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THE VOICE OF THE KEY PENINSULA

August 2017 Vol.44 No. 08



The bright yellow flowers of tansy ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*) make it easy to spot throughout July and into August. *Photo: Lisa Bryan, KP News*

## To Every Weed There Is a Season

LISA BRYAN, KP NEWS

Tansy ragwort is one of seven invasive weeds that the Pierce County Noxious Weed Control Board (PCNWCB) targets for control. Poisonous to livestock and humans, each mature plant produces upward of 150,000 seeds. August is prime time for spotting it and preventing its spread.

Plant recognition is the first step. Mature plants grow from 3 to 6 feet tall with bright yellow clusters comprised of small daisy-like flowers, each with 13 petals. Once familiar, the plants are easily identified from a distance. Prevention of further seed production is the next step toward controlling their harmful spread.

During the July 12 meeting of the Key Peninsula Community Council, Education Representative Morgan Heilesen of the PCNWCB presented "The Sinister Seven," a list of noxious weeds requiring mandatory control measures within Pierce County, including poison hemlock, spotted knapweed, gorse, wild chervil, dalmation toadflax, tansy ragwort and giant hogweed.

Washington state classifies noxious weeds into three groups. Class A mandates eradication statewide. Class B requires control as applicable countywide. Class C includes invasive species where control is strongly suggested.

Violation notices are mailed to property owners where noxious weeds have been

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The Filcuy Bay Marching band enthralled parade-watchers with their trademark nonmusical stylings at the 20+ annual Fourth of July parade in Home. The parade has the distinction of being the oldest, longest and easiest to join on the KP, according to locals. "I just wanted to ride my bike down to watch it," said one 9-year-old participant, "and then I was in it." The parade route along Von Geldern Cove ended at the A Street terminus, where the road was blocked by volunteers grilling pancakes and sausage for all parading patriots. *Photo: Shaun O'Berry*

## County Cleans Up Skahan Property on SR-302

TED OLINGER AND  
LISA BRYAN, KP NEWS

Pierce County is cleaning up property on State Route 302 just west of 118th Avenue NW that had become a magnet for junk vehicles and other solid waste, according to Yvonne Reed, Pierce County code enforcement supervisor.

"There's a history of complaints that goes back a few years," Reed said. "The county council office had also asked questions about this in the recent past, but we didn't have an enforcement case and couldn't do this without a court order."

The property consists of two parcels totaling almost 9 acres that straddle SR-302 and includes parts of Minter Creek. It is a section of a larger parcel originally purchased by Helen Skahan's grandparents in 1905. Helen died there in 2015 at the age of 96. Her daughter, Catherine Skahan Carlson—who does not live on the property—is executrix of the estate.

"The most recent complaint we had was



Junk vehicles and other waste accumulated in front of the old brush shed on SR-302 for years before county abatement began. *Courtesy Pierce County Responds*

erty goes up for auction to satisfy the debt.

"There was a lot of solid waste, household garbage, junk vehicles and some dilapidated structures, including an old garage that was just taken down," Reed said. All of the debris has been removed. "Across the road where the main residences are, that work has not been done yet," she said. "We have to have a temporary bridge put in to get that work done and one of the houses will be taken down also."

"We anticipate the final work will be completed by the end of September," she said.

Reed estimated the cost of abatement would exceed \$50,000. If the estate does not reimburse the county within 30 days of completion, the county will seek approval to record a special assessment lien against the property.

Carlson, the executrix, declined to be interviewed for this article, but indicated that dealing with estate matters had been difficult and that the property will be sold when the cleanup is finished.

"I'm just happy we could get this done for the community," said Councilman Derek Young (D-7th). "We were able to put together a team from multiple departments and agencies, and work with the family on a voluntary basis."

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Scott Ludlow, left, from Lakebay Community Church leads prayer at the formal opening of the new community garden. Photo: Lisa Bryan, KP News

## Garden Sprouts for Community Food Banks

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

The Lakebay Community Church took a leap of faith last spring. Church members decided to offer their land as a site for the planned Hope Recovery Center for addiction treatment, and the two organizations combined forces and connections.

The land was given to the church years ago, but the original plan to build a large church complex was dropped as circumstances changed.

There was enthusiasm to put the land to work as plans for building the Hope

Recovery Center developed. Both organizations think that a working, productive garden can help feed the hungry on the Key Peninsula and ultimately will be a great educational and service opportunity for those in the coming residential drug treatment program.

In April, more than 100 volunteers, including Seeds of Grace and the Washington Youth Academy from Bremerton, cleared land, built 12 raised beds and raised fences to protect the garden from deer.

Seeds of Grace is a Bremerton-based nonprofit that has helped plan and build

sustainable gardens across the United States and in Mexico for the last four years. The Washington Youth Academy is a division of the National Guard Youth Challenge Program designed to provide at-risk youth with education and life and job skills training.

The existing well on the garden property is functioning and crops are now growing, including peas, lettuce, squash, corn, tomatoes, carrots and cauliflower.

"Everything is starting to come to life," said Scott Ludlow, vice chair of the Lakebay Community Church board. "It is all part of God's plan."



Miriam Taylor, granddaughter of Karole Johnson, the founder of Seeds of Grace, stopped by from her hometown of Chesapeake, Virginia, to check out the new garden's produce. Photo: Lisa Bryan, KP News

Planting the garden and keeping it weeded and watered requires work. Pat Augustziny, secretary of the Lakebay Community Church, is the garden manager and coordinates the church volunteers who maintain and harvest the garden each week. Ludlow is the garden lead and coordinates as needed with Seeds of Change.

The produce will be weighed and measured to meet Seeds of Grace grant requirements and then distributed at Harvest Share, a program benefiting 25 to 40 families at the Lakebay Community Church every Wednesday at 2 p.m. There is a short worship and music service before food is distributed. Any excess will be given to the local Food Backpacks 4 Kids program.

The garden will be a part of the Farm Tour in October. Augustziny said they have adequate volunteer help for now, but that can always change. Anyone interested in helping can contact her at Lakebay Community Church at 884-3899 or [office@lakebay-covenant.net](mailto:office@lakebay-covenant.net).



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**SKAHAN FROM PAGE 1**

Later in August or September, the council will vote on whether to increase the county's enforcement powers. "We're going to get some new authority to the prosecutor's office and code enforcement to address persistent criminal nuisances and abate them in a similar way," Young said. "We know it's frustrating for folks that live in an area that has one of these properties in them."

The council is also cognizant of the suspicion some residents have of government overreach.

"It isn't uncommon for people to hear 'nuisance' and think it's like a neighborhood's covenants that tell me what color I'm going to paint my house," he said. "But we're going after serious abuses that are dramatically impacting the rights of the surrounding properties, not because their grass isn't trimmed. Health concerns; illegal junkyards; those sorts of things. We're not in the business of trying to take action on somebody's property just because they want to live the way they live in a rural area."

To report a nuisance property, call 253-798-4636 or go to code enforcement at [www.co.pierce.wa.us](http://www.co.pierce.wa.us).

## Skahan Property History

COLLEEN SLATER, KP NEWS

Charles and Anna Davis came from Broken Bone, Nebraska, in 1905 and bought about 25 acres in Elgin, including land where State Route 302 and 118th Avenue NW are now located.

They built a little log house and raised six children there, including Helen Skahan's mother, Margaret. After Margaret married, she moved just across the road from her parents.

Helen, born in 1918, and her brother, Laverne, attended the Elgin school—seven grades with one teacher. The building is still on Creviston, now a private home.

Helen lived on the land where she was born, but in a different home. She and her first husband, Burton Day, built a house there. Day worked at the Minter Creek fish hatchery and they had to move there when he was promoted to superintendent.

When Day died, Helen was left with three small children and asked her renter to leave so she could move back to her own home.

After Helen married Elmer Skahan in 1949, they built a brush shed at the corner of their property, now divided from the house by SR 302. Elmer, Helen's son, Verne, and her stepdad, Alton Gross, all picked brush. She enjoyed picking too, but was the one who managed the shed. She bunched

huckleberry and salal greens, wired a bunch, weighed and trimmed the stems, put 20 bunches into a bale and tied it. She wore the tread off the bottom of her boots in about a month working on the concrete floor.

Elmer died in 2009. Helen remained in the home until her death in 2015.

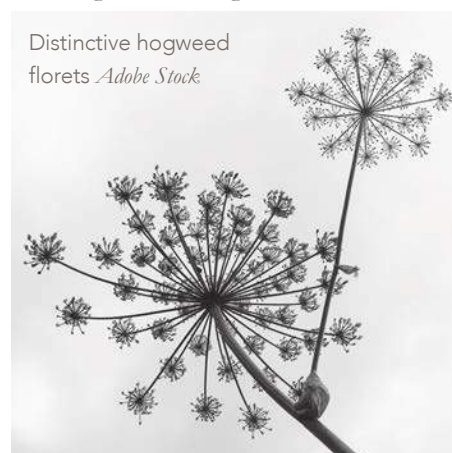
**WEEDS FROM PAGE 1**

observed by a licensed weed inspector. Once notified, property owners are required to promptly remove and properly dispose of noxious weeds or risk fines. Inspectors monitor the site for compliance within the specified time period and continue to monitor infestation sites in the future.

As early as 1881, the legislators of Washington Territory outlawed the growing of Canada thistle, accidentally introduced by seed to North America in the 1600s. The misdemeanor offense carried a stiff fine of \$10 for any landowner caught with the plant on their property. By 1964, RCW 17.10 established the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board.

The term "noxious weed" is the legal phrase for highly invasive nonnative plants whose continued proliferation threatens lasting environmental and economic damage. The presence of noxious weeds negatively impacts agricultural production, proper soil drainage, and increases the risk of erosion, flooding and wildfire. Accidental ingestion of certain noxious weeds is highly poisonous, producing toxins potentially deadly to livestock and humans.

"We're available for on-site consultations to assist property owners with identification, effective control techniques and proper disposal methods to bring problem infestations under control," said Heileson. She advised an abundance of caution when handling and working with noxious weeds.



Giant hogweed is a dinosaur of a plant towering 15 to 20 feet in height with white umbrella-like blossoms measuring 2½ feet wide. This poisonous Class A Noxious Weed requires eradication statewide. The 2- to 4-inch thick stems contain toxic sap that causes severe burns and scarring that

may last for many years. "The watery sap of giant hogweed can squirt out 5 feet from the plant when cut or punctured," Heileson said. "A single drop of toxic sap in your eyes can cause permanent blindness. If you do come into contact with sap, wash the affected area with soap and water. Stay out of the sun for at least 48 hours to minimize scarring."

All parts of poison hemlock are acutely toxic to humans and animals; even the dead, hollow canes remain toxic for three years. The plant grows 4 to 6 feet tall with leaves resembling parsley or carrot tops. Poison hemlock is identifiable by its smooth stems with purple blotches.



Washington Poison Control receives over 40 exposure reports annually. Gloves and protective clothing must be worn when handling poison hemlock and facemasks are advised to avoid breathing the pollen. March is the best month to locate poison hemlock and control new plants.

KP Councilmember Don Swenson was impressed after attending a similar PCNWC presentation last spring. "It's really amazing what you see out there once you start looking," he said.

For more information, go to [www.pierce-countyweedboard.org](http://www.pierce-countyweedboard.org)



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## New KP News Website

Our new website has more than just a fresh new look, it has new features in a new structure, with stories and photos organized to be user-useful. The site is easy to use

on a phone or tablet and includes a site-wide search engine. It even allows on-line donations (more on that next month).



The almost-completed archive includes contents of KP News since 2004. We are also digitizing every hard

copy edition of the News in our library, all the way back to the original Key Peninsula Newsletter of November 1982 (so far).

In addition to providing easy access to news, photos and history, the site features an interactive Community Calendar. Now it's easy to add your group's event to the calendar, including the who, what, where and when, and to make changes later. The calendar information will continue to be published in print in the appropriate month.

