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Savana Oberts recovering from transplant surgery in September. *Courtesy UW Medical Center*

Savana Oberts, Pioneer

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

Savana Oberts, 26, of Lakebay, is a pioneer. She didn't set out to be one, but in August she became the first adult in the Pacific Northwest to receive a liver/pancreas/small intestine transplant.

Her mother, Cathy Oberts, shared her story with the KP News.

Five years ago, when Savana was a junior at Western Washington State University, an undetected birth defect caused a sudden, painful kink in her small intestine, cutting off its blood supply. The intestine had to be removed and although the surgery saved her life, Savana could no longer absorb any nutrition by eating. She had to depend on nutrient and calorie-rich fluid delivered directly into her blood stream.

That technology kept Savana alive but tethered to an IV—a situation fraught with medical complications. The intravenous nutrition led to liver damage. Her only long-term chance for survival was a liver and

small intestine transplant.

In August, Savana was in the University of Washington Medical Center being treated for an infection of her IV line. Her transplant doctor, Jorge Reyes, was visiting her when he received a call. As he stepped out of the room, she heard him say, "Hold on, I'm in the patient's room." He returned soon after and said she needed "a tune-up and to get healthy fast."

Savana's medical team had her undergo preoperative testing, confirmed her fluid balance was good and performed the critical tests to determine whether the donor organ transplant, unless it is from an identical twin, it will not be exactly like his or her own. The immune system recognizes those differences and can attack the new organs, causing rejection. There are medications to prevent rejection, but the tissue match must still be close enough to let the drugs do an adequate job.

CONTINUED PAGE 2

Senior Housing Coming to Key Center

TED OLINGER, KP NEWS

The Mustard Seed Project plans to build assisted living homes for elderly residents on 5 acres of undeveloped property in Key Center and create a gathering place for the community at large in the former Roadhouse restaurant building directly across the street at 9016 154th Ave.

Edie Morgan, founder and executive director of TMSM, signed off on a \$725,000 loan to buy the two properties Aug. 30.

It will be the first senior housing project ever built on the Key Peninsula.

"We will be licensed for assisted living," said Morgan. Each house will have 10 private bedrooms built around common areas that include a kitchen, dining room and living room. "It won't be a situation where people stay in their room all the time, but if you don't want to face the world first thing in the morning, you can make your own cup of coffee in your room. In a way, it reinforces the individual's preferences," Morgan said.

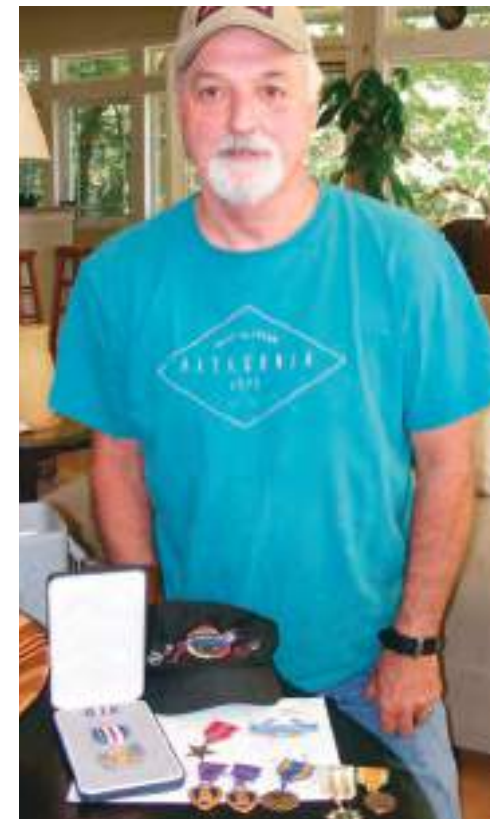
The former Roadhouse restaurant will become the new office for TMSM and a community-gathering place, Morgan said. "We'll continue to offer all of the services we do now. I think the community has been waiting for something to happen here. It's a great space for our work and it's kind of unbelievable that we're here now."

"It feels like the biggest thing to hit the Key Peninsula since the grocery store complex was expanded, and I think it will be transformational for our community," said Sara Thompson, TMSM board president.

Morgan said she hopes to have the offices open by the holidays and is already looking for programs to use the new space.

"We're talking to a variety of potential partners to provide programs here; various kinds of fitness programs for older adults, arts and music activities," she said. "The

CONTINUED PAGE 4



Edward Dvorak with medals for his service in Vietnam. *Photo: Ted Olinger, KP News*

Lakebay Man Awarded Silver Star 47 Years Later

TED OLINGER, KP NEWS

Former U.S. Army Sgt. Edward Dvorak, 68, of Lakebay, was awarded the Silver Star by Undersecretary of the Army Patrick Murphy during a ceremony at the Tacoma Narrows Bridge VFW Aug. 24.

The Silver Star is the third-highest decoration that can be given to a member of the U.S. military. Dvorak received it for valor in the face of a superior enemy force in Vietnam 47 years earlier.

Dvorak's former colleague, Col. Myron Anderson, recommended Dvorak for a medal after the two began looking in 2004 for what military honors might be available to other soldiers they served with during the war.

Anderson learned that Dvorak had a more eventful career in Vietnam than he'd let on, though he never received official recognition

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SAVANA FROM PAGE 1

The tissue match was good. As Dr. Reyes went to Harborview Medical Center to harvest the organs, Savana was taken to the operating room at UW to be prepped and wait for the next news: Would the donated organs be viable?

Dr. Reyes removed the liver, pancreas and small intestine from the donor. They were healthy. Although Savana did not need a pancreas, the three organs are so closely interconnected with blood supply and drainage systems they came as a unit. Savana's damaged organs were removed and replaced with the donor's organs after a four-hour surgery.

Just two days elapsed between Dr. Reyes receiving the call and Savana receiving her new organs.

But Savana's story is still just beginning. There have been some bumps in the road to recovery: there was a bout with pneumonia; her new pancreas became inflamed; her stomach took a month to start working normally again. But overall she has done well. Her family expects her to be released from the hospital by the time this article goes to press.

Savana will be followed closely for signs of rejection and side effects from the new medi-

cations. She will live in housing provided for transplant patients for the next few months so that she is close to the hospital. She'll require drugs to prevent organ rejection for the rest of her life. Once she has recovered, she will be free of intravenous lines.

The family is acutely aware that Savana's transplant was possible only because another person lost a life. To protect the donor family's privacy, they have been told nothing. In four months, Savana will be allowed to write to the family while sharing little of her own story. The family can then contact Savana when and if they wish to do so.

Before her transplant, Savana was taking online classes, working toward a teaching certificate. Now she is focusing on one hour and then one day at a time.

Her mother, Cathy, expressed deep gratitude to the Key Peninsula community. Multiple local fundraisers have provided help both with Savana's uncovered medical expenses and assistance as her family stayed with her in Seattle. "We would like to thank the community for the generosity and support during this time. It means the world to us," she said.

For more information or to donate to Savana's recovery, go to helpholive.org/campaign/2802.

SILVER STAR FROM PAGE 1

for his actions on Nov. 30, 1968. Wounded after a superior force pinned down his patrol, Dvorak, then 19, took over a heavy machine gun from the injured gunner and defended his troops until they were rescued.

Anderson submitted a request for the Bronze Star to the Defense Department with assistance from U.S. Rep. Derek Kilmer. After reviewing his history, the department chose to award Dvorak the Silver Star.

"It was really a nice honor, but you don't want to live in the past," Dvorak said in an interview a few weeks after the ceremony. "And this is what happens. I just keep them in a box." He displayed a small wooden chest full of military decorations, including a Bronze Star with a V for valor, various campaign ribbons, paratrooper and combat infantryman badges and two Purple Hearts. "I was actually wounded five times, but I only got two Purple Hearts because the other times were friendly fire," he said.

After leaving the service in 1969, Dvorak made his way to California and worked as an L.A. County sheriff for 30 years. He and his wife, Patricia, built a house in Lakebay in 1992. Dvorak first visited the region when he was training at Fort Lewis in 1966. "I always liked the area," he said.

**In His Own Words:
Edward Dvorak**

FROM THE KEY PENINSULA NEWS INTERVIEW

I was in the National Guard in '65 when I was still in high school. My parents signed for me. It was a little town called Winter in South Dakota. I graduated in '66. In December, I came out here to Fort Lewis to do basic training. I'm 18 years old, my parents didn't have a lot of money, and I wanted to go to college, so I thought, "Hey, I'll get the G.I. Bill." So the Guard allowed me to enlist on May 1 in '67 and on July 23 I landed in Cam Ranh Bay in Vietnam.

I started in the 173rd Airborne in the Central Highlands. I only had basic training on an M-14 and by the stroke of a pen now I become an infantryman and they give me an M-16. I'd never fired one. Five days later, I'm in the bush walking point. The only thing that saved me was, back in South Dakota, I'd been hunting since I was 14 years old so I knew how to move.

By November of '68, I'd worked my way up. I'd volunteered for an LRP company, a six-man team, on long-range patrol. I made sergeant the first year I was there. The second year, I became a bullet magnet.

It was a real hot area, up in a big LZ (helicopter landing zone), which we didn't like because by that time of the war we knew they were being

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EXECUTIVE EDITOR: Ted Olinger

COMMUNITY PAGES EDITOR: Connie Renz

CONTRIBUTORS: Lisa Bryan, Matthew Dean, Ed Johnson, Alice Kinerk, Karen Lovett, Colleen Slater, Sara Thompson, Rodika Tollefson, Irene Torres, Danna Webster, Carolyn Wiley

GUEST COLUMNISTS: Sue Kingsbury-Surratt, Jeff Minch, Frank Slater, Rob Vajko, Caolyn Wiley

AD SALES: Brett Higgins, Wendy Kleven

BOOKKEEPER: Heather Christman

PRODUCTION DESIGN: Tim Heitzman

WEB MASTER: Brett Higgins

DISTRIBUTION: Vic and Connie Renz,

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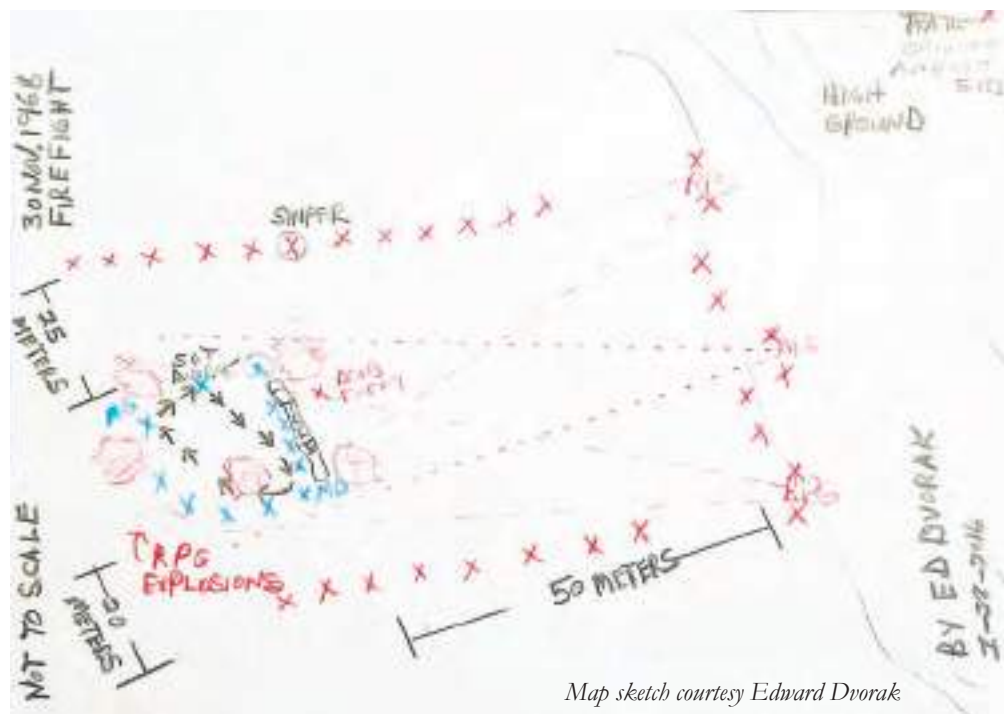
253-884-4699 Fax 253-884-4053

news@keypennews.com

17010 S. Vaughn Rd, P.O. Box 3,

Vaughn, WA 98394

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Map sketch courtesy Edward Dvorak

watched. But we were trying to get into this area where nobody'd been for a year. So we get a clean insertion—a heavy team, with 12 guys—all the ships leave, and we move about 200 yards and right into the middle of an abandoned base camp. That raised the hair on the back of my neck, because that told me there was some serious activity going on. We set up an ambush on a trail and within an hour this armed guy comes down the trail like he owns it and we hit him, search him, strip him and leave him.

