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# KEY PENINSULA NEWS

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THE VOICE OF THE KEY PENINSULA

JUNE 2016 VOL. 43 NO. 6

## Longbranch Highway Repair Nears Completion

By Lisa M. Bryan, KP News

Drivers have grown accustomed to road construction signs just north of the Longbranch Marina, where the northbound lane of Key Peninsula Highway appeared poised to slide down the cliff and into Filucy Bay following the record-setting rains of last winter.

"To tell you the truth, I felt a little uncomfortable driving past it at times," said Longbranch resident Shirley Brewer.

Residents south of the marina will be relieved to know completion of the estimated \$186,000 project is anticipated by mid-July.

Paul Marsh, superintendent of Pierce County Department of Public Works, said, "This site has a long history of subsidence activity. During our

(See Highway, Page 2)



Photo by Lisa M. Bryan, KP News

Part of the KP Highway in Longbranch has been in poor repair for years.



Courtesy of Pierce County Library System  
"Me" by Bobbi Worden.

## KPMS Student Wins Pierce County Contest

By KP News Staff

Key Peninsula Middle School seventh-grader Bobbi Worden won first place in the seventh- and eighth-grade photography category in the Pierce County Library System's 20th annual teen writing and art contest, Our Own Expressions, in May. Worden won the category for her photograph, "Me."

Thirty-six winners were chosen from 1,071 entries. The library started the contest in 1997 in partnership with Pierce County Library Foundation to foster literary expression and creativity in youth. Our Own Expressions is one of the few free, local opportunities for young writers and artists to receive public recognition, publication and cash prizes for their work. The News Tribune, Pacific Lutheran University and Print NW help fund the contest. Winners receive cash prizes from the foundation: first place, \$100; second place, \$75; and third place, \$50.

## Great Peninsula Conservancy Preserves Land on Filucy Bay

By Sara Thompson, KP News

In 2013, a 46-acre parcel of land at the head of Filucy Bay was on the market. A neighbor, who loves the area, feared that a buyer might decide to log it. She purchased the land and gave it to the Great Peninsula Conservancy.

Last December, the Conservancy added 21 acres to the preserve just across the bay from the original gift. That land, called the Easter Parcel, was purchased with grants from Pierce County Conservation Futures, the Salmon Recovery Program of the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office, and with the help of eight people who filled a \$48,000 funding gap.

"It shows how passionate people here are about protecting our land," said Sandra Staples-Bortner, conservancy executive director.

The Great Peninsula Conservancy is a private, nonprofit land trust dedicated to permanently protecting the natural habitats, rural landscapes and open spaces of Kitsap, north Mason and west Pierce counties. The organization conserves pristine shorelines, like those remaining in Filucy Bay: critical

### Want To Go?

An open house is scheduled for the preserve July 17 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Community members are invited to walk the gravel road down to the beach and meet staff of the Great Peninsula Conservancy. Please meet at Longbranch Improvement Club for a shuttle to the site. For more information, go to [www.greatpeninsula.org](http://www.greatpeninsula.org).

salmon streams, evergreen forests and wildlife-rich wetlands. A small staff of six oversees the Conservancy's work, partnering with individuals, public agencies, tribes, community groups and other conservation organizations to protect lands and care for them.

Staples-Bortner explained why the Conservancy is excited by the potential of the new preserve. It provides excellent wildlife habitat. Mother bears with cubs trailing behind fre-

(See Land, Page 11)

(From Highway, Page 1)

very wet winter, the site became active again and a section of the northbound lane dropped several inches. The area was monitored and temporary patches were installed to fill in the depressed area until the weather improved. After researching the site history and reviewing the topography, drainage and soil samples, it was determined that a two-pronged approach was needed to address the problem."

According to accounts from the Key Peninsula Historical Society, this particular stretch of highway in Longbranch has seen its share of water erosion.

The land above and around the current Longbranch Wharf served as "town central" beginning in the late 1800s, with a community church, a post office, a hotel built in 1889, and a fruit-growers cooperative store. The

*"Aside from absolutely historic rainfall, there's a lot of spring water out here and if there's one thing you can count on, it's upland water seeking the course of least resistance."*

— Larry Bingham  
Longbranch resident

co-op building collapsed into Filney Bay in 1928. The hotel was moved from the site in 1934 to avoid the same fate.

"I've seen this same stretch of roadbed sink and be repaved repeatedly in the last 20 years, all were but temporary fixes," said Longbranch resident Larry Bingham.

"Aside from absolutely historic rain-

fall, there's a lot of spring water out here and if there's one thing you can count on, it's upland water seeking the course of least resistance," he said.

"Pierce County Road Operations crews removed the existing pavement and the underlying base material, which included layer upon layer of asphalt from years of patching," said Marsh. "Crews then installed a geo-

textile grid fabric at the base of the excavation to strengthen the repair area, effectively anchoring it to the existing upland roadbed.

"The second portion of the project included excavating the existing road-side ditch on the west side of the Key Peninsula Highway and installing an infiltration system that captures and conveys the water north under Rouse Road," said Marsh.

"The old, corrugated metal cross culverts under Rouse Road were also replaced. This work was performed to prevent the ditch water from migrating through the road base into the subsidence area," he said.

"I certainly hope they've got it all properly drained now," said Brewer. "It's frightening the damage water can do.

"I'm sure we'll all be glad when the road is finished. I know the undercarriage of my car will," she said.

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# KEY PENINSULA NEWS

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

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For more information or to register, visit [www.keypenparks.com](http://www.keypenparks.com).



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## Cinema Under the Stars 2016

- Aug. 5 - Charlotte's Web (1973)
- Aug. 12 - Minions
- Aug. 19 - Zootopia (depending on availability)
- Aug. 26 - Star Wars: The Force Awakens

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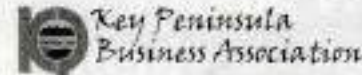
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There are opportunities for sponsorship and volunteers are needed! [christina@keypenparks.com](mailto:christina@keypenparks.com)

## Wednesday Walks with Walter

- June 15  
Rocky Creek Conservation Area
- July 13  
360 Trails
- August 17  
Maple Hollow Park

Explore three distinctly different KP parks during these FREE walk and talks with candid retired forester Walter Briggs.

Walks begin at 6:30 pm at the parking area of each location. This is a family-friendly activity; however, strollers are not advised.



## Mom & Me Tea Thank You

Thank you for all the donations of hats, scarves, jewelry, tea cups, dishes, and other fancy attire for the first-ever Mom & Me Tea that was held on May 1. We look forward to doing it again in 2017! Donors: Leslie Delores Dalton, Drone Dhamma, Robin Dibley, Carrie Duram, Jessica Hall, Marilyn Hartley, Kristi Hilley, Yvonne Josowitz, Nancy Lonning, Michelle Medinger, Kris Manzanera, Karyn Mayer, Linda McAllister Niles, Marilyn Perks, Susan Ricketts, Joy Suzanne, Tina Torres. Thank you also to those who volunteered for this charming event: Marilyn Hartley, Sami Jensen, Isabel Jensen, Sara Jensen and Raquelle Sealey.



## Former KP News Editor Earns Appointment

By KP News Staff

The National League of American Pen Women (NLAPW) last month appointed local writer and former Key Peninsula News editor, Rodika Tollefson, editor-in-chief of The Pen Woman magazine, its quarterly membership publication. Founded in 1897 and headquartered in Washington, D.C., the mission of the non-profit NLAPW is to support women artists.

The Pen Woman literary magazine publishes art, writing and music compositions by NLAPW members, as well as features, calls for submissions to contests, book reviews and NLAPW news.

Tollefson, a letters member-at-large of NLAPW, is a Key Peninsula resident whose career includes more than 15 years of award-winning journalism and freelance writing, as well as commercial work in the non-profit, public and private sectors. She



KP News photo

**KP News editor emerita Rodika Tollefson.**

is a longtime contributing writer to several local publications, including WestSound Home & Garden magazine and Kitsap Business Journal.

"Her passion for excellence in

journalism and breaking ground in digital media have advanced the standards for the next generation of news people," said Irene Torres, former president of the KP News Publishing Board.

Her company, Tollefson Creative Solutions, provides writing, editing, video production services and communications consulting, with a special emphasis on the technology, cyber security, health care, SMBs and startup sectors. She has a master's degree in digital media and has won various journalism and professional awards for her work.

"Rodika played a key role in rescuing the Key Pen News from the edge of oblivion in 2003, and set new standards of excellence that continue to guide us today," said William Dietz, vice president of the KP News Publishing Board. "Rodika's stamp will forever be on the paper, and we consider her to be our editor emerita."