The new site offers opportunities for businesses to advertise special events, sales or celebrations in an online gallery, whether as part of a print ad package or stand-alone digital ad.

Our new website was built with patience and skill by local artist and KP News columnist and now webmaster Joseph Pentheroudakis. Site development was made possible by a generous grant from our friends at **The Angel Guild** as part of their ongoing support of the Key Peninsula community.

**Come see us at [keypennews.com](http://keypennews.com).**



Fall chum return to Minter Creek every November. *Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News*

## Minter Creek Hatchery: Serving Fishermen and Ensuring Survival of Threatened Salmon

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

The Minter Creek Hatchery sends millions of salmon into Puget Sound each year. It's been in business since 1936, when it was built as a collaborative effort between the University of Washington and the Washington State Department of Fisheries and Wildlife (WDFW). When it expanded in the mid-1990s, it became a model for other hatcheries in the state.

The first hatchery in Washington opened on the Kalama River in 1895 and was built primarily to compensate for damage to large areas of habitat caused by logging. Now, the 83 state hatcheries are an important part of the state economy, releasing more than 100 million fish each year and accounting for about three-quarters of the commercial and recreational fish caught in Puget Sound. They have also taken on the critical role of recovering and conserving the state's naturally spawning salmon populations when their survival is threatened.

The hatchery system is complex.

"We are continually learning more about how quickly salmon can adapt to their environments, and even with the same genetic stock, hatchery fish over time are not genetically identical to the wild fish," said Jim Jenkins, WDFW operations and reform manager for region six (South Puget Sound). "So, how we approach our salmon recovery efforts is constantly being re-evaluated. We are also careful to be sure that the salmon we raise to augment recreational and commercial fishing doesn't impact the wild populations."

Funding for the hatcheries comes from the federal government, state and local general funds, and the state wildlife account. Some of this money is collected through recreational and commercial fees.

Deidre Bissonnette manages the Minter Creek Hatchery and lives there with her husband and two elementary school-aged children, along with one other employee and his family. She also manages the small Hupp operation nearby and the Coulter Creek Hatchery near Allyn, where another employee lives fulltime. Together, the three hatcheries ensure there are plenty of fall chum, coho and chinook salmon for recreational, commercial and tribal fishing. They also make sure that the endangered spring chinook stock is preserved.

The spring chinook from the White River and Puyallup River are threatened. A recovery program designed to protect and preserve the species was started in the late 1970s and Minter Creek has participated since 1996. The chinook arrive at Minter in June and July. Because the hatchery is not far from the mouth of the creek, and in the natural world they would have a longer swim upstream to spawn, the fish are collected and held in the tanks until they are "ripe."

The eggs and sperm are harvested; the eggs are fertilized and then incubated until they hatch. The fry are sent to the Hupp site to grow and are brought back to Minter for release. Before they are released, the adipose fin is clipped so they can be identified as hatchery-raised. The program will continue until the wild salmon return to their native watershed at a sustainable rate.



The fall chinook come originally from Green River. This program is aimed at augmenting the supply of fish for Puget Sound recreational and tribal fishing. The fall chinook return to Minter Creek about a month after the spring chinook and the process for harvesting, fertilizing, raising, marking and releasing the salmon is the same. The hatchery expects to harvest over 2½ million eggs. About a third of the fertilized eggs will be transferred to Suquamish tribal facilities and the remainder will be raised and released from Minter Creek.

Minter Creek also receives fertilized eggs from the Tumwater Falls Hatchery, hatches them and ships juveniles to the Coulter Creek Hatchery where they are sent to grow because the Tumwater facility is not big enough. About 4 million smolt will be shipped back to Tumwater Falls to acclimatize before they are released.

The coho program, like the fall chinook, is designed to increase the number of salmon for tribal and recreational fishing. The coho return is in early fall. Minter Creek has historically been home to wild coho and about 10 percent of the returning fish are wild, so the wild and hatchery fish are interbred. This year, the hatchery estimates that more than 1 million eggs will be harvested. About half will be raised and released at Minter Creek; the rest will be shipped to hatcheries and salmon clubs.

The chum return is the most intense, taking place over just two to three weeks in late fall. The harvest and raising is similar to that for coho, with interbreeding of wild and hatchery stock. Chum smolt are so small when they migrate to the Sound that the adipose fin is not clipped.

The chum program is intended to augment fish for the commercial fall chum salmon harvest and for recreational and tribal needs. The program also supplies eggs to schools for their educational programs. It is estimated that more than 4 million eggs will be harvested this year. Twenty-six schools will receive about 250 eggs for school projects and tens of thousands of eggs will be shipped to fishermen organizations and state projects.

The Minter Creek Hatchery is a 24/7 operation. Bissonnette or one of her colleagues is always on call in case of emergencies. In the winter, when the incubators are in full operation, a power outage with loss of continuous water flow and oxygen supply could decimate the eggs. The response time is just 15 minutes. The holding tanks are less sensitive, but the response time during the spring and fall is still less than an hour.



**WHAT EXACTLY HAPPENS AT THE MINTER CREEK HATCHERY?**

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

Fish released at a hatchery site are imprinted to return to spawn several years later, after maturing and growing—first along the shoreline and finally in the Pacific Ocean.

The four species of salmon at Minter Creek all return at different times and are kept separate from one another.

When the adults return to Minter Creek, they swim up the fish ladder and are routed into holding ponds via chutes. In the wild, they would have a longer swim before reaching spawning sites, so they are kept in the ponds and fed until the eggs are ready. The number of eggs from each adult female depends on the species: chinook have about 3600; coho 2600; and chum 2300.

When it is time, the fish are separated by gender. They are killed with a blow to the head, the females are stripped of their eggs and the males are milked for their sperm.

Washington state contracts with a private company to manage all the adult fish once they have been killed. The fish that are spawned (harvested for eggs and sperm) are used for fertilizer and animal food. Some fish are not spawned. If the quality is good, they can be used for human consumption and are sent to the NW Harvest Food Bank.

The eggs and sperm are mixed and the fertilized eggs are taken to the incubators where they are doused with an iodine-containing solution to kill bacteria.

The incubators are elaborate mesh trays with continually circulating fresh water. At Minter Creek, both ground (well) water and surface (creek) water are available, and what is used varies depending on the type of salmon. For the salmon that are not native to Minter, well water is used. It has a constant temperature, no contaminants and no debris. For the coho and chum, there may be advantages to the surface water—the fish are acclimated to their native stream and the water has nutrients or minerals missing from the well water that allow the eggs to harden.

Once the fish are “eyed”—when an eye is actually visible—the shell has hardened and they are at their sturdiest.

Eggs are shipped at the eyed stage. If they are to be hatched at Minter, the eggs stay in the incubators. When they hatch, they still have a yolk sac visible on the belly that is absorbed in a process called “buttoning up.” Once they are buttoned up, they are ready to feed and are sent to ponds to grow, some at Minter Creek and some at other sites, depending on the program.

Before release, the salmon have their adipose fin clipped to mark them as hatchery fish (except for chum because they are so small when they are released). The marking program has been in place since the late 1990s. The WDFW encourages the harvest of hatchery fish while leaving the wild fish in the oceans and rivers to allow them to survive and spawn.

In May, Angel Guild awarded a grant to

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## Derek Young COUNCIL UPDATE



### Advances on Mental Health and Safety

After months of debate, the Pierce County Council passed a supplemental budget in June. I cosponsored the bill and compromise amendment because it makes major investments in areas that are important to the Key Peninsula and the rest of Pierce County.

**Behavioral Health:** We are making investments in three different mobile approaches to treating people with behavioral health problems:

**Mobile Intervention Response Team:** This is a new trial based on one from Bexar County, Texas (San Antonio area). It's a proactive unit with nurses, mental health treatment providers and social workers that visit people in need where they are. This is intensive, difficult work and takes time to build trust with patients, but if successful we can transition people suffering from serious chronic behavioral health problems to more traditional treatment. There's \$410,000 in the budget for this proof of concept.

**Mobile Outreach Crisis Teams:** This is an existing program operated on contract through Pierce County's Behavioral Health Organization (Optum). It's designed to be an emergency response that citizens and agencies can call on in case of a behavioral health crisis. Unfortunately, its funding from the state has slid over the years, so they're unable to reach many cases in a timely fashion. We're proposing \$500,000 to reinforce the program and try to make it more reliable. It's also an opportunity to test its effectiveness.

**Corresponders:** In addition to the above approaches, we'll contract for two behavioral health providers that are specially trained in de-escalation and conflict resolution. They're assigned to respond to calls with law enforcement. This is a model that's been successful in cities like Tacoma and Lakewood.

While there are no acquisition funds as originally proposed by the county executive, we have committed \$100,000 to locating and building a 16-bed diversion center. Currently, when first responders or family members need a place to take people in crisis, they end up in far more expensive, ineffective and overcrowded ERs and jails.

Finally, there is a \$1 million appropriation, joining Tacoma, Gig Harbor and other cities and private contributors to support

construction of the new psychiatric hospital led by MultiCare and CHI-Franciscan. In return, the hospital will provide crisis stabilization, inpatient, outpatient and partial hospitalization for Pierce County citizens.

**Public Safety:** Over the last two years, we've added 10 new fulltime sheriff's deputies. Unfortunately, we still have inadequate coverage in rural areas like the peninsulas. I've sponsored an amendment with Councilmembers McCune and Roach for three additional deputies who will be deployed in the Peninsula, Mountain and Foothills detachments.

We're also budgeting \$1.1 million for safety improvements in the jail.

As always, if you want to discuss these or any other issues further, please don't hesitate to contact me at 253-798-7776 or derek.young@co.pierce.wa.us.

*Derek Young represents the 7th District, including the Key Peninsula, on the Pierce County Council.*

## Alice Kinerk LIVIN' LA VIDA LOCAL



### Key Summers

Around here summer is a short season, preceded by a drizzly June and ending abruptly when the rain returns.

The Key is always beautiful for those of us who love it, but summer is the season when we tend to appreciate the place most. Songbirds trill as the sun comes up. Tall stalks of foxglove blanket fields purple-blue. Maple, birch and alder leaves hang along the roadsides bright as jewels in the sun.

Sally Gallagher often spends summer days with her daughter-in-law and grandchildren at Penrose State Park in Lakebay. As her 10-year-old granddaughter Bridget points out, the beach provides a variety of fun activities. "I can play all day and build forts on the beach, play in the water and hang out," she said.

Little sister Frances, age 8, explained that the beach is a place where children



Ayden Dukeshire (left), age 10, looks on as his brother Owen Dukeshire, 8, navigates the climbing structure at Home Park on a recent afternoon. *Photo: Alice Kinerk, KP News*

can meet up for old-fashioned, messy fun. "We meet our cousins here and play all sorts of games and get dirty, and our moms don't care how dirty we get," she said. "We always wash off before we leave."

For the youngest Gallagher sibling, 4-year-old Megan, it is impossible to have a bad day at the beach. "If I drop my sandwich, I can feed the birdies," she said.

Adults less inclined to fort-building and beach play still enjoy being outdoors this time of year. "I do not have kids, but my husband and I love to sit outside and read under the tree on warm, sunny days," said Kari Gulbranson, a kindergarten teacher at Minter Creek Elementary School. "This helps us to relax and take in the fresh air."

Jogging local trails is a favorite summer routine for Wesley Mosier. "I enjoy jogging on the Cushman Trail and McCormick Forest Park on most days since they are close and easily accessible," he said. "Trails are well-maintained and not that crowded."

When evening comes, Mosier and family like to check out the music scene. "I love to listen to live bands, whether it's outside or at a local restaurant with my dad and brother," he said.

Surrounded on three sides by water, Key residents gravitate to the shoreline when the temperature starts to climb. For Katy Stewart, summer is the time to get back on the boat with her husband and son. "Our little sailboat, 'Greener,' just finished the Race to Alaska (R2AK 2017) and we'll spend as much time sailing this summer as we can, as soon as Grandpa finishes delivering her home from Ketchikan," she said. Between sailings, the Stewarts love to pick up fresh local oysters from Minterbrook and barbecue.