This is about getting inside the enemy's head. The standard operating procedure was to make contact, then call the lift ships and get dropped in a new LZ because we're compromised. I asked to be picked up and dropped into the secondary LZ, to put some space between us and the body. For whatever reason, they come back with "CM." Continue mission.

This was particularly hairy because we're out 60 miles. We had no artillery support. It was already late in the afternoon, so we moved back in a different direction and found a really good place to set up. It had a huge tree that had fallen over and we set up behind that, in an arc. That night, we could hear an ox cart up on the trail, so we knew they had picked up the body. This is not good, because they know that we're somewhere in the area. After that, we heard one little bump, like a canteen striking something metallic, but that was it.

Normally, you would move after sunrise, but I told the team, "We're not moving today, we're sitting it out." So it became a waiting game. About eight o'clock, the enemy got bored and sent two guys in.

I hear 'em coming and I don't want to move because I'm afraid they'll see me. My assistant team leader, Sgt. Boldt, is sleeping down in the rootball hole, holding his rifle across his chest. I see him open his eyes. He rolls over and just

starts shooting, and all hell broke loose.

During the night, they had moved in heavy machine guns and two RPG (rocket propelled grenade) launchers on a hill south of us, and they had actually dug in 30 or 35 fighting positions around us and we never heard a sound, which tells me they were NVA (North Vietnamese Army) not VC (Viet Cong guerillas). They were very well disciplined, excellent jungle fighters.

We got seven or eight RPG rounds so fast, I thought they had crawled in and were throwing hand grenades. There's so much going on in a firefight, you can't really tell. That first round got me, Boldt and one other guy, and then we had successive rounds and one of them hit a tree or something and we got an air burst, and that's what got the other four guys. Seven out of the 12 of us were wounded.

My machine-gunner got hit really bad. It blew up right over him. I could see he wasn't firing his gun, and I crawled over there. It looked like pizza on his back. I took the gun and crawled back, and then it was just basically a shootout for 30 minutes.

They started to break contact when the gunships showed up, but they left a squad behind to make sure we didn't follow them. Every time Boldt fired his grenade launcher, they had a sniper that would take a shot at him. I told Boldt, "Fire in their direction and as soon as that guy fires at you, I'll get him." So I hammered him with the M-60: 20, 30 rounds. He never fired after that. He either got hit or he got smart.

I had shrapnel in the shoulder and the chest. They left some in after surgery.

I was there till July of '69. I was really close to re-enlisting, to go to Special Forces, but I already had two Purple Hearts. So, I thought, maybe I should just call it good and leave while I'm still alive. I was almost 21.

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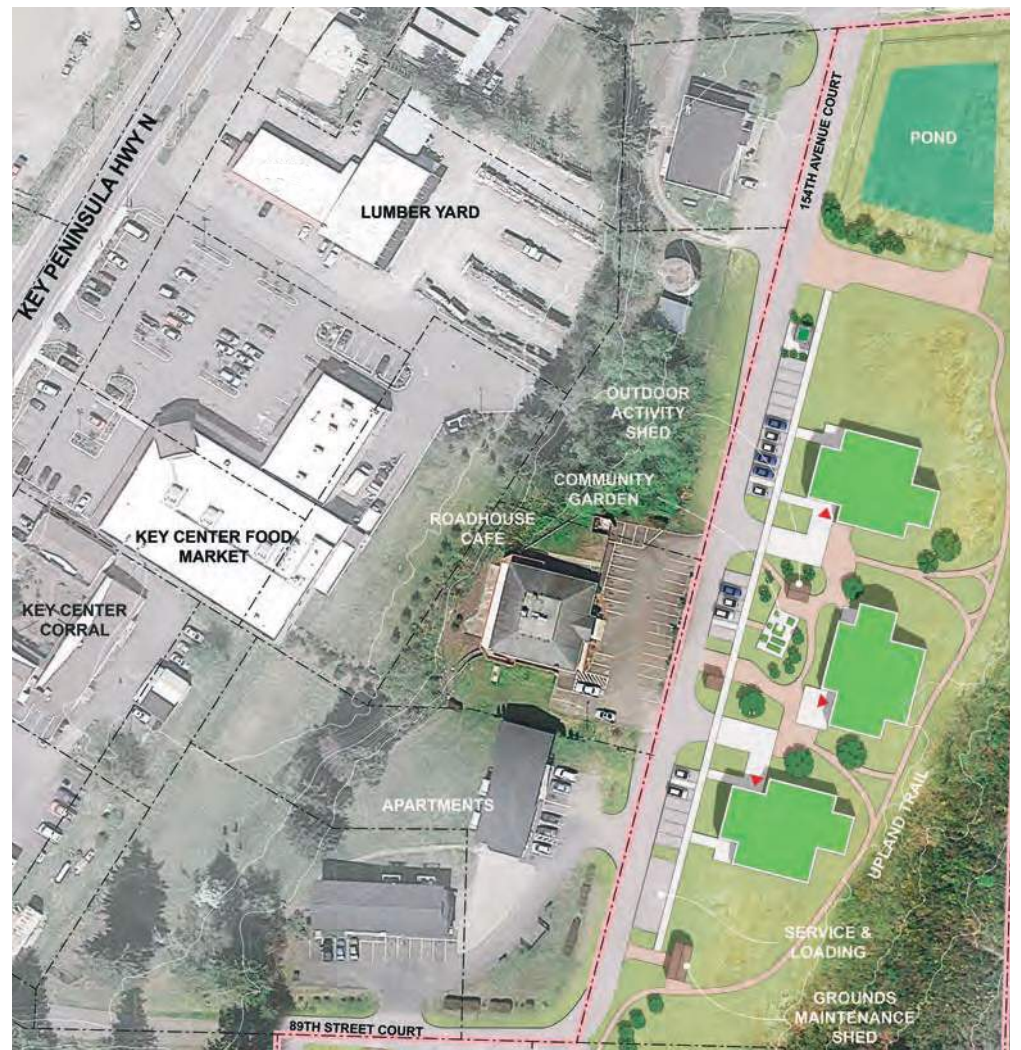
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Peninsula Light Co.
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Architect's initial plan of siting for the new housing. *Courtesy The Mustard Seed Project*

MUSTARD SEED FROM PAGE 1

Tacoma Children's Museum is very interested in what we might do together. We don't know what that might look like yet, but it's well known that bringing small children and youth together with older adults is a very positive thing for everyone involved."

There will also be a café open to the public. "The whole idea has always been to have this become part of the greater community and to invite the community to be engaged with the older folks living here," Morgan said.

The entire project should cost \$7.5 million. "We have a \$2.5 million capital campaign ahead of us," Morgan said. "We hope to break ground in two years and open in three."

Once it's opened, the project will provide 25 health care jobs, Morgan said. "It's conceivable that in the coming years we employ up to 40 people," including RNs, caregivers, café and office staff. "It's a big deal economically for the Key Peninsula," she said.

The assisted living homes will house 10 residents plus caregiver staff. Morgan said the financial plan anticipates keeping fees "slightly below" the market rate in Gig Harbor, which she estimated at \$3,100 per month. As a resident's needs for care increase, so will the cost.

"We can accommodate 30 percent Medicaid

residents; that's built into our financial planning," Morgan said. "It will be a goal of the organization to do fundraising that can subsidize folks. Most assisted living places don't accept Medicaid, but it's important to us.

"It's a home for life model and our goal has always—always—been that once a person moves in that they can stay. Their needs may increase, their funds may decrease, and we want to do everything we can to help them stay in this community," she said.

"It's been 10 years and a lot of work—a lot of work—but it feels incredible," she said.

For more information, call Edie Morgan at The Mustard Seed Project: 884-1205.



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CenturyLink Customers Report Internet Slow Speeds

ALICE KINERK, KP NEWS

CenturyLink internet customers on much of the Key Peninsula are complaining about slow service.

Don Lind is a Lakebay resident who uses his computer to work from home. "We're subscribed to 1.5 mbps [megabits per second] service, the best that CenturyLink offers in our area. Sometimes we get that speed. Often we get 0.6 or 0.8 mbps," Lind said.

Jeff Harris is a former member of the community council who has lived on the Key Peninsula since 1995. "The speed of the DSL service at times borders on the nonexistent," he said.

Timothy Kezele is a lifelong Key Peninsula resident and a former council member. "It seems like every Sunday, service drops. Sunday afternoon my wife will be watching a movie on her iPad, and it just quits," Kezele said.

Receiving customer assistance from CenturyLink is also reportedly problematic.

"I don't bother to call CenturyLink anymore. There's generally not much they can do," Lind said.

During his time on the Key Peninsula Community Council, Kezele requested a CenturyLink representative to hear citizen concerns at a council meeting. No rep was sent.

Residents' frustrations are frequently vented on the Key Peninsula Facebook page. There are 11 posts related to CenturyLink complaints dated between June 1 and Aug. 31, 2016. A Facebook page with the title "CenturyLink on the Key Peninsula is Cheating You," created in 2015, has over 100 subscribers.

Rate hikes are another sore spot with customers. Kezele signed up with CenturyLink after seeing an ad promising \$19.95 a month for internet. In the fine print, the price required internet bundled with phone service. Kezele didn't want phone service but agreed to bundle anyway. He now pays CenturyLink \$86 a month. "Everyone's tired of what it costs and what you get," he said.

CenturyLink states that it is aware of the problem and working to fix it.

Kerry Zimmer, CenturyLink's marketing and public relations manager, wrote in an email: "CenturyLink is committed to quality customer service. We are focused on improving and expanding broadband availability whenever possible. We have researched broadband activity in the Key Peninsula area and are in the process of

upgrading equipment. The new equipment will provide congestion relief. We encourage our customers to contact us, using the number on their bills, should they have any questions. We apologize to our customers for the inconvenience."

In some areas of the Key Peninsula, dissatisfied CenturyLink customers can switch to its competitor, Wave Broadband. But Wave is not available everywhere. Attempts to contact a Wave representative for this article were unsuccessful.

According to Jonathan White, Peninsula Light Co.'s director of marketing and member services, internet service providers probably viewed the Key Peninsula as rural years ago when they were first building their infrastructure. The population has since grown and the service providers need to catch up. "I know it's a frustration for a lot of folks. I think it's going to get better over time," White said, adding that there is also slow internet service in rural parts of Gig Harbor.

Key Peninsula resident Robyn Enders had been another frustrated CenturyLink customer but, unlike others, found her service issues were quickly resolved with a single phone call. "The tech came the very next day. After checking the lines, he excitedly came back to show me the corroded connectors and said all the wires were old and wired crazily back and forth up the street, to and from various neighbors. He replaced the connectors and rewired things, making the connection go directly to my house. My wireless connection works perfectly now. I would encourage people to give them a call and try to see if they can fix the problem," she said.

Complaints are likely to continue until major improvements are made. "Reliable internet service in 2016 is not a fringe benefit, it is a necessity," Harris said.

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KP Bischoff Food Bank: Offers food bank services to families and individuals. Open Tues., Thurs., Fri. 2:00 to 6:00, Wed. 2:00 to 8:00, Sat. 2:00 to 5:00 (253) 884-1997

Food Backpacks 4 Kids: Offers supplemental food to school age children and their families. (253) 857-7401
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FISH Food Banks of Pierce County: Offers a mobile food bank on Friday afternoons. 1:00 to 3:00 at Cost Less Pharmacy, 4:30 to 6:30 at Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

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Rob Vajko

KEY THOUGHTS



It's About Keeping, Not Making

Presidential candidates make many promises. They promise to make America great again; they promise free health care or a free college education. They promise increased vigilance and safety; they promise more jobs and better pay. They make promises to get elected, and one of them will make enough promises in such a way that they will begin to sound maybe a little more believable than their opponent, and that candidate will become the next president of the United States of America.