## Dr. Penrose Guild Helps Hospital and Local Teen

By Ted Olinger, KP News

The Dr. Penrose Guild was honored Feb. 29 at a dedication ceremony for its contribution to the construction of a new wing of surgical and pediatric intensive care units at Mary Bridge Children's Hospital in Tacoma. The 38 groups comprising the Mary Bridge Brigade, including Penrose, raised a combined \$2.5 million.

Longtime guild member Joyce Tovey said, "It is just top-of-the-line everything. Every room is private, every room has places for the parents to stay, the nurses can watch things from right outside the door without being in the room."

"The money was raised over quite a period of time," said Rosie Rosenbach, the new guild president. "Most of the guilds are like us. They're working all the time."

The Dr. Penrose Guild raises money locally in several ways: through monthly member donations, a new fundraising luncheon and fashion show, and an upcoming event called the Taste of Wine in the fall. Volunteers also donate homemade clothes and blankets, and participate in the annual Mary Bridge Festival of Trees, a winter event that raises funds by auctioning off elaborately decorated Christmas

Trees.

The Dr. Penrose Guild was founded in 1956. "It's kind of amazing that it's been continuous since that time," said Tovey. "It was the same concept; everybody just had lunch every month and raised money to go to the hospital. They also volunteered like we do today. You can go into Tree House, for instance, and serve meals for the people there. I knit hats for the babies."

"We also donate soaps and other supplies for the parents at Tree House," said Rosenbach.

Tree House is a newly remodeled apartment building next to Mary Bridge where families can stay at low or no cost while their children are in the hospital. The name comes from the role the Mary Bridge Festival of Trees played in funding it.

One local KP family got to know Tree House.

Lakebay resident Amy Shaver's teenage daughter was driving home alone in the early hours of Aug. 30, 2014. It was raining for the first time in weeks, the roads were slick, and she was impaired. She had told her parents she was going to a friend's party on the eve of her junior year in high school, then called for a ride home, then left before they arrived. She

(See **Guild**, Page 5)

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(From Guild, Page 4)

drove into a tree, severely injuring her skull and torso. She was transported to Mary Bridge and put on life support. She was alive, but brain scans showed no other activity.

"It was crazy," said Shaver. "You're like, what happened here? And then you don't know what's going to happen. You don't know if she's going to make it, if she's going to wake up, if she's going to know who you are."

Shaver stayed in her daughter's room for two days before learning about Tree House, just across the street.

"They got me my own apartment," Shaver said. "They had refrigerators and pantries stocked, facilities for laundry, entertainment. They'd come in and cook a dinner for the families once a week where'd you get to meet everybody. But you don't really talk about why you're there, because that's time when you don't want to be thinking about it."

"After a week, we had just been talking [to my daughter] and visiting and she was just out, of course, but as soon as I got back to Tree House that

*"They'd come in and cook a dinner for the families once a week where'd you get to meet everybody. But you don't really talk about why you're there, because that's time when you don't want to be thinking about it."*

— Amy Shaver  
Lakebay resident

night, the nurse called me and said she woke up and yanked out her breathing tube," Shaver said.

"I didn't know if she was going to know who I was, and I walk in and she says, 'Mom!' That was really emotional," said Shaver. Her daughter didn't remember anything or understand what was happening. "She just knew I was there," she said.

Shaver stayed at Tree House for a month. "It was just amazing that they provided that service. I think they charged me, like, \$20 a day, and I had a chore to do," she said. There are 20 units that can accommodate 42 guests.

where she was. "She's got two years of high school left but won't start again for another four," she said.

Her daughter still talks about her pre-accident dreams of becoming a doctor or a nurse. "She's got to do a lot to get there," Shaver said. "I don't know if that will ever happen but, hey, they didn't think she'd be able to do what she's doing now."

"They were full, all the time," she said.

"I didn't even know the Tree House was supported through them [the Dr. Penrose Guild] until I started reading the plaques on the wall, and I thought, 'Oh my gosh, these are our people out on the peninsula,'" said Shaver.

After a month, Shaver's daughter was transferred to the University of Washington Medical Center in Seattle for three weeks of physical therapy. "She had to learn to walk again. Talk. Spell. Everything," she said.

"She's doing good now. Working two jobs part-time," said Shaver, but it will take years for her to get back to

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# Peninsula Views

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Another season of transformation is upon us. Elementary school students are moving on to middle school, middle schoolers are going to high school, and high school seniors are graduating to enter college or the workforce, or embark on other journeys still unmapped.

It is the season of proms, of parties, and private moments in secret gardens.

It is also the season of sudden freedom for teenagers, of new anxieties and joys, and new ways of reacting to them.

For many, that can mean drinking alcohol or using drugs, or both. It can mean car accidents and fights. It will almost certainly mean sexual assault.

You know someone who has survived it, whether you are aware of it or not.

Most people can absorb the shock of a natural catastrophe and continue to function. In an earthquake, wildfire, even in war, we tend to form coherent groups to respond and defend ourselves in order to resist and recover.

We also tend to distance ourselves from an individual's trauma. That terminal patient. That addict. That kid who was raped at a party.

But we are vulnerable. We conceal that fear with bluster, prejudice and certainty.

You can say it happened to them—to a "them"—so it can't happen to you. You can blame them. You can blame the drunk driver, the rapist, the parents, the schools, or call it an "884"

problem that doesn't touch you.

But blame does not keep anyone safe and it does not help anyone heal.

Talking does, and so does listening. We may think we know what to tell our children about choices and consequences, about alcohol and sex, about making a phone call instead of getting in a car, about depression or fear. Listening is harder. It's hard to hear about a child's anxiety, guilt or suffering. But if we don't hear it, we can't begin to understand where it comes from or where it can lead.

In these pages, you will read about young people who have flirted with danger, who have won awards and scholarships, who have beat terrible odds, and who have suffered terrible consequences when the odds beat them.

We should listen. Their stories can transform us, too.

I welcome your comments, questions, suggestions and complaints. You will find me at [editor@keypennews.com](mailto:editor@keypennews.com).



**Ted Olinger,**  
executive editor

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Dude, Here's Your Internet (May 2016)

To the Editor,

Some people on the peninsula still have old type drop wire for their phone service (the cable from the pole to the house). This parallel wire will not pass frequencies much higher than audio, which is worthless for data. I used to have poor fax machine performance until my 300-foot long drop wire service was changed to twisted pair to increase frequency response.

I now enjoy 10 MGBs, which is all

that CenturyLink provides to my location. The wiring in the house also needs to be checked to see if it is the old style red, green, yellow, black type.

Many residences and businesses on the peninsula have this type of wiring and it will cause low internet speeds and dropped connections. Installing higher quality wire will give you the speeds you pay for.

*Gerald Marsh  
Wauna*

### Health Care in America

To the Editor,

As an American doctor practicing in the area for the past 20 years, I endorse Mr. Schwartz's comments (April 2016) about the avoidable tragedy of insurmountable debt or bankruptcy attending medical care.

I provide care for our veterans and their beneficiaries in what is both a single payer system and a government-sponsored health care system, the closest thing to socialized medicine in this country. Under this system, and "Obamacare," my patients no longer have to choose between rent or meals and medi-

cine, and the bogeyman of the pre-existing condition does not prevent a patient from acquiring insurance or receiving care.

I am very familiar with statistics of health care results and costs and by any factual measure, my country does not provide anywhere close to the best value for money spent.

None of us should feel proud or complacent if any of our neighbors find themselves asking, "Can I afford it?" before seeking health care.

*Steven Kosicek, M.D.  
Longbranch*

### Local Business Owners Say Goodbye

To the Editor,

We can't believe the time has finally come! We have owned the Home Shell Food Mart for almost 20 years, but we just sold the business.

We have been truly honored to be a part of this community for so many years. We have seen this community change and grow into a wonderful place and we have been proud to be a part of that growth.

We would like to thank everyone from the bottom of our hearts for supporting us through these changes. We could not have done any of this work without the support from our amazing community members!

Thank you for welcoming us into your lives and for all the years of laughter and support.

*Yong and Linda Nambung  
Home Shell Food Mart*

### Letters Policy

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# One Summer Night

On Herron Island, visitors and residents alike are drawn almost with the pull of the tides down to beautiful North Beach. You are immediately captivated

by the Olympic Mountains standing majestically beyond the surrounding waters. It's no wonder the first pioneer chose this spot for his log home.