On the hottest days, the Dukeshire family (Dad Aaron, mom Jen, and their five children Ayden, Owen, Ayla, Aaron Jr. and Soren) know where to find the cool spots. "Home Park—or 'Fire Truck Park' as the kids call it—is fun because it's shady," Jen said.

For many Key Peninsula families, summer means time to earn prizes reading in the Pierce County Summer Reading Contest (adults can participate, too). They also participate in the diverse activities the library offers, from puppet-shows to the building of Lego robots. At Vacation Bible School classes across the Key, religious studies are made fun. The Key Peninsula Historical Society offers a chance for young and old to learn about those who came before us. In August, neighbors gather at Volunteer Park each Friday as the sun sets for music, crafts and a movie outdoors on the inflatable screen. Saturdays and Sundays, it's time

to browse for treasures at the swap meet at Lake Kathryn village.

Locals say time moves a little slower on the Key Peninsula. Let's hope that's true this summer.

*Alice Kinerk will be teaching the highly capable fourth and fifth grade class at Minter Creek Elementary School this fall and is a regular contributor to the Key Peninsula News. She lives in Longbranch.*

## Carolyn Wiley DEVIL'S HEAD DIARY



### Stop Showering: Lose Weight

I have long suspected that ankles, knees and hips would function better with a lighter load, so it was no surprise when my doctor noted at my annual checkup that I should consider becoming more active and losing some of my carefully-curated poundage. Then there was the problem of progressively diminishing lung capacity. "Use it or lose it," the doctor said. But if you have already lost some of "it," can "it" be restored through use?

I'm lazy, but the idea of carting around an oxygen tank for the rest of my life seemed like even more work than actual exercise would be, so I decided to give it a try.

Jogging was promising until a spread-eagle-face-plant sent me off in search of other pursuits. Zoomba was fun until a case of elder-knee benched me. Speed-walking was relaxing but concentration was a problem. All it took was a leaf, a bird or a dew-spangled spider web to turn a speed-walk into a meander.

I was reluctant to put my Rubenesque form on display but I overcame my aversion, put my glasses on the pool's edge, slipped in for the initial Beluga whale swim and flailed my way through one length of a very short pool. Just getting back to retrieve my glasses required Aquaman-like effort.

The learning curve was steep. When I focused on stroke, I forgot to kick. When I focused on form, I forgot to breathe. But I discovered that I liked the solitude—the time to think, to observe, to analyze, to question.

Like a spear, I slide through the bubbly rush of exhaled breath into the dancing ice-blue shadows cast by the underwater light at the end of the darkened pool and I wonder, "Does the rippling of my aging eel-fin arms make me a more efficient swimmer?"

Gradually, some of "it" has been restored. I have lost 30 pounds since the



first of the year. Unfortunately, it was not cumulative weight. It was the same 3 pounds, 10 times over.

Since I was working so hard, feeling healthier and building strength, why wasn't I losing weight?

Like so many historic breakthroughs, the answer came to me in the shower after a swim. As I stood there in the stall, attempting to drain the local YMCA of all its hot water, I happened to read the label on my shampoo bottle. It was not one of those boxed, fine print warnings, but was emblazoned right across the front of the container, hiding in plain sight.

I have used the product to wash my hair for decades and let it run down my body with each long, daily shower, never suspecting that my relationship with those luxuriant suds posed such a dire health threat.

Do you know what the label said? "Use daily for extra body and volume."

No wonder I have been gaining weight after these many years of product loyalty. It wasn't what I was eating. It wasn't my sedentary lifestyle. It was the curse of that very effective product.

I got rid of that shampoo. From now on I am showering with dishwashing soap instead. That label reads, "Dissolves fat that is otherwise difficult to remove."

You're welcome.

*Carolyn Wiley lives in Longbranch.*

**Colin Evoy**  
IN THE GARDEN



## Growing Great Compost

Do you want a great garden? Do you throw away food every month? Are you aware that you are throwing money away?

Most people know that composting is an option, but many keep from starting out of fear of having a stinky pile that angers the neighbors or a complex and time-consuming system that is not worth the effort. My goal here is to clear up some misconceptions and to describe a simple, intuitive system that will turn your trash into treasure.

The first step is collecting your food waste. The simplest system is to place a bin next to your trashcan; large enough to hold a day's worth of food waste and restricted enough to keep any pets out. An average family of four would need a bin the size of a shoebox.

*The opinions expressed by columnists are not necessarily those of the KP News. We neither endorse nor oppose issues or proposals discussed on these pages and present these views for public information only.*

Dump any uneaten food in that bin instead of in the trash. Banana peels, apple cores and bowls of oatmeal are welcome additions, but things like tea bags, plastic and glossy paper are strictly prohibited. Meat, dairy and oil should be added sparingly because they can lead to bad smells (you will know if you have added too much). At the end of each day or as often as is convenient, you will take that bin of food waste to your compost pile.

This can be a simple pile on the ground, you can build a small box or you can buy a multitude of contraptions from the garden center like tumblers, worm bins or specially designed spinners. The tumblers and spinners have the added benefits of making it easy to introduce oxygen and being very good at keeping wildlife out. Whatever you use, the concept is the same: you add the food waste, you add some brown materials like leaves, straw or shredded paper, and you add oxygen.

Once a day, to keep smells down, the pile should be turned with a shovel and brown materials should be added in roughly the same amount as the food waste. Food will start breaking down within a week and in a few months you will easily have enough soil to cover a 10 by 10 foot area.

A compost thermometer from any nursery is the best way to track temperature but you can also use most food thermometers. If the compost is too cold, it means the microorganisms don't have what they need, like enough food, brown materials or oxygen. It's important to remember that even if things get cold or smelly, they can always be worked back to proper order quickly and easily, so do not despair.

If things are going right, there should be no smells and you should see the food waste disappear in a number of days (the most common mistake that not enough oxygen is added to the compost pile).

A very good number to remember is 131 degrees. At that temperature, any potential pathogens, weed seeds, insect larvae or anything negative will be unable to survive in the compost, so if you are worried about spreading any seeds to your garden or diseases to your plants, just check your thermometer.

The benefits of composting covers everything from cutting down on your trash bill, to giving you free, highly fertile garden soil, to helping the environment by keeping things from going to landfills. It also saves you time and money every year when you plant your vegetable garden.

*Colin Evoy spent most of the summer working at Camp Seymour as an AmeriCorps Agricultural Coordinator. He leaves in August for a yearlong AmeriCorps service in Denver.*



# CIVIC CENTER

# CORNER

## Fireworks Stand a Booming Success

Thank you to all our friends far and wide who patronized our 4th of July fireworks stand. This is one of our biggest fundraisers and you all helped us meet our goal!

We are especially grateful to Buck's Steakhouse and Sports bar who provided us a new location. Joni - your staff was wonderful, supportive and helpful. Thank you, we loved being your neighbor!

Many of us experience random acts of kindness from our neighbors living on the Key. Our little fireworks stand was no exception. Thank you to the community members who anonymously bought fireworks for families waiting in line, GNOSH who unexpectedly sent over food to feed us, Sunnycrest Nursery for our balloons, and Ed Taylor aka Uncle Sam for costuming on July 4th.

Not so random were the numerous volunteers that helped us with the stand. A special note of thanks goes to coordinator **Tim Kezele** and to **Kathy and Eric Collins**, fireworks aficionados, who returned again this year to volunteer and make our stand successful. More than 260 hours of volunteer time was given by our board, staff and community to set-up, staff and take-down the stand. Thank you to **Phil Bauer, Ed Brown, Sebastian Christensen, Emily Croxen, Scott & Joe Dervaes, Kendra & Patrick Frees, Peggy Gablehouse, Eric, Jordan & Tracy Geiss, Patty Ghioffi, Jena Henak, Blake Johnson, Bill & Claudia Jones, Roger, Sharon & Steve Kaffer, Dale Loy, Bruce Macdonald, and Connor & Christian Reilly**. We couldn't have done it without you!

KPCCA Updates: Many people have noticed all of the trenching and digging behind the main building. We've been putting in electrical lines and water lines and some conduit for future use. This is all a part of the infrastructure upgrade necessary to becoming a proper shelter facility in times of crisis or disaster. Partly paid for by grants & KPCCA and partly accomplished with countless hours of volunteer help from Roger Kaffer and Mark Knisely. By the way, Mark Knisely's volunteer labor on these projects has saved KPCCA about \$10K, and is largely why they have been affordable! Thank you Mark and Roger!

## Save these dates

**Oct 7 Blues & Brews** Microbrews, live music by Blues Redemption Band

**Nov 11 Winter Warm-up & Chili Competition** Featuring the finest crafts from Key Peninsula artisans, music and more Vendor & Chili Cook-off competition registration forms will be emailed out early August - check [www.kpciviccenter.org](http://www.kpciviccenter.org) for registration links. Don't miss participating in this season opener at the Civic Center.

## Rob Vajko Be a Blessing, Not a Burden



I recently read that half of all trash on the roadsides comes from someone intentionally littering. The other half is unintentional, meaning that it flies out of a pickup or gets blown down the street from a trash can that's too full or something like that. What this means is that a good many of us are unintentionally creating work for someone else. Someone has to go pick up that trash that you accidentally left behind because you didn't properly secure a load on the way to the dump or couldn't be bothered to chase down that receipt that blew out of your hands.

There are in life really only two options in every situation. Whether we're talking about walking into a room full of people or simply walking down the street, we are always making the choice to either be a blessing or to be a burden.

Choosing to be a blessing means that your presence leaves the situation better than it was. If you're staying overnight at a friend's house, the fact that you helped out by loading the dishwasher means that you lessened the burden. You chose to lighten their load by being a blessing.

Not choosing to be a blessing means that you chose to be a burden instead. Someone else had to work harder than they would have if you hadn't been there. Instead of helping lighten the load, you increased it.

As someone who is part of a road cleanup crew, I can tell you that half of all the litter on our roadsides is still a lot of litter. Doing road cleanup would be a whole lot easier if there were only half as much trash out there.

How can we be a part of the solution instead of being a part of the problem? We can start by making sure we aren't unintentionally littering for starters. Make sure the lids are on your trash cans properly and that they're not overflowing, clean out the back of your pickup (you know that loose stuff will blow away so don't put it in there to start), and pick up that receipt you dropped.

We can go a step further and pick up litter that isn't ours. You know you need to get out and walk more often anyway, so take a trash bag with you and pick up the trash around your neighborhood. A little at a time makes a big difference.

And, by the way, if you're one of those who intentionally litters, maybe just start being a blessing to your community by waiting to dispose of your trash till you

get home or to a gas station; and if you're a smoker, try taking your butts with you and disposing of them properly because they take a long time to decompose and encourage others to litter as well.

Thanks, we all appreciate it!

*Rob Vajko lives in Purdy.*

## Letter to the Editor

### Gunfire

On Saturday, June 3, on Herron Road, we were subjected to four hours of loud, booming gunfire close to our property, including rapid-fire weapons and rifle shots. These people were trespassing on someone's property and obviously had no concern about the racket they were making. We called the police, but nothing was done to curtail this obnoxious pastime. The area is supposed to be a no shooting zone.

We treasure our peaceful environment here and were outraged by the violation of local laws and infringement of our serenity, let alone safety, by these people. What can be done to enforce the rules that are in place to make this area safe and free from this intrusion on our and all of our neighbors' privacy and peace? Why do the police not respond?

*Joan Rosling/Lakebay*

**Letters to the Editor** Opinions expressed are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the publishers or staff. Letters to the editor must be signed and include a daytime phone number for verification. No anonymous letters will be published. Letters are used on a space-available basis and will be edited for length and content. Mail letters to: P.O. Box 3, Vaughn, WA 98394, or email to editor@keypenews.com.