But in the midst of all these promises, something gets lost. Donald Trump won't make America great again. Hillary Clinton won't make your neighborhood safer. Only you and I can do that.

What's getting lost is the fact that your life and my life aren't regulated and affected by government policies nearly as much as we seem to think, especially in these election years. Your life and my life are affected by the way we think and the way we act.

Whoever wins this election isn't going to come visit you if you end up in the hospital. He or she isn't going to bring you a meal when you are too sick to cook for yourself. He or she isn't going to be there to throw you a birthday party or celebrate the birth of your new baby. The people who will be there to do those things are your family, your friends and your neighbors.

One of the qualities that make the Key Peninsula a great place to live is the sense of community, the sense of caring and the sense of belonging. It's a place where people help each other. The KP is a place where you can get to know the name of the server in that restaurant you like. It's the kind of place where a neighbor will shovel your driveway if you're unable to do so when a snowstorm hits. It's the kind of place where people get together to clean up the trash on the sides of the roads, to organize art walks and dances. It's a place where you can attend a wine tasting or a book reading and get to know your neighbors a bit better; a place that has a garden club that raises money each year for the children's hospital in Tacoma.

These are just a few of the events and organizations that I have been involved with the six years my wife and I have lived out here. I know that there are many others.

No set of changes on a bureaucratic level can make America great. Only you and I can do that by the way we treat each other, by the way we speak about each other, the way we greet each other, the way we smile and take time to share a glass of wine, a beer or an iced tea. No political candidate will make America great again because it already is, no matter what haters try to tell you. If it's going to stay great, it will be because you and I made the choice to keep it that way.

Rob Vajko lives in Purdy.

Frank Slater

A VIEW FROM HERE



First Principles

Our Declaration of Independence states: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."

The signers of the Declaration pledged their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor to create it.

These men invoked God as the basis on which our government is founded to provide liberty and justice for the people of our nation. The First Amendment of our Constitution says, in part: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

That denies government the power to establish a national religion or to infringe on the right of the people to worship in whatever manner they choose, or to not worship at all.

The Ninth Amendment states: "The enumeration in the Constitution of certain rights shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people."

The 10th Amendment states: "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the

states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people."

The Pilgrims, a group of English religious separatists in search of religious freedom, established a colony at Plymouth in 1620. The Puritans, a branch of the Church of England that desired religious freedom, established settlements at Salem in 1628 and in Boston in 1630. They had a charter from King Charles I to settle and govern the territory between the Charles and Merrimack rivers. Only church members could vote.

They were essentially self-governed until 1660.

Tensions between the colony and England resulted in the annulment of the charter in 1684.

King James II established the Dominion of New England in 1686 to put the colonies under firmer control. The dominion collapsed after King James was deposed in 1688 and the colony reverted to its original charter.

William and Mary, co-regents of England, issued a new charter in 1691, unifying Massachusetts Bay with Plymouth and including parts of New York and New Jersey, all of Maine, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia under a royal governor. The new charter took away many of the rights of self-government. It provided religious freedom, ended religious restrictions on voting and reserved all fishing rights to British interests only.

These experiences, among others—self-government, religious freedom, the limitation of the right to vote to members of the Church of England, loss of fishing rights—led our Founding Fathers to form a government that protects the rights of each individual, a nation in which all are equal in the eyes of the law, and a Constitution that provides checks and balances to prevent undue accumulations of power.

George Washington said in his farewell address, on Sept. 19, 1798, "Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism, who would labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness, these firmest props of the duties of man and citizens."

If we can elect people who support these principles with their words and actions to represent us in our government, we will have made a good start to restoring and supporting the nation the Founding Fathers pledged their lives, fortunes and sacred honor to create.

Frank Slater is a Korean War veteran and retired math teacher who lives in Vaughn.

Carolyn Wiley

DEVIL'S HEAD DIARY



15 Years Later

Party-time banter was just that; party-time banter.

It was more than a decade after 9/11, and more years have gone by since, but impressions of that night persist. Memories of barbs exchanged still bring a certain type of sorrow, because many of those words reflected the bitterness of the expanding gulf between political parties across our nation.

Throughout the evening, neighbor-to-neighbor exchanges were tinged with disparagement of one another's political views—all in jest, of course.

Confronted by one of the more vociferous attendees—one known for daily "send-all" opinion pieces that I had long ago tagged as "junk"—I, too, resorted to standard bumper-sticker comebacks. Those glib retorts now echo in my mind with embarrassment.

Was I too unprepared to explain the whys and how's that formed my own convictions, or too closed minded to ask about his? Was it "good manners" that made me reluctant to become involved in direct engagement at a social gathering, or was I simply too cowardly? In retrospect, I wonder if I had asked for an opinion that went beyond the superficial spin, whether we could have found common ground.

Sept. 11 is a significant date in the history of the United States of America. Following the tragedy, there was a brief time of national cohesion, possibly the greatest in my lifetime. George W. Bush did an exemplary job of holding the nation together in the aftermath. A decade later, however, any comforting feelings of unity had been replaced with sound bites and spin, as seen in the social microcosm of that evening.

Recalling the visual memories of 9/11, I am struck by the parallel collapse of national unity in the fires of partisanship. Theoretically, partisanship is healthy. What is unhealthy is the reduction of political thought to slogans designed to demean any opposing viewpoint. Caught up in the eddying currents of spin politics, the exchange of ideas and the interest in working for the common good sinks out of sight.

Could it be that the intensity of the trauma of 9/11 has left us mute as well as deaf?(PAGE 7)

(PAGE 6) Are we, as a nation, still too emotionally scarred to reveal our personal thoughts and to be willing to listen to another's beliefs? How much easier—and safer—it is to avoid discussion when we can allow the important content of political thought to be reduced to the latest talking points developed by think tank advertisers. But isn't it a cop-out to simply adopt the latest broad-brush condemnation of "the other side" and turn deaf ears to all divergent views? To see enemies everywhere?

For myself, I am tired of the mindset that allows me to reduce my strongest beliefs about my civil responsibilities to "gotcha" quips. Obviously, party-time banter will not be replaced by serious dialogue, nor should it. However, it's time I applied the Thumper Theory to my party manners. "If you can't say something nice (or at least intelligent), don't say anything at all."

Carolyn Wiley lives in Longbranch.

Jeff Minch
THE KP CANNABIST



Rubbing It In

As summer comes to an end, so does my training routine. Since the beginning of May, I have been training for a 50K trail race coming up in October at Point Defiance. This journey has not only been a process of pushing myself to new limits, but also to new levels of self-awareness. A large portion of this self-awareness has manifested in this 47-year-old body in the form of "Oh my God, I hurt." Time to get out the Advil and rub in the Tiger Balm and prepare to smell like a medicine cabinet, right?

Maybe not.

I had to learn the benefits of proper recovery so I could get back out there and run 20 miles one day and follow up the next with another 16. This required me to develop not only good physical and dietary practices, but healthy muscle recovery as well. As my body changed during my training, the Advil and heat rubs just weren't cutting it and I didn't like using them.

Enter cannabis.

Back in April, I became a regular cannabis user by introducing a cannabis topical rub to my sore legs and feet. Not knowing what to look for, I took a trip to a cannabis shop in Tacoma and explained my needs to the consultant. He recommended a specific salve. I followed the directions and applied

it generously to my legs before I went to bed. Then I waited. I didn't get high. My legs didn't go numb. I really didn't feel much of anything. Then I fell asleep.

The next morning I awoke to a change. My legs were relaxed and the soreness had subsided. I got out of bed and the usual stiffness I normally experienced was greatly reduced.

I continued using the cannabis rub after my long runs and was getting great results. As I built up my strength, my post-run aches and pains receded, resulting in less use of the cannabis rub. Nonetheless, it still plays a big part in my post-run routine after longer runs.

I was recently looking for something to help relieve some tendon issues and other specific sore spots, so I went back to the Tacoma store and asked for something to target them. I was introduced to a different lotion that has aided me in treating areas of soreness around the Achilles tendon and the balls of my feet. Again, I didn't feel the effects immediately, but after a good night of rest, getting out of bed wasn't a process of working out the kinks and hobbling to the shower to get the day started. My legs and feet felt great.

The cannabis products allowed my body to relax and let my muscles recover on their own.

Keep in mind that we are all different and though this has worked for me, it may not work for others. Both of these products contain THC and are only legal for people over the age of 21 to purchase, possess and use.

For many years, my views and opinions on cannabis were influenced by misinformation. I finally decided to do my own research and find what works best for me. My research also led me to get involved in The Cannabis Alliance (www.thecannabis-alliance.us) and take an active role in this changing industry. This is a growing organization for businesses and individuals to get out and be active in shaping our growing cannabis industry responsibly.

I invite you to look into this issue for yourself.

Jeff Minch lives near Minter Creek.

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CIVIC CENTER

CORNER

Flavors of the World A Culinary Treat, Oct. 8

Marcia Newlands, local chef, is excited to create the menu and run the kitchen for **Flavors of Fall, the biennial benefit for Key Peninsula Civic Center Oct. 8.** This year's theme is "Flavors of the World," where Marcia's international culinary talents will shine.

Marcia started cooking early, growing up with three hungry brothers. After college, she was chef for a family in Paris before returning to Austin where she was a sous chef with a brief stint at Texas French Bread, Austin's first artisanal bakery.

After years of world travel where she studied local cuisines and ingredients, Marcia opened The Savory Gourmet, a Seattle caterer. After five years with the Peace Corps in Morocco, she's now a chef with Simply Bainbridge, the island's premier catering company. Locally, Marcia and her family have summered on Pitt Passage for decades and she frequently attends Blend wine tastings in Key Center.

Guests at Flavors of Fall will sample her inspirations from Spain, France, Italy and Asia, including Adriatic Shrimp, gazpacho, savory tartlets, Thai Chicken with peanut sauce and Pumpkin Tarts. Taylor Shellfish Company will represent the Pacific Northwest, returning with their popular Oyster Bar.

Don't miss this exciting culinary and auction event for the Key Peninsula Civic Center. For tickets, call the Key Peninsula Civic Center at 253-884-3456 or Sunnycrest Nursery 253-884-3937. **Flavors of Fall is typically sold-out early, so call now if you don't already have tickets.**

Upcoming Events at the Civic Center

Flavors of Fall Saturday, October 8

Blues & Brews Saturday, October 29

Winter Warm-up Saturday, November 12



Sue Kingsbury-Surratt
INSIGHTS OF AN ISLANDER



When the Ships Are Down

Fall is in the air. It's a time to slow down, recharge and reset our batteries. The same is true for Herron Island's M/V Charlie Wells. The private ferry requires a dry-dock respite every couple of years and will soon head north to Tacoma or Seattle to be pulled from the water for three weeks of maintenance before returning to duty on Case Inlet.

As summer comes to a close, visitors and vacationers pack up and head back to their mainland homes to resume their regular lives. Islanders revel in the return of solace and tranquility. Many full-time residents also experience these same feelings during dry-dock. To some, it's a hardship, but to others it's the staycation of comforting seclusion they've been waiting for.

Herron Island meant so much to me in my youth that, as an adult, I chose to uproot my husband from Texas and raise our family in this unique setting.

One of my most memorable dry-docks was the fall of 1994. Instead of the regular three weeks without our ferry, it was three months while the docks were rebuilt on both the island and mainland. These were also the last three months of my pregnancy with twins. Instead of being on bed rest for a high-risk pregnancy, I was commuting by foot ferry to attend doctor appointments and haul provisions home.

During these three months, spanning fall into winter, weather wasn't always cooperative. Islanders who chose to commute were often pelted with rain on the open-decked pontoon boat we used as a foot ferry. The boat was called the Mo-Time because it took so much more time to cross the channel, especially when waves threw it into the air. Kind mainland neighbors greeted morning commuters with thermoses of coffee or hot cocoa.

Near the end of this dry-dock in 1994, a windstorm broke the Mo-Time's mooring line and waves battered the boat against shoreline pilings, putting an end to its career.

It was also the day I was to give birth.