One night, a girlfriend and I decided to sleep on the beach alone. It was a warm August evening and our families thought we were spending the night at each other's house. We headed to the beach instead. The gravel crunched beneath our feet as we walked down a road illuminated only by moonlight. We would jump into the ditch and take cover whenever headlights approached for fear of being discovered and hauled home. Every few hundred feet, a deer would jump and we would shriek as it surprised us in the dark.

Down at the beach, we overturned a small boat resting on logs to use as a shelter. We'd hauled along my portable boom box and tuned into KZOK. We sang, lip-synched and danced like no one could hear us.

Two boys came up from the water's edge. They were from the camp across the channel and had paddled over in a canoe long after curfew, following the sound of our music.

We talked and asked questions, casually flirting and laughing. As it began getting colder, they offered to build us a campfire in the beach pit. There was a burn ban on, but my friend and I shrugged it off. Who's going to know? We're on a private island and the ferry is shut down for the night.

We were getting comfortable around the fire when, after about 15 minutes, a fire truck with lights and sirens came down the hill! Everyone disappeared into the night, except me. I froze, then jumped in place, then panicked and ran. Tall grass whipped against my legs until my shin came into contact with something solid

**Sue Kingsbury-Surratt**  
Insights of an Islander



and I flipped over and landed on my back. To my surprise, next to me lay my girlfriend, who had tripped on the same abandoned boat trailer in the weeds.

Volunteer firefighters searched for us by flashlight. The fire hissed as it was drowned in the distance. After the fire truck's brake lights disappeared into the night, we discovered the boys had fled in their canoe. We burst out laughing, then settled in for the night under the overturned boat at the top of the shoreline, and fell asleep to the sound of water lapping the beach.

We awoke to the thrum of the engines from the island's then-ferry Annabelle the next morning, and hurried home before we could be found.

I stopped by Marty Pedersen's house on the way. He was in charge of the volunteer fire department at that time. I apologized for allowing a fire to be built during a burn ban and for running away. He said he appreciated my honesty and added that he didn't know I could run that fast.

*Sue Kingsbury-Surratt is the health technician at Evergreen Elementary School in Lakeway. She lives on Herron Island.*

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## CIVIC CENTER

### Livable Community Fair Wrap-up

Thank you all who made our Livable Community Fair a wonderful success this year! On the roster of kudos are our wonderful sponsors:

Peninsula Light - Platinum Sponsor  
Food Market of Key Center - Silver Sponsor  
Key Pen Parks - Silver Sponsor

Key Peninsula Volunteer Firefighters - Silver Sponsor  
Key Peninsula Community Services - Bronze Sponsor

Additional thanks to our community members who helped in many ways: 4-H Cat Tale members (Alexis, Caitlin, Cayla, Joseph, Kayla, Kendra, Marianne & Tommy); Boy Scout Troop 220 (Mitchell, Luke, Jonathan); Bluegrass Minstrels; Christine Darsow (Little Dwellings & More); Girl Scout Troop 40956 (Alyssa, Kaylee, Kelsey & McKayla); Jeanette Charboneau; Key Peninsula Fire Department; Key Peninsula Library - Youth Services; Stephanie Brooks (GNOSH); Tim Kezele; Vaughn Elementary - Whole Note Huskies; Washington State Trooper Bartolac; the Young Family; and last but not least KPCCA Board Members Keith Axelsen, Phil Bauer, Scott Dervaes, Peggy Gablehouse, Tracey Geiss, Jera Henak, Sharon Kaffer (Steve & Roger), Bruce Macdonald, Pat Medveckus, Ted Ralston, Mark Roberts and Kat Wingers.



#### YOGA UPDATE

Over 25 individuals expressed an interest in yoga classes at the Civic Center - KPCCA staff met with potential instructors in May. Schedule & cost will be available soon @ [www.kpciviccenter.org](http://www.kpciviccenter.org)

### Upcoming Events at the Civic Center

- **El Sombrero Night - June 13th** - Join Board Members at this fundraiser at El Sombrero. The de la Cruz family is once again generously donating a portion of their dinner proceeds in support of the civic center.
- **Fireworks - June 28th through July 4th** in the Key Center Food Market parking lot - starting at noon on the 28th - thereafter 10 am to 9 pm. All proceeds benefit the Key Peninsula Civic Center.
- **Ohana Luau - July 9th (NOTE DATE CHANGE)** The civic center hosted this successful grand event last year for the first time. Have fun at the Luau on the grounds of the Center - it's a fun family event not to miss. Interested in sponsoring this event? Call the civic center at 884-3456.
- **Flavors of Fall - October 8th**
- **Blues & Brews - October 29th (NOTE DATE CHANGE)**

*The Key Peninsula Civic Center Association, through its facility and the efforts 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.

CORNER

## The Mustard Seed Project Building an Elder-Friendly Key Peninsula

Need senior services or information? Call us: 253-884-9814  
or visit our office in the Key Center Corral, M-F, 10 - 4

### Our Current Programs & Services:

**Key Senior Information Center** - Free information & referral  
for seniors, their families and others who care

**Key Peninsula Senior Ride Program** - Transportation to medical  
appointments, senior meals, shopping and other essential destinations

**Community Volunteer Network** - Neighbors helping neighbors  
with basic household tasks, yard work, friendly visiting

**Third Thursday Community Forums** - Interactive education  
on a wide variety of topics related to aging well

Plus our annuals: Silver Cinema Series & Random Acts of Caroling

Thanks to our faithful, hardworking volunteers,  
generous donors and supportive partners.



Join The Key Peninsula Civic Center  
and its board for

## EL SOMBRERO NIGHT Monday, June 13, 2016

The De La Cruz family has graciously offered the  
Key Peninsula Civic Center a portion of its dinner proceeds  
to support the civic center, 5 pm to closing.  
Support El Sombrero support its community!  
See you there!

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

# I Wauna Call It Home

Perusing Redfin's real estate website a year ago, I fell for a gray shingled house with granny green carpet and a Gig Harbor address, hoping it would be the next fixer-home for my husband and me.

Native Californians of 50 years, we moved to Bainbridge Island at Christmas 2011 and settled into a 1951 mid-century modern home others would've torn down. The two of us stripped to the studs and remodeled, one room at a time, while he looked unsuccessfully for a corporate job in Seattle. So we sold our house as soon as it was finished, moved to a rental in Manchester, and channeled our funds into a waterfront renovation in Poulsbo.

As our waterfront project entered its final months, I began looking for another live-in fixer. After we lost twice on multiple offers in Kitsap County, I expanded our search south.

I'd only been on Highway 302 once before and it took me several passes to find the unsigned road of cared-for and colorfully landscaped homes. I pulled into the driveway of the bank-owned listing and walked around, my visit revealing what photos had not: blistered and peeling paint, deck covered in pine needles, windows coated with warning stickers and droppings from birds nesting in the ventilation holes high above.

But the deck looked onto a yard filled with rhodies and hydrangeas, past the yard to stands of cedars and firs, and beyond them, slivers of Henderson Bay in the not-too-far distance. I heard the steady whoosh of cars along the highway,

but also birds—probably wanting me to step away from their nests.

Then I saw two bald eagles gliding overhead against billowing white clouds in an azure sky, and it seemed a sign that the house would be mine.

When my husband and I came back with our real estate agent and saw the top of Mount Rainier from the third-floor master bedroom, we made an offer. Despite unexpected surprises—like the garage encroaching on the neighboring property and the listing agent trying to sell the house without it—the sale went through.

It's a remodeler's dream to live just 10 minutes from Home Depot and Costco. With each trip along the Purdy Spit, flanked by water on both sides, observing the ranges of the tide, the piles of oyster shells, diving seagulls, cormorants perched on old pilings, the cars streaming past, headlights like twin suns in the twilight, I'm continually immersed in this region's beauty.

When he first spotted the wooden Purdy sign near the bridge and the Wauna sign on the Spit, my husband began with the puns: "It sure is Purdy here, Ma," to which I answered, "Yup, Pa, I really Wauna live here. I hope I have the right Key." We still joke, but we're serious.

*Cathy Warner lives in Purdy.*

**Cathy Warner**  
Key Pen & Ink



Oh, dear June Moon we croon,  
Please bring us some warming sun.  
We're tired of the cold and rain  
And ready for some summer fun!



Brighten your day with treasures from our shop  
**ANGEL GUILD THRIFT SHOP**  
in the Key Center Corral

253-884-9373 • angelguild9013@hotmail.com

Open Tuesday through Saturday 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

The Angel Guild Thrift Shop is an independent philanthropy and is not affiliated with any other organization.