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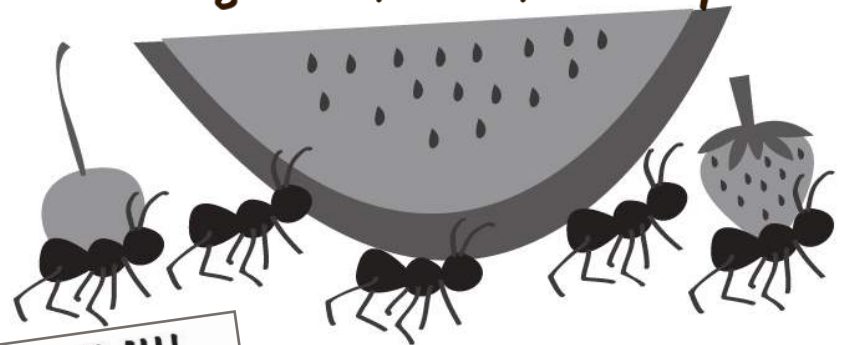
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The Red Barn Youth Center in Key Center is open in summer Tues. -Thurs. Photo: Ted Olinger, KP News

## Red Barn Executive Director Reflects on His First Year

COLLEEN SLATER, KP NEWS

Clint Rosson, executive director of the Red Barn Youth Center, completes his first year Aug. 1 and is excited about past successful projects and adding new ones.

Remodeling the large, unused space tentatively planned as a gymnasium will triple the space the center has available. Attendance of up to 50 teens has pushed the limit during the winter season.

Funding for the project and the center at large comes from local people, organizations and grants.

Rosson foresees a variety of uses for the extended space: individual computer stations, physical activities, music programs and perhaps an area where organizations can hold fundraisers.

“One person asked if she could have her wedding here,” he said.

Updates this past year have included security cameras inside and out, two new outside lights and new fencing next to the KP highway.

A former shop teacher, Rosson plans to teach a small gas engine class in the coming year, with the eventual goal of a complete automotive program as well as building trades classes. He wants to see students graduate with marketable skills that are no longer taught in local schools.

He would like to see another building closer to the high school that becomes a teaching center for various skills.

“Olympia, OSPI (the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction) and even other states are watching us,” Rosson said. Training centers for some industries “can’t get them in fast enough” to fill their vacancies, he said.

Rosson also hopes to arrange field trips to broaden the horizons of the local youth.

Harbor WildWatch will teach a marine biology class on how to farm oysters in the late summer or early fall.

The center’s goal is to meet the basic needs of their students. They get help with their studies during the school year and, on open days, each attendee is offered a full meal.

Games, crafts and other projects are available, said Morgan Blalock, program director. Kelly Bennet was recently appointed assistant program director.

“The kids know that they can speak to any staff about anything at any time,” said Rosson. “We do a tremendous amount of one-on-one counseling.”

Chief cook Susan Ricketts supervises the garden where students tend the plants they get to eat later.

“Susan can make a beefsteak out of beans,” Rosson said.

She prepared much of the food and supervised last year’s Thanksgiving dinner for students and some of their families.

“There was plenty of food for everyone,” Rosson said. “Kind of like the five loaves and two fish.”

The Peninsula School District provides pickup for students in the summer and delivery home at the end of the day’s programs year-round if needed.

*The Red Barn’s summer hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. During the school year, it is open every weekday from 2:30 to 6 p.m. The Red Barn follows the school calendar and is closed when schools are. For more, go to [www.redbarnkp.org](http://www.redbarnkp.org).*

August 2017  
www.keypenparks.com  
253 884-9240



Key Pen Parks

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- ☆ Aug. 4 **Secret Life of Pets** (2016)
- ☆ Aug. 11 **Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory** (1971)
- ☆ Aug. 18 **Finding Dory** (2016)
- ☆ Aug. 25 **The Jungle Book** (2016)

Bring a blanket or chair. Sponsored in part by Peninsula Light Co. Pre-movie crafts sponsored by Shawn & Claudia (Sami) Jensen.



**August 9** FREE family-friendly walk and talks with retired forester Walter Briggs. Learn about the amazing plants, trees and creatures in our area. Start at 6:30 pm in the **360 Trails** parking area.



**August 9 & 23** Wednesday afternoons from 5 to 6pm, **Home Park** playground family fun with a FREE chilly treat courtesy of Key Pen Parks while supplies last.



**August 17** Thursday from 4:30 to 5:30. **FREE.** Bring your family and your bikes and explore the riding features at 360 Trails. Then enjoy a chilly treat. See website for details.



A great time was had by over 700 people at the third annual **Fourth of July Community Hot Dog Social**. Thanks in large part to our sponsors:



and Key Peninsula Lutheran Church, Tom Taylor Family YMCA, Lindquist Dental Clinic for Children, KP Veterans, KP School Bus Connects, KP Parks & Rec Foundation, Key to Learning Childcare & Preschool, Red Barn Youth Center, Costco, and the Zach & Sarah Smith family.

Thank you KP Parks Commissioners Kip Clinton, Mark Michel, Ed Robison and Shawn Jensen; and volunteers Jerry & Marilyn Hartley, Rob & Dianna Home, Chad & Tracy Oliviera, Bill & Claudia Jones, Ben, Susan, Annmarie, Dan & Charles Paganelli, Sami, Isabel & Jonathon Jensen, Hunter Grandt, Christina Hallock, Cheryl Prante, Mindy Baxter from KP Cares and Maureen Reilly from KP Parks & Rec Foundation.

Thank you to PenMet Parks for loaning us a few tents, The Snack Shack for cooking hot dogs and cutting watermelon, and thanks to Uncle Sam.

**GATEWAY PARK UPDATE** Check out [www.keypenparks.com](http://www.keypenparks.com) or our Facebook page for latest news on opening.



Natalie Bessinger, left, with her 9-year-old host sister, Helen, visiting a zoo together in the Netherlands. *Courtesy Natalie Bessinger*



Mika Laursen with two celebrants at the Schützenfest Verein, an annual festival in Aachen that includes a shooting competition. Laursen won third place in the jungend division (ages 14 to 25). *Courtesy Mika Laursen*

## KP Scholarship Exchange Students Come Home With New Perspectives

TED OLINGER, KP NEWS

Natalie Beesinger, of Lakebay, and Mika Laursen, of Wauna, both 17, returned home in June after spending their high school junior years in Germany as part of a student exchange and scholarship program.

Last year, Beesinger and Laursen were two of 250 students chosen out of 3,000 applicants nationwide to receive the 2016 Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Scholarship (CBYX).

Beesinger lived with a host family of five in Herzogenrath, a town of 50,000 bordering the Netherlands.

"It's only been two weeks, but I really want to go back," she said.

"It feels like it's been four months," Laursen said. "I'm new to everything here."

While Beesinger has lived in Lakebay for more than a decade, Laursen is a newcomer to the KP; she was living in Buckley when she won the scholarship. Her family relocated to Wauna just a few days before her departure.

"I was so excited," she said. "I had never left the country, ever, and I lived 20 minutes from Canada."

Both students felt ready, but said nothing can really prepare one for living in a foreign country.

"No matter what you think it's going to be like before you go, you're not ready," Beesinger said. "I was just in that state of nervous excitement: 'This is so cool, but I am so alone.'"

Adjusting to a new family was also a challenge.

"It was a complicated relationship," Beesinger said. "My host family never helped me with German; they would just tell me it was bad. I had a rough time with that."

Laursen lived with a family of six in Eschweiler-Huecheln, across the city of Aachen from Beesinger.

"My host family was so great," Laursen said. "I could tell people my name and that was it, but I was really lucky because my host family could speak mediocre English—even the 4-year-old."

School was another matter, she said.

"My English teacher gave me a B," Laursen said. "And I'm like, 'How did I get a B in English?'"

"My school was awesome," Beesinger said. "They were all really nice to me, but for a couple of months some of the teachers didn't get that I couldn't really speak the language or spell. It's hard to explain to a teacher that you can't read."

Their schools taught fifth grade to 12th and had between 750 and 1,000 students. Both Beesinger and Laursen took classes with refugees.

"I met a lot of refugees from many countries," Laursen said. "They were all kids. It was really cool. But I heard people say, 'Get those Syrians out of here.' There were even conflicting opinions in my household."

"I saw some stuff," Beesinger said. "I had a lot of refugee friends from language class and they were all adults. I think racism is probably just as bad there (Germany), but maybe they hide it better."

The two students also had similar experiences when it came to societal attitudes that are potentially awkward in the U.S.

"My host parents were very upfront about politics," Laursen said, "But they talked about American politics, not German politics. And they were not happy with us."

"I feel like socialism is a dirty word in America but in Germany, it works," Beesinger said. "Maybe it's because it's a smaller country."

Both students said Germans their age were more responsible with alcohol and sex than their American counterparts.

"They're allowed to be around alcohol their whole lives, even though they're not allowed to drink hard stuff until they're 18;

there's no taboo," Beesinger said. "Kids here feel when they get one chance to drink alcohol, they have to drink as much as possible. I would be around other Americans and think, 'How are you still alive?'"

The German attitude was similar when it came to romantic relationships. "As far as sex goes, I think they're a lot more accepting of it and they do have a much lower teen pregnancy rate (than the U.S.) because the communication is so much better," Beesinger said. "In Germany, if something goes wrong (in a relationship), you can talk to people and you're not going to get shamed for it."

"I witnessed multiple conversations between my host siblings, the older ones, and my host mom just talking about their sexual relationships," Laursen said. "I mean, they just talk about it."

Both students will be seniors next year at Peninsula High School.

"I need to get a job," Beesinger said. "I want to save up money to go back. We both want to go to college there."

"They have international programs, so they want kids from other countries to come," Laursen said. "It's much less expensive. They don't have tuition; they have a student body fee, which is 260 euros a semester for insurance and transit."

The CBYX scholarship was founded in 1983 to strengthen ties between Germany and the U.S. through citizen-level diplomacy. Both Beesinger and Laursen recommended the experience.

"But they have to know that the program is not going to hold their hands through everything," Laursen said. "They're going to expect you to do stuff yourself: 'You're an adult now—get it done.'"

"It gave me a taste almost of what college would be like, but with the safety net," Beesinger said. "I'm excited to move out, but I feel like sometimes my mom gets kind of hurt when I say that."