My husband and I arrived at the beach, joining a group of anxious and upset islanders who had just learned about losing the Mo-Time. They were concerned about being late to work or appointments. My husband graciously stepped up and shuttled

everyone across the channel in our own skiff. Thankfully, I wasn't in labor but had a C-section scheduled for later that day. I wobbled down to the water's edge and into the boat, and we headed to our rendezvous at Tacoma General to meet our new female duo. The girls enjoyed a similar journey back to their new island home.

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

Tax Advisory Votes on Your Ballot

STAFF REPORT

Two advisory votes will appear on the statewide general election ballot this fall allowing Washingtonians to express their support or opposition to revenue measures approved earlier this year by the Legislature.

Advisory Vote No. 14 addresses House Bill 2768, which extended the insurance premium tax to some insurance for stand-alone family dental plans.

Advisory Vote No. 15 addresses Second Engrossed Substitute House Bill 2778, which imposed certain limitations on the retail sales and use of tax exemptions for alternative-fuel vehicles.

These nonbinding measures ask voters whether they think the Legislature should maintain or repeal revenue-generating bills that lawmakers passed earlier this year to help balance the supplemental operating budget. The Legislature is not obligated to act on the results of the advisory votes.

The advisory votes are required by a provision of Initiative 960, approved in 2007. That initiative also required a two-thirds vote in both chambers of the Legislature to raise taxes, but the state Supreme Court later ruled that provision unconstitutional.

Rerouting State Route 302

While attending the Key Peninsula Business Association meetings, Port Orchard Councilwoman Bek Ashby has asked multiple times for someone to represent the Key Peninsula at the Westsound Alliance Group meetings to discuss state highway projects in our region. The Westsound Alliance includes representatives from Pierce, Kitsap and Mason counties, and the cities of Bremerton, Bainbridge Island, Poulsbo, Kingston, Port Orchard and Gig Harbor. Their purpose is to collaborate to achieve funding for local projects.

I have attended the last two meetings to voice concerns about SR-302. Most of you know SR-302 has been subject to study after study to determine where to relocate it to better connect SR-16 with SR-3 in Mason County. I have my opinions about this critical issue, but I am seeking your input in an effort to represent the desires of the community, not just the fire chief.

Moving SR-302 into Kitsap County will do nothing to improve the daily traffic issues along the Purdy Spit. If you have an opinion, please share it with me or your KP Community Council members.

*Guy R. Allen
KPFDFire Chief*

In Support of Randy Spitzer

Finally, a candidate for the rest of us!

As a voter, I'm looking for someone who supports small business and public education. Our current representative, Michelle Caldier (R-26th), has shown no interest in improving the funding situation in our public schools while also supporting our current tax structure that overtaxes seniors and the middle class.

Randy Spitzer is one of us. He understands finance and the economic needs of the area because he has lived and worked here for over 40 years. Randy taught music in the public schools for nine years and has been a small-business owner. He served the community for several years as a member of the Rotary Club and the Chamber of Commerce in Gig Harbor.

Please support Randy Spitzer with your vote. Randy is the candidate for the 26th District who will protect our economic interests while supporting Washington's public education system and our children's futures.

*Carol Haines
Port Orchard*

In Support of Dammeier

The state Legislature has authorized \$4.65 billion (yes, that's billion), including \$1.6 billion from the latest gas tax increase, for the SR-520 bridge replacement project across Lake Washington. They proudly stated that they are expecting to generate \$1.2 billion in toll revenue to help pay the final project cost.

That \$1.2 billion is only 26.32 percent of the cost. The toll payers using the Tacoma Narrows Bridge have been strapped with 100 percent cost payback through tolls by the worst bond package ever sold by the state. How much of the recent gas tax increase (that we also have to pay) was dedicated to the Tacoma Narrows Bridge? Zero.

We were promised the gas tax increase was going to finally pay for completing the SR-167 connector to the Port of Tacoma. But it was a bait-and-switch from the DOT. They just announced it is actually going to be one of their new toll road projects.

State Sen. Bruce Dammeier (R-25th) from Puyallup is one of the few people in Olympia that understands the impact tolls have on our economy and the hard-working people of Pierce County—that's why I'm supporting Bruce as our next Pierce County executive. He has the plan and the experience to use the bully pulpit as our county executive to work with Olympia to bring some meaningful relief to toll payers in Pierce County.

*Randy Boss
Gig Harbor*

Letters to the Editor 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.

Key Peninsula Civic Center 

Oct 29 DOORS OPEN **6:30** MUSIC FROM **7:30 to 11**



Blues & Brews Fest

KPCC BENEFIT



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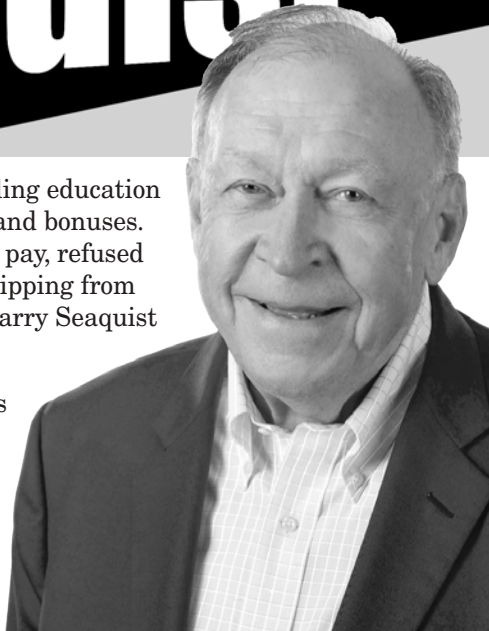
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Advance tickets on sale in September
at Sunnycrest Nursery; Blend Wine Shop; KP Civic Center

Key Peninsula Civic Center, 17010 S. Vaughn Road 253/884-3456 www.kpciviccenter.org 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) nonprofit organization

Larry Seaquist

Education Leader



Larry believes, as you may, too, that funding education is more important than legislator perks and bonuses. That's why as a legislator he cut his own pay, refused reimbursements, and said no to double-dipping from state retirement and healthcare plans. Larry Seaquist is a fiscal hawk with our tax dollars.

From degrees for our vets to cutting costs by dumping Mickey Mouse regs, Larry's APPLE ACTION AGENDA maps the path to fully funded, fully functional public schools.

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Jim Lynch to Speak at Write in the Harbor Conference

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

Jim Lynch, best-selling Olympia-based author of such books as "Against the Wind" and "The Highest Tide," will share his insights as the featured speaker and in a workshop at the Write in the Harbor Conference sponsored by Tacoma Community College in Gig Harbor Nov. 4 and 5.

"I am drawn to speak to big groups of writers," Lynch said. "There is so much I can share that I wish I had been told. I'm hoping to impart both optimism and realism about the publishing world."

Lynch knew from the time he was a teenager that he wanted to write novels. He worked as a journalist to earn a living, but publishing fiction was his true goal.

"The odds are long and daunting," he said. "It can feel hopeless, but all it takes to make it happen is finding two people—an agent and a publisher—who believe in you."

He also said that luck plays a big role, noting that some great writing goes unrecognized and some bad writing winds up on best-seller lists.

Lynch grew up on Mercer Island and graduated with degrees in English and communications from the University of Washington. He worked as a journalist in Petersburg, Alaska, and then for columnist Jack Anderson in Washington, D.C. He moved back West to write for The Spokesman-Review, The Seattle Times and The Oregonian.

Lynch said it was "not an awkward transition" to leave journalism and move to writing fiction fulltime. His first novel, "The Highest Tide," was published in 2005 and won the Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association Award.

Most novelists write two to six books before one is published, Lynch said, and he is no exception. His first two "live in my basement. They are like training wheels. I remember the early drafts, how excited I was by them. They are flawed but wonderful," he said.

Lynch lives with his wife in Olympia, and all of his books are set in Western Washington. "I am dazzled by the geography and beauty of Puget Sound," he said. "It can be hard to see it as exotic if you grew up here, but I find it fascinating that the massive Seattle boating community heads north to the San Juan Islands. There is magic and mystery in the South Sound."

He describes himself as a "binge researcher and a binge writer." He works on one idea at a time, throwing himself into the research. His research is a "period of



Best-selling author Jim Lynch comes to Gig Harbor in November. *Courtesy Jim Lynch*

feeding the brain," when he reads extensively about the topic, both fiction and nonfiction, and explores style as well. "The writing process is a slow build, then I get a draft and it snowballs." He's exhausted by the end, and then gets excited with his next idea.

His advice for writers: "When it comes to finding the time to actually do the work, find the rhythm that works for you." For more information, go to continuinged-tacoma.com/writeintheharbor2016.

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A giant metal dragon awaits intrepid visitors to the Grand Farms Haunted Forest. *Photo: Mark Dodson*

New Haunted Forest to Explore on the KP

COLLEEN SLATER, KP NEWS

A fire-breathing dragon lurks behind the gates of the new Haunted Forest at Grand Farms on South Vaughn Road.

Visitors who dare to take the half-mile trail may shiver at the sight of ghosts, a gigantic spider with its captured prey, a witch's hut, a graveyard and much more.

Hot drinks will be served near a warming fire at the end of the tour.

Mark Dodson is the master creator of the experience. He learned about metals from his grandfather. "You can't go down to Home Depot and get hinges for a 1,000-pound gate," he said, so he learned to manufacture his own.

Dodson has been collecting pieces and constructing skeletons, imitation "gory body parts," both simple and more elaborate, for many months.

"This is the first year," he said. "New things will be added each year."

Grand Farms opens its scary tour Sept. 30 from 6 to 11 p.m. and will continue Friday and Saturday nights through Oct. 29. Tickets are \$12, with discounts for groups of six or more. The address is 17616 South Vaughn Road KPN.



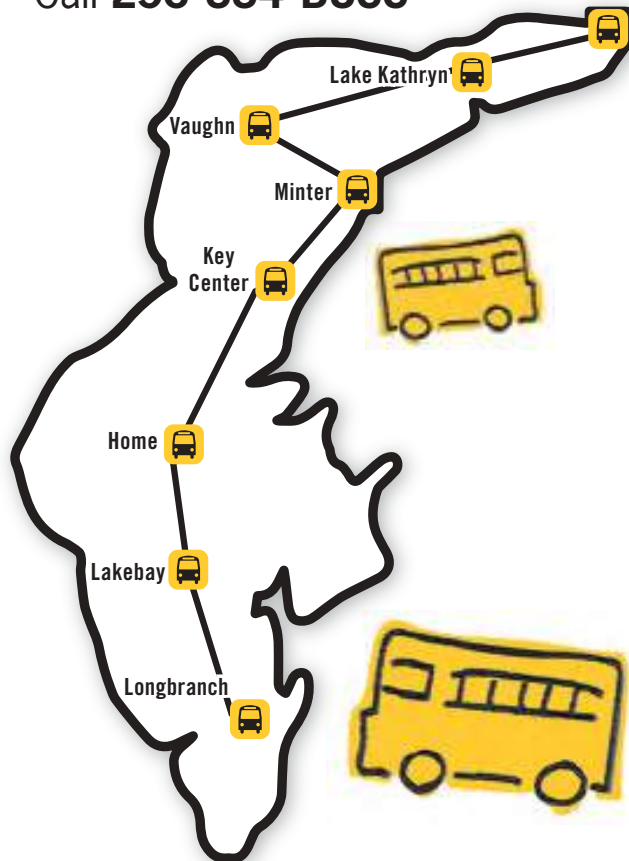
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EVERGREEN TUESDAY & THURSDAY MORNING ROUTE

- 8:50 Evergreen Elementary School
- 8:59 Public access gravel area 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 Lake Kathryn Center
- 9:26 Purdy Park & Ride

EVERGREEN WEDNESDAY MORNING ROUTE

- 9:50 Evergreen Elementary School
- 9:59 Public access gravel area end of lake
- 10:00 21st St KPS @ 193rd Ave
- 10:05 KPCS Senior Center /Food Bank
- 10:06 KP Hwy N @ Home Gas Station
- 10:10 KP Hwy N @ 167th Ave Ct KPN
- 10:11 Volunteer Park
- 10:14 Food Market @ Key Center
- 10:15 KP Hwy N @Minterwood Dr KPN
- 10:21 Lake Kathryn Center
- 10:26 Purdy Park & Ride