# Call From 'Not Provided'

This morning, I'm lying there, dozing on one of the few days I get to sleep in for a bit, and I'm slapped awake by a phone call on my landline. I look at the clock: 8:06 a.m. Over the last few months and years, I've seen that time associated with a morning phone call on my landline. So even when I'm partially awake, I know without any doubt that it's a robot calling me. Instead of answering it, I spin around and unplug the phone from the wall jack. Living out on the KP beyond the range of cable means that my internet is provided by CenturyLink, and they used to require the bundling of a landline with internet service. They've stopped that but I've kept mine, apparently because I'm an idiot.

I always thought the future with robots would be exciting, or maybe dangerous, or at least more interesting than a computer selecting numbers from a purchased list and calling them at all hours. So at first I ignored them, which means that the phone rings about every hour four times before my audio Caller I.D. phone says things like, "Call

**Kevin Reed**  
Here's Something



from Seattle Sim," which is odd because in this day and age a talking phone should be able to say something as basic as "Seattle" and "Symphony." But most calls are from "Not Provided."

After trying to ignore them, I switched to answering angrily, ready to take on whoever was pestering me, only to find dead air and, after a few seconds, a click. After the insult of being systematically hung up on, I'd hang up with a heavy, frustrated sigh that nobody other than I could hear or appreciate, then dial \*69 and jot down the number that had just called me and dial it, only to have some other robot (or maybe the same one?) supposedly put me on some mythical "do not call" list, perhaps laughing to itself as it did so.

Used to be you could do things to tele-

marketers. You could listen for a moment as they started their spiel, and then say, "Yes, please tell me more," and you could set the phone down quietly on the counter and walk away. Now it's just a robot, harvesting your time like a combine pulling up corn, and us, the helpless humans, staring in disbelief at our phones. And as if that's not bad enough, only half the time are they even trying to sell you anything! The other half the computer/robot/terminator is just trying to see if a humanoid lives at the phone number so they can sell that number to other telemarketing robots!

Maybe all the people responsible for robocalls on home and cell phones should be identified, captured, shipped to a central camp, kept in rooms with constantly ringing phones and used for reality TV shows until we, as a nation, grow bored and (to expand on a George Carlin idea) have them terminated in horrifying ways on pay-per-view with proceeds going to balance the budget. Or build better robots. Now that's progress!

*Kevin Reed lives in Lakebay.*

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**SPORTS CAMP**

August 1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup>  
8:45am - 12:15pm  
Key Peninsula Civic Center  
Sponsored by Key Peninsula Baptist Church

Ages 5-12  
Quality Sports Instruction  
Experienced Coaches  
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\$35 Registration Fee

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For more information call: 253-853-6761  
Email: kpbcsportscamp@gmail.com  
Registration material available on our website at:  
[www.kpbfellowship.org](http://www.kpbfellowship.org)

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Strengthening the Key Peninsula  
Connecting the Community

## Exciting News!

**KP Connects** returns for **3 days a week** this summer!

Supported by the KP Community Council, the Peninsula School District, and this Partnership, we are able to provide 3 days of local transportation! See the KP Connects ad elsewhere in this paper for schedule and route information.

## KP Partnership for a Healthy Community

helps to connect businesses, organizations, and people to strengthen our community. Special thanks to the following organizations who have recently provided services to partnership activities.

- YMCA Camp Seymour
- KP Medical Center
- Rosedale Storage
- Food Backpacks 4 Kids
- GoinPostal
- Red Barn Youth Center
- Gig Harbor Rotary
- KP Civic Center
- Lee Smith of Re/Max
- Cost Less Pharmacy

Key Peninsula Partnership for a Healthy Community

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

This Partnership is made possible by the generous funding of the  
*Gary E. Milgard Family Foundation*

# How to Start a Community Garden

Last year, the KP came together to build a community garden at the Red Barn, our local youth center. About 30 people, including quite a few kids, showed up to build raised beds and a fence, shovel

dirt, and put plants in the ground. It was pretty incredible to watch our community accomplish something so big.

Since then, the staff and kids at the Red Barn have taken care of their garden and eaten their harvest for afterschool snacks. They get many benefits from gardening: exercise, improved mood and a connection to nature. Plus it gets them off their phones.

Karole Johnson's charity, Seeds of Grace ([dreambigaskbold.org](http://dreambigaskbold.org)), organized and fundraised for the Red Barn garden. She has a few helpful tips for anyone who feels the call to plant another garden here on the KP.

Find your location. First things first, you need to find the right spot for your garden. Talk to organizations that might be willing to give you space. Schools, food banks, parks, churches and community centers are great places to start. Be sure that your garden has easy access to water and plenty of sunshine.

Involve the community. The thing every community garden needs most is people. People must build, care for and harvest the garden. Chances are that volunteers will come forward once you've found a loca-

tion, especially in our community where people jump at the chance to help their neighbors.

Don't just leave it to chance, though. You'll want to advertise your project. Get the paper to write a story about the garden. Put up fliers on community bulletin boards. Talk to local businesses. Use social media for all it's worth, especially our very active Key Peninsula Facebook groups.

Be creative about fundraising. Karole says to estimate that each garden will cost around \$2,000. You'll need things like soil, fertilizers, wood for raised beds, fencing and, of course, the plants. Ask local businesses for help with money and supplies. You'll be surprised by their generosity. Have a bake sale. Start a GoFundMe account. Make crafts to sell at holiday and spring craft bazaars. Call up Seeds of Grace to see if they can help.

Community gardens are an important trend in our society and I urge you to participate. If you don't feel up to starting one, at least head over to the Red Barn to see if they could use a hand.

*Monica Rakowski lives in Gig Harbor and blogs at [thenaturelifeproject.com](http://thenaturelifeproject.com).*



**Monica Rakowski**  
Living Close to Nature

**WayPoint Church**  
*pointing the way to Jesus...*

**THREE SUNDAY SERVICES**  
9:30am, 11am & 6pm

Save the Dates for VBS!  
July 11th-15th  
9-Noon



Children's Programs at All Services

High School & Middle School Youth Group  
Meets Monday Nights  
6:30-8:30pm

Go to [five17.com](http://five17.com)  
for more info



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(From Land, Page 1)

quent the preserve—likely foraging for berries and salmon. When the tide is in, osprey hunt for fish from the air and great blue heron stalk small prey at the water's edge. Owls, woodpeckers and songbirds thrive in the preserve's mature forest of fir, cedar, maple and alder. The initial parcel has little easy access and will likely remain undeveloped. The second parcel has a road that goes to the beach and is more amenable to public access.

Staples-Bortner said they take their responsibilities very seriously: A preserve is forever. "We need to be sure we have plans in place to sustain the land and that often means a team of community members willing to help," she said.

Before opening the preserve to the public, the conservancy wants to hear from Key Peninsula residents and others about how they might like to enjoy it while protecting its natural habitats for wildlife. In addition, the conservancy hopes to partner with residents to help with upkeep of the preserve—an important consideration given the small staff and the large amount of land.



North Cove Estuary on Filucy Bay. Red outline indicates 21-acre Easter parcel. Green outline is 42-acre Filucy Bay Preserve. *Map courtesy of Great Peninsula Conservancy*

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\*Not valid with any other offers. Expires 6-30-16



**WAYPOINT VBS**

2016



**July 11-15th 9am-Noon**

Sign up online - [www.waypoint-church.org/vbs](http://www.waypoint-church.org/vbs)

**IT'S FREE! Ages 4yrs - 6th grade**  
12719 134th Ave KPN, Gig Harbor 853-7878

# COMMUNITY PAGES

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

## JUNE 1

### Pet neuter program

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

## JUNE 2

### Fuchsia group

The Fuchsia Club meets at 7 p.m. in the KP Civic Center Whitmore Room.

## JUNE 2 and 16

### Cat tales

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

## JUNE 3, 10 and 17

### Skate night

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

## JUNE 6 and 20

### 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

## JUNE 6, 13, 20, 27

### Bloodmobile

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

## JUNE 8

### Ashes meet

The Ashes support group for FD#16 meets 10:30 a.m. at the fire station in

## To submit an event

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

Key Center. 884-3771

### Garden club meets

The Bayshore Garden Club meets 1 p.m. at the fire station in Longbranch. Wendy, 332-4883

### KP Council

The KP Council meeting 7 p.m. at KC fire station features "Suicide Awareness" presented by Gina Kabiddu, family educator at Children's Home Society. 884-6455

## JUNE 13

### Fundraiser

The de la Cruz family of El Sombro Restaurant is graciously donating a portion of their dinner proceeds to the KP Civic Center. Have a meal with the KPCCA board from 5 p.m. to closing.