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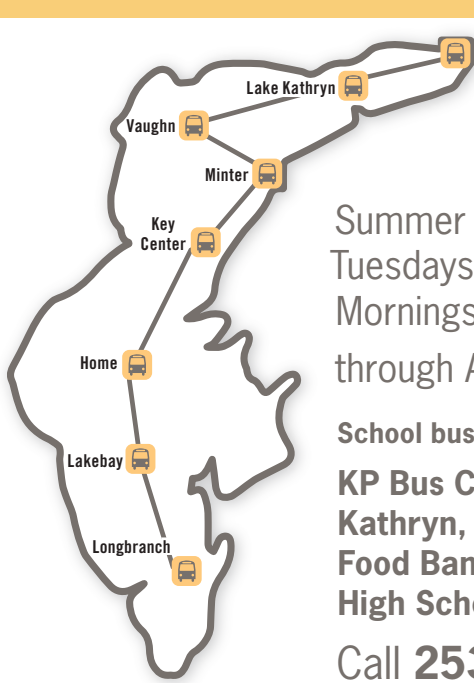


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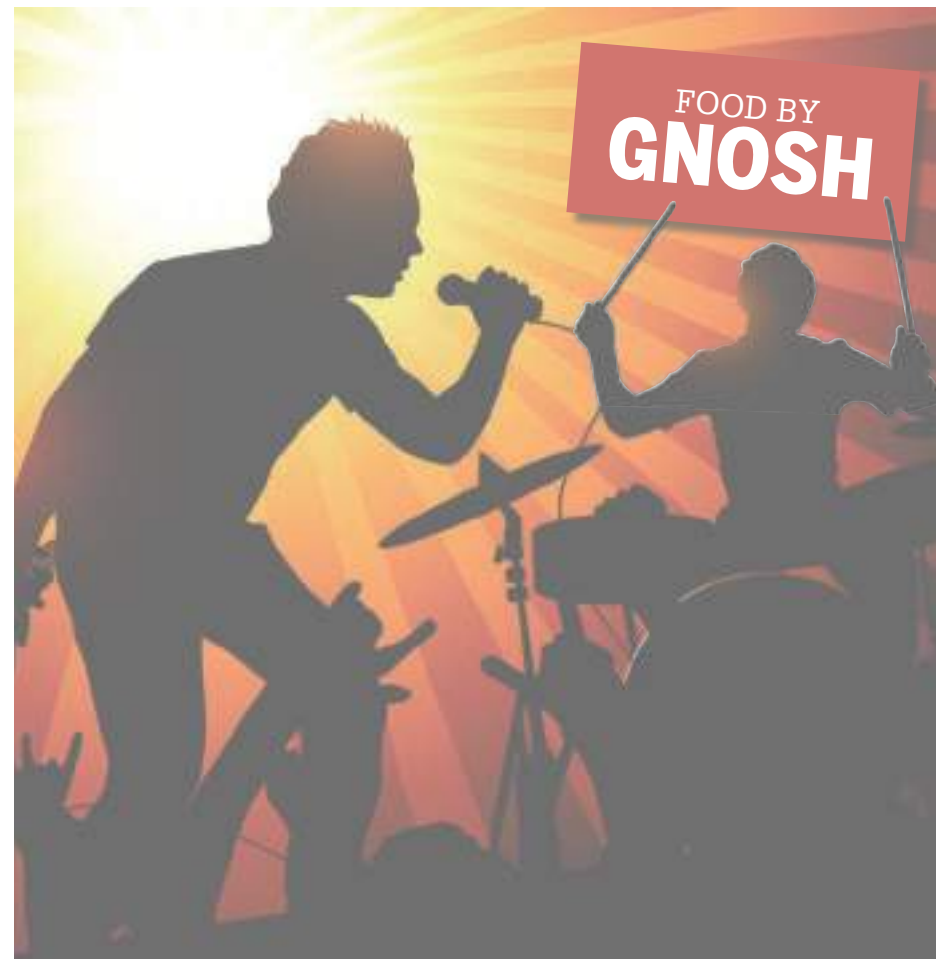
A partnership with the KP Community Council, Puget Sound Educational School District and the Peninsula School District. See complete school year schedule at [kp.council.org](http://kp.council.org)

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## Saturday 8-11pm

# September 2

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253/884-6022 Facebook or [www.licweb.org](http://www.licweb.org) 4312 KP Hwy S

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Enter your event at our new website, keypennews.com. Click on "Submit an Event," register as a user and fill out the form. Events appear on the online calendar all month before being printed in the next edition.

## TECH HELP

Book a librarian to receive one-on-one help; register for an appointment online. Getsmart.pcls.us or 548-3309

## NOW TO AUG. 23

## FREE SUMMER LUNCH

Children and their parents are invited to participate in the free summer lunch program Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 11:30 a.m. at Key Peninsula Civic Center. For more information, call Food Backpacks 4 Kids, 523-857-7401.

## AUG. 1 &amp; 15

## SENIOR SHOPPING

Seniors may grocery shop at various stores with a "Dutch" lunch. Transportation provided. 884-4440

## AUG. 2

## TWAA ART WALK

The artists of the Key Peninsula, with the help of Two Waters Arts Alliance, Bruce Titus and the Key Peninsula News, are pleased to present a free evening of art, music, wine and food during the Key Center Art Walk from 5 to 8 p.m. www.twowaters.org

## AUG. 3

## 3D PRINTING

Adults learn about the 3D printing revolution 4 to 6 p.m. at the KC Library. Learn about the technology and see a demo of the library's new 3D printers. This event is sponsored by the Friends of the Library and requires registration. 548-3309 or Piercecountylibrary.org/calendar

## FUCHSIA CLUB

Please come join the Lakebay Fuchsia Club meeting 7 p.m. at the KP Civic Center in the Whitmore Room. The topic for this month will be on triphylia fuchsias, presented by Ron Herzog,

## AUG. 5 &amp; 19

## CRAFT WITH ANNA

Craft with Anna at Blend Wine Shop. \$30 at the door; all supplies provided. Aug. 5 the craft is step-by-step painting horses plein air 3 to 5:30 p.m. and Aug. 19 is a unique wine-themed mixed media canvas painting 3 to 5 p.m. CraftwithAnna.blogspot.com

## AUG. 7

## LEGO MINDSTORMS

Children ages 8 to 18 build with Legos 2 to 3:30 p.m. at the KC Library. Register at Piercecountylibrary.org/calendar or 548-3309.

## AUG. 7 &amp; 21

## VETERANS MEET

KP Veterans meet 7 p.m. at KP Lutheran Church; membership is for veterans and military service members and families with children over 16 years old. 225-5130 or keypenveterans@outlook.com

## AUG. 7, 14, 21, 28

## BLOODMOBILE

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

## AUG. 9

## GARDEN CLUB MEETS

The Bayshore Garden Club meets 11 a.m. at the fire station in Longbranch. Wendy, 332-4883

## AUG. 10

## ASHES MEET

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

## AUG. 11 &amp; 25

## BUILDING MADNESS

All ages (children under 6 with an adult) use Legos, straws, connectors, blocks, etc. to construct contraptions from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the KC Library. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library. 548-3309

## AUG. 12 &amp; 26

## CROCHET OR KNIT

The Loving Hearts group meets 1 to 3 p.m. at WayPoint Church. Yarn donations welcomed and appreciated. lovingheartsonkp@gmail.com or Virginia, 884-9619

## AUG. 14

## VETERANS' EVENT

An open house hosted by Key Pen Veterans at the community council office from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. will feature representatives from Bremerton Veterans Affairs and Tacoma Veterans Center who will provide information about services and programs available for veterans. All interested veterans and their families are welcome. Key Center Corral, Suite D, 9013 Key Peninsula Highway N. 432-4948

## HOUR OF CODE

Ages 8 and up learn basic Scratch coding and create an animated program from 2 to 3 p.m. at the KC Library. This event is sponsored by the Friends of the Library and requires registration. Piercecountylibrary.org/calendar or 548-3309

## AUG. 16

## PET NEUTER PROGRAM

The Northwest Spay and Neuter Center animal shuttle is at the KP Civic Center 7 to 7:30 a.m. to pick up dogs and cats. Animals will be returned to the civic center at 9 a.m. the next day. Appointments are required. Call 253-627-7729 ext. 217, or email shuttle@nwspayneuter.org.

## AUG. 17

## EMERGENCY SHELTER MEETING

KP Civic Center, Whitmore Room, 7 p.m.

## AUG. 18

## CRAFT TIME

All ages (toddlers with an adult) enjoy a make-it and take-it hands-on crafting program 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the KC Library. Register at Piercecountylibrary.org/calendar. Sponsored by the Friends of the KC Library. 548-3309

## KP NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS GOLF TOURNAMENT

Support your community at four-person scramble golf tournament at Horseshoe Lake Golf Course starting at 9 a.m. to benefit Red Barn Youth Center and Hope Recovery Center. Prizes and raffle. \$95/person. Contact Scott Ludlow at 253-222-4243 or sludlow@geiger.com.

## AUG. 19

## SUPPORT GROUP

The Lakebay Depression and Bi-Polar Support Group meets 11:15 a.m. to noon at Key Peninsula Lutheran Church, 4213 Lackey Road KPN. Kimberly, 753-4270 or DBSALakebay@gmail.com

## PENROSE HISTORY

KP Historical Society presents stories of the early campers at Penrose, from the Puget Salish people to the Penrose family at 7:30 p.m. Penrose Park; program is free, but parking is \$10 without a Discover Pass.

## SUNDAY JAM

Bluegrass Gospel Jam session at Longbranch Church from 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. 16518 46th Street KPS

## AUG. 24

## AUTHOR'S DISCUSSION

Local author Richard A.M. Dixon leads the Friends of the KC Library book discussion group at 11 a.m. Dixon will take the group on an adventurous trip up the Alaskan coast as told in his new novel "Inuit." Copies of the book are available at the library; pick one up at the desk to read and join the discussion. 548-3309

## OFF THE KEY

## AUG. 1, 8 &amp; 15

## SUMMER SOUNDS

Summer Sounds at Skansie ends the free outdoor concerts with Bobby Sox and the Jukebox Aug. 1, David Correa Group Aug. 8 and Ranger and the ReArrangers Aug. 15. All concerts begin at 6:30 p.m. and are held rain or shine at the newly remodeled Skansie Brothers Park. Bring lawn chairs and blankets and ride the Gig Harbor Trolley to the concert. All Gig Harbor parks are nonsmoking and alcohol free. Sponsored by CHI Franciscan, Harbor Hill and the city of Gig Harbor.

## AUG. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

## SUPPORT GROUP

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

## AUG. 2

## DEMOCRATS MEET

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

## AUG. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

## THURSDAY FARMERS MARKET

The Waterfront Farmers Market is open at 3 p.m. every Thursday through August.

## AUG. 4 TO 28

## PLAY PRESENTED

Paradise Theatre presents "Curtains" on weekends at 3114 Judson Street in Gig Harbor. Times are 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2 to 4 p.m. Sundays. Paradistheatre.org or 851-7529

## AUG. 5

## FIRST SATURDAY ART WALK

This free event from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. invites art enthusiasts to stroll through nine local galleries featuring artist demonstrations and displays and refreshments. Pick up a passport at the first gallery and drop off at your last stop. 514-0071



**CRUISE THE NARROWS**

Celebrate the Cruise's 20th anniversary at the car show held along the waterfront. Gigharborcruisers.com

**AUG. 5, 12, 19, 26**

**HARBOR FARMERS MARKET**

Pen Met Parks, 5503 Wollochet Drive NW, hosts Gig Harbor Farmers Market 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Saturday. Fresh flowers, produce, plants, baked goods, food, handmade crafts, children's tent, entertainment and advice from master gardeners and more. gigharborfarmersmarket.com

**AUG. 12**

**RHYTHM & BLUES FESTIVAL**

The Gig Harbor Rockin' Rhythm & Blues Festival noon to 9 p.m. at the Gig Harbor Sportsmen Club, 9721 Burnham Drive NW.

**MARATHON RUN**

The Galloping Gertie Marathon Run is all day and includes a 5K, 10K and half-marathon. Galloping-gertie.com

**AUG. 17 - SEPT. 10**

**OPEN STUDIO TOUR UPDATES**

The Open Studio Tour will have 27 artists at 18 studios this year. Preview the artists' work at Morso Wine Bar starting Aug. 17 and running through Sept. 10. www.gigharboropenstudiotour.org

**AUG. 19**

**AMERICANA MUSIC**

The annual Olalla Americana Music Festival begins at 11 a.m. until after sunset at the Ollala Community Club. The best of the Pacific Northwest blues, bluegrass, country, folk and jazz musicians will be at the best small town festival on the west side of the Cascades.

**WEEKLY EVENTS**

**MONDAYS & FRIDAYS**

**PLAY TO LEARN**

Play to Learn, provided by Children's Museum of Tacoma, 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the KP Civic Center. This is a free drop-in program for preschoolers under 6 and their adult caregivers.