VAUGHN TUESDAY & THURSDAY MORNING ROUTE

- 8:50 Vaughn Elementary School
- 8:56 Hall Rd KPN @ S. Vaughn Rd KPN
- 8:57 Wright Bliss Rd @104th St Ct KPN
- 8:59 Union 76 @ Four Corners
- 9:02 Lake Holiday bus shed
- 9:03 SR302 @ 140th Ave KPN
- 9:05 Charbonneau Construction
- 9:08 Lake Kathryn Center
- 9:26 Purdy Park & Ride

VAUGHN WEDNESDAY MORNING ROUTE

- 9:50 Vaughn Elementary School
- 9:56 Hall Rd KPN @ S. Vaughn Rd KPN
- 9:57 Wright Bliss Rd @104th St Ct KPN
- 9:59 Union 76 @ Four Corners
- 10:02 Lake Holiday bus shed
- 10:03 SR302 @ 140th Ave KPN
- 10:05 Charbonneau Construction
- 10:08 Lake Kathryn Center
- 10:26 Purdy Park & Ride

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See complete 2016/17 school year schedule at kp.council.org

TUESDAY & THURSDAY MIDDAY ROUTE

- 10:47 Peninsula High School
- 10:49 Purdy Park & Ride
- 10:54 Lake Kathryn Center
- 11:03 11615 SR302 @ Windermere Realty
- 11:05 SR302 @ 140th Lake of the Woods
- 11:06 Lake Holiday bus shed
- 11:09 Union 76 @ Four Corners
- 11:11 Wright Bliss Rd @104th Ave KPN
- 11:12 Olson Dr & Wright Bliss Rd KPN
- 11:14 Food Market @ Key Center
- 11:17 Volunteer Park
- 11:21 KP Hwy @ 167th Ave Ct KPN
- 11:24 KP Hwy @ Home Gas Station
- 11:27 KPCS Senior Center /Food Bank
- 11:33 Public Access Gravel Area
- 11:34 21st St KPS & 193rd Ave KPS
- 11:40 Evergreen Elementary School

TUESDAY & THURSDAY AFTERNOON ROUTE

- 4:43 Peninsula High School
 - 4:45 Purdy Park & Ride
 - 4:51 Lake Kathryn Center
- Additional stops depend upon rider request. Please contact KP Bus Connects at 253-884-BUSS for afternoon service beyond Lake Kathryn Village

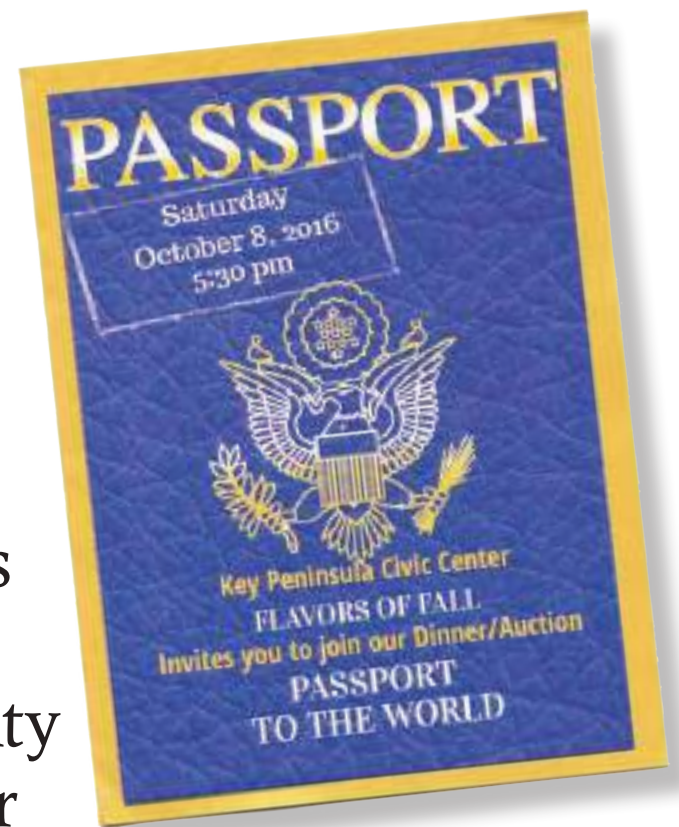
“Seniors and the middle class are paying seven times more in taxes than billionaires and special interests. That’s not a fair tax, and it’s not good policy either.

As a former teacher, I’ll be a champion for our local schools. As a retired small business owner and certified financial planner, I’ll fight for a stronger local economy. Most importantly, as someone who has experienced both good times and bad, I’ll never forget that it’s my job to represent you.

I’m Randy Spitzer, and I ask for your vote.”



Paid for by Citizens for Randy Spitzer (Independent Dem)
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Flavors of Fall Returns as Crucial Community Fundraiser

TED OLINGER, KP NEWS

The Flavors of Fall fundraiser has been a tradition at the Key Peninsula Civic Center in Vaughn for a long time.

“Well, it was my idea and, foolish me, I didn’t realize I’d still be doing it 28 years later,” said civic center board member Claudia Loy. “We charged \$15 a head and I think we made \$6,000, which was unheard of at the time.”

The now biennial event routinely sells out to 200 guests and is the civic center’s single most important source of funds. The evening includes dinner, a no-host bar, and silent and live auctions. All proceeds benefit the civic center. Each event has had a different theme: This year’s theme is Passport to the World.

“We’re going to have five food stations,” Loy said. “One will be Taylor Shellfish; that’s the Pacific Northwest station. We’ll also have Spain, France, Italy and Asia.” Bainbridge Island caterer and globe-trotting guest chef Marsha Newlands will donate her time and talent to create a wide variety of dishes.

“Our budget is about \$10,000 to make this happen and our goal is to net \$50,000,” Loy said.

“It has become our biggest fundraiser,” said Mark Roberts, board president. “We only do it every two years because we put so much into it in terms of volunteers, and asking for donations and asking for advertising and asking for sponsors.” The facility would not break-even without this event, he said.

“All the other things that we do are for community enrichment,” said Patty Ghiossi, marketing and facilities coordinator for the civic center. “The dances, the luau, Winter

Warm-up, Livable Community Fair, are all community enrichment events that we hope to make money on, but they’re not on the same level as Flavors of Fall. The purpose of this event is solely to support the civic center and get us into the black.”

“The civic center was bought by the community and is supported by the community for the community,” Loy said. “We are here to support our community and we are hoping our community supports us.”

“We subsidize rent to the tune of almost \$11,000 a month to people or groups that use our facility, but we take in less than \$4,000,” Ghiossi said. “In many cases, we’re giving discounts of maybe 75 percent of what the market rent rate would be.”

The civic center building and grounds are paid for, but substantial ongoing expenses include property tax, insurance and maintenance. Although the KPCC association is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, it pays property tax because the facility does not limit its usage to nonprofit groups.

“Because we rent to for-profit businesses, we pay a large amount in taxes that we could avoid if we wanted to restrict our use and not include all of our community,” Ghiossi said. “But that’s not our mission.”

Passport to the World comes to the KP Civic Center Saturday, Oct. 8, at 5:30 p.m. Buy tickets in advance for \$50 at Sunnycrest Nursery or the civic center office. For more information, call 884-3456.

“And if you can’t come, you can still donate,” Loy said.

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253-884-9688

Tue-Thu & Sat: 12 to 6pm
Fri: 12 to 9pm
Sun & Mon: Closed

OCT. 1**KP FARM TOUR/FIBER ARTS SHOW**

The KPC Farm Council and the Longbranch Improvement Club present free family fun 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the annual KP Farm Tour and Fiber Arts Show. A pancake breakfast is served from 8 to 11 a.m. at the Key Center fire station. Information and maps are available in the September issue of KP News, at Gateway Park on tour day and online at www.kpfarmtour.com. 225-9030

OCT. 1 TO 4**ART SHOW**

Local artists display their work featuring local farms at Blend Wine Shop.

OCT. 1 & 18**TECH HELP**

Book a librarian for tech help Oct. 1 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and Oct. 18 from 2 to 4 p.m. Get one-on-one help with computer problems, research assistance, downloading devices, etc. Call Key Center Library staff to make an appointment at 548-3309.

OCT. 1 & 15**SUPPORT GROUP**

The Lakebay Depression and Bi-Polar Support Group meets 11:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. at Key Peninsula Lutheran Church, 4213 Lackey Road KPN. Contact Kimberly at 253-4270 or DBSALakebay@gmail.com.

OCT. 1 TO 31**SCARECROWS**

The annual Scarecrow Invasion of Key Center is on display at local businesses.

OCT. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31**BLOODMOBILE**

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

OCT. 3, 17 & 31**QUILTERS MEET**

Key Peninsula Quilters meet 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Brones Room at the Key Center Library. This is an open group to work on personal projects, by hand or machine, which include quilting, embroidery, general sewing, knitting and crochet. Come for the whole time or drop in to work for as long as you want.

OCT. 4**CANDIDATES' FORUM**

Listen to local candidates discuss their viewpoints at 7 p.m. in the Whitmore Room of the KPCC.

OCT. 4 & 18**SENIOR SHOPPING**

Seniors have an opportunity to grocery shop at various stores with a "Dutch" lunch. Transportation is provided. 884-4440

OCT. 5**FUCHSIA CLUB**

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

OCT. 6, 13, 20, 27**CAT TALES**

Cat Tales holds an informational night meeting Oct. 6 at 6:30 p.m. in the VFW Room at the Key Peninsula Civic Center. Regular club meetings are held on the other three Thursdays. 884-4182

OCT. 14, 21, 28**SKATE NIGHT**

Skate Night is held at the KP Civic Center 7 to 9 p.m. Admission is \$5. No Skate Night Oct. 7. 884-3456

OCT. 8**FB4K FUNDRAISER**

Food Backpacks 4 Kids' annual Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser is at Applebee's on Point Fosdick in Gig Harbor from 8 to 10 a.m. Tickets are \$10. Mariah Roberts, 857-7401

STORYTELLING

Local storyteller Ernie Donehower introduces audiences of all ages to cultures from around the world with stories and crafts at 2 p.m. at the Second Saturday event. Key Center Library. 548-3309

OCT. 11 & 26**CROCHET OR KNIT**

The Loving Hearts group meets 1 to 3 p.m. at WayPoint Church Oct. 11 and 7 to 9 p.m. Oct. 26. Yarn donations are always needed. lovingheartsonkp@gmail.com or Virginia, 884-9619

OCT. 12**ASHES MEET**

The FD 16 Ashes support group meets 10:30 a.m. at the Key Center fire station. 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 is 7 p.m. at the KC fire station. The topic for discussion is setting priorities for the Pierce County budget. Results will be presented to Councilman Derek Young at the KP Advisory Commission meeting Oct. 19 at 6:30 p.m. in the KPCC VFW Room and to the Pierce County Council evening meeting Nov. 1 at 6 p.m. at the KPCC.

OCT. 13**IVAN THE GORILLA**

Meet Joyce Barr, who cared for Ivan the gorilla while he resided for many years at the B & I Store on South Tacoma Way, at 7 p.m. at the Key Center Library. Ivan's artwork is currently on display. 548-3309

OCT. 15**ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT**

The Alzheimer's Association family caregiver support group meets 10:30 a.m. to noon on the third Saturday of each month at The Mustard Seed Project in the Key Center Corral (9013 Key Peninsula Hwy. N, #D). This group provides a consistent, caring place for people to learn, share and gain emotional support from others who are also on the unique journey of providing support to a person with memory loss. Contact Ray Steiner, 820-2213.

LOCAL AUTHOR

Leslie Bratspis introduces her new book "White Dunes" 2 to 3 p.m. at the Key Center Library. Books are available for purchase and signing. 548-3309

OCT. 16**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.

OCT. 17**PUMPKIN DECORATING**

Children 3 to 18 will decorate their own pumpkin to take home 3:30 to 5 p.m. at the KC Library. Small pumpkins and decorations are provided. Registration is required and there's a maximum of 100. Folks may register six children at a time at piercecountylibrary.org/calendar. 548-3309

OCT. 20**COMMUNITY FORUM**

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

OCT. 26**KPHS FUNDRAISER**

El Sombrero restaurant hosts Key Peninsula Historical Society with 10 percent of dinners purchased from 5 to 9 p.m. given to KPHS.

OCT. 31**HALLOWEEN FOR KIDS**

The KPCC hosts the annual free Halloween for kids 6 to 8 p.m. Wear a costume and bring a container for trick or treats.

