memories has always been important.

"My grandfather was a WWII prisoner of war; captured in the Philippines, and marched through Bataan. He was held for 3 1/2 years by the Japanese, and then continued serving our country again in the Korean War, crossing the 49th Parallel in his sneakers 'the better to outrun the offense.'

When he passed, those undocumented stories did too. I learned at an early age that our stories and experiences make up the fabric of our lives. I want to weave the tapestries that tell the tales," Bradshaw said.

The Key Peninsula community is beginning to take notice of Bradshaw's art. Examples of her work, including about 10 mixed media pieces, as well as the plaster busts she painted to honor her pregnancies, were on display at the Key Center library from the beginning of December through the middle of January.

Bradshaw's "Handmade from the Heart" line of cards are available at Gig Harbor Copy and Mail, and the Picker's Northwest Antique Store. Bradshaw says each card is unique. "Each is made with a story or person in mind, so no two are alike. I love the idea that a shopper will find just the right card to send to a loved one," she said.

Shelly Cox, owner of Gig Harbor

Copy and Mail, agrees with Bradshaw. "We have customers come in and look at her cards all the time. They are wonderful and personal cards," Cox said.

For those inspired to take up papercrafting themselves, Bradshaw offers scrapbooking classes for ages four and up. "I've been teaching classes for a few years now. I got it in my head that instead of just talking about scrapbooking with my friends, I could teach them some of the tricks and tips I've picked up in a decade and a half of memory preserving," Bradshaw said.

With Valentine's Day coming up, Bradshaw's already busy schedule is even busier. She will be offering card making classes at two events on Saturday, Feb. 13th. She will be at the Bazaar Fair at the Key Peninsula Civic Center from 10 a.m. to noon that day. A monetary donation to the Red Barn or a homemade/homegrown item in trade helps defray materials' costs. Bradshaw will also host a card making activity at the Key Center library later

that afternoon.

Bradshaw's creative skills are rivaled only by her top-notch organization. As a parent of two young children, she knows what it takes to stay organized. "I spent a lot of time thinking about the tools I reach for most often, and keep those out and ready to use. If you don't use the stuff you have, consider donating your supplies to youth centers or other programs," Bradshaw said.

Bradshaw is always happy to take custom orders.

"I love being inspired by customer-directed ideas. Shadow boxes, personalized greeting cards, scrapbook albums, mixed media; art of any size to document births, weddings, anniversaries et cetera — even one of those painted pregnancy busts. I never met a project I didn't want to 'interpret,'" she said.

View examples of Bradshaw's art or contact her directly at craftwithanna.com.



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Out & About

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Photos by Hugh McMillan, KP News

On Jan. 14, Peninsula School District board member Marcia Harris, fourth from right, described to members of the Key Peninsula Middle School Parent Teacher Student Association (and staff) the facts about the upcoming school levy, explaining that it is a continuation of a levy passed in 2012 that expires in 2016. She said the renewed levy will provide funds to continue operation and maintenance throughout the district. "It is not a new tax; it is a continuation of the old tax with a lower estimated tax rate," she said. For information, call Harris at (253) 884-4697 or Deborah Krishnadasan at (206) 464-1280.

On Jan. 15, the traveling geology exhibit from Seattle's Pacific Science Center visited Evergreen Elementary School with numerous interactive stations. Sponsored by the Evergreen PTA, the exhibits were enthusiastically attended by the students and supervised by PTA volunteers. Shown here are students Nathan Biddle, Jackson Clark and volunteer Rebecca Fredricksen.



Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News



Photo by Hugh McMillan, KP News

The Key Peninsula Lions Club presents a \$1000 check to KP Family Resource Center Director Jud Morris for the many community-supportive activities of the center and its Children's Home Society. Here, surrounding Morris, center, are from left, KP Lions Curt Scott, Marvin Keizur, Bill Jones, George Robison, Cindy Robison, Neal Van Der Voorn, Frank Grubaugh, Hal Wolverton, Lila Saucier, Claudia Jones and Ken Sloan.

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Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News

Mount Rainier beams above the Longbranch Marina.