**MON, WED, FRIDAY**

**SENIOR EXERCISE**

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

**TUESDAYS**

**SENIOR TAI CHI**

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

**STORY TIMES**

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 10 a.m. and preschool story time is 11 a.m. 548-3309

**TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS**

**PRESCHOOL PLAY TIME**

Beginning Sept. 12, 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

**SENIOR COMPUTER CLASS**

Computer class for ages 55+ at 10 a.m. at the KP Community Services. This is an open forum directed by your questions and needs, which is great for beginners or moderate users. 884-4440

**TUESDAYS & SATURDAYS**

**KP MUSEUM OPEN**

The Key Peninsula Historic Society museum features an exhibit entitled "Then and Now" with special focus on the Vaughn Library Hall. Located at the KP Civic Center, the museum contains artifacts, pictures and stories from the whole Key Peninsula for free admission. 888-3246

**WEDNESDAYS**

**READY, SET, GO FOR PRESCHOOLERS**

The Children's Home Society of Washington sponsors a free cooperative preschool class for 3- and 4-year-olds at KP Civic Center. Parents or caretakers participate with the children, playing learning games, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. 884-5433

**NOW IT'S EVEN EASIER TO PUT YOUR EVENT IN THE CALENDAR**

**NEW KP NEWS WEBSITE CALENDAR LAUNCHES AUGUST 1**

Publicize your special event, meeting or gathering with a free listing in the Community Calendar. It's easy to add your event to the web-based calendar, at www.keypennews.com. You'll be able to quickly enter all the details including who, what, where, when and sometimes why. Our editors will proofread and verify before posting to the web calendar. Every month, we'll continue to print calendar events for the coming weeks on these pages. This new feature has been generously underwritten by The Angel Guild as part of their ongoing support of the Key Peninsula community.

**LAKEBAY WRITERS**

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

**KP YOUTH COUNCIL**

Meets every Wednesday, 3 to 5:15 p.m., KC fire station; keypencouncil@gmail.com

**WATERMARK WRITERS WORKSHOP**

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. The Toastmasters also meet at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursdays at the Key Center fire station. 858-5761 or 548-3511

**SENIORS LUNCH**

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

**FRIDAYS**

**KNITTING GROUP**

The "Not Your Mother's Fiber Station" knitting group meets 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Key Center fire station. All knitters welcome.

**SATURDAYS**

**WRITERS GUILD**

The Writers Guild meets the first and third Saturday 10 a.m. to noon in the community council office, Suite D at the KC Corral. 884-6455

**PUBLIC MEETINGS**

**Aug. 2 & 16, KP Lions**, 7 p.m., KC fire station; 853-2721

**Aug. 7, McNeil Island meeting**, 6 p.m., Lakebay Marina. markscott@lakebaymarina.com

**Aug. 8 & 22 KP Fire Dept.**, 5 p.m., KC fire station; keypeninsulafire.org

**Aug. 9, KP Community Council**, 7 p.m., KC fire station

**Aug. 10, TWAA Board**, 7 p.m., VFW Room, KP Civic Center; info@twowaters.org

**Aug. 10, KP Civic Center Assn. Board**, 7 p.m., Whitmore Room, KP Civic Center; 884-3456

**Aug. 14, KP Parks**, 7:30 p.m. at Volunteer Park office; public is encouraged to attend. 884-9240

**Aug. 16, Longbranch Improvement Club**, 6:30 p.m. social, 7 p.m. meeting, LIC; 884-6022

**Aug. 16, KP Advisory Commission**, 6:30 p.m., VFW Room, KP Civic Center; co.pierce.wa.us for agenda; Toni Fairbanks, 253-798-7156

**Aug. 17, KP Citizens Against Crime**, 7 p.m., KC fire station

**Aug. 17, Peninsula School District Board**, 6 p.m., district office

**Aug. 21, KP Democrats**, 7 p.m., Home fire station; johnpatkelly@aol.com

**Aug. 28, KP Farm Council**, 6:30 p.m., in the community council office, Suite D at the KC Corral; c.wiley@mac.com

The Community Calendar is brought to you as a public service by the Angels.



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Connecting the Community

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**Free of charge**

Under-18 children need a parent  
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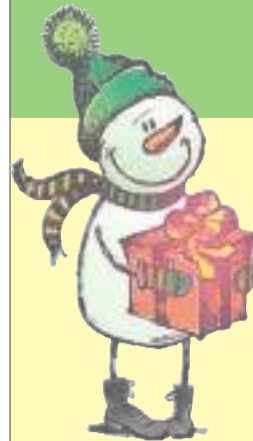


**Blues & Brews Fest**  
Featuring **Blues Redemption Band**

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

**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 11**

*10th Annual WINTER WARMUP*



**Holiday Crafts Fair**  
*and Chili Competition*

*Handmade Local Art and Creations*

Live Entertainment - Concessions - Santa Pictures  
Free Admission - 9 am to 5 pm

Key Peninsula Civic Center, 17010 S. Vaughn Road 253/884-3456 [www.kpciviccenter.org](http://www.kpciviccenter.org) The Key Peninsula Civic Center Association, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, fosters and promotes the civic, social, cultural and general well-being of the Key Peninsula community.

KEY PENINSULA COMMUNITY

*Neighbors Helping Neighbors*

**Golf Tournament**



*Giving a helping hand to our neighbors*

Come help us support our community. We are holding a 4-person scramble golf tournament at Horseshoe Lake Golf Course.

**August 18, 2017**

**9:00 a.m.**

All proceeds will help the funding of two great causes, The Red Barn Youth Center and Hope Recovery Center. We will have prizes as well as a chance to win a car from Bruce Titus Auto Group.

**Entry Fee: \$95 per person**

Contact: Scott Ludlow 253-222-4243

[sludlow@geiger.com](mailto:sludlow@geiger.com)



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Our mission is to save lives through innovative addiction and mental health treatments in order to give the patient a pathway to reach their full potential in life.





KPFRC staff, left to right, Jud Morris, Tami Miller-Bigelow and Victoria Beeber. Photo: Carolyn Wiley, KP News

## Children's Home Society: A Key Resource

CAROLYN WILEY, KP NEWS

Jud Morris has become a fixture on the Key Peninsula since his arrival 16 years ago. He is executive director and the only full-time employee of the Children's Home Society of Washington/Key Peninsula Family Resource Center at the KP Civic Center in Vaughn. The organization's mission is to "develop healthy children, create strong families, build engaged communities and speak and advocate for children."

Morris and his staff of six, including one intern from the School of Social Work at University of Washington Tacoma, work to fulfill that mission. Evidence of the positive atmosphere at the office is the composition of the staff—three of the current employees are former interns.

Demands for services have dramatically increased over the last 12 years, from 800 unduplicated clients in 2005 to 3,800 in 2016. Ninety percent of the people who use the services live below the federal poverty line. This number represents about 20 percent of the 17,500 residents of the KP. Because some clients require multiple types of service, the staff has documented 5,427 discrete service contacts so far in 2017.

Many of these contacts occur through KPFRC programs like Indoor Park and Ready, Set, Go. These are designed to engage preschool-aged children and their parents in activities that promote parent-child relationships, provide early learning opportunities and model socialization skills that will encourage cooperation and build self-esteem.

KPFRC has also organized several mentoring groups for school-aged children. Little

Toasters promotes speech and leadership skills for girls from second through sixth grade to counter the reluctance girls often feel when speaking up in class.

Another group, Little Buddies/Big Buddies, provides cross-age mentoring by bringing middle and high school students together with elementary school children for after-school activities.

Another offering is Ready, Set, Go. This early-learning opportunity is designed for 3- and 4-year-olds and their parents or caregivers to prepare both child and adult to succeed in school.

The work that Morris and his staff perform on an individual level involves home visits, where they provide basic needs such as diapers, clothing and school supplies. KPFRC also serves as an information source regarding financial aid, health care and employment, as well as rent and utility assistance.

Since June 2015, the number of families turning to KPFRC for assistance with utilities and rent has grown from 134 to 201. There has been a 50 percent increase so far this year, including a growing number of grandparents raising their grandchildren.

Morris is a firm believer in "acts of intentional kindness" but recognizes that his regular budget and grants often fall short, so he turns to the community for help.

He recently took steps to address two problems that often affect a child's well-being.

The first problem concerned children who could not pay for their school lunches and who were not signed up for the Free and Reduced-Price meals programs, often out of family pride. Teachers and office staff were covering the cost of providing

food for these students. Morris has arranged a system that issues gift cards from local stores, so school staff are not paying out-of-pocket to feed these children.

The second problem had to do with children in kindergarten and first grade soiling themselves at school. The only options for the school were sending the children home, if an adult was available to pick them up, or turning to clothing from the lost and found. Both options only added to the children's humiliation.

Operation School Dignity was started with the help of Jessica and Nathan Schlicher after a suggestion from their second-grade daughter, Juliette, who had seen classmates suffer these embarrassments firsthand. Through their contributions, Morris managed to provide all eight elementary schools in the Peninsula School District with five sets each of appropriately sized boys' and girls' clothing.

"These are what I call 'acts of intentional kindness,'" Morris said. "There are times when we just need to get things done outside of our budget or existing programs, where people act because, in this case, they recognize that hungry or embarrassed kids don't learn."

For more information or to obtain assistance, call the KPFRC office at 884-5433.

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& we partner with the Alzheimer's Association Washington Chapter to host the **Key Peninsula Caregiver Support Group** 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month

Visit our website: [www.themustardseedproject.org](http://www.themustardseedproject.org)

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Where Animal Care and Friendly Customer Service Are Our Specialties*

## New Owners at Master's Dry Carpet Cleaning

DON TJSSEM, KP NEWS

After operating Master's Dry Carpet Cleaning for nearly 20 years, Tom and Julie Boardman will turn the business over to son, Ben Boardman, and his fiancé, Lilly Blackburn, Aug. 1.

Tom and Julie moved to the Key Peninsula in 1998 to start the business. Tom is originally from Burien and, after serving in the United States Army, he worked at Kenworth Northwest and PACCAR. Julie earned an early education degree from Olympic College and did some teaching before she and Tom started their business. They have been married 27 years and have four children and two grandchildren.

The business involves both commercial and residential cleaning jobs over much of the Puget Sound area. They clean 45 condominiums at Alki Beach in West Seattle and do commercial jobs in both Seattle and Bellevue. But cleaning jobs on the Key Peninsula have always been their favorite, due to the short commute to the jobsite.

One of Tom's favorite work experiences happened when he was cleaning carpets in the house of a naval officer and found a diamond ring buried in dust behind a dresser in the bedroom. The officer said it was his wife's engagement ring that had been lost years earlier. When she came home later in the day, he proposed to her all over again.

Tom and Julie are familiar residents on the KP, as they have been active in civic affairs involving the Key Peninsula Lions Club, Key Peninsula Community Council, Key Peninsula Business Association and other organizations for years. They often volunteer at the Key Peninsula Civic Center for many different events. Ben and Lilly plan to continue the same social involvement on the KP.



Ben Boardman and Lilly Blackburn plan to marry and take over the cleaning business this month. *Photo: Julie Boardman*

## HOME

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& Wednesdays  
8:30 to 9:30 am  
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Band 302, left to right, Roger Gemelle, Glory Rose and Steve Wilkerson. Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News

## Local Rock Band Rocks Locals

ED JOHNSON, KP NEWS

Steve Wilkerson of Vaughn showed up at an open mic night hosted by Roger Gemelle at the Lakebay Marina three years ago. “I’d been playing at Blend for a while, then went over to the marina one night and started playing rhythm guitar with this guy,” Wilkerson said. “The next thing I knew, I was in a band.”

Longtime Key Peninsula residents Gemelle, his wife, Glory Rose, and Wilkerson have been bringing classic rock to the KP Friday nights at the Lakebay Marina and other venues in Gig Harbor, Port Orchard and Tacoma as Band 302 ever since.

Gemelle plays lead guitar, mandolin and sings vocals. He grew up in New York City and, while still in high school, received a scholarship to a ballet academy run by André Eglevsky, a famous Russian dancer and veteran of the American Ballet Theatre and New York City Ballet. The academy needed more male dancers, but “wearing tights was the most painful thing” Gemelle ever experienced in any sport, he said.

In 1964, Gemelle heard The Beatles on the radio for the first time and changed his dreams from ballet to music. He apologized to his teacher, quit ballet school and moved to Boulder, Colorado, playing music for local bands. While on tour in Las Cruces, New Mexico, he met Glory Rose.