KP COUNCIL ELECTIONS

The deadline for applications for KP Council director candidates is Oct. 31. Applications are available online at www.kpcouncil.org or by calling 884-4697. New directors will be elected for the 2017-2019 term at the KPC Nov. 9 meeting.

NOV. 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 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

PIERCE COUNTY COUNCIL ON KP

The Pierce County Council will have its November meeting for District 7 at the KP Civic Center at 6 p.m. This is an opportunity for Key Pen citizens to address the county council directly. 798-6654

Submit your calendar items to connierenz@hotmail.com before the 15th

OFF THE KEY

OCT. 1

SCARECROW FESTIVAL

The Gig Harbor Scarecrow Festival is a free autumn celebration with animals, fun, food and vendors from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Sehmel Homestead Park. A \$2/child donation is required for some activities. Penmetparks.org

OCT. 4

FINANCIAL WORKSHOP

"Women and Investing: Invest in Yourself" 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Gig Harbor Library. Learn about resources and get tips, ideas and strategies to plan and reach your goals. 548-3305

OCT. 4, 11, 18, 25

SUPPORT GROUP

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

OCT. 5

AUTHOR EVENT

A reading/signing/selling event at the Gig Harbor Pierce County Library (4424 Point Fosdick Dr. NW) for Dale Goodvin's recently published book of poetry, "Kansas Whispers and Midnight Blues: Dodging Despair, Deception and Clowns" is at 7 p.m. There will be an added feature of a gigantic chocolate cake for the benefit of all guests. 548-3305

DEMOCRATS MEET

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

OCT. 20 TO 23

FILM FESTIVAL

Uptown's Galaxy Theatre hosts the annual independent film festival with four days of events, well-known guests and the 72-hour film competition. Gigharborfilmfestival.com

OCT. 22

MEDICARE INFORMATION

"All Things Medicare: Are you turning 65 soon?" presented by Sound Outreach and the Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisors in a free class 1 to 3:30 p.m. at the Gig Harbor Library. To RSVP call Sound Outreach at 596-0918. Walk-ins are welcome. 548-3305

OCT. 29

COUNTRY BAZAAR

St. Hugh Episcopal Church, 280 E. Wheelwright in Allyn, annual holiday country bazaar 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. with jams, jellies, fruits, baked goods and scones, coffee, cider, silent auction and more. Contact Linda at 884-2437 or check on sthughchurch.org.

OCT. 31

TRICK OR TREAT

The annual Halloween tradition in downtown Gig Harbor: gigharborwaterfront.org and Uptown, uptowngigharbor.com

NOV. 4 & 5

WRITING CONFERENCE

Write in the Harbor kicks off Friday evening at the Tacoma Community College Gig Harbor campus with a plenary session keynoted by best-selling local author Jim Lynch. This event is designed to provide writers with an intimate setting in which to hone their craft. www.writeintheharbor2016.com

NOV. 30

SEC. OF STATE STUDENT ART CONTEST

Legacy Washington has a new contest for students grades 6-12 to share who they are and who they hope to become in entries in different formats, including writing, film projects or two-dimensional art. Contest ends Nov. 30. For rules, contact Laura Mott at laura.mott@sos.wa.gov or 360-902-4171.

WEEKLYEVENTS

MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS, FRIDAYS

SENIOR EXERCISE CLASS

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

MONDAYS & FRIDAYS

SENIOR TAI CHI

Senior tai chi meets 9 to 10 a.m. at KP Community Services in Lakebay. Register, 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 & WEDNESDAYS

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. in the KP Civic Center gym. Caregivers must stay with child. Drop-ins are welcome; stay as long as you wish. A \$1/child donation is suggested. Tami, 884-5433

KEY SINGERS

Key Singers rehearse Christmas music 7 p.m. at KP Lutheran Church, 3312 Lackey Rd KPN. All voice ranges welcome. 884-5615

TUESDAYS & SATURDAYS

VISIT THE MUSEUM

The KP Historical Museum has new displays of Historic Hotels and Resorts of the Key Peninsula. Free admission; monetary donations welcome. 888-3246

WEDNESDAYS

WRITERS MEET

Lakebay Writers workshop is for people who love stories. Share yours. Hear others. 1 to 4 p.m. at the KC Library. Loren Aikins, 884-2785.

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. 884-4440

FRIDAYS

STORY TIME

Families with young children enjoy stories 1:30 to 2 p.m. at the KC Library. 548-3309

SATURDAYS

WRITERS GUILD

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

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Oct. 4, Artists Blend, 4 to 6 p.m., Blend Wine Shop, for all artists; kathybauer100@gmail.com

Oct. 5 & 19, KP Lions, 7 p.m., KC fire station; 853-2721

Oct. 5 & 19, 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

Oct. 10, KP Parks, 7:30 p.m. at Volunteer Park office; public is encouraged to attend. 884-9240

Oct. 11 & 25, KP Fire Commissioners, 5 p.m., KC fire station; keypeninsulafire.org

Oct. 12, KP Community Council, 7 p.m., KC fire station

Oct. 13 & 27, Peninsula School District Board, 6 p.m. at Minter Creek Elementary Gym Oct. 13 and district office Oct. 27

Oct. 13, KP Civic Center Assn. Board, 7 p.m., Whitmore Room, KP Civic Center; 884-3456

Oct. 13, TWAA Board, 7 p.m., VFW Room, KP Civic Center; kathybauer100@gmail.com

Oct. 17, KP Democrats, 7 p.m., Home fire station; johnpatkelly@aol.com

Oct. 19, Longbranch Improvement Club, 6:30 p.m. social, 7 p.m. meeting, LIC; 884-6022

Oct. 19/third Wednesday, KP Advisory Commission hosts Councilman Derek Young, speaking on Pierce Co. budget priorities, 6:30 p.m., VFW Room, KP Civic Center; Toni Fairbanks, 798-7156

Oct. 20, KP Citizens against Crime, 7 p.m., KC fire station

Oct. 24, KP Farm Council, 6:30 p.m., Home fire station; c.wiley@mac.com



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Key Pen Parks would like to THANK Peninsula Light for their support in 2016:

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Breakfast with Santa
December 3, 2016
Key Center Fire Station

Advance tickets (\$5 pp) will be available through our website or in the Key Pen Parks office beginning in November. Tickets at the door will be \$10. Shop smart and buy your tickets early! Breakfast, crafts, time with Santa & Mrs. Claus!

Key Pen Parks will hold two public meetings to discuss the 2017 budget as required per State of Washington RCW 84.52.020. These will be at 7:30 pm Oct. 10 and Nov. 14, Volunteer Park office.

The bid process for Phase I construction of the new Gateway Park will begin soon. For notification or more information, visit our website frequently, "like" us on Facebook, or follow us on Twitter.




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- **Bipartisanship:** Seattle City Club recognized Representative Caldier for her bipartisanship in Olympia.
- **Giving Back to the Community :** Representative Caldier has donated over one million dollars of dental care to the Key Free Clinic and nursing home residents.
- **Stopping an increase in Tacoma Narrows Bridge Tolls:** Representative Caldier worked with her seat mates in Olympia to add \$2.5 million and prevent the bridge tolls from increasing.

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In August the Angel Guild awarded grants to:

- Two Waters Arts Alliance \$3,200
- Key Peninsula Children's Home Society \$3,000
- Key Peninsula Historical Society \$1,500


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Portrait of Marcia Horan by Joseph Barrow. Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News

ArtPhARTs!

IRENE TORRES, KP NEWS

Joseph “Joe” Barrow describes his art group as “a great gang, loving art.” He and six others, calling themselves the ArtPhARTs, have been meeting weekly on the Key Peninsula since 2004. They gather every Tuesday at the Longbranch fire station, spread out their art supplies and “dabble in different mediums,” Barrow said.

Suzanne Stuhaug joined the original members, Marcia Horan, Ann Craven, Pat and Trish Thompson, Carolyn Wiley and Barrow, in 2005. “Almost all of us took this up at a relatively mature age,” she said. “The group has no particular mission, except to encourage artistic expression.” Newcomers to the group include Patty Carroll and Jan Prichard.

“We all put in time with Arts in Schools and Two Waters [Arts Alliance],” Stuhaug said. “We are painters, a potter, a quilt maker. We paint. We enter shows. It’s nothing special.

“In the classroom, so much is observing what they see and drawing it,” she said. “It’s a different way of looking at things. We teach art along with subject matter. We include drama, poetry and other artistic work. It has many applications, and more freedom.”

“We get together for brunch once a month,” Barrow said. “We laugh and joke. We critique and encourage one another. We are a tight-knit group of folks; we are social friends with a constant sharing of ideas. The critiques

we give one another are designed to talk about general principles of art and all the things we do. It’s very inspiring.”

Sherry Bales, a watercolor teacher at Tacoma Community College, has demonstrated techniques for “painting out of focus, into focus, how to merge colors, softening edges, when to use hard edges, and even how to use Saran Wrap to make patterns,” Stuhaug said. “It’s an interesting effect, what happens between water and paint.”

Due to space limitations, they have kept the group small. “We are not exclusive,” Stuhaug said. “It’s just that nobody leaves. We have to bring all the materials and spread out. We’ve pretty much maxed out the table space.”

The ArtPhARTs exhibited their work in September at Kimball Espresso Cafe in Gig Harbor and at the Blend Wine Shop in Key Center. They plan future shows with the Peninsula Art League and the Northwest Watercolor Association. The group takes trips to the Seattle Art Museum, galleries and the Daniel Smith paint company, “the premier paint maker on the West Coast,” Stuhaug said. The ArtPhARTs have already registered as a group to attend a two-day workshop with watercolor painter Jean Haines from the British Isles in October 2017.

“Anyone who wants to come watch what we do is welcome. Come, look and talk to us, 10 to 2 any Tuesday,” Stuhaug said. Another group, the Art Tarts, meets at the station on a different day.

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OBITUARY



Betty Ruth McCoy

Betty Ruth (Rose) McCoy died at her home in Gig Harbor Sept. 8, 2016. She was 92 years old.

McCoy was born Nov. 21, 1923, in Altoona, Pennsylvania. Her family later moved to Los Angeles, where she grew up going to movies and roller skating with friends and having picnics at the beach with her parents. After high school, she worked for California Shipbuilding in Wilmington. She enlisted in the U.S. Navy in November 1943.

After finance school in Indiana, McCoy was stationed at the U.S. Naval Air Station at Ford Island, Hawaii, where she met her future husband, U.S. Marine Billie McCoy of Dallas, Iowa. Billie is fond of saying she outranked him then and continued to do so throughout 70 years of married life.

The two were married Aug. 25, 1946, in Pleasantville, Iowa, and returned to the Los Angeles area. After the Korean War, Billie enlisted in the U.S. Army Guided Missile Program and Betty began 19 years as an Army wife, including tours in Okinawa, Italy, and many stateside assignments. When Billie retired in August 1974, they built a home on their property at Lake Mint-erwood, where they lived ever since.

One grandson preceded Betty in death. She is survived by her husband, four children, seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. All will remember her as a loving mother and grandmother who was always doing little things to make her family feel special.

Betty loved animals ("critters," as she called them). In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to the animal charity of your choice.

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Local Author Pens Third Novel

KAREN LOVETT, KP NEWS

Local author Leslie Bratspis's third self-published novel is hot off the press. The carefully crafted plot unfolds among the isolated, wind-swept sands of a fictitious California desert town called White Dunes, where the worst of human nature meets its match in a series of life-altering events.

Bratspis grew up in Los Angeles in the hills beneath the Hollywood sign. "I spent a lot of time reading and writing stories about digging secret tunnels in the woods and talking bunnies," Bratspis said. "An author has to start somewhere. Reading and writing have always been two of my favorite pastimes.

"On the news one night the topic was young girls being pandered on city street corners. It's a prevalent, worldwide problem. This book combines a murder mystery and kidnapping in an unexpected way," she said.

"When I wrote the first chapter, I knew how I wanted it to end," Bratspis said. "I took it chapter by chapter and let the chapters lead me. I had no intention of writing a murder mystery. There were so many details I had to

fit together to write the story. That was a real challenge because I'd never written anything like that before."