## JUNE 14 and 22

### Crochet or knit

The Loving Hearts group meets 1 to 3 p.m. at WayPoint Church June 14 and 7 to 9 p.m. June 22. Yarn donations are always needed. [lovingheartsonkp@gmail.com](mailto:lovingheartsonkp@gmail.com) or Virginia, 884-9619

## JUNE 15

### Community forum

The Mustard Seed's Third Thursday Community Forum is 10 a.m. at the Key Center Library. 884-9814

## JUNE 16

### Down Home Band Rides Again

The first practice of the Down Home Band will be at Key Medical June 16 at 7 p.m. They play marches, polkas and a variety of other band music. If you play a wind instrument (especially

clarinet!) or played one in high school, join in. First performance of the year is the Fourth of July Parade in Home. Dr. Roes, 884-9221

## JUNE 19

### Sunday bluegrass jam

Bluegrass Gospel Jam session held at Longbranch Church (16518 46th Street 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.

## JUNE 20

### Robots

Kids ages 8 to 18 build and program a robot using Lego Mindstorms 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the KC Library. Register at [piercescountylibrary.org/calendar](http://piercescountylibrary.org/calendar) or 548-3309 beginning June 1. Maximum capacity for event is 25. This event is sponsored by Friends of the KC Library.

## JUNE 20 - AUG. 19

### Summer lunch

The free kids' Summer Lunch Program is on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the KP Civic Center. All are welcome. Free transportation is available from Palmer Lake. Food Backpacks 4 Kids, 857-7401 or 884-4449

## JUNE 21 and 28

### Story times

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

## JUNE 24

### Game show

Louie Foxx presents "Games You Can't Lose" at 1:30 p.m. at the KC Library for children 8 and up and families. This event is part amazing magic

and part hilarious game show with the kids as the stars. 548-3309

## JUNE 25

### Rummage sale

Evergreen Elementary PTA's Rummage Sale is 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the school. The proceeds will go to the school's 2016-17 Science-Technology-Engineering-Art-Math program. Donations of gently used clothing, toys and small furniture are accepted in front of the school between 9-10:30 a.m. or 6-7:30 p.m. on June 20, 22 and 24. [evergreeneaglespta@gmail.com](mailto:evergreeneaglespta@gmail.com)

### Garage sale

The annual Giant Garage Sale is 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Key Peninsula Lutheran Church on the corner of Lackey Road and Key Peninsula Highway. Julie, 884-3321

## JUNE 27

### Origami

Folks aged 8 and up learn to fold boats, birds and other summer origami 2:30 p.m. at the KC Library. Registration is required at [piercescountylibrary.org/calendar](http://piercescountylibrary.org/calendar) or 548-3309 and begins June 1. 548-3309

## JUNE 28 - JULY 4

### Fireworks sale

Buy fireworks from the KP Civic Center's stand in Key Center. Hours are 12 to 9 p.m. June 28, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. June 29 to July 3, and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. July 4. Proceeds benefit the Key Peninsula.

## JULY 1

### Lego play

Use Legos, straws and connectors, blocks and more to construct fabulous contraptions 1:30 p.m. at the KC Library. All ages welcome; children under 6 bring an adult. 548-3309

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

- June 1 & 15, KP Lions, 7 p.m., KC fire station; 853-2721
- June 6, Artists' Blend, 4 to 6 p.m., Blend Wine Shop, for all artists; kathybauer100@gmail.com
- June 6 & 20, KP Veterans, 7 p.m., KP Lutheran Church; membership for veterans and military service members and families over 16 yrs. 509-8656 or keypenveterans@outlook.com
- June 13, KP Parks, 7:30 p.m. at Volunteer Park office; public is encouraged to attend. 884-9240
- June 14 & 28, KP Fire Dept., 5 p.m., KC fire station; keypeninsulafire.org
- June 9, KP Civic Center Assn. Board, 7 p.m., Whitmore Room, KPCC; 884-3456
- June 9, TWAA Board, 7 p.m., VFW Room, KPCC; kathybauer100@gmail.com
- June 9 & 16, Peninsula School District Board, 6 p.m., District Office
- June 15, Longbranch Improvement Club, 6:30 p.m. social, 7 p.m. meeting, LIC; 884-6022
- June 15/third Wednesday, KP Advisory Commission, 6:30 p.m., VFW Room, KPCC; Toni Fairbanks, 253-798-7156
- June 16, KP Citizens Against Crime, 7 p.m., KC fire station
- June 20, KP Democrats, 7 p.m., Home fire station; johnpatkelly@aol.com
- June 27, KP Farm Council, 6:30 p.m., Home fire station; c.wiley@mac.com

## OFF THE KEY

**JUNE 2**

### Democrats meet

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

**JUNE 2, 9, 16, 23, 30**

### Waterfront market

The Thursday Waterfront Farmers Market is 3 to 7 p.m. at 3207 Harborview Drive.

**JUNE 4, 11, 18, 25**

### Farmers market

The Saturday Farmers Market is 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 5503 Wollochet Drive (the former Peninsula Gardens building) and is open rain or shine.

**JUNE 5, 12, 19, 26**

### Uptown market

The Sunday Uptown Farmers Market is 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 4701 Pt. Fosdick Drive and is open rain or shine.

**JUNE 7, 14, 21, 28**

### Support group

The 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

**JUNE 17-26**

### Play presented

"The Little Mermaid" is presented at Paradise Theatre on Judson Street in downtown Gig Harbor. Shows are 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday. 954-PLAY

## WEEKLY EVENTS

**MONDAYS**

### Play to Learn

In a partnership with Peninsula School District and the Tacoma Children's Museum, 'Play to Learn' has been added to children's opportunities on Mondays from 10 to 11:30 a.m. in the KP Civic Center gym. 'Play to Learn' is for parents, grandparents and others who nurture children ages 6 and under. Themed curriculum invites individual play, group activities, songs and a circle time for kids and adults. This is a drop-in program and no registration is required. 884-5433

**MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS**

### Senior exercise class

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

**TUESDAYS**

### Story times

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

**TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS**

### Senior tai chi

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

### Preschool play time

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

**TUESDAYS & SATURDAYS**

### Visit the museum

The KP Historical Museum has a new display of Historic Hotels and Resorts of the Key Peninsula. New display cases in the VFW Room expand the area to show off the various artifacts and photos of the area. Free ad-

mission; monetary donations welcome. 888-3246

**WEDNESDAYS**

### 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 & FRIDAYS**

### Senior meals

Nutritious meals for ages 60+ are served at noon at KP Community Services; a \$2 donation is requested. Guests (ages 50-59) of senior attendees are requested to donate \$2.50. 884-4440

**THURSDAYS**

### Toastmasters

The Toastmasters meet 8 to 9 a.m. at the KC Library. Have fun improving your speaking ability. 858-5761 or 548-3511

### Seniors' lunch

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

### Bingo

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

**FRIDAYS, JUNE 3, 10 and 17**

### Story time

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### Writers' Guild

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

# Local Poet and Photographer Publishes First Volume

By Sara Thompson, KP News

Fans celebrated the publication of Dale Goodvin's first book last month with a reception at Blend Wine Shop in Key Center. "Kansas Whispers and Midnight Blues: Dodging Despair, Deception and Clowns" is now available to the public.

Goodvin credits local author Jerry Libstaff and his Watermark Writers group for supporting his writing.

The audience reaction to a public reading Goodvin gave in Gig Harbor two years ago led to his decision to publish. Several people gave him positive feedback, including Ted Olinger (author and now executive editor of the KP News).

"He said, 'You need to write a book, man,'" said Goodvin. Some time later, Olinger pushed again: "How's that book coming along, Dale?"

"Kansas Whispers and Midnight Blues" is a book of poetry and photographs that Goodvin describes as autobiographical in feeling and spirit. Goodvin has been a photographer for years and especially likes abstracts. He has exhibited and sold locally and

has several photographs in the permanent collection at the University of Washington Tacoma library. Each poem in the book is paired with one of his photos.

The poet grew up in Kansas, one of four children. His mother died when he was 2.

"It was a profound event, a critical moment," Goodvin said. "But you can retain your essence when you lose a mother if you have a lot of love to balance that loss. I didn't have that." Though he thinks his father did the best he could, Goodvin described him as very unhappy and angry. He died when Goodvin was 17.

"He was a manipulator, and I thought I was the problem," he said.