Rose plays keyboards and harmonica and sings backup vocals for Band 302. She had left New Mexico at 17 for New Orleans to attend “bunny school” for the Playboy Club, but dropped out when she realized she would have to serve drinks while wearing red spike heels. After returning to Las Cruces, she met Gemelle when he was playing bass for a singer in a local club. She

had planned to wash her hair that night but opted to go out instead.

The two ultimately moved to Los Angeles, where Gemelle worked as the staff writer for The Tokens, performers of the hit song “The Lion Sleeps Tonight,” while Rose wrote promotional material for comedian Nick Griffin. Rose also tried her hand at acting while in Los Angeles with small parts in a couple of movies.

After moving to Washington to find a less expensive place to live than Southern California, Gemelle played piano at the Edgewater Hotel and Canlis Restaurant in Seattle. The couple bought 5 acres on the Key Peninsula and raised two daughters here. Gemelle expanded his résumé this year by publishing his autobiography, “New York Song: A Seedling in the Big Apple.”

Wilkerson plays rhythm guitar and sings for Band 302. He graduated from Peninsula High School in 1964, then moved to Los Angeles “to find a life,” he said.

From 1967 to 1988, he split his time between Laurel Canyon—home of the hip and famous—and Big Sur. He wrote publicity material for five years at A&M Records and worked as a studio musician, occasionally playing late-night basketball with the likes of Marvin Gaye and hanging out with Henry Miller. Wilkerson once assisted a lady friend with a baby-sitting assignment only to discover their charge was the son of Bob Dylan.

Wilkerson moved back to Washington to raise a family and continued to play music while commuting to a day job. He said he was asked to join Band 302 because he was “the cute one and had long hair.”

Band 302 plays most Friday nights at Lakebay Marina from 7 to 10 p.m.

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| 5  | <b>Topsoil 3-Way Mix</b> 10 cubic yards   |
| 6  | <b>Screened Fill Dirt</b> (no rocks) for fill<br>10 cubic yards   |
| 7  | <b>Screened or Rocky PIT RUN</b> for fill<br>15 tons=30,000 pounds=10 cubic yards                               |
| 8  | <b>¾, ¾ or 1½" MINUS Crushed BLACK BASALT</b><br>15 tons=30,000 pounds=10 cubic yards                           |
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## Key Peninsula Community Services

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Helping our citizens to eat and live healthy  
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Do you get hungry around noon?  
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Join our **free Hula class**  
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Call 253-884-4440 for details

[www.keypeninsulacommunityservices.org](http://www.keypeninsulacommunityservices.org) and [www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/)





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### ANOTHER UNSUNG HERO

If you live in the Longbranch area, you have seen Keith McCart and Josie, a small, 8-year-old strawberry blonde dog of varied lineage. McCart and Josie put in about 30 miles a week picking up litter on a route that stretches along KP Highway South from the Longbranch Marina to Devil's Head, west from the boat launch on 72nd to Whiteman Cove and points in between. "You begin to know the serial litterers," McCart said. "There's Small-Bottle-Wine-Guy, Mike's-Hard-Lemonade-Guy, Copenhagen-Guy and the Pain-in-the-Bottle-Cigarette-Guy. Day after day, week after week, Josie and I pick up their litter." McCart also noticed the "Longbranch-1891" sign needed restoration and made contact with the property owner, only to learn there was no one person or group doing regular maintenance. The McCarts—Keith, Georgianna and Josie—decided to repaint the sign. They even changed the color scheme from black lettering to a deep, rich green-on-white to match the green and white "Please don't litter" sign that they attached to the post. So, if you happen to be driving on KP south, wave to Keith and Josie, but take your litter home with you. CAROLYN WILEY, KP NEWS *Photo: Don Tjossem, KP News*

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# Tales From a Reading Group

TED OLINGER, KP NEWS

The Friends of the Key Center Library Book Discussion Group is looking for a few good readers.

“It was started in 1992 by the then librarian, Dory Meyers; she was quite a famous character here,” group member Mary Watson said. “Brenda and Dick Bates were the two others who helped start it. And it’s been going ever since then, so this is its 25th year.”

Watson, 91, of Rocky Creek, is one of only two remaining original members. “We’ve gone down from 20—that’s the largest number we ever had—now usually we figure about 10 for meetings,” she said. “We’d kind of like to bolster the group up a bit.”

The group, sponsored by the Friends of the Key Center Library, meets once a month on the fourth Thursday at 11 a.m. In June, there is a selection meeting where the group picks 10 books to read in the year to come.

“We have no particular theme,” Watson said. “We hope that they will have read it before they recommend it, but it doesn’t always happen that way.”

Recent titles included “Animal Dreams” by Barbara Kingsolver, “Mister Pip” by Lloyd Jones, and the 2017 Pierce County Reads selection, “Grunt: The Curious Science of Humans at War” by Mary Roach.

“One summer we took three months to read the newest translation of ‘War and Peace,’ and we just loved that,” Watson said. “That was one of the things that solidified the group for a long time.”

Not all choices are popular, Watson said. “One person in our group wanted to do Virginia Woolf’s ‘To the Lighthouse.’



John Jewel’s 2002 sculpture in front of the Key Center Library celebrates the importance and joy of reading. *Photo: Ted Olinger, KP News*

Two of us in the group had tried to read this book twice and we both said to her ‘No, no,’ but the group said, ‘If she wants it, we’re going to do it.’ So, we gritted our teeth and we read it and I think that was probably the best discussion we’ve ever had in the group. It was very rewarding.”

Rosina Vertz, the Key Center-Pierce County library branch supervisor, supports this and other local reading groups as much as possible.

“The library has this huge collection of book club kits,” she said. “There are 15 copies of the title that you choose and there are discussion questions and book reviews in the kit, and that is very helpful for people who maybe have never been in a book discussion group.”

Vertz said one of the most interesting book discussions they had was about “The Lady in Gold” by Anne-Marie O’Connor. The book tells the story of Gustav Klimt’s

painting, “Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer.” The sitter’s husband, Ferdinand Bloch-Bauer, a Jewish banker in Vienna, commissioned the portrait. The painting was stolen by the Nazis in 1941 and later claimed by the Austrian government after the war. It was only returned to the family heirs in 2006 after an eight-year legal battle.

“I grew up with the history of the persecution of the Jews across Europe,” said Vertz, a native of West Germany. “I always thought that I knew everything about it, because our teachers did not hide it and I was a history major in college. But I think what I never quite perceived is how it actually worked in real life. That book just told the story of that family and how they did different things to escape—or not—or thinking because they were rich they would be protected, and none of them were. Some of them escaped and some didn’t. That was an important insight for me.”

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“When we started this 20 years ago, it was a big thrill, it was an important day of the month,” Watson said. “Now there are many book clubs, but from what I hear they are quite often just social occasions; there isn’t the passion for reading that I think we had when we started this one.”

“In our group, you have many different tastes and levels of study, but you have this deep respect and liking for books and words, so it’s sort of this small community that becomes very much a part of your life.”

The group will discuss local KP author Richard A.M. Dixon’s new book, “Inuit,” with the author at this month’s meeting, Aug. 24 at 11 a.m. “Everyone is welcome,” said Vertz.

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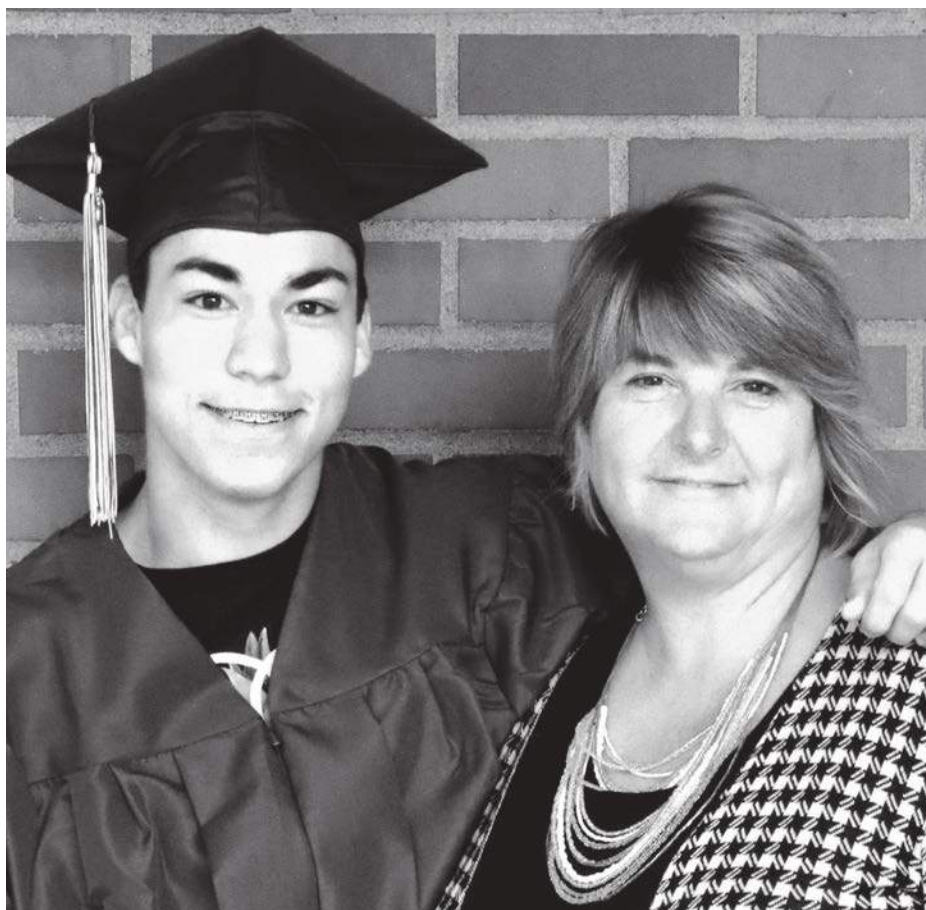


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Once a dropout, Peninsula High School senior Tacoda Anker graduated in June after working with CISP site coordinator Wendy Wojtanowicz, right, upon returning to school. *Courtesy CISP*

## Communities In Schools of Peninsula—Making a Difference

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

Communities In Schools of Peninsula has a mission—to help every child achieve his or her greatest potential. CISP serves children and families in nine of the 15 schools in the Peninsula District. Incorporated in 2000 as an independent nonprofit, it is affiliated with the national dropout prevention program, Communities In Schools. The national program celebrated its 40th year of service earlier this year.

“I’m so encouraged to see the positive outcomes in the lives of the kids we serve,” said Colleen Speer, CISP executive director for the last 14 years.

During the 2016-17 school year, over 3,600 local children received one-time services and 306 children received ongoing services. Ninety-two percent of the students CISP assisted advanced to the next grade or graduated; 88 percent improved academic performance; and 92 percent improved attendance.

One hundred and forty-five CISP volunteers worked more than 4,500 hours.

“As CIS Founder Bill Milliken once said, ‘Programs don’t change lives, relationships do,’ and that is the key to our success at CISP,” Speer said.

CISP identifies schools that will benefit

most from their programs using a variety of data: the number of students living in poverty, academic achievement, attendance and behavior incidents. All four schools on the Key Peninsula, as well as Harbor Heights Elementary, Purdy Elementary, Harbor Ridge Middle School and Peninsula and Henderson Bay High Schools have CISP programs. Minter Creek Elementary will have a CISP site coordinator for the first time this fall.

Teachers and counselors first identify students who need help overcoming obstacles to academic success. Those students may receive a one-time service or they may need ongoing help. The school-based site coordinators are a critical link. They are paid by CISP but work directly in the schools coordinating extra reading and math programs. They also provide student and family services that alleviate obstacles to learning, such as access to vision and dental care, school supplies, clothing, food, parenting classes, holiday gifts and assistance for homeless students. In addition, they connect students with mentors, tutors and other resources to help them succeed in school and in life. “We broker resources and bring them to the school if we can, as

parents may not have the capacity to do so,” Speer said.