Bratspis wanted to draw attention to the problems of kidnapping, sexual abuse and domestic violence. "I wanted to write a book where the reader could get personally involved in the characters and their personal journeys of healing," Bratspis said. "This book was so cathartic for me. I took great pleasure in punishing the bad guys."

Bratspis read four Elmore Leonard crime novels while writing this book. "He writes with quirky humor," Bratspis said. She wanted to inject humor into her stories. "With each book, I am getting bolder with my subject and themes. I want the readers to come away inspired. I feel this is my best book yet."

"White Dunes" is for sale at Cost Less Pharmacy in Lake Kathryn Village and online at Amazon. Bratspis will be signing her new book in the Brones Room at the Key Center Library on Saturday, Oct. 15, from 2 to 3:30 p.m.



Bratspis with "White Dunes."

Photo: Karen Lovett, KP News

Key Peninsula Community Services

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10AM - 11:45AM & 12:45PM - 3PM

Wednesday:

10AM - 11:45AM & 12:45PM - 5:30PM

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Clint Rosson at the Red Barn Youth Center in Key Center. Photo: Glen Ehrhardt

New Executive Director at the Red Barn

IRENE TORRES, KP NEWS

The hiring committee for the Red Barn had just two weeks to find a replacement when the former executive director Laura Condon's husband was transferred to Texas. They found Clint Rosson, a teacher who holds master's degrees in counseling and education administration. Board Chair Glen Ehrhardt said, "In short order, we got exactly who we needed for who we are."

Rosson has a 10-year-old and a 16-year-old. "I live five minutes from here," he said. "This is a great place to raise kids. It's country living with city access. I've long been aware of the needs out here and now I am in a position to make a difference."

Rosson graduated from Texas A&M, taught school in Spokane, spent two and half years in Kurdistan, a year in Damascus, and returned to teach at Curtis High School in University Place and South Kitsap High School. He was ready to accept a position with another district when the offer came from the Red Barn.

"With his background, location and heart for kids, I don't think we could have gone out and spent a year and found a candidate who fits this job better," Ehrhardt said.

Rosson plans to expand the visibility of the Red Barn. "We want to connect at a higher level with the community, where we're getting noticed, even down to Olympia," he said. "We want to bring kids in and give them everything they need to be successful."

The Red Barn serves middle and high school students as a place to socialize, do homework, access resources, be tutored, receive mentoring, play basketball, volleyball, soccer, pool, football and eat free snacks, some of which are grown on the premises in a garden tended by the kids. Inside are restaurant-style booth seating and a kitchen, game tables and traces of youthful artistic expression.

One wall is boarded up pending negotiations with the Pierce County building inspector. "After four different proposals, we finally reached an agreement on the fire wall between the two buildings," Ehrhardt said. "The multipurpose room is about 60 percent complete. We're ahead of budget but still short of money."

Rosson said he hopes to develop free dental screening and mental health assistance, and encourage resistance to drug abuse. He plans to build a leadership team and get recognition from larger markets for sustainable funding. "Larger grantors want to see a two- or three-year track record before they fund new nonprofits. We're starting year three here at the Red Barn," Ehrhardt said.

"I'm an old teacher and teaching is in my heart," Rosson said. "How we teach kids makes the future. I want to get to know the kids on a personal level and let them know that someone cares about them. Kids know the difference between authentic and not."

The Red Barn is located south of Key Center at 15921 84th St. KPN. For more information, go to redbarnkp.org.

Local Church Develops New Outreach Programs

MATTHEW DEAN, KP NEWS

Grace Evangelical Presbyterian Church is striving to make a difference on the Key Peninsula.

Grace Church originally formed in Purdy and met at several temporary locations, including Miracle Ranch. In 2015, the church acquired the building formerly used by Lakebay Christian Assembly in Lakebay, and began using it as its first full-time church location.

"When we first formed in Purdy, our intent as a church body was to minister to the peninsula," said Kay Griffin, an attendee and Bible study leader. "It's always kind of been at the base of our belief that this is where God wanted us to be."

That belief was strengthened on an early visit to the current site. Although the building had been unoccupied for over a year, someone had spelled out the word "HOPE" in paving stones in front of the church door. "We still don't know who did it... but we took it as our motto, that someone has hope in us being here," said Pastor Ed Longabaugh. "That's kind of been our guiding light, if you will."

Since moving to the Key Peninsula, Grace Church has started expanding its outreach programs in an attempt to serve and connect with the community. These efforts have ranged from simple yard work to participation in national programs and community support. It has also partnered with local programs like The Mustard Seed Project and Food Backpacks for Kids.

One of the more recent undertakings is participating in Bridges Out of Poverty, a national program that connects people in need with mentors who can help them accomplish their goals. "The idea of the program is for the participants to develop a plan to get from where they are, presumably in need, to where they need to go," said

Marilyn Repinski, another Grace Church attendee.

While many of Grace Church's efforts have been successful, some have also been learning experiences. Although the church and its members are enthusiastic about making connections, they've found that sometimes patience is the best option. "Even the folks that come here... you have to be very slow in acquainting, because I think that's what people generally prefer here," Longabaugh said. "So what we can do is say, 'Hey! We're here, and we're available. If you want to come, we'd be glad to have you.'"

This attitude of availability has informed Grace Church's efforts in community service during its first year on the Key Peninsula. Longabaugh described the church's approach to helping others as ready-fire-aim.

"Rather than coming up with some strategic plan, it's 'Hey! Get involved!' and then figure out how and what, and how much you can do," he said.

Grace Church has also begun to consider how much more it can add to the schedule of services. As the church's reputation has spread through advertising and word-of-mouth, the number of requests coming into the office has also increased. Longabaugh stressed both the number of requests and the church's desire to help.

"We really are thinking about, now, what's our limit?" he said. "How many weed whackers do we have to bring to bear on one particular yard? But it's a good question to have to ask."

Grace Evangelical Presbyterian Church is at 2406 McEwan Road KPN. For information, go to epcgrace.org, or call 857-3436.

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NOTICE: FIRE COMMISSIONER VACANCY

Pierce County Fire District 16 Fire Commissioner Raymond Lamoureux has submitted his resignation, to be effective October 11, 2016.

The Board of Fire Commissioners is the governing body and policy-making group for the District. The District and its four (4) commissioners are now requesting resumes and "letters of interest" from any registered voter who resides in the fire district and is interested in being appointed to the vacancy. In the letter of interest, each person should, in their own words, state why they would be interested in serving as a Fire Commissioner for the Key Peninsula Fire Department and stress the particular parts of their background they believe makes them well qualified to serve as Commissioner. **Resumes and letters of interest are due no later than October 10, 2016 at 5:00pm.**

Letters and resumes should be sent to:
Pierce County Fire District 16
ATTN: District Secretary
8911 Key Peninsula Hwy KPN
Lakebay, WA 98349

Timeline of Events:

Oct. 10, 2016	Resumes and Letters of Interest Due
Oct. 11, 2016	Regular Board Meeting 5:00pm - Review of Resumes and Letters of Interest
Oct. 12, 2016	Letters of Invitation to Interview Process Sent to Potential Candidates
Oct. 24, 2016	Special Board Meeting 6:00pm to Conduct Interviews
Oct. 25, 2016	Regular Board Meeting. Chosen Candidate to be Appointed and Given Oath of Office

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Conversations with Candidates



Larry Seaquist (D) is running for Position 1 in the 26th Legislative District. *Courtesy Larry Seaquist*

Larry Seaquist

MATTHEW DEAN, KP NEWS

As the general election draws near, Gig Harbor resident Larry Seaquist is preparing his campaign for state representative for the 26th Legislative District, Position 1. Seaquist brings with him experience in the state House, having won election four consecutive times starting in 2006. After being narrowly defeated by Michelle Caldier in 2014, Seaquist is returning to politics.

Seaquist once called himself a Democrat, but now identifies himself as an Independent Democrat.

“The parties, including the Democrats, have not been aggressively pursuing a positive agenda,” he said. “So that’s what I’m signaling to the voters and to the Legislature: that I’m coming down there, if I can win this election, to kind of rethink where we’re going.”

Although he has been a part of the Washington state political process for nearly a decade, most of Seaquist’s professional experience comes from his career in the U.S. Navy (where he rose to captain of the USS Iowa) and his subsequent positions in the Pentagon.

After retiring to Gig Harbor to pursue writing, Seaquist became involved in Derek Kilmer’s campaign for U.S. representative. When he was asked by local Democrats to consider running for state representative, Seaquist initially refused.

“They kept asking, I kept thinking about it, and finally decided it was interesting,” he said. “I’m glad I did it, because being in the Legislature is the most interesting thing I’ve ever done.”

Seaquist originally ran for the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction this election cycle, and that is reflected in his heavily education-focused platform. One major element is the complex McCleary Decision, a 2012 state Supreme Court ruling that ordered the Legislature to change the way the state funds education.

“The Legislature, since 2012, has been supposed to be doing what they were told to do,” Seaquist said. “But they haven’t been doing it, so the court has been getting more and more unhappy ... they found the state in contempt, and are fining us \$100,000 a day.”

Seaquist has developed a plan to fulfill the court’s order and fund education. “It’s the only plan in the state,” he said. “I’m the only political figure or candidate who has actually worked through it.”

In other issues of policy, Seaquist also favors general reform in the state education system to increase teacher retention, improve family interaction with the public school system and “liberate learning” through the removal of unfunded state mandates and what he called “intrusive statutes.” Other priorities include expanding education and treatment for mental health issues, dealing with environmental issues in Puget Sound, and keeping tolls on ferries and the Tacoma Narrows Bridge low.

“My view is that we have to redo the deal on the [Narrows] bridge. Wherever there is infrastructure, we are paying for it, as well as for our own bridge. That’s not fair. If we were paying a fair share, our tolls would be much lower.” Seaquist also favors developing local transportation infrastructure, such as bus systems.

In addition to his policies and priorities, Seaquist emphasizes the value of cooperation, agreement and positive interactions in politics. “I’ve always tried to have bipartisan bills. If it wasn’t going to be bipartisan, it wasn’t going to work,” he said.

“We’ve got to have functional politics, where people actually work together,” Seaquist said. “That’s my number one; it’s not education or mental health, or bridge tolls, but the quality of our politics.”



Rep. Jesse Young (R) is running for re-election to Position 1 in the 26th Legislative District. *Courtesy Jesse Young*

Jesse Young

MATTHEW DEAN, KP NEWS

Gig Harbor resident and state Rep. Jesse Young (R-26th) is seeking re-election after serving his first full term in the state House of Representatives.

Young was appointed to the Legislature to fill a vacant seat in early 2014, and then won the November election to hold the seat for a full two-year term. Before getting into politics, Young worked in information technology and software engineering. His experience in these fields informed his original decision to enter politics.

“As I started looking at a lot of the people down there (in Olympia) that are younger, they’ve basically been in this kind of career politician mode... There wasn’t a lot of strong corporate IT and financial skill sets being represented there,” Young said. “I thought, well, maybe I could apply my skills down in Olympia and see if I can’t make a better future for my kids.”

When he first entered the Legislature, Young had several specific goals for his time in office, including stopping Tacoma Narrows Bridge toll increases. “This July, the transportation commission was again slated to raise the tolls by 50 cents, and we stopped them. I got the transportation budget allocations necessary to make sure that wouldn’t happen, and so I kept my promise,” Young said.

His other goals included balancing the state budget. “We accomplished that, I led that effort in the house,” Young said, emphasizing his commitment to avoid new taxes or incur debt.

Young’s third major goal was to advocate for teachers and education. “We got COLAs (cost of living adjustments) for teachers refunded again,” he said.

If Young is re-elected in 2016, he will bring with him a new set of priorities and plans for the upcoming term, as well as further development of his previous goals. One of Young’s major bills, the Toll by Coffee Act, would open the bridge toll booth management to bids from private companies that could use the platform to sell food or beverages. “We could turn a \$6,000,000 a year hit into a \$6,000,000 a year profit,” he said.

Another major priority is bringing information technology jobs to the area. “The way we’ve written our tax incentives isn’t conducive to making [tech companies] come up here,” Young said. “I wish to change that.” He aims to encourage growth in the IT sector with tax incentives and business partnership zones that would make it easier for technology-focused businesses to grow.