Goodvin went to college, majored in English, and then taught high school English. At 26, he was ready to leave Kansas.

"I knew someone with relatives in Tacoma," he said, "and so I moved." He lived in Tacoma and then Gig Harbor, working at the library at UW Tacoma and then at the University of Puget Sound. While at UPS, he took advantage of free tuition for employees and earned a master's degree in child and family counseling. He found the experi-



Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News

Dale Goodvin reads from his new book at Blend Wine Shop in May.

ence of working with people very powerful, he said, but was not tempted to become a therapist and continued his work in the library until he retired.

Trish, his wife of 26 years, has roots on the Key Peninsula; her parents had a home on Filzey Bay. Five years ago they put down their own roots by moving into that home.

"The Key Peninsula is the best commu-

nity to live in I have ever known," Goodvin said. "There are so many creative people—artists and writers."

Self-publishing his book proved to be an ordeal. Goodvin said it is nearly impossible for new literary authors to find a publishing company. Self-publishing may be the only way to get one's work in print, but the problem, he said, is there are no set standards and the public's perception is that such books are not worthwhile.

"I worked to make this as high quality as any book out there," Goodvin said. He did his own editing and formatting, with the help of friends. He proofread more times than he can remember. His sleep was often interrupted by nightmares about punctuation.

"It's like childbirth," he said. "You forget the pain pretty quickly." And, as many women have more than one child, Goodvin is already thinking about a second book.

"Kansas Whispers and Midnight Blues: Dodging Despair, Deception and Clowns" is available online through Amazon and locally at Blend Wine Shop in Key Center and Cost Less Pharmacy in Wauana.

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## KP Civic Center at 60: Part II

By Colleen Slater, KP News

*Editor's note: Conclusion of our two-part series.*

The original Vaughn High School, constructed in stages beginning in 1906, had come to the end of its serviceable life by 1955. At least, that's what the Peninsula School District thought when it put it up for sale.

Key Peninsula residents wanted to save the historic building. The district wanted \$8,100 in cash.

The community met to gather support to buy the building for use as a community center. A substantial portion of the price had to be pledged in time for the October school board meeting. Ollie Whitmore, elected as chairman of the organizing committee, would present their proposal.

Eager volunteers contributed to various fundraising efforts but they were short more than \$7,500 as the due date loomed.

Whitmore convinced his banker to loan him the balance, confident the community would pay him back. They did, and the Whitmore Room was named in his honor as a thank-you for his generous spirit.

The Key Peninsula Civic Center Association (KPCCA) was incorporated April 10, 1956, and sale papers were signed April 18.

The original citizens' board that created the KPCCA included Dulcie Schillinger, Clint Buckell, Rich Hall, Don Olson and several others. Volunteers from the whole peninsula contributed to dinners, dances, variety shows, card parties, bingo games, fishing derbies and Fourth of July firework stands to raise funds to pay off their loan from Whitmore, as well as to maintain the facility.

"They were work and fun rolled into one and they melded the community together in a common effort to afford a place for the veterans, grangers, Boy and Girl Scouts, basketball and baseball teams to meet and play at the lowest and most affordable cost," wrote secretary Dulcie Schillinger in her unpublished record of the KPCCA history, now held at KP Historical Society museum.

A final work party in June 1956 finished painting and cleaned the kitchen to prepare for the dedication dinner and dance. KPCCA board members hauled tables, chairs and dishes from wherever they could borrow them.

Invitations were sent to dignitaries and



*Photo courtesy of KP Historical Society*

### The Vaughn High School football team in 1937.

guests. The 750 attendees included U.S. Sen. Henry M. Jackson, Attorney General Don Eastvold with wife and four children, and Assistant Attorney General Lloyd Baker. Other guests included Pierce County commissioners, the superintendent of roads, the Peninsula Light Co. president, the Peninsula School Board chairman, the mayor of Gig Harbor and the vice mayor of Tacoma.

E. L. "Tiny" Reynolds, Clint Buckell, Ernie Anderson and others set up a barbecue pit on the front lawn to grill 700 chickens, while Bob Tachell filled four new garbage cans with coleslaw.

In 1957, \$500 from the sale of the old library hall—the previous site of community meetings and activities in Vaughn—was contributed as a trusteeship and paid for a room for the library. Glencove Hall contributed its sale price to a room for the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

KPCCA held its final mortgage burning celebration Feb. 26, 1960.

The board continues to honor one of its early goals of nurturing and supporting the larger Key Peninsula community by discounting about \$11,000 per month on facility rentals for youth and nonprofit organizations, according to Patricia Ghossi, marketing and facilities coordinator for the civic center. Free use or reduced rates account for much more than money collected, she said.

Volunteers donate an average of over 350 hours per month. Additional volunteers are always welcome, and grants from various organizations have made building improvements possible. But monetary donations and participation in fundraisers is what maintains the civic center.

Since its inception, it has taken the whole community to maintain and improve a facility that exists to benefit all who live on the Key Peninsula.



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# KP Man Explores Development in Cuba

By Ted Olinger, KP News

Lakebay resident Jeff Harris visited Cuba for the first time in February to determine the feasibility of a community development project on behalf of the Gig Harbor Rotary Club's International Committee and the Olson Foundation, which he serves as president. He ended his trip discussing the return of nonprofit work to Cuba with the new U.S. ambassador in Havana.

Rotary works to reduce poverty through sustainable development. Harris has a long history in that field stretching from the Peace Corps in Peru to working for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Vietnam during the war, and local nonprofit work in Washington.

"Whatever you think of American foreign policy and our relationship with Cuba, you have to go back to the 1950s," Harris said. "We were fearful of Communism and Russia and what was happening around the world."

Harris joined a weeklong tour organized by Cienfuegos, followed by a second week in Havana. The Sister Cities program works to connect people on a municipal level to organize projects and cultural exchanges. Cienfuegos was chosen for its similarity: a port city of the same size and population with a mixed economy that has been preserved reasonably well. The five-star hotel where the group stayed was built in 1869.

There is also a park built by local Rotarians a century ago.

"What we're trying to do is fund projects that may work from the bottom up," Harris said. "We can't deal with the government. They're perplexed in terms of how to deal with this tsunami that is just washing over Cuba with tourists, money, opportunity. They have to allow people a level of freedom they don't quite have yet."

In 2011, President Raúl Castro, succeeding his brother Fidel, instituted a number of modest reforms: People can now own and sell their own homes, they can start certain businesses, and they

pay taxes.

"New shops are going in, and they're crowded," Harris said. "They're very sparsely stocked with goods, but [the goods are] coming."

"The only shortage we observed in Cuba was bread. The state bread stores pass out bread in the morning, and there's always a line."

Cuba boasts free health care, free education, close to 100 percent literacy, a high rate of college graduates and no unemployment, he said. "You have to work, but you don't make much. That's the deal."

"One of the problems they have is the wage structure is fixed. A doctor working as a taxi driver can make more money than he can as a doctor because of tips and other things. Any dictated, structured economy like that, in my view, is not going to work. Wages have to find a level that is dependent upon the market demand and the availability of people to do those jobs," said Harris.

In Havana, Harris said tourist buses lined both sides of the waterfront for 2 miles, transporting passengers from foreign cruise ships. The first American cruise ship in 50 years arrived in Havana May 2, though the economic embargo continues.

Many Spanish Colonial-style buildings remain in Havana, together with many that are falling apart. "Their capitol building is undergoing the same kind of preservation as the U.S. Capitol building, and it is a model of the U.S. Capitol, in part," said Harris.

He also visited the Museum of Revolution, once the mansion of deposed dictator Batista, which exhibits the tank Fidel Castro rode to fight the Bay of Pigs invasion and a marble bust of Lincoln.

"Lincoln is revered in Cuba because he freed the slaves," akin to how America helped free Cuba from Spain, Harris said. "It's surprising, but they have a deep affection for Americans," he said.

Thanks to an old friend from his

(See Cuba, Page 17)



(From Cuba, Page 16)

Peace Corps days, Harris was able to meet with the new U.S. ambassador to Cuba, Jeffrey DeLaurentis.

"We talked about Sister Cities—which he had been told didn't exist. We talked about the return of Rotary and other nonprofits," Harris said.

"It's a touchy subject. The Cuban government is wary of the USAID spying on the Cubans and trying to foment a revolution again, and the Americans are wary of the Cubans. It will take time to move forward into a more positive relationship, but at least it's started."

Harris will return to Cuba in 2017 to investigate funding a clean water project in an indigenous village near Cienfuegos.