CISP coordinators also manage after-school programs. The elementary and middle school programs focus on reading and math skills, usually with one-on-one volunteer mentors. All mentors are screened and receive orientation training and a notebook through Cathy Rich, the CISP volunteer coordinator. With a commitment to a year of service, they spend one afternoon a week with the same student and get additional coaching as needed with the program coordinator.

Mentors also help students with homework at the high school level.

“We provide a one-on-one relationship with a caring adult,” Speer said. “Children need positive role models to create expectations for success, offer encouragement and provide academic support.”

CISP partners with a wide array of community organizations to make that support possible, including the Peninsula School District, Food Backpacks 4 Kids, Children’s Home Society of Washington, Lindquist Dental Clinic, The Red Barn Youth Center, World Vision and the YMCA.

CISP also provides whole-school programs three or four times a year at each school where they employ a site coordinator. It has hosted assemblies on bully prevention, cyberbullying and stopping drug and alcohol abuse. Other whole-school offerings include parent engagement activities like “Dads and Donuts” and bingo nights. CISP always has school supplies on hand that are free to any student. It also provides scholarship assistance to high school students whose families cannot afford the “pay to play” fees for some school sports.

Eighty percent of CISP’s \$490,000 annual budget is devoted to student services. About half of that funding comes from foundations and grants, a quarter from government sources and another quarter from individual donations.

CISP has received two large grants so far in 2017: \$68,000 from the Pierce County Youth Violence Prevention Fund for CISP’s afterschool programs and, most recently, \$42,000 from the Discreten Charitable Foundation to expand site coordinator hours at Evergreen, Key Peninsula Middle School and Peninsula High School.

“We are able to get grants like this because of our evidence-based approach,” Speer said. “Third-party evaluators study what we do as a nonprofit.”

*CISP welcomes volunteers. For those interested in becoming a mentor, call Cathy Rich at 884-5733 or send an email to Cathy@cisofpeninsula.org.*

## One Year In: School Superintendent Reflects

CAROLYN WILEY, KP NEWS

Robert Manahan, Ed.D., started his new job as superintendent of the Peninsula School District July 1, 2016. Assessing his first year, he said, “For me, it has been a year of excitement, year of learning, year of discovering an incredibly supportive community—community of people who are willing to give their time, share their talent and provide financial and in-kind support. It has been very exciting.” Manahan is pleased that the district has been able to increase staffing levels, to provide for more teachers on special assignment (TOSA) and counselors at the middle school level.

TOSAs are teachers who are released from classroom duties to function as instructional facilitators and instructional coaches. These teachers support the development of teaching teams and help new teachers become more effective by building on the strengths that they bring to the classroom.

Manahan said that moving from a district of 1,400 students in Lake Chelan to one of 9,000 presented a number of challenges. “Not only is the district larger, but it also is a more layered and complex district than Lake Chelan.” However, Peninsula still feels like a “small community” although it covers a large geographic space.

He spoke with pride about the expansion of the career technical education (CTE) class offerings. CTE classes are dual-credit classes allowing students to earn college level credit while earning credits that meet high school graduation requirements. Each CTE class is a two-period blocked class on topics applicable to the student’s chosen career path.

One example is the biomedical innovation and health careers strand—now in its fourth year—which is designed for students interested in pursuing careers in health-related fields and provides opportunities to shadow professionals and work with mentors. Upon completion, the students have certifications in CPR and medical terminology.

There are two new programs also being offered to juniors and seniors, Manahan said.

The teacher academy offered at Gig



Harbor High School provides opportunities to shadow teachers, gain experience in classrooms working with children, design learning projects and earn paraeducator certification.

The newest CTE class is the skilled trades pre-apprenticeship class, which will be piloted at Peninsula High School in the fall. The class will be open for juniors and seniors with at least a 90 percent attendance record. The course is a two-period blocked class that involves OSHA 10, CPR/first aid, forklift, scissor lift, flagger, apprenticeship tours, construction site tours and skilled trades modules in construction, masonry, plumbing, electrical work and welding. When students graduate from high school, they can go into a full apprenticeship and be better equipped to be successful. Manahan hopes that the program facilities can be made available for night school classes for adults interested in entering the trades.

Manahan has come full circle, he said. Beginning his teaching career in Puyallup, he came to the Peninsula School District in 1991 and taught at both Kopa-



Superintendent Manahan, Ed.D.  
Courtesy Peninsula School District

chuck and Harbor Ridge Middle Schools. His administration internship was at Harbor Ridge and his first job in administration was in Port Angeles. He was hired as an elementary principal in Lake Stevens and worked into the position of executive director of secondary education. Leaving Lake Stevens, he took a job as superintendent in Lake Chelan and was there for six years before being hired as superintendent of Peninsula School District.

Manahan's ties to the district are deep in a familial way, too. He has two grandchildren attending Voyager Elementary School and his daughter-in-law, Erika Griswold, teaches in the options program at Vaughn Elementary School. Griswold laughed when asked what it was like to work for her father-in-law. "It's a lot of pressure," she said. "Everyone I've talked to really likes him."

The trades program is made possible through a partnership with Sound Transit and will be an affiliate of the Apprenticeship and Nontraditional Employment for Women program. For more information, go to [www.anew.org](http://www.anew.org).

## Medical Identity Theft a Growing Concern

RODIKA TOLLEFSON, KP NEWS

The data breach of Anthem, the second-largest U.S. health insurer, was a major headline in 2015. The breach, which exposed private data of almost 80 million customers, was attributed to a cyberattacker acting on behalf of a foreign government.

While breaches of this magnitude may be infrequent, health care organizations have increasingly become the target of hackers. One of the reasons is the cash value of medical identity records on the dark web.

Because they contain a rich data set—everything from birthdates and Social Security numbers to physical characteristics and billing information—they fetch around \$50 to \$70 and in some cases as much as \$500. For comparison, W-4 employee records can be bought for under \$20 and credit card numbers for \$1-\$2.

For victims, consequences can range from misdiagnosis due to erroneous health records, to loss of insurance or paying thousands of dollars for services they didn't receive.

When banking or credit card accounts are compromised, or a person's identity is stolen, there are mechanisms for raising red flags. There are no alerts for stolen medical identity, which means bad actors can exploit it for a long time before the theft is detected.

"One of the realities of health care is that over the last five years, it has undergone a significant digital transformation," said Thad Dickson, a Key Peninsula resident and CEO of Xpio Health, a Gig Harbor company that provides security and compliance services to health care organizations.

Thanks to this digital transformation—mandated largely by the federal government—most medical records are now electronic.

"In financial services, this was done 10-15 years ago," Dickson said. "Now that we're facing the same transition... the way [health care providers] have to secure those systems is evolving rapidly."

Anyone visiting a medical provider has had to sign privacy paperwork thanks to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). Among other things, HIPAA requires providers to keep private patient information secure. As of June 30, the Office of Civil Rights (part of the Department of Health and Human Services) has levied more than \$72 million in fines against 52 providers for violations.

Providers must report breaches that affect more than 500 individuals. According to OCR's database, 198 incidents were

reported in 2010, the first full year of enforcement. The number rose to 296 in 2014 and 327 in 2016.

IT/hacking has been increasingly responsible for data breaches—from 16 of 208 in 2013 to 57 of 269 in 2015 and 113 of 327 in 2016. The trend is holding so far this year.

### What You Can Do

While consumers can't prevent medical identity theft, they can minimize chances of fraud.

"Reviewing your EOBs (explanation of benefits statements) is hard work that consumers need to exercise," Dickson said. "Make sure you're looking at copies of your insurance bill to see what's been covered and

paid for, and make sure those are services you obtained."

In addition to checking provider statements, a periodic review of patient records can help spot discrepancies.

The Medical Identity Fraud Alliance suggests not oversharing health-related information on social media, as fraudsters are good at aggregating information. And if you're part of the craze of using a mobile app or wearable fitness tracker, check to see how those companies are collecting, storing and using your info—they don't fall under the same rules as medical providers.

*Editor's note: This is part 3 in our series about cybersecurity and digital privacy.*

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Livestock owners can build a manure bin for less than \$500 in materials. *Courtesy Pierce Conservation District*

## Manure Bins Can Save Money and Prevent Pollution: Workshop Sept. 9

THE SHELLFISH PARTNERS, SPECIAL TO KP NEWS

Manure from a single goat can pollute Key Peninsula bays and make swimming and playing on the beach less safe and less healthy. But there's a better way: Pierce Conservation District is conducting classes on how to build a bin to compost manure to use as fertilizer instead.

Last winter, local livestock owners got started on the quest to turn manure into potential. The farmers learned how to put together a simple bin with a roof and three walls. Each person left the workshop with a kit of materials to build their own bin. Some of the immediate benefits: less smell and fewer flies. But the longterm lesson is that composting is the most effective way to manage manure.

Farmers around the KP have now put 19 bins to work to upcycle manure and protect the environment.

"I was surprised by how much quicker and easier it was to build the bin than I had expected," said Sil Underwood of Mayo Cove.

Sofia Gidlund, from Pierce Conservation District, found that most local livestock owners have only a few animals. Manure bins are often large and expensive—too much capacity for a hobby farmer with just a couple goats and chickens. So she developed a workshop to help farmers build a simple manure bin that costs less than \$500 in materials. These bins make it easy for owners of up to two horses to manage their manure.

Manure bins help keep pollution from getting to beaches. Eating clams, swimming and playing on the beach are some of the good things about a clean beach. Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department regularly tests the water from local beaches for pollution.

Even if you don't have horses, sheep, goats or chickens, you can still help keep the beaches safe:

- Get your septic system inspected regularly.
- Use fewer fertilizers and pesticides on your lawn.
- Do laundry several days during the week instead of on just one to avoid overwhelming your septic system and drainfield.
- Bag pet waste and put it in the trash. Nutrients and bacteria from pet waste can harm water quality when it washes into lakes, streams or Puget Sound.

To learn if you qualify for the Build Your Own Bin workshop on Sept. 9, especially for Vaughn Bay, Rocky Bay, Filucy Bay and Mayo Cove residents, contact Sofia Gidlund, Pierce Conservation District, at [sofiag@pierced.org](mailto:sofiag@pierced.org) or call 253-845-9770.

*The Shellfish Partners have been at work to protect Key Peninsula's beaches and shellfish resources since 2006. Made up of Pierce County Public Works Surface Water Management, Pierce Conservation District, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, community organizations and Key Peninsula residents. To learn more or to get involved, call 253-798-6470 or visit [tpchd.org/shellfish](http://tpchd.org/shellfish).*



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# Where in the world



Penton, Steffi, Colter and Hayes Mott, Longbranch, with Elizabeth Nichols, Silverbow, on the Black Sea near Varna, Bulgaria where Penton was groomsman for the wedding of longtime Home parade marchers Vasil and Violina Vasilev. They're reviewing an issue of KP News featuring Mr. Sipple's lighthouse garden building at Faraway. The Motts are stewards of the Sipple Boatshop on Filucy Bay.

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**Top:** A summer sunrise from Filucy Bay. *Photo: Richard Hildahl* **Upper left:** Taylor Bay hosts its own parade July 4 giving locals a chance to shine up their golf carts. *Photo: Don Tjossem, KP News* **Middle left:** Max Mcloughlin "catches" a water balloon during the KP Parks Fourth of July hot dog social at Volunteer Park. *Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News* **Bottom left:** Style counts as much as size at the Home parade. *Photo: Shaun O'Berry* **Above:** The Tritt family shows off their patriotic (and jeep) pride at the Home parade July 4 **Below:** A kingfisher grabs a meal one clear KP evening. *Photo: Daniel Jackson* **Below right:** Warm temperatures and low tides mean it's also geoduck season on the KP, as these clam diggers demonstrate near Devil's Head. *Photo: Don Tjossem, KP News*