Young supports education, citing an endorsement by the Washington Education Association. “I’m the only Republican on the western side of the mountains that has a WEA endorsement.” He also has a plan for textbook open sourcing, a way to reduce the need for (and cost of) college textbooks by borrowing materials from the in-house training workshops of major businesses, and wants to fund the expansion of the Little Toasters program (founded by the KP Children’s Home Society) to teach public speaking skills to Peninsula District elementary school students to boost their confidence.

He is a strong supporter of Career Technical Education and vocational programs in schools, and has produced a plan to encourage CTE focus on local fields like the aerospace and maritime industries.

Young said he also intends to lower the cost of health care by closing loopholes and eliminating common health care fraud schemes.



Todd Bloom (R) is running for the U.S. House of Representatives in the 6th Congressional District. *Courtesy Todd Bloom*

Todd Bloom

LISA BRYAN, KP NEWS

At the encouragement of friends and associates, political newcomer Todd Bloom of Tacoma is in his first-time bid to win a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives representing the 6th Congressional District. He feels confident his experience as a veteran Navy officer and reservist, combined with his professional and business acumen, brings the skill set needed to be an effective congressman.

“The economic recovery has been incredibly uneven,” Bloom said. He sees a need for responsible fiscal stimulus and congressional control over the Federal Reserve, believing strongly that federal tax cuts and tax reform would be appropriate to restore growth not seen since before the Great Recession.

“With my significant tax background, including many years in public accounting and a master of laws in taxation, I’ve got the wherewithal and specific knowledge to inform policy discussion and favorably impact that issue,” he said.

Before moving to Tacoma in 2002 with his wife and two sons, Bloom lived and worked in Louisiana, where he specialized in oil, gas and natural resource policy. He came to believe that regulatory reform is needed not merely in the energy industry, which he says has been fairly hard hit recently, but in other areas of the economy as well. “I tend

to believe we are overregulated,” he said.

“I think I will be well suited and experienced to be able to impact those deliberations and try to figure out how to tailor our regulations to be effective and less burdensome on business and achieve policy objectives to lessen the negative impact on the economy,” Bloom said.

“You’ve got the environmentalist interests of the Wild Olympics Campaign that wants to put more land under conservation, off limits to economic development, and you’ve got the interests who’ve said our logging industry has been decimated but who say they can do this in an environmentally friendly way that preserves our interests without imposing on private property rights,” he said. “Our country was founded on free enterprise and the protection of private property rights, so it concerns me when I see regulatory ham-fistedness in that regard.”

Bloom sees partisan divisions within the 6th Congressional District.

“There has been so much along partisan lines that we can’t even have a discussion that isn’t part of an approved line of thinking and one gets branded as this or that or the other thing,” he said. “Marco Rubio tried to work in bipartisan fashion in the Gang of Eight, which shut down his ability to participate on issues of immigration. I’m not encouraged when I see Republicans reach across the aisle and get in trouble for it.

“I like to hope I can work that way, but I’m not really convinced I’ve advanced the football in that regard. In the military, a lot of what I’ve done is apolitical, where you work on something in a framework of what is.”

Bloom believes voter dissatisfaction supports the idea that the country is headed in the wrong direction.

“Ultimately, I think all this hand-wringing over Trump’s presidential demeanor is just a bunch of Monday morning quarterbacks trying to discredit him,” he said. “I think he may not do everything he’s said in his campaign statements, and that maybe some people took him too literally, but I guess I’m not really that concerned. Even though he wasn’t my first choice, I’m able to support him and we don’t have a lot of good options at this point.

“In the 26th Legislative District, we went from having three Democrats to having three Republicans in office after the last election. I hope that voters will take a good look at me and see a viable alternative to the status quo,” Bloom said.



Congressman Derek Kilmer (D-WA) is running for re-election in the 6th District for the U.S. House of Representatives. *Courtesy Derek Kilmer*

Derek Kilmer

LISA BRYAN, KP NEWS

Congressman Derek Kilmer’s interest in politics goes back to his teenage years growing up in Port Angeles in the 1980s, where he saw economic hardship in a community largely dependent upon the timber industry. He felt inspired to study public policy with a focus on economic development issues in college and graduate school.

Kilmer’s subsequent work at the Economic Development Board of Tacoma-Pierce County left him thinking government could be more effective. He entered politics and was elected to the state House of Representatives for the 26th District in 2005. He served one term before moving to the state Senate in 2007, where he served until being elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2012. He was re-elected in 2014 and is now running as an incumbent on the November ballot.

“My focus in public service has been about trying to create jobs and have a more functional government,” Kilmer said.

“The district I represent really drives my interest in seeing an economy that works in both urban and rural communities,” he said. That includes helping the port be more competitive, keeping jobs at Naval Base Kitsap and helping the small businesses he called “the backbone of our local economy.” In rural areas, Kilmer believes challenges in geography can be overcome through technologies such as high-speed internet, which “remains tough for some areas of our district,” he said.

“We want good schools for our kids, which in part means making improvements in our local economies,” Kilmer said. He cited the

need for vocational and technical training opportunities, along with more affordable college. In 2015, he co-sponsored a bill with Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT) to reduce student loan debt for teachers working in low-income schools.

“We’ve got to get past the point in politics where success is defined by making the other party look stupid,” said Kilmer, commenting on his bipartisan approach. “We’ve got to change the focus to making progress.”

President Obama signed two bills into law authored by Kilmer: The American Savings Promotion Act and an official recognition of the Bainbridge Island Japanese-American Exclusion Memorial honoring those Americans interned during World War II.

Kilmer has also worked to help military veterans enter the civilian workforce after their time in service. “All of my work in these areas is geared to ensuring everyone can figure out their place in this economy, hopefully with less struggle than we’ve seen in recent years,” he said.

Kilmer, whose grandmother is 106 years old, said Social Security and Medicare are “the two most successful public policies in the history of this country.” He said he is committed to preserving these programs for current seniors and future generations of retirees.

Success at home means bringing stakeholders together without having to pass legislation, Kilmer also said, and as an example cited his role establishing The Timber Collaborative, which brings the conservation community and the timber industry together to reconsider how to manage federal land in a way that both increases jobs and improves the health of forests. He also co-founded the Puget Sound Recovery Caucus to elevate the recovery of Puget Sound as an issue to the federal level.

Kilmer frequently visits with local groups like the Key Peninsula Business Association and the Lions Club. “Too often it feels like our elected officials are distant from us, so I’ve tried really hard to be available to the folks I represent,” he said.

“I take pride that half our staff in the district does what we call casework, where someone is grappling with a federal agency, whether it’s Social Security, the IRS, or most commonly the Veterans Administration,” Kilmer said. He recently helped obtain a Silver Star for former U.S. Army Sgt. Edward Dvorak of Lakebay, a Vietnam veteran who risked his life to save others in November 1968 but was never recognized for it.

“That’s 47 years after he earned it,” Kilmer said, adding it was one example of “the stuff we’re able to do when people know we’re here and available to help.”



Joyce Barr, one of Ivan's former keepers, with an example of his artwork now on display at the KC library. Photo: Karen Lovett, KP News

KC Library Celebrates Ivan the Gorilla's Artwork

KAREN LOVETT, KP NEWS

Ivan the gorilla was a familiar beloved attraction at the B & I shopping center in Tacoma for 27 years. He died Aug. 21, 2012 in the Atlanta zoo at the age of 50. Ivan's artwork is now on display at the Key Center Library through October.

Palmer Lake resident Joyce Barr was a keeper for Ivan at the B & I before his transfer to Atlanta in 1994. Barr's art collection and photographs provide a unique glimpse into his life.

Ivan was born in 1962 in what is now the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The 6-month old western lowland gorilla was imported as a pet by Earl Irwin, co-owner of the B & I with Ruben and Lois Johnson. Ivan was raised as a child in the Johnsons' home during the early years of his life. He was moved to a 40-by-40 foot enclosure at B & I at the age of 3 when his size and destructive behavior made it too difficult to keep him at home. Being raised as part of a family came to an end.

Barr worked at the B & I pet shop for six years. "I'd go down and feed him peanuts," she said. "I was his keeper for three years. Tonya Hill was his head keeper. He'd show so much of his personality when he got to know you. I got to know his moods. He'd pull his hair out when he was nervous. Eventually I could look him in the eye. I could tell if he was happy. I could see it in his face."

His keepers gave him paper and paints so he had something to do. "People would order paintings in certain colors," Barr said. "One lady wanted a painting for her dad in Seahawk colors. Some paintings have lip prints or a fingerprint. He painted with his finger or a paper towel. His hair is in some and straw in most. If he didn't want to paint, he'd push them back through the bars. If you still tried to get him to paint, he'd tear them up."

"His last Christmas, we found the biggest tree we could find," Barr said. "It went all the way to the ceiling at B & I. He got lots of presents, a hat and nine big phone books.

Ivan loved phone books. He loved to tear out the pages one at a time. By the next day, he'd torn every page out."

Animal rights groups began protesting Ivan's captivity in 1987. He was moved first to Woodland Park Zoo in Seattle, then to Zoo Atlanta in October 1994. "Tonya went with him on the plane," Barr said. "I followed on a red-eye flight. They rented us a Lincoln Town Car and took us out to dinner at night. They wouldn't let us stay with him through the transition and they didn't want to know what he liked or didn't like."

Barr went back to see him seven years later. "He recognized me and was very mad at me," Barr said. "He wouldn't look at me. Now, I'm a caregiver for people, but there's something about animals. It's harder to let them go."

Barr will give a presentation including a question-and-answer session about her experiences with Ivan Thursday, Oct. 13, at 7 p.m. at the Key Center Library.



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Communities In Schools of Peninsula raised nearly \$30,000 at its annual fundraiser Aug. 25. CISP works in all four KP schools and many in Gig Harbor. Programs include academic mentoring, bully prevention, art clubs, holiday help, school supplies, dental referrals, pay-to-play sports scholarships, college preparation and more. *Photo: Hugh McMillan, Special to KP News*



Peninsula High sophomore Seahawks kicker Daniel Fendel (9/TE-CB) nailed a 44-yard field goal during the 38th annual Fishbowl matchup against the Gig Harbor Tides Sept. 16. Peninsula beat Gig Harbor 33-7. *Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News*



KPMS students Grace Nesbit (6th), Joseph Blanchard (8th) and Brynn Smith (7th) show off new Cougar Pride shirts paid for with a grant from Figaro's Pizza in Key Center. "Students earn CP tickets through respectful, responsible and safe behaviors," said Vice Principal Andrea Bowman. Students can exchange tickets for items at the Cougar Pride store or enter into a raffle for the new shirt. Bowman found the grant through Helpthecharity.net. Figaro's also donated coupons for personal pizzas for teachers to award to outstanding students or, as Figaro's put it, to "help education through love and pizza." *Photo: Ted Olinger, KP News*



KPFD 16 Battalion Chiefs Paul Bosch and Chuck West marked 30 years on the job at a fire commissioners meeting Sept. 13. "I want to publicly and officially acknowledge this milestone for both of you and thank you for serving the Key Peninsula for 30 years," said Fire Chief Guy Allen. "It isn't a common feat." *Photo: Ted Olinger, KP News*



Local civic leaders Arianna and Alexandra Sprague, 10, seen here with Home resident Nan Feagin, took it upon themselves to design, construct and install two new lending libraries on the Key Peninsula in September as part of a home-school project. The twin bibliophiles learned to use CADD design software (with the assistance of Jeremy Thompson of Von Thompson Creative in Lakebay) to assemble two Little Free Libraries to encourage community members to, in their words, "Find a book, share a book, give a book." The new libraries are located in Key Center in front of Sunnycrest Nursery and in Home at 7th and C streets. *Photo: Voski Sprague*

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KP Fire Commissioner Frank Grubaugh became the Tall Tales Champion of District B Toastmaster's Competition with his speech, "The Sled Run," in Poulsbo Sept. 9. Grubaugh won the Key Center round in early August and went on to win two more area competitions. After winning the district championship, he is off to compete at the fall conference in Anchorage in October. *Photo: Robyn Readwin*

Where in the world



Terry and Kerri Forrey traveled to Colonia Yap, Federated States of Micronesia in March. They spent time scuba diving, snorkeling, kayaking through mangroves and exploring WWII plane wrecks on the island. Pictured here, they're sitting next to "stone money" in front of a traditional men's house.

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