"Cubans at all levels—and I agree—think the revolution was needed to rid Cuba of Batista. Castro has been a bloodthirsty cutthroat, but Batista exceeded his deeds," Harris said, adding that ordinary Cubans acknowledge they made serious mistakes and they have to find their own way forward.

"And they want a relationship with the U.S.," he said.



Photos by Jeff Harris

The original Cuban capitol building under renovation in Havana is a replica of the U.S. Capitol.

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# Key Peninsula Lutheran Church Installs Pastor

By Karen Lovett, KP News

With the resignation of the previous pastor of the Key Peninsula Lutheran Church, the church council moved quickly to find a replacement. David Castner has been there since August. The congregation voted to offer him the permanent position in April and he was officially installed in May.

Installation entails the new pastor pledging to serve the church in the name of God and the church promising to help him to serve God.

"There are 93 Lutheran churches in our area of Washington with one bishop," church office manager Julie Johnson said. "We have our own church council. The call committee of five members plus synod and the bishop put out the profile. The person applies to synod." (A synod is a group of ecclesiastical delegates.)

"The process committee did an evaluation of what we were looking for," church council president Elsie Vezzani said. "The call committee read resumes and interviewed candidates."

"I had sent an extensive resume with de-

tailed profiling to the bishop and synod," Castner said. "Key Peninsula Lutheran Church requested a substitute pastor and they were given my name. They liked me and asked me to be their interim pastor."

Castner is originally from Montana, where his dad worked in mining. The family later moved to Arizona, but he returned to attend the University of Montana in Missoula. As something of a reverse snowbird, he worked summers in Arizona as a mining laborer and heavy equipment operator.

"After earning a bachelor's degree in communication studies, I moved to Globe, Arizona," where he met his future wife, Timarie, Castner said. Tired of working in the mining industry, in 2000 they moved to St. Paul, Minnesota, where Castner attended Luther Seminary. "My third year, I served as a pastor intern at Riverton, Wyoming," he said, "then a year in Colorado for another year of internship."

Castner earned a master's of divinity in 2005 and moved to Endicott, Washington. "Trinity Lutheran there was the first church where I was full pastor," Castner said. "It was very rural, 200 people. I was there until 2007."



Photo by Karen Lovett, KP News

**Pastor David Castner and family in the KP Lutheran churchyard with members of his congregation. Left to right: Timarie Castner, David Castner, Liam Castner, Kay Pinter, Beverly Trent.**

His life took a dramatic turn in 2007 when a car accident left him paralyzed and he spent three and a half months in the hospital. Now in a wheelchair, he wondered what God had planned for him.

"My wife works for State Farm Insurance," Castner said. "She was offered a position in Tacoma. It was my turn to follow her. I was filling in [through] pastor's Pulpit Supply." Then he got the call to come to the Key Peninsula.

"It is probably one of the healthiest churches I've ever been associated with," Castner said. "This place fits me to a tee."

"From the minute we showed up, we felt like family," Timarie Castner said. "It's easy to be nice to nice people."

"We seem to have a different atmosphere now, more joyful," Vezzani said. "He has

wonderful ideas to keep us going in the right direction. He is very special and has empathy for everyone."

Beverly Trent has been a member of the church for at least 30 years. "He is very friendly and outgoing and has such a wonderful smile," she said. "We've had a lot of good pastors, but he's top-notch."

"He really gets down to the meat and potatoes of everything in his sermons," parishioner Annona Henderson said. "His wife and son are really nice. We love him and want to keep him."

"We are living between Tacoma and Puyallup," Castner said. "We like the school system better on the Key Peninsula and would like to move closer to the church, but have not yet found a place within our price range that accommodates my special needs."



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# Scholarships Fund the Future for KP Woman

By Irene Torres, KP News

Cheyenne Anderson, 20, of Vaughn, has set her eye on a goal.

In 2012, she was struggling with school. She was 15 years old. She was being bullied. She was failing science.

Anderson was clinically depressed and "made some bad choices," she said, attempting suicide twice and winding up in the hospital, and then an inpatient rehabilitation program.

After those experiences, her mother, Mary Jo Anderson, transferred her to Henderson Bay High School.

"I honestly didn't think she would graduate," said her sister Cierra, 12.

But Anderson began to apply herself. She said she learned to distance herself from those who were influencing her to make wrong choices. She took on school projects and coordinated events like Family Night, a talent show, Interact Club's garage sale, a car wash, a fundraiser for charity water for Africa, and FISH Food Bank's Christmas party. For her senior project, she selected the topic

of suicide awareness and prevention.

"I got to go and speak at the state capital on behalf of Communities in Schools," Anderson said. "Now I am being offered an internship in grant writing and funding. After I finish the prerequisites and do the internship, I get a full-ride scholarship at the University of Washington."

This scholarship covers not only tuition, but also other basic costs like room, board, books, travel and supplies.

Anderson was recognized for her leadership at the Henderson Bay graduation in 2015 with a standing ovation. With a grade-point average of 3.7 and an impressive senior notebook, she received scholarships from the Principals' Association, the Gig Harbor Kiwanis Club and Peninsula Schools Education Foundation. Her other scholarship awards came from the Gig Harbor Dentists, the Angel Guild and former state Rep. Larry Seaquist for a total of nearly \$6,000 in financial aid. She is applying that funding to her studies at Olympic College in Bremerton, where she carries 12 credits



Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News

**Cheyenne Anderson has been offered a full-ride scholarship to the University of Washington.**

per quarter.

Anderson's goal is to earn a master's

degree in social work, where she can continue her suicide awareness training and become a medical social worker to help patients with mental illness. She wants to take CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) training and become a guardian ad litem. She has applied for a Students in Need Grant (SING) and other scholarships to fund her second year of college.

Mary Jo Anderson said, "I'm very proud of her. She's come a long way. Getting those scholarships was the best thing that could happen to her. Scholarships are very important to these kids, especially out here, because a lot of them come from low-income or one-parent homes. Financial aid only goes so far."

When Anderson went back to high school after treatment, other students, including some she hardly knew, started opening up to her about their own feelings of depression and worse. Her advice to them: "It gets harder as you get older. Right now will be the easiest time of your life. Don't give up on yourself. Talk to someone you trust."



Photo by Marcia Harris

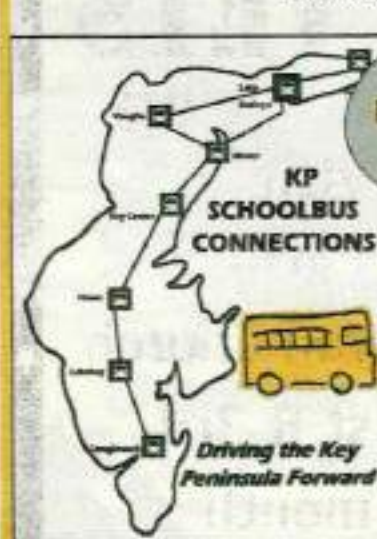
## A Taste of the Past

Evergreen Elementary third-graders got a taste of what school was like in 1900 at the Gig Harbor Historical Museum May 18, thanks to a generous grant from the Gary Milgard Foundation and the KP Partnership Program.

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# Graduation Nears for Homeschool Student

By Alice Kinerk, KP News

Every year, just before Labor Day, 5-year-olds around the country look forward to their first day of school.

But what if that first day comes when you're 17?

Matthew Dean has been a homeschool student on the Key Peninsula all his life. For over a decade, he's been educated in his own house, by his own parents, with just one classmate: his older sister, Marissa.

As a senior this year, Dean is enrolled in the Running Start program at Olympic College in Bremerton. Running Start provides free college courses designed to help high school juniors and seniors transition to college. It's the first time Dean had been educated as part of a traditional class.

Dean's parents, Michael and Sharron Dean, decided to homeschool their children because they were not satisfied with the quality of public education in the area. In addition, as devout Christians, they were eager to incorporate their religious beliefs into the curriculum.

U.S. Department of Education records indicate that, at a national level, the desire to provide religious instruction accounts for more than 75 percent of families' decisions to homeschool their children. Although religious topics comprise a minority of Dean's educational time, there was memorization of Bible verses, as well as "emphasis on religious historical events like the Reformation, and reading biographies of famous evangelists or missionaries," Dean said.

For controversial topics such as evolution, Dean's homeschool curriculum included study of what Christians believe, what biologists have discovered, and the ongoing debate between the two. "I understand the scientific reasoning, logic and evidence," said Dean, "but as a Christian myself, I believe that God created the world."

While Dean and other homeschool students appreciate the opportunity to study topics that are of particular interest to them, a trade-off is the lack of social opportunities.

*"The exposure to what is moral and good is not shunned or illegal."*

— Adria Hanson  
director of Homeschool  
Art Program

Dean's parents worked to counteract this, keeping up with a small cohort of homeschool friends Dean has grown up with. "I've had a group of somewhere between eight to 16 friends that I've stuck with. People have come and gone over time, but I'm definitely part of a steady group of homeschoolers out here," he said.

Adria Hanson is the director of the Homeschool Art Program through Two Waters Arts Alliance of the Key Peninsula, and homeschools her own children.

Hanson said that between church and art groups, there are many opportunities for homeschooled students to socialize. Among her reasons for teaching her children at home "the exposure to what is moral and good is not shunned or illegal," Hanson said. "And there are no bullying problems."

As the homeschool trend has grown, there are more parents who were educated at home themselves. While some choose to homeschool their own children, others decide against it. Greta Stenberg is a Key Peninsula resident who was homeschooled after eighth grade, but now sends her two children to local public schools. "We chose to put our children into public schools because sciences, math and socialization with peers are neglected in homeschooling," she said.

As he enters adulthood, Dean enjoys pursuing activities of interest to him, such as writing for the KP News. "One thing that's common to many homeschoolers is, despite any social awkwardness or disconnection they may have from their peers, they are more comfortable or at ease dealing with adults than your average kid," Dean said.

Roxann Tallman, executive assistant to Peninsula School District's Assistant Superintendent John Hellwich, said that although the district once offered a curriculum for homeschool students, that ended about a decade ago. The district still offers support to homeschool students who are not enrolled in a homeschool curriculum provided by a different school district. "They can come in anytime for ancillary services, such as speech," Tallman said.

Soon Dean's achievement will be honored at a family-organized graduation ceremony at a local church. While there won't be the crowds the public school ceremonies will have, the exhilaration will be there all the same. Like those of graduates everywhere, plans vary. "Some go to college, some to Bible college, some to trade school," Dean said.

"Take a very, very close look at all the pros and cons before you start," said Dean. "Homeschooling can be an amazing opportunity or a horrible waste of time and effort; it all depends on who you are, what your situation is, and your goals for your child's education."

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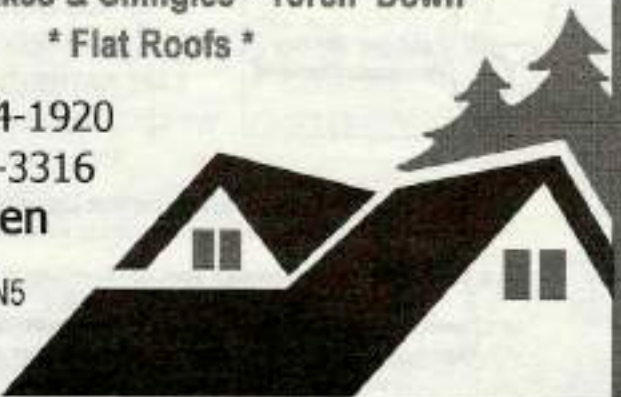
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# Peninsula Proud

By Danna Webster, KP News

On May 18, roughly one-third of seniors graduating from Peninsula High School (PHS) were awarded scholarships from the Peninsula Hawks Scholarship Fund. Once again, this fund distributed almost a quarter of a million dollars to benefit seniors who completed a portfolio application to support their future plans. The scholarship awards can be used for any type of post-secondary education, from vocational training programs to a university degree.

PHS boasts one of the largest high school scholarship programs in the state and provides nearly \$240,000 per year in awards to graduates, according to program managers. Nearly \$60,000 is generated each year through the SAVE Thrift Store, a full-time business that has been operating for over 25 years. The balance of the funding comes from donations by local families, businesses and organizations. At the time of this report, 107 contributions were received from the two peninsulas.

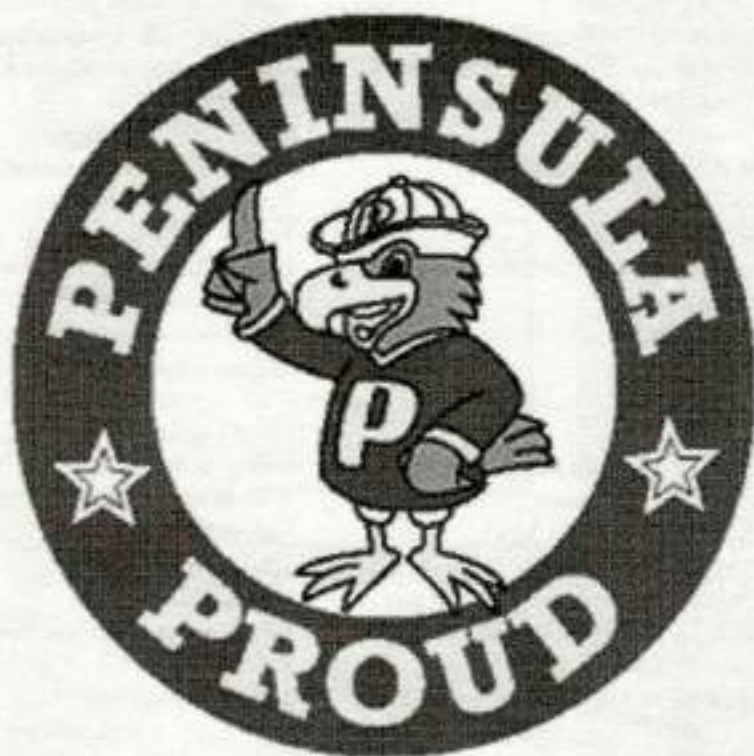
The Peninsula Hawks Scholarship Fund continues to be strongly supported by the Key Peninsula community. Some nonprofits are restricted in how they make donations, as is the case with the

Key Peninsula Historical Society. Society President Judy Mills said, "The museum raises their donations for the scholarship fund by conducting specific fundraiser events, such as dinner nights at El Sombrero restaurant."

Some Key Pen organizations include the scholarship program as a line item in their annual budgets, including the Angel Guild, the Longbranch Improvement Club, Key Peninsula Business Association (KPBA) and the Key Peninsula Lions Club. All of the Key Peninsula Parent Teacher Associations contribute to the scholarships. The Key Singers' contribution comes from member donations, and individual offerings are granted as yearly donations from Ed Johnson, Hugh and Janice McMillan, and Jud Morris, former president of the KPBA.

"Four years ago, KPBA gave a scholarship to a student who lived on the Key Peninsula who was interested in business," Morris said. "She will be graduating next year. She was able to use her scholarship to leverage other scholarships. She has a 4.0 GPA, works, and has been offered a job in accounting upon graduation."

The KPBA knows how important scholarships are, Morris said.





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 Peninsula Schools Education Foundation  
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PHS Boys Baseball  
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## POET SPEAK

### KP poetry corner

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

### The Closet of My Yesterdays

By R.A.M. Dixon

I wander down the hall  
 Reaching a door  
 Open it  
 And enter the closet of my yesterdays

I reach for one  
 Open it

Suddenly I'm looking into your eyes  
 On a summer's day  
 When we were young  
 The first time we met

Inside are boxes stacked on boxes  
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# Out & About

To see more Out & About photos, visit our website at [www.keypennews.com](http://www.keypennews.com) and follow the Photo Gallery link. See more of your neighbors out and about, Key Peninsula scenes and happenings.

Lakebay teen and home school student Rebekah Baldwin scored a perfect 10 at the state Allstar competition May 15 representing NASA Gymnastics in Gig Harbor. Baldwin now turns her attention to an invitational meet in Costa Rica and the next level of domestic competition in the fall.



Photo by Caleb Baldwin



Photo courtesy of Kathy Lyons

The Bayshore Garden Club on the Key Peninsula will be hanging flower baskets and installing flowerpots in Key Center again this year on June 1. From left to right are Wendy Walker, Kathy Lyons and Tedi Spiering. They want to add more flowerpots, two benches and welcome banners. For information on how to donate or volunteer, go to the club's Facebook page.

The Longbranch Improvement Club held the largest garage sale for miles around Saturday, April 23.



Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News

## Where in the World...



Ken Wassum of Vaughn poses with an issue of KP News while on an April work trip to Istanbul, Turkey. The Sultan Ahmed Mosque, also known as the Blue Mosque sits in the background.

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KP comedian Kamryn Minch performs at a night of comedy to support Alzheimer's research at the Eagles Club in Gig Harbor April 23.

Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News